

VLA



May **2019** *Issue*

VA Loggers Association

News & Updates

Virginia Loggers
SEEK RESULTS
In Congress

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Thank you for recently joining
THE VIRGINIA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

Putting our members first and proudly serving the interests of Virginia loggers!

BOBCAT OF ROANOKE — ROANOKE, VA

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(RETURNING MEMBER)

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STEVENS LUMBER CO., INC. — HONAKER, VA

SLATE RIVER ENTERPRISES, LLC — ARVONIA, VA

TIGHENUP LOGGING, LLC — RAWLINGS, VA

Special thanks to Donnie E. Reaves & Forestry Mutual for our new members!

Please encourage someone to join the Virginia Loggers Association!

IMPORTANT 2019 DATES

MAY 3-4 Mid Atlantic Logging & Biomass Expo in Laurensburg, NC
MAY 12 Mother's Day
MAY 27 Memorial Day
JUNE 16 Father's Day
JULY 4 Independence Day
JULY 26 - 27 Summer ALC BOD meeting

AUG 23-25 VLA Annual Meeting at the Homestead, Hot Springs, VA
SEP 25 - 29 ALC Annual Meeting
SEP 28 - OCT 6 VA State Fair

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This newsletter is published to keep members and friends of the Virginia Loggers Association informed.

GET TO KNOW

Your VLA Members

This section is designated for members to share with members. We hope you'll send pictures and short stories about something in your family, business or something from your community. Examples include graduations, weddings, birthdays, travel and more.

Please share your stories and VLA will publish them here!



Two of VLA's youngest members Maddie and Noah following granddaddy Binnie's footsteps!



Firewood is big deal for Binnie Nash, who delivers logs for his home & church group



Dallas Tapscott and Brooke Haislip are planning to wed on September 21, 2019. Congratulations to Dallas, Brooke and their families. Dallas is the son of Binky and Robin Tapscott and employed at Forest Pro.



Vance Wright and Brandon Widener share a photo-op with Delegate Roslyn Tyler and husband Rufus and Delegate John McGuire during the 2019 Legislator Meet & Greet hosted by VFA, VFPA and VLA. Great opportunity to discuss legislation and forests with our Virginia representatives. Photo by RJ

Hunter and Jenna Wells share welcomed their second child Liam into the world. Susan is the daughter of Frank and Susan Myers. Congrats to all!



Brunswick County held its first Agriculture & Timber conference in February 2019. Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry gave their keynote presentation. VLA members served on the Timber Panel and included Thomas Evelyn, Rob Farrell - State Forester, Frank Myers, Owen Strictler and Vance Wright. VLA sponsored a table and helped to promote our industry. Photo by RJ.

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The Virginia Loggers Association proudly endorses Forestry Mutual Insurance as the preferred provider of Virginia worker's compensation insurance. Chris Huff: chuff@forestrymutual.com 919-810-9485

Virginia Loggers Seek Results in Congress

Members of the Virginia Loggers Association met with their representatives and asked for their help with important federal legislation. We were a large group with twelve members who visited all thirteen offices on Capitol Hill. Twenty four other state associations also joined the annual Capitol Fly-In and all had scheduled appointments with their representatives too.

The American Loggers Council arranged for their spring Board of Directors' meeting at the same time as their annual Capitol Fly-In. We were fortunate that ALC arranged a group booking for a Hotel within walking distance to House and Senate offices. Our Virginia representatives were gracious and cordial as always to meet with VLA. Also the weather was perfect for us. Cherry trees were in full blossom and beautiful. The group left Washington, DC on the day of the Cherry Blossom Festival.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is a spring celebration in Washington, D.C., commemorating the March 27, 1912, gift of Japanese cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo City to the city of Washington, D.C. Mayor Ozaki donated the trees to enhance the growing friendship between the United States and Japan and also celebrate the continued close relationship between the two nations. Large and colorful helium balloons, floats, marching bands from across the country, music and showmanship are parts of the Festival's parade and other events.

State associations around the country held many conference calls and meetings before arriving in Washington, DC to lay out their top priorities. Good people from each state work hard on this part of the process which is led by Danny Druetor, Executive Vice President of ALC and the current ALC President. Mark Turner of Oregon turned over the gavel to Chris Potts of Alabama Loggers Council.

We are fortunate to have two representatives residing in Virginia. Judd Smith represents VLA on the ALC Board of Directors. Donnie Reaves represents Independent Loggers. Both Judd and Donnie have voting privileges on the American Loggers Council Board of Directors.

Members discussed the importance of logging and the forest products industry in each state and the nation. Everyone conveyed the common themes that logging and forest management were good on both private and public forestlands. Most important of all everyone told our representatives that "wood was good" for our country and the earth! Each discussed the top federal issues that grew out of the states' efforts to prioritize their issues.

Safe Routes legislation is an important issue across the nation. This important legislative change is welcomed by all states in the industry. The proposal would provide an additional exemption for loads of unrefined forest products that meet state – legal weight tolerances. We expect the exemption to result in a shift of substantial amount existing trip

Continued on next page...





mileage from two – lane secondary roads and highways to the Interstate System improving safety for the motoring public, including the trucks themselves. This action will not be direct competition with freight moved by rail as it will only pertain to those unrefined forest products moving from the forests on the Federal Interstate Highway System considered to short haul (less than 150 air mile radius) to the point of processing to a finished product.

We also asked for Congress to support the Future Careers in Logging Act. Like farming and ranching, the timber harvesting profession is often a family run business where the practice and techniques of harvesting and transporting forest products from the forest to receiving mills is passed down from one generation to the next. Currently, there are no on-the-ground programs in place to facilitate training and ensure the sustainability of the timber harvesting industry's next generation of family members who choose to enter the profession. Other agricultural businesses, including farmers and ranchers, enjoy exemptions to existing child labor laws that permit family members between the ages of 16 and 17 to participate in and learn the operations of the family businesses under the direction and supervision of their parents. We are asking Congress to extend the same exemption for families of mechanical timber harvesters.

Virginia members also spent some quality time together getting to know one another better and our counterparts in other states. We all enjoyed sharing a birthday with Binky Tapscott while in Washington, DC. Binky was joined by his lovely wife Robin!

Vance & Laurie Wright also brought along their teenagers Claire and Zach to learn first - hand about the workings of government. We enjoyed spending time with both Claire and Zach and both really helped us to emphasize the Youth In Logging legislation.

Attending the annual Capitol Fly-In is a great way to learn more about the issues we face and the processes necessary for changing them to laws. If you are interested in the federal legislative process or want to get involved please contact VLA.

VIRGINIA DISTRICT WIDE LOGGING ENTRANCE PERMITS - NOTICE

Keith G. Goodrich, VDOT Land Use Department

VDOT has recently experienced issues with the permittee notification requirement and the requirement to provide a copy of their permit at every work site when requested by authorized VDOT personnel. This confirmation becomes especially difficult when timber harvesting crews are working a significant distance from their temporary entrance or during seasonal weather which makes it difficult for VDOT staff to access the site. As a result, VDOT is now requiring that a legible copy of the district-wide permit shall be posted at or near the temporary logging entrance during timber harvesting operations.

There are currently 186 timber harvesting operations that participate in the VDOT District-wide Temporary Logging Permit program. VDOT plans to inform timber harvesting permittees having an e-mail address of the requirement change as soon as possible and to notify all permittees at the time of permit renewal notification, however timely notification becomes difficult due to the two-year permit renewal cycle. As a result I am requesting that the Virginia Loggers Association reach out to their membership to also let them know of this requirement change. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this new requirement.

Also use your smart phone to take a picture of your permit and share with your employees.



NEWS AND UPDATES FROM VIRGINIA TECH FOREST OPERATIONS EXTENSION SPECIALIST

Scott Barrett, PhD,
Assistant Professor
and Extension Specialist,
Forest Operations

Coordinator for the VA
SHARP Logger Program

Department of Forest
Resources &
Environmental
Conservation

LOGGER SURVEY COMING UP LATER THIS SUMMER

Many of you are familiar with our Virginia Logger survey and have participated in the past. We began the Virginia Logger survey in 2009 with the intention of completing it at five-year intervals. We completed the second one in 2014 and it is now time for the 2019 Virginia Logger survey. This logger survey has allowed us to show the characteristics of Virginia's logging businesses and gather information on loggers opinions and attitudes related to various issues including their overall outlook on the logging industry and issues such as truck weight law changes. The survey provides valuable information on things such as types of systems used for harvesting operations in different regions of the state as well as productivity and types of harvests conducted by the logging operation. For example, manual felling is the most common felling method in the mountains while rubber tired feller bunchers are the most common felling method in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions.

One of the benefits of conducting the survey at periodic intervals is that it allows up to show changes over time. For example, the 2014 survey indicated that the average productivity per logging crew had increased since 2009 and the average number of crews per logging business had increased as well. It also showed that the average age of business owners was increasing. We plan to send the 2019 logger survey later this summer. After completing this survey we will have data from three surveys that span a 10 year period. This survey will not only allow us to show the current characteristics of Virginia's logging businesses, but will also enable us to show changes in Virginia's logging businesses over the past decade.

I wanted to let everyone know that this survey will be coming out later this summer and will be sent to everyone that is a current SHARP Logger. The quality of the survey data is completely dependent on the people that fill it out and return it to us. If you receive the survey in the mail, I hope you will take the time to complete it. I also wanted to let you know that if you have ideas for something interesting that you would like to see included in the logger survey this time, then just let me know. Some of the more interesting questions in the past surveys came from ideas and input that we received from the Virginia Loggers Association and from other groups across the state. So if you have an idea, just let me know. I cannot guarantee it would make it into the survey, but we do have room to include a few additional questions and I am always open to good ideas for something that would be interesting to learn about Virginia's logging business owners and their operations.

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August 23 - 25, 2019
Save the Date!

Reservations Online: <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/homestead-virginia/meetings/virginia-loggers-assn-annual-meeting-2019>

Telephone: 1.800.838.1766

**Virginia Loggers Association Annual Conference will be held at
 The Homestead in Hot Springs, VA.**

**MAKE YOUR PLANS EARLY TO ATTEND OUR 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 & SPEND A FEW EXTRA DAYS WITH YOUR FAMILY ON VACATION!**

AGENDA

Thursday Evening

Registration, Exhibitors and
 Hospitality Room

Friday Morning

Tour Speyside Bourbon Stave
 Mill, Registration, Exhibits

Friday Afternoon (1 - 5 PM)

Technical Presentations

- Rob Farell, Virginia State Forester, Welcome & Virginia Hardwoods
- Marinho Goncalves, VOSH
- VA State Police, Motor Carrier Changes and Updates
- Stephen Setliff, Attorney Setliff Law, Casualty Claims
- Scott Barrett, VT Associate Professor & SHARP Logger

Friday Evening

Welcome Reception

Saturday Morning (6:30 - 8:30 AM)

Breakfast

Saturday Morning Presentations:

- Ewell Smith, CLA Ex. Director, Rebuilding Following Disasters
- Bettina Ring, Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry, Forests & Markets
- Miranda Gowell, TEAM Safe Trucking Special Projects Manager
- Nikki - Dee Ray, Television Meteorologist, Weather Tips in the Woods
- Terry Austin, VA House of Delegates Virginia's Transportation Challenges & I 81

Saturday Afternoon

SHARP Logger Required
 Training and Family Time

Saturday Evening (6 - 11 PM)

Reception, Dinner, Awards,
 Auction

Optional Activities Offered by VLA:

- **Take a Hike with Rita** Enjoy a walk around the Homestead identifying plants and trees with Rita Hyatt. Great for our youth and families. Rita has a Masters Degree in Secondary Education with a minor in Biology.
- SHARP Logger Required Training offered by Scott Barrett and VDOF on Saturday afternoon.
- The Homestead also offers many activities for our youth and families. A full listing of Homestead activities for 2019 will be included with your registration.

SPEAKERS | 17th annual conference

Miranda Gowell

Miranda is Special Projects Manager for TEAM Safe Trucking.

Miranda's career has focused on many types of Construction/Contracting professions. They include Tower Erecting, General Construction, Electrical, and Logging. She is a certified OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 HR Construction trainer. She facilitates "train-the-trainer" programs for Tower Rescue, Fall Protection Systems, Fall Prevention, Fork Lifts and Confined Space Entry. She is a Certified Safety and Health Specialist in Construction and is two classes away from becoming an OSHA Certified Safety and Health Official.

Miranda has a Degree in Project Management and has completed Master's Level coursework in Education, Leadership, and other Occupational Safety and Health areas.



Nikki-Dee Ray

Meteorologist Nikki-Dee Ray can be seen weekdays on Central Virginia's number one morning show, CBS 6 This Morning. The Alabama native attended Auburn University and Mississippi State University where she graduated with a B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences.

As the nation's youngest female chief meteorologist, Nikki-Dee led a team of Texas meteorologists through numerous severe weather events. She was awarded "Best Local TV Weathercaster" in 2013 and 2014. Since joining the Central Virginia community, Nikki-Dee has been named Style Weekly's "Favorite Meteorologist" in 2016 & 2017.



Bettina Ring, Secretary of Ag & Forestry

A Virginia native, Bettina Ring was appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe to serve as the 7th State Forester in this Commonwealth's history, leading the Virginia Department of Forestry into its second century of serving and protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth. Bettina began her career with the VDOF and held a number of leadership positions within the agency, including deputy state forester, during her 14 years with the agency. Bettina most recently came to VDOF from the American Forest Foundation where she was the senior vice president of family forests, a position responsible for overseeing the American Tree Farm System – the largest and oldest sustainable woodland program in America. Bettina has also served as executive director of the Bay Area Open Space Council in San Francisco and was the executive director of the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts. She holds a BS Degree in Forestry and Wildlife from Virginia Tech and a Masters of Business Administration from James Madison University.



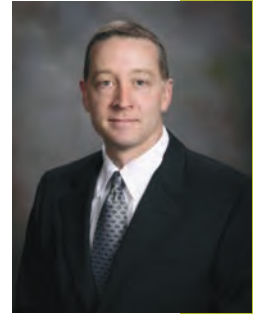
Rob Farrell, VA State Forester

Rob Farrell was appointed State Forester of Virginia by Governor Ralph Northam in January 2018. Prior to this he served as the Deputy State Forester for the past five years. Rob joined the Department of Forestry as the Area Forester for Gloucester and Mathews Counties in 2000. In 2007 he moved to the DOF headquarters in Charlottesville as the director of the new forestland conservation program. Prior to the DOF, Rob worked as an arborist and urban forester in Maryland and Virginia. He is a Certified Arborist and has a B.S. and M.S. in Forestry from Virginia Tech.



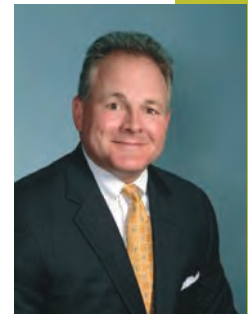
Dr. Scott Barrett, Virginia Tech

Scott Barrett is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Forest Operations in the Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. He has been involved in research projects related to biomass utilization, implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the protection of water quality, and recently completed a research project focused on log truck crashes. He also serves as the coordinator for the Virginia SHARP logger program (www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu) which is Virginia's SFI logger training program and has over 1300 individuals that are active in the program. He has worked at Virginia Tech since 2002 as the Coordinator for the VA SHARP Logger Program. Scott received his degrees in Forestry from VA Tech. He received a B.S. in Forestry in 1998, an M.S. in Forest Operations in 2001, and a Ph.D. in Forest Operations in 2013.



Stephen Setliff, Setliff Law

Mr. Setliff represents trucking companies, their insurers and their drivers in a wide variety of claims, including catastrophic personal injury, property damage, and toxic cleanup. He also handles worker's compensation claims, negotiating, drafting and enforcement of commercial agreements, including brokerage and independent contractor agreements, traffic citations including felony charges, and employment claims under the Surface Transportation Assistance Act. His practice covers the gamut of trucking litigation, from first scene accident investigation to effectively and efficiently trying cases to verdict. He serves as the General Counsel to the Virginia Trucking Association and is an active member of the Virginia Movers and Warehousemen Association, the American Moving and Storage Association, the International Association of Movers, The National Truck and Heavy Equipment Claims Council, and the Virginia Loggers Association.



Marinho Goncalves, VOSH

Marinho Goncalves joined the Department of Labor and Industry – VOSH Consultation Program in 2018 to be part of the Central Region team (Richmond Office). Marinho is a graduate of UTAD and FCT (Portugal) with a Master's in Forestry and Bioenergy and is currently pursuing a MBA with a focus in Renewable Energy and Energy Management. Marinho has close to 15 years of experience working in the Forestry and Biomass to Energy sectors. He has worked in the R&D sector for the Pulp and Paper sector in Portugal and in the Renewables Sector in the Caribbean/CentAm region. Currently Marinho focus on providing Safety and Health services to Small to Mid-Size companies with a special focus on Logging/Landscaping/Tree Trimming companies.



Delegate Terry L. Austin

Elected in 2013 to the House of Delegates, Terry has served the constituents of the 19th District for five years. His current committee assignments include Transportation, Rules, Counties, Cities and Towns. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia and Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS). In 2017 he was appointed to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC), which seeks to ensure that the Commonwealth's appropriated funds are being utilized effectively and efficiently.

Terry is also a member of the Rotary Club of Buchanan and serves on the Board of the Bank of Botetourt. Terry and his wife, Kathy, live in the Buchanan area of Botetourt. Terry has three adult children, Catie Austin-Brown, Natalie Austin and Benjamin Austin and a grown stepson, Josh Boblett. He also has eight grandchildren, Jack, Ella, Addie, Tate, Silas, Birdie, Ruby and Ann.



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AS (SHE) SEES IT: THE FUTURE OF LOGGING DEPENDS ON OUR YOUTH



Editor's Note: This month's As We See It column was written by Chrissy Kimball of Kimball & Sons Logging of Poland, Maine. In light of the recent introduction of the Future Logging Career Act and the release of the report commissioned by PLC of Maine, we thought Chrissy's original blog post offers an inspiring message on the future of logging. Kimball & Sons Logging has graciously given us permission to share this column.

Hey there! It's Chrissy, the supporting actress of Kimball & Sons Logging and Trucking. I tend to be busy raising the "sons" part of the operation but I wanted to take the opportunity to write a little bit about the articles I have been reading lately regarding the recent study conducted by the PLC of Maine citing low pay as a barrier to our industry and also the bill that Angus King and Jared Golden are introducing, Future Loggers Career Act.

I have actually never been more excited and optimistic about the forest products industry in our state. Perhaps that's because I am a glass half full kind of person. There is amazing technology on the brink of revolutionizing how forest products can be used. Researchers in our very own state are working on technology to convert biomass into jet fuel. There is nanocellulose from wood products which are fibers that can be used in textiles and medical products, pulp and paper mills are moving away from print media and into packaging products, and wood products can even give us cellulosic sugars which can be used as a preservative in foods!

With all of this technology coming down the pipes, we can't forget that if there are no loggers and no truckers, these products can never go into production. As evidenced by the study conducted by the PLC of Maine, it is no secret that the logging contractors in Maine struggle to keep up with paying competitive wages. Trust me, it is not because we are keeping it all for ourselves. In order to keep great employees, we might even pay them MORE than we make as the owners. I'm just being honest here.

However, I do know that there is a ton of work being done on our behalf and I see a future for our industry that includes competitive wages and benefits for our employees coupled with the enjoyment that comes from working with a family owned business. While we may not currently be the highest paying gig in the area, there are other amazing benefits to working in the woods for a small company. The camaraderie in the woods is superior to any other type of work, the views from your "office" are always amazing, and there is nothing more invigorating than a beautiful sunrise from the woods! We are the kind of employer that cares if your children are sick, we would attend your wedding, and we truly care if you are happy in your job because we will do anything within our power to keep you. In a small business, a good employee is certainly not "replaceable".

We frequently brainstorm about the best ways to grow our company and are often paralyzed by the fear of being unable to find quality help. The problem being, margins are tight, and it's expensive to train someone from the ground up but I believe it is an investment we must make. Everybody wants someone who already knows how to do the job. Well, it's not going to happen. I know there are young people who

would be interested in this profession if we could give them a chance and actually teach them. Since the beginning of time we have all heard "kids these days....." followed by some rude comment about how they don't do this and they don't do that. I get it. Technology, education, and policy have changed everything, but I still hold the optimism that our youth are teachable if given the appropriate mentor. The future of the forest products industry is in our youth and if we continue to sweep them under the rug as some useless gamers sitting in their parent's basements then they will BE exactly what we expect them to be. When I did my mindless scroll through Facebook this morning, I came across something not so useless that made me excited enough to sit down and write this.

Angus King and Jared Golden are introducing a bill to allow 16 and 17 year olds to be allowed to work in the heavy equipment in the woods. Forget virtual reality, that IS reality! Part of the problem as I see it, is that we shelter our youth from all danger. It is much safer to play a game cutting down trees that it is to actually go learn how to cut the tree! We have 2 young boys and a third on the way. They are naturally obsessed with logging. Randy tells me stories of when he was very young and his dad would have to bring him and his brothers to the woods and they would ride in the skidder all day with him, play in the woods, and occupy their own time... often times unsupervised. Can you imagine "Nowadays"? What kind of parents would we be if we put our children in that kind of harm's way?! They must be better off at daycare where they color pictures and make arts and crafts. I think most of us want our children to grow up and be able to actually DO something. Not fear failure. Not fear risk, be it physical, emotional, financial, or otherwise. We are fortunate to be able to teach our kids to respect the equipment and its dangers. They understand how to stay safe in the woods. My 6 year old recently purchased an old hack saw at the local flea market with his earned \$2 so we can do some logging at home!

My long winded point here, is that not all hope is lost. I think our society is recognizing that faulty policy and over protecting our youth is driving them to uber safe careers, sitting behind a desk and leaves no one behind to do the work. I am inspired by this introduction of the bill by Angus King and Jared Golden because I am hopeful it reflects a paradigm shift in our society to treat children as capable of learning and maintaining their own safety without the need for constant protection from danger. It is time we, as adults, mentor our children again. Let them participate, learn, scrape their knees a bit and then and only then will we improve our work force for the future.

Chrissy Kimball is with Kimball & Sons Logging of Poland, Maine. Kimball & Sons Logging provides Maine landowners with quality timber harvesting. For more information, visit <https://www.kimballandsons.com/>

\$5000 TRUCK REBATE: 2019 WESTERN STAR ASSOCIATION REBATE FOR ALC MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES

Western Star is proud to support and extend the Association Rebate Program for members of the Virginia Loggers Association

Virginia Loggers Association members are eligible for a \$5000.00 rebate on the purchase of a brand new WS 4900 truck or tractor model.

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Requirements:

- Verification of membership status or status or affiliation with ALC.
- Association membership must be valid for at least 90 days prior to taking retail delivery.
- Trucks must be new and never been retail sold regardless of model year or mileage.
- Maximum of five (5) trucks per customer/company in a calendar year.
- Rebate claim must be processed within 30 days of retail sale date.
- Not valid for gliders or used units.



PETERBILT: \$2,000 CASH REBATE TO AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL MEMBERS

AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL (ALC) PROGRAM DETAILS

Peterbilt is pleased to offer the American Loggers Council (ALC) the following rebate incentive. Members in good standing with the Virginia Loggers Association are eligible for the Peterbilt program.

Program Details:

- Members receive a \$2,000 CASH rebate on Models 567, 367, or 365.
- Limited to three (3) rebates per member for calendar year 2018.
- ALC members must be in good standing for at least 90 days prior to taking retail delivery.
- ALC members must take retail delivery between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. Retail delivery is defined as the time the ownership of the truck is transferred from the Peterbilt dealer to the customer.

Other Details:

- Request for customer rebate incentives must be received by ALC within 90 days of taking retail delivery.
- Allow 6 to 8 weeks for check to process.
- This program may not be combined with any other rebate offers from Peterbilt.



For information on ALC memberships, contact Danny Ductor at 409-625-0206 or Americanlogger@aol.com.

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY BMP'S USE OF GOOD AUTHORITY IN VIRGINIA

Virginia's forest are as diverse in species & habitat as they are in the types of ownership of those forests – State, Federal, TIMO's, REIT's, Corporate, Conservation Groups, and a multitude of individual landowners. Owners & Managers of those lands can have their own sets of goals and objectives and also some similar issues – one of which can be a shortage of professionals to implement practices on the ground. In Virginia as of August 26th, 2009 there was an estimated 15,243,239 acres of forestland with 1,638,685 acres or 11% owned by the U.S. Forest Service.



The 2014 Farm Bill gave the U.S. Forest Service, some additional tools to get more work done on the ground providing for cross-boundary work with the States through one tool called Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). Since the 2014 Farm Bill and as of June 2018 there had been 163 GNA Agreements on 59 national forests in 33 States to complete a variety of forest restoration activities – many involving some form of timber harvesting.

In 2018, the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) entered into a GNA with the George Washington / Jefferson National Forest – specifically a Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) under GNA to implement a project on the Eastern Divide Ranger District. The project titled the Eastern Divide Restoration Services Agreement involves the treatment of hardwood forests in Bland County that are located in areas of high gypsy moth defoliation activity in order to increase regeneration of oaks before substantial oak mortality occurs. Initial treatment would consist of harvesting timber to reduce the stocking level down to an average of 15 square feet of basal area or less depending on the size of the harvest area.

Because Forest Service lands are often intermingled with other

ownerships a collaborative approach to treat these lands can increase capacity by augmenting services that DOF can provide with those of the Forest Service in order to treat more acres on the ground, and enabling both organizations to do more work on the ground. As one State Forester stated “it does not matter who owns the land; what matters is that the land is located in the State and doing forest restoration on those lands is good for the forests located in the State, and the State's overall economy”. Working with the State to set priorities and co-manage risk across broad landscapes through shared stewardship, shared ownership of the challenges, and a shared commitment to meeting the challenges.



The Eastern Divide Restoration Services Project specifically allows the DOF to implement on the ground restoration projects that have already undergone an environmental review process conducted by the Forest Service and have also been approved to proceed. For this project, DOF implements on the ground a silvicultural prescription developed by the Forest Service, estimates the volume and value, advertise and / or solicit buyers to do the harvest, sell the timber under DOF's developed contracts, and provide administration during the harvest. This allows the Forest Service to use its' limited personnel resources to focus on additional areas on the Forest for various treatments thus expanding the amount of work getting completed on the ground more quickly and more collaboratively.

DOF is in discussions with the Forest Service to enter into additional GNA / SPA's in additional ranger districts. A shared vision of stewardship across landscapes through new tools such as GNA that



are available to the Forest Service in partnership with DOF however can only be successfully implemented through professional loggers assistance along with available markets. The Forest Service and DOF are interested in feedback to help move projects forward.

There will always be a symbiotic relationship between forest management prescriptions and the implementation of those prescriptions by the logging & forest products community. DOF would urge the logging & forest products community to give feedback on projects under review by the Forest Service, and for the Forest Service to seek out from the logging & forest products community their honest input on the economic and equipment viability of the projects being considered. This includes projects that are already to the point of implementation where value expectations might be adjusted to make the project viable for all parties. Only by working together will we be able to treat more acres across the landscape. Only together will we continue to make forestry a strong economic driver of Virginia's economy.



If you have feedback, questions or comments about GNA / SPA agreements / projects please give Ed Stoots, State Lands Coordinator with the Virginia Department of Forestry, a call at 540-492-0152 or e-mail him at ed.stoots@dof.virginia.gov



BEST MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING REPORT 2018 SUMMARY

Virginia Best Management Implementation Monitoring Report for 2018 has been released. Results show the long term trend in BMP harvest scores appear good with a steady level of BMP implementation Statewide over recent years. The 2018 results for the Chesapeake Bay harvest are slightly higher than the state as a whole. The full report is available from the Virginia Department of Forestry. The report can be accessed on the DOF website at this address: http://dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/_bmp-reports/BMPs-Imp-Monitoring-2018_pub.pdf





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SAFETY SPOT: PREVENTING BACKING ACCIDENTS

Preventing Backing Accidents | By JJ Lemire

In recent years, we had a fatality occur that involved a vehicle that backed up and ran over an employee. We took actions to increase awareness of employees working on the ground due to the increased volume of vehicles at a work site. We have heard of some recent injuries that other companies had so we want to take time to remind everyone that employees must be kept aware of the hazards with vehicles and equipment backing up at your jobsites.

Can you think of a few backing incidents that have happened on the job? Maybe a fender, headlight, bumper, tailgate, etc. was damaged. Have you heard the story of a parent or grandparent that backed out of their driveway and backed over their child riding a tricycle. No matter the location, improper backing is a problem! According to the National Safety Council, 1 out of 4 vehicle accident is due to poor backing techniques. These accidents account for 500 fatalities and 15,000 injuries per year. However, it is believed that the actual numbers are likely 4 times higher due to those incidents that are never reported because they do not involve an injury or fatality.

What employees must know (General rules) and follow:

- Avoid backing if possible. If backing is necessary position the vehicle in the direction you need to go when you leave the location – in other words - BACK FIRST.
- Adjust your mirrors. If another driver has moved them, the worst time to discover it is in the middle of backing a vehicle.
- Always use a spotter when backing. A spotter should always be in the view of driver.
- Blow Horn. Blow horn whenever you start to back and continue to tap on the horn every 10 feet of backing travel.
- If installed, all back up alarms must be operational. A defective back alarm should be called to attention for immediate repair.
- Size up the situation before backing. Walk around the vehicle to examine the area and look for hazardous situations. When in doubt, get out and look.
- Check the surface. Note depressions, bumps, obstacles and any persons who might come into the line of travel.
- Check top clearances. Note how wide the vehicle is in relationship to the size of the space being backed into.
- Analyze the situation. After analyzing the situation, begin the backing maneuver immediately before the situation has a chance to change.
- Do not gun it when you back out. Go slow and constantly scan your mirrors and look around as you back out.

USE good backing HABITS! A reminder to BACK IN FIRST, USE A SPOTTER, DO A WALK AROUND and SLOWLY BACK OUT. These can help you prevent an injury or fatality at your job site. Be safe.



LOGGING CHALLENGES

Loggers face all kind of challenges and every day is always different! In fact, loggers may be the best experts at managing change. If you think you faced some serious work “headaches”, please look at some of the pictures of logging sites during our last very rainy year.

It must be the loggers’ faith that keeps them driven and staying in business. We are glad they chose to push ahead regardless of the challenges. Quotas, rain, equipment costs, small profit margins are just a few things they deal with all the time.

If you are not a logger and reading this, think about your worse day and then look at the pictures of the conditions this past year. Don’t complain when things don’t work out the way you planned. Just keep your faith! Tomorrow will a brighter and happier day!





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LEGISLATION REINTRODUCED TO PERMIT TEEN TRUCKERS



On February 26, 2019, Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Jon Tester (D-MT) reintroduced the DRIVE-Safe Act in both houses of the United States Congress. A nearly identical version of the Act was introduced as recently as August 2018, but it stalled out before ever becoming law.

Generally, the DRIVE-Safe Act will change federal law that prohibits individuals from 18 to 21 years old from operating commercial motor vehicles across state lines. One main goal would be to increase the pool of potential truck drivers to help with driver shortage issues. More drivers will help deal with the rising demand for commercial shipping and keep costs down for consumers.

On the face, many may be concerned about the idea of an 18-year-old operating a fully-loaded truck down the interstate. The DRIVE-Safe Act will establish new safety standards and training programs for both new and experienced drivers. For the under-21 drivers, the Act would establish an apprenticeship program. The younger drivers would be required to complete at least 400 hours of on-duty time and 240 hours of driving time with an experienced driver – all while being in the cab with that driver. The trucks used in the training would also be regulated. These vehicles would be equipped with certain safety technologies including active braking collision mitigation systems, a video event capture system, and a speed governor set at 65 miles per hour or below. This apprenticeship program is all part of a two-step training initiative that would have set performance benchmarks the driver would need to meet. And this is all after the driver qualifies for his or commercial drivers license!

In addition to the expansion of the driver pool, supporters of the law feel it will offer great opportunities to young people looking for job opportunities and potential college alternatives. Rep. Trey Hollingsworth (R-IN) called it “an opportunity to improve the lives of many young Americans, give them opportunities for advancement, increase safety and skills training, and enhance the economy by eliminating the obstacles currently preventing the trucking industry from alleviating its workforce shortage.” Early indications are that there is strong bipartisan support for the passage of this bill in both houses. The DRIVE-Safe Act is supported by a coalition of more than 50 industry trade groups, including the American Trucking Association.

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) is strongly opposed to this proposed legislation. OOIDA President and CEO Todd Spencer wrote a letter to Congress stating that the law “presents obvious safety concerns for the new truck drivers it hopes to attract, as well as the traveling public.” He further argued that younger drivers, “generally lack the maturity and experience to operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) at the safest levels. Research consistently concludes that CMV drivers under the age of 21 are more likely to be involved in crashes.” Interestingly, OOIDA believes that the driver shortage narrative is a “myth,” and blames the largest motor carriers and “trade associations in DC that represent them” for pursuing the cheapest labor supply possible. Another potential concern expressed is that it could be difficult to obtain insurance coverage for under-21 drivers operating across state lines.

Generally, the DRIVE-Safe Act appears to have support across the aisle, and it will be interesting to see how the bill progresses through both houses. If the DRIVE-Safe Act becomes law, it will certainly have an effect on the trucking industry and your particular operation or business! If you would like to express any support or dissent for the DRIVE-Safe Act, we would encourage you to reach out to your senator or representative and let him or her know how you feel.

If have any questions, please contact Steve Setliff (ssetliff@setliffllaw.com) or Justin Thatcher (jthatch@setliffllaw.com) at (804) 377-1260.

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ECONOMIC DIRECT IMPACTS OF THE VA FOREST PRODUCTS



FOREST PRODUCTS AND MARKETS VIRGINIA WOOD PRODUCTS UPDATE

Henry Quesada

Associate Professor
and Extension
Specialist

Department of
Sustainable
Biomaterials,
Virginia Tech

The economic direct and indirect impact of the forest industry sector is usually measured using different methods. One of most accepted methods is the methodology use by the US Census. For the state of Virginia, the 2016 US Census reported under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code that there 433 establishments in Wood Products Manufacturing (NAICS 321), 350 in Furniture manufacturing classified as (NAICS 337), and 79 establishments in Paper Manufacturing (NAICS 322) in the state of Virginia. In total, there were 862 establishments for the three sectors.

Table 1. Value and shipments and employees (US Census 2016)

NAICS	Value of Shipments (US Billion)	Employees
321	3.98	13,134
322	3.80	7,105
337	1.87	6,506

Table 1 shows the value of shipments and number of employees for each industry sector. In total 26,745 employees worked for the three forest products industry sectors and the total value of shipments for these industry sectors was \$9,668 billion for 2016.

Another important direct impact is exports of wood products. During 2018 Virginia exported \$347.7 million in wood products (HS code 44). The highest exported commodity was sawn lumber with a value of \$201.5, the second was log exports with \$63.8 million, and third most important wood product exports was fuel wood with \$45.8 million.

The following national rankings were produced using data from the 2012 US Census. As the data analysis show, Virginia ranks #1 in wood preservation in the nation, #3 in nonupholstered wood household furniture, and #4 in the other millwork category.

- 1st NAICS 321114 Wood preservation with \$536.8 million, 20 establishments, and 863 employees
- 3rd in NAICS 337122 Nonupholstered wood household furniture manufacturing with \$386.9 million and 68 establishments
- 4th in NAICS 321918 Other millwork (including flooring) with \$326.4 million with 43 establishments
- 7th in NAICS 321911 Wood window and door manufacturing with \$326.3 million with 20 establishments
- 7th NAICS 3379 (Other furniture related product manufacturing) with \$530.3 million
- 8th in NAICS 321912 Cut stock, resawing lumber, and planning with \$251.1 million and 40 establishments
- 9th in NAICS 321219 Reconstituted wood product manufacturing with \$262.2 million
- 10th NAICS 321113 Sawmills with \$502.1 million, 126 establishments, and 2,160 employees
- 10th in NAICS 337212 Custom architectural woodwork and millwork manufacturing with \$134.0 million and 44 establishments
- 11th in NAICS 337110 Wood kitchen cabinet and countertop manufacturing in sales \$368.5 million and number of establishments with 211.

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LAL GOLF TOURNAMENTS

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Amherst Golf Committee Meeting at West Rock in Appomattox.

2016-2018 Log-A-Load History Virginia

	2016	2017	2018
Charlottesville	\$27,317	\$27,907	\$21,050
Lynchburg	\$19,457	\$24,309	\$21,574
Richmond	\$6,570	\$12,395	\$11,478

2016-2018 Log-A-Load Giving History US and Canada

2016	2017	2018
\$2,318,859	\$2,159,871	\$2,315,772



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