



### MD/DE Master Logger Program

Agnes Kedmenecz  
Program Coordinator  
Wye Research and Education Center  
PO Box 169  
Queenstown, MD 21658  
Phone: 410-827-8056, ext. 125  
Fax: 410-827-9039  
E-mail: akedmen@umd.edu  
<http://extension.umd.edu/masterlogger>

Find us on Facebook  
@MDDEMasterLogger

**THE LOGGER** is the official publication of the MD-DE Master Logger Program, Master Logger Steering Committee (MLSC), and the Maryland SFISIC.

## MD-DE Master Logger Word Search

Y B X H R O G U C W O B U Y X U O P E A Y R K F O C J M B E  
X N O S K J H Y E C P T E Y U K F I I W Z Q T S N E Q N Y A  
W F Z O Y Y H O U C R E M L V Y J H W D P G L X R Q S S D J  
Z C C E B N V K R O L C N Y I I V S C I P S N X V K C E T K  
O G P Z Q Z K D J S Y T F I Q D B F T R V B S N A R Z Z P K  
Y C X S V H L K Q E E R W W X F S W O C B F A B Y W P I L T  
I H K A N U B N P H W L Z V C M Y H P E C W F M T L H V B Y  
N D W E R S Z N O C O U O U F K A S C M P T E V Z J O J E F  
R T N J I J C V Y V T S M G S U L S Q E I B T M T Y E D L P  
N J R L R F L Z P N X D A Y G E P A T T O Z Y S D D B T F C  
L X C E F V O S C G Q R F J B I A H M E B S B T U A Q H S T  
H L A G E Z D R S V W G E X L A N T G R X F F T R K L P I O  
J E P O A E R R E N V D M K O U D G S I F K B H H L P N T O  
D L X M O Q X K K S U T G K S W C S H E G V K F J K V I E R  
C J J E F T J P Q P T O A D I X Z X F S P T G H O L D M V W  
W H J M U O P K E T R A L I G C R Y C Z A X N C W S X V I J  
O S N H M T B Q R R I P C R H R X C M F O E V D X X I V S P  
W C W Z S F E N M W T N A T Y B Y M B P G L C A A N Y J I U  
Y H W K U G R Q E S Z C A K I P N P B S J C Z B G Z G A T X  
N O H Z D V B Q N U L A B H F O R L A E T H Y T S O V M G Q  
O L R S O C T A Z N B U B S V N M A N M W P P B N Y K V I Y G R  
P A Z W C A V A P G Q I R X Z W V P Z P P B V D G Y Z Q A Y  
E R W U B K W U I O C T Y O W A A Z L S D A F Z Q N A E U R  
R S K X R A K M R A S B Q X C L G C Q A A E L W E X S D U G  
A H J P C R C P D E I W F M K S U S L K N G C A J A R O F Y  
T I G W M H P V H D C A R Q N S T G E P W T S O C M F N G W  
O P S A L H Q N O F B O D H O O A Z C K X T C E P H I L J C  
R R Q Y X K V M V H U C I E R M M C K C L N C T I B I A E G  
S N A T U R A L A R E A S P A M S Z T E Z F S K N N P A S I  
M H S F W F Q A S Y R H F P F Q U W B T W L E U Y S V O N R

### Word List

- Natural Areas
- Tree Expert
- Forest Action Plan
- Safety
- Appalachian
- Cemeteries
- Scholarship
- Horse Logging
- Operators
- Site Visit



# The Logger



VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

FALL 2020

## BRUCE BARNES NAMED FRA'S 2020 APPALACHIAN REGION OUTSTANDING LOGGER

On October 10, the Forest Resources Association and STIHL Incorporated honored Bruce Barnes, owner of Barnes Logging in Clements, Maryland, as the Appalachian Region 2020 Outstanding Logger.

At an early age, Bruce Barnes assisted with his father's horse logging operation. Bruce continued the horse logging operation for many years, and while he logs with mechanized equipment today, he maintains some of his history with horses, competing in horse pulling competitions and demonstrations.

Bruce works independently, purchasing his own timber and merchandising all timber types for best value to the landowner. He manages his own log yard where he scales and grades the higher-quality logs for export markets. Bruce manually fells timber using STIHL chain saws. A long-time Maryland Master Logger who is very proficient with a power saw, Bruce has taught chain saw safety training classes for loggers.



Bruce Barnes receives FRA's 2020 Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger Award. Pictured from left to right: Beth Hill (MFA, Executive Director), Bruce Barnes, Agnes Kedmenecz (MD-DE Master Logger), and Rick Meyer (FRA Appalachian Region Manager).

Bruce often works with a consulting forester to achieve silviculturally sound forest management objectives, with strict adherence to BMPs and protection of the residual stand of timber. This has earned him repeat business with forest landowners and praise from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. He further enhances his professional image to the public by keeping his logging equipment immaculately clean.

Bruce has a friendly and loyal reputation in the local business community. He serves as chairman of the St. Mary's (MD) County Fair Board, and he has been a mentor to many loggers over the years.

The FRA 2020 Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger Award prizes—a cherry & walnut wooden crosscut saw plaque from FRA and a STIHL MS 462 chain saw gift certificate and a \$250 check provided by STIHL—were presented to Bruce Barnes by FRA Appalachian Region Manager Rick Meyer at the at the Western Maryland Forestry Field Days & Equipment Show in Friendsville, MD on October 10.

The Barnes Logging nomination was submitted by the Maryland Forests Association and the Maryland-Delaware Master Logger Program .

*FRA's Outstanding Logger Award program is designed to raise the visibility of professional logging contractors and to encourage other loggers to adopt the performance of the award winners. The Regional Award winner becomes a nominee for FRA's National Outstanding Logger Award competition.*

*The Forest Resources Association Inc. is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.*

*STIHL Incorporated serves as the sponsor of FRA's Regional and National Outstanding Logger Awards.*

*For more information, visit FRA's website: [www.forestresources.org/](http://www.forestresources.org/)*



*Bruce and Kathy Barnes. (Bruce's wife, Kathy, is the administrative manager for Barnes Logging.)*

## Scholarship Available for Training Courses

The MD-DE Master Logger program is excited to partner with the Maryland Forest Association to offer Logger training courses at no cost to Maryland and Delaware residents. These courses include the 4 core courses related to safety, threatened & endangered species and best management practices. This fund will also be available for many continuing education courses that are offered through the MD-DE Master Logger program.

We are pleased to offer these courses at no cost through a generous donation by Loveville Timberworks, LLC.

Those who qualify for no cost courses are expected to complete and pass all requirements and examinations associated with the training.

To receive a promo code for the Rudy Baliko Memorial Scholarship, participants **must complete the registration form**. If registration is not complete, the participant will be billed the full cost of their course.

To register for the scholarship visit: [go.umd.edu/loggerscholarship](http://go.umd.edu/loggerscholarship)



## Comments Welcome on Draft Maryland Forest Action Plan (Strategy and Assessment) and Forest Legacy Assessment of Need

The [DRAFT Maryland Forest Action Plan](#) is open for public review and comment through **November 16, 2020**. Revisions from the 2010 and 2015 plans were made following six statewide listening sessions in May 2019, reference to the State Wildlife Action Plan, and additional presentations to stakeholder groups.

Comments can be submitted through the online portal on the Maryland Forest Service website at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/SFAP-LegacyAON.aspx>.

The Action Plan is composed of three related documents:

1. **Assessment of Maryland's Forests**, with background, current conditions, and priority mapping;
2. **Strategy to guide agency and stakeholder actions over the next 5 to 10 years** (required for Farm Bill funding, such as from USDA Forest Service);
3. **The Assessment of Need** that guides Maryland's **Forest Legacy** working forest conservation program (incorporated by reference in the Forest Action Plan).

Are the issues important to you or the actions you think Maryland should be pursuing captured in these documents? Is there other resource information or priority areas that should be represented in the Assessment?

The Maryland Forest Service welcomes your comments, and is planning a webinar in early November to review findings and will follow up with links for that.

Please share this web link widely! Thank you for caring about Maryland's forests and natural resources.

Anyone with further questions can contact Anne Hairston-Strang, Associate Director of the Maryland Forest Service, at [anne.hairston-strang@maryland.gov](mailto:anne.hairston-strang@maryland.gov).

For those MD-DE Master Loggers with a  
**12/31/2020 expiration date** we are providing a **6 month grace period**.

This year has been challenging to offer face to face trainings and we thank you for understanding. We are glad to say there are still many ways to get continuing education credits. You can watch a logger/forestry related video/webinar, write an article for this newsletter or an editorial for your local newspaper, or invite us to a logging job to get credit. There are many more activities, so please see the list below or check out the MD-DE Master Logger website.

If you have questions about the number of credits you still need to get please contact Taylor at (443) 446-4267.



## Natural Area Management Services Webinar Series

### Expanding Services to your Clientele

Interested in expanding the suite of services you offer landowners?

Want to include creating and enhancing natural areas?

If so, then this four-part webinar series is for you!

Small scale natural area management services include:

- WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT**
- FORESTRY PRACTICES**
- CHOSEN TREE RELEASE**
- CREATING A NATURAL HAVEN**
- INVASIVE PLANT ID & CONTROL**
- CREATING FOOD PLOTS**

A resource manual and specialized checklist tool have been developed to complement the training and help forestry professionals determine which enhancement practices are suitable for a given property/site.

Join us for this webinar series to increase your knowledge and skills useful for providing additional services to clientele.

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. October 22 & 29, November 5 & 12.

Webinar 1 Thursday, October 22	<b>Expanding Your Business: Land Care Practices on Small-Acreages</b>	<p><b>Registration:</b> <a href="https://go.umd.edu/NaturalAreasServices">https://go.umd.edu/NaturalAreasServices</a></p> <p><b>Cost:</b> \$35 &amp; \$55</p> <p><b>Includes:</b> Woodland Health Practices Handbook, Woodland Health Assessment Checklist and Management Actions, Common Native Trees of Virginia Identification Guide and Common Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of Virginia Identification Guide</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For an additional \$20 (\$55.00 total) participants can also receive a copy of the original Woods in Your Backyard book</p> <p><b>The Woods in Your Backyard Partnership</b> includes: University of Maryland Extension, Penn State Extension, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Virginia Dept. of Forestry. This project is funded by the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology.</p>
Webinar 2 Thursday, October 29	<b>Land Care Practices for Woodland Health</b>	
Webinar 3 Thursday, November 5	<b>Land Care Practices for Woodland Health Continued</b>	
Webinar 4 Thursday, November 12	<b>Woodland Health Assessment &amp; Incorporating Woodland Health Practices</b>	

If you want to attend but missed it, the recorded series will be available for CEC's in December, on the MD-DE Master Logger webpage.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.

## Update from the MD-DE Master Logger Coordinator

Hello MD-DE Master Loggers.

I hope you and your loved ones remain well.

We are no doubt living in interesting time with interesting challenges and interesting solutions!

We have adjusted to many changes on our end. Working from home has gone better than many of us thought. Unfortunately, we have not been able to host or plan large group gatherings subsequently canceling or postponing many of the CEC's plans we had for this year. So, we created a couple of new ways for MD-DE Master Loggers to earn CEC's. We have two paper publications (with quizzes) that we can mail to you. We will also be planning an evening 'watch party' in the next couple months. What is a 'watch party'? It is a time when we are online together to watch a forestry related webinar and have a live discussion after. I'm looking forward to it. Keep your eyes peeled! As always, we encourage you to participate in forestry related educational activities and to let us know about them. Check out the safety meeting MD-DE Master Logger Robert Beale held in Southern MD on page six. If you want to hold a MD-DE Master Logger training in your area, call me and we can plan it together. For other ways to earn CEC's check out our webpage or page nine for a list.

As we work to diversify our offerings, we are hoping you are diversifying your services. If you are, we want to hear about it! How are you diversifying your business? We want to let other MD-DE Master Loggers know how they can use their expertise to expand or transform their business. Speaking about diversifying, have you heard about the Logger to LTE (License Tree Expert) bill? For more information check out page eight. Also, there is the Natural Areas Management Services Webinar Series where you can earn four MD-DE Master Logger CEC's! See page ten for more details.

I'm excited to inform you of The Rudy Baliko Memorial Scholarship (previously known as the Loveville Timberworks Scholarship) which will cover course fees for Maryland and Delaware residents wanting to take the core courses and other courses offered through the MD-DE Master Logger program. See page two for article.

Taylor has also updated the MD-DE Master Logger directory. Updating your information will ensure you receive our communications and your business is considered by those individuals seeking qualified loggers in your region. If you are not in the directory and want to be, contact Taylor at [taylormr@umd.edu](mailto:taylormr@umd.edu).

Last but not least, as you saw from the cover story, Bruce Barnes, the 2020 Maryland Logger of the Year, has been recognized by the Forest Resources Association as the Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger of the Year! High five Bruce! We are proud that a MD-DE Master Logger has been awarded this great recognition two years in a row. See page one to read the full article.

I'd love to hear from you. Please drop me a line, let's catch up. My number is 410-310-8445. Thank you for the great work you do!

Take care,  
Agnes  
MD-DE Master Logger Coordinator

Follow us on Facebook @MDDEMasterLogger

## Abandoned Cemeteries and How to Handle Their Discovery

In the last century, our landscape has changed quite dramatically, by land fragmentation, development and invasive species. Sometimes when doing a logging job you make that discovery. You have moved, or are preparing to move into a tract of timber and you notice that at one time it wasn't timber land. You find remnants of old buildings, farm implement parts, or better still, tombstones... yes tombstones!

One thing to remember, is that it was a common practice to bury family members in an area on the homestead or family farm. During major epidemics in the middle ages, mass burials occurred of those who had succumbed to disease. Many did not have families left to mourn and remained unnamed. The burial grounds may not even have been marked. We are finding a few today in urban areas undergoing renewal. Over the years, the area was abandoned, buildings destroyed and allowed to grow over with trees and other vegetation. Now the trees have grown large enough that the landowner has decided to market them and you are starting to harvest this area. When going through these areas you come across an area that appears different than the rest of the forest. Stop and look around, you may be surprised at what you may find. While scouting the area, you may notice depressions in the ground, moss covered mounds, parts of wrought iron fence. This is just a little of what you find that indicates a former cemetery. Burial sites can be just one, an entire family, or several families. These sites may not just be a home site, it can also be where a church once stood. The landscape was once dotted with small churches and sometimes members of the congregation were buried in the church yard. There may be no trace of the church building ever being there, but those whose final resting place was the church yard are still there.

Maryland and Delaware have laws in the books that deal with the discovery of abandoned cemeteries and even human remains. In most counties, they too have laws that deal with this. Maryland DNR even has a policy about the discovery of both human remains and cemeteries on state owned and managed lands. The information on state and local jurisdictions laws and codes and those that need to be contacted will be gone over so that in the event you make such a discovery you can make sure that the final resting place of those you have discovered can remain unharmed. When you come across these areas, notify the landowner. Survey the area by walking the perimeter looking to see a start and end point for the

burial site. If you can take photographs, do so. Make note of how many burials you see if your phone is GPS enabled, mark the area. Also, you should flag the area so that no one will run equipment through the area. The landowner should contact local authorities letting them know of the discovery, especially if exposed human remains are found. If exposed human remains are found, notify authorities at once and STOP all work in that area until given the go ahead to start again. If you would like further information go to <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/cem/cemgenlfaqs.shtml>. Once you have done this, work with the landowner to continue the harvest while protecting and respecting the final resting place of those you have found.

Discovering a burial site on a property can be exciting, haunting and require some follow-up. Do your due diligence to maximize harvest to ensure the minimum of disturbance to respect the dead.



In this photo, the moss covered mound is actually a burial vault. There was another vault beside the one pictured that was more exposed and there were no markers for either of them. This photo was taken in Hurley's Neck below Vienna in Dorchester County on former Chesapeake Corporation property.



This photo was again taken at Ferry Farm Estates in the Neck District of Dorchester County and again you really have to look to see the headstones and the wrought iron fence delineating the burial area.

MD-DE Master Logger Continuing Education Credit Opportunities	Number of Credit hours
Natural Areas Management Manual and Checklist with quiz Call or email Taylor to have the materials sent to you.	4
Natural Areas Management Services Webinar Series October 22 & 29, November 5 & 12 For more information and to register: <a href="https://go.umd.edu/NaturalAreasServices">https://go.umd.edu/NaturalAreasServices</a> The recorded series will be available for CEC's in December, on the MD-DE Master Logger webpage. Or if you prefer to have a USB of the recordings sent to you, contact Taylor.	1/webinar 4 in total
Forestry Aesthetics publication with quiz Call or email Taylor to have the materials sent to you.	2
Various CEC safety and forest management videos Find it on our website: <a href="https://go.umd.edu/loggercec">https://go.umd.edu/loggercec</a> <b>Check out what has been recently added:</b> -Deer Management Stewardship Course -Best Management Practices Video Series -EPA's Forestry Best Management Practices in Watersheds -An OSHA Safety Training Video	varied
Virginia SHARP Logger Programs <a href="http://sharpllogger.vt.edu/">http://sharpllogger.vt.edu/</a>	varied
Webinars hosted by Penn State University <a href="https://go.umd.edu/pa-forest-webinars">https://go.umd.edu/pa-forest-webinars</a>	varied
Pennsylvania State Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials— <a href="http://sfi ofpa.blogspot.com/">http://sfi ofpa.blogspot.com/</a>	varied
West Virginia BMP Recertification course <a href="http://www.wvforestry.com/">http://www.wvforestry.com/</a>	8
Master Logger Steering Committee Member	4/year
4-H or FFA or Envirothon forestry volunteer	varied
Service as a member in any forestry or natural resource organization such as local Forestry Board	2/year
Write an article for the MD-DE Master Logger Newsletter: <i>The Logger</i> or invite us to a logging job so we can highlight you in the <i>The Logger</i> .	2
Hosting an approved Timber Harvesting Tour or education event	4/year
Other logger and forestry related educational events you have attended	varied

## MARYLAND AND DELAWARE LOGGERS OFFERED LIMITED OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME LICENSED TREE EXPERTS

MD-DE Master Loggers now have a two year window of opportunity to become a Licensed Tree Expert (LTE) (2020-2021; 2021-2022), opening up new business opportunities for MD-DE Master Loggers statewide. The Maryland Tree Expert Law, adopted in 1945, protects consumers by licensing qualified and insured tree care companies and individuals who conduct tree care work done for compensation on private or public property in the state. Specific details about the program can be viewed online at: <https://go.umd.edu/DNRLTE>

Thanks to MD-DE Master Logger Brian Beitzel for his efforts working with delegates from District 1A, Wendell Bietzel and George Edwards, this legislation was passed via SB867 / HB1311 Allegany Co. & Garrett Co.- with the title "Definition of Tree Expert Alteration Act" (Full legislation available on line at <https://go.umd.edu/LoggertoLTE>). This legislation modified the experience and education qualifications needed to obtain a tree expert license.

The criteria for a MD-DE Master Logger to qualify for this program includes:

- Payment of the LTE registration fee
- Be 18 years old or older
- Be an active MD-DE Master Logger for at least 3 years before the date of taking the exam
- Have held a Forest Products Operators License for at least 3 years before the date of taking the exam
- Successful passing of the exam
- Proof of current property and liability insurance (must be maintained during the period the license is in effect).



A study guide for the exam is located on the LTE website (<https://go.umd.edu/DNRLTE>). If you have limited access to a computer, we would be happy to help you out by sending the study guide to you and helping through the process. Just give us a call.

This is very exciting and a great opportunity and we thank Brian for the work he did to help MD-DE Master Loggers throughout the state to be able to diversify the services they offer landowners. High Five!

### Earning CEC's Online

If a webinar does not issue a completion letter or certificate, MD-DE Master Logger program still requires proof of attendance.

4 possible ways to submit proof of attendance:

- 1) A completion letter or certificate from Webinar host
- 2) Provide proof of registration along with a brief write up. For guidance on what to write, go to: <http://go.umd.edu/cecproof>
- 3) Provide proof of registration and a screenshot of the final slide/closing comments of the webinar.
- 4) I'm open to other ways, please offer them! As long as there is proof of registration and completion to add to your file, we are happy.



Bucking near a snag

## MARYLAND FPO RENEWAL REMINDER



As we wind down summer and start going into the fall and winter seasons, we also look at end of calendar year items that require updating and renewal. One of the items is the Forest Product Operators License or FPO.

Maryland Natural Resources Code 5-608 (2012) states that "Any person engaged in a Forest Products business shall have a Forest Product Operators License". This license is renewed annually through the Maryland Forest Service at DNR. The letter of reminder and renewal form are sent out after the Thanksgiving holiday.

When you apply for a license, you are assigned a license number that stays with you as long as you are in business. The lowest number in the FPO database is Number 12 that was assigned to a sawmill that is no longer in business. The lowest number that is still active is Number 14, assigned to a logger.

When you get your renewal form for those that have been licensed before, your information is filled in saving and excepting the harvest data information. When looking over your form please make sure to correct any information changes such as insurance information, contact information like phone number or email addresses. It is also important to note that if you have unpaid state taxes, the Comptroller's Office will let the Forest Service know. If this is the case, you will not get your FPO license until the tax issues are resolved.

The harvest information that is also on the form should be filled out as well. The information should be as close accurate as possible. This information is used by the Maryland Forest Service to keep track of log harvest and mill output. This keeps us informed on how our forests and industry are doing.

## MARYLAND FOREST SERVICE BEGINS LOGGING SITE VISITS

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service will conduct forest harvest site visits on active logging operations across the state, in a joint effort with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to protect natural resources, wetlands, and waterways during forest harvest operations.

The Forest Service will provide expert and time-sensitive technical assistance to forest product operators to help ensure timber harvests are conducted in compliance with the approved Erosion and Sediment Control, using the most effective and appropriate best management practices. This improved communication with the forest industry will bolster efforts to help control sediment pollution from entering Maryland's waterways.

Loggers are required to notify their DNR county forester and delegated county inspector three business days before starting the logging operation. The loggers' approved Erosion and Sediment Control permit will list the appropriate person to contact before starting the job.

Counties with delegated enforcement authority from MDE will still need to be contacted prior to starting the timber harvest operation. Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Worcester are counties with delegated enforcement authority for forest harvest operations. Once notified, DNR foresters will conduct site visits to assist loggers with Sediment and Erosion Control compliance as needed.

MDE or the county with delegated authority will retain the enforcement authority at any harvest site where noncompliance issues are observed. The goal is to eliminate the need for enforcement by addressing potential areas of concern before they become an issue of noncompliance with the sediment and erosion control regulations.

The Maryland Forest Service is scheduled to begin visiting active logging jobs immediately.

## SAFETY MEETING HELD IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, Robert Beale, of Loveville Timberworks, Bruce Barnes, of Barnes Logging, and Amos Hertzler, of Ryceville Sawmill, hosted their third safety training for Southern Maryland.

Last month's meeting covered some interesting topics such as tree felling techniques, why wear chaps, chainsaw safety and skidder safety. It also included a session for loggers to talk about first-hand experiences, accidents and near misses.

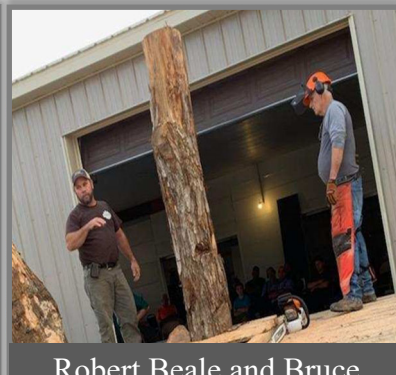
Bruce Barnes, a MD-DE Master Logger, 2020 MD Logger of the Year and the Forest Resource's 2020 Appalachian Region Logger of the Year, provided a demonstration on proper felling techniques.

The safety meeting was well attended by the local logging community and MD-DE Master Loggers.

We thank Robert, Bruce and Amos for taking time to serve their logging community.



Demonstrating why chaps are important.



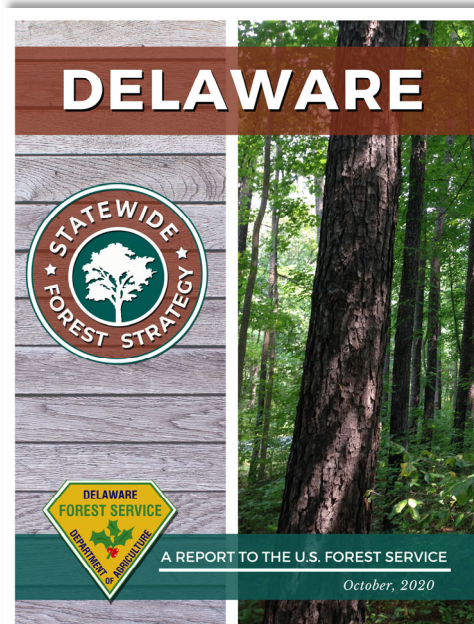
Robert Beale and Bruce Barnes demonstrating safe felling techniques.

## 2020 DELAWARE FOREST ACTION PLAN

By: Michael A. Valenti, Forestry Administrator, Delaware Forest Service

The Delaware Forest Service (DFS) submitted two key planning documents to the U.S. Forest Service in 2010 that together made up the Delaware Forest Action Plan (DFAP): *Delaware Forest Resource Assessment* and *Delaware Statewide Forest Strategy*. The assessment summarized the state of forest resources in Delaware leading up to 2010. Detailed information contained in the plan served as a guide in developing a strategy for the subsequent ten years with an overarching goal of protecting Delaware forests and all the natural benefits they provide.

With guidance from the Delaware Forest Stewardship Committee, the DFS completed an updated DFAP in 2020. The new version once again includes two sections regarding Delaware's forest resource: an assessment of current forest conditions and trends and a corresponding strategy designed to protect remaining forestlands. The assessment is a detailed evaluation of the forest resource and changes that occurred between 2010 and 2020. It presents a list of priority issues, threats, and opportunities based on the most up-to-date forest inventory data. We then used the assessment and developed a ten-year strategy to address four key issues—forest health and functionality, forest markets, sustainable forest management, and public awareness and appreciation of forests. Embedded within 22 issue-related strategies are 105 performance goals or measures of success specifically designed to address Delaware forest threats and opportunities for improvement. This plan will help guide the DFS, partners, and numerous engaged stakeholders in ensuring the health and vitality of Delaware's forests for years to come.



For more information contact Michael Valenti at [Michael.valenti@delaware.gov](mailto:Michael.valenti@delaware.gov) or (302) 698-4547.

## A new book has been released titled, *Beneath the Canopy: A Historical View of Forestry in Delaware*

by Bob Tjaden and Walt Gabel, both former State Foresters of Delaware.

Bob is a native Delawarean and a forester. With a great appreciation for Delaware's rich forest history, he wrote this book with the late Walt Gabel, so others can realize the value of these forests and have historical information in one publication. They take the reader on a historical journey with photographs and written documents that were gathered from archival documents and interviews that are part of the Delaware Forest Oral History Project.

Delaware's forests have provided valuable materials for the production and manufacturing of many items. They include ship building, paper making, charcoal production, holly wreath making, wooden basket and shingle manufacturing, gunpowder, pulpwood and lumber. During the 1920's, Laurel was the largest manufacturer of wooden bushel baskets and crates for fruits and vegetables. In the 1930's & 40's, Milton was known as the Holly Wreath capital of the world, shipping Christmas wreaths worldwide. The Pennsylvania Railroad had a special train at Christmas called the "Holly Express" to pick up and deliver wreaths throughout the region. Over the years, foresters, private landowners and forestry organizations have helped protect and manage Delaware's forests and are highlighted in the book. There is also a chapter dedicated to the Great Cypress Swamp and its' folklore.

In 1927 the Delaware Forestry Department was established, with William S. Taber as State Forester, to provide leadership for the protection and management of Delaware's forests. During this time, forest fire lookout towers were erected, State Forests and a State Tree Nursery were established, and a Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) camp was built at Redden Forest. The reader will also learn the critical role of the Forestry Department and Delaware's wood products during WW II.

This 420 page book can be purchased on Amazon.com, in a soft cover or BarnesandNoble.com in hard cover. Signed copies of the book (soft or hard cover) can be purchased directly from Bob Tjaden at [rtjaden1@comcast.net](mailto:rtjaden1@comcast.net).

