UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION | ENR ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

The Logger

Volume: 26, Issue: I Fall 2026

Hello,

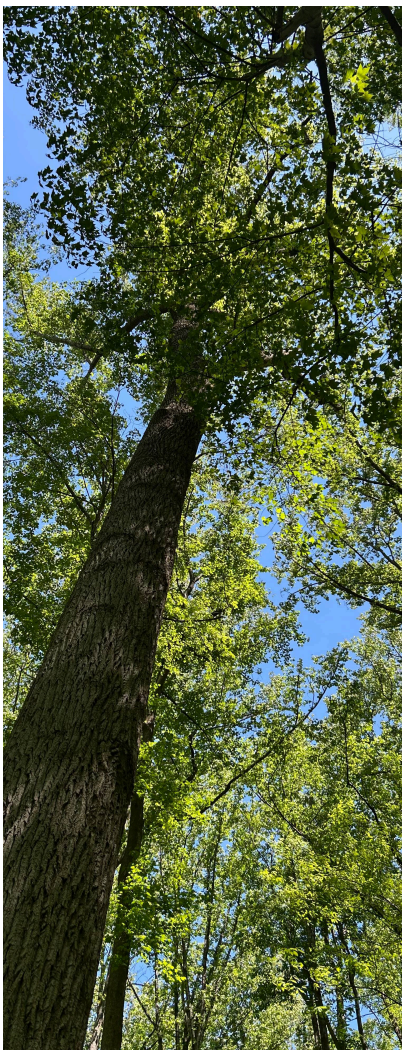
My name is Nicole Zimmerman and I would like to introduce myself as the new MD/DE Master Logger Program Coordinator with the University of Maryland Extension. During my time in this role, I have already gotten the chance to meet or talk with some of our Master Loggers, but I am always looking to get to know more of the community!

A little background on me: I graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. in Environmental Science and a minor in Soil Science. Go Terps! Before joining UME, I worked in Worcester and Somerset Counties as a Natural Resource Specialist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service. In this role I worked on forest and agricultural conservation plans and became familiar with the hard work it takes to manage a forest. I have spent most of my life outside (and plan to keep it that way) as a past camp counselor and forest enthusiast!

I am very excited to work with the logging community to develop applicable education opportunities so you can keep doing what you do best: managing our forests! I am always open to feedback and ideas, so please feel free to contact me by phone: (301) 226-7566 or email: nzimmer2@umd.edu with your thoughts!

I look forward to working with you!

Nicole Zimmerman





Grace Period Has Ended

Submitting Your Credits

As a MD-DE Master Logger you are required to submit 8 **continuing education credits** every two years. The MD-DE Master Logger program has been operating under a grace period where expirations of Master Logger licenses were halted and extra time was allowed to submit necessary credits. We are now operating under a regular two-year cycle based on your provided expiration date.

How to submit continuing education credits

All credits are subject to approval by the steering committee. Proof of attendance or participation in the form of an agenda, attendance sheet, letter, or membership card is required for all CE credits.

Email Taylor Robinson at taylormr@umd.edu the following:

- Online credit events: certification of completion
- In-person credit events: attendance sheet and agenda



Online CEU Opportunities

Visit the University of Maryland Extension Logger Training Page for various online continuing education opportunities https://go.umd.edu/onlineCEC	Varied
Repeat a MD-DE Master Logger Online Core Course https://go.umd.edu/onlineCEC	4 credits per section
Watch the recording of the Bulletproofing Your Business webinar on the MD-DE Master Logger YouTube page https://go.umd.edu/bpybvideo	1 credit
West Virginia BMP Recertification Course https://loggertraining.com/course/index.php?categoryid=3	2 credits
Virginia Tech Sharp Logger On Demand webinars https://sharplogger.vt.edu/OnlineTraining.html	Varied
Logger Training Professional Development Online Platform https://loggertraining.com/?redirect=0	Varied

2025/2026 Maryland Logger of the Year and 2026 Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger

In one grand swoop Jack Mills has been awarded both the 2025/2026 Maryland Logger of the year and the 2026 Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger Award!

Jack began logging at the age of ten under the guidance of his uncle and mentor, Tom Mitchell, and continues to honor his legacy through his love of the land and his commitment to quality work, honesty, and a strong work ethic. He is an active participant in the MD/DE Master Logger Program and the forest community, holding memberships in both the Maryland Forests Association and the Delaware Forestry Association.



Jack Mills photo credit: Edwin Remsberg



Jack Mills photo credit: Edwin Remsberg, edited by Nicole Zimmerman



From legislative events to annual banquets, Jack is consistently present and ready to share his story or offer perspective. He embodies the quintessential logger, and you'll often hear him even before you see him, thanks to his recognizable and contagious laugh.

Jack has also been featured as one of MFA's "Faces of Forestry," a public perception campaign that highlights people in forestry who are doing great things.

Above all, Jack is genuinely a great person through and through, respected by those who know and work with him!

Written and edited by Beth Hill and Nicole Zimmerman

News and Updates

Maryland-Grown Wood Takes Center Stage Under New Executive Order



Use of In-State Wood for Publicly Funded State Construction Projects

Executive Order 01.01.2026.10 highlights the importance of Maryland's forests and forest products industry. Signed by Governor Wes Moore on June 1, 2026, the order directs State agencies to promote Maryland-grown and Maryland-harvested wood when appropriate for publicly funded construction projects. For Maryland loggers, landowners, foresters, sawmills, and forest products businesses, this initiative could create additional opportunities for locally harvested timber. The order also recognizes sustainable forestry's environmental and economic benefits and the important role Maryland's forest industry plays in supporting rural communities, jobs, and local economies.





Summer Highlights of the MD-DE Master Logger Program

Bulletproofing Your Business

Hosted a webinar on casualty litigation for your logging business. Presented by Stephen Setliff, owner and Managing Partner at Setliff Law, P.C.

> "Finally a lawyer who is willing to help the logging and trucking industry.
>
> One accident can bankrupt your business and take everything. Stephen did a great job explaining what you can do to minimize your risk as a business owner and how to manage your safety program to help protect your business, home and livelihood. Highly recommended for any business owner."
>
> - Richard Anacker, A&A Tree Experts, Inc.

Identifying & Managing Invasive Plants in Your Woodland

Hosted two classes where loggers and woodland owners came together to learn about invasive plant identification and management strategies in Keedysville and Queenstown, MD.

Forestry Best Management Practices: Protecting Soil and Water Quality

Written by Laura Upham, Delaware Forest Service Forest Stewardship Coordinator

Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) play a critical role in protecting soil and water quality during timber harvesting and other forest management activities. These proven practices help reduce soil erosion, compaction, and sedimentation in nearby waterways. Common BMPs include water bars, Streamside Management Zones (SMZs), commonly called buffers, properly located skid trails, and appropriate stream crossings.

Forestland Located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Maryland: 2.5 million acres, or 93%

Delaware: 190,000 acres, or 53%

The Chesapeake Bay is impaired by excess nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment, forests are an important tool for protecting water quality and reducing the amount of nutrients and sediment reaching local waterways.

Timber harvesting can disturb soil, making proper planning and BMP implementation essential. One important consideration is the location and construction of skid trails. Grades greater than 15% should be avoided whenever possible, and trails should be located to minimize erosion and soil disturbance. When challenging terrain cannot be avoided, dispersing skid trails can help limit exposed mineral soil. Rutting should generally not exceed six inches in depth for more than 50 feet. Excessive rutting should be repaired at the completion of the harvest.

Stream crossings also require careful planning. Crossings should be installed perpendicular to waterways and, whenever possible, placed on stable soils that are not saturated or highly erodible. Temporary bridges are generally preferred for crossing waterways, while additional mats or longer bridges may be used to reduce impacts in difficult conditions. Log fords may be appropriate for dry ditches, while permanent crossings are another option but are often more costly.

Streamside Management Zones are another important BMP. SMZs are typically a minimum of 50 feet wide but may need to be wider depending on slope and site conditions. They may be designated as no-cut areas or selectively harvested while maintaining at least 60 square feet of basal area per acre. Skid trails should be minimized within SMZs, with roads and landings located outside these areas whenever possible.

Following BMPs is an important part of responsible forest management. When properly planned and implemented, these practices protect soil, maintain water quality, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and help ensure that Maryland and Delaware's forests continue providing important benefits to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



BMP manuals for Maryland and Delaware are available through local Service Foresters. Delaware's Forestry BMP Manual and additional publications are available through the Delaware Forest Service.

55 Years in Forestry: Adapting to a Changing Industry

Written by Joe Hinson, Maryland Forests Association Vice President

This year marks a milestone for me: 55 years as a professional forester.

Over that time, I've watched the forest products industry change in ways I could never have imagined. It reminds me of an old saying: “Yep, I've seen a lot of changes in my time; been against every one of them!” There's some truth in that. Change can be uncomfortable, particularly when you've spent decades doing things a certain way. But change is inevitable. The challenge is to apply what we've learned and adapt.



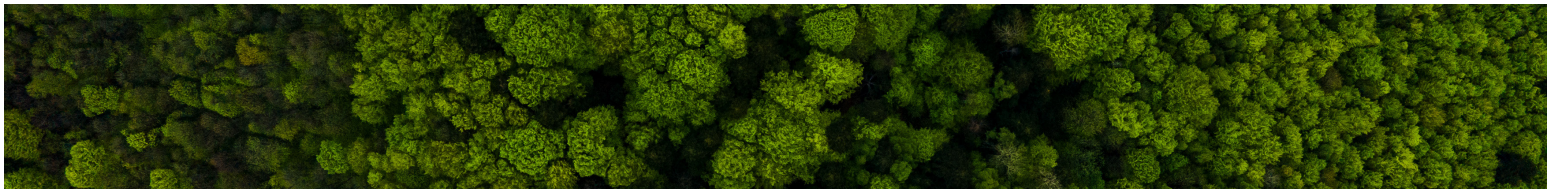
I have witnessed significant transformations across forest product companies, public agencies, and available technologies. When I became a forester, the essential tools were a compass, diameter tape, cruising stick, and a good sense of how many paces it took to walk a chain. Today, GPS, GIS, LiDAR, tablets, and specialized forestry applications have transformed the job.

Amid a shifting industry, loggers possess a unique advantage when it comes to promoting up-to-date sustainable forest management: direct, regular contact with landowners during critical decision-making moments. This relationship is a valuable asset.

Loggers who purchase timber can stay informed on forest management developments to better guide landowners through their options. That doesn't mean every logger needs to become a consulting forester. Rather, it means that loggers should possess a fundamental grasp of silviculture, regeneration, thinning, and stand improvement, alongside knowing when to involve a professional forester. Instead of simply telling a landowner, “You've got timber ready to cut,” a knowledgeable logger can explain what the landowner has, what management options exist, and what resources may be available to help accomplish those objectives.

Forestry will continue to change. The question isn't whether we can stop it; we can't. The question is whether we are prepared to take advantage of it. That means investing not only in equipment, but also in knowledge, training, and relationships.

After 55 years, I've learned that the tools may change. The markets may change. The industry may change. But there will always be a need for people who understand the forest, know how to manage it, and are willing to keep learning.



Maryland Woods Market Update

Issues Within the Market

Maryland's forest products industry faces a challenge many loggers know well: getting harvested wood to processing facilities. Limited processing capacity near harvest sites can mean longer trucking distances, higher transportation costs, and fewer options for selling local timber.

Cambium's Flagship Wood Processing Facility Presents a Solution

Cambium's flagship wood processing facility, currently being built in Columbia, Maryland, aims to help reduce these hardships by bringing multiple steps under one roof. The facility will process, develop, and sell locally harvested wood, creating a centralized source for sustainably grown Maryland timber. Cambium plans to support furniture, mass timber, and thermally modified wood markets which can help support the forest management that depends on these markets.

For more information, read MD DNR's press release: **"Maryland Partners Explore Pathways to Expand Use of Local Wood":**
https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2026/08/28/maryland-partners-explore-pathways-to-expand-use-of-local-wood/

Tech & Tools

SumBuck

SumBuck serves as a training application for hardwood log bucking and grading. The app provides practice on selecting different lengths to buck tree stems into logs and then shows how those logs would be graded. This tool will also compare your bucking choices with the highest-value bucking pattern determined for that tree stem.

Can be found at: https://sumbuck.lumbermen.org/

LiDAR-Equipped Drones

LiDAR-equipped drones are increasingly being used in forestry to create highly detailed 3D maps of forest stands. Laser pulses measure tree and ground surfaces, allowing foresters to map stand boundaries, tree heights, canopy structure, terrain, and inventory characteristics. These data can support harvest planning, forest inventories, and monitoring while reducing the need for extensive ground measurements.

For more information:
https://research.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/articles/augmenting-forest-inventories-using-drones-derive-individual-tree-metrics?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Upcoming Events

November 12th, 2026	**Identifying & Managing Invasive Plants in Your Woodland** Hosted by Nicole Zimmerman: nzimmer2@umd.edu or (301) 226-7566	Zoom Webinar
February 10th, 2027	**Forestry Day in Annapolis** Save the Date! Hosted by Maryland Forests Association	Annapolis, MD
February 24-26th, 2027	**Allegany Society of American Foresters Chapter's Winter Training** Save the Date! Hosted by MD/DE Society of American Foresters	Frederick, MD
March 18th, 2027	**Delaware Forestry Association Annual Banquet & Business Meeting**	Bridgeville, DE

MD/DE Master Logger Program

Nicole Zimmerman
Program Coordinator
Western Maryland Research & Education Center
18330 Keedysville Rd, Keedysville MD 21756

Phone: (301) 226-7566
E-mail: nzimmer2@umd.edu
https://extension.umd.edu/masterlogger

Current Resident or

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