



*A unifying voice for Virginia's Forestry community.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**BL NICHOLS LOGGING, INC. WINS VIRGINIA FORESTRY  
ASSOCIATION'S LOGGER MERIT AWARD**

**RICHMOND, VA** – The Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) presents its 2020 Logger Merit Award to BL Nichols Logging, Inc. of Bedford County. Since 1949, this award has recognized and honored outstanding logger performance in the Commonwealth. The recipient represents the “best-of-the-best,” exemplifying the highest professional standards as they serve as effective and positive public role models for the entire logging industry. Nichols Logging previously received this award in 2005.

Bobby L. Nichols, Sr. established BL Nichols Logging, Inc. in 1969. His son Bo joined the business in 1990 and three generations of the family now work for the business including Bo's nephews and Bobby's grandsons Jason and CJ. Active supporters and volunteers in the forestry community, BL Nichols Logging, Inc. are long-time members of VFA and the Virginia Loggers Association. Fifteen employees make up two crews with one crew focusing on pine tracks that deliver pine saw timber and pulpwood to locations in southside Virginia and another focusing on hardwood saw timber and pulpwood. Bobby and his family are well-known by landowners and community members for their exceptional leadership, honesty, and work ethic among the community.

Scott Shallenberger with WestRock, who began working with Nichols Logging in 1996, recalls his experiences with Bobby over the years. “It doesn't matter if they were harvesting stumpage that we purchased or harvesting a private landowner track, results were always the same,” says Shallenberger. “Great merchandising, respect for land, and great attitudes.”

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**About Virginia Forestry Association:**

Founded in 1943, the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) is a not-for-profit organization with the mission of representing Virginia's diverse forestry community and promoting the sustainable use and conservation of forest resources to ensure their long term social benefits for all Virginians. VFA consists of a diverse membership, including forest landowners, foresters, forest products businesses, loggers, forestry consultants, and a variety of individuals and groups who are concerned about the future well-being of Virginia's forest resources and are willing to collaborate for the good of the industry. VFA seeks to be the unifying voice of Virginia's forestry community through advocacy, outreach, and communications that enhance the public's perception of the industry. Learn more at [www.vaforestry.org](http://www.vaforestry.org).