

Certified Logging Professional



Cultivating Skill, Knowledge and Pride in the Maine Woods

January 6, 2020

Name
Company
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear «Salutation»:

We are entering an exciting time when Maine's forest industry is poised to grow 30 percent in the next five years. This growth will require increased harvesting capacity and well-educated loggers, who are trained in the most up-to-date safety and environmental practices. **That said, we need your help.** I'm writing today to personally ask you to donate to the Certified Logging Professional program (CLP).

Since 1991, the CLP program has proven itself over and over. Loggers have learned safety practices that significantly increase the probability they will return home safely. On average, it's safer to be a CLP logger than to work in private industry in Maine. A byproduct of CLP's effort has been a dramatic decrease in workers compensation rates over the last 29 years.

What a success story!

Let's take a moment to look at CLP's unique strengths:

- Only program that educates individual loggers at the stump and whose certification belongs to the individual logger;
- Only educational program that conducts follow-up field inspection to evaluate implementation of safety and environmental practices;
- CLP is an industry standard in Maine and nationally recognized for its achievements in lowering workers compensation costs for logging;
- CLP's brand has recognition with the industry, state and federal agencies, and family forest owners;
- CLPs are eligible for the Maine Forestry Direct Link Loan Program at a discounted percentage rates;
- CLP training is recognized as equivalent to DEP Certification for working in shoreland areas and,
- CLP serves as a portal for new loggers to enter the profession. In 2019, 63 new loggers achieved initial certification.

What are the challenges? Retiring loggers are outpacing recruitments. All industries in Maine are challenged to find workers due to the well-publicized labor shortage. The result is a shrinking pool of loggers left to shoulder the costs of the CLP program.

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That's why we need your help to broaden support for CLP. The following changes are needed to ensure CLP's future and expand desperately needed programming.

- Starting January 1, 2020, the CLP program will exist under the umbrella of the Maine TREE Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to environmental education and research. Maine TREE, serving as the fiscal agent for the CLP program, will allow for tax deductible contributions to the CLP program from the broader forest community, which benefits by enabling safety education to woods-workers.
- Establish CLP's "**Academy for Logger's Safety**" to develop and deliver the following:
 - Company level safety certification with potential to significantly lower the administrative costs for logging firms
 - Safety training for forest products trucking – an urgent need due to rapidly escalating liability and worker's compensation costs year over year.

Don't forget, because of its non-profit 501(c)(3) status, your donation to the Maine Tree Foundation/CLP Program is **tax deductible and **100%** of your donation will go to the CLP program.**

All donors will be recognized on the new CLP website, and listed annually in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative SFI annual progress report.

On behalf of safe loggers and the CLP program, I thank you for your consideration and help.

Sincerely,

Erik Carlson,
Maine chair, CLP Board

I will support the CLP Program with a donation of:

\$10,000 \$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 Other: \$

King Pine Yellow Birch Red Oak Sugar Maple Red Spruce

Check here if you would like to receive an invoice.

Please make checks payable to: The Maine Tree Foundation/CLP Program

Mail checks to: Maine Tree Foundation/CLP Program, 535 Civic Center Drive, Augusta, ME 04330

Please indicate CLP Program on the check

Thank you so much for your support!