



# Seminar Speakers

## INTRODUCTION TO LOW IMPACT-10AM BOTH DAYS

### “Introduction to Low Impact Forestry” with Ryan Willock

Ryan Willock is a small-scale sustainable logger and farmer in the mountains of Virginia. This year marks 400 years that his family has been farming in Virginia; Willock has been in the logging industry for over 25 years. He has experience in running a small sawmill and firewood business. He also worked for one of the world’s leading manufacturers of low-impact logging equipment, running approximately 80% of the U.S. market for them as well as opening the market.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO HARDWOOD LOG MARKETING-1PM • BOTH DAYS

### “Log Grading and Scaling/Marketing with Jeremy Harless

Jeremy Harless is a log buyer with more than 20 years of experience buying multiple grades and species. He is a fourth-generation logger and holds a bachelor’s in forestry from Virginia Tech. For more than a decade he has owned and operated a log yard that buys, sells and ships logs domestically and overseas. He is dedicated to staying on top of current market trends while taking care of his current suppliers and customers.

## TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT-11AM • FRIDAY ONLY

### “Timber Stand Improvement for Wildlife” and “State & Federal Cost-Share Programs for Timber Stand Improvement” with Justin Funk

Justin Funk has worked with the Virginia Department of Forestry for 18 years. He has served as an area forester in the central region of the state and managed state tree nurseries in the past.

## LET’S SELL FIREWOOD-2PM BOTH DAYS

### “Let’s Sell Firewood: How to Start Your Own Firewood Business” and “Sawmilling for Fun & Profit” with Russ Wille

Russ Willey is a Maine-based firewood producer, entrepreneur and content creator dedicated to helping people build better firewood businesses through hard work, practical knowledge and honest equipment reviews. As the owner of Willey’s Firewood, he’s built a reputation for producing premium firewood while sharing the realities of running a modern firewood operation. Known for his straightforward, hands-on approach, Willey has become a trusted voice in the firewood community by testing and reviewing the equipment that professionals rely on every day.

Through his growing YouTube channel, Facebook community and the “Brothers in the Woodlot” podcast, Willey educates and entertains thousands of woodcutters, arborists, landowners and firewood producers. He is also a strong advocate for workplace safety, supporting small businesses and preserving the traditions of the forestry and firewood industries while embracing innovations that make the work more efficient.

