

GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST AWARD

Crawford Wilks

Wilks Logging, Inc.

The *Gene Collins Logger Activist Award* for 2005 was proudly presented to Crawford Wilks and Wilks Logging, Inc., Chester, at the 2006 Annual Membership Meeting, January 28th, at the Crown Reef Conference Center, Myrtle Beach. Starting with his father Ervin, Crawford has been a professional logger for over 30 years.

A quiet professional, Crawford is a strong and active supporter of SC Timber Producers Association and the American Loggers Council. He understands the importance of how professional loggers contribute to their local and state economies, and how professional loggers must continue to be the best at their jobs harvesting timber products, working with landowners in sustainable forestry and educating the critical public to better understand that timber harvesting is being conducted by professionals who are concerned about their environment.

Wilks Logging is a family affair. Wife Brenda tends to the office while son Jason manages one of two logging sides. Brother Terry drives and works on the jobs, daughter in law Tonya helps with administrative duties and nephew Guy Fleming, Jr. operates a skidder.

Crawford has been an active District 3 member since 1999. He has attended all annual meetings and has only missed two district meetings over the years. He has been a leader in his district promoting the association to other loggers and forest industry personnel.

To help build more positive images for the logging and forest products industries, Crawford and his crew worked in a cooperative effort with the Willamette Industries local mill to build a walking trail and park in Chester. Chester Park is now a tribute to the involvement Wilks Logging has had in creating positive relationships for the logging industry with its local community.

Wilks Logging has been involved in educating the public about professional timber harvesting. Crawford participates in the Sustainable Forestry Teacher Education Program developed by Bowater, Inc.'s forester Mike Windhorn. A class of teachers visited Crawford's logging operation and spent an afternoon learning about how professional loggers are responsible businessmen, protect our state's water quality with Best Management Practices, protect wildlife habitat and harvest timber in an environmentally responsible manner.

Wilks Logging believes in performing at the highest level of professionalism. Working two logging jobs employing eighteen full and four part time employees, his company's philosophy is simple. Perform and provide the best job for the logging profession, our customers and for sustainable forestry.

Crawford promotes sustainable forestry with landowners. He meets before, during and after harvests to ensure the landowner's expectations are met and exceeded. He has worked with landowners and foresters to distribute information on sustainable forestry and professional logging.

Wilks Logging has actively supported the Wood Supply Research Institute by participating in the Truck Turn Time and the Log Sorting projects. He has been a financial supporter donating yearly to WSRI's loggers segment to fund research.

Crawford, Jason and Terry are SFI Trained, have attended the Timber Operations Professional continuing education workshops and actively participated in association events such as the Truck Driver Training Workshop conducted in Richburg.

Active in Calvary Baptist Church, Crawford is Chairman of the Deacons. He participates in church activities and local community services.

There is no doubt Crawford Wilks and Wilks Logging truly support their profession. Leading quietly by example and having a passionate advocacy for your profession, sometimes speaks much louder than words.

As Crawford said, "The logging business is still challenging and will continue to be. We must demonstrate to the public, our customers and to the market we are professionals harvesting timber in a sustainable manner and recognize we have a responsibility to ensure future generations that forest products and healthy forests will be available."

"SC Timber Producers Association and the American Loggers Council are the best things we've got going on for loggers in South Carolina and nationally. Professional loggers now have a voice and are represented. SCTPA speaks



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well for loggers in South Carolina. We just need to increase our logger members in the association. It's disappointing not more loggers understand the importance of our association and its work on our behalf. Loggers today are more professional than ever. We need to continue improving our profession, our businesses and industry."

A quiet leader and advocate with a sincere commitment to professional logging, sustainable forestry, community, business and to his family, SCTPA is proud Crawford Wilks and Wilks Logging, Inc. is our 2005 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award winner.

The South Carolina Timber Producers Association's Logger Activist Award recognizes a member who has demonstrated an exceptional desire to promote and represent the profession by actively participating in association state and district activities, promoting and participating in educational efforts, community action projects and association projects to positively promote timber harvesting's image, conducting business activities in the best interests of the timber harvesting profession to engender the public's trust by meeting and exceeding the American Loggers Council Loggers Code of Practice and has displayed a professional commitment to sustainable forestry practices.

"Professional loggers now have a voice and are represented. SCTPA speaks well for loggers in South Carolina."

SCTPA's Logger Activist Award was named in honor of the late Gene Collins of Gene Collins Logging, Inc, Georgetown, because of Gene's dedication to his profession, his unselfish endeavors to promote the integrity of the logging industry within his community, his volunteer work educating children, his use of business practices that engendered the public's trust and his support for professional timber harvesting and sustainable forestry.