



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

MAY/JUNE 2009

2009 SC Teachers' Tour

Experiencing South Carolina Sustainable Forestry

Wow! Where do I start? Loggers were totally different from the preconceived notions I had. Also, the use of technology was surprising to me – much more than just a chainsaw and a big truck!

- Holly Kennerly, Cherokee Trail Elementary, Abbeville

Although smaller in quantity yet big on quality, eighteen teachers from around the Palmetto state gathered in Clinton on Tuesday June 23rd to continue the 2009 SC Teachers' Tour to experience four days of learning first hand what sustainable forestry practices, professional timber harvesting, forest management, forest products manufacturing and the forest products industry is all about on the ground.

This group was enthusiastic and ready to go. They came with some preconceived ideas about the industry, but departed with a deeper sense of appreciation, more facts and knowledge, and vastly improved attitudes about sustainable forestry, our timber harvesting and forestry professionals, forest products, forestry practices and how our industry conducts its business as stewards of our state's forest resources.

For three days the prior week at the Harbison Environmental Education Center, Columbia, the teachers learned the basics of forestry, such as how to measure trees, learned about the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and toured Southland Log Homes. They heard speakers including SC Deputy State Forester Joel Felder talk about our state's forest resources, Guy Sabin, Chief Best

Management Practices Program discuss Forestry BMP's, Jimmy Walters talk about "what is a forester?" and urban forestry, Paul Watts, SCFC, talk about fire ecology and the "Two Sides of Fire," and U.S. Forest Service's Gary Peters discuss Endangered Species and worked on Project Learning Tree activities.

The teachers traveled via motor coach to various sites to see first



Tommy Barnes explains feller buncher.

hand sustainable forestry, the forest products industry, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®, private and commercial land management goals, professional timber harvesting, forest products, tree farming, wildlife and wildlife habitat management, paper and lumber manufacturing, engineered wood products manufacturing, environmental conservation, while enjoying the fellowship along the way. These teachers turned students now realize and understand how important our industry is to the Palmetto state.

This was the second year in the forestry rich South Carolina Piedmont showcasing our forest products industry. Accurate and scientific in-

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formation about sustainable forestry was presented on the ground and in presentations, unlike the misinformation presented by those whose agenda is anti-forestry.

SCTPA is a proud SC Teachers Tour sponsor and participant. Thanks to all the cooperators who provided tour sites. Ideal Logging, Inc., AbitibiBowater, Inc., Georgia Pacific, Norbord of South Carolina, Inc., Big Pine Hunting Lodge & Day Spa, United Wood Treating, Dr. Walt McPhail's tree farm, U.S. Forest Service Sumter National Forest, Plum Creek Timber Company and Johnny Wilson's Hunt Camp.

Thanks to all the wonderful tour sponsors and a host of forest products companies that made the teachers' experience so meaningful.

Thanks to Jerry Shrum for organizing and running the tour. Special thanks to Dean Carson, retired SC Forestry Commission for volunteering again to be with the tour.

Crad Jaynes, SCTPA President, Jerry and Dean spent the week with the teachers visiting locations, answering questions and helping the teachers understand the real sustainable forestry story.

Tuesday's opening session began with SC Forestry Commission's Environmental Education Coordinator, Jerry Shrum, introducing the program and outlining the week's agenda.

Next Joe Young, Low Country Forest Products, Inc., Georgetown, talked about his fifty-one year career as a timber harvester and how the industry has changed to having professionals who are "business people" and not just "damn ole loggers."

Joe spoke about how timber harvesting had evolved from cutting and hand loading five-foot pulpwood onto short trucks to now being fully mechanized harvesting. He asked the teachers to honestly relate their perception of a logger and our industry. Of course the opinions varied. The usual comments were heard about "uneducated," "dirty job," "unregulated," "unprofessional" and "hard working." And even one said that loggers do care about what they are doing.

He followed up by talking about education and how loggers now participate in on-going training due to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® in order to further the practice of sustainable forestry. He mentioned younger loggers now have college degrees. He spoke of how the logging industry is made up of third and fourth generation family businesses; and how our nation's natural resource providers such as loggers, farmers and ranchers are dwindling in numbers.

He spoke about how the industry has changed; he noted the improvements in harvesting equipment technologies and harvesting practices such as compliance with our state's Best Management Practices for timber harvesting.

Joe noted today's professional logger is a professional business-person first in the business of timber harvesting.

Next SCTPA's Crad Jaynes spoke and stated, "Loggers today are truly stewards of our renewable and sustainable

forests. Sure, every profession has its bad actors and logging is no exception. But by and large the industry today is truly a profession to be proud of. We are doing the right things on the ground to sustain our healthy forests while providing the raw materials to produce over 5,000 products used daily to enhance our quality of life. The industry is trying to better police itself and improve its image."

He addressed how loggers today are being squeezed in the wood supply chain because of global competition and rising costs, and the effects of circumstances over which loggers have no control, yet have direct effects on them. However, he emphasized that today's professional logger is operating in a responsible and sustainable manner on the ground.

Crad thanked the teachers for the jobs they do to educate our children and young adults. He told them this week of active learning and seeing our industry up close and personal is not an effort to brainwash them, but to provide the facts and science about sustainable forestry in order for them to form an educated opinion about our industry.

He related how perception is reality to many people.

Often times what you see is not the case. The public sees land being harvested for timber and then cleared for development; therefore, the perception is that loggers are cutting all the trees.

He related personal stories and experiences where public perception and even a teacher's perception can be skewed from receiving misleading information and the lack of the real knowledge and truths about our industry.

He went on to relate how knowledge, even teacher knowledge

about sustainable forestry, timber harvesting and the forest products industry is often swayed in the wrong direction due to the misinformation distributed by environmental obstructionists. He explained that he calls them "environmental obstructionists" because their agenda is not telling the truth about the real story of sustainable forestry. He said, "Professional loggers are environmentalists. Why wouldn't loggers be? Loggers want to sustain healthy forests because that's where loggers work. Loggers have a vested interest in our healthy forest resources, sustainable forestry just like foresters and the forest products companies do."

Crad spoke about how the logging industry was raising the professional bar. He explained how the American Loggers Council was formed and how that organization represents professional loggers nationally. He talked about the ALC Master Logger Certification® program and how logger certification fits into the certification programs for forest and land management and forest products.

Speaking for the forest products industry and not just loggers, Crad told the teachers that during the week they would see the passion our industry's people have for what they do whether it was growing our forests, harvesting tim-



Learning whole tree chipping from Joe Young.

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H.R. 2454 PASSES U.S. HOUSE

The American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454) passed the U.S. House of Representatives on June 26th. This bill initially had real problems with the definition of renewable biomass that extremely limited the utilization of wood and woody biomass from federal and private lands.

Important changes were made in the final stages of negotiations changing the renewable biomass definition and the carbon offsets program.

The revised renewable biomass definition provides broad eligibility for private and federal forestlands, removing the restrictions contained in the committee bill. The new definition will enhance the utilization of woody biomass from these forested lands.

SCTPA, the American Loggers Council and forest industry organizations such as SC Forestry Association urged the House to use the 2007 Farm Bill biomass definition to enhance the use of woody biomass as feedstock for renewable energy and further promote sustainable forestry practices.

The bill includes language for "residues and byproducts from wood, pulp or paper products facilities which ensures that industry renewable energy is fully included in the definition of biomass for the Renewable Electricity Standard (RES), the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and the cap-and-trade program. The final bill adjusted the federal land provision by language restricting the eligibility of fiber from Federal (public) lands.

Another key change was oversight authority of the offsets program was placed with the U.S.D.A. The forest industry remains concerned with the emissions allocations provided to the energy-intensive, trade exposed manufacturers, specifically the bill's use of sector



benchmarks and a disproportionate reduction of manufacturer allowances over time.

American Loggers Council's Danny Dructor, ALC logger member representatives and associate ALC members traveled to Washington, DC in May to visit subcommittee and committee members focused on changing the renewable biomass definition.

If the definition had not been revised, then professional loggers and private forest landowners would have been adversely impacted and not had the ability to provide wood and woody biomass from private lands. Likewise the adverse impact would have severely hampered any efforts to harvest woody biomass from federal lands.

Now that the U.S. House has passed its version, the U.S. Senate will now work on its version of the bill. Hopefully there will not be any changes to the House renewable biomass definition. But as Washington politics usually works, each legislative body likes to put its own twist to legislation. So in essence, this legislation will likely end up in a House Senate conference committee before it is finally passed.

SCTPA members are urged to contact our SC Senators urging Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint to support the House passed renewable biomass definition.

DISTRICT MEETING SPONSORS

SCTPA thanks our sponsors for their tremendous support for our May and June district meetings. Your support allows the association to conduct these meetings to keep members informed of state, regional and national issues and events affecting timber harvesting, wood supplying, UFP trucking and forest products industry.

Thanks very much!

Swamp Fox Agency, Inc., Moncks Corner

District 9 Georgetown, District 3 Union & Chester, District 1 Saluda,
District 5 Laurens, District 3 Easley, District 6/7 Walterboro

Low Country Forest Products, Inc., Georgetown

District 8, Moncks Corner

Palmetto Pulpwood & Timber, Florence

District 11, Florence

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ber, or working at a manufacturing facility. It's the great passion to do what is right to sustain our renewable and sustainable forest resources that makes what our industry does a "sincere passion."

He thanked the teachers for taking the opportunity to learn about sustainable forestry, professional timber harvesting and the forest products industry so they would be more informed to educate their students with the correct information.

The teachers received a folder from SCTPA filled with information about timber harvesting, human interests stories of loggers, facts about logging, association and ALC stickers and an individualized SCTPA Honorary Timber Harvester Member certificate and pen.

After the opening concluded, it was off to Lee Murph and Mike Keim's Big Pine Hunt Lodge & Day Spa for a forest management tour and evening cookout of big ole steaks with all the fixins. After a wonderful cookout and relaxed time together it was back to the motel for that important meeting at the pool. Each day after the tour, discussions were held about the daily visits and experiences.

Wednesday started early as the tour headed to tour the United Wood Treating pole mill in Whitmire. Then it was on to see Ideal Logging, Inc.'s timber harvesting operation.

Ideal Logging was thinning a 1,000-acre tract near Leeds owned by Timber Vest and managed by Milliken Forestry Company using a whole tree chipping system. Ideal's Tommy Barnes, David Cox, Tommy's son Justin along with Joe Young and Crad greeted the teachers and welcomed them to the greatest show on earth.

Milliken forester Dave Hegler provided a forest management overview and the landowner's goals for the tract and explained how Ideal Logging was thinning to promote increased timber growth. Tommy explained the entire harvesting operation and talked about the challenges faced by loggers now with high fuel and operating costs.

The teachers were provided a full description of Ideal Logging's operations prepared by SCTPA explaining the whole tree chipping operation and listing the equipment spread with costs so the teachers could see the investments.

The teachers were treated to an up close view of each type of machine used. Joe Young explained the two-piece whole tree chipping system. Felling supervisor Muff Seegars harvested rows for skidding corridors and used an operator select approach to thin in between the tree rows. Tommy explained the feller buncher and how it operates. Muff even took one of the teachers out to operate the machine.

The grapple skidder was viewed and then they watched as the skidders moved the timber to the deck as the knuckleboom loader fed the delimber for delimbing and then the wood moved into the chipper. The teachers received an excellent "live" demonstration and watched as a chip van was loaded for delivery to Abitibi-Bowater's Catawba mill.

The teachers were amazed at how mechanized the entire operation was. They were also amazed at how the tract was cared for while Ideal harvested the timber.

Tommy showed the teachers a display of chipping knives and delimbing chains so they could understand the inner workings of the units.

Tommy talked about how loggers want to do a good job on the ground because it is a professional responsibility to sustain our forests and the environment. Thanks to Ideal Logging for an excellent stop.

Next it was off to the AbitibiBowater Catawba mill for lunch and a mill tour. Frazier Baldwin, Mike Windhorn and Bowater's staff greeted the tour with a presentation on the Catawba mill's operations and papermaking processes. The teachers toured the mill and saw first hand how the high quality paper products are made from Ideal Logging's wood chips and the timber delivered from other loggers. In fact while touring the woodyard a load of Ideal Logging's chips were seen being unloaded.

Next it was off to visit the U. S. Forest Service's Indian Creek site where a public forest management explanation was provided about how the Forest Service manages the Sumter National Forest. After a full day, it was time to relax. The teachers headed to Johnny Wilson's lodge for an evening meal prepared by the Enoree Chapter of the Society of American Foresters.

Thursday started early with the first stop at the Georgia Pacific chip-n-saw mill in Prosperity. Tom Merriman, wood procurement manager, along with GP's staff presented an overview of the two plants' manufacturing processes and a tour of the chip-n-saw mill ensued.

Next stop was Dr. Walt McPhail's tree farm for a view of private forestland management. Walt is an avid tree farmer and explained his management goals. A lunch was served provided by Walt and SCTPA member Piedmont Pulp, Inc., Laurens.

Then Plum Creek Timber Company hosted a stop for an industrial land tour to learn how Plum Creek manages their forests as a Timber Investment Management Organization (TIMO).

Back on the bus for one more stop at the Norbord South Carolina, Inc.'s Oriented Strand Board (OSB) mill in Kinards. Virgil Wall and his crew did a great job of explaining the OSB manufacturing process. This was an opportunity to see how OSB is manufactured from smaller or less merchantable timber into an engineered wood product.

At each mill the teachers observed operators viewing computer screens and operating the mills using high tech computer technology. This was eye-opening to view such technology in the manufacturing processes for lumber, paper and OSB.

To finish the day, the tour was treated to a Sponsor's Reception at the Hampton Inn to meet and thank our tour sponsors. After the meal, Jerry asked the teachers to comment on what they thought about the tour and what they had learned. Each teacher offered grateful remarks thanking everyone for such an awesome experience. Many mentioned they did not have any idea about

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the forest products industry and sustainable forestry prior to the tour. But now the teachers have new information to incorporate into their class lesson plans to promote the facts about our industry. One overwhelming comment heard was, "My eyes are now open. I'm going to tell my family, my friends and others what we learned."

Friday was wrap up day with Dean Carson discussing engineered wood products. He showed various products manufactured with this technology. Crad made closing remarks emphasizing the importance of how each teacher is now a stakeholder in sustainable forestry. It is their responsibility to go forth and preach the gospel of sustainable forestry, professional timber harvesting and the forest products industry.

Every teacher began the tour with individual ideas and perceptions about sustainable forestry, the forest products industry, timber harvesting, land management and reforestation; however, after witnessing the passion displayed by the industry's people about caring for our forests and the jobs each segment does, every teacher had a new found respect for our industry, our mission and its people.

"Experiencing South Carolina Sustainable Forestry" is what the teacher's tour is all about.

Quotes from the teachers...

Michele Gleaton, Calhoun Academy, St. Matthews

"Foresters are truly working their hardest to sustain our forests. All of these people work together, they are like family. They help each other out – from the loggers to the mill industry. All those in between are just as important. We have to, as educators, get the 'word out' to our kids and community. I enjoyed visiting the privately owned forests. It truly opened my eyes to what each individual is doing to sustain our forests."

Holly Kennerly, Cherokee Trail Elementary, Abbeville

"I enjoyed seeing how all of the different places we toured and people we met all work together with a passion for forestry."

Merry Cox, Cherokee Trail Elementary, Abbeville

"I have changed my opinion about the ugliness of clearcuts. I now know they are good things. I also am aware of the numerous products that come from trees and that they are renewable so that those products will not deplete the trees and forests. I also was amazed that foresters were so passionate about their jobs."

Thanks from Calvert & Suzie Sherard, Abbeville

"Crad; It was such a pleasure meeting you on the Teachers' Tour. Your dedication, passion and desire to educate are contagious. Thanks for all you do for the industry and for us."

American Loggers Council 15th Annual Meeting September 24 – 26, 2009 Flagstaff, Arizona

"Experience Arizona"

On behalf of the American Loggers Council, I invite you to attend our 15th Annual Meeting in beautiful Flagstaff, Arizona. In the two hour drive from Phoenix, you will experience a rise in elevation that will take you from the desert floor into some of the most scenic areas to be seen in the nation.

Flagstaff is the staging area for day trips to the Grand Canyon or visits to historic Sedona, Arizona where you can view the "red rock" rising out of the desert.

Enjoy all that northern Arizona has to offer as you communicate with those that make things happen in our industry. Loggers, equipment manufacturers, dealers, insurance company representatives, timber industry personnel, foresters and others will all be gathered at one location.

Come join in the business and networking of loggers and friends from throughout the United States.

The State of Arizona awaits you, and Cyndie and I will make every attempt to make your visit an experience to remember for a lifetime! Take advantage of the Early Bird Registration and save money on your adventure.

Allen Ribelin
President
American Loggers Council

SCTPA Comments: SCTPA and ALC invite our members and others to attend this 15th annual meeting. SCTPA is proud to be an ALC charter member. ALC has been the "loud and proud" national voice for professional loggers since 1994.

The annual meeting will feature a Ladies Pink Jeep Tour at Sedona, Arizona Logging Tour, Ladies Program, Membership Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting, Receptions and Awards Presentations, President's Farewell and Passing of the Gavel to the New President Dinner and Hatton-Brown's Timber Harvesting Logging Business of the Year Award Presentation and more.

Sure, economic times are not the greatest for our industry. But if you want to look at getting away to fellowship with loggers from around the country to discuss the state of the industry, you are encouraged to look hard at going to this meeting. Reasonably priced airline flights are available. It's a beautiful part of our country. It's the gateway to the Grand Canyon and wonderfully scenic places.

For a registration package, contact SCTPA office at bcjpaw@windstream.net, 803-957-9919 or go online to www.americanloggers.org or email AmericanLogger@aol.com



FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Over fifty South Carolina forest resource stakeholders attended the SC Forestry Commission Forest Resource Assessment meeting in Columbia on June

30th to provide input into an assessment of our forest resources for the future and assess the needs of stakeholders.

This meeting and its processes will assist the Commission in meeting the state's needs for long-term forestry services and forest resources for continued forest growth, prominence in economic development, forest resource supply, wildlife management, water quality, and other uses we need for the future.

SCTPA's Crad Jaynes attended representing timber harvesting. The stakeholder representatives from various state and federal agencies, forest industry, organizations, educational institutes, counties, associations, councils and private industry were quite impressive. All hold a stake in our state's forest resources.

Nathan Strong, Office of Human Resources, acted as the meeting facilitator as the attendees were divided into three breakout groups to offer Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threat (SWOT) Assessments on three topics.

State Forester Gene Kodama opened the meeting highlighting our forestlands ownership, acres in forestlands, Forest Inventory Analysis data, and noted more wood is being grown than harvested with net annual growth being the highest ever recorded for hardwood and pine. He also noted SC's forest industry's economic importance as being first in jobs, first in wages paid, timber the number one cash crop, \$1 billion in forest products exports and a total of over \$17 billion economic impact to the state. The forest industry's economic impact is "1,300 times" SCFC's state funding. For \$1.00 invested in SC Forestry Commission this produces a \$1,300 economic impact.

Gene also talked about the outside forces of politics and economics affecting the Commission and our forest resources. Pressures are coming regarding climate change and Green House Gas Emissions by federal legislation.

Future opportunities in Bio Energy in SC and the Southeast for wood are coming. He noted tree planting is down to a historic low in SC with many forest landowners not replanting due to low incentives,

land development and reduced timber harvesting due to economic conditions. He highlighted the SCFC *Grow Some Green* campaign to encourage more reforestation.



Gene highlighted our opportunities such as 13 million acres of manageable forests; diverse and productive forest types and ages used to manage for timber production, wildlife habitat such as for the Red Cockaded Woodpecker; forest inventories data; new markets for energy generation, bioproducts, carbon sequestration, water from forest resources; SCFC's people and technology expertise, conservation organizations both private and public and a forest friendly environment in SC.

Deputy State Forester Joel Felder highlighted the SCFC programs for forest management, protection, awareness, education, prevention and control. SCFC is the only state agency returning revenue to counties with state forest acreages from timber harvest sales, recreation fees, pine straw sales, etc.

SCFC should pay \$800,000 to counties during the period of July 2009/ 2010.

SCFC's Russell Hubright explained the assessment purposes. The U.S. Forest Service has re-designed the State and Private Forestry Program where the state must perform an assessment and provide a report to the Forest Service. This offers a great opportunity to assess SCFC programs.

The discussion areas for the breakout groups were:

- A) Protect Forests and Trees From Harm – Protect forests and trees from harm by identifying, managing and reducing threats to forests, trees and ecosystem health.
- B) Enhance Public Benefits – Positive aspects of forests and trees that accrue to the public in general, and that improve or enhance the quality of life, but excluding the direct financial benefits of forest management.
- C) Conserve Working Forests – Conserving and managing working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses including the economic benefits of forest management.

Attendees were divided into breakout sessions to offer input on the three areas. After the groups performed the SWOT assessment, the group leaders presented the inputs to the entire group.

Similar inputs from the three groups were presented such as educate the public on prescribed burning; public and youth education on sustainable forestry; invasive species, insect and disease control with funding to be proactive instead of reactive; rapid development taking forest lands; market availabilities; favorable tax structures for forestlands; Longleaf Pine restoration; resource impacts for long term sustainable forestry; landowner assistance programs; conservation easements; new market campaigns; address forest parcelization; accessibility of available wood; influencing public policy to not restrict forestry; better land use planning in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

The SCFC assessment team will use the inputs to develop a report for future planning by the Commission.

Other stakeholder inputs are needed. Nathan Strong has designed an online survey to help the SC Forestry Commission

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THANK YOU COMMISSIONER STEVENSON

SCTPA forwarded this to Commissioner Marvin Stevenson thanking him and the SCDOT for acting to replace the posted bridge on Papermill Road in Florence County.

July 20, 2009

The Honorable Marvin Stevenson
SCDOT Commissioner, 6th Congressional District
P.O. Box 121
Marion, SC 29571

Dear Commissioner Stevenson,

This association is dedicated to representing the professional timber harvesters, wood suppliers and unmanufactured forest products truckers of our state's forest products industry.

On behalf of our members delivering unmanufactured forest products, wood and woody biomass, to Smurfit Stone Container's mill on Papermill Road in Florence, I want to thank and extend my sincere appreciation to you and the Commission for your efforts to replace the bridge over Jefferies Creek.

Since the weight restriction posting of this bridge, the additional miles having to be traveled has increased trucking costs and delivery times for those supplying wood and woody biomass to the mill as well as created additional costs to Smurfit Stone.

While our industry recognized there would be additional SCDOT bridge postings due to the increased allowable GVW for unmanufactured forest products trucking effective May 21, 2008, the posting of this particular bridge created real economic impacts to our members and the mill.

Your gallant efforts to offer the motion and the willingness of the Commission to pass your motion by recognizing the economic importance this bridge has to timber harvesters, timber suppliers, timber truckers, the Smurfit Stone mill as well as other affiliated trucking activities related to the paper mill and other manufacturers in the area is a testimony to you and the Commission's willingness to prioritize this project and approve the bridge replacement.

While we recognize this replacement will not occur overnight, but knowing SCDOT has prioritized this project provides a sense of relief to our industry knowing the bridge will be replaced and will again be a vital transportation link to furnishing the wood supply to the Smurfit Stone mill.

Again, we offer our thanks to you, the Commissioners and SC Department of Transportation for helping our industry supply wood to this vital Florence County manufacturing facility.

If I may be of service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Crad Jaynes
President & CEO

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solicit input for South Carolina's Forest Resource Assessment. The results of this survey will help SCFC set priorities for addressing the conditions, trends, threats and opportunities related to our state's forest resources.

SCTPA members and friends are encouraged to participate in this important survey. The survey only takes ten minutes and can be located at ...

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?
sm=o1hfxv5X2IBetWrqokTeCQ_3d_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=o1hfxv5X2IBetWrqokTeCQ_3d_3d)

SCTPA thanks the SC Forestry Commission, its talented staff and the leadership of Gene Kodama for technical, management and educational services, forest protection, wildfire control, economic development and sustainable forestry practices enhancing South Carolina's forest resources.

SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETS

The South Carolina SFI Implementation Committee held its mid year meeting at the SC Forestry Association on July 14th. Chairman Virgil Wall, Jr., Norbord, along with nineteen committee members and SC Forestry Commission representatives attended to discuss the Committee activities and related SFI issues.

Legislative Update. Bob Scott, SCFA, provided legislative highlights for bills considered and passed during the 2009 legislative session.

Right To Practice Forestry (H.3651) was a big win for the forestry community as this was passed and signed into law by the Governor on June 2nd.

This bill limits authority of counties and cities to restrict or regulate certain forestry practices, and provides terms and conditions of certain permitted regulations. It provides that so long as the landowner practices forestry, no permit is required to harvest timber. But when the forest changes to non-forest use, there is a waiting period of one year (if final harvest is conducted in accordance with local tree ordinance) and five years (if not) before the area can be developed.

To qualify, a forest owner must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Forest receives property tax use value assessment;
2. Certified by National Forest Certification system such as Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council and American Tree Farm;
3. A forest management plan prepared by registered forester;
4. Forest under conservation easement; or
5. Managed in accordance with SC Forestry Best Management Practices.

The law defines forestry practices to include, but not limited to, timber harvest, site preparation, controlled burning, tree planting, applications of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, weed control, animal damage control, fire control, insect and disease control, forest road construction, and any other generally accepted forestry practices.

SC Surface Water Withdrawal Permitting, Use and Reporting Act (S.452) received consideration by the Senate for the third year in a row. However this bill has yet to be agreed upon by all interested parties. Senator Campbell (S.452) and Senator Hayes (S.275) introduced bills to implement a surface water withdrawal permit program in South Carolina. Subcommittee discussions focused on the issue of minimum average daily flow requirements for unregulated rivers and streams. S.452 moved from the subcommittee to the full committee for consideration. However legislators and stakeholders could not reach a consensus before the session adjourned. The Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee will continue

work on the bill during the 2010 session.

Prescribed Burn Bill (H.3924) was introduced by Rep. Jim Harrison, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, but was not acted upon. This bill will be a 2010 session priority.

The bill provides gross negligence protection for landowners who conduct prescribed fires and from injuries arising from smoke related to the prescribed fire. Current law requires landowners who conduct a prescribed fire to prepare a plan prior to the SC Forestry Commission granting authorization to burn, have the plan be on site, follow it during a burn, and have at least one certified prescribed fire manager present and supervising the burn from ignition until the fire is declared safe.

This bill adds language that both fire behavior and smoke management issues must be considered as well as the specific regulations and codes' sections that must be adhered to when conducting a prescribed fire. The bill defines "gross negligence" and limits the added protections to damage, injuries or loss caused by only smoke resulting from a prescribed fire unless gross negligence is proven.

American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454) is federal legislation that passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on June 26th. This bill initially had real problems with the definition of renewable biomass that extremely limited the utilization of wood and woody biomass from federal and private lands. Important changes were made in the final negotiations changing the definition and the carbon offsets program.

The revised renewable biomass definition provides broad eligibility for private and federal forestlands, removing the restrictions contained in the committee bill. The new definition will enhance the utilization of woody biomass from these forested lands.

SCFC Budget Update. Bob Scott also related how the SC Forestry Commission's budget had been impacted with reduced state appropriations. The Commission had requested \$21.3 million in January to replace the oldest fire fighting equipment. But the state's poor economic conditions resulted in more SCFC budget reductions thus eliminating this request.

SCFA Reminders. SCFA reminded the committee to consider nominations for their Outstanding Logger of the Year Award and updated the SCFA annual meeting to be November 4 – 6 at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC. The theme will be "Exploring Wood to Energy."

Loggers Report. SCTPA's Crad Jaynes provided a Loggers' Report indicating the timber harvesting sector continues to be hard hit by poor economic conditions due to market reductions. He noted many loggers are working reduced days yet it appears the pulpwood markets are holding up pretty well. The solid wood products markets

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are still down and don't appear to be increasing at any higher pace. Other challenges are continued layoffs or reductions in labor forces, escalating fuel prices yet there have been some downward trends recently, wood order quotas and tighter financial availability.

Logger Licensing: Crad was asked by Chairman Wall to report on the Logger Licensing initiative being undertaken by SCTPA. The SCTPA board of directors has been considering this for some time. This concept was first presented over four years ago with good response from the logging community then. Now in SC timber harvesting is the only "unlicensed profession" in the state of the 234 professions requiring a license.

The concept uses the SC General Contractor License as well as the West Virginia Logger License as a guide. The concept was recently the focus of the association's district meeting around the state in May and June. Board member Joe Young, Low Country Forest Products, Inc., Georgetown, traveled to each meeting presenting the concept.

The Logger Licensing concept is considering several points.

- 1) Experience requirement for entry-level loggers;
- 2) Meeting the SC SFI Trained status of Timber Operations Professional (TOP) for initial and continuing education requirements which are already in place;

- 3) Enacting legislation to allow the SC Forestry Commission to administer the licensing program rather than the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation because the Commission is familiar with timber harvesting;
- 4) Help raise the professional image for the timber harvesting profession;
- 5) Stop or reduce unlawful, unethical and unprofessional timber harvesting and business practices;
- 6) Licensing oversight through a board of nine professional loggers recommended by SCTPA, SCFA and SCFC and appointed by the Governor;
- 7) Two or three year license term with reasonable license fee;
- 8) License requirements as established by the logger board such as having proof of effective insurance for Workers Compensation & Employers Liability, Commercial General Liability and Auto Liability;

Jaynes noted it is time to raise the professional bar and move forward to pass a licensing program "done" by loggers.

(Continued on page 10)

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TREEFARMER

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(Continued from page 9)

- 9) License violation penalties as well as license suspension, revocation and appeals process;
- 10) License enforcement process through the SCFC Law Enforcement Division.

Jaynes noted it is time to raise the professional bar and move forward to pass a licensing program "done" by loggers. Rather than having someone in the legislature decide the industry needs a license because the public's safety and wellbeing is affected by some "bad incidence" that brings attention to the legislature via of constituency outcry. Then the logging community might get hit with a license program prepared by non-loggers much like what happened in West Virginia where loggers virtually had no input into their licensing. It just happened.

He also reviewed the American Loggers Council Master Logger Certification © (MLC) Program. MLC is a voluntary program with ALC state logger associations presenting and having approved a state template based on a national template covering seven areas of responsibility. MLC loggers are third party audited for compliance with the state template performance standards. ALC Master Loggers are re-certified every two years or according to the individual state template requirements. SCTPA has an approved MLC South Carolina template, but has not implemented the program due to lack of funding. Crad noted he serves as the ALC Master Logger Certification Committee Chairman.

States such as Ohio, West Virginia, California and other western states have logger licensing due to their Forest Practices Acts. Alabama has drafted licensing legislation, but has placed it on hold for now.

Jaynes offered that anyone who would like to view the Logger License presentation to please contact the SCTPA office. Chairman Wall requested Crad and Joe Young present the Power Point program to the SIC at the October 8th SIC meeting.

SCFC - Wood Load Ticket Information. SCFC's Daryl Jones, Forest Protection Director and David West, Law Enforcement Chief, discussed the problems with wood load tickets not complying with the law for required information. They discussed and distributed examples of load tickets with and without complete information.

Incomplete information hinders timber theft and timber fraud investigative efforts. They recognized however wood tickets generated by some wood receiving mills' systems may not be capable of showing complete information. However, the law does state what is required. Both thanked everyone for their assistance in obtaining complete information.

Education Programs. The SC Teachers Tour was reviewed by Virgil Wall and Crad Jaynes. Eighteen teachers attended the four-day tour in the Piedmont June

23 – 27. The tour visited a logging jobsite, private tree farm, paper mill, OSB mill, lumber mill, U.S. Forest Service land and managed forest land.

The SIC was reminded about the SC Wood Magic Forest Fair to be held in three locations in the Fall to provide sustainable forestry, forest products and forest resources information to fourth graders and their teachers. Volunteers are needed to help with classes and staff the education stops. Dates are: Sept. 15 – 18, SCFC Piedmont Forestry Center, Tamassee; Oct. 12 – 16, SCFC Harbison State Forest, Columbia; Nov. 17 – 20, U.S.F.S. Sewee Environmental Education & Visitor Center, Awendaw.

TOP Program. Chairman Wall reported on the 2009 TOP classes since TOP Chair Bill Wiley was unable to be present. The 2009 TOP classes have had 170 attendees. The Risk Management and Business Advancement classes in Columbia were cancelled due to lack of registrations. The Safety Management and Harvest Planning classes scheduled for August in Greenwood would likely be cancelled due to lack of registrations.

Subcommittee Reports. There were no reports presented by the Logger Education, Landowner Outreach, Public Outreach and Inconsistent Practices subcommittees.

Budgeting & Auditing. Budget Committee Chairman Joey Ferguson, Resource Management Services, reported the SIC had previously on April 21st tentatively approved keeping the 2009 budget the same as last year's budget with the same basic expenditures and program support subject to review and modification as necessary during 2009. Current financials were reviewed with the statement indicating a positive balance.

SIC Exhibit. The SC SFI Implementation Committee will be represented at the American Institute of Architects' South Atlantic Region Conference September 30 – October 4 in Greenville. The SC SIC is partnering with the Georgia and North Carolina committees to stage an SFI exhibit booth at the conference.

Next Meeting. The State Implementation Committee will meet October 8th in Columbia.

SCDOT Commissioner Marvin Stevenson Wins Approval for Florence County Bridge Replacement Project

Papermill Road Bridge To Benefit Local Industry

Acting on a motion from Commissioner Marvin Stevenson, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Commission approved replacing the bridge on Papermill Road over Jefferies Creek in Florence County.

Stevenson represents the 6th Congressional District, made the motion during the July 18th Commission meeting in Columbia.

"This bridge replacement is an economic development project that will help businesses and jobs in this area of Florence County," Stevenson said. "I am very thankful to my colleagues on the Commission for seeing the urgency in this project, making it a priority and giving unanimous approval to my motion."

Stevenson said the bridge on S-21-24, Papermill Road, over Jefferies Creek has been a significant concern in the past few months.

The bridge serves local industry, but was load restricted in the Fall of 2008. This has forced trucks exceeding the load restriction to detour nearly eleven miles, causing increased costs for the company and consumers.

In addition to more than 200 trucks servicing the Smurfit Stone Paper Co., another company is planning a battery-recycling center just north of this area with reportedly 250 new jobs. This is expected to add to the daily traffic on the Papermill Road bridge.

The bridge was originally built in 1962 and is classified as "structurally deficient." Estimates for the project are in excess of \$1 million.

SCTPA Comments: Congratulations to Commissioner Stevenson for his motion to replace the Papermill Road bridge. The bridge

posting has caused unmanufactured forest products (UFP) trucks delivering wood to Smurfit Stone's mill increased costs due to the longer route having to be used. SCTPA initially contacted SCDOT when this bridge was posted after the increased UFP trucking GVW tolerance became effective. However, due to the bridge's age, substructure and surface deficiencies, SCDOT had no choice but to post the weight restriction. Within the last several months prior to Stevenson's approved motion, SCTPA had been developing a strategy to form a local committee to tackle this problem. However, due to the Commissioner's action to have SCDOT replace the bridge, the strategy is no longer needed. Thanks again to Commissioner Stevenson.

Timber Talk

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

Contact Crad Jaynes

at

1-800-371-2240 or bcjpaw@windstream.net



Deputy Undersecretary Testifies Before House Subcommittee

**Jay Jensen, Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, U.S.D.A.,
Before the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry,
U. S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee,
June 3, 2009**

THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION'S FORESTS

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to provide the Department's view on the Future of Our Nation's Forests. We are blessed with some of the most diverse, beautiful, and productive forests on the planet. We're a great country in part, because we have great forests.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, resilience, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Our mission extends to assisting both public and private forests nationwide.

Over 100 years ago, the forests of the East and South were significantly cut over, as were some in the West, largely due to the primary objectives of the time, the conversion of forests to crop land, and the use of wood for building railroads, mining and fuel. The National Forests and the United States Forest Service were created over a hundred years ago in the initial stages of the American conservation movement, in part, to stop rampant deforestation and to begin the practice of scientific and sustainable forest management. Eventually, national forests were established in the east primarily for the purpose of healing cut over watersheds. The goal of stopping and reversing the deforestation crisis of 100 years ago was largely achieved. Today, our nation's forests cover about one-third of the country, provide 51 percent of the nation's demand for water (US Forest Resource, Facts and Historical Trends, 2005), provide wood and paper products, provide habitat for threatened and endangered species and other wildlife, and offer beautiful settings for billions of recreation visits (RPA, 2005).

Today I'd like to focus on the values our forests provide, rather than on any specific output. I believe we need to rethink our relationship with these lands in terms of their long-term values, not just

their short-term uses. These values include everything from clean drinking water to hardwood for furniture to grizzly bear habitat to an experience of solitude as a respite from urban life to biomass that can help solve some of our nation's energy challenges. To protect and maintain the values the nation's forests provide requires much vision, planning, and work. Our forests are owned privately by individuals, families, and companies, and publicly by counties, states, and the federal government. One can find these forests in the backcountry far from cities, around communities, and sometimes in our own backyards. Our challenge is to reconnect urban and rural Americans to these forests and to focus on how we can work together to deliver all these important and essential values.

As part of delivering those values, we must have a clear assessment of the current condition of our nation's forests. Our forest scientists, located at universities and Research Stations throughout the nation, are continually gathering and analyzing data to help us better understand the conditions we are facing. In addition, our Forest Inventory and Analysis division has been gathering on-the-ground data on the condition of our nation's forests for the better part of a century. These assessments point to the challenges our nation's forests are currently facing due to changes caused by insects, disease, noxious and exotic weeds and fire, and the conversion of forestland for development. Here are some specifics:

- While tree mortality caused by insects tends to be cyclical, it is at its highest level in fifty years. Eight percent of the forested area of the U.S. is at risk of attack and potential mortality (RPA 2005). Beetle killed trees cover large areas of the Northern Rockies, the Southwest, and dry forests in the Northwest. Similarly areas of the Lake States are being ravaged by the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Long Horned Beetle is destroying trees in New England and right here in the backyard of the nation's capitol. The impact of insects and disease is not limited to the back woods. Cities and towns throughout the Northeast are witnessing the death of their beloved trees along streets and within community parks.

(Continued on page 14)

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(Continued from page 12)

- Public and private forests have accumulated a significant amount of excess hazardous fuels (brush and woody materials) due, in large part, to a century of fire exclusion. On the National Forests alone, between sixty and eighty million acres of forestland is classified as densely stocked with small diameter trees and at risk for a catastrophic wildfire (Budget Director re: Congressional testimony provided in 2009). As a result, wildfire is burning large amounts of forests across the nation. In recent years fires have burned about eight million acres each year of forest and grassland. This is an area nearly twice the size of the State of New Jersey. Management predictions for the next decade indicate that fires may well burn in excess of ten million acres of forest and grassland annually (Quadrennial Fire Review). In addition, more homes are being burned each year. For many federal, state and local agencies, the cost of suppression continues to grow.
- Forested lands are being invaded by noxious and exotic weeds. On the National Forests alone, our management estimates indicate that to be six to eight million acres annually (Invasive Species Threat to America's Forested Ecosystems, Ielmini).
- Over the past fifty years urban areas have increased in size by 60 percent. During that same period, forested acreage has shown little change. The actual picture is somewhat more complex than the simple statistics alone would suggest. The amount of forest area is generally shrinking in the Eastern and Western states due to urbanization and fragmentation, while the amount of forest area is increasing in the interior of the nation as some of our cropland reverts to forest. Over the next ten years we anticipate that almost 22 million acres of forest within ten miles of existing cities and towns will be further subdivided or developed (Forest on the Edge, Stein, McRoberts, and Alig, 2006). In addition,

many of the owners of large tracts of forest are senior citizens, indicating vast tracts of forested land will be transferred to new owners who may or may not maintain them as large forested tracts. Considering that the majority of forestland in this country is owned by private family landowners, change is coming and it may be significant.

- Today, over eighty percent of the population lives in urban settings (cities and towns with a population greater than 2500). The average canopy cover in these cities and towns is 27 percent. These trees have many environmental benefits in the urban ecosystem including cleaning the air and actually cooling neighborhoods which reduces our energy needs. Open space also provides areas for filtering surface water and helps mitigate potential flooding. Management estimates indicate that there are 3.8 billion trees in these settings (Forest Resource Facts and Historical Trends, 2009). As noted, the impact of insects and disease is also a major concern in these urban ecosystems.
- We continue to demonstrate our appreciation for forest settings in large numbers. Last year, we estimate that Americans made several billion visits to forest settings. On the National Forests, our survey data indicates that the Forest Service hosted approximately 186 million visitors. These forested settings are critical to the quality of life for many of us and our communities (Forest Resource Facts and Historical Trends, 2009).

In addition to resource challenges, the forest products industrial infrastructure is in decline in many places. Accompanying that decline is a loss of jobs and a decline in community vitality. Much of this is a result of the current recession and the associated decline in housing starts. This makes resource management, where needed, more difficult.

There are numerous challenges ahead, but every set of challenges also offers opportunity.

(Continued on page 15)

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There are significant opportunities to begin addressing these challenges by maintaining, reconnecting, and renewing the bond between communities and their forests. We can deliver the many values we've come to appreciate and want if we invest the time and energy to work together. We look forward to working with the Congress to address many of the challenges facing America's forests. Some of those challenges include:

- Private forests and development,
- Insect, disease and noxious weed epidemics in both rural and urban settings,
- Hazardous fuels reduction near communities, municipal watersheds and critical infrastructure,
- Moving towards more fire resilient forested landscape,
- Balancing sustainable wood products and the biomass industry which helps restore healthy ecosystems,
- Managing roadless areas,
- Supporting such values as clean water, clean air, and fiber and carbon sequestration and storage,
- Protecting and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat, and
- Providing opportunities for citizens to choose forest settings to recreate, refresh, and renew themselves.

Another challenge our forests face is the deep divide that persists in the wake of decades of debate about how to best manage for the desired multiple uses. Some of our forests need restoration work and sustainable active management to remove hazardous fuels, to ensure clean water flows; all while maintaining forest health and resiliency in a changing climate. It is important to note that not every acre needs active management. We must move beyond the all or nothing ideas of competing interests by focusing on shared values and how they can overlap and come together. This requires intelligent, collaborative planning, smart, scientific based management, and inclusive decision-making.

It's been my experience that people on opposite sides of the forestry table often have the same

values. They just differ in how they would want to see those values expressed on the land. While for one person, protection is eliminating human influence on an ecosystem, for another it is aggressive treatment. Both want the forest to exist and thrive. If we can focus on values, we can enlarge the dialogue and arrive at a better solution.

Currently, collaborative efforts are flourishing across the nation, creating increased understanding between citizens of diverse backgrounds. Here are several recent examples where people have been working together to accomplish this vision:

1. The town of Woodland Park, Colorado, working with the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership Roundtable, of which the Forest Service is a member, was the recipient of the Community Demonstration Project Award. The project already has attracted \$100,000 to help treat fuels in high-risk areas. One hundred percent of the project is in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Funding from the Governor's Energy Office, the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, and the Office of Smart Growth will be matched with funding from national foundations and local organizations to make the Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative a reality. This collaborative project of various federal, state, local government, nonprofit, and individual partners is dedicated to the improvement of the resiliency and health of forests in and around the Woodland Park area, and the implementation of the Teller County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Current funding for this project from the grant and from other partners exceeds \$350,000.
2. The National Forests of Mississippi produced a nearly completed draft Land and Resource Management Plan that was a result of excellent collaboration with all interested parties. The collaborative process clarified the wide support for prioritizing native ecosystem restoration and habitat improvement for threatened and endangered species as core components of the

(Continued on page 16)

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plan. This collaborative process demonstrates how active forest management is a tool for meeting ecosystem restoration goals, sustaining healthy, resilient forests while also supplying desired goods and services to the local communities.

3. The Mississippi Forestry Commission is leading a collaborative effort to address the Kudzu problem. Utility companies, federal, state and local officials spend thousands of dollars each year to control Kudzu. Kudzu contributes to the intensity of woodland fires because it is highly flammable and provides a fuel ladder from the forest floor to the forest canopy. The purpose of this collaborative and comprehensive approach between state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations is to address the threat and destruction that kudzu poses to farmers, ranchers, and foresters on both public and private lands. The coalition intends to facilitate a voluntary and cooperative effort in educating the public, researching this pest species, and providing a means of control, suppression, or selective eradication of Kudzu. As a partner in these efforts, Secretary Vilsack recently approved \$1.6 million for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act invasive species projects on the Holly Springs National Forest.

Our intention is to provide the means to multiply these successes across America. We are committed to a vision where Americans will sit down to not only address impacts, but more importantly, to protect and promote the full range of forest values that are important to all of us.

On a national and local scale, one particularly successful collaborative effort over the past several years has been the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). The Na-

tional Association of State Foresters estimates that there are over 56,000 communities at risk. To date, more than 4,700 at-risk communities have completed CWPPs. These plans prioritize fuels reduction areas across the landscape. Federal and state agencies have found CWPPs to be very useful in helping prioritize agency fuel treatments via these collaborative mechanisms.

The Administration is increasing support for the Forest Legacy Program as well as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, both of which will help Americans protect important forested landscapes for future generations.

We have much restoration work to accomplish on the nation's forested landscapes. Fortunately, the U.S. Forest Service is staffed by some of the best-trained, hardest working professionals in the world. They know we cannot achieve these objectives without the active participation and

*Simply put, healthy
forests equal
healthy
communities.*

collaboration of federal and state resource management agencies, elected officials, residents living in and close to forested areas, the forest products industry, environmental interests, and the general public. We look forward to working together with the Congress and our partners to, among other things: 1) conserve

working forest landscapes, 2) protect our nation's forests from harm - wildfire, invasive species and the ravages of insect and disease outbreaks, and 3) enhance benefits associated with trees and forests; e.g., water quality as well as sustainable communities and landscapes.

I am convinced that with the help and continued engagement of the Congress and our state and local community partners, we can improve upon these successes by restoring our forests, public and private, consistent with the values we cherish. Simply put, healthy forests equal healthy communities. We welcome your involvement and assistance in that effort.

This concludes my prepared statement, and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

CLEMSON SEES CLEAR-CUT NEED FOR TREE HARVEST

Logging doesn't cut it for residents

PENDLETON, SC — Local residents have enlisted the help of the Sierra Club to stop clear-cutting of a 118-acre forested tract on a Clemson University beef cattle research farm near Pendleton.

"It was like a red dirt hill. It was like they scraped it," said Betsy George, a retired elementary school teacher who for three decades has enjoyed evening walks with her husband through the tall hardwood trees on Clemson's Simpson Agricultural Research Station near their home.

George and her husband stopped walking through the Clemson property when an orange ribbon closed the entrance several months ago, but recently became concerned about the logging and went in to take a look.

"I just stood there and cried. We were just devastated," said George, who measured trunks of felled trees that were as large as 41 inches in diameter. Knight Cox, Clemson University's forest manager, said mature timber is being harvested at the 2,300-acre beef cattle and row crop research facility on Lebanon Road to provide income for the agricultural station.

The research farm is part of Clemson's Public Service arm that has seen deep state budget cuts in recent years, including a \$13.9 million cut for the current

fiscal year, which was nearly 27 percent of the public service budget, said Debbie Dalhouse, a university spokeswoman.

Even without the budget cuts, the trees likely would have been harvested anyway, as part of regular forest management activities to maintain a healthy forest, and also to expand the amount of land used for beef cattle research, Cox said.

It was time for the trees to be cut, said Stassen Thompson, Clemson's director of land management. "After a certain age, you lose vitality and increase mortality and get blow-downs, and that reduces the amount of harvestable timber," Thompson said.

A portion of the land being cleared, estimated at about 40 acres, will be converted to pasture and fenced to expand grass-fed beef cattle research at the farm, Thompson said.

Income from the sale of the trees will be partially used to put the area in pasture, and the added pasture space will enable the university to be more competitive in pursuing additional outside research funding, Thompson said.

SCTPA Comments: Looks like Betsy George and her husband need to go on the Teachers' Tour! Ya Think!

WOOD FIBER COSTS ARE RISING FOR WOOD PELLETS MANUFACTURERS IN EUROPE BECAUSE THE INDUSTRY IS EXPANDING RAPIDLY, REPORTS THE WOOD RESOURCE QUARTERLY

The expanding wood pellet industry in Europe is increasingly relying on pulpwood and wood chips for its raw-material needs, as the supply of lower-cost sawdust cannot meet the fast rise in demand for wood fiber. The biomass sector is now competing with both the wood-based panel manufacturers and pulpmills for wood residues and logs, reports the Wood Resource Quarterly.

By Hakan Ekstrom
Wood Resources International
Seattle, WA

Seattle, USA. June 2009. The competition for wood raw-material in Europe has been intensifying the past few years as sawmills, wood-panel manufacturers, pulpmills and bio-energy facilities expanded capacity during 2006 and 2007 and therefore increased the usage of roundwood and wood residues. Lately, the pulp market has weakened resulting in lower demand and prices for pulpwood in all countries in Europe. However, the decline has been less pronounced in markets where the pellet industry has a strong presence.

The increased demand for biomass from the energy sector has not only had an impact on prices of residual chips from sawmills (wood chips, sawdust and shavings) but also of small-diameter logs, which have increasingly been utilized for energy generation. These developments have been particularly prominent in Germany and Sweden the past year. In Germany, prices for sawdust, wood chips and hardwood logs have converged during 2008 and 2009, and were in the first quarter practically the same (measured in dry tons), as reported in the Wood Resource Quarterly.

In Sweden, small logs that would typically go to pulpmills have in recent months been sold to energy plants. With the demand and prices for pulpwood being in decline and the consumption of "energy wood" steadily rising, competition for smaller logs has intensified and it is expected that volumes of wood chips and logs bound for energy facilities will increase, thus potentially decreasing that going to pulpmills in the future. The rise in demand for forest biomass, including branches, stumps and tops will encourage more intensive management schemes with higher utilization of the forest resources not only in Sweden but in the rest of Europe as well.

With the energy sector emerging as a new and aggressive market player, floor prices for wood chips and pulplogs are not expected to ever return to the low levels of the late 1990's again. The increased competition for raw-material between the biomass sector, the composite board manufacturers and the pulp industry will result in relatively high fiber costs even in weak markets for forest products in the future. The recent evolution of the wood raw-material market in Europe is not unique to this continent but can be expected to take place in North America as well in the coming years.



PRESIDENT'S THANKS & CHALLENGE

THANKS!

On behalf of our Board of Directors and this association, I wanted to thank each member who has renewed your 2009 membership so far.

I realize wholeheartedly the economic challenges professional loggers, wood suppliers, truckers and our entire forest products industry is facing today. This is simply a survival mode now as we weather this storm of economic uncertainties.

As I have said before, loggers are resilient and have weathered the storms of tough times before. While I will admit, these economic times are probably the ones we have not witnessed before. But the professional timber harvesting businesses who know their costs and continually improve business strategies and operating processes will weather this storm to receive the benefits of future improved economic conditions.

But, I firmly believe and say repeatedly to those members I see and talk with, the strong will survive and be better off. The ball will be in your court. And believe it or not, you will be able to shoot it and not just dribble and pass.

Our markets are down of course. Yet in the long term, our markets will be here and still will need professionals to harvest, supply and transport the resource to manufacturing facilities.

SCTPA is ten years young. Our accomplishments and relationships have benefited professional loggers, wood suppliers and timber truckers. If you noticed in your renewal, a list of Interest Points and Accomplishments was included. Take a moment and look to see what SCTPA has accomplished and been involved with for your best interests and our industry.

To those who have renewed, thank you so very much. To those who have not renewed, please take a moment and renew. I know it is tough now. At least pay the minimum dues on your invoice for your membership category.

Many members have stepped up and continued to pay more as they know the value this association brings to the industry and the table. Just like your business, this association needs financial support in order to continue to serve the best interests of those SCTPA represents.

CHALLENGE!

There are far too many loggers, wood suppliers, unmanufactured forest products truckers and associated businesses not SCTPA members. Why? I wish I could come up with a sound answer.

Perhaps the non-members do not realize or know the value this association brings in representation, member benefits and the many other benefits affiliated with the association's involvements with legislative processes such as the increased GVW for unmanufactured forest products trucking, relationships with regulatory agencies such as State Transport Police, member insurance programs and member benefits, and other reasons why support is so important to continue our efforts for the best interests of the timber harvesting segment of our state's forest products industry.

Of course the excuse is offered, it is tight times and capital is tight. I understand that. But look at it this way. For the amount of money it cost to be a SCTPA member, the benefits far out weigh the dues cost.

So here is my CHALLENGE to members.

- *For any current member enrolling the most new members from August 1 until December 31, 2009, I will personally load up my grill and deep fryer come to your logging jobsite, shop or office and prepare, cook and serve a lunch in early 2010. The winner will have a choice of meals and I'll include the "fixins." There will be no cost to the member. It's all on me! Hey, I'll even get a board member or two to come be assistants.*
- *Just use the SCTPA member application included in this Timber Talk issue, and put the active member's name signing up the new member in the upper right hand corner of the application. That way I'll know who enrolled the new member. New members can be those who have been terminated or never been a member. And of course to qualify, the new member has to have paid their new member dues!*

So get out there and recruit new members. I'll look forward to being your cook for a lunch.

Yall hang in there and keep the wood moving. I Love Ya!

Crad

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HERBICIDE MEETING

*Beth Richardson
Clemson Extension Forester*

I am always getting calls on how to control this weed or what can I spray over my longleaf, et cetera. These questions come from foresters, timber buyers, and forest landowners.

The Orangeburg County Extension Office is having an educational program on forest herbicides. Sometimes the herbicide job is large enough that a professional is needed to do the job. This program is for the small jobs and the people who want to do the work themselves. The workshop will help answer questions such as:

1. Which equipment can I afford?
2. Which equipment is suited for what I am wanting to control?
3. What are the choices of equipment?
4. What kind of nozzle do I need for my equipment?
5. How do I use it?
6. Which herbicides do I use to control my weed problems (longleaf and loblolly pines)?
7. Which herbicides should I tank mix?
8. When do I use surfactants?
9. Which surfactant should I use with my tank mix?

10. What TIME of year is the application MOST effective?
11. And much more.

The first part of the meeting will be classroom presentations. After lunch, we will meet down the road where the different methods, equipment, and tank mixes will be demonstrated on actual weeds.

The exact agenda will be forth coming. **The meeting date will be Thursday, September 17, 2009.**

The program will last most of the day. The registration fee of \$40.00 includes lunch and breaks. The meeting will be at the Tourville Lodge (Buck Ridge Plantation) off of Drag Strip Road in Orangeburg County. A map will be on the brochure. <http://www.buckridge.com/aboutus/directions.aspx>

If you would like to receive the brochure (which has not been made at this time) please call the Orangeburg County Extension office at (803) 534-6280 and leave your name and address with the staff.

We will mail the brochure to you. Furthermore, if you know of someone who would be interested in attending this meeting, please let them know how to get a brochure.

This meeting is for forest landowners, timber buyers, and foresters.

Credits will be applied for to include SC pesticide certification, SFI, and CFE.



SCHRADER AND WALDEN ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF BIPARTISAN HEALTHY FORESTS CAUCUS

Democrats and Republicans from across the country have been invited to join them in advocating for healthy forest policies.

(WASHINGTON D.C.) - Congressmen Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Greg Walden (R-OR) joined together to form the bipartisan Congressional Healthy Forests Caucus.

The caucus is designed to advocate for the implementation of forest policies that recognize the important role America's federal, state and private forestlands can and should play in our economic recovery and sustainability as well as providing solutions to environmental problems.

The caucus will be co-chaired by Schrader and Walden, who have invited Democrats and Republicans from across the country to join them in advocating for healthy forest policies.

"Many communities in Oregon and across this nation have been struggling for decades because of forest policies that don't make sense in today's times," Rep. Schrader said.

"Our forests can be managed in an environmentally-friendly way while also producing jobs and creating opportunities for renewable energy sources such as biomass and reducing carbon emissions through sequestration. Too often these potential benefits are overlooked when drafting forest policy; our caucus aims to educate our Congressional colleagues on the economic and environmental benefits of smart forest policy."

"Flawed federal forest policies have exacted too steep a price on Oregonians in terms of degraded environmental quality, lost jobs, and decreased economic opportunity," Rep. Walden said.

"Congress should expand the strongly bipartisan and successful Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and fix broken policies that prevent the professional foresters from doing the prevention and post-fire rehabilitation work that the forests and rural communities so badly need done. This caucus will serve as an educational resource for members from both parties who want to do the right thing for the environment and America's rural forested communities."

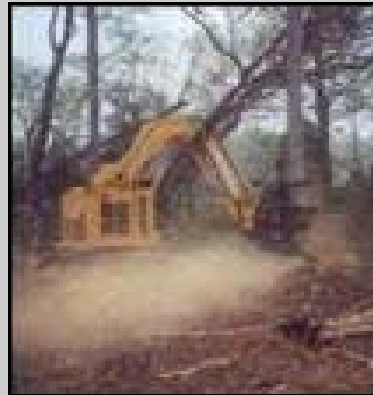
Schrader and Walden listed the following as goals for the Healthy Forests Caucus:

- Maintaining healthy forests and healthy communities
- Creating green jobs in rural America
- Advocating for a clear and inclusive definition of renewable biomass and for equal treatment of biomass with other renewable energy sources through production tax credits
- Enabling on-site renewable biomass energy production to count towards renewable energy objectives
- Sustaining healthy forests, watersheds, and wildlife habitat not by lawsuit but by recognizing and encouraging forestry management practices
- Obtaining tax credits for actively managed forest activities that result in additional sequestration of carbon dioxide
- Reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfires through active forest management
- Increasing opportunities for green timber sales
- Supporting the efforts to secure adequate funding for the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management
- Highlighting the compatibility of our nation's forest solitude opportunities with healthy forest management

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25-YEAR-OLD'S LIFE OF LUXURY LEADS TO PRISON

By Adam Lynn;
adam.lynn@thenewstribune.com
Published: 04/11/09

For two years, Brett M. Smith lived a life most young men only dream of. He bought cars with abandon, seven of them between April 2005 and December 2006, according to federal court documents.

He rented rooms for himself and his friends at some of the top hotels in Las Vegas and wagered up to \$5,000 on a single hand of blackjack while there. He tipped strippers at Fox's nightclub in Parkland and bought himself a house.

Not bad for a Puyallup boy in his early 20s. The only problem: He was paying with stolen cash.

His high-flying lifestyle crashed and burned in a federal courtroom in Tacoma, Washington. U.S. District Court Judge Ronald Leighton sentenced Smith, 25, to 10 years in federal prison for leading a criminal enterprise that embezzled more than \$2.5 million from the Manke Lumber Co., where Smith once worked.

Leighton called Smith's crime – he pleaded guilty to a single count of mail fraud earlier this year – “deplorable and despicable” before handing down a sentence nearly two years more than the high end of the standard range.

The judge said the actions of Smith and his conspirators, many of them under 30, caused him to “fear for our future.” “If we don't make an example here and now, as a society we are doomed,” Leighton said.

More than 20 other people also were convicted in the case – more than half for tax crimes – but federal investigators called Smith the ringleader. “Brett Smith, and several under

him, seduced 25 others into lives now marred with criminal records with the lure of easy cash,” assistant U.S. attorney Arlen Storm wrote in a sentencing memorandum.

Smith worked at the Manke mill on Tacoma's Tideflats as a “scaler” from September 2004 to July 2006. His job was to weigh, measure and inspect logs being brought into the yard and determine their value, according to court records. He sent reports to the head office, which would use the information to determine who should be paid how much for the logs.

In November 2004, Smith and others twisted that system to their nefarious gain, prosecutors contended. Smith began submitting fake reports, listing his associates as payees for logs that weren't delivered. In essence, Manke was paying something for nothing.

In all, Smith submitted false paperwork on more than 1,500 loads, the court records indicate. The scam netted Smith more than \$1.2 million, according to the court documents, before he was caught and fired.

Smith's attorney, Brett Purtzer of Tacoma, asked Leighton to sentence Smith to six years and six months in prison, saying the prosecution has been “a truly humbling experience” for his client.

“I will regret what I did every day for the rest of my life.”

In a letter to the court, Smith apologized for his actions, saying addictions to gambling and alcohol fueled his greed.

“My actions were very selfish,” he wrote to

Leighton. “It is overwhelming when I think of the acute pain, suffering, stress and financial hardships that my irresponsible behavior and horrible choices had on my life and the lives of others. I will regret what I did every day for the rest of my life.”

Leighton wasn't inclined to give Smith a break, calling him the “pied piper” of the operation. “He was the guy playing the sweet tune and flashing the money,” the judge said.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, the Tacoma Police Department and the Internal Revenue Service's criminal investigations unit.

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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SCRAPS BUSH LOGGING PLAN

By JEFF BARNARD (AP)

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — The Obama administration on July 16 scrapped the Bush administration's last-ditch attempt to boost logging in Northwest forests by scaling back protection for the northern spotted owl.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said Thursday that a plan to increase logging on federal lands in western Oregon could not stand up to challenges under the Endangered Species Act. He said the Department of Interior would develop new measures protecting the spotted owl.

The Bush administration had cut the size of critical habitat for the owl and revised the spotted owl recovery plan to make the logging increases possible.

The Western Oregon Plan Revision was created to increase logging on millions of acres of U. S. Bureau of Land Management lands and boost federal revenues shared with timber counties. The plan was five years in the making, but was only completed in the final days of President George W. Bush's administration.

To make the deadline, BLM argued that it did not have to consult with federal biologists over the potential harm to spotted owls and salmon, and would do that on individual timber sales as they were offered. Salazar said their review determined that argument would never withstand a court challenge.

"Bush administration actions doomed the plan," Salazar told reporters on a teleconference from Washington, D.C. "Now, at a time when western Oregon communities are already struggling, we face the fallout of the

previous administration's skirting of the law and efforts to taint scientific outcomes."

Salazar noted repeatedly that an inspector general's report last year found former Interior deputy secretary Julie MacDonald had manipulated scientific findings on protections for the spotted owl.

Decisions on offering timber sales will once again be governed by the Northwest Forest Plan, and Interior will work to expedite timber sales that are not likely to be challenged under environmental laws, Salazar added.

Bush's logging plan would have allowed five times the timber harvest sold last year. While a big jump, it would have been just half of what was logged before the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan dramatically cut logging to protect habitat for owls and salmon.

Lawsuits from conservation groups sparked the Northwest Forest Plan, which cut logging by more than 80 percent in national forests of Oregon, Washington and Northern California to protect habitat for the spotted owl and salmon.

To settle a challenge to the Northwest Forest Plan by the timber industry, the Bush administration agreed to produce a new spotted owl recovery plan, review the critical habitat designation, and develop the Western Oregon Plan Revision.

The new spotted owl recovery plan, completed last year, argued that wildfire and the barred owl, an aggressive eastern species pushing spotted owls out of their territory, were greater threats to the spotted owl than logging.

That made room for BLM to increase logging, particularly in

areas set aside for wildlife habitat under the Northwest Forest Plan.

Andy Stahl, director of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, said Thursday's decision reverses Bush's "backward step in protection of Oregon fish and wildlife habitat." Stahl is a plaintiff in one of the lawsuits challenging the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision.

"This restores the situation before Bush embarked upon this silly exercise," he said.

Tom Partin, president of the timber industry group American Forest Resource Council, said they hoped to build amount of timber allowed under the Northwest Forest Plan, and were encouraged by Salazar saying they would work to turn out timber sales that would not be challenged by environmentalists, particularly in southwestern Oregon where the timber economy has been hard-hit.

Shortly before the announcement, acting Assistant Interior Sec. Ned Farquar told a conference call of attorneys that Interior was withdrawing the Western Oregon Plan Revision and seeking dismissal of four lawsuits challenging it — three from conservation groups and one from the timber industry.



RESPONDING TO DEAR ABBY

SCTPA member Jim Curry, Piedmont Pulp, Inc., Laurens, is an avid Dear Abby reader. He contacted SCTPA about responding to the following letter. SCTPA penned a response for Jim.

Letter To Dear Abby:

Dear Abby:

I am 8 years old, and I love science. I am writing you because when I go to the doughnut shop, they always give me paper bags when I order my doughnut to eat there. I also notice other people getting bags they don't need because they are eating their doughnuts there, too.

How many trees have to die for no reason? I care about recycling and how long it takes for things to break down in the earth. What can I do so the doughnut shop will stop wasting bags? – Mandi, Scarsdale, NY

Response to Dear Abby:

May 15, 2009

Dear Abby,

I am responding to Mandi in Scarsdale, NY regarding her concern about paper bags being used at the doughnut shop. I want to address her question of "How many trees have to die for no reason?"

Our forest resources, trees, are a sustainable and renewable natural resource. Wood from our forests is used in manufacturing over 5,000 products enhancing the quality of our lives. Products containing wood and wood by-products ranges from the obvious of paper, toilet tissue, solid wood products to medicines, detergent, cosmetics and even toothpaste, only to mention a few.

While I applaud the young lady's concern, it is important to recognize and understand our

forest resources are intensely and sustainably managed for clean water, wildlife habitat, recreation, biodiversity, air quality and timber while also supporting jobs.

Landowners, foresters, timber suppliers and wood using companies proudly participate in sustainable forestry programs such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative© and the American Tree Farm System to guide forest management, reforestation, harvesting and environmental practices for wood products certification as being produced from sustainable forests.

Trees are renewable by natural regeneration and reforestation planting. Five trees are planted for every one tree harvested. More wood volume is being grown now than is harvested.

Wood is also unique in three other ways: recyclable, reusable and biodegradable. So the paper bags could and probably should be recycled. However, recycling paper and other recyclable products is not for the purpose of saving trees.

Recycling reduces the amount of waste going into landfills and reuses materials produced from non-renewable natural resources. Trees are renewable. New land is not being made. Oil used to make plastics is non-renewable.

So as a practitioner of sustainable forestry and environmental stewardship, recycling does not save trees. We grow, manage, harvest and reforest our trees sustainably. Recycling is green, but so is sustainable forestry.

Regards,

Jim Curry
Piedmont Pulp, Inc.
Laurens, SC

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My first item of business this month is to **again** publically thank John Deere (Forestry) for their continued generous support, having just returned from Washington DC from the focused lobbying visit hosted this past May by Deere with Andrew Bonde, and Nate Clark attending. The ALC is grateful for the level of support beyond what we expected that we received from John Deere to enable us to have the great success that our May visit was.

I also want to thank the members of the ALC executive committee and others who participated on this highly focused lobbying visit. Even though we had a great deal smaller group than in March, we made many, many visits and actually had an impact where we needed to. I also want to thank our Executive Vice-President, Danny Dructor, for his effort in keeping us involved in the process and organizing our appointments to achieve the greatest good. Although our early attempts to get appointments with the desired committees and representative were not readily accepted, Danny prevailed in putting together a very comprehensive schedule that kept us all very busy. I also want to thank Jim Geisinger, the Executive Director of the Associated Oregon Loggers, for his continuing outstanding efforts to keep us informed and up to date on the many issues we are trying to track in DC. I have garnered a great deal of respect for Jim, and thank him for his role in our success on this trip and the ongoing legislative work of the American Loggers Council.

What we accomplished:

Language in the Renewal Energy Standard (RES) was troubling on several fronts for the American Loggers Council. Those of us who contract in the West were greatly disappointed by the exclusion of federal timber from the standard and language that dealt with Old Growth stands. Our first visit was with a staffer on the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee from

Senator Bingaman's (D-New Mexico) office. He stated that he understood our concerns regarding the exclusion

of federal timber but that the "Old Growth" language was in the RES to appease the constituency of the Democratic Party: i.e. the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Our position, presented by Jim Geisinger, was that we certainly wouldn't promote the harvesting of Old Growth trees for biomass, but that Old Growth stands also contain less desirable components that would be better suited for biomass use and with the current language the health of these stands could not be increased by the removal and consumption of this aspect of the stand that is neither Old Growth nor majestic and should be treated. We also pushed the point of the vast amount of federal timber in the West and that our ability to improve the health of these federal forests would be greatly impaired if the federal timber exclusion remained in the language. Photos were shown of the dire condition prevalent in many of these stands and information was given to the end that without the assistance of biomass funding the condition of these stands could not be economically accomplished. We continued these themes throughout our visits and for the most part were well received and our points were considered. So much so that by the end of the week language in the markup was altered to consider some of our concerns. Our visit was perfectly timed as the bill was being marked up while we were in DC and our viewpoints (to a point) were able to be written into the bill. At the conclusion of our trip we all met and discussed the merits of our efforts, all were pleased by the mostly positive outcomes of our appointments and that minds were opened to the need to be inclusive in the biomass discussion.

Allen Ribelin is the 2009 President of the American Loggers Council, which represents over 50,000 logging professionals in 28 states. Allen's family's operation, High Desert Investment Company & Ribelin Logging Company are headquartered in Flagstaff, Arizona. Allen can be reached at hdico@qwestoffice.net. For more information please contact the American Loggers Council office at 409-625-0206 or e-mail at americanlogger@aol.com

PHOTOS

2009 TEACHERS' TOUR



Joe Young & Lee Murph talk logging at Big Pine



Checking out the Peterson Delimber



Relaxing at Big Pine Hunt Lodge & Day Spa



Glenn Robinson - Wannabe Feller Buncher Operator??



(l-r) Michele Gleaton & Donna Corcoran just a "swanging" at Johnny Wilson's Lodge



Joe & Tommy view the old log cart found on the tract



Michele Gleaton looks happy to be a feller buncher operator!



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2009 TEACHERS' TOUR COMMENTS

Comments taken from the 2009 S.C. Teachers' Tour final evaluations. Participants' responses reflect what they most enjoyed about the program and/or what new perceptions they have about forests, forestry, loggers, foresters, public lands and the forest products industry.



I did not know that forestry in our state was so huge and how South Carolina benefits from its use."

- **Velma English, Cherokee Trails Elementary, Abbeville**

"I learned that foresters using sustainable forest practices are the true stewards of the land." I learned about the tremendous respect and accountability standards that the industry has for our shared environment."

- **Glenn Robinson, Andrew Jackson Middle School, Kershaw**

"I like the idea of sustainable forestry. I have never thought of trees as a crop. It was nice to see the close bonds between the forestry community and the ties they had to the land."

- **Michelle Ashley, South Aiken High, Aiken**

"I did not realize what true environmentalist foresters, loggers, and industry leaders are. Their dedication to and passion about the wise usage and maintenance of our natural resources is inspiring."

- **Jane Fisher, Mossy Oaks Elementary, Beaufort**

"My perceptions have changed greatly in respect to renewable forests. I did not know that forestry was so huge and how SC benefits from its use."

- **Velma English, Cherokee Trails Elementary School, Abbeville**

"This was extremely teacher friendly and practical for classroom use. It has opened many possibilities for my classroom and outdoor teaching."

- **Nancy Peeples, Addlestone Hebrew Academy, Charleston**

"This is the best summer course I have ever taken."

- **Ruth Dunn, Sims Middle School, Union**

"I have a greater respect for the forest, forestry, and foresters. All aspects of forestry are much more complex than I expected, and I did not realize the extent of technology used in the area of forestry."

- **Marcia Burckhalter, Barnwell**

"A tree is not just a tree any more. I'm able to look beyond that tree and see the industry that goes with it. I never knew that the forestry industry could produce as many jobs as it does."

- **Donna Corcoran, Calhoun Academy, St. Matthews**

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Mark Your Calendar

August 2009

- 25 Newberry District 2 Meeting, Farm Bureau Office, Newberry, 7 p.m.
27 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, SCFC Headquarters, Columbia, 10 a.m.

September 2009

- 2,3,10 TOP 3-Day Class, Georgetown. Contact Susan Guynn, Clemson Extension, 864-656-0606 to register.
24 - 26 American Loggers Council 15th Annual Meeting, Flagstaff, AZ.
Contact SCTPA for information.

PLEASE NOTE:

Event & meeting dates may change. Notices are mailed prior to SCTPA events.
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