



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

January/February 2011

2011 Annual Meeting Review

FORESTS FOR OUR FUTURE

Highlighted by Discovery Channel and America's Swamp Logger Bobby Goodson of Goodson's All Terrain Logging, Inc., our 12th Annual Membership Meeting at the Crown Reef Resort & Conference Center, Myrtle Beach, January 28 – 30 set a record for attendance with three hundred twenty-five members, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and friends showing up to hear a distinguished line up of speakers, attend an informative workshop, visit with exhibitors, enjoy the fellowship and even talk about what is happening in our industry today.

Despite the economic challenges now, it is a great tribute to everyone who attended the 2011 Annual Meeting. That was a great indication of the interests in our annual meeting for hearing the speakers, learning about the industry and discussing issues among peers.

Thank you to everyone for making our 12th Annual Meeting successful, informative and pleasurable. Your support was absolutely tremendous.

This year's theme was *Forests For Our Future*. Sustainable forests will supply conventional wood products as well as the socio-economic-environmental benefits to meet future demands.

Emerging woody biomass markets will place more emphasis on our forests in conjunction with con-

ventional forest product harvests. These demands may increase the need for more intensified forest management, timber harvesting and reforestation to continue providing sustainable Forests For Our Future.

Our distinguished speakers presented different perspectives of sustainable forest management, timber harvesting and woody biomass for renewable energy and shared how future wood demands for solid wood, pulpwood and woody biomass from growing, managing,



*Bobby Goodson
Goodson's All Terrain Logging, Inc.*

harvesting and reforesting will be involved in making sure our forest resources are sustainable.

The association was proud to welcome distinguished speakers representing a private logging business and the American Loggers Council, a Real Estate Investment Trust, national equipment manufacturer, wood supply chain researcher, state enforcement agency and reality television series logging business.



Matt Jensen & SCTPA Board of Directors

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Thanks to our members, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, silent auction and door prize donors and guests for making this annual meeting a great experience for everyone.

The conference began with the Friday afternoon board meeting discussing annual meeting business, the SC House subcommittee hearing for the SC Forestry Commission's budget that the President attended supporting the Commission's budget request, the 2010 year-end



Matt Jensen speaks

financial statement and membership. Speaker Matt Jensen, Whitetail Logging, LLC, Crandon, Wisconsin, and American Loggers Council President visited the meeting and discussed issues ALC is working on for federal legislation and issues facing loggers nationally.

Andy McAllister, Alliance Tire USA, reviewed the 2010 SCTPA member Alliance Forestry Tire Program and presented the 2011 program for renewal. The board approved renewing the Alliance Forestry Tire program for 2011.

Friday evening's Welcome Reception featured Mike Lockaby of Partytime DJ's of Columbia playing a variety of shag, line and funky dance music. And of course our Karaoke "wanna be" singers had their spot light to show off their voices.

Saturday's General Session speakers were outstanding. Crandon, Wisconsin logger and ALC President Matt Jensen, Whitetail Logging, LLC, discussed his goals for the American Loggers Council for his term and talked about how professional loggers are important to the forests for our future. He discussed his cut-to-length harvesting operation and had photos showing how he operates. He said it was nice for he and his wife Jody to have a chance to leave the minus-twenty degrees below zero to come enjoy the nice weather in Myrtle Beach.

Tom Reed, Vice President Southern Resources, Plum Creek Timber Company, Athens, GA, provided insights



Tom Reed speaks

into how his company operating as a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) will manage and utilize their forestlands for the future with his presentation entitled "Adjusting to Changing Opportunities: A Current Industry Perspective from the Country's Largest Private Landowner."

He shared how his company works with their professional

logging contractors and how the integration of harvesting, managing and reforestation for sustainable supplies of conventional forest products and emerging woody biomass will be an important part of their long term goals.

Dale Greene, Professor, Center for Forest Business at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA, presented his recently completed research project, funded by the Wood Supply Research Institute, entitled *Integrating Large-Scale Biomass Harvesting into the U.S. Wood Supply System* and the Forisk Consulting project portion entitled *Biomass Resource Availability Assessment*. His project covered six regions of the country. He provided his analyses, findings and recommendations regarding harvesting, supply and demand aspects of the



Dale Greene speaks

forest biomass supply chain and reviewed the biomass resource assessment.

Larry Cumming, President Peterson Pacific Corporation, Eugene, Oregon, provided insights into the benefits and implications of purchasing woody biomass by energy units instead of wet tons. He offered



Larry Cumming speaks

recommendations to help lower costs of the woody biomass supply chain to more effectively compete against other types of renewable energy and fossil fuels. As a leading manufacturer of in-woods biomass processing equipment, Larry offered his knowledge of what current developments are occurring in the processing of in-woods woody biomass.

The Saturday luncheon featured Bobby Goodson of Goodson's All Terrain Logging, Inc., Jacksonville, NC.

Now Bobby is known for his work on Discovery Channel's logging reality show *Swamp Loggers*.

Bobby is not a formal speaker to say the least. He's just a professional logger and one of us. Speaking from his heart about family, his business, being a Christian, how he started



Bobby Goodson

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Billy, Robert & Ryan Walker

GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST

The 2010 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award is proudly presented to

Robert and Billy Walker, Walker & Walker Logging, LLC for their sincere commitment to professional timber harvesting, supporting this association, participating in community and industry activities, practicing sustainable timber harvesting, promoting education, and positive promotion of a professional business.

Billy and Robert are conscientious professionals and understand the value of relationships with customers, employees and their industry, environmental stewardship and promoting a positive image as professional loggers.

The Walkers know and understand the importance of operating a professional business. But Walker & Walker is more than that. It is also about family.

Sons Ryan and Tyler are actively involved in the business. Tyler oversees the in-woods whole tree chipping job and Ryan serves as a lead at the Hodges Log & Lumber, LLC sawmill and working on the logging job.

Currently they operate an in-woods whole tree chipping operation averaging 1,400 tons per week producing ninety percent of their production of clean hardwood chips to the International Paper Eastover mill. Pine chips are delivered to the AbitibiBowater mill in Catawba.

Billy and Robert started conventional logging in January 1976. In October 1996, they began in-woods chipping and operated two chipping crews from 1998 until 2005.

The company has seventeen employees including two procurement foresters, Wayne Funderburg and Gary Nye who work with private landowners for timber purchases.

On the chipping job three Tigercat skidders, two Tigercat fellerbunchers, a Tigercat knuckleboom loader, a John Deere 850 bulldozer and Peterson Pacific 5000H whole tree chipper are used. Being professionals to convey a positive image, a Ford tractor with a brush broom attachment is used to keep the local road clean of dirt and mud.

Walker & Walker Logging, LLC Laurens, SC

Seven to eight Kenworth tractors and Peerless chip trailers are used hauling chips along with a Pitts log trailer for hardwood and pine logs when needed.

Robert and Billy stepped out in February 2005 and purchased a hardwood sawmill in Hodges and named it Hodges Log & Lumber, LLC. They produce hardwood lumber and this provides a market for hardwood logs produced on the chipping job along with other local markets.

The Walkers are involved in community and industry activities. In 2008, they hosted the Northwestern Lumber Association's southern tour as one of the stopping points to see a "southern" in-woods whole tree chipping operation. Their operation has served as a tour stop for International Paper customers, the Laurens County Forestry Association and Forestry Extension.



Walker Chip Vans

In 1996 Walker & Walker Logging received the Georgia Pacific SC Piedmont District Logger of the Year award. They also received the Palmetto Timber Fund's Sonny Gray Safety Award.

In 1998 Walker & Walker received the Laurens County Forestry Business of the Year Award from the Extension Service for their exceptional business operations and community involvement.

To further the education of school children, Ryan Walker and SCTPA's Crad Jaynes have presented the association's Sustainable Forestry, Forest Products and Professional Timber Harvesting Program at E. B. Morris Elementary School in Laurens.

Walker & Walker actively support their Laurens community and logging industry activities. They annually sponsor a hole for the Straight Street Youth Ministry and American Red Cross golf tournaments, support Log A Load For Kids, sponsor for the Angel Tree for Christmas gifts for under privileged children and donate to local schools for Christmas gifts for area children



Tyler Walker

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shovel logging twelve years ago after years with his father and how The Lord steered that move, and how *Swamp Loggers* is filmed. He delighted the packed ballroom with his humor, stories and honesty.

Offering some humorous tidbits about the show, he said the producer wanted him to spice up the language. But Bobby said he told them, "No, that's not me or how we operate. Remember, this is my business and you called me, I didn't call you." He shared how a cameraman filming a feller buncher scene dropped a \$70,000 camera into the water. He related how the film crew was barred from renting vehicles from a major company due to the over \$100,000 damages they had done to rental SUV's and cars driving on the logging roads. He talked about the interactions between the film crew and his employees and how the film crew had to be educated about swamp logging. He entertained questions and took time to answer every one. A man of principle, faith and dedication to his profession, it was a pleasure to feature Bobby as our luncheon speaker.

The Business Session opened with the 2010 financial report by CPA Larry Godwin of Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP. Members were provided the statement as he reviewed the association's financial status. The year-end financial statement showed "red ink" of a little over seventeen thousand dollars. However, he noted dues revenue increased by twenty-six hundred dollars over budget, total expenses were under budget, but total revenue did not exceed expenses. He also discussed how important the insurance program is to providing revenue during the year. He noted there were still operating funds in the bank, but the association would need to increase dues revenue since that is the main source of income.

Larry asked the members to talk about what the association does and challenged everyone to seek new members and asked if you can, contribute a little more to keep the association moving forward for their best interests.

Secretary-Treasurer Donnie Harrison reported no bylaws changes for the meeting. Billy McKinney, Nominations Committee Chairman, conducted the Board of Directors elections. Having no contested seats, Danny McKittrick, Tommy Barnes and Joe Young were re-elected by acclamation.

The luncheon awards session started with Forestry Mutual Insurance Company's Nick Carter presenting their SC Logger of the Year Award to Honey Hill Timber,

LLC, Walterboro. Unfortunately Bunky and Willie Koth were unable to attend to receive their award. Honey Hill Timber is an active logger member.

Matt Hoover of Swamp Fox Agency, Inc. presented their first Timber Industry Leadership Award to Crad Jaynes, President of SCTPA.

Next SCTPA President Crad Jaynes presented the President's awards. For outstanding support of the association, service and commitment to the sustainable forestry industry of South Carolina, wood dealer member Williams Forest Products, Inc., Rock Hill, and SC's State Forester Gene Kodama received the awards.

Gene spoke about the Commission's budget and personnel issues, their budget requests and current firefighting equipment needs to maintain their mission of protecting SC's forestlands, lives and property. He encouraged everyone to contact their legislators to support the Commission's budget request. He also mentioned the 20 x 15 Vision to raise the state's forest industry's economic impact to a \$20 billion industry by year 2015.

Crad also provided the Chairman's message since Chairman McKittrick delegated that task. He reviewed last year briefly, but focused on what may be an issue with new state government leadership and the environmentalists and special interest groups trying to enact statutory Best Management Practices for swamp/bottomland hardwood logging and all hardwood logging. Mentioning that he, State Forester Gene Kodama, SCFC BMP Chief Guy Sabin and SC Forestry Association's Bob Scott had met with several of the interest groups representatives to explain how our loggers and our industry is complying with voluntary BMP's, provide information about our industry and discuss the issues, this may have potential for discussions in the General Assembly.

Crad proudly presented the 2010 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award to Walker & Walker Logging, LLC, Laurens, for outstanding work in professional timber harvesting operations, positive advocacy, community activity, professional business practices and positively representing the logging profession and sustainable forestry. Robert and Tyler Walker were present to accept their award.

Next Crad presented Bobby Goodson a recognition plaque reading:



Crad & Gene with awards



Larry gives financial report



(l-r) Danny McKittrick, Robert & Tyler Walker

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*With Grateful Appreciation To
Bobby Goodson & Goodson's All Terrain Logging, Inc.
For Your Leadership in Advancing
The Public's Knowledge of the
Professional Timber Harvesting Industry As
America's Swamp Loggers.*

Crad told his story of how he was initially contacted by the production company to see if a SCTPA swamp logger member would do the show. He contacted a member, but after the member had reservations, he then referred them to Bobby. So perhaps that's how Bobby became the cult hero he is now.

Another presentation was made to Bobby from board member Tommy Barnes. Bobby mentioned on a show and even referenced it during his talk, that swamp logging wasn't tennis shoe logging like most loggers did.

Well, Tommy presented Bobby with a bright green pair of high top sneakers with orange shoelaces. Bobby really got a kick out of that and said to tune in to a show because he was going to wear them.

Annual meeting sponsors were recognized and thanked for their tremendous financial support as well as the exhibitors for displaying their services and products. Four companies had parking lot exhibits – in-woods chippers by Vermeer Mid Atlantic & Bandit of the Southeast; two Western Star tractors by Triple T Freightliner; an off road military set out truck by Military Off Road Trucks & Parts. Thanks to these exhibitors for the outside display units.

Thanks to Delaine for her "saleswomanship" for the shotgun drawing. She broke her own record from last year. Thanks to Nichols Store in Rock Hill and Crad for furnishing the Camouflaged Stoeger M2000 12-Gauge Automatic Shotgun won by Joey Rader of Georgetown. Thanks to everyone for buying those shotgun tickets.

Our Silent Auction again was very successful raising funds to assist the association's operating budget. This year we had the most items ever and raised the most money. Thanks to all the wonderful members, allied suppliers and friends for your donations.

Thanks to everyone who bought the Big Drawing tickets for the Honda ATV, the Honda EU2000i Quiet Portable Generator and the four days and three nights at Crown Reef Resort. Winners were drawn after the business session. Steve Thompson, Thompson Logging, Inc. of Union won the Crown Reef gift certificate. And who would have guessed, Greg Tompkins, Bay Area Forest Products, LLC, Georgetown, won the ATV and the Generator. But that's what might happen if you buy enough tickets and get those extra free tickets. We



Tommy presents Bobby with green sneakers.

might have to enact a new Greg Thompson Rule next year that you can only win one of the Big Drawing items. No, just kidding. Thanks to everyone who participated in the drawings for making this a successful fund raising event to support the association.

Saturday afternoon's session featured Sergeant Don Rhodes of SC State Transport Police. Don presented the Intrastate SCDOT Number now enacted and explained its purpose and process for obtaining the number. He reviewed the new Comprehensive Safety Analysis (CSA) federal trucking program and explained how your fleet safety rating will be determined under the new Safety Measurement System and how the new regulations will affect drivers and fleet operations for all trucking sectors. As Don said, "The new rating system will determine new fleet safety ratings using more metrics than the previous SafeStat System and those operators with poor ratings had better leave the light on cause someone's coming to see you." He provided the forms to obtain the Intrastate SCDOT Number, answered questions regarding CSA and SCDOT Number, and assisted in completing the SCDOT Number forms.

Sunday's prayer breakfast featured Rachel Rabon of Conway. Joe and Renee Young assisted in singing with Rachel. Rachel's brother Alvie suffers from Downs Syndrome, but is such an inspiration as he too sings and gives his testimony. Rachel's testimony was moving, tearful and heart warming. She shared her life experiences and shared how The Lord is right there beside her despite the challenges she faces. The music, singing and testimony were truly faithful and inspirational.

A big grateful hug and heartfelt thanks to my sister-in-law Delaine "Aunt Dee" Peake, her cousin Mary "Buttons" Rawl and my wife Brenda for their absolutely tireless and tremendous efforts in making our annual meeting successful. Thanks, you are the best.



Joe Young & Danny with Rachel Rabon & Alvie

Thanks to Bobby and Lori Goodson for being with us. And thanks to Bobby for his patience and kind heart to sign hundreds of autographs, take photos and talk to everyone who wanted to speak with him.

THANKS to everyone for attending. WOW! What a great 12th Annual Meeting!



BRIEFING SUMMARY

STATE-LEGAL LOADS ON THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM AGRICULTURAL (INCLUDING FOREST) COMMODITIES

Individual states have long set weight limits for their roads and highways. With the advent of the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways (Interstate System) the Federal Government established it's own weight limits for this system. Thirteen states have received various exemptions from these limits. Transit buses and fire and other disaster response vehicles have temporary exemptions pending studies of their weights and use.

Generally, Title 23, Section 127(a), U.S. Code sets Interstate System weight limits at 20,000 pounds on a single axle; 34,000 pounds on tandems and a gross weight of 80,000 pounds on a 36 foot tandem spread. A bridge formula is used to recognize different axle spreads. These maximums include enforcement tolerances.

Based on safety considerations, the American Loggers Council (ALC) is proposing an additional exemption for agricultural (including forest) commodity loads that meet state-legal requirements and tolerances. The exemption is expected to result in a shift of a substantial amount of existing trip mileage from two-lane secondary roads and highways to the Interstate System and result in nominally fewer trips – and improved safety for the motoring public, including the trucks themselves.

The proposal requires the following (or similar) amendment to the United States Code:

Amend Title 23, Chapter 1, Subchapter I, Section 127(a), United States Code, by Adding the following final paragraph: **“Individual State weight limitations and tolerances for agricultural (including forest) commodities that are applicable to State highways other than Interstate System, shall be applicable in lieu of the requirements of this subsection”.**

For assistance regarding this proposal please contact Danny Dructor, American Loggers Council, (409) 625-0206.

AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL

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E-mail: americanlogger@aol.com • Website: www.americanloggers.org

ALC Position Paper will be presented during SCTPA meetings in DC with our SC U.S. House of Representatives & U.S. Senators on March 17 & 18.

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Billy and Robert are strong SCTPA supporters having been a logger member since 1999 when SCTPA began. They have sponsored several Laurens District Meeting meals over the years.

Tyler and Ryan are SFI Trained loggers. The company emphasizes sustainable harvesting practices, follows Timber Harvesting Best Management Practices and works conscientiously to meet landowner expectations through exceptional environmental and harvesting standards.

Robert, Billy, Tyler and Ryan believe promoting and practicing professional timber harvesting and sustainable forestry principles are foundations to their business.

Understanding the responsibilities and importance associated with how professional loggers contribute to their local and state economies, how professional loggers must work with landowners, wood dealers and wood receiving companies in cooperative partnerships, promoting and practicing sustainable forestry and educating students and the public to better understand the professional timber harvesting industry, concern about our sustainable and renewable forest resources and our environment are all important issues maintained in the company standards of operation.

Billy says, "We certainly appreciate what the association brings to the table to represent us to the industry, politicians and public about what we do as professional businesses in the timber harvesting industry, its education efforts of presenting school programs and being

part of the SC Teachers Tour. The association has opened eyes to better understand our industry because many people do not and just react rather than finding out the facts. The association's value is far greater than we realize. More loggers need to be members and realize the importance the association has for them and how it works in the logger's best interest."

He also says, "Our business, and the logging industry in general, is still struggling and riding the yo-yo effect of feast or famine with operational costs such as fuel increasing again along with the other costs of products and services. It looks like our industry will remain on shaky ground for another couple years before it begins to straighten out. But hopefully we as business professionals see improvements in the future."

As an association and industry leader with a sincere commitment to professional logging, sustainable forestry, community, family and the principles of outstanding business, SCTPA is proud *Walker & Walker Logging, LLC* is our 2010 *Gene Collins Logger Activist Award* recipient.



Walker Logging Job



Timber Talk

*Your Voice for South Carolina
Timber Harvesting*

Contact Crad Jaynes at
1-800-371-2240 or bcjpaw@windstream.net



POSITION OF THE AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL ON RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICIES

The American Loggers Council (ALC), a nonprofit organization representing professional timber harvesters in 30 states across the United States, commends Congress and the Administration on its efforts to promote the nation's domestic renewable sources of energy. Utilizing renewable energy resources fosters energy independence and security, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and revitalizes our economy. The ALC recognizes the work being done in Congress and the Administration as a significant step toward energy independence, but believes all proposals must go further to address our country's most pressing energy, environmental and economic challenges.

The ALC believes that the definition of renewable biomass must be expanded to include all forms of sustainably harvested biomass that assist the nation in meeting its renewable energy goals, contribute to innovative climate change solutions, and assure the promise of creating a green economy extends to our forestry communities.

The ALC supports renewable energy policies based on the following principles:

Our nation's forests are part of the solution.

Forest resources must be considered as one of many resources needed to address national goals for renewable energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and economic revitalization. For many Americans, forest biomass represents employment and sustainable economic growth for communities that are dependent upon all forest resources

Public and private forestlands must be included as possible sources for renewable biomass. For example, currently underutilized woody biomass from hazardous fuel treatments and ecosystem restoration on public and private lands can be used today to help meet the nation's need for renewable energy.

The sustainable harvesting of forest biomass from many sources creates many benefits. Not only does it improve forest health by fighting against catastrophic wildfires and insect and disease infestation, but it can also strengthen the ability of forests to sequester carbon, clean our air and water, and sustain biodiversity.

Forest biomass must be harvested sustainably.

Woody biomass must be harvested and utilized sustainably and in accordance with Federal and State laws and best management practices. We understand the benefits provided by healthy, sustainable forests and their relationship to sustainable, healthy economies.

The members of the ALC are one key to the success of forest biomass. We are experts in sustainable forestry practices that include the protection of soil and water resources to the recognition and protection of threatened and endangered species habitat. We work with other forestry experts, nationally and locally, to design constructive and adaptive practices that accomplish the right balance between the use of forest biomass and its impacts.

The promise of a green economy must include our forestry communities.

Many rural communities reliant on forestry now suffer from almost 20 percent unemployment – more than twice the national average. Forest biomass energy can quickly generate new industry in these communities and create and protect family-wage jobs. Without it, the future of these communities is at stake.

Including our forests as part of the solution will strengthen environmental stewardship by further revealing how utilizing our renewable forest resources protects our energy, climate, and economy.

The enormous, diverse, and true value of biomass should drive the market for its use, and thereby strengthen the sustainability of our forests and economies. Undue restrictions on the use of biomass for energy will create an ineffective bureaucracy, undermine environmental goals, and inhibit the free market.

The ALC is committed to supporting Energy Policies that broadly includes the nation's forest resources, demands sustainability, and creates future opportunities for forestry communities. If Congress can provide this, the ALC and its members throughout the United States will dedicate themselves to making the promise of forest biomass as a renewable and sustainable energy resource a reality.

*ALC Position Paper will be presented during SCTPA meetings in DC with our
SC U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senators on March 17 & 18.*

“Trucks Entering Highway” Signs A Question for SCDOT

SCTPA was contacted regarding the question, “Do Trucks Entering Highway signs have to be used where there is an existing road?”

To offer the correct answer, SCTPA contacted SCDOT’s Jim Feda, Director of Maintenance, to see what the correct regulation is for this situation.

Here are the emails exchanged by SCTPA and SCDOT.



Jim,

Hope you are doing well and are surviving all the inclement weather issues you have had so far this winter. I just have a question if you could help me out.

My question has to do with signs ... Trucks Entering Highway ... in regards to temporary "logging roads" and roads that have been established as entrance roads to a SC public highway.

I know in the Encroachment Permits Standards since logging roads are deemed temporary roads under the Encroachment Standards that road signs for trucks entering highway are required.

Now, my question is this ... Are trucks entering highway signs required when the trucks are entering a SC highway from an already established road such as a road built by a forest products company or an existing road, i.e. county road, etc., where the road comes out at a SC public highway?

I always encourage trucks entering highway signs should be considered as being posted to encourage increased motorist safety for the traveling public since unmanufactured forest products trucks are entering the SC road.

Is there another statute that indicates trucks entering highway signs are to be used when trucks are entering a SC public highway (road) from an existing road such as a road established by a wood company that may not be designated as a SC county or state road or otherwise?

I may be confusing myself here, but just thought I would seek your expertise or someone on your SCDOT staff that may be able to clarify this for me.

Crad,

I have asked our Director of Traffic Engineering to look into this and respond back to you. I hope that you are doing well

Mr. Jaynes,

Thank you for your question regarding the use of “Trucks Entering Highway” signs on roadways in South Carolina.

I am assuming that you are referring to the temporary roll-up type signs that would be used when a site is active. For the situation that you described, there is no law or statute that requires that the signs be erected for an established drive or entry point.

However, in an effort to promote motorist awareness and highway safety, we would strongly encourage the use of such signs. No encroachment permit would be required since the roadway already exists.

I appreciate your concern for highway safety in our state and hope you find this information useful.

If you need any additional information, please give me a call (803) 737-2086.

Thanks,
Nick Boozer
SCDOT – Traffic Engineering

Nick,

Thanks for the info. Like I indicated, I know the temporary roll up signs are required when there is a temporary logging driveway as designated in the Encroachment Standards in Chapter 3, in the Driveways section 3E under 3E-1, Logging and Construction Driveways.

I just wasn't sure about an established, existing road whether it was a designated state or county road or a dirt road that had been established and has existed for some time such as a dirt road that was established by a forest products company going into their lands.

So I think you have answered my question. Sometimes I tend to confuse myself on these type things.

I'll continue promoting the use of signs to promote highway safety with our loggers and unmanufactured forest products truckers.

Take care and thanks again.

SCTPA encourages the use of Trucks Entering Highway signs be posted at all times to promote traffic safety for trucks entering the highway and the motoring public.

Posting signs promotes a positive image. Plus this can be a business risk management tool to reduce potential vehicle accident and liability issues

2011 Annual Meeting Sponsors ...

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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

AS I SEE IT ...

AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL

PRESIDENT MIKE WIEDEMAN, ENTERPRISE, OREGON



February 2011

BIOMASS AND FREE MARKETS

As I am writing this month's article, the 112th Congress is being sworn in and attempting to prioritize their agenda, focused on jobs and the economy while trying to reduce the federal deficit. What that means to us as rural resource providers and small businesses is yet to be determined.

When you think about the size and scope of our government and how to fund it, I don't envy our policy makers. Trying to prioritize projects and programs for the fiscal year is generally where the arguments begin. One would think that national defense, social security, and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and the power grid would be high on the list. Having a strong, yet broad energy policy should also have great importance when it comes to our economic strength and national security.

As you all know, biomass looks to be a large part of our logging and energy future. The American Loggers Council has been paying close attention to the status of the Biomass Crop Assistance Program ("BCAP"). This program was intended to create an incentive for loggers, forest landowners, and communities to support new biomass based markets. I personally am against any subsidies, but the BCAP program could provide essential short-term assistance for loggers who wish to enter into an additional market.

BCAP was specifically set up to make payments to the eligible owner of the biomass being delivered to qualified biomass conversion facilities, not the facility itself. What seemed to happen in cases nationwide was the opportunities that the program was supposed to create did not materialize because the wood using facilities reduced delivered prices, canceling out any increase the logger may have received to invest in or



upgrade biomass-handling equipment.

Generally loggers don't have access to grants, economic development funds, tax abatements, etc., like when there is a proposed project or facility. If there is no reasonable long term security for a market, and no certainty that feedstock supply

will not be compromised by artificial constraints, no one in their right mind should invest in some of the most expensive equipment in the forest industry to produce the lowest value material.

In my home state of Wisconsin there is a proposed WE Energy/Domtar biomass project receiving a significant amount of opposition. One of the main reasons for opposition by other forest industry companies is the lack of available material. Like many regions in the country, Wisconsin has lost five major wood consuming mills in recent years totaling around one million cords of wood fiber with no home. When our state was at those harvest levels, including the extra one million cords, we weren't harvesting our annual growth or the allowable cut. The WE Energy/Domtar project if approved would only use 13 % of the lost volume or about 370,000 tons per year. One can't help but question if the real concern is really the lack of logging capacity to produce the material that is available to supply all the markets, both traditional and new.

The only leverage we loggers have in our industry is availability of multiple markets and the freedom to sell our forest products where we see fit. With the biomass industry emerging in different parts of the country, loggers may have an opportunity to diversify their businesses. Many of our equipment manufacturers would also welcome the new biomass markets as they could expand and develop biomass harvesting equipment, providing many quality jobs.

In the end, healthy free market competition in our industry for wood fiber and its uses will benefit our for-

ests, rural communities, and the economy.

March 2011

A NEW DAY?

As I am starting to write this month's article I am returning from South Carolina. I was invited to speak on behalf of ALC at the South Carolina Timber Producers annual meeting.

"Forests For Our Future" was the theme for this year's meeting. I was so impressed, I wanted to put my thoughts into words right away. Crad Jaynes, his staff, and the SCTPA Board put on an annual meeting to be proud of. In some trying times for logging in the south, I was told they had record or near record attendance. With great support from their sponsors, interesting guest speakers and training courses, their meeting was a great success. I had the opportunity to meet many fine South Carolina loggers and see some familiar faces too. Their southern hospitality made me feel very welcome.

A short time ago President Obama gave his "State of The Union" speech. I couldn't help but ask myself the same question over and over, how ignorant does he think the American people are? I'm sorry, but if you believe the rosy picture he painted, I've got some oceanfront property in Arizona to sell you.

To start, the President said that they were successful in beating back the recession and stabilizing the economy. To give them some credit, if you spend 780 billion dollars in a stimulus bill and go one trillion dollars in debt, some positive movement economically, should happen. To date, not many "shovel ready" jobs have materialized. Unemployment for the foreseeable future will remain above nine percent.

He also said America needed to
(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

invest in new energy technology, biofuels, and clean coal all the while the oil drilling moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico continues and fuel prices for our industry are on the rise. The whole reason the Department of Energy was created way back when was to reduce or eliminate our dependence on foreign oil. To date we have dramatically increased our dependence.

The size and scope of government was another subject. President Obama proposed a five year spending freeze for the federal budget after the prior year's spending levels had increased above twenty percent. The freeze was estimated to save a whopping 400 billion dollars over ten years. We Americans were being told the federal government must live within its means and cut spending. After the Congressional Budget Office came out with the latest record 1.5 trillion dollar deficit figures, we all of a sudden have a real "fiscal hawk" at the helm.

A common thread heard throughout the State of The Union speech was making investments. The President implored Congress and the country, that we now need to invest more in education and job creation so we can remain the leader in innovation. The word "investment" has become just another word for more spending. Since the Department of Education was created, we have steadily increased spending on public education. That arguably has not helped the overall quality of education in our country, but created a larger bureaucracy. I thought the last stimulus bill was an investment in job creation? After two years in office, I guess they are really serious now.

Congress was congratulated on their bipartisan passing of the Bush tax cuts and unemployment extensions. The opponents of the tax cuts, including the President, said it would be too costly for the budget. He announced that after two years the bill should be left to expire for the rich-

est of Americans. It always amazes me how some politicians think, keeping the income tax rates at their existing levels is somehow considered a tax cut and a negative. It seems that whenever unemployment, job creation, or poll numbers come out the administration and some sectors of the media are always surprised at the results, but feel they weren't as bad as they thought. This raises the question, are they in over their heads or that misinformed?

As you may have figured out, I am tired of politics as usual on both sides of the aisle. Now that the House of Representatives has Republican control and the Senate is still controlled narrowly by the Democrats, everyone including the President is calling for civility and a new desire to work together. I wish that same approach would have been taken for the last two years when some of the most sweeping legislation in U.S. history was rammed through like national health care, without even reading the bill.

In this new era of bipartisanship and image retooling, the President should stop putting and dribbling and start listening to the American people. Oh, and so should Congress.

Matt Jensen is the President of the American Loggers Council, which represents over 50,000 logging professionals in 30 states. Matt's operation, Whitetail Logging, is headquartered in Crandon, Wisconsin.. For more information please contact the American Loggers Council office at 409-625-0206 or e-mail at americanlogger@aol.com.

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BIOMASS POLICY CAN HAVE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

BRUCE LIPPKE AND ELAINE ONEIL
February 20, 2011

At first glance, it might seem that promoting the burning of wood to generate energy would harm the environment.

Indeed, the Thurston County Board of Commissioners recently adopted a moratorium on generating biomass power, and various groups have opposed biomass energy.

But these well-intentioned concerns are predicated on incomplete analysis that doesn't withstand serious scrutiny. Biomass, in fact, is a solar resource and need not have negative environmental consequences compared with fossil sources of energy.

Many believe that burning wood for energy has the same impact on carbon emissions as burning coal. But burning coal releases carbon that was trapped in rock and otherwise would have remained stored. This is not the case with biomass.

Trees absorb carbon from the atmosphere, reducing greenhouse gases. In sustainably managed forests, harvests do not exceed net new growth. The equal two-way flow of forest carbon means that the impact of harvest on atmospheric carbon is neutral, not 100 years in the future, but on an ongoing basis.

As forests age, tree mortality and decay increase. This limits the amount of carbon that can be stored in the forest. By removing wood before the growth rate declines, forests can maintain a high rate of carbon removal from the atmosphere.

Biomass energy is produced by burning wood not suitable for building materials. Whether lower-value wood is burned for energy or left to decay, the carbon is ultimately recycled back into the atmosphere.

Leaving wood in the forest to decay results in the same quantity of emissions – without the benefit of using its energy value to reduce the one-way flow of fossil carbon into the atmosphere.

When forests are managed to remain carbon neutral, the sustainable harvest of products and biofuels displaces fossil-intensive materials and fuels, resulting in a net reduction of carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

Over the past decade, a consortium of scientists has conducted extensive research into the life-cycle greenhouse gas impacts of forest products and biofuels.

We found that for every megawatt of energy produced, biomass emits just 4 percent of the greenhouse gases of coal. It is also sustainable and domestic, contributing to energy independence that supports domestic economic activity and jobs.

However, because coal and other fossil fuels are cheap, companies will favor them over renewable sources if biomass emissions are penalized in the same way as fossil emissions. We have found that while using more wood in buildings has the highest leverage in reducing fossil fuel emissions, using waste wood as biofuels is also very effective.

We have also documented that managing federal lands to help control unnatural catastrophic wildlife results in lower greenhouse gas emissions.

By stifling biomass energy development, we can expect the fuel loads in our national forests to increase, more devastating fires, more greenhouse gas emissions, and the transition of some forests from a net sink for carbon storage to a net contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

These unintended consequences are not consistent with America's carbon mitigation objectives. They can only be resolved by a science-based understanding of the implications of proposed policies on the life cycles of all carbon pools.

This can provide a path to a cleaner energy future and put many Americans to work in green energy jobs by using wood as a renewable resource to absorb carbon from the atmosphere and displace fossil intensive emissions.

Bruce Lippke is a professor emeritus and Elaine Oneil is a research scientist in the University of Washington School of Forest Resources in the College of the Environment.

Dogwood Alliance Speaks Again

Let's make 2011 a turning point for the South's forests



Feb. 18, 2011

From Danna Smith, Executive Director of the Dogwood Alliance, an Asheville nonprofit that works to protect Southern forests:

This month the United Nations designated the year 2011 as the International Year of Forests. Why? Because forests play a critical role in protecting the health of our planet. From supporting biodiversity to renewing and filtering water supplies, preventing floods, and removing carbon from the atmosphere, forests are essential for life on earth. Yet, despite their immense value, forest destruction is accelerating and today accounts for 20 percent of global carbon emissions. That's more carbon than is released from all the cars on the road.

A recent report from proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that the U.S. leads the world in percentage of forest cover loss, attributing much of that loss to industrial logging here in the South, where 2 percent of the world's forests produce about 20 percent of the world's wood and paper products. High poverty rates in rural communities, vanishing ecosystems, flooding and the loss of native species are just a few of the far-reaching consequences of living in the largest wood and paper producing region of the world. Here in North Carolina, our valuable wetland forests are being destroyed to make throw-away fast food packaging.

As if current pressures on our forests aren't enough, efforts are under way to shift energy production from fossil fuels to wood. Though recent reports suggest such a switch could double logging

rates across Southern states, increase carbon emissions and pose even more of a health threat than burning coal, President Barack Obama in his most recent State of the Union address advocated for more investments in wood-burning energy facilities. Last month the EPA decided not to regulate carbon emissions from wood-burning power plants for the next three years. In North Carolina, Duke Energy is already burning wood to generate electricity. It appears that more of the same old unregulated forest destruction is headed our way.

Is this really the model we want for the future?

There is hope. Over the past decade, public concerns about the impacts of industrial logging have inspired some of the biggest consumers and producers of paper and wood to adopt new policies to improve industrial logging practices and protect unique forests across the landscape.

Big names like Staples, The Home Depot and Coca-Cola are engaging with forest conservation groups in an exciting new collaborative called the Carbon Canopy. Carbon Canopy is developing a new model to spur investment in forest conservation to enable Southern landowners to generate revenue from leaving more trees (and carbon) in the woods. Now there is a new idea that's worth an investment!

To the contrary, burning trees to generate electricity will only add pressure on our forests. It's time to toss out old economic models based solely on resource extraction in favor of a new forest economy that values healthy forests for all the important climate, water, community and wildlife benefits they provide. Through waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and a focus on truly clean sources of energy such as solar and wind we can chart a new path.

Let's embrace this year as a turning point. It's the International Year of Forests!



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From the desk of...

STATE FORESTER Gene Kodama

February 23, 2011

Good day!



Wildfire season has begun in earnest! Over the past couple of weeks, the weather pattern dramatically changed from being cold and wet, to warm, windy, and dry. This past President's Day weekend, wildfire activity was intense due to high winds and low humidity. From Friday through Monday, the SC Forestry Commission responded to over 300 fires that burned about 2,200 acres and caused massive property damage. Over \$473,000 of property was lost and about \$500,000 or more in timber damaged. Twenty structures and three vehicles were destroyed, and 43 structures were damaged. Fortunately, no significant injuries or deaths occurred.

Wildfire seasons over the past two years have been historically mild due to wet winters and springs. However, as we were soundly reminded this past weekend, normal to worse wildfire seasons will return. And when this happens, our state will be at high risk due to our lack of adequate firefighting capacity to protect lives, property, and timber. We are deeply concerned that the Commission's mission of protecting (and developing) the forest resource and people's lives, including firefighters, is in jeopardy even during an average fire season. With state funding down to about 46% of what it was 2 ½ years ago, reductions in wildfire suppression capacity (personnel and equipment) have placed the citizens and property of South Carolina in great danger.

Wildfire suppression equipment is aging rapidly and becoming unreliable and unsafe. Firefighter numbers have been reduced by about 100 over the past few years. To fight wildfires safely and effectively, approximately 170 firefighting units (transport, dozer, and plow) with operators and support are needed,

and equipment must be replaced on a reasonable schedule. The number of manned Commission units was about 210 ten years ago and is now down to 140, and over half of these dozers are over 15 years old (the maximum safe replacement cycle). Funding for equipment replacement has been ZERO for several years and maintenance funds have been inadequate as well. And, of course, fuel costs and repair needs are increasing. Sadly, some individual county fire and rescue department budgets greatly exceed the entire amount of state funding for the Commission (which must cover the entire state). With aging and less equipment, and fewer fire fighters there is great risk to our citizens' lives and property and even greater risk to Commission firefighters and allies. On a per acre basis, Georgia and North Carolina firefighter capacity greatly exceeds South Carolina. Our state must improve firefighting capacity to protect the lives and property of its employees and its citizens!

Regarding the job creation and economic development portion of the Commission's mission, forestry is a major economic engine in the state's economy, with an economic impact of \$17.4 billion annually. Forestry is the #1 manufacturing industry in the state providing over 90,000 jobs and an annual payroll of over \$4 billion - with an average wage 35% higher than the state average. Timber is the state's #1 commodity, and over \$1 billion in forest products is exported annually. Plus, the industry can be grown tremendously beyond its current status. The Forestry Commission, in cooperation with the SC Forestry Association and others has initiated a jobs and economic development project called "20/15" to increase forestry's annual economic impact to \$20 billion and the number of jobs by 14,000 to 104,000 by the year 2015. Because of forestry's size, a mere 5% increase would produce 4,500 more jobs. State funding is needed to support this initiative which has a tremendous return on investment.

The SC House Ways & Means Committee is presently considering the Commission's budget proposal. We can all support the Commission's budget needs and our state's needs

(Continued on page 17)

EPA seeks to increase Water Act's scope

February 21, 2011

Representative Oberstar, D - Minnesota, and Senator Feingold, D - Wisconsin, with the support of environmentalists, introduced legislation in the 111th Congress which would have expanded the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) by replacing the term 'navigable waters' with 'waters of the U.S.'. The legislation died and EPA now is seeking to address the issue in guidance documents.

A draft version of the document was sent to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review in December. The guidance will "significantly" expand regulators' ability to oversee wetlands and other marginal waters compared to earlier guidance prepared by the Bush Administration.

At issue are two Supreme Court rulings that environmentalists say have narrowed the law's jurisdiction over isolated wetlands, intermittent streams and other marginal waters. In *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) v. Army Corps of Engineers*, the court limited the basis for asserting

jurisdiction over solely intrastate waters, while in *Rapanos v. United States*, the court provided two competing tests for determining jurisdiction.

Justice Kennedy's test for determining jurisdiction states that water bodies must have a "significant nexus" to "navigable waters", while Justice Antonin Scalia offered a stricter test that required regulators to show a relatively permanent surface connection with a traditionally navigable water to assert jurisdiction.

An EPA spokesperson says that recent interpretations of the Clean Water Act (CWA) "have removed long-standing pollution protections for many American waterbodies" and that the agency and Corps of Engineers are "clarifying the scope" of the CWA with the guidance.

Even before its public release, the guidance is prompting stiff opposition from industry groups.

House Republicans included language in their spending plan for the remainder of FY11 that blocks EPA from issuing the guidance.

SCTPA Comments: Again the issue of expanding the CWA to all bodies of water is still prevalent. Such expansion to include all water bodies could result in unfavorable impacts to sustainable forestry and timber harvesting.

(Continued from page 16)

for improved protection of lives and property and economic development, by contacting our legislators and requesting their support. This needs to be done immediately with our House members as the Committee will likely issue its budget recommendations by Thursday of this week for consideration by the full House.

In closing, let's all "Think Before We Burn" and be careful with fire while still promoting "Good Fire" from controlled burning to lessen fuel loading for what could be a very active wildfire season. Let's all support our individual Commission firefighters, fire departments, and other partners as we collectively strive to protect our valuable forest resources and the lives of firefighters and state citizens. And, above all, be

individually careful and never compromise your or others' safety for the sake of wildfire control or any other cause.

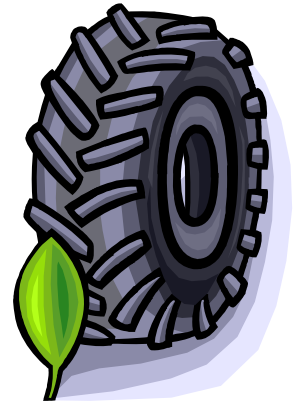
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PLANT CLOSURE BURSTS GEORGIA'S BIOMASS BUBBLE

By Dan Chapman

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

February 15, 2011

SOPERTON, GA — The premise, and the promise, were brilliant in their simplicity: Turn tree waste into fuel, help break the Middle Eastern choke hold on America's economy and bring hundreds of jobs to rural Georgia.

What wasn't there to like?

Plenty, starting with the closing last month of the Range Fuels cellulosic ethanol factory that promised to help make Georgia a national leader in alternative energy production. Then there's the money — more than \$162 million in local, state and federal grants, loans and other subsidies committed to the venture.

Much of that has been spent; recovery would be difficult. Officials at Colorado-based Range Fuels, who didn't return calls for this story, have said they plan to eventually re-open the Soperton plant.

But critics — ranging from budget hawks to renewable energy experts to dispirited locals — say the shutdown is a case of good money thrown at unproven science and lofty promises.

"We gave those subsidies in hopes of getting something in return — jobs," said Wallace Little, a laid-off special ed teacher from Soperton who applied for a Range job. "And we hope they come back, as far-fetched as that sounds. We need jobs. We need them bad."

Over the last six years, Georgia has successfully wooed a variety of companies specializing in biomass — cellulosic ethanol, corn ethanol, biodiesel, wood pellet, wood-to-electricity — with the goal of becoming a renewable energy leader. Many of the companies, though, are no longer in business.

Vinod Khosla, the dot-com billionaire behind Range Fuels, vowed in 2007 to "declare a war on oil" and said "cellulosic ethanol is the weapon we need."

State and national officials were giddy when ground was broken later that year for the \$225 million ethanol distillery outside Soperton, 155 miles southeast of Atlanta.

"Range Fuels represents a new future for our country," proclaimed then-Gov. Sonny Perdue, flanked by dignitaries and beauty queens. "With Georgia's

vast, sustainable and renewable forests, we will lead the nation."

U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel

Bodman, who steered a \$76 million federal grant to Range, said that "by relying on American ingenuity and on American farmers for fuel, we will enhance our nation's energy and economic security."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture followed up with an \$80 million loan guarantee. Georgia officials pledged \$6.2 million. Treutlen County, one of the state's poorest, offered 20 years worth of tax abatements and 97 acres in its industrial park. Private investors reportedly put up \$158 million. In all, the project raised more than \$320 million.

It hasn't been enough.

By now, Range had expected to produce 20 million gallons of ethanol. Seventy Georgians would have jobs, denting Treutlen's 13.3 percent unemployment rate.

Range shut down in early January. Only a few employees in Soperton remain. Bud Klepper, plant manager for Range Fuels, told The Soperton News that the shutdown is "not permanent," adding that the company seeks additional financing.

"We're just taking him at his word that it's just a temporary shut down," said John Lee, executive director of Treutlen's development authority. "There's nothing else we can do."

Ryan Alexander, president of Taxpayers for Common Sense in Washington, said the government should seek to get its money back.

"Cellulosic ethanol might be a better alternative for the environment, but the government needs to act with fiduciary responsibility and take care of tax dollars to minimize our risk," she said. "Recouping that money should be on the table."

State saw gold in plan

Range and Georgia seemed a perfect match. Georgia has 24 million acres of forests, and Range said it had the money and the science to build the nation's first commercially successful cellulosic ethanol factory.

Tree limbs, grasses, cornstalks, hog manure, municipal garbage and other limitless supplies would be transformed into fuel to be blended with gasoline. Less oil would mean fewer greenhouse gases. Because the process doesn't use corn, food prices wouldn't be affected.

(Continued on page 23)



(Continued from page 22)

Range said the factory would open in 2008 and eventually brew 100 million gallons a year. Company officials talked of a dozen plants across Georgia, producing a billion gallons of ethanol and filling local and state treasuries.

Georgia officials were smitten. A University of Georgia economic impact study concluded that Treutlen County alone would gain 194 direct (factory-related) and indirect (restaurant, hardware store, etc.) jobs with an annual \$5.8 million payroll. UGA pegged the statewide economic impact at \$150 million.

In October 2007, Georgia awarded Range \$6.2 million from the OneGeorgia fund, which uses tobacco settlement money for rural development. The Range subsidy is one of the largest grants ever given by OneGeorgia.

Range told Georgia officials that other states were also in the running for the cellulosic factory. OneGeorgia's governing board, which included Perdue, Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and the directors of the state's economic development, community affairs and revenue departments, decided the \$6.2 million grant would help seal the deal.

"The majority of the companies we work with have historically strong track records of success," said Nancy Cobb, executive director of OneGeorgia. She added that officials "recognized that, particularly in rural Georgia, a small portion of tobacco settlement money should be calibrated toward higher risk projects with the potential for a higher return on investment."

Range used the grant to buy a catalytic converter, feedstock distributor and an auger. All but \$200,000 has been spent, Cobb said, adding that Georgia isn't likely to receive any money back. Under terms of the contract, Range has until 2015 to invest at least \$150 million into the factory and create at least 50 jobs before the state would consider any penalties.

"We always anticipated that this was going to be a challenging project," Cobb said. "We don't yet know if Range Fuels will take this project to the next level with another group of investors or whether someone else will acquire them. But we're not throwing in the towel at this point."

Washington, too, believed in Range and Khosla, who co-founded Sun Microsystems. In return for the federal grant and loan guarantee, the government expected progress toward an alternative energy future. The Environmental Protection Agency pegged cellulosic ethanol production at 100 million gallons in 2010, of which Range was supposed to produce

one-fifth. Production fell short. That was wishful thinking.

EPA, citing technical and financial difficulties bedeviling the nation's six cellulosic ethanol producers, slashed the mandate to 6.5 million gallons for 2010. Critics doubt even that amount was manufactured.

Alabama's Cello Energy, for example, also expected to produce 20 million gallons, never made a drop and closed after its owner was found guilty of misrepresenting its science and the company went bankrupt. Khosla Ventures, Vinod Khosla's private equity firm, reportedly invested \$12.5 million in Cello.

The EPA eventually lowered Range's cellulosic ethanol output to 100,000 gallons, which Range said it produced, according to Klepper, before shutting down.

David Aldous, president of Range Fuels, told a Colorado newspaper last month he was seeking more money to ramp-up production in Soperton to a commercially feasible level. He also said the factory had trouble processing its raw material, mainly pine scrap.

"Their technology did not work," said Sam Shelton, research director for Georgia Tech's Strategic Energy Institute who has long questioned Range's scientific claims. "It was a high-risk technological development program. Chemical processing plants just don't scale-up that fast. They were promising too much too quick."

The Energy Department largely concurred.

"The final step — catalytic conversion of the gasifier products to ethanol — could not be successfully demonstrated with the time and funding available in this project," the agency recently wrote.

The Energy Department suspended payments to Range last month thereby "reducing future financial risk for the American taxpayers." In an e-mail to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the agency said it had given Range \$43.6 million so far with another \$5 million obligated. It did not return calls seeking clarification.

Folks in Soperton can only hope Range re-opens.

"You see what it's like around here. Businesses are closing. Storefronts are empty," said Little, the former school teacher. "I see hope moving further and further away."

For now, though, Soperton's future sits mirage-like on the edge of town — shiny, but silent and unused.

"If nothing else," quipped Lee, the economic developer, "it would make a nice Jack Daniels distillery."

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

The President's Award recognizes individuals and businesses for outstanding support and service to SC Timber Producers Association as well as the timber harvesting, timber supply and sustainable forestry industry of South Carolina.

Selected by the president this award honors a member, member business or individual for supporting the association, involvement in sustainable forestry, commitment to professional business practices, dedication to the advancement of timber harvesting and timber producing and are positive influences in South Carolina's forestry industry.

We are proud to present President's Awards to a Timber Dealer Member and South Carolina's State Forester for their outstanding commitment to the Palmetto State's forestry industry.

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***American Loggers Council
Position on
USDA Forest Service
Appropriations***

The federal timber sale program was one of the last remaining programs run by the federal government that actually had a net gain to the federal treasury. To risk losing that program by watering down the targets of the Forest Service would be a travesty to not only the rural communities that are already reeling under double digit unemployment, but to all of the American citizens who are looking for ways to reduce the federal deficit and create jobs here in the United States.

It has been proposed that the Timber Products line item be combined with two other items and be titled "Integrated Resource Restoration." We are concerned that removing the "Timber Products" line item from the budget will take away all accountability for the US

Forest Service to produce a "target volume" of saw logs and the "target volume" accountability would be replaced with an "acres treated" accountability approach which could lead to fewer mechanical treatments such as timber thinning/harvesting projects and more "prescribed burning" projects which are not as subject to litigation in the courtroom. Active management utilizing mechanical treatments is the only way to address the escalating crisis affecting the health of the national forests, produce saw log material to support existing industry infrastructure in rural communities and to capitalize on the utilization of woody biomass for the generation of renewable energy.

The American Loggers Council supports a target volume of 3 billion board feet of saw log volume to be offered from US Forest Service land in 2001, with a ramping up of volume to 4 billion feet by 2013.

As Congress considers budget cuts and appropriations for the FY 2011 budget, the American Loggers Council would like to go on record as supporting continuation and full funding for the USDA Forest Service Timber Products line item in the 2011 Budget.

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Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Revisited

Recently SCTPA has received questions regarding the Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Agreement for commercial motor vehicles. In order to keep everyone informed, here is a UCR review from the SCDMV website.

If you operate a truck or bus in interstate or international commerce, or if you make the arrangements for the transportation of cargo and goods, the federal law applies to your business.

The Unified Carrier Registration Program requires individuals and companies operating commercial motor vehicles in Interstate or International Commerce to register their business with a participating state and pay an annual fee based on the size of their fleet.

Companies operating solely as brokers, freight forwarders or leasing companies are also required to register and pay a fee of \$39.

Companies providing both motor carrier services as well as broker, freight forwarder or leasing services are required to pay the fee level set at the motor carrier level.

A Commercial Motor Vehicle is defined as a self-propelled or towed vehicle used on the highways in commerce principally to transport passengers or cargo if the vehicle:

- Has a gross vehicle weight of 10,001 pounds or more;
- Is designed to transport 11 or more passengers (including the driver); or
- Is used in transporting hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding.

If you are registering for the following year, you must pay the UCR fees before December 31 to legally operate in other UCR participating states. Neighboring states of Georgia and North Carolina are UCR participating states.

FEE BRACKETS FOR MOTOR CARRIERS

Fleet Size		Fee Per
<u>(Include Trailers)</u>		<u>Company</u>
<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	
0	2	\$39.00
3	5	\$116.00
6	20	\$231.00
21	100	\$806.00
101	1,000	\$3,840.00
1,001	200,000	\$37,500.00

Example: A motor carrier operating four tractors, eight trailers and nine straight trucks has a fleet size of 21 commercial motor vehicles and pays \$806.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the law that governs the UCR Agreement?

The UCR Agreement is established by federal law in the UCR Act, which is part of the federal highway re-authorization bill known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, A legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Public Law 109-59, enacted August 10, 2005. The UCR Act is Sections 4301 through 4308 of SAFETEA-LU. In particular, the structure of the UCR Agreement is set forth in Section 4305

(Continued on page 27)

(Continued from page 26)

of the UCR Act, which enacts §1450a as a new section in 49 United States Code (USC).

Will there be a credential for UCR registrants under the UCR Agreement?

No. There is no UCR Agreement credential requirement. Section 4306 of the UCR Act includes a general prohibition against State requirements on interstate motor carriers, motor private carriers, freight forwarders or leasing companies to display any credentials in or on a commercial motor vehicle. Although there are a number of exceptions to this general prohibition, none apply to the UCR Agreement.

What will UCR registrants under the UCR Agreement have to do to comply?

A UCR registrant will be required to register annually for the UCR Agreement and pay its UCR fees at the same time. This can be accomplished by going to www.ucr.in.gov for registering.

What vehicles are considered commercial motor vehicles for purposes of the UCR fees?

The number of commercial motor vehicles for purposes of determining a carrier's UCR fees is the number of commercial motor vehicles (power units and towed vehicles such as trailers) the carrier reported in the most recent Form MCS-150 it filed with FMCSA or the total number of commercial motor vehicles it owned or operated under long-term lease for the 12-month period ending on June 30 immediately prior to the beginning of the UCR Agreement registration year for which the

fees are being determined. A commercial motor vehicle is one that is operated in commerce and has a GVW of at least 10,001 pounds or, in the case of a passenger vehicle, is one built to carry more than 10 persons, including the driver. It also includes a vehicle that transports hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding. **It does not include, for this purpose, a vehicle that operates wholly in Intrastate Commerce.**

Will a motor carrier or motor private carrier subject to UCR fees be required to file a supplemental report and fees if the size of its fleet increases or decreases during the year?

No. UCR fees will be set through a graduated structure of rates according to the number of commercial motor vehicles operated by a motor carrier or motor private carrier during the preceding year. Changes during the UCR Agreement registration year in the number of vehicles operated will not be reflected until the following year and the carrier will not need to report them currently.

Remember, the Unified Carrier Registration Only Applies to Interstate Commerce. Commercial motor vehicles as defined that are registered for Interstate Commerce having a US-DOT Registration Number qualify under the UCR Agreement.

Commercial motor vehicles over 10,001 pounds (trucks and trailers) transporting unmanufactured forest products (roundwood, chips, woody biomass), and trucks transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding operating in Interstate Commerce qualify under the UCR Agreement.

SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY'S TACT PROJECT

SCTPA has been asked by SC Department of Public Safety Director Mark Keel to participate as a member of the "Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks" (TACT) Project on the Stakeholder Committee representing unmanufactured forest products trucking.

Traffic crashes are a leading public health problem with significant impact on our economy. The SC Department of Public Safety, State Transport Police Division, is spearheading an initiative designed to educate the motoring public and reduce unsafe driving behaviors among drivers of commercial and passenger motor vehicles. This initiative is being administered with the help and support of the Clemson University Automotive Safety Research Institute.

The Stakeholder Committee will be comprised of experienced representatives of highway traffic stakeholders from the public and private sectors. The committee will discuss and review statistical data and identify specific problems to target for improvements in the interaction between passenger and commercial motor vehicles and participate in this innovative project.

The committee will develop a serious, coordinated plan of action to saving lives and reducing the economic costs associated with highway crashes.

SCTPA is proud to represent unmanufactured forest products trucking on the Stakeholder Committee and participate in the worthy project.

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News from AgHaul

The Agriculture and Forestry Transportation Reform Coalition

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RELEASE: February 19, 2011

CONTACT: Neil Ward (301-838-9385)
nward@forestresources.org

Truck Weight Reform Reintroduced in House

Rockville, MD – AgHaul, the Agriculture and Forestry Transportation Reform Coalition, has strongly endorsed the introduction of the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2011 (SETA) in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill, introduced on February 17 as HR 763 by Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-Ohio) and Rep. Mike Michaud (D-Maine), would give any state the option to allow semi-trucks weighing up to 97,000 pounds access to its Interstate highways, provided owners equip trucks with a sixth axle, to preserve braking distances and pavement wear patterns, and agree to pay a supplemental user fee. Similar legislation gained 54 co-sponsors in the last congress.

“Modernizing options for transporting forest and agricultural products from the point of harvest to the mill has waited long enough,” stated Richard Lewis, President of the Forest Resources Association, an AgHaul member. “As Congress looks for ways to ‘do more with less’ with our highway infrastructure investment, it should be clear that consolidating loads, reducing pavement wear, and relieving congestion on state roads contribute public benefits while providing efficiencies to suppliers, mills, and haulers.”

- MORE -

“SETA will broaden states’ options,” he added, “and the bill still allows truckers who wish to continue running on five-axle, 80,000-pound rigs to do so.”

The 6-axle / 97,000-pound configuration is well-tested on state highways in several states and even on some states’ Interstate highways, through “grandfather” provisions. Countries with competing industries, such as Canada and most European Union countries, operate with similar configurations. The Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Transportation have published studies pointing to safety, congestion, and road-wear benefits, as well as fuel and other cost savings for shippers.

“Forest and agricultural product shippers move dense, relatively low-value products that form the basis of major value-creating industries in the United States,” Lewis noted. “That first haul from farm to market or from woods to mill—50 to 100 miles—may account for over 30% of the total cost of the delivered raw material. Reducing costs at that point makes a big difference in the price of the finished product, improving our country’s competitive position and moving economic recovery forward.”

AgHaul is working with its members to include the terms of the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2011 within the forthcoming Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

AgHaul represents 105 agriculture and forestry businesses and associations. Its mission is to improve the efficiency of transporting raw, unprocessed agricultural and forest products from farms and forests to processing facilities. For more information on AgHaul, visit www.ag-haul.org.

#####

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1311

February 15, 2011

The Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building, Mail Code: 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

As newly elected Representatives, we look forward to working with you in the 112th Congress. We are writing you to echo concerns recently expressed by a bipartisan group of 114 Representatives during the 11th Congress on EPA's proposed Maximum Achievable Control Technology rules for boilers (Boiler MACT). Various analyses suggest the proposed Boiler MACT rules could cost tens of billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs at a time when our nation can least afford it.

We are disappointed that the court granted EPA only one additional month to complete the Boiler MACT and related rulemakings when they asked for fifteen months to develop a practical final rule. We appreciate that you plan to allow for another round of public review and comment those proposed in June 2010. Despite the limited time, we urge you to issue a final rule on February 21st that will include changes to preserve jobs and protect the environment.

Specifically, the final standards should be achievable by well performing boilers under the range of normal operating conditions. We also urge EPA to use the discretion Congress provided to develop cost-effective targeted rules that protect public health. Finally, the biomass standards should not discourage the use of this important source of renewable energy.

We cannot have economic recovery if manufacturers, municipalities, small businesses, universities, hospitals and others are smothered in billions of dollars of regulations that may not even be achievable. We are committed to fighting for the jobs of hard working Americans across the country who recently elected us to represent them in Washington, SC. We urge EPA to issue final regulations consistent with President Obama's new Executive order on regulation that protects public health and promotes economic recovery.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

This letter was signed by SC Freshmen Congressmen Tim Scott, Trey Gowdy, Jeff Duncan and Mick Mulvaney.

Annual Meeting Photos



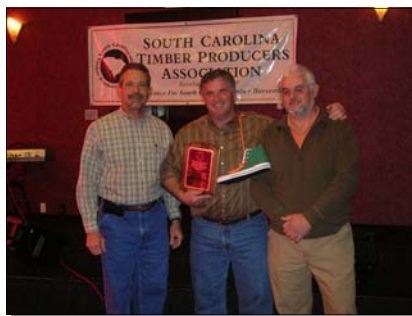
Matt, Tom & Danny



Mary & Brenda at registration table



Alliance Tire's Andy McAllister presents tire program check to Danny McKittrick



Crad, Bobby with green sneakers, and Danny McKittrick



Bobby Goodson & Matt Jensen talk logging



Bobby & Lori Goodson



Crad speaks



Vermeer Mid-Atlantic's Archie Griffith



Bobby & HGTC Forestry Students



Bobby and his green sneakers!



Larry Cumming, Danny McKittrick & Dale Greene with speaker certificates

More Annual Meeting Photos





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Mark Your Calendar

MARCH 2011

- 1 Wood Supply Research Institute Annual Meeting, Panama City, FL
- 2,3 TOP 3-Day Class, Harbison Environmental Education Center, Columbia.
- & 10
- 22 Newberry District 2 & Saluda District 1 Meeting, Farm Bureau, Newberry, 7 pm

APRIL 2011

- 4 Union Area District 3 Meeting, Midway BBQ, Buffalo, 7:30 pm
- 5 Chester/Catawba District 3 Meeting, Front Porch Restaurant, Richburg, 7:30 pm
- 12 Laurens/Greenwood District 5 Meeting, Hummingbird Café, Laurens, 7:30 pm
- 13 TOP Safety Management for Professional Loggers Class, Greenwood Registration Contact Susan Guynn, Clemson Extension, 864-656-0606
- 14 Easley/Upstate District 4 Meeting, Fatz, Easley, 7:30 pm
- 19 Georgetown/Coastal District 9 meeting, Big Bill's Low Country BBQ, Georgetown, 7 pm
- 21 Walterboro/Low Country Districts 7 & 8, Longhorn Steakhouse, Walterboro, 7:30 pm
- 26 Newberry District 2 & Saluda District 1 Meeting, Farm Bureau, Newberry, 7 pm

MAY 2011

- 3 Midlands/Lugoff District 10 Meeting, Hall's Restaurant, Lugoff, 7:30 pm
- 5 Florence/Pee Dee District 11 Meeting, Palmetto Pulpwood & Timber, Florence, 7:30 pm
- 11,12 TOP 3-Day Class, Columbia. Registration Contact Susan Guynn, Clemson
- & 19 Extension, 864-656-0606.
- 24 Newberry District 1 & Saluda District 2 Meeting, Farm Bureau, Newberry, 7 pm

PLEASE NOTE:

Event & meeting dates may change. Notices are mailed prior to SCTPA events. SCTPA events & meetings qualify for SFI Trained Continuing Education Credits.

Need Training & SFI Trained Credits?

SCTPA can provide training programs for members for SFI Trained Continuing Education Credits. Programs offered for safety, driver training, equipment lockout & tagout, hazardous materials spill control on logging sites and forestry aesthetics.

Truck Driver Training Workshops will be scheduled. Watch the Mark Your Calendar section of this newsletter for dates. Notices for SCTPA workshops & events will be forwarded.

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Our Mission

The **Mission** of the *South Carolina Timber Producers Association* is to serve as the voice for timber harvesting and allied timber businesses to advance the ability of its members to professionally, ethically, efficiently, safely, environmentally and profitably harvest, produce and transport timber to meet the timber supply demands of our state by providing continuing educational and training opportunities, distributing timber harvesting, hauling, manufacturing and selling information, representing our members in national and state-wide legislative activities, and aggressively promoting, supporting and conducting programs of state, regional and national advocacy.