



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

July/August 2012



LOGGERS MEET IN MICHIGAN

Morbark hosts American Loggers Council Summer Board meeting

Hemphill, Texas (July 24, 2012)

– Members of the American Loggers Council gathered on July 19 through July 21 in Winn, Michigan for their Summer Board of Directors meeting that was hosted by Morbark.

The three day program began with a reception on Thursday evening where Morbark introduced many of



their management team to the members and reviewed the agenda for the following day's activities. Morbark's John Foote and Kevin Yunker were on hand to greet the members.

Friday morning the members were treated to a welcome at Morbark's headquarters in Winn, Michigan, followed by a tour of the 1 million square foot manufacturing facility where Morbark produces its grinders and chippers for forestry, solid waste recycling, biomass and tree care applications. Morbark President Jim Shoemaker was on-site to welcome the group.

After lunch, the group headed out

to Morbark's testing grounds and were able to watch an extensive demonstration of both chippers and grinders manufactured by Morbark. During the demonstrations, there was an abundance of Morbark personnel on site to provide detail on the machines and answer questions posed by ALC members. Following the demo, members returned to the hotel where they were again treated to dinner, which included conversations with Morbark Chairman of the Board, Lon Morey.

Saturday morning, the American Loggers Council Board of Directors met to review committee work and other proposals that have been pre-

sented since their last meeting in March. Reports were heard from the executive, legislative, transportation, communications, membership, biomass and nominations committee.

The Executive committee recommended funding the Federal Forest Resource Coalition through an Associate Membership that would enable the ALC to work with the FFRC on issues important to those members who are dependent on a viable federal timber sale program. It was proposed that the biomass committee begin working on a "model" definition for renewable

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biomass to present to members of Congress in anticipation of next year's discussions on energy policies. Also, the ALC Board voted to help fund the industry amicus brief that will be presented to the US Supreme Court for the ongoing forest roads/ NPDES permitting issue. The membership committee proposed a dues structure change that will be considered for a vote at the upcoming annual meeting in October

A slate of nominees for officer positions was introduced by the nominations committee, and those positions will be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho on October 6th.

ALC President Steve Sherich commented that he was "very thankful for Morbark for rolling out the red carpet for the ALC and its members," and that he felt that "with Morbark's support combined with the many other organizations that are currently sponsoring the American Loggers Council, that the opportunities for growth and bringing about needed changes to the industry could happen."

ALC Executive Vice President Danny Druator stated that, "It is a real opportunity to share quality time with our sponsors, and grow those relationships. What we do, here at the American Loggers Council is not only important to our members, but to all of those whose livelihoods depend on a healthy logging infrastructure. I wish to thank all of our friends at Morbark for the tremendous effort that was made in making us feel welcome, and more importantly, establishing the groundwork that we hope will keep us working together for years to come."

About the American Loggers Council

The American Loggers Council is a 501(c)(6) organization representing timber harvesting professionals in 30 states. For more information contact the American Loggers Council Office at 409-625-0206 or visit their website at www.americanloggers.org.



SOUTH CAROLINA TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION



2012 ANNUAL REPORT American Loggers Council Annual Meeting Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Crad Jaynes, President & CEO

SCTPA entered its 13th year at our "Navigating The Regulatory Waters" Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC, February 2012. Attendance was outstanding with over 270 attending.

SCTPA proudly welcomed American Loggers Council's President Steve Sherich as a featured speaker. He provided insights into the ALC's work to change its logo to highlight "Loggers," the development and implementation of new directions and strategies in working on national issues in Washington, DC regarding timber harvesting and environmental issues affecting professional timber harvesters and what ALC is accomplishing for the industry. Steve discussed how he logs the steep slopes of Idaho and shared photos of his operations. ALC's Danny Druator attended as well.

Don Taylor, Sustainable Resources Systems, LLC, presented his Wood Supply Research Institute project, Supplier Consumer Relations, results. This was a home run as it detailed the issues impacting working relationships in the wood supply chain. Bobby Goodson of TV's Swamp Loggers was recognized for his positive contributions to the industry and his work in the Timber Equipment Applications Management committee's new Fire Hazard training video.

At our 2012 annual meeting, the 2011 Logger Activist of the Year Award was presented to Leo Lambert Logging, Inc., Andrews, SC for their outstanding timber harvesting business, their sincere commitment to community involvement, sustainable forestry education and support of SCTPA and their profession. Leo Lambert Logging's Donnie Lambert and Billy Walker of Walker & Walker Logging, LLC, Laurens, SC, were elected to the board of directors. SCTPA President's Awards were presented to Cross Creek Timber, LLC's Steven Smith, ALC's Danny Druator, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company's Jimmie Locklear and W & W Truck & Tractor, Inc.'s Johnny Ward. SC House members Ted Vick and Luke Rankin

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received plaques from SC State Forester Gene Kodama for strongly supporting the SC Forestry Commission and its budget efforts.

Other speakers attending and providing great presentations regarding regulatory issues were Dave Tenny, National Alliance of Forest Owners and Bill Kovacs, U. S. Chamber of Commerce. Dave spoke about the Ninth Circuit Ruling on forest and logging road runoff permitting and strategies underway to remove the permitting process. Bill's Restoring Balance to the Regulatory Process presentation was an eye opener as to how the federal regulatory bureaucracy and thousands of regulations have stymied businesses and national growth as well as how environmental litigation has created a counter productive agenda.

Steady pulpwood production to pulp/paper mills and other smaller wood products markets have remained steady while solid wood products markets have remained at reduced levels. Due to continued economic challenges, logger attrition has continued. But it appears not to be at the pace as before. A slight increase in start up operations has been noticed. Based on information available, while the logger population has decreased, the capacity to produce wood still appears to be adequate for now.

South Carolina's legislative session was active for sustainable forestry and the best session for passing pro-forestry bills ever. The Timber Theft laws were strengthened to increase fines, change violations from misdemeanor to felony charges, increase jail time and include a repeat offender clause. The Prescribed Burning Bill defining negligence, gross negligence and reducing liabilities passed to help landowners and foresters. SCTPA testified to legislative committees on behalf of the SC Forestry Commission's budget requests. The Commission received a favorable increase. The legislature also passed a bill allowing the Commission to receive a small percentage of the insurance premium tax fund to use for the purchase of new bulldozers, haul trucks and fire plows over the next few years. The agency has desperately needed to replace their old open cab units. Ten new enclosed cab dozers have been ordered with two of the new units displayed on the State House grounds for a press conference. A ruling by the SC Supreme Court gave the SC Dept. of Health & Environmental Control authority to regulate isolated wetlands. While this issue will be addressed via conference committee, legislation will be presented to reverse this. This did not have a negative impact on timber harvesting as long as the harvesting is

conducted according to SC BMP's. The forest products industry is SC's number one manufacturing sector. It was a very good legislative session for SC forestry. SCTPA thanks the SC Forestry Commission and SC Forestry Association for our "partnership" to make good things happen for South Carolina forestry.

Another highlight was the SC Attorney General's written opinion supporting the Right To Forestry law passed three years ago. This law prohibits counties and municipalities from enacting ordinances impacting sustainable forestry operations including timber harvesting. Several counties around the state had passed ordinances negatively impacting forestry despite the state law. This opinion now will stop local ordinances, regarding buffers around tracts, permits or bonds to use county roads, permits for timber harvesting and other forestry restrictive initiatives. SCTPA, SC Forestry Commission and SC Forestry Association collaborated on this effort.

A recent development has been the issue of whether to work to increase the GVW for unmanufactured forest products trucking to 90,000 pounds on state roads to follow what NC has enacted. The SCTPA board has taken this issue under advisement and discussed it with SCFA's President Cam Crawford at a recent board meeting. Mixed reactions have been received by SCTPA. Further study and work with our partners will be done.

SCTPA continued its activities with the SC Biomass Council, Statewide Trucking Task Force, SFI State Implementation Committee, Timber Operations Professional Training Program, Timber Equipment Applications Management Committee and organizations such as the SC Forestry and SC Trucking Associations and State Transport Police. SCTPA continued representing timber harvesting in coalitions to promote forestry, agricultural, wildlife, natural resources and Agri Business to promote these segment's importance to the SC General Assembly and state agencies for economic development.

SCTPA continued its participation in the SC Teachers Tour, a weeklong sustainable forestry teachers' education program. Twenty-five teachers participated in our June tour with member Charles K. Doolittle, Inc., Newberry, providing the timber harvesting tour stop. SCTPA sponsored the logging stop with lunch in the woods. Other tour stops included a paper mill, sawmill, private and state forests, tree farm, national forest and REIT property to exhibit sustainable forestry practices. The association continued presenting its sustainable

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forestry and professional timber harvesting education program in schools statewide.

SCTPA representatives, Danny McKittrick, Billy McKinney, Tommy Barnes and Crad Jaynes, visited our South Carolina U.S. House and Senate delegation during the ALC March board meeting in Washington, DC to promote woody biomass utilization, the revised renewable biomass definition, ALC positions, reversal of the Ninth Circuit Ruling on forest roads runoff permits and increasing gross vehicle weights on interstates.

SCTPA continued supporting the Wood Supply Research Institute for wood supply chain research projects. SCTPA president serves as Technical Team chairman and remains a WSRI board member as well as SCTPA chairman Danny McKittrick. SCTPA board member Tommy Barnes and association president attended the WSRI annual meeting in Jacksonville, FL.

Statewide district meetings were conducted to keep attendees updated with current issues and legislation. Prior to these meetings, SCTPA conducted the Reasonable Suspicion for Drugs & Alcohol Training required by the trucking laws for supervisors of drivers. Attendance was good with attendees receiving their certificates in case of a trucking audit.

Emphasis for producing energy from woody biomass has continued with an increased interest in developing wood pellet facilities in state. The feeling is there will be increased activity in these alternative markets in the near future. Loggers, wood suppliers and landowners will welcome these alternative markets.

SCTPA's President Crad Jaynes continues serving as the ALC National Master Logger Certification Committee Chairman.

As South Carolina's professional timber harvesters, wood suppliers and timber truckers continue to face economic, market and operational challenges, timber harvesting and wood supply business professionals will meet and exceed the challenges for improved economic, production and market opportunities.

SCTPA is proud to be THE association representing, servicing and advancing the professionals harvesting, producing and trucking South Carolina's sustainable forest resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Crad Jaynes
President & CEO



AGRIBUSINESS IS BIG BUSINESS IN THE MIDLANDS

Entire article by Lisa A. Maseng published in the *Columbia Metropolitan* magazine, July/August 2012 edition. Forestry portion excerpted.

What is agribusiness and how does it affect South Carolinians? The S.C. Department of Agriculture states that agribusiness – agriculture and forestry – drives the state's economy with a \$34 billion a year impact and more than 200,000 jobs. Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers says, "A few years ago South Carolina charted the course on a strategic plan for agribusiness called 50 by 20. Our vision is to increase the annual economic impact of agribusiness in South Carolina to \$50 billion by 2020."

Jack Shuler, president of Palmetto Agribusiness Council says, "Agribusiness is a big business in South Carolina with many facets to the industry. Not only is it the production of apples to zucchini, it also is processing, packaging, labeling and delivery of safe, affordable food."

The four sub-clusters of agribusiness are farming, forestry, packaging and delivery. The network that makes up these sub-clusters encompasses many more industries and affects even more individuals, all of whom benefit from added commerce, technology, investments and philanthropy. When examined

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from this perspective, the impact is profound.

Ripple Effect of Financial Gain

The Midlands is home to several counties that rank in the top in agribusiness cash receipts: Orangeburg is number one and Lexington is number two, with Saluda and Kershaw not far behind at 5th and 6th, respectively. At last count, in the eight counties that make up the Midlands (Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda and Sumter) there were more than 4,500 farms on nearly a million acres of land with total farm gate receipts of \$675 million. Economists say that one dollar generated at the farm or forest gate level can produce as many as nine more dollars from added processing, inputs and additional salaries spent in the economy. Using that equation, the total economic impact of agriculture in the Midlands is more than \$6 billion dollars.

Agribusiness Timber Investments

In his first year as president of the South Carolina Forestry Association, Cam Crawford traveled around the state visiting as many lumber and paper mills as possible. He was absolutely amazed at the technology being used. "I wouldn't have believed this if I hadn't seen it with my own two eyes, but a computer can scan a crooked log and cut straight boards from it. Our mills are really high tech operations. Computer technology is involved in the entire process," he says. He estimates that the wood and paper products industry has a \$17.4 billion annual impact in South Carolina and provides more than 90,000 jobs. The South Carolina Forestry Association has partnered with the South Carolina Forestry Commission to increase the economic impact of the wood and paper products industry and expand its already important role by developing the 20/15 Project. Similar to the 50 by 20 program, the goal of the 20/15 Project is to increase forestry's economic impact from \$17.4 billion to \$20 billion by 2015.

David T. Pritchard, Jr. is president and director of American Forest Management, Inc., one of the largest forest consulting and rural real estate brokerage firms in the United States. Headquartered in Sumter and Charlotte, with 40 offices located throughout the country, AFM has set industry standards for more than 40 years. It assists clients with forest and land management, timber sales, and services such as appraisal, information technology, environmental management, wildlife man-

agement and wood flow.

David says agribusiness technology has advanced the timber industry in bringing products to market. "Manufacturing processes have improved significantly," he says. "Sawmill technology to reduce waste and improve yield; pulping technology to improve yields and reduce pollution; recycled fibers, oriented strandboard and wood pellets to replace hydrocarbons; and soon torrefied wood as fuel. In timber harvesting, equipment is more energy efficient and environmentally sensitive."

David says research has led to trees that will grow faster and straighter with less disease. Herbicides have become more specific and less persistent. Information on how trees and groups of trees respond to management - site preparation, fertilizer, competition

Control and stocking levels have enabled forest modelers to develop programs to better see the forest as a whole in order to optimize those treatments and accurately forecast return on investments.

Hugh believes such practices set South Carolina apart from other states. "The availability of raw materials from agriculture and forestry are attractive to businesses wanting to expand or develop in the state. Companies want to invest where they can enhance their competitiveness and profitability," he says. "We have a year-round growing season, fertile soil, productive farms and experienced farmers. South Carolina is within a 24-hour reach of 100 million people. We have available natural and renewable resources, a ready workforce that's educated and trained, and an infrastructure of highways and rail systems, as well as a port that can be a significant player in the new export market."

Midlands Attracts a Confluence of Industry

International Paper Company refers to its Eastover Mill as both a state of the art facility and a showplace for its company and the industry. It is one of the most technologically advanced pulp and paper mills in the world and one of the lowest cost producers of uncoated free sheet, fine white paper in North America. Remarkably, this mill generates its own electricity and provides pulp to operate two paper machines and one pulp machine 24 hours per day, seven days a week. The mill uses a mixture of hardwoods and pine to manufacture more than 894,000 tons of uncoated free sheet and 100,000 tons of bleached market pulp a year for sale on the open market. About 53 percent of the mill's paper is sold directly to manufac-

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2013 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE



TO: Members of the South Carolina Timber Producers Association, Inc.
WHEN: Noon, Saturday, February 2, 2013
WHERE: Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center
3200 South Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Be it known to all members, this is the official call to the Annual Membership Business Meeting of the South Carolina Timber Producers Association, Inc. to be conducted at the above specified time and location.

At the Association Business Session, members will:

- Be provided the Association Annual Financial Report.
- Be presented bylaws amendment recommendations for approval and adoption.
- Elect Board of Directors.

As a member, you should plan to attend the 2013 Annual Membership Meeting. This is a member privilege and wonderful opportunity to get involved in your Association.

You can participate in the decision making process through interaction with the Board of Directors and fellow members. Your vote is needed for the adoption of Bylaws recommendations, if Bylaws changes are needed, and Board of Directors elections.

Your active participation in your association is important plus the sharing of your ideas will help shape the association's future and the timber harvesting industry in South Carolina.

Take advantage of this opportunity to play an active role in SCTPA. Make plans to join your peers **February 1 – 3, 2012 at Myrtle Beach's Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center for your Annual Membership Meeting.**

Annual meeting registration and information packages will be mailed to all categories of active members. Contact SCTPA for registration, sponsorship, exhibitor, silent auction donation and meeting information. We look forward to seeing everyone at our 2013 Annual Meeting.

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turers who convert it into products such as envelopes, computer paper and business forms. The remainder of the division's output, primarily printing and business papers, is sold to distributors and consumers through retail outlets. These distributors supply commercial printers, book publishers, offices, home users and organizations with in-house printing.

International Paper has been a great corporate neighbor, donating \$80,000 annually through its foundation grants, local sponsorships and local support for education, parks, recreation and non-profit organizations.

Two other companies, not related to forestry, were highlighted in the article; American Italian Pasta Company in Columbia, the largest dry pasta producer in the U.S. and Manchester Farms in Sumter, the oldest and largest producer in the U.S. of farm-raised quail.



LONG-TERM CONTRACTS

Daniel J. Dructor – Executive Vice President

Most organizations today rely on long term contracts to help them model business plans and foster relationships between businesses and creditors to ensure a successful operation. In a recent article published in the summer 2012 edition of the Forest Resources Association, Inc. Forest Operations Review, equipment manufacturers throughout North America were asked, “With today’s “credit crunch,” what advice do you have for loggers that may help them finance new equipment,” and “Any advice to landowners and mills to help loggers make the best of today’s operating environment?”

One overarching theme in response to these questions was the need for long term contracts for loggers to better equip themselves for both financial and productivity successes: Jerry Morey, President, Bandit Industries, Inc. – “It would help if the mills were able to supply long-term contracts. Loggers need to have much better financial statements and great business plans if they are expanding. Long term contracts are important, and they need to keep their payments current.”

Pekka Ruuskanen, President and CEO, Ponsse North America – “Long-term contracts, to which both parties commit themselves, will help loggers make important investment decisions.”

Brian Gray, Sales Manager, Eastern North America, Peterson Corp. – “In today’s forestry market, the customers will have a greater ease of procuring financing if contracts are issued that they can present to their lending institution. These can be difficult to obtain, depending on area and markets.”

Mike Duncan, Industry Manager, Caterpillar Forest Products – “Most landowners should recognize the skill and experience of a logger will have on both the financial return and condition of a logging site.

It is in everyone’s best interest to work toward rewarding loggers with longer term contracts to help them get financing to replace aged equipment, to adjust rates to reflect changes in fuel and labor costs, and otherwise to ensure the health and viability of the logging force. This action will reduce overall cost over time.”

Carl Lockhart, Forestry Product Consultant, John Deere – “The more that mills and landowners work together with loggers to improve communication and teamwork, the stronger the entire wood supply chain would be. Plan ahead – the worst time to start thinking about having to buy a new piece of equipment is when a machine begins to give trouble or breaks down completely. So, long before you get to that point, sketch out a rough plan to replace all of your equipment – whether it’s next year or five years.

John Foote, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Morbark – “The best advice is to work with (not against) each other along the supply chain to understand each other’s requirements, reduce transactions, and improve efficiencies, so everyone can benefit and share in those savings.”

Tony Iarocci, President, Tigercat Industries, Inc. – “Logging practices as they exist in the U.S. today are really a product of the business environment, government regulations, and the actions and practices of the mills and the inputs that the mills require. I suppose in an ideal world, the mills and the harvesting contractors might act more like partners, rather than adversaries in a zero-sum game.”

Our hat’s off to all of these business leaders for their frank responses to these questions. There leaves little reason to doubt following the like-minded answers given by all, that long term contracts between the loggers, landowners and the mills, could have positive impacts on the industry.

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Logging operations are no different than any other business, and there needs to be long term contracts in order to formulate business models and secure capital for investment. The one question that remains unanswered is, "How long will it take for this to happen?", and that is how we see it.

The American Loggers Council is a non-profit 501(c)(6) corporation representing professional timber harvesters in 30 states across the US. For more information, visit their web site at www.americanloggers.org or contact their office at 409-625-0206.

ANATOMY OF AN ACCIDENT

by JJ Lemire



What will your obituary read like? Will it do justice to your life and your family? How about the three individuals killed in logging related accidents in the last five weeks in the Summer of 2012? Why did these accidents have to happen? One headlines read, "Area Man Killed in Logging Accident." Another headline reads "Father Perishes in Logging Explosion Accident." And the last headline reads "Local 19 year old is killed in Logging Mishap." We have all seen this type of tragedy in the newspaper. But WHY must we continue reading such headlines?

As we do our investigations of deaths and injuries, we have to ask, "Were they preventable?" A simple definition of the word accident is an unplanned act. Each of these fatalities had some basic mistakes that lead to these deaths in the woods. There is always a cause or reason the injury or death occurred.

RECENT FATALITIES

First Fatality: A mountain crew was cutting a hardwood stand. On the morning of the mishap, the Owner hired a new timber cutter. He had about 5 years of experience and demonstrated to the Owner that he could use the directional felling technique. He was allowed to start working on his own. Within two hours of starting work, he reverted to swing cutting trees and one tree fell opposite the way he intended it to go. It hit some trees in a river bottom and kicked back and up, crushing him. His reverting back to a bad habit of swing cutting and it cost him his life.

Second Fatality: A mechanized crew was cutting a mixed pine and hard wood tract. At the end of the day, the ground man was transferring diesel from a 500 gallon tank to a transfer tank on the back of the service truck. As he was transferring fuel, he stepped on a hot lead from the welding machine solenoid to a cut-off switch. The line had a bare spot and arced. It ignited a gas can in the service truck's bed. The resulting explosion sprayed gasoline and diesel fuel over him. He suffered burns over 75% of his body. He was in the intensive care unit at a burn center and survived approximately 8 days before he passed away. The modification to the welder set the stage for this mishap.

Third Fatality: A 19-year old topper with 5 months of experience wandered into the area where a feller buncher was cutting a patch of hickory trees. He was crushed to death when a tree was thrown on top of him by the feller buncher. The skidder driver and buncher operator last saw the topper working about three hundred yards from the patch of hickory trees. No one saw him come into the area. He started topping the two hickory trees on the ground. However, the canopies were of sufficient height that the buncher operator did not see the topper as he was hidden by the branches. Machine operators lost site of the ground man.

Ultimately, injury and death in the woods are caused by decisions. Mistakes or wrong decisions can lead to tragedy. Remember that risk can be prevented or lessened by training and education. Risk is the main factor in building an "accident". Training and education can help you avoid having your

Training for Controlled Substance & Alcohol Use Trucking Regulations

CFR 38 – 382.307 & 382.603

Supervisors and/or company officials supervising drivers, a safety sensitive position, are required to take Reasonable Suspicion Training.

SCTPA will conduct a training class at the MeadWestvaco Beech Hill Office, Ridgeville, October 12, 9:00 a.m. – Noon using the *Helping Supervisors Recognize Substance Abuse Training Program* developed by USiS. This is an approved training program for the Supervisor Training for Controlled Substances & Alcohol Use under Trucking Regulations CFR Part 38 - 382: Controlled Substances & Alcohol Use & Testing.

CFR Part 38 – 382: Controlled Substances & Alcohol Use & Testing

CFR 38 – 382.307 – Reasonable Suspicion Testing

38 – 382.307(c) - The required observations for alcohol and /or controlled substances reasonable suspicion testing shall be made by a supervisor or company official who is trained in accordance with Regulation 38 – 382.603.

The person who makes the determination that reasonable suspicion exists to conduct an alcohol test shall not conduct the alcohol test of the driver.

38 – 382.603 – Training for Supervisors

Each employer shall ensure that all persons designated to supervise drivers receive at least 60 minutes of training on alcohol misuse and receive at least an additional 60 minutes of training on controlled substance use.

The training will be used by the supervisors to determine whether reasonable suspicion exists to require a driver to undergo testing under Regulation 38 – 382.307.

The training shall include the physical, behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of probable alcohol misuse and use of controlled substances. Recurrent training for supervisory personnel is not required.

Date: October 12, 2012
Where: MeadWestvaco Beech Hill Office, 4060 U.S. 17-A, Ridgeville
Time: 9:00 a.m. – Noon

- * **Class Pre-Registration Requested for Seating Purposes.**
- * **Pre-Registration Deadline Is 2 Days Prior to Training Class.**
- * **RSVP Required To SCTPA - 803-957-9919, 1-800-371-2240, Fax 803-957-8990, Crad Cell 803-530-5874, Email - bcjpaw@windstream.net.**
- * **\$ 20 Per Person for SCTPA Active Members.**
- * **\$ 45 Per Person for Non-Members.**
- * **Mail Payment to SCTPA.**
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Timber Talk

*Your Voice for South Carolina
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IN MEMORY OF CRAWFORD WILKS

By Crad Jaynes, SCTPA President

In August, we lost a dear friend, professional logger, husband, father, grandfather, community servant and Christian. Crawford Wilks of Wilks Logging, Inc., Chester, lost his battle with cancer.

Crawford was a dear friend to me. I had the pleasure to get to know him over my career, but more so since coming to the association in 1999. He believed strongly in the word “professional.” And that he was ... a professional logger.

But he was much more than just that. He was a quiet leader understanding the importance of how professional loggers contribute to their local and state economies, and how professional loggers must continue to be the best at their jobs harvesting timber products, working with landowners in sustainable forestry and educating the critical public to better understand that timber harvesting is being conducted by professionals who are concerned about their environment.

A man with integrity, a caring heart and truly devoted to his family, community, business and industry. He helped build more positive images for the logging and forest products industries. He and his crew worked in a cooperative effort with the Willamette Industries local mill to build a walking trail and park in Chester. Chester Park is now a tribute to the involvement Wilks Logging has had in creating positive relationships for the logging industry with its local community.

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

Crawford and Wilks Logging, Inc. received the SCTPA 2005 Logger Activist Award and SC Forestry Association Logger of the Year in 2006.

And he was always there for me, and this association. He checked in with me often to just talk and see how things were going, because he knew the value of the association and understood its importance. When I’d have a bad day, I knew all it took was a call and he would help me through it. That’s what friends are for.

Active in Calvary Baptist Church, Crawford was Chairman of the Deacons and actively participated in church activities and local community services.

Leading quietly by example and having a passionate advocacy for your profession, sometimes speaks much louder than words. As Crawford said, “The logging business is still challenging and will continue to be. We must demonstrate to the public, our customers and to the market we are professionals harvesting timber in a sustainable manner and recognize we have a responsibility to ensure future generations that forest products and healthy forests will be available.” Couldn’t have been said more eloquently.

My heart was broken when I got the news, and still is. But I know Crawford is logging in heaven, because he was a devoted Christian.

He will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on along with my memories of one of the finest “men” I have ever had the pleasure to know.



SCTPA wants to thank John Clark and Mack Truck Sales of Charlotte, Inc.
For the generous donation in the memory of Crawford Wilks.

Collaboration Can Save Grant County Timber Jobs

By Guest Columnist Martin Goebel and Patrick Shannon

Wildfire and mill closings are not new to rural Oregon. But, as we continue to dig ourselves out of recession and wildfires rage at great intensity, the news that the last remaining sawmill in Grant County will close its doors is a huge punch in the gut to a community that has been an exemplary model for rural innovation and collaboration.

Lumber mills have been at the fiber of Grant County for as long as most anyone can remember, but today the county is down to its last mill, which has struggled to get logs.

Malheur Lumber Co., Ochoco Lumber Co.'s sawmill in John Day, has been operating for more than 30 years and employs about 90 people. Recently, the company announced its intention to close its doors Nov. 1. This is the rough equivalent of Intel closing up shop in the Portland metro area. If that happened here, the clamor would be deafening.

Many groups, including Sustainable Northwest, have spent most of the past decade working with local business owners (including Malheur Lumber), community leaders, U.S. Forest Service employees and environmental groups to find agreement on forest management. This has been critical so that jobs can remain in Grant County and our federal forestland can be restored to health. Through collaboration, we have helped build the social license for the active management that has made the Malheur National Forest one of the most productive timber-producing forests in eastern Oregon.

There have been no divisive forest-related lawsuits on this national forest over the past six years. More important, the forest and its partners have been awarded \$2.5 million from the federal Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program to treat and restore more than 271,000 acres of forested land during the next 10 years. Even with all this, the volumes necessary to keep the mill open fall short of the required supply.

The shift from the timber wars of decades past to the current era of productive collaboration has been an incredible transformation to witness. Closing this (or any other) mill would be a fatal blow to local leaders and all the groups they have reached out to -- urban and rural -- to build trust, problem-solve and innovate.

But we believe that this news presents an opportunity for a community and region that knows how to pick itself up with grit and determination to find new models that can create vibrant rural communities and strong economies to steward our landscapes and the natural resources we all depend on.

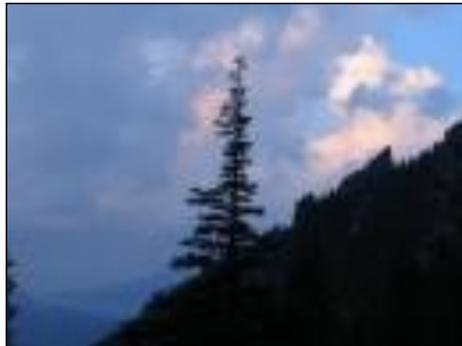
Like any business, Malheur Lumber needs a predictable supply of "restoration lumber." No old-growth trees are involved. This requires all of us to pull together and act quickly. Our senators and representatives need to work to reinstate the kind of

core federal budget levels that reward and build upon recent success. The Forest Service must direct funds and accelerate planning to ensure that restoration forestry happens in larger tracts and more consistently. Grant County and the state of Oregon must explore the possibility of using county road funds, to be lent for the planning of restoration projects while the feds respond. Nonprofit organizations must help advocate and

organize short- and mid-term solutions. And, if all these players engage, Malheur Lumber must continue to commit to right-sizing and retooling its mill to make long-term forest stewardship priority one.

Hardship breeds innovation and creativity. As we continue to face challenges in our communities and strive to build our economy as a whole, we must remember that we are all inextricably linked. We must stand behind the people of Grant County. The long road to Oregon's strong creative culture was built by hardworking communities and our great natural resources. Oregon's future will be paved with innovation, collaboration and our ability to turn a great crisis into a great opportunity.

Martin Goebel is president and Patrick Shannon is the communities program officer of Sustainable Northwest in Portland.





Master Logger Certification Committee

American Loggers Council
Annual Meeting
October 6, 2012
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Forest products and sustainable forestry practices certification programs continue to gain more recognition and acceptance by the consuming public, forest products industry companies, timberland owners and governmental agencies.

Wisconsin submitted their Master Logger Certification logo for review by the MLC Committee. After review, the logo was approved by the committee and approved by the board at the summer board of directors meeting in Michigan.

MLC Committee chairman forwarded the Alabama Loggers Council the national template, previous Alabama draft submitted and an approved state template for work on their state template.

The MLC Committee has received no other new information or updates regarding the MLC programs in ALC states. The MLC Committee requests any revisions or updates be reported to the committee chairman.

A topic of interest suggested by past ALC president and now SFI Chairman Bob Luoto is the issue of looking at the SFI Standard under Logger Training to see if ALC might have input into the next SFI Standard revision regarding establishing some criteria for a minimum number of training hours to be SFI Trained.

State Implementation Committees are responsible for establishing logger training programs under the SFI Standard. However, states use different criteria standards for training, required hours of training, etc. for programs.

Some states require a certain number of training hours over a time period with required training programs. Other states use different training processes.

An example of a revised SFI Trained status program is South Carolina. SC has changed from requiring 12 hours over 3 years with required programs to be attended to now using the DVD approach for training. SFI Trained loggers and others, foresters, etc., are now required to see the DVD training module on an annual basis (July 1 – June 30) to be SFI Trained. No longer are there required hours of training.

NC has used the DVD training module concept for several years and there may be more states using this scenario.

This is a topic for discussion for the committee and the board. It may be good for the ALC to weigh in on SFI Training in the next SFI Standard revision.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) now recognizes Certified Logger Programs within its SFI Standards as providing sustainable timber harvesting practices.

The American Loggers Council (ALC) Master Logger Certification© (MLC) program is a third party certification process for timber harvesting and business practices.

The ALC MLC is a viable on the ground, third party verification system for certifying sustainable timber harvesting practices.

Certified Logger Programs is the term used in the SFI Standards. SFI Objective 9, Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals states certified logging professionals, where available, be utilized. "Program participants shall encourage landowners to utilize the services of certified logging professionals and qualified logging professionals."

Certified Logging Professional is stated in SFI Objective 10, Adherence to Best Management Practices, Indicator 1. Certified Logging Professional is stated under SFI Objective 16, Training and Education, Indicator 5, and Performance Measure 16.2.2.3 and reads "participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees (SIC) to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification programs, where they exist, that include; (b) independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification pro-

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gram standards.” The key word is “support” of SFI State Implementation Committees for certified logger programs such as the ALC Master Logger Certification Program.

With SFI’s recognition of Logger Certification Programs such as ALC’s Master Logger Certification Program, SFI State Implementation Committees should and must have professional logger representation on a State Implementation Committee (SIC). States with a professional logger association or logger council particularly if the organization is an ALC member, the state logger organization’s executive should serve on the SIC as well as a professional logger representative.

Communication to SFI State Implementation Committees should be administered through the state logger organization executive and/or logger representative(s). If a state has an ALC MLC approved template and implemented program, the logger organization representative should present this as information. Approved ALC MLC states may consider providing a list of ALC Master Loggers to SIC’s periodically, if the state desires to do so.

SFI’s recognition of Certified Logger Programs has added more significance to such programs. The SFI Program recognition of Certified Master Logger Programs, such as the ALC MLC, and the recognition of the ALC program as a third party audited Logger Certification Program, has been a positive step for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Certified Master Loggers under the ALC MLC Program should qualify in the chain-of-custody process whereby landowners are having their timber harvested in a sustainable manner by a Certified Master Logger.

SFI’s recognition of Certified Master Logger Programs does exhibit SFI’s initiative in the updated SFI Standards to allow these certification programs to find a place within SFI’s certification system.

Certified Master Logger Programs such as the ALC MLC is certainly far more reaching than just a training and continuing education regimen, since it encompasses third party auditing of what a professional logger is doing on the ground and in their business.

Even though SFI has recognized the ALC MLC Program, while not in name specifically, and again the American Loggers Council was the first to bring this issue to SFI’s attention, such recognition does not automatically garner ALC states

with Master Logger Certification Programs certain advantages over non-certified loggers in many cases.

However, through reports received from ALC MLC approved and active states, benefits have been seen for ALC Master Loggers certified under the state’s ALC MLC program.

Many states have been reluctant to move forward with preparing and submitting a state template for MLC approval. With SFI’s recognition of Certified Logger Programs, ALC states are encouraged to submit a template for approval by the MLC Committee.

The ALC Master Logger Certification program is voluntary, not mandatory. But if all ALC states had an approved MLC template, whether the program is implemented or not, this would enhance the ALC MLC’s position as a mechanism to certify wood as being sustainably harvested by certified logging professionals to concur with the SFI Standards, Chain of Custody processes and other Forest Certification Systems.

Just because an ALC state has an approved template and implements the ALC MLC program, does not indicate any more or less support of SFI or any other forest certification process. It simply means the ALC state has an approved template for the ALC MLC Program.

No ALC state is mandated to implement the MLC Program. However unity within the ALC ranks is needed and a consensus of ALC MLC states would show the support for raising the professional timber harvesting bar and show support for professionalism and sustainable forestry practices nationwide.

Now eighteen states have approved MLC templates: Idaho, Maine, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon, California, Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Vermont, Michigan, Missouri, Georgia and Florida with subsidiary states Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island partnering with the Maine Northeast Master Logger Certification Program.

The ALC’s National Master Logger Certification© template provides guidance for Seven Areas of Responsibility for performance standards. Each ALC member state develops its state template according to state laws, practices, regulations and criteria to meet the national template’s performance standards.

The ALC Master Logger Certification© Committee has the responsibility of reviewing submit-

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ted state templates to assure established processes are included for implementation, administration, third party verification, accountability and enforcement. The committee then can approve or return the template for recommended revisions. The committee also reviews approved state template revisions to assure MLC objectives are maintained.

Logger certification continues to gain importance within forestland management and forest products certification systems. The important point is the American Loggers Council MLC program has led the charge.

ALC states and its logger members must support ALC's "logger owned and logger controlled" program. ALC and its member states must continue to be the leaders in professional logger certification.

Respectfully submitted,
Crad Jaynes
Chairman, Master Logger Certification Committee

THE SKY IS FALLING! - RELIGIOUS ROOTS OF THE PROPHESED GREEN APOCALYPSE

By Kelly Oconnell, Monday, August 27, 2012,
Canadian Free Press

Why do liberals always claim the heavens are coming down? From where originates the idea the Earth is on the verge of total destruction because of mankind's sins? Thankfully, we can answer this question quite easily.

In fact, no unbiased, or well-crafted study has ever proved that Earth is about to be destroyed. So what is the source of this pernicious and reckless fear-mongering? Surprisingly, (or perhaps not) the prophesied apocalypse is borrowed from the Bible writers from such books as Revelation by rank secularists intent on making their own beliefs memorable, important and highly dramatic.

Environmentalists are part of the Millenarian (thousand-year period) movement because of their fixation with apocalypse and the coming paradise on Earth. In fact, all groups which prophecy a non-traditional apocalypse tend to fall into this group. For example, a main reason the Branch Davidians burned up in the fight with the feds is their leader David Koresh had developed a fatalistic, end-of-the-world view which saw them dying in an apocalyptic scenario. This article examines the religious foundation of these highly humanistic, radical environmental groups.

I. Evangelical & Messianic Environmentalism

The modern environmental movement cannot be ignored for several reasons. First, it habitually claims the Earth is on the verge of total collapse or destruction—implying it holds facts which clearly support this claim. Second, with all of the protests and sabotage, how could anyone miss them? But perhaps the most characteristic aspect of these groups is their holier than Mao demeanor, presenting themselves as holy and religious in an ominous, judgmental, and vengeful manner. Overall, while

eschewing traditional biblical dogma, these folks front an obviously spiritual story about the purpose of life.

Martha F. Lee describes these groups in Earth First!, Environmental Apocalypse as essentially Millenarian in nature, meaning having a pseudo-Christian nature and fixation with paradise on Earth. This is first seen in their moral approach to environmentalism, in how they claim to be able to judge men's sins against the Earth. Second, this is seen in the apocalyptic claims of these groups—that we are all doomed to die unless we change our sinful attack against the Earth. And third, in the millenarian aspect—being that peace on earth can be attained if we purify ourselves.

Bron Taylor's *The Religion and Politics of Earth First!* examines the beliefs of radical environmental groups, unearthing both religious and political elements. Taylor writes in *Earth and Nature-Based Spirituality (Part II)*:

Although participants in these countercultural movements often eschew the label religion, these are religious movements, in which persons find ultimate meaning and transformative power in nature. Focusing on the deep ecology movement, I further argued that (1) experiences of nature spirituality are evoked by practices as diverse as mountaineering, neo-shamanic ritualising and states of consciousness induced by hallucinogens; (2) earthen spiritualities are often contested and may be viewed as inauthentic or dangerous by practitioners of other forms of nature spirituality, and (3) despite significant diversity, a sense of connection and belonging to nature (sometimes personified as a transforming if not transcendent power) unites these cross-fertilising, and sometimes competing, spiritualities.

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Lee claims that while religious symbolism is clear in these movements, the political aspect is more prominent, writing:

While most Earth First!ers reject organized religion, the foundation of the movement lies in “a radical ‘ecological consciousness’ that intuitively, affectively and deeply experiences a sense of the sacredness of interconnection of all life.

This combination of religion and political elements should not surprise us as it is quite common for leftists to appeal to either political theories, or religious ideas, depending upon their need to persuade.

II. Deep Ecology & Agenda 21

A. Deep Ecology

Both Bron Taylor and Martha F. Lee mention Deep Ecology as being the essential core of modern environmentalism, but what is it? The term comes from an influential article by Arne Naess:

Arne Naess invented the term deep ecology in a famous 1973 article, “The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movement: A Summary.” By “ecology movement” Naess means a cosmology or worldview. Naess faults European and North American civilization for the arrogance of its human-centered instrumentalization of nonhuman nature. He contrasts his new “deep” (or radical) ecological worldview with the dominant “shallow” (or reform) paradigm. The shallow worldview, which he finds to be typical of mainstream environmentalism, is merely an extension of European and North American anthropocentrism—its reasons for conserving wilderness and preserving biodiversity are invariably tied to human welfare, and it prizes nonhuman nature mainly for its use-value. The deep ecological worldview, in contrast, questions the fundamental assumptions of European and North American anthropocentrism—that is, it digs conceptually deeper. In doing so, deep ecological thinking “is not a slight reform of our present society, but a substantial reorientation of our whole civilization”. This radicalism has inspired environmental activists of many stripes to hoist up Deep Ecology as their banner in calling for nothing less than the redirection of human history.

B. Biocentrism

According to Lee, Deep Ecology reject superficial anthropomorphic, aka man-centered, environmentalism. Instead, it focuses upon biocentrism as the center of “deep ecology.” Biocentrism considers all life as having equal value, and therefore an equal right to life and living space. Writes Lee:

In its most basic form, deep ecology demands that human beings reevaluate their relationship with the environment in such a way as to acknowledge that both human and non-human life have an intrinsic moral worth. In adopting a deep ecology perspective, one moves from the anthropocentric of industrialized society to what is believed to be an ecologically responsible biocentrism. The philosophy also predicts that if things continue as they presently are, crisis will result, and thus include an imperative to action.

C. Bible Believers as Earth Killers

So, the religion of environmentalism rejects both the C the related idea that the Earth was made for man as his home, to be watched over and tended—as is claimed in the Book of Genesis. A highly influential essay on this topic was written by Lynn White which basically blamed the problems on Earth on the Jewish and Christian religions in *The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis*. One writer sums up White’s thesis:

Many of our environmental problems could be traced to the Christian notion that God gave this Earth to humans for their use and specifically directed humans to exercise dominion over the Earth and all of its life forms. While it is questionable that this is what White intended, the effect of the piece has been to serve as an indictment of Christianity as the source of our environmental problems, and to render laughable the idea that Christianity might have anything to contribute to our environmental crisis. As essayist Wendell Berry has observed, “the culpability of Christianity in the destruction of the natural world and uselessness of Christianity in any effort to correct that destruction are now established cliches of the conservation movement.”

The clear implication of White’s thesis is the answer to the Earth’s problems is to return to a more pagan view of our cosmos. Ironically, Dave Foreman, who created Earth First! wrote in a 1980 memo called *A Statement of Principles*: “Earth is Goddess and the proper object of human worship,” writes Lee.

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D. Agenda 21

Agenda 21 is the socialist flavored United Nations program seeking to make the planet *sustainable* (see A Brief History & Description of Agenda 21). This presumes the Earth will die without a radical fix, making it a classic apocalyptic environmental program looking for a millennial solution. The remedy includes mass relocation of humans, creation of vast spaces for lost animal species, a reduction in the size of the economy, and stripping humans of civil and property rights. Finally, Agenda 21 aims to reduce human populations by 50% to make a “sustainable” planet.

Rewilding calls for taking back massive blocks of land for nature is a quintessential example of biocentric values (see Rewilding Network-Saving Globe Through Big Wilderness: Another UN Agenda 21 Hoax). In other words, all animals are equal—so mankind must be relocated to allow other animals to thrive. Population reduction is the opposite of “Be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28)

III. Apocalypse

Modern environmentalism is founded upon the idea that the Earth is on the absolute verge of destruction. In fact, this conviction is what gives these groups their holy urgency and their statements a rush of adrenaline. But there are several problems with the idea that the universe demands an imminent apocalypse.

First, this belief is not an inescapable conclusion from scientific data that any fair-minded observer must accept. To the contrary, the Earth does not appear on the brink of disaster. Contra, the only way to gather this conclusion is to absorb large amounts of highly-biased leftist propaganda. Second, the idea of an apocalypse is taken from Christian sources, and so does not even have the requisite structure to be a part of humanist environmental beliefs.

The Book of Revelation, last book of the New Testament, is also known as the Apocalypse of John, aka the “Unveiling of John.” The Book of Revelation is famed for its colorful and violent symbolism, which prophecies the end of the world. This is when God re-enters the world in a powerful way, and many unique events occur which end the world as we know it. While such a disaster is obviously attractive to humanist radicals, there is no reason for them to call down a humanistic apocalypse—after all, who would deliver it?!!

IV. Millenarianism & Marxism—Thousand Year Reign of Humanism

The Nazis in boasting their Third Reich would last a thousand years, were at least nominal millenarians. So the fixation on the millennium is quite widespread in the political realm. Martha F. Lee has a useful description of millenarianism as it applied to radical environmentalists. She writes,

The term *millenarian*, derived from the Book of Revelation (20:4), implies the

Christian mythic tradition of a chosen people, united by their faith in the return of Christ and their anticipation of a thousand-year period of glory. Such doctrines combine religious faith and political imperatives in a powerful way. They capture the human imagination and allegiance through the promise of a perfect world that transcends the secular state.

In a fascinating exchange described by Lee, termed the “Anarchy Debate,” radical environmentalists—such as Edward Abbey, eco-terrorism’s patron saint—argued over what a post-environmental apocalyptic world would resemble. Inexorably, the discussion turned towards “social justice,” or a Marxist interpretation of the new world. The world described by the radicals was a return to primitive tribalism, where bureaucracy would not obscure every person having to stand up for their own actions. And all goods would be held communally.

It is not accidental that Lee describes how religious and political symbolism in the radical environmental movement are interchangeable because this is the nature of Marxism. Everything is debased and sacrificed for use by the state. At the same time, everything is ultimately political in nature. The fact that the post-apocalyptic world of Foreman and others was one of “social justice,” with a primitive tribal economy where all would share everything is quintessential Marxism.

There is a strand of anarchy in the environmental movements that appears taken right out of Karl Marx’s theory of the three stages, where the last evolution is into a kind of benign anarchy. So many environmentalists exhibit a kind of fatalistic idea that even if society did die while battling global warming, etc—humankind will be reborn into a kind of minimalist paradise. Further, the same kind of Marxism which infects leftist thinking regarding environmentalism and “social justice” is identified by Thomas Flanagan in *Millennial Visions: Essays on Twentieth-Century Millenarianism*, as a religion, or a kind of anti-religion, in structure and ideology.

Conclusion

Ultimately, we have a battle between two conflicting views. Traditional religion teaches mankind is made in God’s image, and therefore has a set and predictable human nature. The other opinion, represented by the radical humanist environmentalists, tends toward atheism, and sees humans as on the same level as every other animal.

Which do you believe?

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Modern loggers look out for forests' health

by **Shaun McKinnon** - Aug. 26, 2012 12:05 AM

The Republic | azcentral.com

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2012/08/26/20120826modern-loggers-forest-health.html>

VERNON - In the dark, while the sun is still hours to the east, trucks carrying WB Contracting crews rumble up a forest road to a rutted clearing. The headlights catch glints of metal, then reveal a row of machines in the shadows.

The men run their checks: Top off diesel tanks. Lubricate moving parts. Clear errant branches and chunks of bark from the previous day. Calibrate measuring equipment. All systems go.

White Mountains logging

This is the land of loggers. The men, and occasionally, women, of the White Mountains cut down trees, stack them, grind them, ship them off to sawmills.

But for these loggers, the land is the domain of their machines. Here, the modern-day logger does not tote a chain saw. There are no spiked boots for climbing trees. If there is an ax or a hatchet in a toolbox, it collects sawdust. And these loggers use computers to measure trees.

Logging the woods has changed at a level at least as deep as the roots of the ponderosas that crash to the forest floor all day.

When the sun rises, the WB Contracting crews will not look for the biggest, oldest, most valuable trees as their grandfathers and great-grandfathers did. They will look for the trees most detrimental to the health of the forest, the ones that crowd out the sunshine, suck up the water and feed the wildfires. They will look for the ones marked for thinning -- the ones under 16 inches in diameter, usually -- using an approach to forestry as distinct from the past as the technology.

Then they will thunder forward atop diesel-powered jaws and claws to take those trees away. And with each falling timber, they will be loggers. A new kind of logger, but loggers nonetheless.

"You still have to have sawdust in your blood, but we love our forests and we don't want them to burn," said Dwayne Walker, one of the brothers who started WB Contracting 27 years ago. "We're doing what's right for the forests. We know why the people on the mountain are here."

High-tech changes

In the cab of the three-wheeled cutter, perched about 6 feet off the ground in a machine the size of a bulldozer, Trey Walker pivots a quarter circle on the grassy forest floor, aiming for a cluster of ponderosas. On the front of

(Continued on page 24)



Workers in high-tech heavy machines perform today's logging in Arizona. Gone are the spiked boots for climbing trees and such tools as the chain saw, the crosscut saw, the ax and the hatchet.

PHOTO BY: Pat Shannahan/The Arizona Republic

(Continued from page 23)

the cutter, a heavy blade spins, and as it makes contact with the tree, it whines loudly. Wood chips explode. Just as the tree teeters, Walker uses the cutter's mechanical arms to grab the trunk.

Walker moves to the next tree and repeats the process, then spins again and drops both trees onto a nearby stack. The stack grows quickly to a dozen or more pines, work completed in 10 minutes that, with chain saws or crosscut saws, could have chewed up most of the afternoon.

At 21, Trey is one of the youngest members of the Walker family working for WB Contracting. The bright red cutter he operates represents the sort of advances in machine logging that allows the Walkers to accomplish the same job with 32 workers that once required more than 100.

Those numbers also tell a story of an industry transformed by technology and a new view of forests. Timber once drove the economies of Arizona's high country, reaching from the White Mountains into Flagstaff. Sawmills dotted the landscape, more than two dozen at the peak, mostly family owned, and loggers moved through the ponderosas with enough work to support the communities that grew amid the pines.

"In my generation, we saw one of the big booms here," said Dale Walker, one of the brothers who helped start WB. "If there was timber, there was a sawmill. It all added up."

Then a federal judge all but shut down the industry with a ruling in 1995 that halted new timber sales while the government devised a recovery plan for the imperiled Mexican spotted owl, which made its home in the pines.

"My earliest memory as a child was going with my grandpa to his sawmill," said David Tenney, a Navajo County supervisor whose family cut trees and operated a sawmill and lumber yard in Heber. "It was what we did, who we were. After the lawsuits, we couldn't hang on anymore. You saw a thriving industry in our region die, and a lot of jobs died with it." Timber harvests in Arizona plummeted from about 300 million board-feet a year in 1990 to 28 million in 1996, according to a study by the Rocky Mountain Research Station, a unit of the U.S. Forest Service. The numbers have risen in recent years, but the total harvest in 2007 was still just 15 percent of the peak during the 1980s. The number of sawmills decreased from 23 in 1966 to eight in 2007.

As fallout from the lawsuits cleared, some work remained for loggers, but without the old, large-diameter trees to sell, business crashed.

Then in 2002 another event remade the landscape -- and the job of logging the woods -- yet again. That time, it was the devastating Rodeo-Chediski Fire.

In need of thinning

On this day, WB crews work their way through a stand of trees designated on a U.S. Forest Service project map as "Antelope." The site sits above Vernon, over high ridges from Pinetop-Lakeside and east of Show Low.

The job is part of the White Mountain Stewardship Project, one of the largest single sources of work for loggers in the Arizona high country. The project was born in the years following the Rodeo-Chediski Fire as land managers, environmental groups and loggers concluded that the forests were unhealthy, overgrown and in need of thinning.

"Most of the timber now is pre-selected by the government," Dale Walker says. "They tell us what they want to keep ... we cut down the rest."

Rust-colored paint marks the trees the Forest Service wants left behind, usually those larger than 16 inches in diameter. A pair of cutters, also known as feller-bunchers, take aim at the rest. The cutter driven by Trey Walker moves quickly, almost nimbly through the trees, the blade slicing through the bark and wood. Walker keeps the cutter balanced, not an easy task when the tips of the pine trees gyrate 80 feet above his cab.

The second cutter moves more slowly, on tracks, better suited to hills and steeper terrain. Both slice into the tree trunks with a burst of chips, filling the air with the smell of pine wood and a touch of diesel. The machines are easy to find, trackable by the constant whirl of the blades. Even from a distance, they can be found by the sight of the shuddering pine tops in the forest.

Once the trunks are stacked, the crew separates trees depending on their size and how straight they are. The longer and straighter they are, the better lumber they will produce. Other trees are marked for chipping, bound for a mill in Show Low that produces wood pellets and mulch.

At a site where the cutters have finished and the trees have been sorted, several larger machines form a sort of assembly line. Skidders, which resemble modified backhoes with claws, drag the stacked

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trees to a loader. At times, the loader just moves trees along the line, into a steel box, where blades inside remove branches and bark. At other times, an attachment on the end of the long arm can measure and de-limb a tree with a menacing set of rounded silver gears that might look at home in a sci-fi movie. On this day, the trees move through a chipper, which spits the wood into a semitruck bound for the mill. Off to the side, a pile of brush grows as the branches are stripped off. Later, a grinder will chew up the brush, producing fuel for a power plant in Snowflake that generates electricity with bio-mass, the leftovers from thinning and salvage work.

The site pulsates with the growl of so many engines, the whine of blades. The debarker and shredder belch smoke, the clouds thicker and darker when larger trees are fed through. After a semi full of chips pulls away, the din recedes a little, but never is there silence.

For all the machines, there are still those unpredictable elements. The threat of summer thunderstorms drives the early start, an attempt to outrace the late-day clouds. "A day or two more rain like that and we'll be shut down for a week," Dwayne Walker says. And there is still family, coming and going, sometimes just to visit.

On a recent day, Cole Estes climbs down from the loader to greet his wife and newborn baby daughter, Dale Walker's granddaughter.

"That's the fifth generation there I guess," Dale Walker says.

When the next semi pulls up, Cole climbs back on the loader and his young family heads back to the pickup.

Reshaped the industry

Dale and Dwayne Walker's great-grandfather worked as a farmer and sharecropper in east Texas, and when the growing season ended, he would take an ax out and make railroad ties. A great-grandfather on their mother's side owned a sawmill.

"It's in the blood," Dale said, "the sawdust."

"Four generations ago, they didn't have vehicles at all," Dwayne Walker said. "They barely had steam sawmills. They used horses to haul the trees, axes to

de-limb them. You had to be tough and ornery to work out here. Nowadays, we use kids who played TV video games. They have that hand-eye coordination that's so good."

But it's not just the work that has changed, the axes and crosscut saws replaced by wheeled cutters, the horses and steam engines sidelined by precision machines. The model has changed too, the business itself.

The lawsuits in the 1990s ended logging as Arizonans knew it. The shutdown lasted long enough to drive mills out of business, leaving the loggers no dependable market for what

trees they could harvest. People began to question the environmental costs of cutting down old-growth trees.

The Rodeo-Chediski Fire, which charred nearly half a million acres of forest in 2002, reframed the debate and reshaped the industry.

"In some ways, it's like night and day, this business," said Dwayne Walker. "It's definitely



PHOTO BY: Pat Shannahan/The Arizona Republic

an evolution."

The goal is to reduce the risk of monster wildfires like the Rodeo-Chediski or 2011's Wallow Fire. The infernos feed on dense stands of trees, growing hotter until they spread up to the crowns of trees and race across the forest as a blaze firefighters struggle to douse. In a thinned forest, fire stays low in the groundcover, licking the bark of older, taller trees but never reaching the canopy.

WB, the largest of about eight logging outfits above the Mogollon Rim, won the big contract on the stewardship project and has overseen, in eight years, mechanical thinning of about 90,000 acres, more than 100,000 semitruck loads of timber and wood chips. Thinning means removing smaller-diameter trees and leaving the bigger, older trees that foresters say are critical to a ponderosa pine ecosystem. Not every logger is happy about that. Some have convinced elected officials that the industry could be reborn if the rules were changed again and widespread logging allowed.

David Tenney, the Navajo County supervisor whose family business declined with others, has begun working with the thinning advocates. In 2010, he began lobbying for the Four Forests Restoration Initiative, which will expand thinning efforts across three



SC ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION SUPPORTS RIGHT TO FORESTRY LAW

SC Forestry Commission, SC Forestry Association and SCTPA worked closely to obtain an opinion from the SC Attorney General's office regarding the application of State Code 48-23-205 regarding the local regulation of development affecting forestland.

The code is The Right to Practice Forestry Act passed in 2009. The law established criteria for defining, qualifying and exempting forestry practices to prohibit counties and/or municipalities from adopting or enforcing any ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution or permit related to forestry activities.

Some local governments had promulgated and enforced burdensome local regulations on forest management by embedding requirements into zoning development and landscaping standards. The Right To Practice Forestry Act was passed to provide a consistent legal environment for the practice of forestry throughout the state.

The law clearly defines "forestry activities on forest lands" providing five criteria under which an activity may meet that definition. It also provided assurance that the authority of local governments to regulate activities associated with land development or conversion of forestland to other uses was in no way limited, expanded or otherwise altered.

A letter from State Forester Gene Kodama was forwarded to the SC Attorney General's office with the following questions.

- Whether a county or municipality may impose buffer requirements of any kind on qualifying forestry activities, whether or not such buffers apply to any other land uses. This would include buffers for riparian protection, wildlife, scenic values, roads and property boundaries.
 - For example, one county requires landowners executing timber harvests to retain an undisturbed buffer around the perimeter of the property and along all roads. Another county requires all land uses, including forestry, to leave a mandatory buffer along a major river. Mandatory buffering effectively precludes private landowners from managing and using these areas for traditional forestry activities.
 - Whether a county or municipality may require compliance with SC Best Management practices or other guidelines in a stand-alone rule, or as a condition for exemption from any rules or regulations. Although the SC Forestry Commission strongly promotes the use of BMPs, county mandates for such requirements become regulation of forestry by local governments.
 - Whether local tree protection standards, including protection of trees by size, species, or location, may be applied to forestry activities on forestlands.
 - Whether a local government may require notification or reporting prior to engaging in forestry activities on forestlands, or levy any fees or penalties associated with such requirements. Such requirements in other states have resulted in unnecessary delays to forestry activities and significant increases in operating costs and can effectively stop the implementation of a desired management activity.
 - Whether a local government may regulate the use of public roads or require permits for access to public roads in association with forestry activities on forest lands. Such regulation can effectively stop the implementation of a desired management activity. For example, one county is considering an ordinance that would require permits for timber harvesting and pre-approval of log truck haul routes in order to monitor damage to county roads. Other counties have considered regulations and bond requirements specific to logging trucks and log truck traffic that did not apply to other commercial traffic.
- The Attorney General office rendered a strong opinion supporting the Right to Practice Forestry Act. The following is taken from Deputy Attorney General Robert D. Cook's opinion letter conclusion.
1. A county or municipality may not impose buffer requirements of any kind on qualifying forestry activities, whether or not such

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other national forests over the next 20 years.

"It's only obvious what's going to happen when forests are growing millions of board-feet a year without taking anything out," Tenney said. "It wasn't a healthy forest. It became very obvious to me we've got to do something."

The thinning projects come with time frames, mostly to satisfy contracts and government rules, but once the work starts, it can't stop. Forests regrow quickly. Areas thinned once will require maintenance work, especially around mountain communities, where residents are wary of controlled burns, the other method of thinning the growth.

And so as long as the forests grow and the communities grow, the loggers will have work, trees to cut down, logs to cut and trim.

The years since Rodeo-Chediski delivered another epiphany for high-country loggers, something they say shows the way the forest and their business have changed.

In 2011, another monster fire spread through the mountains -- the Wallow Fire, the largest in Arizona history.

This time, fewer homes burned.

"Nutrioso, Eagar, Alpine would have been toast if we hadn't thinned the trees over there," Dwayne Walker said.

Even so, the land of loggers has changed, forever.



PHOTO BY: Pat Shannahan/The Arizona Republic



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& shown for viewing purposes only.

(Continued from page 26)

buffers apply to any other land uses. The whole purpose of the Act is to protect forestry activities on forest land. Establishment of a buffer zone while such activities are ongoing, defeats the purpose of the Act.

2. A county or municipality may not require compliance with SC Best Management Practices or other guidelines in a stand-alone rule, or as a condition for exemption from any rules or regulations. Such mandates for such requirements are most probably the regulation of forestry activities by local governments. Again, if such regulation may occur, the whole purpose of the Act is defeated.
3. Local tree protection standards, including protection of trees by size, species or location, may not be applied to forestry activities on forest lands. Such standards by local governments would defeat the Act's purpose of uniformity.
4. A local government may not require notification or reporting prior to engaging in forestry activities on forest lands, or levy any fees or penalties associated with such requirements. Such would defeat the Act's purpose of uniformity.
5. A local government may not regulate the

use of public roads or require permits for access to public roads in association with forestry activities on forest lands. Again, such regulation would defeat the Act's purpose uniformity.

As noted above, each circumstance must be determined based upon all the facts. This Office is unable to advise as to particular factual circumstances. However, the intent of Act No. 48 is to broadly preempt a county's or municipality's regulation of forestry activities, as defined, on forest land, as specified. The purpose of the Act is to create a uniform system statewide, for the practice of forestry. Thus, a court will most likely determine that if there are forestry activities on forest land, local regulation thereof (as opposed to state or federal regulation) is preempted. To conclude otherwise would, in our view, render Act No. 48 of 2009 superfluous and defeat the Legislature's purpose in protecting these activities.

This opinion was another SC forestry victory in the regulatory process. This collaborative effort just shows what can be done when working together to advance SC forestry.

COURT: ASHLAND FOREST LOGGING VIOLATES RULES PROTECTING CITY WATER SUPPLY

MEDFORD, Ore.— A federal court has found that soil erosion caused by logging in the Ashland watershed in southern Oregon violates U.S. Forest Service standards designed to protect the city of Ashland's municipal water supply.

"Logging on steep slopes will expose sensitive granite soils to erosion and foul Ashland's water," said Jay Lininger, an ecologist with the Center for Biological Diversity and co-plaintiff in the lawsuit, brought under the National Forest Management Act, with Eric Navickas. "This lawsuit tackles an obvious environmental hazard that triggered serious concern in the community."

In 2009, the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest approved the Ashland Forest Resiliency logging project on 7,600 acres in the hills south of Ashland. The magistrate's report signed Friday and issued Monday, found that the AFR project will exceed soil-exposure standards on "restricted watershed" lands with "very high or very severe" erosion hazards, and defy standards on "restricted riparian"

lands that are located within 100 feet of streams. It disagreed with the Forest Service's contention that the soil standards are "flexible."

Lininger was part of a collaborative group organized by the city of Ashland that consulted with the Forest Service on the AFR project. However, the agency rejected the "Community Alternative" proposed by the city, which would have avoided logging in riparian areas to protect water quality.

The report must be reviewed by a district court judge and it will not affect logging in the AFR project scheduled for this year. If the judge upholds its legal findings, changes to the project may be required in later years.

"Fire-hazard reduction in Ashland's forest will continue," Lininger said. "The Forest Service ignored collaboration, which made this lawsuit necessary to ensure that community agreements are respected."

Georgia-Pacific to begin operating mill in Clarendon County

Investment expected to create more than 100 new jobs

COLUMBIA, S.C. – September 18, 2012 – Georgia-Pacific today announced that it plans to begin a ramp up of production at its oriented strand board (OSB) facility in Clarendon County, S.C., during the first quarter of 2013. The mill was part of the acquisition in May 2010 from Grant Forest Products that also included an operating plant in Allendale County, S.C., and another operating plant in Englehart, Ontario. The acquisition totaled approximately \$400 million. Georgia-Pacific spent an additional \$30 million to complete construction on the Clarendon facility in 2011.

“Given our customers’ increased need for OSB, we believe the time is right to begin the ramp up of production at the Clarendon mill,” said Mark Luetters, president of Georgia-Pacific wood products. “This facility has world-class capabilities and will ensure our ability to grow with Georgia-Pacific’s customers as the housing market continues its slow recovery. We’re looking forward to getting this plant running, and to working with the people in the Clarendon County area.”

Once the Clarendon mill is operational, both Clarendon and Allendale (which also

employs about 120 people) will supply customers across the eastern United States with the versatile building material used in residential construction.

“The Clarendon mill fits strategically with our OSB facilities running in Brookneal, Va., Fordyce, Ark., Hosford, Fla., Allendale, S.C., and Englehart, Ontario,” said Clarence Young, vice president of structural panels sales and marketing for the company. “It will give Georgia-Pacific the ability to provide enhanced service and value to existing and potential customers.”

“Today’s announcement is another big win for one of our state’s rural areas. We celebrate Georgia-Pacific’s decision to invest in the Palmetto State and create more than 100 new jobs in Clarendon County. By strengthening our state’s business-friendly climate, we can expect to see more announcements like this one,” said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Georgia-Pacific OSB products include BlueRibbon[®] rated sheathing and sub-floor, Thermostat[®] OSB radiant barrier sheathing, and DryGuard[®] enhanced OSB sub-floor, plus larger panels used in specialty applications.

“Today’s announcement by

Georgia-Pacific is another indication that our state’s manufacturing sector remains strong. We know how to make things in South Carolina, and manufacturing continues to be a key wealth-creating part of our economy,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

Applications for more than 100 permanent positions, including management, craft and production roles at the facility, will be accepted through the company’s website at www.gp.com/careers and through One Stop Workforce at www.slworkforcedev.org beginning this week.

In South Carolina, Georgia-Pacific and other Koch companies employ nearly 2,000 people directly and support more than 8,000 jobs. Total compensation and benefits in South Carolina is approximately \$140 million annually.

Headquartered at Atlanta, Georgia-Pacific is one of the world’s leading manufacturers and marketers of building products, tissue, packaging, paper, cellulose and related chemicals. The company employs nearly 35,000 people worldwide. For more information visit www.gp.com.



SCTPA Board Members Appointed

At the August 16th board of directors meeting in Columbia, Rickey Chapman, Chapman Timber, Inc., Newberry, and Robby Crowder, Land & Timber, Inc., Greenwood, were appointed to fulfill the terms of Steve Thompson and Donnie Harrison for Seats 1 and 3 respectively. Robby and Rickey attended the board meeting.

Steve and Donnie have admirably served on the board since 2008. The board appreciates their contributions to the board, association and industry.

Rickey and Robby will complete the two seats' terms expiring December 31, 2012. Via the association bylaws, the board has the authority to appoint a member to fulfill a board seat term.

Both Rickey and Robby ran for election for seat 4 at the 2012 Annual Meeting. Because of their active involvement with the association, the board felt these two members would be a good fit to the board. Hopefully both will run for election for the two seats at the 2013 Annual Meeting to serve a full four-year term.

SCTPA welcomes Rickey Chapman and Robby Crowder to the board of directors and looks forward to their contributions to the board, association and industry.



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US FOREST SERVICE ASKING STATES FOR SCHOOL FUNDING DETAILS

More than \$300 million to be distributed under Secure Rural Schools program by year's end

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23, 2012 - The U.S. Forest Service today announced that the Congressional one-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act will mean payments of \$308 million to states in support of schools and roads in rural counties.

The Forest Service is now sending letters to each state advising them of the opportunity for counties where national forests are situated to receive a share of the state's payment based on the July 6 reauthorization.

"Our support of schools and roads in rural communities is one of the many ways the Forest Service is helping to sustain and stimulate economic growth across the country," said Forest Chief Tom Tidwell. "Opportunity for students and communities in rural America is directly tied to the future prosperity of our nation."

States have until Sept. 30 to inform the Forest Service which of their counties have elected to receive a payment. The actual amount will vary depending on a number of factors written into the law including how many counties ultimately decide to share in the

state's payment. After the Sept. 30 deadline the Forest Service will calculate actual amounts and coordinate with the U.S. Treasury to make the payments to the states in December.

New language in the reauthorization requires states to inform the agency how counties plan to allocate their share of the payment. Among the acceptable uses of the funding are supporting public schools, road repairs and for projects to help maintain and improve the health of forests.

Projected county shares of the state's payment are on the Forest Service Web site at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/securepayments/projectedpayments/>

Since 1908, the Forest Service has shared with states 25 percent of gross receipts from national forests to benefit public schools and public roads in the counties in which the forests are situated. The receipts are derived from timber sales, grazing, minerals, recreation, and other land use fees.

In the late 1980s, due largely to declines in timber sale receipts, payments began to drop significantly and fluctuate widely.

In 1994, Congress responded by providing "safety net payments" to counties in northern California, western Oregon and western Washington.

In 2000, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act that provided enhanced, stabilized payments to more states through 2006. The act was extended for one year and then reauthorized in 2008 for four more years. This year's reauthorization provides benefits for an additional year.

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Forest Service lands contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$27 billion per year.

SC's Sumter & Francis Marion National Forests County Payments

Fiscal Year 2011
 Total Acres = 630,727
 Total Payment = \$ 1,868,281.88
 Average \$ Per Acre = \$ 2.96

National Forest	County	2011 FY \$ Received	Acres	Projected 2012 FY \$
Francis Marion	Berkeley	405,997.28	194,643	408,566
	Charleston	93,467.96	65,182	84,536
	Sub-Total	499,465.24	259,825	493,102
Sumter	Aiken	913.61	1	855
	Greenwood	40,460.57	10,951	37,838
	Edgefield	104,370.34	31,113	92,243

(Continued on page 33)

SCTPA 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Our 2013 Annual Meeting will be held February 1 - 3 at the Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center, 3200 South Ocean Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, SC.

We are excited about our new location and the meeting. The facilities are impressive. Springmaid Beach Resort completed a \$6.5 million renovation of guest rooms this past May. Rooms with two queen beds are connected to the conference center and rooms with a king size bed along with one and two bedroom suites are located across the property with easy access to the conference center.

SCTPA will utilize the second and third floors of the conference center. The second floor will be for registration, exhibitors and speaker presentations. There is plenty of room for exhibitors. We'll also utilize the parking lot for outside exhibitors with equipment, trucks and trailers.

The third floor will be used for the Friday night reception, Saturday breakfasts and lunch and Sunday's prayer breakfast. The third floor has a panoramic view of the beach and Atlantic Ocean.

Marlin's is the on-site restaurant and Barnacles restaurant is located on Springmaid Pier adjacent to the resort.

Meeting details are coming together. Deb Hawkins, new President of Forest Resources Association will speak on *"Pulpwood and Politics"* relating the importance of legislative involvement, what the climate is like in Washington, DC after the elections and update activities of Forest Resources Association.

We are excited to have nationally known G. Kent Mangelson, Author & Senior Advisor of the American Society for Asset Protection. He will present, *How Loggers Can Save Thousands in Taxes and Become*

Invincible to Lawsuits. He is an expert with over 30 years helping professionals properly secure themselves for lawsuit protection.

Travis Taylor will be the new American Loggers Council President in October and will speak about ALC activities. ALC Executive Vice President Danny Drucor will be on hand as well. Invited speakers are SC Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

The usual flow of events will be followed with Friday board of directors meeting, registration and evening reception. Saturday features general session speakers, luncheon with speaker, association business session, board member elections and awards and Saturday evening free. Deeply discounted Carolina Opry tickets will be available for the Saturday evening show. We'll also have our silent auction and prize drawings.

Saturday afternoon will feature a TOP session to view the required SFI Training DVD to obtain the SFI Trained status for the annual period of July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

Sunday morning's prayer breakfast will feature Sonrise returning for an uplifting and faithful southern gospel service.

Room rates are; Live Oaks – \$ 54 for single, double, triple & quad rate: 2 Bedroom Suite - \$ 84 for single, double, triple & quad rate: 1 Bedroom Suite - \$ 74 for single, double, triple & quad rate. Room block cut off is January 7, 2013.

Registration, sponsor and exhibitor packages will be mailed in early October. Check out Springmaid Beach Resort at SpringmaidBeach.com

We are excited about our new location and look forward to our 14th SCTPA Annual Meeting.



(Continued from page 32)

McCormick	252,903.86	50,395	219,283
Union	226,690.06	62,314	251,878
Abbeville	109,512.86	23,434	103,625
Laurens	95,404.31	20,941	79,533
Saluda	13,431.32	4,480	13,431
Chester	52,582.78	12,647	51,670
Oconee	224,567.13	84,574	252,814
Fairfield	48,818.06	11,080	48,366
Sub-Total	1,368,816.64	370,902	1,360,418
Totals	1,868,281.88	630,727	1,853,520

2012 FY Average \$ Per Acre = \$ 2.9387

SC TO RECEIVE \$1.2 BILLION IN FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDS

The new federal highway bill passed by Congress allocates \$1.2 billion over the next two years to South Carolina for an assortment of projects – including widening a 10-mile stretch of Interstate 26.

Overall, the bill called MAP-21 for “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century,” offers state transportation planners more certainty about how much money is coming down from Washington, D.C. For the past year, states have had to deal with stopgap funding measures offered by Congressional Resolutions.

South Carolina will receive \$608 million for fiscal year 2013 and \$613 million for 2014. The federal fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30.

“Funding levels are going to remain fairly consistent with what we’ve seen in recent history,” said John Walsh, Deputy Director of SCDOT. Walsh stated, “While it’s not an improvement in funding levels, it certainly isn’t going to result in some of the cutbacks that were also being discussed.” About 60% of the federal money for 2013 - \$368 million – is geared for spending on U.S. highways and interstates in SC.

Other allocations include: \$169 million for state and local surface transportation projects; \$40 million for highway safety; \$15.5 million for transportation alternatives; \$11 million to reduce congestion and improve air quality, and \$2.7 million for metropolitan planning.

A portion of the money will fund the construction payouts for the I-26 widening project, a top priority of the state’s business community. Business leaders have said, improving I-26 between Columbia and Charleston is one of the most pressing logistics issues facing the state.

I-26, said S.C. Chamber of Commerce

President Otis Rawl, is the “lifblood of business in South Carolina.” The route connects manufacturers in the Upstate to one of the nation’s busiest seaports at Charleston.

The state transportation department plans to widen the interstate from mile marker 115 in Lexington County, east to the I-26 and I-77 interchange, to mile marker 125 in Calhoun County.

The project includes replacement of the westbound bridge over the CSX Railroad and a bridge jacking at the overpass of Old Wire Road. The widening would accommodate three lanes in each direction by widening to the median. Another 11 miles of I-26 to mile marker 136, will be resurfaced as part of the project. The project is scheduled to move forward in a design-build contract later this year.

The new bill sets the state for a longer-term highway measure that will focus more on establishing performance measures for funding. Walsh said, “There is an opportunity here with this bill for some streamlining and consolidations.”

The law trims the number of federal programs by two-thirds, from about 90 to less than 30, to focus resources on key national goals and remove duplicative programs.

Funding falls under the National Highway Performance criteria, which consolidates existing programs covering interstate maintenance, federal highways and highway bridges. The program eliminates barriers between existing programs that limits states’ flexibility to address the most vital needs for highways and bridges and holds states accountable for improving outcomes and using tax dollars efficiently.

Article by Chuck Crumbo, SC Chamber of Commerce’s Columbia Regional Business Report, August 6 – 19, 2012 edition.

“There is an opportunity here with this bill for some streamlining and consolidations.”

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UK biomass generators face new sustainability criteria

UK generators using biomass in their power stations face tough new sustainability guidelines and a cut in support under the Renewables Obligation (RO) scheme.

The government outlined proposals on Friday that include requirements for wood fuel to come from sustainably managed forests and pathways to reduce the carbon intensity of biomass generation.

Meanwhile, the proposals would also see support for co-firing with biomass reduced to 0.3 ROCs (Renewables Obligation Certificates) per MWh and a cap placed on the suppliers meeting their renewables obligations through dedicated new biomass plants.

The use of biomass for electricity and heat generation has been somewhat controversial with concerns that wood fuel could be imported from nonsustainable sources.

Currently, bioenergy accounts for some 13 TWh of generation (or 3 GW capacity) out of a total 34 TWh (or 12 GW) renewable capacity.

Under the RO, solid biomass and biogas already have to report against sustainability criteria such as minimum lifecycle greenhouse gas emission savings and land use.

The new proposals will tighten these regulations from 2013 for dedicated biomass facilities and introduce new requirements that would apply until 2020.

"Biomass has the potential to provide a significant amount of renewable electricity in this decade and beyond," commented Energy Secretary Ed Davey. "These proposals make clear our commitment to ensuring that the use of biomass power is sustainable both for the environment, and for the consumer."



United We Stand...The Value of Forestry and Loggers Associations

Jimmie Locklear
Forestry Mutual Insurance



Are you an active member of a forestry or loggers association? I hope your answer is yes. But, unfortunately for many who depend on the forest industry for their livelihood the answer is no. I hope you will take a few minutes to really think about why being an active member of your state forestry and/or loggers association is vital to the success of your business.

Let's recall the wisdom of successful people from years past:

- *Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.* - Henry Ford
- *None of us is as smart as all of us.* - Ken Blanchard
- *Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.* - Vince Lombardi
- *We must all hang together or most assuredly we will hang separately.* – Ben Franklin

I believe Ben Franklin's quote best addresses the business environment in today's world. All forest related businesses need to work together! A few concerned business managers and owners working together can have an impact, but the larger the group the more impact you can have.

Bob Slocum, Executive Vice President of the NC Forestry Association says, "A main benefit of an association is that it can do much more together- though its members - than any one individual or company can do alone. The NCFCA has shown the benefit of an association through its legislative programs, its Pro-Logger program and our programs in environmental education.

Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director of the Tennessee Forestry Association states "I know that various expensive and unnecessary regulatory proposals by preservationists were defeated at the Tennessee General Assembly during the past several years, due to the strong support and influence from our logging community".

For many years state associations have worked primarily at the state level to assist the forest industry with government related issues. Back in 2006, while attending the 12th Annual American Loggers Council meeting in Montana, Keith Biggs, President of Forestry Mutual, and I left that meeting with an enhanced view that left a lasting impression of how important associations were on the national political stage. It was very obvious to us that without forestry and logging industry associations, the forest industry would have very little impact on decisions made by politicians at both state and national levels. Yes, decisions that could greatly reduce the ability of the forest industry to succeed or even survive.

Danny Dructor, Executive Vice President for the American Loggers s Council states, "The ALC serves as a central hub on national issues that are impacting the timber harvesting industry. With logger representation from 30 states, we have the ability to communicate with our membership, provide advocacy in Washington, DC".

Since that 2006 trip to Montana, Keith Biggs has "stepped up" Forestry Mutual's commitment to supporting forestry and logger associations within Forestry Mutual's four state service area. Speaking about the recent agreement with Forestry Mutual to provide support for the North Carolina Association of Profes-

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sional Loggers, Executive Director, Doug Duncan noted "Logging can now be truly united through the services of Forestry Mutual and their respective state logging associations. Associations in return are quick to support Forestry Mutual's commitment to workplace safety and driving injuries and worker's compensation claims out of the business cost equation."

Virginia Loggers Association's Executive Director Jim Mooney noted that "Membership in a logging association gives a logger not only access to information pertaining to laws, regulations, and business practices, but also a voice on these issues."

The benefits of being an active member of your state's forestry and /or logging association extend far beyond the political influence on laws, guidelines and regulations imposed by government agencies. Forestry and logging industry associations use their collective buying power to help members save money when buying insurance, fuel, parts and many other services required to operate a successful forest related business in today's world.

Crad Jaynes, President and CEO of South Carolina Timber Producers Association said "Being a logger association member provides strength in numbers because numbers count when it comes to having a

"voice." It's difficult to place a "real" quantitative value being an association member. The value far exceeds the membership dues and comes from the association's ability to represent its constituents on issues, whether political, regulatory or business, provide an information resource for business enhancement, provide education, benefits and services, promote the professional logging industry to the public, and work to represent the members' and industry's best interests."

I cannot stress enough the importance of being an active member of your state forestry and/or loggers association. It is extremely important to attend annual and district meetings whenever possible. You may be surprised by the benefits available to increase your profit margins. An even greater benefit may be hearing firsthand about new products and new markets that will take the forest industry into the future. Government laws, guidelines and regulations will always be part of your ability to make a living in any business. Compliance with government regulations is difficult at times, but having the ability to influence these regulations through political means is invaluable.

One last statement of wisdom someone once said... *If you're not at the table, you may be on the menu...*

SC Intrastate CMV Enforcement

Back in May the SC Legislature approved House Bill 4761 that became effective May 25, 2012. This bill corrected several issues faced by truckers in South Carolina.

The bill raised the Gross Vehicle Weight for Intrastate Enforcement to greater than 26,000 pounds. SC had previously enforced the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Regulations at the greater than 10,000 pound GVW weight. This meant an 11,000-pound vehicle was subject to all FMCSA Regulations by virtue of SC Code Annot. § 56-1-200, other than the CDL and drug and alcohol testing requirement.

This new law brings SC into the majority of states that do not enforce the FMCSA Regulations for less than 26,000 pounds GVW.

Another positive included in the bill is the SC State Transport Police and the Department of Public Safety are designated as the only two agencies charged with commercial motor vehicle enforcement.

This severs any county and/or municipality from attempting to enforce motor carrier safety regulations. At times, municipalities were attempting to enforce the regulations such as trying to weigh trucks, inspect trucks, etc. These attempts were being performed inefficiently and inaccurately.

Thanks to the efforts of the SC Trucking Association in bringing about this new law. SCTPA supported this law.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 12, 2012

Contact: Barry Graden, Director
SFI Southeast U.S. Community Outreach
864-451-7958

Leading Publishers Partner with SFI in Responsible Forestry

MILWAUKEE, WI – Four leaders of the North American publishing industry announced today they will partner with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) to help spur the growth of certification to preserve and protect forests.

Time Inc., the National Geographic Society, Macmillan, and Pearson will become Founding Partners of the SFI Forest Partners Program. The alliance was announced at the SFI annual conference in Milwaukee, attended by foresters, land owners, conservation groups, First Nations, industry and government agencies.

SFI Forest Partners allows market leaders to support certification, as well as landowners and manufacturers facilitate forest certification and the certified sourcing of forest products. Partners will work collectively with the SFI community to make certification more efficient and accessible by providing resources for activities such as shared consulting expertise, group certification or audit coordination.

“A decade ago, Time Inc. was one of the first companies to make a public commitment to use 80% certified fiber. Progress beyond that goal has been hampered by the limited availability of adequate supply,” said Guy Gleysteen, Senior Vice President of Production at Time Inc. “SFI Forest Partners lets us have a direct impact on the growth of forest certification and the responsible sourcing of forest products.”

By the end of 2014, SFI Forest Partners aims to certify five million acres (two million hectares) of forests to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. By the end of 2017, the Forest Partners Program hopes to certify 10 million acres (four million hectares) of forest across the United States and Canada. It will also seek to certify more small and medium-sized mills to SFI certified sourcing or chain-of-custody certification.

“We believe strongly that we, as publishers, have a role to play in encouraging responsible forestry practices,” said Hans Wegner, Chief Sustainability Officer for the National Geographic Society. “We know that humans are deforesting the globe, particularly in the tropical regions of the world, at a clip of approximately 2 percent a year, a trend that is completely unsustainable. We may well be the last generation with the opportunity to reverse that trend.”

“Sustainability is a core mission for Macmillan,” said CEO John Sargent. “By committing to the use of certified fiber sourced from well-managed North American forests we are ensuring responsible, environmentally-friendly forestry while also supporting the most efficient global use of recycled fiber. Third-party certification instills confidence that we are making informed choices that keep domestic forests healthy, rural communities strong, and preserves fragile forests in other areas of our world.”

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“Forest Certification is an increasingly important tool in the ongoing struggle to create a sustainable world. Trees absorb carbon. Well-managed forests help address deforestation, protect and enhance biodiversity, and underpin sustainable livelihoods,” said Rich Glicini, Senior Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility, Pearson. “Five years ago we made a commitment to climate neutrality for our directly-controlled operations. Helping to promote responsible forest management practices complements that commitment and continues to be a priority for Pearson companies.”

“The SFI Forest Partners Program builds on an innovative pilot project in Maine that resulted in an additional 1.4 million acres/570,000 hectares certified to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard,” said SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow. “The Maine project also resulted in 100,000 acres of forest lands certified to the American Tree Farm Standard. We look forward to building on that initiative with these four founding members of the Forest Partners Program.”

##

About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is an independent 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program (www.sfiprogram.org). Across North America, more than 193 million acres/78 million hectares are certified to the SFI forest management standard, making it the largest single standard in the world. SFI chain-of-custody certification tells buyers how much certified, responsibly sourced and/or recycled content is in a product. The SFI program’s unique fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers’ lands.

About Time Inc. (www.timeinc.com)

Time Inc., a division of Time Warner, is one of the largest branded media companies in the world. The company’s magazines reach more than 110 million Americans each month, and its websites attract nearly 50 million unique visitors each month. With influential brands such as Time, People, Sports Illustrated, InStyle and Real Simple, Time Inc. is home to celebrated events and franchises including the Fortune 500 and Time 100.

About National Geographic Society (www.nationalgeographic.com)

The National Geographic Society is one of the world’s largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. Founded in 1888 to “increase and diffuse geographic knowledge,” the Society’s mission is to inspire people to care about the planet. It reaches more than 400 million people worldwide each month through its official journal, National Geographic, and other magazines; National Geographic Channel; television documentaries; music; radio; films; books; DVDs; maps; exhibitions; live events; school publishing programs; interactive media; and merchandise. National Geographic has funded more than 10,000 scientific research, conservation and exploration projects and supports an education program promoting geographic literacy.

About Macmillan (<http://us.macmillan.com>)

Macmillan is a group of publishing companies in the United States held by Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck, which is based in Stuttgart, Germany. American publishers include Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Henry Holt & Company, W.H. Freeman and Worth Publishers, Palgrave Macmillan, Bedford/St. Martin’s, Picador, Roaring Brook Press, St. Martin’s Press, Tor Books, and Macmillan Higher Education.

About Pearson (www.pearson.com)

Pearson, the World’s leading learning company, has global reach and market-leading businesses in education, business information and consumer publishing. With more than 30,000 employees based in 60 countries, Pearson focuses on making the reading and learning experience as enjoyable and as beneficial as possible.

DUNCAN HUNTER
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September 18, 2012

The Honorable Anne S. Ferro
Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Ferro:

Maintaining a high standard of safety for vehicles on our roads remains a top priority. Given the importance of surface transportation in the day-to-day lives of Americans, it is critical that the laws and rules governing motor carrier transportation are consistent and represent the fairest, most accurate measure of safety.

In line with this belief, I am concerned with the reliability of the current measure for road safety within the Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) program that replaced the SafeStat program in 2010. CSA was established in order to fix many of the broader problems with the methodology of SafeStat. However, as recent testimony before the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit has shown, CSA has replaced old problems with new ones that have the potential of severely misrepresenting the actual safety of carriers and operators.

Specifically, I would like to call your attention to the issue of dismissed citations that remain in the DataQ. At the subcommittee hearing you mentioned that this issue is one of many that is currently being reviewed by your agency. Current procedure requires the operator who received the violation to first challenge the citation in court. Should the judge determine that the ticket was issued incorrectly or inappropriately, and the citation is dismissed, it is up to the carrier, once again, to appeal to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to request that the state remove the dismissed citation from the DataQ. While information on violations is voluntarily and automatically transmitted to the DataQ from the states, dismissed citations are kept in a separate database that is not automatically transferred.

In such an appeal, the final decision requires consent from the law enforcement officer who issued the ticket. This procedure effectively makes a judge's ruling irrelevant for FMCSA's safety rating, and represents a breakdown of due process for the operator in question. Most independent carriers do not have the time or resources to engage in a lengthy, and often futile, appeals process that leaves them with a faulty blemish on their safety record. Furthermore, incorrect safety records remove FMCSA resources from paying close attention to the truly unsafe operators on the road.

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It is my understanding that many of the methodological issues with CSA are being reviewed for possible alteration and improvement. Therefore, I ask that you give careful attention to the issue of dismissed tickets in your review. One option you may wish to consider would be to require that states integrate the database of citations that have been dismissed in a court of law, with the data that FMCSA uses in the DataQ so that the most accurate, up-to-date information is used and erroneous violations do not adversely impact an operator's score.

Ensuring the most accurate safety records is a shared common goal, and I believe that addressing this issue is in line with CSA's mission. I appreciate your careful attention and consideration to this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



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Mark Your Calendar

September 2012

25 Newberry District 2 & Saluda District 1 Meeting, Goodies By Design Restaurant, Newberry, 7 p.m.

October 2012

9 Saluda / Edgefield District 1 Meeting, Pleasant Lane Baptist Church, Edgefield, 7 p.m.

11 Walterboro / Low Country Districts 6, 7 & 8 Meeting, Old House Café, Walterboro, 7 p.m.

12 Helping Supervisors of Drivers Recognize Substance Abuse Training Class, MeadWestvaco Beech Hill Office, 4060 U.S. Hwy 17-A, Ridgeville, 9 am–Noon

16 Chester / Catawba District 3 Meeting, Front Porch Restaurant, Richburg, 7 pm

18 Laurens / Clinton District 5 Meeting, Blue Ocean Restaurant, Clinton, 7 pm

23 Newberry District 2 Meeting, Goodies By Design Restaurant, Newberry, 7 p.m.

25 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, SCFC Headquarters, Columbia, 10 a.m.

30 Georgetown / Coastal District 9 Meeting, Bill's Low Country BBQ, Georgetown, 7 p.m.

November 2012

- 1 Easley / Upstate District 4 Meeting, Fatz Restaurant, Easley, 7 pm
 - 8 Union Area District 3 Meeting, Midway BBQ, Buffalo, 7 p.m.
 - 13 Lugoff / Midlands District 10 Meeting, Hall's Restaurant, Lugoff, 7 p.m.
 - 15 Florence / Pee Dee District 11 Meeting, Palmetto Pulpwood & Timber Office, Florence, 7 p.m.
 - 27 Newberry District 2 Meeting, Goodies By Design Restaurant, Newberry, 7 p.m.
 - 22 Happy Thanksgiving!
- *Saluda/Edgefield/Aiken District 1 Members and Non-Members invited to attend the Newberry District 2 Meetings due to Saluda meetings discontinued.*
 - *Berkeley/Charleston District 8 Members and Non-Members invited to attend the Walterboro District 7 or Georgetown District 9 Meeting due to Moncks Corner meetings discontinued.*
 - *Members in the above areas will receive meeting notices for the other district meetings.*
 - *Meeting dates subject to change. Check the meeting flyer when received.*

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Need SFI Trained DVD Class or other training?

SCTPA can provide the New DVD Training Module for SFI Trained status. SCTPA is an approved DVD training class facilitator and will be scheduling classes during the year. Other training programs are available for safety, driver training, equipment lock-out & 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.