



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

March/April, 2013

2013 SOUTH CAROLINA TEACHERS' TOUR

By Matt Schnabel

On June 18, thirty-five educators from across the state met at Harbison State Forest in Columbia to participate in this year's SC Teachers' Tour. For three days the teachers participated in Project Learning Tree (PLT) activities and listened to guest speakers as they learned about the social, economic, and environmental importance of forestry in our state.

The Teachers' tour began by a welcoming and an overview of forestry in the state from State Forester Gene Kodama and by Cam Crawford, President and CEO of the SC Forestry Association. Over the next three days, discussions and activities were led by other forestry professionals from the SC Forestry Commission. Holly Welch presented "Best Management Practices" and Darryl Jones talked about the protection of endangered species. Russell Hubright discussed the forestry profession and current issues in forestry. Mike Shealy spoke about the management of state lands and Laurie Reid taught about insects and disease that affect our forests. Scott Phillips educated the teachers about the various forest certification programs including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and the American Tree Farm System. Brad Bramlette spoke about wildfire protection, while Sam St. Louis demonstrated the use of equipment used to fight wildfires and prepare lands for prescribed

burns. "I loved the passion that was evident in many speakers. They often made Earth/faith/forestry connections!" said Jeri Stanek, 3rd grade teacher at St. John Neumann Elementary School in Columbia.

Coordinator Matt Schnabel, and SCFC employees Stephanie Kolok and Russell Hubright facilitated many hands-on activities during this 3-day advanced PLT workshop, using PLT curriculum materials to teach the



2013 Teachers' Tour participants along with instructors Stephanie Kolok, Dean Carson, and Matt Schnabel

participants about trees as a renewable resource, forest management practices, global connections of SC forests to the forests of the world, and forest sustainability practices. The teachers were quite impressed with the PLT materials and activities. "I learn and remember best by seeing and touching things," said Charlotte Graham, 3rd/4th grade teacher at Laurens Academy. Some of the PLT activities that teachers participated in included: Tree Cookies, Monitoring Forest Health, Every Tree for Itself, Tough Choices, Tree Factory, Adopt-A-Tree, Forest to Faucet, We All Need Trees, and Seeking Sustainability.

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Teachers Melinda Beach, Ina Stevens, and Bridget Zelachowski participating in PLT activity "How Big is Your Tree?"

Thanks go out to the many sponsors of the Teachers' Tour who furnished meals and scholarships. The Association of Consulting Foresters sponsored a BBQ meal the first night and members of the Enoree Chapter of the Society of American Foresters provided the evening meal on Wednesday. Needless to say, the teachers packed on a few pounds during the entire event.

On Monday of the following week, the teachers met in Columbia to begin four days of touring different forests and forest industries in the Midlands region of the state. Stops from tree farms to forest products mills around the Midlands area showed teachers the "forest to the product" chain. Following is a daily journal of the activities and reactions of the educators during the tour.

Monday, June 24

Morning: Joe Young of Low Country Forest Products and Crad Jaynes of the SC Timber Producers Association welcomed the teachers and discussed the role of harvesting in the state.

Mr. Young described how the forest industry has been an integral part of his life and his entire family. He also passionately explained the "Log-A-Load" program where loggers can give back to local hospitals to buy much needed equipment to help save young children's lives. The highlight of the morning was when Mr. Young stirred everyone's patriotism by leading the entire group in singing "God Bless America."



Teachers ringing the second largest loblolly pine in Congaree National Park

Afternoon: We quickly grabbed our box lunches and rode the bus to Congaree National Park. Undeterred by the threat of thunderstorms and the mosquito meter that read "WAR ZONE," we armed ourselves with plenty of Deep Woods Off to protect ourselves from the little bloodsuckers. We learned about the role of our National Parks and other public lands in protecting unique and important forestlands. Even when our National Park Service ranger could no longer lead our hike because of the threat of storms, our group was determined to carry on. Our fearless leaders Stephanie, Dean, and Matt stepped up to the plate and guided the group to experience the southeastern United States' largest intact expanse of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest.

Evening: Sweaty and tired, we headed back to the hotel to clean up and then enjoy a meal from Hudson's BBQ. Each evening, many teachers enjoyed socializing at the outdoor patio, swimming in the pool, and the other fine amenities at the Hampton Inn.

Tuesday, June 25

Morning: Bright and early at 7:45 (No lollygagging!), the bus departed the hotel for the West-

ton Lake Recreational Area at Fort Jackson. Here, forester Ian Smith showed us how the Army manages their forests while also utilizing it for training its soldiers. Then biologist, Stanley Rickard, talked about the dating service



Jonathan Dorn taking a look at a red-cockaded woodpecker nesting cavity

he provides for the red-cockaded woodpeckers (an endangered species that prefers longleaf pine savanna ecosystems) on base and how the Army is helping in the recovery of this species.

We then headed up to Camden for a tour of the Canfor Southern Pine Sawmill. Davis McGowen welcomed us and we broke into groups to tour the mill. Thankfully, we all returned safely with all of our fingers and toes accounted for, had a quick lunch (provided by Canfor), and then boarded the bus for our next destination.

Afternoon: As we arrived to Billy Cate's property, we were treated to a bucolic landscape of forest and farmland and an ominous and threatening sky. With hopes that the storms

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would miss us, we boarded flat-bed wagons with hay bales for seats to view various tracts of forest with different management prescriptions. Mr. Cate talked about the American Tree Farm Program, conservation easements, and how his family has managed the land. Unfortunately, our optimism was not enough to keep away a deluge of rain, and we all got soaked after a storm blew in while out on the tour. Lots of laughs and positive attitude kept spirits high as we finished our wonderful (but shortened) visit with Mr. Cate.

Back on the bus again, we headed down to Eastover to the International Paper (IP) paper mill. Everybody thought we would smell the mill before we saw it, but surprisingly, there was little odor at all. The immense size of the mill impressed us all. We were welcomed by Mike Walker, and here we saw the local to global connections that the forest industry has in the world. They discussed skills and knowledge they needed to teach in order to make productive employees in today's technological forest products manufacturing plants. *"I didn't realize the amount of technology that is associated with forestry, especially in the mill,"* said Jonathan Dorn, 10th-grade teacher at Eastside High School in Greer.

Evening: To end our day, we headed over to the Millaree Hunt Club and were guests of Marion Burnside. The heavy rains made the road impassible for our charter bus to make it all the way to the clubhouse. The cavalry came to the rescue in the form of a train of 4X4 pick-up trucks to shuttle the entire group the remaining mile to the clubhouse through muddy terrain. The Central Carolina Chapter of the SAF (Society of American Foresters) provided a delicious and filling meal (most of us had never seen grilled chicken breasts so large!). We enjoyed the beauty of the bottomland forest while talking to many professionals in the forest industry.

Wednesday, June 26

Morning: We started the day once again being herded onto the bus by Teachers' Tour assistant coordinator Dean Carson with his cattle prod. We then went down to a logging site, owned by a private land owner, being logged by Michael Doolittle and Charles K. Doolittle Inc. For many teachers, this was the most anticipated and impressive stop of the



A logger explains the operation of a feller-buncher to teacher Keith McCaskill.

tour. It was amazing to see the machines in action and to meet some real loggers on the job. This is always one of the highlights of the tour.

We then drove over to Molly's Rock Recreation Area in Sumter National Forest where we met with Mike Harmon, Archeologist with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). He explained how the USFS manages their lands in South Carolina and the history of the Enoree District of Sumter National Forest. Mr. Harmon explained the connections between protecting the environmental integrity, economics, and the social benefits of forest stewardship of our nation's forests.

Afternoon: We headed down the road to the Norbord Mill in Joanna and enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by Norbord. Here, Chris Gordy and other Norbord employees led us on a tour where they made various oriented strand board (OSB) sheathing products. Again, the sheer size and intricacy of the factory made a lasting impression on the teachers. At every mill on the tour, we were all impressed that nothing on the tree was ever wasted, from bark and shavings, to trimmings in the processing of a tree.

We then boarded the bus one last time and started back to the hotel. While driving through Newberry, we picked up an abandoned forester on the side of the road! (no worries...his wife had dropped him off) Our guest was Mark Kiser, a consulting forester, who gave us another perspective on forest management for private landowners. We stopped at a couple of tracts that Mr. Kiser manages and he showed us how he helps landowners sustainably manage forests for profit while also protecting soil, air, and water quality. Candi Samples, K-5 teacher at Riverview Elementary said, *"Everyone I met was dedicated to the profession and his/her particular role in the overall scheme of preserving sustainability for future generations of living things."*

Evening: Dusty and dirty, we returned to the hotel for a quick (Dean made sure of that) clean-up before going back to Harbison State Forest for the sponsors reception and dinner. It was a wonderful evening where teachers had a chance to talk to the sponsors who helped make the Teachers' Tour possible. After some teacher awards, many handshakes, hugs, toasts, and kind words at the dinner, we all headed back to the ho-



Melanie Birchmore & Martha Brooks receiving the "Cambium" award from Matt Schnabel

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tel and continued the fun and deepening of new friendships. Kathy Peckham, teacher at Covenant Classical Christian School in Columbia said, *“The appreciation of the forests and the love that foresters have for our wonderful country has touched my heart. This course has given me an eye-opener and inspired me to think differently about the forest and its resources.”*

Thursday, June 27

Morning: We lazily started our last morning together at 8 a.m. with a few more sessions of forestry education and final procedures before returning home. Dean Carson spoke about engineered wood products and gave away door prizes (various hand-crafted wooden items for the home) to each teacher. Crad Jaynes spoke about his experiences in the logging industry and leading the SC Timber Producers Association. We were informed how to “like” the South Carolina Teachers’ Tour on Facebook, see pictures, and make contact with past and present Teachers’ Tour participants. Finally, we shared testimonials about our experiences on the Teachers’ Tour and how attitudes were changed over the past two weeks. We shared final hugs and goodbyes and promised to stay in touch.

The SC Teachers’ Tour has had over 560 educators participate in the event since it began in 1997. Over the past 17 years, countless students and other educators have been influenced by the knowledge and experience the teachers gain during this event. Many have gone on to become more involved in Project Learning Tree as facilitators to train other teachers. Some have even won state and national awards because of the inspiration they received during this event and actions they were motivated to do as a result of the Teachers’ Tour. But don’t take just our word for it, listen to the comments of Judy Bagley, a high school teacher from Greer Middle College Charter High School in Greer who was on this year’s tour:

“One of the ways God speaks to me is through nature. ‘The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of his hands.’ In the past, as I would pass a clear-cut area, my thoughts were always that they ruined God’s creation! Now I truly believe the people of this industry are the greatest and most humble servants of God’s creation!”

2013 SC Teachers Tour Participants

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	CITY	SCHOOL	GRADES
Kelly	Adams-Phillips	Orange Beach	Cox Industries	
Judy	Bagley	Taylor	Greer Middle College Charter High School	9-12
Melinda	Beach	Columbia	St. John Neumann Catholic Elementary	3
Allison Fowler	Benner	Simpsonville	UHC Upstate Homeschool Group	2-4
Melanie	Birchmore	Mountville	Laurens Dist. 55 High School	9-12
Martha	Brooks	Liberty	Pickens Middle School	6-8
Renee	Brooks	Abbeville	Diamond Hill Elementary	5
Sharon	Burnett	Union	Laurens Academy	1-2
Tonya	Carbaugh	Simpsonville	Laurens Academy	1-2
Debbie	Carnell	West Columbia	Carolina Springs Middle School	6
Latrice Monique	Carraway	Kingstree	Brockington Elementary	3
Jonathan	Dorn	Greer	Eastside High School	10
Amanda	Ferguson	Abbeville	Westwood Elementary	4-5
Ronnie	Ford	Fairmont	Timberland High School	9-12
Charlotte	Graham	Laurens	Laurens Academy	3-4

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2013 SC Teachers Tour Participants (continued)

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	CITY	SCHOOL	GRADES
Pam	Harrington	Fort Mill	Gold-Hill Middle School	6
Carol	Hudson	Columbia	St. John Newmann Catholic Elementary	K
Kathy	Hutchens	Lexington	Pelion High School	9-11
William	Leaphart	Lexington	Fairfield Central High School	10-11
Keith	McCaskill	Greer	Greer Middle College Charter High School	9 & 12
Alan	McLaurin	Dillon	Dillon High School	12
Julie	Moore	Greer	Greer Middle College Charter High School	9-12
Debra	Mouzon	Florence	Lake City Elementary	5
Kathy	Peckham	Columbia	Covenant Classical Christian School	2, 3 & 5
Candi	Samples	Rock Hill	Riverview Elementary School	K-5
Shirley	Sexton	Cayce	Carolina Springs Middle School	6
Karen	Squiggins	Clover	Clover High School	10-12
Jeri	Stanek	Blythewood	St. John Newmann Catholic Elementary	3
Ina	Stevens	Summerville	Sangaree Middle School	5-11
Bill	Teal	Greer	D. R. Hill Middle School	8
Donna	Turner	Clover	Clover High School	10-12
Tina	Wallace	Sumter	MLD Higher Learning Academy	4-5
Carolyn	Williams	Columbia	St. John Neumann Catholic Elementary	1
Wendy	Wilson	Gaffney	Willow Tree Community School	2-9
Lekeshi	Wormley	Rock Hill	Rock Hill High School	9-12
Bridget	Zelachowski	Columbia	St. John Neumann Catholic Elementary	K, 1 & 3

SC Teachers' Tour Testimonials

"Experiences are priceless. Opportunities for me to gain the knowledge about forestry are rare. The ability to share in my school, community, and family will help change the way forestry is seen in our country." – Wendy Wilson, Willow Tree Community School, Gaffney

"I was amazed at the technology that was not only used at the factories but by the logger." – Alan McLaurin, Dillon High, Dillon

"Best workshop I've attended in 40 years of teaching!" – Carolyn Williams, St. John Neumann Catholic Elementary, Columbia

"I will no longer cringe as much when a logging truck pulls out of the forest with a full load of logs. I will think about the 90,000 jobs provided by the forest industry and all the wonderful people involved in sustaining South Carolina's forests." – Kathy Hutchens, Pelion High, Pelion

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"There was a wealth of information that I will now take back to my classroom and when people truly don't understand, explain to them the truth about forestry." – Bridget Zelachowski, St. John Neumann Catholic Elementary, Columbia

"I really enjoyed learning about something for which I had misconceptions. I will implement the Project Learning Tree activities into my lessons this year." – Latrice Carraway, Brockington Elementary, Timmonsville

"I had a great appreciation for the professionalism and hospitality of the people in this industry. These people had careers not jobs." – Karen Squiggins, Clover High, Clover

"I thought earlier that when a forest was clear cut, that the land was ruined. However, after this class, I realize that if the land is replanted, it will produce a mature forest in 30 years." – Shirley Sexton, Carolina Springs Middle, Lexington

"I now understand that forestry is not depleting the world of trees, but rather sustaining a renewable resource very responsibly." – Sharon Burnett, Laurens Academy, Laurens

"Clear cuts are ok and controlled/prescribed burning is a positive action and can prevent forest fires." – Pam Harrington, Gold Hill Middle, Fort Mill

"The most valuable experience for me was seeing the clear cut, equipment, and workers from the Doolittle logging site. It made the biggest impact on me because I had preconceived notions about clear cutting." – Martha Brooks, Pickens Middle, Pickens

"I enjoyed the Project Learning Tree activities because they can be directly used in the classroom." – Lekeshi Wormley, Rock Hill High, Rock Hill

"I never thought loggers were bad, but I now understand how good the industry truly is and its importance." – Tonya Carbaugh, Laurens Academy, Laurens

"I enjoyed everything! I can't pick one part because I learned something new all the time." – Renee Brooks, Diamond Hill Elementary, Abbeville

"I learned that there are a wide range of career opportunities within the forest industry." – Melanie Birchmore, Laurens District 55 High, Laurens

"Forestry is a great business with great people who have the environment's best interest in mind." – Amanda Ferguson, Westwood Elementary, Abbeville

"I have gone from a tree lover to an educated tree lover...BIG DIFFERENCE." – Carol Hudson, St. John Neumann Catholic Elementary, Columbia

"I had no idea of the extent of work that goes into cutting the timber and maintaining our forests. The foresters' dedication and passion were very touching." – Debbie Carnell, Carolina Springs Middle, Lexington

"The newest perception would have to be the idea that the industry is self-sustaining and renewable." – William Leaphart, Fairfield Central High, Winnsboro

"My favorite part of the program was being a part of the 'forestry family,' if only for a few days." – Bill Teal, D.R. Hill Middle, Greer

"The Teachers' Tour opened a whole new world of 'multi' dimensions. Seeing all the forest products gave me a greater appreciation for all the timber industry members." – Ina Stevens, Sangaree Middle, Berkeley County

"Sustaining forest lands is very important for local communities, the state, and our nation." – Ronnie Ford, Timberland High, Berkeley County

"I most enjoyed being with other teachers who are willing to learn new things. We were treated with such respect and appreciation." – Melinda Beach, St. John Neumann Catholic Elementary, Columbia

"I enjoyed meeting all the professionals from many areas in the forest industry. I think putting a face, personality, perception of high integrity with titles deepens my appreciation for what they do and why they do it." – Donna Turner, Clover High, Clover

"I found new ways to expose my students to ways they can learn to appreciate our forests and all the uses that I typically would have taken for granted." – Tina Wallace, MLD Higher Learning Academy, Sumter

"I enjoyed the actual site visits because they showed the step by step processes that went into producing each product." – Debra Mouzon, Lake City Elementary, Lake City

"I enjoyed the opportunity to learn and see first-hand how wood is manufactured and how forests are re-grown." – Allison Benner, UHC Upstate Homeschool Group, Greer

"There is nothing like 'hands on.' Seeing is believing!" – Keith McCaskill, Greer Middle College Charter High, Greer

"I learned that maintaining a forest is a lot of work and is

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the responsibility of us all, not just the SC Forestry Commission.” – Julie Moore, Greer Middle College Charter High, Greer

“This course has not only given me knowledge but has also opened my heart in so many ways.” - Kelly Adams Phillips, Cox Industries, Orangeburg

“I didn’t know that every bit of the tree was utilized in some way.” – Jeri Stanek, St. John Neumann Catholic Elementary, Columbia

“I think a committed, informed member of the forest industry is our most valuable resource. He/She makes all the difference in the world.” – Charlotte Graham, Laurens Academy, Laurens



See more Teachers' Tour Photos on page 7.

SCTPA & SC TEACHERS' TOUR

By Crad Jaynes

SCTPA is extremely proud to sponsor and participate in our SC Teachers Tour. This is by far one of the most important educational experiences our industry can provide in the Palmetto State. The saying was once again heard over and over ... “I had no idea.”

SCTPA arranges the professional timber harvesting stop, participates daily with tour activities, interacts in the evening discussions regarding daily stops and is there to assist in whatever capacity needed.

Our appreciation goes out to John and Michael Doolittle, Charles K. Doolittle, Inc., for their time on the logging stop. The teachers visited John’s crew on a private tract in Newberry County that will be reforested. The fully mechanized operation was a combination renewal (clearcut), thinning and woody biomass chipping of un-merchantable understory operation. Teachers

were able to see the operation leaving residual hardwoods in wildlife and scenery areas.

Thanks to John, Michael and the crew for the splendid efforts to make the logging job visit informative, fun and an experience the teachers will long remember. Thanks guys!

SCTPA provided the teachers with information packages about professional timber harvesting, American Loggers Council, logger interest stories and other items along with SCTPA caps. Plus a full description of the operation with a breakdown of all the equipment, trucks and trailers, service vehicles and the other tools and equipment was shown indicating the investment on this one job.

Thanks to ALL the partners, cooperators, speakers and sponsors who helped make this year’s tour a success. And of course, thanks to Dean, Matt and Stephanie for their hard work.

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Teachers' Tour 2013





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The challenge was presented in my closing remarks, go forth and preach the gospel of SC sustainable forestry and professional timber harvesting. I am confident we now have 36 very good disciples.

Dear Crad,

Just want to thank you again for all the time and effort that you put into making teachers' tour 2013 so successful. I know you took out a lot of time from your busy schedule to make sure this was a success. I have a greater appreciation for Forestry and this great state as a result. Your vast knowledge was very helpful. Thanks for treating us like kings and queens. The 3 of us from GMCCHS are already making plans to use the materials we were given. From math problems to discussion questions, etc. ... This truly is the best course I have taken in my teaching career.

Keith McCaskill, Greenville Middle College Charter High School, Greer

Dear Crad,

Thank you so much for all your hard work for our Teachers' Tour. In forty years of teaching, it was the most meaningful workshop that I have ever attended. You were

informative, spiritual, and just such a delight. I'm on my soapbox telling all of my teacher friends that they deserve this incredible experience. Thanks again for everything.

Carolyn Williams, St. John Neumann Catholic Elementary, Columbia

Dear Crad,

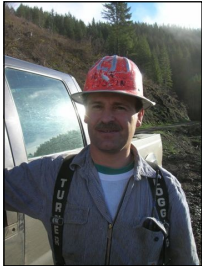
Thank you so much for your support for the SC Teachers Tour and for your interesting talks you gave us. Your passion and dedication to the forestry industry was contagious! I may be contacting you to come speak to my students since we are located in Lexington. Thanks again.

Debbie Carnell, Carolina Springs Middle School, West Columbia

Dear Crad.

Thank you for being so kind in all you did for the teachers tour last week. I really enjoyed getting to know you and Brenda. You bring a lot to our industry. You are the Best.

Kelly Phillips, Cox Industries, Orangeburg. Kelly resides in Orange Beach, AL and is the education liaison for Cox Industries traveling the eastern U.S educating architects and engineers about wood and treated wood products.



The Next Generation?

Mark Turner – Turner Logging

Recently, during an Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) executive committee meeting, I learned there was a timber company executive who was very concerned about the looming shortage of logging contractors. He wanted to know what AOL could do to help set up training programs to help with this problem.

It takes a special kind of person to be a logging contractor. If you haven't lived it, it's very difficult to understand what it's like. I am realizing that there is a lack of understanding, by some in the timber industry, of what makes the people who harvest our nation's timber tick.

To understand where we are going in the logging industry, we must first have some understanding of where we have been. I used to think that my experiences as a logger were unique to Oregon; however, after working with the American Loggers Council for a few years, I now realize that it is very much an American experience.

My dad started his logging company in the late 50s. Back then, as he said, "If you had an old wore out cat and a chainsaw, you were a logger". Back then, there was lots of work and loggers made better than average wages. As my brothers and I grew up, we spent as much time as we could up in the woods. Every Saturday and much of the summer, us kids would ride up to the woods. There were unlimited hills to climb and creeks to explore. There still seemed to be lots of time for family vacations and when hunting or fishing was good, there always seemed to be a lot of time for those as well.

Once we got old enough, we started helping out in dad's operation. There weren't many child labor laws back then so, at an early age, we learned how to run a chainsaw, set chokers and operate cats and skidders. Like many sons of loggers, I assumed that that's what I would do for a living, I would be a logger. My mom had other ideas, as moms often do. I remember her fervently trying to convince me to be "something other than a logger". She had seen the stress and strains that being a logging contractor had put on my father. Worse, she had lived through the experience of my older brother being killed in a logging accident.

After going to college and starting a promising engineering career, the woods started calling me back. I have often heard that "you can take the logger out of the woods but you can't take the woods out of the logger".

After our dad passed away in the mid 90's, my brother and I took over his operation. Things had changed a lot from when he started logging. Profit mar-

gins were lower and wages had stagnated. My brother and I, however, felt that if we just worked hard enough, we could make a go of it.

Our equipment, however, was old and worn out, worth more as scrap metal than anything else. We spent three quarters of a million dollars on equipment upgrades. The same upgrades would cost millions of dollars these days and would make it very difficult to make ends meet. Can you even imagine, in today's world, a bank lending a couple of young brothers with virtually no collateral in equipment and no equity, multi millions of dollars to start a logging company?

We also built a niche for ourselves, cable thinning. We were eventually recruited by a timber company with large land holdings, to do their cable thinning. It seemed to be a good arrangement, until the market dropped. The company representative came out and told us that the "bean counters told him to cut out the expensive logging" as cable thinners, he said, "that's you". When we asked about our signed contract, he informed us that "they always have an out in their contracts".

It was then that we learned that contracts in the timber industry are for the timber companies and not the loggers. Many loggers were faced with the same situation, during our latest economic downturn. As loggers, we all know that we can be told at any time to clean up what we have down and move out.

Nowadays, our profit margins are lower than they have ever been. This fact was echoed recently by Kevin Thieneman (President of Caterpillar Forest Products), who I met at a recent ALC event. He confided that "Caterpillar has a finance division and we see lots of profit and loss statements and loggers do not make enough money".

As for our generation, our fates are sealed. We are loggers. We will persevere and do what it takes to make it through.

So what about the future then? Like many other loggers, my brother and I are not pushing our children to be loggers. There is so much hard and dangerous work required for so little return, that it feels like we would be doing them a disservice.

Until things fundamentally change in the timber industry, it's hard to imagine where the next generation of loggers will come from.

So what kinds of changes are needed? I have some ideas and am quite sure many of you do as well. Perhaps I'll explore those in a future article.

Mark Turner owns and operates Turner Logging located in Buxton, Oregon. Mark serves on the ALC Board of Directors and is the Western Regional Delegate on the American Loggers Council Executive Committee.

AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL
19th Annual Meeting
September 26 – 28, 2013
Marksville, LA



“Experience Louisiana”

On behalf of the American Loggers Council, I invite you to attend our 19th Annual meeting in historic Marksville, Louisiana. The Marksville and surrounding area offers one of the most historic regions found anywhere in the state, including many historic plantation style homes that date back to the 19th century.

Your flight into Alexandria, Louisiana will allow you to take the short drive east to Marksville and arrive at the resort in about 40 minutes. If you prefer, flights and rental cars are available in nearby Shreveport, or for the more adventurous, New Orleans and Houston.

The Paragon Casino Resort offers amenities such as golf, a full service European Spa, shopping, a multi-screen theater and a whole host of other activities that will make your visit here a memorable one.

Sharon and I are excited that you are visiting our part of the country, and she and I, as well as the Louisiana Logging Council, will do all that we can to make this a trip that you will enjoy. Come relax in the surroundings and find out why we are proud to call Louisiana our home.

Travis Taylor

President
American Loggers Council

ALC Annual Meeting Notes: The ALC board of directors and full membership meetings will be conducted. Other events include the full membership awards luncheon with sponsor recognition, President's and “Bubba” awards, Swamp Tour near Breaux Bridge, LA, ladies plantation home tour and lunch with shopping in St. Francisville, LA, and ladies fashion show, president's reception, dinner and ALC auction, president's farewell banquet with the presentation of Timber Harvesting magazine's Logging Business of the Year and the passing of the ALC gavel.

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THE ROLLERCOASTER

Many years ago, I remember a trip I made with my family to an amusement park where we enjoyed spending the day seeing the sights and riding the rides. One of the biggest excitements came when I found out that I was tall enough to ride the rollercoaster, but what I did not realize then was that the rollercoaster “effect” would follow me throughout my adult life.

We have all experienced the rollercoaster effect; the ups and downs of the economy, the highs and lows of growing older, and the good times and bad times of the timber harvesting industry...sometimes up, sometimes down.

We are still on that rollercoaster. While markets have shown some improvement over the past few months for the products and services that we provide, there is still the potential threat of more regulation that could stymie our growth.

For the past 18 months, the American Loggers Council has worked with other associations in an attempt to secure legislation that would permanently exempt using forest roads from the NPDES permitting system. Many of our sponsors have jumped into the fray with us, including Caterpillar Forest Products and John Deere. We have been in the trenches in Washington, DC, working together to try and put a common sense bill into place that would remove one more “worry” from our still recovering industry.

On June 18th, we got an unexpected surprise. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives decided to attach the Silviculture Regulatory Exemption Act as

an amendment to the House Version of the Farm Bill. Immediately, a call to action was sent out requesting that everyone call their representatives and ask that they support the amendment in the Farm Bill. Because of the great work put in by all, the amendment passed on the floor of the House on a voice vote on June 19th, with no one debating in opposition of the amendment.

But then came June 20th, when members of the House voted on final passage of the Farm Bill. The Bill went down in smoke by a vote of 194 for and 234 against.

Unfortunately, larger considerations of the Farm Bill such as the Food Stamp (SNAP) program carried a lot more weight than our forest roads amendment, but the fact remains that the vast majority of the members of the House voted favorably on the language that was included in the amendment, understanding that the language in the amendment made sense.

Once again we have experienced the rollercoaster effect that comes with life, and once again, we find ourselves at the bottom of the hill slowing climbing our way back up. I’m not so certain that the idea of riding roller coasters anymore is appealing, but you can rest assured that the American Loggers Council will do its part in securing legislation that is favorable towards the timber harvesting industry, even if the ride is not always as smooth as we would like.

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.

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American Loggers Council Quarterly Report to the States April 1, 2013 – June 30, 2013

The ALC Board of Directors has requested that a quarterly report be generated from the ALC office, highlighting the events and activities of the American Loggers Council. Our hopes are that you will use these reports to inform your members on how the American Loggers Council is working on their behalf to benefit the timber harvesting industry.

Board of Directors Meeting

The ALC Board of Directors and Executive Committee met in Washington, DC on April 13, 2013. Reports were presented from the Legislative, Transportation, Communications, Membership, and Master Logger Certification Committees, as well as an update from the Executive Committee.

Legislation

On April 11-12, 2013, members of the American Loggers Council attended a fly-in to Washington, DC that was combined with the spring Board of Directors meeting on April 13th. Over the course of two days, the members, accompanied by guests from sponsor organizations, completed 109 visits to Capitol Hill where they discussed issues that were important to the timber harvesting and transportation industry. Those issues included: 1) Federal Timber Sale program and appropriations, 2) truck weights on the Federal Interstate Highway System, 3) NPDES permit requirements for forest roads, 4) an inclusive definition for woody biomass

in federal policies, 5) supporting youth careers in logging, and 6) domestic energy supplies and jobs.

Representatives from Caterpillar Forest Products and the Southern Loggers Cooperative participated in some of the visits.

On Friday afternoon, April 12, ALC members met at the National Association of Manufacturer's offices for a roundtable discussion where presentations were made by representatives from the National Alliance of Forest Owners, Caterpillar Forest Products, John Deere, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, the National Association of Conservation Districts,

and also heard a report from Robert Bonnie, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture for Environment and Climate. The overall "theme" of the meeting was to

discuss legislative priorities for 2013 and to see where the organizations could find commonality to work together on some of the issues.

Danny has been participating in weekly conference calls organized by the National Alliance of Forest Owners focused on the Forest Roads/NPDES permit issue and pending legislation to permanently exempt silvicultural activities (including timber harvests) from the NPDES permitting process.

On June 19, legislation was introduced in the House as an amendment to the 2014 Farm Bill and was passed, without objection. Unfortunately, the House rejected the Farm Bill the next day, June 20, primarily due to language pertaining to cuts in the SNAP (food stamp) program. The ALC will continue to look for cosponsors for the legislation as the issue moves forward again.

Danny has also continued to participate on conference calls with the Federal Forest Resource Committee, the Federal Woody Biomass Utilization Group and the Federal Timber Purchasers Council as well as participated in telephone conversations with the US Department of Justice pertaining to industry acquisitions.

Transportation

The ALC transportation committee and others met with US Department of Transportation officials while in Washington, DC. Some of the issues that were discussed during the meeting included CSA requirements, truck weights, and cargo securement regulations. ALC member Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association had a follow up meeting back in Wisconsin with US DOT representatives on the cargo securement regulations as they pertain to short logs/pulpwood loaded crosswise on trailers.

Communications

There have been monthly "As We See It" columns produced in April,

(Continued on page 14)



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May and June written by Henry Schinebeck, Mark Turner and Danny Dructor. All three articles were focused on the profitability of loggers and self-perception as well as the concern over where the next generation of loggers will come from.

A press release was issued as a follow-up to activities during the Washington, DC fly-in and distributed to all of the major trade publications.

Monthly "Washington Resource" reports, authored by ALC's Washington Liaison Frank Stewart have been distributed to ALC membership.

The ALC web site and both the ALC Facebook® and Twitter® pages continue to be updated on a fairly regular basis, and the number of visits and "friends" continues to grow.

The ALC has entered discussions with Planet Media on the feasibility of placing an insert of up to 12 pages in length in USA Today, depicting American Loggers and the role that the industry plays in the economical and social well being of the United States and the issues that are plaguing the industry. The Board of Directors will take up the discussions in July.

Membership

The membership committee continued moving forward with the 2013 Sponsorship Drive and goals for both voting members and Individual Logger members. Packets for individual logger recruitment were shipped out in early April to Leslie Equipment in West Virginia for a trial run. Leslie equipment has stores in both West Virginia and Ohio where the ALC has no representation.

The sponsorship drive has already reached 115% of its target for 2013 with commitments totaling \$143,750 out of a \$125,000 target. We welcome Lyme Timber Company as the first TIMO sponsor of the ALC.

The ALC has reached out to the Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers Association executive Scott Dane requesting that the organization consider rejoining the ALC and hopes to keep those discussions ongoing.

We would also like to welcome Quiram Logging, Chatham Wood, L&S Logging, and F&C Logging

as our latest Individual Logger Member category supporters.

Master Logger Certification Committee

The MLC committee began reviewing the request for comments for the revision process for the SFI standards. Two areas that are currently under consideration are the "de minimus" provisions for accepting gate wood from untrained loggers, and the need to provide consistency for LT&E requirements nation-wide. These two items will be discussed at the summer Board meeting to be held in mid-July.

Travel

Travel in the 2nd Quarter of 2013 included the April trip to Washington, DC for the spring fly-in and Board of Directors meeting, travel to Winnfield, Louisiana to meet with ALC resident Travis Taylor and the annual meeting planning committee to discuss events for the 2013 annual meeting, as well as a visit with the Louisiana Loggers Association during their annual meeting to give an update on ALC activities.

In May, Danny Dructor traveled to Escanaba, Michigan to meet with ALC Vice President Brian Nelson to discuss plans and review the meeting site for the 2014 annual meeting. Following the meeting at the hotel, Danny and Brian made the trip to Winn, Michigan where Danny made a presentation during ALC sponsor Morbark demo days.

Danny attended a meeting put together by the US Department of Agriculture and the US Endowment for Forests and Communities in late May where the topic of conversation was to see what changes were needed to make certain that the forests and the forest industry were both healthy into the future. DK Knight with Hatton-Brown Publishers gave a presentation on the state of the timber harvesting industry, and he and Danny were both present to answer questions and participate in break-out sessions that further discussed the current timber supply chain economics.

In June, Danny attended a Forest Research Advisory Committee meeting in Washington, DC, where participants listened to the priorities of the USDA on what is needed to further research for sustainable forests and management, and helped

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(Continued from page 14)

draft a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture detailing the recommendations of the committee. The letter should be finalized in early July.

Washington Resource

Frank Stewart continues to produce a monthly report that has been distributed across ALC membership. Frank has also stayed engaged in the early stages of the Transportation Bill, focusing on truck weights.

SUMMER IN THE LOGGING WOODS

Our jobs in the forest industry require us to work year round in all types of weather conditions. Today we will talk about the summer heat and logging woods. OSHA has an annual training requirement that is the Heat Stress Management Program. This program educates your employees on heat related illnesses and to ultimately avoid the possibility of suffering a heat stroke. Heat stroke is a life-threatening illness with a very high death rate. If honest to goodness heat stroke is diagnosed, the chance of survival is slim. The goal of the training is to educate our people on the different stages of heat sickness to avoid the risk of a heat stroke.



Heat Cramps are the first signs of the body getting over-heated. Heat cramps are muscle spasms that affect the legs; arms and sometimes the stomach. Heat cramps can be painful; they are caused by excessive sweating. Water and sports drinks such as Gatorade that contain electrolytes are suggested to help the body. Fruits such as bananas and grapes help to replace lost potassium in the system. While heat cramps are not considered serious, we must take note of these early signs of a heat problem. Workers should drink 5 – 7 ounces of water every 20 minutes while exposed to excessive heat conditions.

Heat Exhaustion occurs when the internal cooling system is over-worked. This serious phase occurs when the body sweats more liquid than is being replaced. Symptoms of heat exhaustion are; fatigue; dizziness; clumsiness; headache; nausea; hyperventilation; clammy skin; loss of appetite; weak and rapid pulse and possibly low to normal blood pressure. Trained employees are capable of recognizing and helping other employees that may be having a problem. If heat exhaustion is present, we must cool the core temperature down. Get the employee to a cool area, the air conditioned cabs of logging equipment or service trucks can be of great help. The worker should lie down, with the feet slightly elevated. Applying cool water and fanning the victim will help get the core temperature lowered. Encourage the worker to drink water or sports drinks. If cooling measures are not working, medical help should be sought. Again, it is very important to get the core body temperature lowered!

Heat Stroke --- Call 911!! Heat Stroke happens when the core temperature reaches deadly extremes, often 103 – 108 degrees. When these levels are met, the body actually starts shutting down! Seconds count! Get the body cool, while waiting for the EMT's to arrive! Trained employees can save lives.

Tips For Hot Weather Logging

- Drink plenty of water before, during and after exposure to the heat. Dark yellow colored urine is a sign of not enough water being consumed.
- Avoid caffeinated drinks; they tend to make you thirstier.

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- Keep in the shade as much as possible. The deck or landing areas are noted “hot-spots” on a logging job. Lunch or break areas are well suited inside the tree line, off of the landing or deck site. (Be sure to check for OVERHEAD HAZARDS before choosing the cooler lunch area.)
- Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing.
- Doctors recommend at least 8 glasses of water on a normal day, twice that should be consumed during high heat periods.
- Work smart, the brain can save a lot of foot steps, less foot steps, less fatigue.
- If at all possible do most of the manual felling during the early morning to avoid the heat of the day.
- If possible, toppers should be stationed in a shaded “safe zone” from the skidders.
- Limit the time your toppers are exposed to the direct sun. Make one trip out of the safe zone to top 3 or 4 drags, rather than running out to top single drags of wood.
- Timber cutters can cut their whole drag, before going down to top the timber. Limit your trips up and down the slope.
- Timber cutters and saw-hands can be outfitted with hydration bags or “camel packs” to have easy access to much needed water during the work day. Typically, this equipment holds 64 ounces of water, and is worn in the middle of the upper back, they aren’t bulky and the weight is a non-issue. These bags are equipped with a “bite-tube” to allow access to water, even while sawing. I started wearing this system about two years ago, and wish I had discovered this equipment sooner!
- Equipment operators should keep a “trained eye” on ground personnel for signs of heat stress.

Ultimately, we have to work in the heat to feed our families and pay the bills. If we pay attention to keeping enough water in, and thinking through our work plans, fatigue and heat stress can be reduced. We must remember that fatigue breaks down the thought process. A sharp and alert mind will conquer risk by employing a proper technique or a correct decision. We can beat the summer heat by working smarter, not harder; keep an eye on each other!



15TH SCTPA ANNUAL MEETING

SCTPA is excited to announce our 15th Annual Meeting will be held February 7 – 9, 2014 at the Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center, 3200 South Ocean Boulevard, Myrtle Beach.

Despite a few glitches, which happens at a new facility, Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center worked very well for the 2013 meeting. Based on attendee comments and the service provided by Springmaid’s staff, we look forward to this being our venue again.

Rooms connected to the conference center are all double queen beds equipped with a full size refrigerator-freezer and two sinks, one inside and one outside the bathroom. Rooms with king bed along with one and two bedroom suites are located in a building across the property. There is a limited number of king and suites available.

The Conference Center is impressive with plenty of exhibitor and meeting room space. SCTPA will utilize the second and third floors.

The second floor will be used for registration desk, exhibitors and speaker presentations. 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 should be open. Barnacles restaurant is located on Springmaid Pier adjacent to the resort and also may be available.

The usual flow of events will be scheduled. We’ll also utilize the parking lot for outside exhibitors with equipment, trucks and trailers.

Room rates are being negotiated. But it is anticipated the rates will remain the same or increase only slightly.

Meeting preparations and speaker invitations are already underway. Annual meeting packages will be mailed this Fall.

Check out Springmaid Beach Resort at SpringmaidBeach.com

We are excited and look forward to our 15th SCTPA Annual Meeting.



THE PERFECT SOLUTION

By Teri Luther, Apprenticeship Carolina

Every once in a while, you run across the perfect solution — the one ideally aligned with your goals. Apprenticeship Carolina may just be that solution.

Housed in the SC Technical College System, this unassuming program is an absolute gem for building South Carolina's skilled workforce. Apprenticeship Carolina dedicates its resources to increasing registered apprenticeship in the state.

And, they have done just that. South Carolina currently boasts one of the fastest growing apprenticeship systems in the country and is garnering numerous national accolades and recognitions.

Since its beginnings in 2007, Apprenticeship Carolina has played a key role in growing apprenticeship participation from just 90 companies to now more than 600. The number of apprentices has grown exponentially with nearly 7,200 apprentices across the state. In 2007, only twenty-two South Carolina counties had registered programs, now all forty six counties are represented with at least one registered program.

The growth is phenomenal. "Our growth strategy sets us apart," said Brad Neese, director of Apprenticeship Carolina. "We made a conscious decision to break down the traditional barriers to registered apprenticeship. We're redefining a centuries old concept and making it something that has real value for business and industry in South Carolina."

Apprenticeship Carolina proactively reaches out to nontraditional sectors such as healthcare, finance, hospitality and tourism, information technology and advanced manufacturing with the message that apprenticeship has evolved. It is no longer limited to just traditional occupations. These nontraditional sectors can also benefit.

Today in South Carolina, companies such as Simpson Lumber, International Paper, Abitibi Bowater, Carastatur, Kapstone and many others have registered apprenticeship programs. These programs represent such occupations as maintenance, production and machine operators. A

sampling of other available apprenticeable occupations includes tree maintenance technicians, crane operators, truck drivers and loggers.

Apprenticeship Carolina's innovative approach has not gone unnoticed. President Barack Obama expressed his commitment to supporting programs like apprenticeship. Programs that "help ensure America remains home to the most creative and talented workforce in the world."

Last May, the White House demonstrated this commitment inviting representatives from Apprenticeship Carolina to participate in a roundtable discussion focused on youth apprenticeship. In addition, the U.S. Department of Labor honored Apprenticeship Carolina with a 21st Century Innovators and Trailblazers Award. This award recognizes programs for their long-standing success and innovative approaches to training U.S. workers.

A commitment to building South Carolina's talent lies at the heart of Apprenticeship Carolina's growth. "We have a very business-centric focus. As we introduce the benefits of registered apprenticeship, companies see the value in it – higher skills, decreased turnover, consistent training and a reliable plan for transferring knowledge from an aging, experienced workforce to the next generation of talented employees," said Neese. "We walk companies through the process. We make it very easy – painless, in fact."

In addition, eligible businesses can receive a South Carolina tax credit of \$1,000 per apprentice per year for up to four years.

As South Carolina works to grow its skilled workforce, enhance its competitiveness and increase the employability of its citizens, Apprenticeship Carolina is a program ideally aligned with these goals — it very well could be that perfect solution.

To find out more about registered apprenticeship and if it is the right workforce solution for you, call Teri Luther at (803) 397-4699.

SCTPA Comments: SCTPA has met with Teri Luther and discussed how Apprenticeship Carolina might be implemented to assist SC timber harvesting businesses. Further discussions will be held to hopefully develop a strategy and program for the variety of tasks and positions involved in the timber harvesting industry.





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ROAD FUNDS GET BOOST, BUT BACKLOG IS HUGE

By Mike Fitts
colanews@scbiznews.com
Published July 8, 2013

For the first time in more than two decades, South Carolina will allocate millions of dollars from new sources for spending on its highways. Still to be seen: Is this a sea change in road funding, or just a single big splash?

On June 24, Gov. Nikki Haley signed the bill that includes \$50 million in recurring funds allocated to the State Infrastructure Bank to be bonded for \$500 million, according to the S.C. Chamber of Commerce. The package also includes moving half of the sales tax on automobiles to the highway fund on a recurring basis, generating about \$41 million annually. Additionally, \$50 million in one-time funds will be used for bridge repairs. The chamber and numerous business groups urged the Legislature to find money to fix and improve the highways.

"We are creating investment and we are creating a future for all the manufacturers that are here and all the manufacturers that are coming, and all the small businesses that everyday struggle," Haley said.

Haley noted that she highlighted infrastructure as a need in her State of the State address this year, and the legislation would create new jobs in construction without raising taxes. Haley and many lawmakers have taken the stance that government must live within its means and not expand spending without corresponding budget cuts.

Leadership at the state chamber called this bill important but only the first big step toward really addressing the state's backlog of road and bridge work, which the S.C. Transportation Department estimates would take \$29 billion.

"We think it's a great first step in highway funding," said Darrell Scott, chamber vice president of public policy. Approving \$600 million in new funds is "making a dent" in the problem, Scott said. Scott noted that this measure adds recurring funding that comes from a source other than the fuel taxes, an important precedent.

"It keeps our entire industry busy for the next two years building roads and improving our bridges," said chamber CEO Otis Rawl. "Then, over time, we'll begin to look at how we fund the rest of it."

Will the Legislature do more in the coming years or treat this as a one-time event? Scott said he believes this year's action represents a new awareness of the major issues with road and bridge maintenance, one that will lead to more action in the future. Legislators are committed to a solid transportation system, Scott said.

Finding the political will in the Statehouse to do more about roads will continue to be a challenge, according to Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens. Martin advocated during this year's session for a 5-cents

Rick Todd, president of the S.C. Trucking Association, is pleased that the Legislature and governor have recognized the highways as a major issue and taken action.

per gallon increase in the fuel tax. To really address the shortfall, a tax increase of 10 to 12 cents per gallon would be required, but he brought forward a

five-cent increase as a concession toward what was politically possible, Martin said. Even that did not pass, Martin noted. "Right now, nothing is possible."

The 5-cent increase would still make South Carolina's gasoline tax 11 cents per gallon lower than in North Carolina, and the two states have about the same size state road system, Martin said.

Why try to push such an increase? Martin notes that there are some bridges in his district that are no longer rated to carry school buses. That's emblematic of a problem that affects all the state's citizens and needs to be addressed, Martin believes.

He hopes lawmakers will be watching as the Transportation Department makes use of these additional funds. It may take two years for SCDOT to demonstrate that it will use the money well and help transportation back in members' home districts, Martin said.

Rick Todd, president of the S.C. Trucking Association, is pleased that the Legislature and gover-

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nor have recognized the highways as a major issue and taken action. He also likes that the new money is tied to growth in the state's general fund and to the vehicle sales tax, both positive first steps before any tax increase. Todd said his organization's members understand that a general tax increase might be needed long term to do all the work the state's roads need.

He also sounds a cautionary note about how much road a \$100 million annual infusion can build. You could fix Columbia's "malfunction junction" and improve Interstate 26's capacity in Columbia, Todd said, and that would spend most if not all of the state's additional dollars for the year.

Given the size of the road work everyone agrees is needed across the state, it's time to have a real discussion about all the options for paying for it, Todd said.

Both Todd and Martin are a little skeptical that discussion will happen next year, with both the House and governor up for re-election in 2014. Both of the expected major-party candidates for governor, Haley and Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden, have ruled out an increase in the tax rate at the pump, Todd noted.

The topic definitely will come up again, Scott said, because business and Statehouse leaders both understand that the roads are linked directly to economic competitiveness. Compared with our neighboring states, South Carolina has ground to make up, Scott acknowledged.

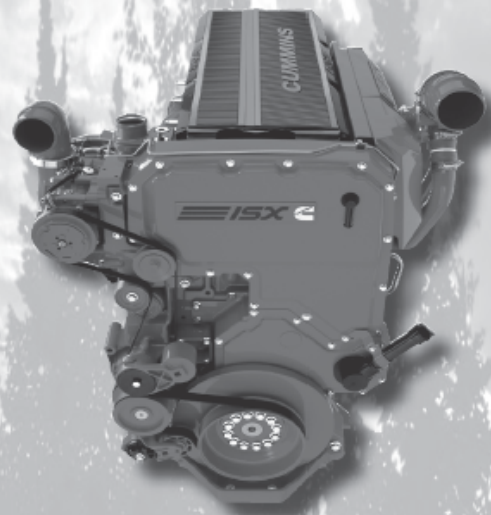
"This bill this year keeps us in the ball game," Scott said.

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Arledge Logging & Timber, Inc. & A & A Wood Products, LLC

SCTPA visited member Arledge Logging & Timber, Inc. and A & A Wood Product's office and woodyard in Landrum on June 18th to conduct an SFI DVD Training Class for logger member Noble Capps, Jr., Noble Capps, Jr. Logging, Inc.

Norman Arledge, past SCTPA board member, was gracious to let us use his office for the class and visit for the afternoon.

Just wanted to share some photos of Norman's woodyard and his handy work as a wood sculpture maker. Norman carved the bear shown using a chainsaw. He also had two pelicans (not shown) on the rear entrance to his office he had done. Norman, didn't know you had so much talent! Thanks for the visit.



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sonville*

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Forestry Mutual Insurance Company
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Cypress Risk Management Ltd. Co.
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Chemsearch RLS
Apex, NC

Darby Oil, Inc.
Chester

Kunkle Oil Co., Inc.
Newberry

Monroe Oil Co., Inc.
Monroe, NC

(Continued on page 29)

FMCSA Barges Into Safety Management: The Safety Management Cycle and How it Might Affect You

Related Attorneys - Rob Moseley & Kurt Rozelsky

With little fanfare, FMCSA issued its Safety Management Cycle documents back in January. While it's not unusual for the FMCSA to be concerned about safety management, FMCSA's habit of issuing comments and rules outside of the Administrative Procedures Act has gotten to be a regular event as well. FMCSA issued a paper for each of the basics including the former basic on cargo, now rebranded as Hazmat. Each of the papers starts by identifying a safety management cycle framework.

The safety management cycle is defined as six different areas. The cycle begins with (1) policies and procedures, (2) is refined with roles and responsibilities, (3) is implemented through qualification and hiring, (4) training and communication, (5) monitoring and tracking, and (6) meaningful action. The FMCSA establishes these safety management processes as the gold standard for safety management (again, without utilizing Administrative Procedures). The FMCSA published these documents without so much as a disclaimer as to the intended effect of the safety management processes. The complete safety management processes are available at http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/SMC_Overview.aspx

As mentioned previously, the safety management cycle and safety management processes are applied to each of the basics except for accidents¹.



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Tires

Dorsey Tire Co., Inc.
Savannah, GA

Frasier Tire Service, Inc.
Sumter

Interstate Tire Service, LLC
Pelzer

Southern Tire & Service
Lake City

Financial

Elite Financial
Aiken

Natural Capital Investment Fund, Inc.
Chapel Hill, NC

Service & Repair

Davenport & Willingham, Inc.
Newberry

Accountant & CPA

Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP
Camden

Market & Forest Indexing

Forest2Market, Inc.
Charlotte, NC

(Continued from page 29)

Driver Fitness Basic

The policies and procedures include reviewing driver qualifications twice annually, developing a document retention and recordkeeping policy, and developing a written and progressive disciplinary policy. While in principle, these might be good things to consider, it's almost certain that the personal injury attorneys who target trucking companies will use these to create a standard of care. This is problematic for a number of reasons. For example, a written and progressive disciplinary policy is inconsistent with the independent contractor model. If a trucking company utilizes independent contractors, it will have to choose between violating the FMCSA's policy and its business model.

Step 2 of the safety management cycle is establishing roles and responsibilities. In this role, the document says that managers should be responsible for the regular evaluation of the carrier's driver wellness program. While having a driver wellness program is certainly a laudable goal, once again, the FMCSA seems to be saying that all safe carriers will have a driver wellness program.

The third SMP deals with qualification and hiring. Under this SMP, the carrier is to review the driver application for gaps in employment, frequent job changes, incomplete applications, and physical impairments. The FMCSA stops short of telling the trucking company how to avoid Americans With Disabilities Act claims while it reviews physical impairments.

The fourth SMP deals with training and communication. This section deals with management's top down communication of safety processes. One of the "suggestions" in this section is to ensure that driver qualification data, including MVR results, inspections, changes in credentials, and driver-reported violations are communicated to managers, supervisors and dispatchers. This seems to imply that the entire contents of a driver's driver qualification file would be known and comprehended by all of the company's managers, supervisors and dispatchers. This seems to be an unrealistic expectation.

The fifth SMP is for monitoring and tracking. On the driver fitness issue, it is suggested that the driver's MVR be reviewed more often than the regulatory mandated annual review if a driver has numerous violations. Therefore, the FMCSA is suggesting that motor carrier needs to go beyond the regulations so that checks, "in addition to annual checks," are utilized.

Finally, the sixth SMP is meaningful action. The FMCSA encourages incentives and recognition programs to reward and encourage driver fitness. For example, there is a suggestion that there be recognition for

an employee not utilizing sick days and physical fitness goals having been met. Is this really where the FMCSA belongs?² The FMCSA also encourages the implementation of a disciplinary policy which would be inconsistent with independent contractor business models.

Unsafe Driving Basic

The FMCSA creates the six safety management processes and applies them to the unsafe driving basic as well. With regard to policies, the document states that the carrier should develop a policy penalizing drivers for speeding even if a citation is not written. So FMCSA advocates penalizing drivers for unproven allegations. That will go over well in the driver's lawsuit against the company. In the roles and responsibilities section, the motor carrier should designate a carrier to collect and evaluate customer complaints and their safety implications. With regard to training and communication, the FMCSA suggests the carrier establish newsletters or meetings to focus on safe driving. Specific seminar topics are referenced including "when to use flashers; how to handle road rage; the importance of keeping one's eyes on the road ahead and scanning it, with no manual dialing or texting, and no use of in-vehicle devices that draw attention away from the road; how to use maps and no use of radar detectors." Therefore, a carrier that has not had seminars addressing each of these topics would be in violation of the FMCSA's document. In the monitoring and tracking section, there is a suggestion that a carrier use "how am I driving" placards on "every truck." In the meaningful action section, the FMCSA indicates that carriers should consider paying drivers by the hour instead of by the load or mileage to encourage them not to speed. Again, this is inconsistent with the independent contractor model. Not only does FMCSA tell carriers how to pay their drivers, it also indicates that dispatchers should be paid for having a low percentage of runs without violations.

Hours of Service Basic

In this section, the FMCSA says that carriers should have policies that provide monetary penalties for hours of service violations. Bus companies should discourage long distance trips that depart at night, making FMCSA the reason overnight bus trips might not be available. As far as hiring, dispatchers should have "good planning, communication and simple mathematical skills." FMCSA seems to be dabbling in education requirements for dispatchers. In the training and education section, managers and dispatchers are encouraged to tell drivers to pull over and take a nap (presumably in the abundant spaces for trucks in rest areas). As far as meaningful action, carriers should provide remedial training to employees with hours of service issues and discipline carrier officials for allowing hours of service related violations.

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(Continued from page 30)

Cargo Related

In the policies and procedures section for the now defunct cargo basic, FMCSA indicates that a carrier should “establish a policy for employee completion of annual training on cargo handling, loading and securement.” If you are looking for a safety director, FMCSA tells you to use “outside resources such as insurance companies, industry groups, and consultants.” So if you hire a safety director without consulting these sources, you might be failing to meet FMCSA’s standard. Carriers should implement a training program that includes hands-on demonstrations of cargo securement. Carriers should also provide “disciplinary action for damaged cargo having been accepted without prior approval and documentation.”

Vehicle Maintenance

In the roles and responsibilities section, the FMCSA tells carriers to “empower the person who is in charge of fixing trucks with the authority to complete tasks, such as the purchasing of new parts when needed.” This means that the director of maintenance will carry the checkbook. Are there legitimate business reasons not to buy parts and make repairs under the direction of the director of maintenance? Of course, but now maintenance will be the only department with an unlimited budget. The training and communication section requires mechanics and technicians to communicate with vehicle and equipment manufacturers for updates on bulletins and make recommendations. Additionally, the carrier must ensure that non-English speaking employees can understand English literature such as manufacturer’s publications. The FMCSA also suggests that every fleet would need a software system to service its vehicles. Carriers should monitor manufacturer recalls through the NHTSA website.

Hazmat

In the qualification and hiring section, the process requires carriers to “be aware of the assignment of drivers who smoke.” Since a carrier cannot ask its employees if they smoke, a carrier would presumably assign someone to take note of who is seen smoking outside the building. Also, the FMCSA says that a carrier should “develop an apprenticeship program.”

Controlled Substances

The FMCSA suggests a progressive disciplinary policy to include monetary penalties. The carrier should also encourage disclosure of personal problems with controlled substances and alcohol within a “safe environment by having an open door policy with management.” This section also contains recommendations that may run afoul of the ADA.

Conclusion

It’s clear that the FMCSA has developed a policy to dictate every detail of a carrier’s safety program. While

some of these suggestions are worthy of consideration, as a whole, they are unrealistic. A carrier adhering to these suggestions may find itself out of business because it is spending all of its resources on training seminars and none in moving freight. Following the processes will lead to employment litigation involving Americans With Disabilities Act and have all of your independent contractors reclassified as employees. Sharing driver qualification file contents with your entire staff will result in claims for violation of privacy laws.

So, where does this leave a motor carrier? The safety management cycle is not a regulation. It was not promulgated through the Administrative Procedures Act. These documents do not create a standard of care.

The FMCSA has certainly gone above its mandated role in trucking safety. This type of communication and discussion is certainly appropriate in an academic or training context, but FMCSA has placed carriers in a very difficult situation by promulgating these safety management processes as gospel.

¹ I guess it’s difficult to apply safety management processes to a basic that records crashes that are not the fault of the carrier.

² When word of CSA was initially on the streets, some drivers interpreted the driver fitness basic to mean physical fitness. FMCSA has now issued a paper which seems to equate driver fitness with physical fitness.

Smith Moore Leatherwood, LLP, Attorneys At Law, Transportation Industry Team is headed by Team Leader, Attorney Rob Moseley, Greenville, SC. The firm represents both large and small trucking companies as insureds on behalf of numerous national insurance companies and as self-insureds. In addition, the firm has served for many years as outside General Counsel for a nationally recognized commercial vehicle insurer and is experienced in all aspects of transportation law including issues involving federal and state statutes and regulations promulgated by the former Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), the successor Surface Transportation Board, the Department of Transportation and Public Service Commission. As part of the array of transportation services provided to firm clients, an after-hours emergency response team is standing by to service clients with urgent needs following a catastrophic accident. Firm is located in Greenville, SC with offices in Charleston, SC, Greensboro, Raleigh and Charlotte, North Carolina and Atlanta, Georgia. The firm’s Greenville office contact is 864-242-6440.

EMPLOYER MANDATE DELAYED UNTIL 2015

By Sean Hackbarth, Free Enterprise, July 3, 2013

Did the administration admit that implementing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has become "train wreck?"

Bloomberg reports that the health care law's employer mandate will be delayed for one year.

Mark Mazur, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, explains: "[W]e are extending this transition relief to the employer shared responsibility payments [aka the employer mandate]. These payments will not apply for 2014. Any employer shared responsibility payments will not apply until 2015."

U.S. Chamber President and CEO Tom Donohue welcomed the news: "Since the beginning of the health reform debate the U.S. Chamber has consistently stated the employer mandate and other burdensome provisions of Obamacare would be harmful to job creation and economic growth. The Ad-

The Administration's decision to recognize this fact yesterday and delay the implementation of the employer mandate is welcomed by the business community ...

***Randy Johnson
US Chamber of Commerce***

ministration's decision to recognize this fact yesterday and delay the implementation of the employer mandate is welcomed by the business community and will help avoid some serious near-term economic consequences of this law. As we move forward, the Chamber will continue to work with the Administration and lawmakers to mitigate potential problems associated with Obamacare implementation."

President Obama's advisor Valarie Jarrett said the mandate was delayed because they were "listening to

businesses." The administration probably also saw polls like this on from Gallup[via Hot Air] that found that "forty-one percent of the businesses surveyed have frozen hiring because of the health-care law," and the U.S. Chamber's Small Business Outlook Survey that found that 32% of small businesses plan to reduce hiring and 31% will cut back hours to reduce the number of full-time employees because of the employer mandate.

As the U.S. Chamber's Randy Johnson, Senior Vice President of Labor, Immigration & Employee Benefits, emphasized to Bloomberg, "The administration has finally recognized the obvious -- employers need more time and clarification of the rules of the road before implementing the employer mandate."

They might have gotten indigestion from reading stories about businesses, state, and local governments, schools, and other employers explaining that part-time workers' hours would be cut to minimize the hit they'd take from the employer mandate. In addition, they probably noticed the groundswell in Congress to fix parts of the law like bipartisan efforts to restore the standard definition of full-time employment back to 40 hours per week.

Whatever the reasons, the one-year delay of the employer mandate is welcome news. It not only gives businesses an extra year to understand and prepare for the law, but this can be a first step in making significant changes. For example, in addition to restoring the definition of full-time employment, there are efforts in Congress to repeal the Health Insurance Tax. And the employer mandate might go away entirely if efforts in Congress to repeal it succeed.

The U.S. Chamber's Health Care Solutions Council urges a similar transition approach (through regulations or legislation) that phases in such items as community rating requirements and Essential Health Benefits (EHBs) for existing plans to "mitigate the major disruptions in coverage or costs that would occur otherwise."

The U.S. Chamber further articulated this approach in testimony last week emphasizing that the regulators should "adopt a compliance assistance approach as opposed to strict enforcement" as a way "to reduce administrative burdens, preserve flexibility, and reduce premium increases."

This delay will give us a chance to change direction and work toward actually fixing our health care system to lower costs, improve access and quality, and do so without hurting job creation and the economy.

Washington Resource Report - USA

Month Ending 06/21/13

Farm Bill: On June 19, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted an amendment to the Farm Bill which preserved four decades of EPA success treating forest roads as nonpoint sources of pollution under the Clean Water Act (CWA), with language that reproduces the intended effects of Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act (H.R. 2026) - a remedy to problems that still exist after our Supreme Court victory earlier this year. However, the next day the House defeated the Farm Bill on a 195-234 vote. Congress maintains their goal of reauthorizing the Farm Bill, before it expires at the end of September. The Supreme Court reversed, in May, a 2011 decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (NEDC v. Brown) that forest roads used for timber harvest require mandatory CWA industrial stormwater discharge permits typically applied to factories and other facilities. The Court did not, however, address the more fundamental question of whether forest roads are point sources under the CWA. Under a previous and separate Ninth Circuit order, EPA is reviewing whether to regulate forest roads as point sources. Plaintiffs have told the Supreme Court and the media they intend to use this process and further litigation to require permits... And so it goes.

Wood Pellets: The following is excerpted from an article by Chuck Leavell, forest landowner and Rolling Stones keyboardist, about recent news reports on the European Union rules mandating that 20% of energy in EU countries must come from "renewable" sources, by 2020. "To meet the requirement, European utilities are increasingly turning toward burning wood instead of coal - with much of the wood coming from the United States in the form of pellets. Some environmentalists complain that cutting down trees is hardly a "green" solution... Yet one point of view hasn't been much in evidence in the debate. That is the view of independent forest owners like me... who can speak directly to practices of the forestry industry and the benefits the industry provides local communities... The American South has more than 214 million acres of forest land, according to the Southern Group of State Foresters. About 89% is privately owned, making it the nation's stronghold for private forest ownership and stewardship. Although the U.S. has a large amount of forested land, that does not mean the country can afford to cut down trees [carelessly]... and that is certainly not

what is happening today. Europe's increasing use of woody biomass, such as wood pellets, has not resulted in the inappropriate over-harvesting of U.S. forests... The demand has created [markets to allow] trees to grow stronger and healthier... Using this resource for energy puts it to good use and is a wise thing to do. [This] is a common-sense approach to sustainably managing the nation's forests. Americans have learned that they need to be good stewards of the land, and forest owners throughout the Southeast can be very proud of their forest management... Forest owners who sell timber have an incentive to ensure that their forests remain healthy, productive and sustainable. Anything else would hurt the bottom line and threaten their investment..."



ESA: On June 4, Republicans and Democrats agreed that the Endangered Species Act should be updated, but their accord ended there. The ESA was last reauthorized in 1988, prompting both sides of the debate to lament that it is outdated. But their motives conflict: Landowners want more concessions to state and local governments, while greens seek federal guidance on issues such as conserving entire ecosystems. The disagreement was in stark display at the hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee. Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA) held the hearing as part of national concern about the "sue and settle" practice, in which outside groups sue an agency and then negotiate a settlement that sets rulemaking requirements. Then, June 5, a sub-panel of the House Judiciary Committee discussed a bill that would require agencies to publish proposed consent decrees and settlement agreements for public comment before they are filed with the court.

Property Rights: Earlier this month, a House Judiciary subcommittee voted 5-3 along party lines to approve legislation that would limit the government's ability to take private property for economic development. Wisconsin Republican Jim Sensenbrenner's "Private Property Rights Protection Act" (H.R. 1944) would keep federal economic development funds away from states or municipalities that use eminent domain power to transfer private property for another private entity for redevelopment. Foes of the Keystone XL oil pipeline testified at an April hearing that the legislation includes an exemption for pipelines under construction. Lawmakers on the Sub-

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committee on the Constitution and Civil Justice approved the legislation without amendments after 15 minutes of lawmakers' statements. Similar legislation has passed the House twice but failed to clear the Senate. The measure aims to counter the Supreme Court's split 2005 ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London* that allowed New London, Conn., to use eminent domain power for a redevelopment project aimed at boosting local tax revenue. The ruling against Susette Kelo, whose cottage was seized by the city, sparked a strong negative reaction from all across America.

Forest to Market: Important to loggers, a recent Transportation Construction Coalition conference in Washington, D.C., heard promises were made by Members of Congress to hold hearings on the

highway bill focusing on finding viable ways to restore the Highway Trust Fund, which maintains the structural integrity of our national highway system infrastructure.

Cap-&-Trade: The carbon dioxide cap-and-trade bill that passed the House in June 2009 did so with scant Republican support -- but if it came to the floor today, the GOP tally might be zero. The five GOP supporters of the measure by Reps. Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Ed Markey (D-MA) are increasingly reluctant to talk about climate change with reporters. An exception, Sen. Mark Kirk (R) of Illinois, is quick to say that it could never happen again. He sought to distance himself from the vote shortly after he made it, as he geared up to run for Senate in 2010.

Sue and Settle... An Update

How Green Groups Make the EPA Issue New Rules

By suing the agency - which often settles - green advocates have compelled it to issue a raft of regulations.

By [Coral Davenport](#)

Energy and Environment Correspondent, National Journal, June 18, 2013



Environmental groups have a tough time getting Congress to do what they want. Case in point: In the early months of 2010, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Environmental Defense Fund waged an all-out campaign urging the Senate to pass a sweeping climate-change bill backed by President Obama and leaders in the Democratic-controlled Senate. The measure crashed and burned that summer.

But the green groups—and Obama's top environmental officials—knew they could resort to a different tactic: lawsuits to compel executive action. Toward the end of George W. Bush's administration, the three big environmental organizations and 11 states sued to force the Environmental Protection Agency to issue new regulations reining in carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants and oil refineries. The Bush EPA fought the suit, but the Obama EPA, full of top officials who had worked in these very non-profits, took a different tack. By December 2010, after the failure of the climate-change legislation, Obama's first-term EPA administrator, Lisa Jackson, settled the lawsuit—on the advocates' terms. The settlement obliged the agency to begin regulating carbon pollution from coal plants and oil refineries, an outcome with profound environmental and economic implications. And in April 2012, EPA proposed a historic new rule to regulate global-warming pollution from coal plants. As Obama's second term unfolds, the agency is expected to finalize more rules that, thanks to lawsuits, will give the green groups what they want.

The climate-change settlement is just one in a series of recent so-called sue-and-settle agreements since Obama took office. Between 2009 and 2012, EPA has settled at least 60 lawsuits from outside

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groups, leading to dozens of new environmental regulations. A 2010 deal in another Sierra Club lawsuit led to a 2012 regulation on mercury emissions from coal plants. A 2009 settlement with environmentalists led to a 2012 regulation governing pollution from cement manufacturers. While EPA could fight the suits, they often line up with the administration's agenda—to fight climate change and promote clean-air laws—so why bother? In many cases, the federal government, as the loser in the legal settlements, has then paid the green groups' legal fees.

Sue-and-settle lawsuits with like-minded groups as a way to advance common goals aren't new. The practice dates back to the Carter administration. But EPA's recent spate of agreements that have major environmental and economic consequences have come as part of a broader flexing of executive authority, particularly on the issue of climate change. Although Congress remains unlikely to act on the issue, the president vows to use what power he has to address a problem he sees as urgent.

The EPA cases are spurring a big backlash from industry and from Republicans on Capitol Hill. In May, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce released a report ("Sue and Settle: Regulating Behind Closed Doors") slamming the practice. Last week, the GOP-controlled House Judiciary Committee held an investigative hearing, calling the report's author, William Kovacs, the U.S. chamber's senior vice president of environmental regulation, as a star witness. Kovacs told Congress the sue-and-settle process gives outside groups an outsized, backdoor role in driving the government regulatory agenda. They turn an independent agency into "an actor subservient to the binding terms of settlement agreements," Kovacs said. House Republicans have introduced legislation to curb the practice.

Environmental groups contend they are merely forcing the administration to follow the letter of the law when it's politically inconvenient to do so. Outside groups can't sue EPA to create or issue new regulations; most of the sue-and-settle cases compel the agency to issue regulations for which it has already missed a statutory deadline. But in the settlement of the climate-change suit, advocates forced EPA to regulate greenhouse gases from oil

refineries, which it might not have done on its own, according to both industry and green groups. "There were just as many sue-and-settlements in other administrations. What has increased is the significance," says Roger Martella, EPA's general counsel during the George W. Bush administration. "These are economy wide mega-rule-makings ... as opposed to small settlements impacting only a limited issue."

These cases are "very powerful, because early Congresses saw the wisdom of giving ordinary citizens the ability to enforce the law, even if administrations were unwilling to," says John Walke, a lawyer with the Natural Resources Defense Council who has worked on many of the recent sue-and-settle agreements. "They're occupying a political vacuum ... a space created by an utterly dysfunctional Congress." Walke says that when an agency agrees to settle a lawsuit with an outside group rather than fighting it, "there's a meeting of the minds as to what the law requires."

EPA contends that by quickly settling the lawsuits instead of fighting them, it saves money. According to data the agency provided to *National Journal*, in instances where EPA paid legal costs between June 1, 2010, and Sept. 29, 2012, the average fees in cases it settled came to \$42,000. The average fees in cases where the agency litigated and lost, or partially lost, came to \$176,000. "If there's a deadline required by the Clean Air Act and a lawsuit that poses a litigation risk, there's value to the public and the government in settling out of court," says an EPA official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "A settlement can save taxpayers a lot of money."

Ironically, the one point on which all sides—environmentalists, business interests, and EPA—agree is that they'd prefer to see environmental policy move through Congress rather than through court filings or the backrooms of an executive agency. But as long as Capitol Hill remains gridlocked, expect recourse to come from the legal system.

Setting the Record Straight: SFI Counters ForestEthics' Misleading Claims

May 2, 2013 – The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. (SFI®) is dedicated to responsible forestry and works with thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations across North America to implement and improve best management practices for water quality, to conduct important conservation research, to train loggers in responsible forestry and work with landowners on habitat management for a wide variety of species. We are supported by government, academic and conservation agencies in the U.S., Canada and internationally, we partner with well-known conservation groups, and we work with academic institutions – all to ensure forests remain healthy and vibrant and that they are harvested and regenerated in a responsible manner. Our goal is healthy, thriving well-managed forests for today and for future generations to come. It is unclear to us what ForestEthics' goal is. We believe they are threatening companies that buy paper, wood and packaging products, and we know they are misrepresenting our program. We know they have received funds to promote FSC and we know they have received funds to undermine SFI. We know that they have utilized photos from natural disasters to inaccurately portray these unfortunate events as SFI current practices. We know they are behaving irresponsibly and we know they are undermining the good work of both SFI and FSC, as many buyers are growing tired of Forest Ethics, and by association, the important topic of forest certification.

It is unfortunate that ForestEthics has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to harass companies to choose FSC rather than SFI, when both programs are part of the solution. ForestEthics misrepresented the truth citing 24 examples (over the past two years) of companies disassociating themselves with SFI. To put that number in perspective, SFI receives 24 requests to use the SFI label every business day, on average – more than 6,000 requests in 2012.

We know that Office Depot, and the overwhelming majority of organizations that ForestEthics names in their releases continue to purchase SFI paper products and continue to recognize the value of our program and continue to purchase paper certified to the SFI standard. We know that many of these organizations would like to see these campaigns come to an end because they recognize they are undermining numerous institutions that are working hard to promote responsible forestry and are misrepresenting the views of corporations and the forestry practices and claims associated with the SFI program.

What large corporations in the supply chain understand is that we need more responsible forestry, not less. These corporations also understand that regard-

less of a company's decision about which certification label to put on a product, the supply chain is mixed: SFI content is found in FSC-labeled products and vice versa. They see the value of both of our certification programs and often prefer some aspects of one program over another, but they do not disassociate themselves from responsible forestry and therefore they do not disassociate themselves with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative or the Forest Stewardship Council. However, that day will come if these campaigns persist, and the good work of thousands of individuals working to provide clean water, thriving forests, wildlife habitat, strong communities and jobs will be compromised.

SFI's recognition and support are growing because these stakeholders understand that the future of our forests depends on the actions we take today, and that SFI's independent, rigorous and science-based standard is improving conditions in forests across North America every day. That's why SFI has become the world's largest single forest certification standard, with over 200 million acres in North America certified to the SFI Standard. And SFI continues to raise the bar by requiring that program participants invest in conservation research – with \$1.3 billion invested since 1995.

ForestEthics' anti-SFI attack campaign is ineffective and misleading, and it wastes resources that would be much better used to promote forest conservation. We urge them to put their dollars to good use and work with us or other organizations on real projects that promote real conservation benefits in our forests. We invite ForestEthics to stop misleading people and instead join SFI and hundreds of thousands of stakeholders around the world who are working day in and day out to advance the cause of sustainable forestry. Forest Ethics, like any individual or organization are welcome and encouraged to participate in the SFI Standard revision process which will be launched this summer and includes at least two 60 day public comment periods, numerous public workshops, a transparent comment and response process and an external review panel to vet our standard revision process.

Learn more about SFI and get the facts at <http://www.sfiprogram.org/get-the-facts/>
What Others are Saying about SFI (2.5 min video clip): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oup-kflp3qq&feature=youtu.be>

Kathy Abusow
President & CEO
Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Kathy.Abusow@SFiprogram.org



Weyerhaeuser grabs 645,000 acres of timberland in \$2.65B deal

Elliot Njus, Portland Oregonian, June 17, 2013

Timber behemoth Weyerhaeuser Co. will pay \$2.65 billion for 645,000 acres of Longview Timber's Northwest timberland holdings.

"This is a one-of-a-kind acquisition," Tom Gideon, Weyerhaeuser's vice president for timberland, said in a conference call for investors and analysts. "It is highly unlikely that the opportunity to acquire high-value and high-quality timberland of this magnitude in the Pacific Northwest will reappear again."

As part of the deal, Brookfield Asset Management Inc. is slated to sell off its Longview Fibre Paper and Packaging Inc. to KapStone Paper and Packaging Corp. for more than \$1 billion.

According to Bloomberg News, the deal would be the third-largest forestry acquisition in North American history.

According to Weyerhaeuser, the agreement would allow the company to expand its influence abroad. Currently, a fifth of its timberland revenue comes from sales to East Asia. The newly acquired timberlands, located in Oregon and Washington, would be conveniently located for export



SCTPA ENDORSES FORESTRY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

South Carolina Timber Producers Association proudly endorses Forestry Mutual Insurance Company. Forestry Mutual and SCTPA have partnered for this endorsement to assist the association and Forestry Mutual.

Forestry Mutual has long been a tremendous association supporter. Their high quality personal service, loss prevention and safety services and experienced staff are unparalleled in the industry. Forestry Mutual knows and understands the logging and forestry industry.

They are active supporters of the American Loggers Council and are endorsed by the Virginia Loggers Association, NC Association of Professional Loggers, NC Forestry Association and Tennessee Forestry Association.

SCTPA is very proud to endorse Forestry Mutual Insurance Company as the Workers Compensation/ Employers Liability insurance provider to provide our members with great customer service, safety services and information resources to meet the commercial insurance needs of our members.

Contact Forestry Mutual Insurance Company's SC representative Nick Carter, cell 803-669-1003, office 803-438-5802 or fax 803-572-3172.

For High Quality Service with an Experience Driven Understanding of the Logging & Forestry Industry ... It's Forestry Mutual Insurance Company

SFI and Audubon Team Up Bird Scientists with Forest Managers to Implement Conservation Programs

WASHINGTON, June 18, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) announced today that it has awarded the National Audubon Society \$60,000 under the SFI Conservation and Community Partnership Grant Program.



The three-year project is designed to develop and implement the latest bird conservation best practices by engaging Audubon scientists working closely with forest managers across six states along the Atlantic flyway of the Eastern United States.

"Hundreds of bird species from the Acadian Flycatcher to the Wood Thrush breed in and migrate through the forests of the Atlantic Flyway. Working lands, like those managed by SFI-certified companies represent some of the best opportunities for conserving breeding habitat. By working with SFI and its members we can promote forest management that will create forests that work for birds and provide income from timber," said Jim Shallow, Audubon's Atlantic Flyway eastern forest project manager.

"In each of these Atlantic Flyway states, SFI has a local-grass roots implementation committee which continually engage in landowner outreach. It just makes sense for SFI to work with our community and to leverage our existing networks to collaborate with conservation organizations like Audubon," said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI Inc. "We're proud to support Audubon's work to help forest managers understand the latest bird science and adopt best practices to protect birds and their critical forest habitats."

The National Audubon Society will work with partners, Audubon state chapters and several organizations certified to the SFI Standard, to develop and adapt bird science conservation practices for sustainable forest management. Audubon will engage their bird-science experts with forest managers to pilot and refine workshops and incorporate feedback from foresters into best management practices for bird habitat. The project team will work together to widely

distribute these best practices to foresters across six states along the Atlantic Flyway including Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Vermont.

In 2010, SFI Inc. first invested \$400,000 to create the Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program to foster partnerships and conservation research that improve forest management in the United States and Canada, and responsible procurement globally. In a few short years, by leveraging partner contributions, SFI has achieved a total investment of \$4.8 million in conservation partnerships and research, supporting more than 40 grants with 150 partners across North America.

The SFI program is the only forest certification standard in North America that requires participants to support and engage in research activities to improve forest health, productivity and sustainable management of forest resources.

About the National Audubon Society

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Our national network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world.

Visit Audubon online at www.audubon.org and follow @audubonsociety.

About Sustainable Forestry Initiative

SFI Inc. is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) program. Across the United States and Canada, 240 million acres are certified to the SFI forest management standard. In addition, the SFI program's unique fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands. SFI chain-of-custody (COC) certification tracks the percentage of fiber from certified forests, certified sourcing and post-consumer recycled content. SFI on-product labels identify both certified sourcing and COC claims to help consumers make responsible purchasing decisions. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally. Learn more at <http://www.sfiprogram.org/> and <http://sfiprogram.org/BuySFI>.



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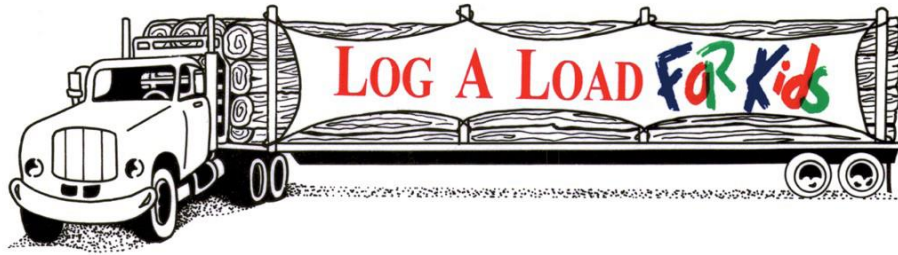
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2013 Log-A-Load CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefiting [McLeod Children's Hospital](#)

Captains Choice Tournament

Date: September 26th, 2013

Place: Country Club of South Carolina (Florence, SC)

Time: Registration 12:00pm - 1:00pm Shotgun Start 1:00pm

Levels of Sponsorships

- GOLD \$1,000** Includes 4 players, Name Recognition on Sign, & Appreciation Gift
- Silver \$500** Includes 2 players, Name Recognition on Sign, & Appreciation Gift
Two additional players \$150 - Total of \$650 for Team
- Bronze \$250** Includes 1 player, Name Recognition on Sign, & Appreciation Gift
Three additional players \$225 - Total of \$475 for Team

Company or Sponsor Recognition Name: _____

- Without Sponsorship - Entry Fee: \$300.00 per Team (\$75 per person)**

Captain's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Player 1 Name: _____ Handicap: _____

Player 2 Name: _____ Handicap: _____

Player 3 Name: _____ Handicap: _____

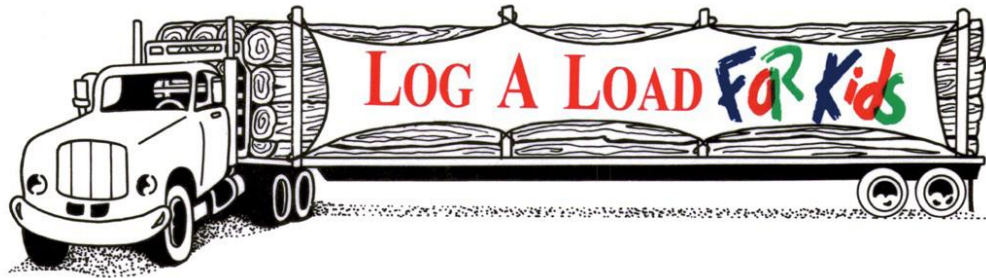
Player 4 Name: _____ Handicap: _____

Total: _____

Maximum of 30 Teams. Please list if you have a pre-selected foursome. If not we will be glad to pair you up with a great team. **Maximum Handicap is 25 per player - Team Handicap is based on 10% of total.

***Send Form & Check Payable to [McLeod Children's Hospital](#) to:
Davis Sawyer, McLeod Foundation, 800 East Cheves Street, Suite 150, Florence, SC 29502**

*Questions can be directed to 843-979-2221 or contact one of our SCFA committee members listed below:
Dan Stuckey, Allen McCall, Joe Campbell, Ken Stuart, Ken Smith, Dan Cox, and Danny Morgan*



Each year, More Than 22,000 Children Receive Care from the McLeod Children's Hospital

In 1994, McLeod opened the region's only five-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) - designed, staffed and equipped, especially for children. Today, nearly 100 beds at McLeod are dedicated to serving the needs of children, including those in the Children's Hospital, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, PICU, and Day Hospital.

McLeod Children's Hospital is one of 170 Children's Hospitals in North America that comprise the Children's Miracle Network. The Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH), a non-profit organization, is dedicated to helping children by raising funds and awareness for affiliate hospitals. Each year, these non-profit hospitals treat more than 17 million children afflicted with diseases, injuries and birth defects of every kind. A hallmark of CMNH is that 100 percent of every dollar raised in a community stays there to help children in need.

This year Log-A-Load is celebrating its 25th Anniversary and is proud to support the Children's Miracle Network. The concept of Log-A-Load, which was founded in South Carolina, is for loggers and wood supplying businesses to donate the value of a load of logs to their local Children's Miracle Network affiliated hospital. Won't you join our committee of forestry professionals in supporting McLeod's Children's Hospital by completing the attached pledge card and return it, along with a check, to SCFA's office in Columbia, SC.

Thanks in advance for your support!!!!

McLeod Children's Hospital – Log-A-Load Committee

Joe Campbell - RockTenn
Dan Cox

Allen McCall - Canal Wood
Danny Morgan - Claybourn Walters Company

Ken Smith - Canfor
Ken Stuart - Domtar

Dan H. Stuckey - American Timberlands Company

PLEDGE CARD

SCFA's Log A Load For Kids

I support the following children's hospital(s) (Please check):

- Georgia Health Sciences Children's Medical Center - Augusta
- MUSC Children's Hospital - Charleston
- Palmetto Health Children's Hospital - Columbia
- McLeod Regional Medical Center Children's Hospital - Florence
- Greenville Hospital System Children's Hospital - Greenville
- Levine Children's Hospital at Carolinas Medical Center - Charlotte, NC
- Backus Children's Hospital at Mem. Health Univ. Med. Cen. - Savannah, GA

My Pledge Total

Make check payable to the children's hospital of your choice. (check one):

\$500 \$300 \$100
 \$450 \$250 \$ Other _____
 \$400 \$200
 \$350 \$150

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Mark Your Calendar

July 2013

26 - 27 American Loggers council Summer Board of Directors meeting & Peterbilt Factory Tour, Dallas, TX.

August 2013

22 SC Timber Producers Association Board of Directors Meeting, Columbia.
27 Newberry District Meeting, Farm Bureau, Newberry, 7 p.m.

September 2013

18 & 19 SFI DVD TOP Training Classes, Saluda Shoals Park, Columbia. Contact Sally Tucker at SC Forestry Association, 803-798-4170 for registration.
20-21 Mid-Atlantic Logging & Biomass Expo, Selma-Smithfield, NC.
26-28 American Loggers Council 19th Annual Meeting, Paragon Casino & Resort, Marksville, LA. Contact American Loggers Council or SCTPA for registration package.

- *Saluda/Edgefield/Aiken District 1 Members and Non-Members invited to attend the Newberry District 2 Meetings.*
- *Meeting notices mailed. 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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**For more information contact:
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*“Serving the Forestry Industry
For Over 25 Years.”*



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.