



SOUTH CAROLINA TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
2014 Annual Report
American Loggers Council Annual Meeting
Harris, Michigan

Crad Jaynes, President & CEO

SCTPA entered its 15th year with our “Log On” Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC, February 2014. Despite the still recovering industry and economy the attendance was outstanding with nearly 300 attending.

SCTPA proudly welcomed several outstanding speakers. American Loggers Council President Brian Nelson provided insights into ALC national activities and provided information on his company’s timber harvesting operations in Michigan. Consultant forester Mike Wetzel, Richardson, Bell, Mcleod & Wetzel, Inc. presented a lawsuit case he served as an expert witness for involving a logger, a wood dealer and forester. The case regarded an injury to a third party caused by a flying object propelled from the feller buncher cutting head. The presentation stimulated a great deal of discussion and provided valuable information to assist attendees in their businesses. Don Taylor, Sustainable Resource Systems, presented his WSRI project regarding What Will It Take to Recover Logging Capacity. This presentation also brought much discussion regarding the project’s findings. Attorney Rob Moseley of Smith Moore & Leatherwood discussed the Compliance Safety Accountability (CSA) federal trucking program and the issues involved with the usage of subcontract trucking and the associated liabilities. The Saturday luncheon speaker was Jim Hourdequin, CEO of The Lyme Timber Company discussing how his company relates to their logging contractors. Saturday afternoon the SFI Trained DVD Module was shown for obtaining the SC SFI Trained status. After the training session Glen Chrusciel, Program Manager, Retrofit, John Deere Power Systems presented an informative presentation on the new Tier 4 Engines and the issues involved with the new engines.

At our annual meeting, our 2013 Logger Activist of the Year Award was presented to Josh Key and Beech Island Timber & Construction, Inc., Jackson, SC for their outstanding timber harvesting business, their sincere commitment to community involvement, sustainable forestry education and support of SCTPA and their profession. Billy McKinney, Highland Timber Company, Union, SC was re-elected to the board of directors. SCTPA President’s Award was presented to Don Rhodes, retired SC State Transport Police, for his outstanding support and cooperative work to assist SC’s timber trucking segment.

The winter was tough, at least for SC, wet and coupled with ice storms really damaging a great deal of standing timber across 15 middle counties. SCTPA served on the Ice Damage Recovery Committee and worked with SC Forestry Association to co-sign letters to the Governor requesting an initial Disaster Relief Order and extensions to allow the trucking of 90,000 pounds of timber and chips from salvage harvesting operations. Summer has been a mixed wet and dry time with our usual hot, humid temperatures. But as the saying goes... Log On!

Pulpwood production to pulp/paper mills and other smaller wood products markets have remained steady while solid wood products markets have increased production due to the economic recovery and demand for solid wood products. With some economic recovery and continued economic challenges such as fuel costs, logger attrition has slowed, at least it appears. There continues to be new logger startups across the state as market demand has increased. Several mills have undergone expansions which has increased demand for timber.

South Carolina's legislative session was fairly active for forestry issues, but nothing impacting logging. Several key issues were; Stopping the Discrimination Against SC Certified Wood, Infrastructure Funding for Bridges and Roads, Truck Weight Increase on State Roads, SC Forestry Commission Budget, and Enhanced Liability Protection for Forest Landowners. SCTPA testified to legislative committees on behalf of the SC Forestry Commission's budget requests. The truck weight issue to allow 90,000 pounds of unmanufactured forest products (UFP) on state roads has changed now to involving all agricultural sectors to haul the higher weight. SCTPA serves on the Palmetto AgriBusiness Council committee studying this issue. Revised legislation will be re-entered in January 2015. There are concerns SCDOT will post more bridges thus further impacting UFP trucking haul distances, delivery rates being subject to revisions and the additional impact on our already stressed road system.

SCTPA continues to partner with the SC Forestry Commission and SC Forestry Association to make good things happen for South Carolina forestry.

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

SCTPA and Southern Loggers Cooperative (SLC) along with the U.S. Endowment for Forest & Rural Communities and Natural Capital Investment Fund have partnered in a pilot program to locate Southern Loggers Coop fuel depots around SC. One privately owned existing fuel depot in Allendale, SC is in the process of being acquired by SLC. Other locations being worked are Newberry, Chester, Florence and Darlington. The Georgetown depot is in operation. SCTPA is acting as the on-the-ground representative for the pilot program. Thus far, positive results have occurred in locating sites.

SCTPA participated in the 15th SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers Tour, a weeklong sustainable forestry education program. This year's June tour was tremendous with thirty-five teachers. SCTPA arranged the timber harvesting stop at the jobsite of Bay Area

Forest Products, LLC, Georgetown, SC. Thanks to Bay Area's Greg Thompkins and Joe Young, Low Country Forest Products, Inc., Georgetown, for an outstanding tour stop to educate the teachers on professional timber harvesting. SCTPA, Bay Area and Low Country sponsored the stop. Other tour stops included the Francis Marion National Forest, International Paper's Georgetown mill, Norfolk Southern's Brosnan Forest, EDF's woody biomass energy plant, KapStone sawmill, Georgia Pacific's OSB mill, private tree farmer and Old Santee Canal Park. The association continued presenting its sustainable forestry management and professional timber harvesting education program in schools.

SCTPA representatives, Danny McKittrick, Billy McKinney, Tommy Barnes and Crad Jaynes, visited our South Carolina U.S. House and Senate delegation during the ALC April board meeting in Washington, DC to promote the ALC issues and state issues related to sustainable forestry, professional logging and trucking.

SCTPA continued supporting the Wood Supply Research Institute for wood supply chain research projects. SCTPA president serves as Technical Team chairman and remains a WSRI board member. SCTPA's president attended the WSRI annual meeting in Virginia Beach, VA.

Statewide district meetings were conducted in the Fall and Spring to keep attendees updated with national and state legislation, ALC activities, regulations and local issues. Presentations were conducted for Workers Compensation and Auto Liability by Swamp Fox Agency, SCTPA's endorsed agency. SCTPA continues its endorsement of Forestry Mutual Insurance Company.

Emphasis for producing energy from woody biomass has continued with an increased interest in developing wood pellet facilities in state. The feeling is there will be increased activity in these alternative markets in the near future. There has been an announcement of an Enviva pellet mill locating in the Piedmont region along with other wood using projects in the works. Loggers, wood suppliers and landowners will welcome these alternative markets.

SCTPA continued providing the SFI Training in our Timber Operations Professional (TOP) program to members under the revised training using a DVD format for the annual training period of July 1 – June 30. SCTPA participates in the 2-Day TOP program for the initial SFI Trained status in SC.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Crad Jaynes
President & CEO