

GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST AWARD

LOG CREEK TIMBER COMPANY EDGEFIELD, SC

The *Gene Collins Logger Activist Award* for 2006 is proudly presented to Log Creek Timber Company, Edgefield. This company has displayed a sincere commitment in their advocacy for professional timber harvesting as well as their participation in community and industry activities, sustainable forestry education and positive promotion of a professional business contributing to their community.

Log Creek is a family business. Starting back in 1984, Theo and Elaine Williams operated Williams Farm harvesting timber as a logging contractor for B. L. Mims & Son Lumber Company. As times changed, the company became a contractor to Federal Paperboard and over time for Georgia Pacific and International Paper. Today, the company continues to supply wood to Norbord South Carolina, Grant Forest Products, Inc., International Paper and Georgia Pacific Corporation and other markets.

Reg and Tim Williams along with sister Martha Sanders are responsible for running the companies and have great employees. Reg's wife Deanna and Tim's wife Susan are actively involved in the business operations.

As Log Creek has grown over the years, the company formed subsidiary entities to separate the operations. Log Creek Thinning Co., Inc. is the harvesting company, Log Creek Logging Co., Inc. is the trucking component and Log Creek Timber Co, Inc. is the timber procurement arm. Today Log Creek uses five company-owned harvesting crews as well as several harvesting and trucking subcontractors to supply timber to their markets.

Reg, Tim and Martha are active in their business and that is understandable. However, they understand the importance of being active in their industry, community and profession. All are SFI Trained and regularly participate in on-going training to improve their business skills. These individuals and the entire company are positive advocates for professional timber harvesting.

Reg has served as Edgefield County Farm Bureau Board Secretary and member of the Edgefield County Soil Conservation Board, County Board of the SC Forestry Commission, State Extension Advisory Board and Edgefield County Forestry Landowners Association.

Tim has served as President of Edgefield County Landowners Association, Vice Chair of Edgefield County Hospital Board, Edgefield County Transportation Board member, past Chairman of the SC Young Farmer Committee and coach for Little League Football and Baseball. He served as a board member for SC Timber Producers Association in 1999 finishing out an un-expired term. He participated on the statewide Timber Harvesting Subcluster's Return On Logging Team to determine how loggers could improve their business efficiencies to remain competitive in today's business climate.

Active members of the Saluda County Forestry Association all three are supporters of the association's student scholarship program.

Martha is active in church as Co-Chair of Vacation Bible School and a Sunday school teacher. Her community activities include Secretary of Wardlaw Academy School Board, member of the Farm-City Planning Committee and Leadership Advisory Board.

Log Creek remains a strong supporter of this association and continues to be an active District One member, supporter of the American Loggers Council and Wood Supply Research Institute.

Log Creek has shown an advocacy for reaching out to young people to teach the principles of sustainable forestry by participating in local school career days and natural resource education days. The company has actively offered its personnel to talk about professional timber harvesting and sustainable forestry to schools and civic organizations.

Log Creek has taken other steps to enhance its professional image as well as improve its operations. Seeing the need to improve its trucking operations, Log Creek implemented a trucking dispatch system for its company and subcontractor operations. Perhaps ahead of the curve sometimes, Tim, Reg and Martha have not been afraid to adjust and take chances to improve their business operations. Activism is taking the chance to make something happen.

Log Creek understands the importance of how professional loggers contribute to their local and state economies, and how professional loggers must continue to be the best at their profession by working with landowners and wood receiving companies in cooperative partnerships, promoting and practicing sustainable forestry and educating the critical public to better understand timber harvesting is a professional industry concerned about our sustainable and renewable forest resources and the environment. Log Creek is a reflection of all the positives of professional timber harvesting.

