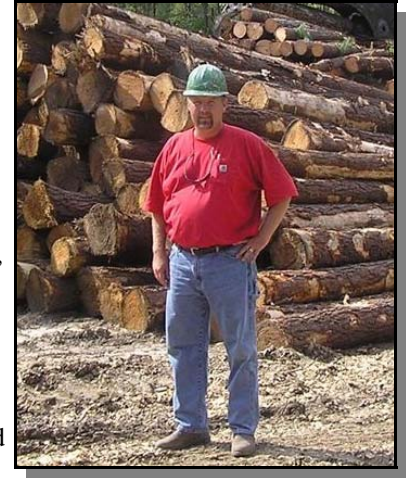


# **GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST AWARD**

## **SECKINGER FOREST PRODUCTS, INC.**

**JOSEPH W. "BOBO" SECKINGER**

**HAMPTON, SC**



The 2007 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award is proudly presented to Seckinger Forest Products, Inc., Hampton. BoBo, wife Jeanne and their company have displayed a sincere commitment in their advocacy for professional timber harvesting as well as their participation in community and industry activities, sustainable forestry practices and education, and positive promotion of a professional business contributing to their community.

A soft-spoken professional logger, BoBo understands the importance of being conscientious, professional and attentive to his business, employees, the environment and promoting a positive image about his profession. As he says, "Production comes second and quality first."

"I believe the big key to successful logging is having good timber to cut and having good working relationships with landowners. I want to be known for being honest, hardworking and doing a quality job."

After graduating in Forestry from Lake City Community College, BoBo began his career as a forest technician and started logging in 1991. He and a partner began with one skidder, one buncher and one loader as S & P Forest Products working with Collum's Lumber in Allendale. Then in 1996 he bought out his partner and formed Seckinger Forest Products.

Currently operating three crews in SC's Lowcountry and southeast Georgia, the chipping operation works with forestry consultants and private landowners delivering to International Paper's Savannah, Augusta and Eastover mills and Weyerhaeuser's Port Wentworth mill. The two conventional crews harvest timber for Collum's Lumber Products, LLC with wood deliveries also going to Grant Forest Products, Inc., Fairfax, and other facilities.

BoBo and wife Jeanne make a great team. Jeanne, a Certified Public Accountant, serves as office manager and keeps the business running from the "numbers" side. BoBo's father, Willie Joe, joined the business nine years ago and serves as the overall supervisor. BoBo stays in touch with his crew foremen, father and Jeanne while tending to the multitude of duties involved in running a successful business.

"People don't realize how much responsibility loggers face with their job. They have to coordinate production, deal with BMP's, public highways, public perceptions, equipment, rising costs and sometimes conflicting personalities." BMP's are second nature to BoBo as he believes and practices good aesthetics and job quality.

BoBo stays busy with his business and that is understandable. However, he understands the importance of being active in his industry, community and profession. He is SFI Trained and participates in training to improve business skills.

Seckinger Forest Products continues to be an active SCTPA District 7 member and supporter of the American Loggers Council and Wood Supply Research Institute. Seckinger Forest Products received the SC Forestry Association 2006 Logger of the Year award and is a Forest Resources Association 2007 national Logger of the Year award finalist.

BoBo participated as a logger member on the Timber Harvesting Subcluster's Return On Logging Team to determine how loggers could improve efficiencies and profitability to remain competitive in today's business climate. He also serves on the Horry-Georgetown Technical College's Forestry Department Advisory Board.

Seckinger Forest Products has an advocacy for reaching out to participate as an active community partner. BoBo and Jeanne co-chaired the Log A Load For Kids program in their area. BoBo is active in the Hampton County Landowners Association and Refuge Hunting Club. He has lent his time to be a coach for recreational teams in his area.

BoBo believes promoting professional timber harvesting and the principles of sustainable forestry are important. On many occasions he has offered his time to show various groups his timber harvesting operations, discuss sustainable harvesting and forestry practices and participate as a leader of tours conducted by Collum's.

BoBo and Seckinger Forest Products understand the responsibilities and importance associated with how professional loggers contribute to their local and state economies, how professional loggers must continue to be the best 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 our environment.

"I feel strongly about forestry and logging and if I can provide input or contribute in any way to make our businesses better, I'd like to do so." Seckinger Forest Products is a reflection of all the positives of professional timber harvesting.

A leader and advocate with a sincere commitment to professional logging, sustainable forestry, community, family and the principles of outstanding business, SCTPA is proud Seckinger Forest Products, Inc. is our 2007 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award recipient.