



Billy, Robert & Ryan Walker

GENE COLLINS *LOGGER ACTIVIST*

The 2010 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award is proudly presented to

Robert and Billy Walker, Walker & Walker Logging, LLC for their sincere commitment to professional timber harvesting, supporting this association, participating in community and industry activities, practicing sustainable timber harvesting, promoting education, and positive promotion of a professional business.

Billy and Robert are conscientious professionals and understand the value of relationships with customers, employees and their industry, environmental stewardship and promoting a positive image as professional loggers.

The Walkers know and understand the importance of operating a professional business. But Walker & Walker is more than that. It is also about family.

Sons Ryan and Tyler are actively involved in the business. Tyler oversees the in-woods whole tree chipping job and Ryan serves as a lead at the Hodges Log & Lumber, LLC sawmill and working on the logging job.

Currently they operate an in-woods whole tree chipping operation averaging 1,400 tons per week producing ninety percent of their production of clean hardwood chips to the International Paper Eastover mill. Pine chips are delivered to the AbitibiBowater mill in Catawba.

Billy and Robert started conventional logging in January 1976. In October 1996, they began in-woods chipping and operated two chipping crews from 1998 until 2005.

The company has seventeen employees including two procurement foresters, Wayne Funderburg and Gary Nye who work with private landowners for timber purchases.

On the chipping job three Tigercat skidders, two Tigercat fellerbunchers, a Tigercat knuckleboom loader, a John Deere 850 bulldozer and Peterson Pacific 5000H whole tree chipper are used. Being professionals to convey a positive image, a Ford tractor with a brush broom attachment is used to keep the local road clean of dirt and mud.



Tyler Walker

Walker & Walker Logging, LLC

Laurens, SC

Seven to eight Kenworth tractors and Peerless chip trailers are used hauling chips along with a Pitts log trailer for hardwood and pine logs when needed.

Robert and Billy stepped out in February 2005 and purchased a hardwood sawmill in Hodges and named it Hodges Log & Lumber, LLC. They produce hardwood lumber and this provides a market for hardwood logs produced on the chipping job along with other local markets.



Walker Chip Vans

The Walkers are involved in community and industry activities. In 2008, they hosted the Northwestern Lumber Association's southern tour as one of the stopping points to see a "southern" in-woods whole tree chipping operation. Their operation has served as a tour stop for International Paper customers, the Laurens County Forestry Association and Forestry Extension.

In 1996 Walker & Walker Logging received the Georgia Pacific SC Piedmont District Logger of the Year award. They also received the Palmetto Timber Fund's Sonny Gray Safety Award.

In 1998 Walker & Walker received the Laurens County Forestry Business of the Year Award from the Extension Service for their exceptional business operations and community involvement.

To further the education of school children, Ryan Walker and SCTPA's Crad Jaynes have presented the association's Sustainable Forestry, Forest Products and Professional Timber Harvesting Program at E. B. Morris Elementary School in Laurens.

Walker & Walker actively support their Laurens community and logging industry activities. They annually sponsor a hole for the Straight Street Youth Ministry and American Red Cross golf tournaments, support Log A Load For Kids, sponsor for the Angel Tree for Christmas gifts for under privileged children and donate to local schools for Christmas gifts for area children.

Billy and Robert are strong SCTPA

supporters having been a logger member since 1999 when SCTPA began. They have sponsored several Laurens District Meeting meals over the years.

Tyler and Ryan are SFI Trained loggers. The company emphasizes sustainable harvesting practices, follows Timber Harvesting Best Management Practices and works conscientiously to meet landowner expectations through exceptional environmental and harvesting standards.

Robert, Billy, Tyler and Ryan believe promoting and practicing professional timber harvesting and sustainable forestry principles are foundations to their business.

Understanding the responsibilities and importance associated with how professional loggers contribute to their local and state economies, how professional loggers must work with landowners, wood dealers and wood receiving companies in cooperative partnerships, promoting and practicing sustainable forestry and educating students and the public to better understand the professional timber harvesting industry, concern about our sustainable and renewable forest resources and our environment are all important issues maintained in the company standards of operation.

Billy says, "We certainly appreciate what the association brings to the table to represent us to the industry, politicians and public about what we do as professional businesses in the timber harvesting industry, its education efforts of presenting school programs and being part of the SC Teachers Tour. The association has opened

eyes to better understand our industry because many people do not and just react rather than finding out the facts. The association's value is far greater than we realize. More loggers need to be members and realize the importance the association has for them and how it works in the logger's best interest."

He also says, "Our business, and the logging industry in general, is still struggling and riding the yo-yo effect of feast or famine with operational

costs such as fuel increasing again along with the other costs of products and services. It looks like our industry will remain on shaky ground for another couple years before it begins to straighten out. But hopefully we as business professionals see improvements in the future."

As an association and industry leader with a sincere commitment to professional logging, sustainable forestry, community, family and the principles of outstanding business, SCTPA is proud *Walker & Walker Logging, LLC* is our 2010 *Gene Collins Logger Activist Award* recipient.



Walker Logging Job

The South Carolina Timber Producers Association's Logger Activist Award recognizes a logger member who has demonstrated an exceptional desire to promote and represent the profession by actively participating in association state and district activities, promoting and participating in educational efforts, community action projects and association projects to positively promote timber harvesting's image, conducting business activities in the best interests of the timber harvesting profession to engender the public's trust by meeting and exceeding the American Loggers Council Loggers Code of Practices and has displayed a professional commitment to sustainable forestry practices.

SCTPA's Logger Activist Award was named in honor of Gene Collins of Gene Collins Logging, Inc, Georgetown, because of Gene's dedication to his profession, his unselfish endeavors to promote the integrity of the logging industry within his community, his volunteer work educating children, his use of business practices that engendered the public's trust and his support for professional timber harvesting and sustainable forestry.

PREVIOUS GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST WINNERS

- 1999 - Dennis Wall, W. V. Wall & Sons, Inc. ■ Edgefield
- 2000 - Larry Cromer, W. A. Cromer & Son, Inc. ■ Newberry
- 2001 - Gene Collins, Gene Collins Logging, Inc. ■ Georgetown
- 2002 - Tommy Barnes, Ideal Logging, Inc. ■ Edgemoor
- 2003 - Jim Curry, Piedmont Pulp, Inc., & Pulpco Inc. ■ Laurens
- 2004 - Joe Young, Low Country Forest Products, Inc. ■ Georgetown
- 2005 - Crawford Wilks, Wilks Logging, Inc. ■ Chester
- 2006 - Tim, Reg & Martha Williams, Log Creek Timber Company, Inc. ■ Edgefield
- 2007 - BoBo Seckinger, Seckinger Forest Products, Inc. ■ Hampton
- 2008 - Norman Arledge, Arledge Logging & Timber, Inc. ■ Landrum
- 2009 - Billy McKinney, McKinney Brothers Logging, Inc. ■ Union