

GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST AWARD



Ferguson Forest Products, Inc. Luray, SC

The 2014 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award is proudly presented to Frampton Ferguson and Ferguson Forest Products, Inc. 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 professional business practices.

Ferguson Forest Products is a conscientious professional business that understands the value of relationships with customers, employees and their industry, environmental stewardship and promoting a positive image as professional loggers.

Ferguson operates one in-woods chipping side and two roundwood sides focusing on thinning and clearcutting private landowner tracts and Plum Creek Timber Company tracts. Ferguson contracts with KapStone Charleston Kraft delivering a weekly average of 3,400 tons of clean chips to the Charleston paper mill. The roundwood crews, one with Plum Creek and the other with KapStone, deliver wood to the KapStone Hampton chip mill and other local markets such as IP at Savannah and Weyerhaeuser at Port Wentworth. The roundwood crews each produce an average of 2,000 tons weekly.

The range of equipment for the crews is a service truck per crew with others at the shop, five John Deere grapple skidders, five Tigercat and one John Deere feller bunchers, three Tigercat loaders and one John Deere loader, a Peterson Pacific whole tree chipper and de-

barker and twenty-six trucks and log trailers and chip vans. Other woods equipment includes a motor grader, bulldozer and extra logging equipment. Ferguson has a large shop and employs their own mechanics and keeps a parts room stocked with components. Most repair and maintenance is handled in-house. Ferguson employs forty-seven people with Ann McClary having been with Frampton for twenty-five years and Tammy Carson over eight years. Ann handles payroll and trucking and Tammy handles the accounting.

Frampton is an Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College 1983 Forest Technology graduate. Early on he worked for a local logger Mr. Jack Mole and learned the business. Mr. Jack gave Frampton the opportunity to buy the business as Jack was retiring. So in 1986 Frampton



Tammy, Frampton & Anne (l-r)

started his business contracting with Westvaco. He has steadily grown his business while demonstrating professionalism and advocacy are an integral part of the company's philosophy.

Ferguson received the Westvaco Kraft Division Chip Quality 1998 and 1999 Silver award and the Bronze award in 2000. Ferguson was

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featured in Timber Harvesting magazine in 1997.

Frampton served on the SC Timber Pro-



Foreman Norris Fennell & Frampton

ducers Association board of directors from 2001 until 2012 and received the SCTPA Outstanding Service Award. He was named the South Carolina Forestry Association's 2000 Logger of the Year. He has served on the SC Forestry Association's Transportation Committee and other forestry and local committees.



Never one to shy away from innovations to improve his business, he was one of the early loggers to install GPS tracking units on his trucks to monitor operations for safety while moving, time and routing efficiencies and reduce trucking operation costs. Because he was one of the first, he did a presentation on his GPS program at the Forest Resources Association annual meeting in Myrtle Beach.

An avid promoter of sustainable forestry and professional logging is his district, Frampton has chaired the Log A Load For Kids efforts for his area and still is an active



supporter of this most worthy cause.

While contracting with MeadWestvaco he conducted logging and chipping site tours for MeadWestvaco customers and local groups to educate the public about responsible timber harvesting and sustainable forestry. He is Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Trained and requires several employees and crew foremen to be trained as well to comply with the SFI Standard.

He is active in local activities and politics. He makes it a point to stay in touch with local politicians and participates in campaign activities for forestry and timber harvesting supporters.

In 2007, a local attorney came out and publicly said, "All loggers are timber thieves." He wrote a scathing editorial published in low country newspapers regarding the same. Frampton was quick to respond and contacted SCTPA. He was instrumental in responding to the attorney personally and assisted SCTPA in responding with an editorial in the local newspapers challenging the attorney's accusations and quickly set the record straight. Thanks to Frampton's involvement, not another word was heard from the attorney.

One of the things, and this is a side note, when Frampton served on the board, he would stop in Denmark at the Amish bakery and bring fresh pastries to the meeting in Columbia. But he was an active board member providing guidance and direction for the association to move forward to represent and service our members and the logging and wood supply industry.

relection for the association to move forward to represent and service our members and the logging and wood supply industry.

Frampton strives to educate the public about our sustainable forestry and professional timber harvesting industry. He feels there is a greater need for the critical public to understand our industry is dedicated to environmental stewardship and maintaining our sustainable, renewable and

healthy forest resources for the many products

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made of wood, wildlife and wildlife habitat, clean water and aesthetic values.

Ferguson Forest Products is a member of SC Timber Producers Association, SC Forestry Association and Forest Resources Association. Frampton is active for SCTPA in his district and



regularly attends district meetings and annual meetings.

The company emphasizes sustainable harvesting practices, safety, professionalism, SC Timber Harvesting Best Management Practices and works conscientiously to meet landowner expectations through exceptional environmental, harvesting and business practice standards.

Frampton believes strongly promoting and practicing professional timber harvesting and sustainable forestry principles are integral to his business's success. Frampton says, "Having been on the SCTPA board, I fully appreciate the work the association does to represent and service our industry. The association is our voice at the table with many for issues that can positively and negatively affect our businesses. We as professional loggers, must work to continue to improve and be the professionals we truly are to show the critical public, our customers and industry we are committed to excellence."

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 suppliers and wood receiving companies in cooperative, mutually beneficial partnerships, promoting and practicing sustainable forestry, educating the critical public regarding professional timber harvesting, dem-

onstrating a stewardship attitude about our sustainable and renewable forest resources and our environment are all important issues to the company's business and operational standards.

Frampton says, "I appreciate the SC Timber Producers Association and the American Loggers Council for being our representatives for professional loggers. We need their presence to enhance the logging industry and to provide education and guidance for better understanding of what we do as professional loggers."

As an industry leader with a sincere commitment to professional logging, sustainable forestry, community, family and the principles of outstanding business, SCTPA is proud *Frampton Ferguson and Ferguson Forest Products, Inc.* is our *2014 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award* recipient.



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

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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.

