



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

JULY/AUGUST 2015



BARKO HOSTS AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL SUMMER BOARD MEETING

Board members gather in Duluth, Minnesota

Hemphill, Texas (July 30, 2015) –The American Loggers Council (ALC) recently held its Summer Board of Directors Meeting in Duluth, Minnesota on July 24 – 25. Barko Hydraulics, LLC volunteered to host the event and those that were attendance were treated to a first-class experience.



ALC members arrived on Thursday afternoon and attended a welcome reception held at the Holiday Inn & Suites Hotel. Barko President Scot Jenkins, Sales Manager Bruce Enstrom, and Marketing Manager John Major and several others from Barko were on hand to welcome the group.

Friday morning ALC members were transported to the Barko assembly plant in Superior, Wisconsin and met with key personnel and were also allowed to tour the plant as well as see demonstrations of the Barko CH6025 Biomass chipper and the Barko 495ML Loader.



The demo was followed up by lunch at the plant and then ALC delegates headed to the woods to experience Barko forwarders and Harvesters in action. Following the logging tour, members were taken back to the hotel and then treated to a dinner again by Barko

On Saturday, The ALC Board members met at the Duluth Holiday Inn and Suites Hotel to discuss business and issues of the Council as well as recent activities in Washington, DC that included the reintroduction of the Future Careers in Logging Act, and the Resilient Federal Forest Act of 2015. Members of the ALC have been instrumental in getting both of these bills introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives.

Other items on the agenda included reports from the Legislative Committee,

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Transportation Committee, Biomass Committee, Master Logger Certification Committee, Membership Committee and the Communications Committee.

The ALC Board of Directors welcomed Barko representatives to the Board meeting as well as representatives from the Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers (ACLT) of Minnesota Director Scott Dane and ACLT President Mike Nieman as they also reviewed the current 5 year strategic plan that is now in its fourth year as well as the need to



begin looking head for the next 5 years.

Barko President Scot Jenkins announced that Barko was increasing their level of

commitment to the ALC to further assist them in their efforts to promote the timber harvesting industry.

ALC President Myles Anderson thanked the members of Barko for not only hosting the meeting, but also for their participation and comments in the Board meeting that followed the tours. "Having our sponsors on-board and participating in our meetings allows us to get a different perspective on the issues that we are facing, including the direction that the American Loggers Council should be headed in the future. All of our sponsors are a valuable asset to the organization. Barko was an excellent host and provided a great venue for our meeting."

About American Loggers Council

The American Loggers Council is a non-profit 501 (c)(6) organization representing timber harvesting professionals in 30 states. For more information contact the American Loggers Council office at 409 -625-0206 or visit their website at www.amloggers.com.

ALC Summer Board Meeting



Capitol Report for the South Carolina Timber Producers Association January – August, 2015

Prepared by Cam Crawford, SCFA President



STATE ISSUES

Trespasser Responsibility Act

South Carolina's common law provides that landowners owe no duty of care to trespassers except in the very narrow exceptions of causing "willful or wanton injury" to trespassers or when creating a dangerous artificial condition or "attractive nuisance" for children.

On December 18, 2014, Rep. Davey Hiott, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee, introduced the Trespasser Responsibility Act, House Bill 3266 that codifies the common law standard.

On January 20, 2015, SCFA President Cam Crawford testified in support of the Trespasser Responsibility Act at the House Wildlife Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee voted 4-0 in support of the Trespasser Responsibility Act. The legislation passed in the House Agriculture Committee by a 17-0 vote on January 22 and passed the House of Representatives on February 4 by a vote of 106 – 6.

The legislation passed out of Senate Judiciary Committee by a 19 to 1 vote on March 31. After being carried over on the Senate calendar since April 1, H.3266, the Trespasser Responsibility Act, received second-reading in the Senate on June 2 by a vote of 41-1, third-reading on June 3 and the House concurred with Senate amendments before adjourning on June 3 by a vote of 94-0.

The bill was signed into law by Governor Haley on June 8, 2015.

Provide the Governor with the Authority to Suspend Truck Weight Limits for 120 Days during a State of Emergency

SCFA worked with Senator Danny Verdin and Rep. Joe Daning in drafting legislation to provide the Governor with the authority to issue an executive order allowing logging trucks to haul up to a Gross Vehicle Weight of 90,000 pounds for a 120 day period after a State of Emergency has been declared.

Senate Bill 358 passed the Senate on March 25 with a 40-0 vote and was referred to the House Education and Public Works Committee and voted out 17-0 on April 22. On April 29, the House passed Senate Bill 358 by a vote of 105 – 0. SCFA President Cam Crawford testified in support of the legislation.

The legislation was signed into law by Governor Haley on May 7, 2015.

Highway and Bridge Funding

There are approximately 400 "posted" load restricted bridges that substantially impacts the forest industry resulting in inefficiency and higher fuel costs due to logging trucks having to travel longer distances to a mill.

Rep. Gary Simrill, who chaired the House Ad Hoc Committee on Infrastructure, introduced legislation, House Bill 3579, to fund the state's roads and bridges. H. 3579 reduces the state's 16.75-cents per gallon gasoline tax by six cents and reinstates the 6 percent state sales tax in the form of an excise tax on wholesale gasoline. The bill also increases the sales tax cap on vehicles from \$300 to \$500. The legislation enables the governor to appoint the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission and provides a funding mechanism to return some roads to counties. The legislation also provides about \$50 per person annually in income tax relief. Rep. Simrill's legislation is expected to generate over \$400 million annually. The legislation passed the House of Representatives on April 15 by a vote of 87-20 and was sent to the Senate.

The SC Forestry Association strongly opposes any efforts to transfer regulatory control of these roads and bridges to local governments. Local governments should not be allowed to post weight restrictions on bridges or require route restrictions for logging trucks without SC DOT approval. The forest industry needs a consistent statewide standard for the transportation of logs free from unnecessary regulations or restrictions.

In response to SCFA's concerns, an amendment

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was added to require local governments to get SC DOT approval before posting weight restrictions on roads or bridges.

Also, SCFA successfully opposed attempts to eliminate the sales tax exemption on off road fuel in the legislation.

The Senate Finance Committee reported out House Bill 3579 on April 28 amending the bill to raise \$700-\$800 million for South Carolina roads and bridges. The plan would increase the state gas tax by 10 cents per gallon while also increasing it for inflation. The proposal would raise the sales tax cap on automobiles to \$1,400 as well as increase registration and driver's license fees.

The Senate set the legislation for Special Order. Senator Tom Davis blocked efforts to address highway funding with a filibuster of the Capital Reserve legislation. The focus of his filibuster was to prevent increasing the gas tax and other fee increases, stating that his plan is to use surplus revenues to fund road improvements. The debate is expected to continue in January 2016.

State Budget

Here's a summary of forestry and transportation related programs in the budget approved by the General Assembly on June 23, 2015:

- a) \$216.4 Million was provided to counties for road repairs.
- b) \$118,000 for the DNR Endangered Species State Listing Initiative to help provide research data to verify a species needs to be listed as endangered.
- c) \$500,000 for firefighting equipment at the SC Forestry Commission and \$500,000 for new positions.

Legal Action Regarding Counties Requiring Forest Management Plans to Qualify for Ag-Use

Counties have inconsistent policies related to requiring landowners to have a forest management plan before qualifying for the agriculture use exemption. This is an on-going problem leading to an inconsistent application of the law. The SCFA Board of Directors voted to seek an Attorney General's opinion so there would be a consistent statewide policy regarding this matter.

On September 22, 2014, the SC Attorney General's

office issued an opinion stating "that counties are unauthorized to enact local legislation placing additional requirements on landowners seeking to have timberland classified as agricultural real property."

SCFA has hired former U.S. Attorney John Simmons to represent our association in this matter. Mr. Simmons has written Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Charleston, Greenwood, Jasper, and Spartanburg Counties a letter asking their assessors to comply with the September 22, 2014 Attorney General's opinion. Since the letter was written, several other counties such as Calhoun have started to require landowners to have a forest management plan before granting their application for an Ag use exemption.

On January 21, 2015, the SC Forestry Association's Board of Directors authorized Mr. Simmons to initiate legal action against counties refusing to comply with the Attorney General's opinion.

In March, legal action was filed in Circuit Court in Calhoun County seeking a declaratory judgment to force the county to comply with the law as stated in the Attorney General's opinion.

A hearing was held on June 25, 2015 to address Calhoun County's motion to dismiss the legal action filed by SCFA. Calhoun County argued that the action should have been filed in the Administrative Law Court. SCFA's attorney John Simmons opposed the motion to dismiss stating that SCFA is bringing a constitutional challenge which must be heard in Circuit Court. Judge Maite' Murphy was the presiding judge and has not issued a ruling at the time of printing of this report.

FEDERAL ISSUES

Federal Timber Taxes

Last year, former U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp released his tax reform legislation that eliminated many business deductions including several timber tax provisions. It is anticipated that another attempt will be made to pass tax reform legislation after the 2016 election.

The SC Forestry Association is seeking to protect the current tax laws so timberland owners will continue:

- Receiving capital gains treatment for the harvest of timber or sales of standing trees.
- Deducting the costs of forest management, in-

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cluding prevention measures (fire, pest and disease), thinning, fertilization, interest, taxes, protection of wetlands, and forestry activities.

- Investing in timber Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS), based on the IRS determination that timber is real property under the REIT rules; and
- Deducting up to \$10,000 of reforestation costs per stand, with the remainder written off over 7 years.

Congressmen Joe Wilson and Jeff Duncan support SCFA's position and have written a letter to Rep. Paul Ryan, the new Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, opposing the repeal of the timber tax laws.

Waters of the United States Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers have enacted a new definition of "Waters of the United States" establishing a jurisdictional overreach under the Federal Clean Water Act. The new "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule, will expand the agencies regulatory jurisdictions to include ditches, streams and intermittent waterways.

The SCFA Board of Directors voted to oppose the WOTUS rule. SCFA submitted comments opposing it.

On May 27, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency released its final "Waters of the United States" rule—defining waters that are subject to EPA's regulatory jurisdiction. Here are some highlights of the rule:

- The final WOTUS rule makes some attempt to address objections landowners and foresters raised to the draft rule about the status of man-made ditches, ephemeral and intermittent streams, and other vaguely defined features, and it appears to exempt many ditches and wetlands with normal silvicultural operations from a WOTUS designation. However, rather than declare definitively that all man-made ditches are not WOTUS, the final rule designates most intermittent ditches as WOTUS, requiring a finding of whether a ditch is intermittent or ephemeral in order to be excluded.
- EPA reserves the authority to categorize water features as WOTUS on a case-by-case basis, essentially giving EPA the right to review land-

owner decisions, leading to more uncertainty for the regulated community.

- The final rule does appear to resolve key forest products manufacturers concerns—wastewater treatment ponds on mill campuses are exempt as WOTUS, as are other waters on pulp and paper mill facilities. The rule specifically excludes "log cleaning ponds," a significant improvement over what was in the proposed rule.

The Waters of the U.S. rule was published in the June 29, 2015 Federal Register with an effective date of August 28, 2015.

SCFA contacted South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson about challenging the WOTUS rule in Federal Court. Attorney General Wilson filed legal action in Federal Court against the EPA and Corps on June 30, 2015.

On August 27, 2015, Chief Judge Ralph Erickson of the U.S. District Court for North Dakota temporarily blocked the EPA's WOTUS rule for 13 states. The 13 states covered by the injunction are: North Dakota, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Unfortunately, in a conflicting ruling, Chief Judge Lisa G. Wood of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia issued a six-page opinion, denying an injunction request by 11 states including South Carolina, saying jurisdiction over the case belongs in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Listing the Northern Long-Eared Bat as threatened protected under the Endangered Species Act

A disease known as the white-nose syndrome has spread among the Northern Long-Eared Bat population. Originally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) considered listing the bat as an endangered species due to the disease.

Unfortunately, the key restriction proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was to avoid cutting timber from April 1 to September 30 where there is bat habitat. This would have a tremendous impact on private timberland owners across 38 states including South Carolina. SCFA submitted comments advocating for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service not to restrict the practice of forestry since any tree clearing restrictions that may be imposed would have no real impact on preserving the species or preventing the spread of the white-nose syndrome.

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On January 15, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it was proposing a 4(d) rule under the Endangered Species Act for the Northern Long-Eared Bat so the agency could implement that rule concurrently with the final listing determination.

The USFWS claimed that the proposed 4(d) rule exempted restrictions on forest management practices, maintenance and limited expansion of transportation and utility rights-of-way, removal of trees and brush to maintain prairie habitat, and limited tree removal projects, provided these activities protect known maternity roosts. The proposed 4(d) rule also exempted restrictions for the removal of hazardous trees, removal of Northern Long-Eared Bats from human dwellings, and research-related activities.

On April 1, 2015 the USFWS announced that it was listing the Northern Long-Eared Bat as threatened. The agency proposed interim rules meant to safeguard the bat's habitat, including limits on harvesting timber. The listing became effective May 4, 2015 as an interim 4(d) rule. Given the significant number of comments received in response to the 4(d) rule as proposed on January 15, 2015, the USFWS opened a 90-day comment and accepted further input on the interim rule through July 1, 2015.

SCFA signed onto a joint letter written by state and national forestry associations dated July 1, 2015 that submitted comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that recommended several improvements to the 4 (d) rule.

The Interior Appropriations Bill includes language that requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to revise their interim 4(d) rule on the Northern Long-Eared Bat and reopen the rule for comment.



THE SC BIOMASS COUNCIL

IS THE RESOURCE FOR

BIOMASS ENERGY INFORMATION IN THE STATE

Many of you are likely familiar with SCBC's history as being a premiere source of bioenergy information in the state. However, for those of you who are newer members, the SCBC has been actively involved in bioenergy issues since 2006 - a time when renewable energy was still considered a 'fringe' technology.

Nearly ten years later, renewable energy has emerged as a major energy resource in the U.S. South Carolina's leaders had the foresight to capture the wave of clean energy investments in the country and in 2007 and 2008 passed a series of incentives, based in part on recommendations by the SCBC, that were among the best and most comprehensive bioenergy policies in the country.

Biomass energy continues to be an important resource and opportunity to employ thousands of workers around the state. The SCBC just released an important report titled, Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Technical Potential in South Carolina, developed on behalf of the Council by the DOE Southeast CHP Technical Assistance Partnership.

The study shows that over 4,000 MW of additional CHP is possible in South Carolina, some of which could be accomplished using renewable resources, such as biomass.

The SCBC's role will become even more important as the state develops strategies to best accommodate new carbon regulations from the EPA's Clean Power Plan. Today (Sept. 9), the SCBC hosted two staff from the Department of Health and Environmental Control, Myra Reese and Henry Porter, to present their initial plans for bioenergy within the development of state regulations. Unfortunately, there is still much uncertainty surrounding the role of biomass.

As the premiere resource and platform for biomass energy information in the state, we will continue to play an active role in the development of important regulations and policies.

SCTPA is proud to be a SC Biomass Council member.





17th SCTPA Annual Meeting

SCTPA is excited about our 17th Annual Meeting to be held February 5 – 7, 2016 at the Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center, 3200 South Ocean Boulevard, Myrtle Beach.

Our 2015 meeting was the largest attendance ever and we are excited to be returning to Springmaid Beach Resort for our venue again for 2016.

Rooms connected to the conference center are all double queen beds equipped with a full size refrigerator-freezer and two sinks and one inside bathroom. Rooms with king bed along with one and two bedroom suites are located in a building across the property. There is a limited number of king and suites available.

The Conference Center is impressive with plenty of exhibitor and meeting room space. SCTPA will utilize the second and third floors.

The second floor will be used for registration desk, exhibitors and speaker presentations. The third floor will be used for the Friday night reception, Saturday breakfasts and lunch and Sunday's prayer breakfast. The third floor has a panoramic view of the beach and Atlantic Ocean.

Marlin's is the on-site restaurant and should be open. Barnacles restaurant is located on Springmaid Pier adjacent to the resort and also may be available.

The usual flow of events will be scheduled. We'll also utilize the parking lots for outside exhibitors with equipment, trucks and trailers.

Room rates are shown below. Early reservations made are the best to get the best available rooms. Live Oaks is connected to the conference center while the other rooms for suites are located across the property.

Meeting preparations and speaker invitations are underway. Speakers invited are Richard Schwab, American Loggers Council President and Florida logger, Mark Vitner, Senior Economist with Wells Fargo in Charlotte, Rick Todd, President S.C. Trucking Association to discuss very important issues for the S.C. General Assembly regarding the CDL Driver Employment Protection Act, Kathy Abusow, President SFI, Inc. for the Saturday luncheon. The Silent Auction and the Big Drawings will be available too.

Annual meeting packages will be mailed this October to all members.

Check out Springmaid Beach Resort at SpringmaidBeach.com

We are excited and look forward to our 17th SCTPA Annual Meeting.

2015 SCTPA ANNUAL MEETING SPRINGMAID BEACH RESORT ROOM RATES

Room	Single Rate	Double Rate	Triple Rate	Quad Rate
2 Bedroom Suite	99	99	99	99
1 Bedroom Suite	89	89	89	89
Live Oaks Premium View	69	69	69	69
Live Oaks Deluxe Room	69	69	69	69

All rooms are subject to a 9% resort fee plus applicable state & local taxes, currently at 11% (subject to change without notice), per guest.

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Weak Southern Pine Lumber Demand Slows Production

By Karen M. Koenig
Woodworking Network

VANCOUVER, BC — Interfor Corp. said weak demand for southern yellow pine lumber is forcing it to reduce production by 20 percent at its southern U.S. mills.

Work hours at the mills were reduced by five hours until further notice, Interfor (TSX:IFP) said. "Prices for southern yellow pine lumber have fallen by 27 percent since the beginning of the year as available supply has outstripped product demand in the region," said Duncan Davies, Interfor's president and CEO.

"This action will help bring Interfor's production and the needs of our customers back into bal-

ance. It will also help to keep inventory levels in check as we move into the fall."

Affected are the sawmills in Baxley, Thomaston and Meldrim, Georgia; Georgetown, South Carolina; and Monticello, Arkansas. Planned maintenance and reliability improvements will take place at the sawmills during the slowdown "which will offset the financial impact of the curtailments on a go-forward basis," the company said.

Interfor has an annual production capacity of more than 3 billion board feet, with operations in Canada and the United States. The company has nine sawmills across the southern United States, with total annual capacity of approximately 1.3 billion board feet.



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BACKERS OF ROADS PLAN REGROUP, VOW TO PRESS ON

By Chuck Crumbo
ccrumbo@scbiznews.com
Columbia Regional Business Report
July 21, 2015

Key backers of a plan to fix South Carolina roads and bridges vow to press the issue despite hitting a political roadblock this year in the General Assembly.

"Absolutely," Ted Pitts, CEO of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce answered when asked if the organization would resume its transportation infrastructure campaign. "Infrastructure will continue to be a top issue for the business community until the General Assembly passes a long-term sustainable solution to funding roads and bridges."

The chamber, along with a number of other business groups like the S.C. Trucking Association, and the non-partisan South Carolina Alliance to Fix Our Roads, say the issue won't go away.

"We're not backing off and we'll intensify our efforts over the year," said Bill Ross of the S.C. Alliance. "We'll try to help them understand that our road situation is not only dangerous, but it's costing our drivers more to drive on bad roads."

Ross cited studies that show it costs S.C. motorists about \$1,200 a year in car repairs, lost time caused by being stuck in traffic, and higher fuel costs.

The S.C. Department of Transportation estimates that it faces an annual funding shortfall of \$1.5 billion. That's money that would be used to build new roads and bridges. Just to maintain the status quo would cost about \$400 million a year, according to House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington.

However, a supplemental appropriations bill that passed both chambers includes less than half the minimum amount – \$216.3 million – in one-time money for county transportation committees to be spent on state secondary roads.

Another \$50 million was set aside to leverage \$500 million in bonds for highway projects. But the bond money cannot be used until lawmakers can come up with a long-range plan for fixing the state's crumbling roads and bridges. That issue could be taken up when legislators return in January.

The spending plan also include \$70 million in sup-

plemental funds to build a new interchange along Interstate 26 that was promised to Volvo, which plans to build a \$500 million car plant in Berkeley County. The state, though, will still have to borrow \$53 million to complete the interchange.

Both Lucas and Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman ranked roads as the Legislature's top priority, but the issue quickly wound up caught in the crosshairs of anti-tax forces, led by Gov. Nikki Haley, who vowed to veto any bill that raised the state gas tax.

In her State of the State speech, Haley called for a 10-cent per gallon increase in the gas tax countered by a 30% income tax reduction, trimming the top rate

"The business community will not let up until the General Assembly acts and provides sustainable funding."

from 7% to 5%. The House passed a bill that would reduce the state's 16.75

cents-per-gallon gasoline tax while reinstating a 6% sales tax on the fuel. The Senate Finance Committee approved a plan to raise \$800 million by increasing the gas tax by 12 cents per gallon over a three-year window, but the measure never was voted on.

"The House did a great job in getting a bill out early in the session, but it stalled for months in the Senate," Pitts said. "The Senate has got to step up and make progress on important issues."

Some proponents of a fix for the state's roads worry that it may take a catastrophe such as a bridge collapse to get the Legislature's attention.

"If they would even just look at the statistics they'd see that South Carolina is ranked No. 2 in having the most dangerous roads in the country," Ross said, adding that the danger already is present. "I think the public is aware of the needs and if the Legislature refuses to do something big, things are just going to get worse."

Rick Todd, president and CEO of the South Carolina Trucking Association, said the Legislature's lack of action is "disheartening" and thinks the General Assembly is either unwilling to accept its role in fixing the state's roads.

"They have to provide public infrastructure," Todd said. "Either they do not have the guts or the willingness."

The business community, Pitts said, intends to keep the pressure on. "The business community will not let up until the General Assembly acts and provides sustainable funding," he said.



WHY ARE WE LOGGERS?



As my presidency of the American Loggers Council comes to a close I wanted to sum up the many issues I have spoken to over the past year. While loggers may relate to this specifically, all facets of the wood products industry should be cognizant of what is happening around them.

I often ask myself, “why am I a logger?” Maybe a better question is why does anyone decide they want to be a logger? After doing it for a while, why do we continue and not go down another career path?

Many people we went to school with and many of our associates believe an eight hour a day, five days a week job is grueling. In our business, we’re lucky if we get away with an occasional twelve hour day. When you do get home before dark; in the back of our minds we wonder what did we forgot to do that resulted in this unexpected luxury.

We all remember the night that the yarder or the loader broke down and we worked late into the evening to get it ready for the next day. We come home later than normal, filthy dirty, only to meet our wives at the back door with that look on their face and the infamous comment “you could have called me”. If it isn’t concern for our safety, it is the amazement that we would choose to fix a piece of broken down iron over going to a child’s sporting event or recital. Logging is a hard business; most wives would agree being married to a logger is nearly impossible.

For those of us that don’t mind working long hours and are lucky enough to have a wife that is understanding, we still face a few more challenges. While most of our neighbors live in wood houses they have a serious problem with cutting down trees. It seems we are forever explaining the resilience of the forest and the need to manage it. I like to explain that if we don’t manage the land Mother Nature will and the current fires in the Pacific Northwest are a good example of that type of management.

When our neighbors don’t approve of cutting down trees, the regulators jump on the bandwagon with good intentions, but the cumulative impact of these regulations is never really considered. This is another challenge for the loggers, and in the state of California, the system has all but ground to a stop by regulation.

A discussion of the challenges faced by loggers is not complete without talking about the people we log for. We all have worked for some of the finest people there are; fair, respectful and honest. We as the logging industry must remember to thank them every chance we have and do all we can to help them survive in a tough industry. We have also all worked for other landowners that seem to stay awake at night trying to come up with ways to make our lives miserable. When a landowner acts unethically it is not done in a vacuum, the environmental community, regulators and all their neighbors know it and any hard earned trust that may have been achieved is out the window. As we all know in our industry, trust is important, hard to achieve, and easy to lose.

So back to my original question, why are we loggers? I believe it is because we enjoy the challenge, we do something that many can criticize but few can actually do. We enjoy actually accomplishing something every day and associating with people that have a strong work ethic. In a world where so many people sit in offices answering a phone or some other equally boring job, our job is never boring, it may be hard, dirty and dangerous, but not boring.

Another question that must be asked is why we see so few people coming into this industry. While there are many simple reasons, I believe it also has to do with the attitude and expectations of the new breed of

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large forest landowners. Our timberland historically was owned by people that respected the land and had a long term vision of management. More often than not, now timberland is considered a commodity and managed by accountants. In some instances the owning entity has little or no connection to the ground, shows no respect for the people that do the work on it and don't seem to understand or chose to ignore how their management decisions impact the land and the communities that depend on it.

Issues like these keep a logging business owner from staying optimistic about the future which in turn trickles down to the employees. The trend of loggers being nothing more than a line item on the profit and loss sheet will exacerbate this shortage of logging infrastructure into the future.

Loggers face issues every day from safety, productivity, transportation, and finding revenue generating work to name a few, but in the end those that call themselves loggers always find a way to get the job done. This can do spirit is not found in every occupation and in most cases cannot be taught. I feel very fortunate to have grown up with and continue to work side by side with loggers, both in my home state and across the nation. While some may call me crazy, I belief that managing a renewable resource regardless of its challenges is the right thing to do and it is just another reason why I am proud that I chose to become a logger.

Myles Anderson is the current President of the American Loggers Council and he and his father Mike own and operate Anderson Logging, Inc. based out of Fort Bragg, CA.

The American Loggers Council is a non-profit 501(c) (6) corporation representing professional timber harvesters in 30 states across the US. For more information, visit their web site at www.americanloggers.org or contact their office at 409-625-0206.

S.C. shouldn't feel impact of China's slowdown, economist says

By Chris Cox
ccox@scbiznews.com
Published Aug. 28, 2015



The U.S. stock market's volatile week resulting from China's recent economic turmoil should not affect South Carolina despite its significant Chinese investment, Wells Fargo senior economist Mark Vitner said Thursday.

"At the end of the day, I think very shortly, folks are going to realize China is slowing, but it's still growing," Vitner said. "The worst case isn't what we thought it was going to be. It's not like it's all that meaningful to the U.S. economy."

Some 20 Chinese companies invest in South Carolina, including a few that recently announced expansions or

are soon to call the state home. Appliance manufacturer Haier America announced plans last week to invest \$72 million and add 400 jobs at its Camden plant, and Chinese-owned Volvo Cars will soon bring its first American factory to Berkeley County.

Other companies include textile company Keer America Corp. in Indian Land, the American Yuncheng Gravure Cylinder plant in Spartanburg, and Giti Tire in Chester County.

China's recent slowdown should only affect South Carolina should that foreign investment slow as a result, Vitner said. China was also the state's top destination for exports in 2014 at nearly \$4.3 billion, according to the S.C. Commerce Department.

"Foreign investment is important here," Vitner said. "On a per capita basis, we have the second-largest share of our workforce employed at foreign-owned companies than any state in the country. If we saw slowing in foreign investment that would hurt us."



Time for Senate to Act After Record-Breaking Wildfire Season



Federal forest management and wildfires are dominating the national headlines. So far this year over 44,000 fires have burned over 8.4 million acres. Not only is the United States setting records for acres burned, it's heading towards its costliest wildfire season ever. The federal government has already spent \$1.23 billion and will likely break the record \$1.65 billion spent in 2002. This year's fires have cost lives and scores of homes in devastated communities throughout the West. Some are calling this the "new normal." But it doesn't have to be this way.

It's time for Congress to reform federal forest management. Because the Forest Service has once again exceeded its firefighting budget, there is interest among many politicians to fix the government's broken system of wildfire suppression funding. Already the agency has "borrowed" money from non-fire accounts to cover the shortfall and ensure firefighters have the resources they need. But Congress should be reminded that merely treating the symptoms will not cure the disease, in this case the 60 to 80 million acres of unnaturally overstocked federal forests that are sick and vulnerable to wildfire, insects and disease.

The federal government has acknowledged that it must increase the pace and scale of forest projects to reduce future wildfire threats. At the government's current pace it would take the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management as much as 100 years to meet its forest restoration goals. To improve forest management, Congress must step up to address the litigation and agency "analysis paralysis" that typically stymie forest health projects and timber sales.

There are reasons for hope. U.S. House has acted

by passing the bipartisan Resilient Federal Forests Act that fixes wildfire suppression funding, addresses litigation and streamlines the regulatory process for certain projects. The attention has shifted to the Senate, which is expected to work on wildfire funding and consider forest management solutions that are awaiting action. Your Senators need to hear from you.

Excess timber comes out of our federal forests one way or another. It is either carried out or burned out. If you think the forest products industry has a role in restoring the health of our forests, please urge your senators to support these solutions without delay. Otherwise we will continue to experience larger wildfires that threaten more lives, homes and forests. It's time to treat the disease, not just the symptoms.

Nick Smith, Executive Director - Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities

For more information go to
www.HealthyForests.org.



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HFHC UPDATE: ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND HUNTING



Many hunters and outdoorsmen understand that forest health and wildlife habitat are closely linked. As private timberlands become hotspots for the upcoming fall hunting seasons, the outlook is uncertain in overstocked, unhealthy federal forests where the lack of younger forests is harming many populations of dependent species, including deer, elk, and birds popular among hunters.

Many species thrive on dynamic forest landscapes that were historically shaped or “disturbed” by wildfires, insects and windstorms. A century of wildfire suppression, combined with activist lawsuits and federal policies discouraging timber harvests and other management activities, have resulted in unnaturally overgrown and mature forests that do not provide enough food and habitat for wildlife.

Habitat for young forest-dependent species has all but disappeared from many national forests throughout the country, and as a result wildlife populations in many areas have declined. Active forest management would enable land managers to restore diverse forest landscapes by utilizing commercial timber harvesting to effectively and efficiently mimic natural disturbances. That’s why dozens of hunting, sportsmen and conservation organizations joined Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities, the forest products industry and others in supporting the Resilient Federal Forests Act (HR 2647) that recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support.

The legislation enables the Forest Service to use a special authority under federal environmental law to expedite projects that enhance or create young, early successional forests for wildlife habitat improvement. It will also help the agency increase the pace and scale of management activities to improve the natural health of forests and municipal watersheds across the country. In addition to supporting America’s woodbasket and creating thousands of jobs in rural forested communities, it will provide the Forest Service more resources to hire foresters, fund projects and support multiple-use activities on these public lands.

Visit HFHC’s Action Center at healthyforests.org/action_center to learn more about the Resilient Federal Forests Act and other solutions to promote active management and improved wildlife habitat. Tell your Senators it’s time to pass this legislation or other meaningful measures to improve federal forest management and support jobs in rural forested communities.



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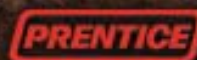
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Confessions of a former tree hugger

August 31, 2015

By Matt Reese

Ohio's Country Journal / Ohio AG

Alan Walter refers to himself as a “tree hugger” when he first purchased his hilly, heavily wooded property in Harrison County.

“I bought this 150-acre farm in 1990 because I was looking for a place to mushroom hunt. I had always liked nature and liked being in the woods, but at that point I really had no idea what I was going to do with the property. At that stage in my life I was a member of Greenpeace and more of a tree hugger type of person who wanted to preserve the trees and keep them from being cut down,” Walter said. “I was a computer engineer and I worked in Canton for 30 years doing a variety of software projects. I had no outdoor experience other than some hiking and mushroom hunting with my dad when I was growing up. Since I bought this farm, it has really been a shift in my attitude as far as understanding what is happening on the land.”

As a new farm owner, Walter quickly set to work learning what he could about how to best care for his Sycamore Hill Tree Farm. He found the learning curve as steep as his newly purchased hillsides.

“I just started calling anyone I thought I could get good advice from — OSU Extension, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Soil and Water Conservation District, the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Many of those groups sent someone to the farm and pointed me in the right direction. The most helpful was the ODNR Division of Forestry Service Forester Randy Clum,” Walter said. “I had a really severe grapevine infestation at that time. The vines can make the trees unmarketable for lumber because they distort the trees’ shapes and rob sunlight causing the trees to die prematurely. The woods had been very heavily logged in the early 1970s and that had opened up a window for the grapevines to overtake the woods. I spent close to 10 years just getting grapevines under control.”

After the painstaking removal of the grapevines, Walter discovered that his work was just getting started.

“With the sunlight that was reaching the forest floor after I removed the grapevines, all the multiflora rose seeds came pouring forth. I spent another 10 years trying to kill the multiflora rose,” Walter said. “So, I was 20 years in and all I had done was try to get it back under control.”

With all of the time Walter spent in the woods, he had plenty of opportunities to ponder his long-term objectives for the property. He wanted to manage the woods to produce big trees (but he still wasn’t planning to sell any), improve water quality, stabilize the soil, increase wildlife and plant diversity, and improve the aesthetics. With these goals in mind, Walter found himself implementing management practices and making on-farm decisions that would have been unthinkable during his former “tree hugger” mindset.

The change in his attitude began after Clum convinced him to attend a monthly meeting of the East Central Ohio Forestry Association (ECOFA).

“I’ve learned you can achieve a multitude of goals simultaneously while managing a woodland. You can make money while still having a very nice woods to enjoy,” Walter said. “Now instead of just having a goal to ‘grow big trees’ my goal has been refined to say ‘high-quality sawlog or veneer-quality timber.’ I have found that I can actually grow big trees faster by cutting down the competition. I started cutting down some of the trees to add value to the remaining trees. The consulting forester said that some of these trees I was cutting were large enough to make money instead of letting them rot on the ground. So I had a timber harvest in 2013 and it was an improvement cut to undo the damage of the past poor forestry practices. They were mostly red maple and black cherry. It wasn’t a big money maker, but I am very happy with the quality of the woods now.”

“I also learned that early successional habitat is almost an endangered ecosystem in Ohio — this shrubby habitat that is really good for migrating warblers in the spring and fall, woodcock and grouse. I don’t hunt, but I am interested in watching birds. So, to enhance wildlife habitat, I did this clearcut of about three acres of trees in the fall of 2013 to ‘reset the

(Continued on page 19)





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(Continued from page 16)

clock' for about 15 years to benefit some birds. When I first bought this property I would have scoffed if you told me that someday I would be cutting down trees and certainly never could have foreseen that I'd intentionally do a clearcut."

Then the future of the farm took another turn that would be almost unthinkable for Walter 25 years earlier.

"With this explosion of Utica shale I ended up signing a contract for an oil lease. I now have a well pad on my property. In August of 2014 construction of the well pad and well pad road began. They were drilling eight wells from Dec. 2014 through March of 2015 and fracking from April through June of 2015. The wells will probably be in production by this September. The pad is only about three acres but the property is so steep they had to cut down about 14 acres of trees for the pad and the 3,000-foot long road to get to the pad," Walter said. "When you are trying to make a living off of growing trees, having a well pad and a road seems incompatible with that. But, the road goes halfway into the property and that has improved the access so much for the next timber harvest, which will allow me to sell the trees for more money. The property is long and skinny and for the last harvest in 2013 they had to drag each log out sometimes up to a mile to get it loaded on a semi. Now they can get semi-trucks right there in the middle of the property and they will have literally days less time handling the logs. I am sure that will be reflected in the bidding process."

The oil and gas production is generating additional, and unexpected, income from the land, and actually benefitting the property in many other ways, Walter said.

"I am super pleased. It has been a very high quality operation. There had been oil wells on the property back since 1899. There were some roads on the farm but now I have a road that is better quality than a lot of the township roads around here," he said. "Chesapeake was the company that put the well in and I was very pleased with working with them. They listened to my concerns and really worked to reduce the size of the well pad. They honestly treated my land as well or better than I have. It wasn't just lip service about caring about the best management practices. They really were doing it."

With better access to his own land now, Walter has used the road and well pad as a new opportunity

to achieve his goals for enhancing the property.

"I planted 4,000 native shrubs along the road and around the well pad. Chesapeake planted clover and grass in the disturbed ground because that rapidly keeps the erosion in check. Then I planted viburnum, chokecherry, sumac, dogwood, pussy willow — all native species that have flowers and berries for the birds and wildlife and that provide some beauty. It also gives a kick-start to the natural succession. The land here just wants to go back to trees and by planting these shrubs right now, I can take 10 or 15 years off of that succession process," he said. "Wildlife is actually benefitting from the work of the oil companies on the farm. I'm seeing more deer and turkey because of the grass and clover patches. Red-tailed hawks and red-headed woodpeckers nested this spring within sight of the well pad as fracking was going on. There are birds all over the place. Nature has evolved with constant changes so as long as you are not paving over the property you are benefitting something with these changes. I see a lot of misinformation in the media that is completely opposite of my experience with the oil and gas companies. The environmental impacts of gas and oil are grossly exaggerated in media and just not accurate."

In addition, Walter is enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program for maintenance of invasive species control using integrated pest management techniques, and wildlife habitat improvement practices. The farm has been certified since 1994 by the American Tree Farm System.

Walter was named the 2015 Ohio Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and is hosting the Tree Farm of the Year Tour on Sept. 19. He has over 50 presentations and hikes scheduled throughout the day.

"Rather than being concerned about cutting trees down, I am now concerned about invasive species. The woods, whether young or old, big or small, is the right habitat for some mix of species. The competition from things that are not native is what is causing the problems," Walter said. "Nature is so resilient. Cutting down a tree is not really a bad thing. Even without the oil and gas income, the next timber harvest will pay for this farm. It's a profitable venture with the timber, but you have to be in it for the long haul."

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HAZARDS AROUND THE INDUSTRY

JJ Lemire

Each and every day tens of thousands individuals head to work in the forest product industries. Hazards abound whether you are in the woods, at the landing, driving a truck, at the mill or whatever position your job entails.

One area that gains negative attention both locally and nationally is when a “log truck” is involved in an accident.

Sometimes, the accidents are a result of another driver causing the incident, sometimes, it is the truck driver themselves. No matter who is at fault, the news will always describe it as “A log truck” accident.

Every time a loaded log truck drives on a public highway, it is an advertisement for your company. Have you put your best foot forward? Is the truck clean and debris removed so it does not get flung at other vehicles? Do the tires have adequate tread so they do not disintegrate and become airborne projectiles? Is the load secured and trimmed properly to prevent limbs or other objects from falling off in transit?

If you as a truck driver, or employer, or loader operator takes a few seconds to look over the loaded truck before it departs the job, some of the horrific accidents we have all seen on television might not have occurred.

A simple check to help put your best foot forward could include:

- no loose debris,
- no free hanging limbs,
- no excessive mud,
- no logs over the standards,
- all loads chained or strapped,
- and proper flagging and/or lights.



Once the driver leaves the rutted woods area, it is recommended that he or she stop and check the load securement.

Imagine your family member in a car following this log truck. What if it happened to be your truck that you loaded out earlier?

Each person on the logging crew should be aware how simple it is for one thing to be overlooked. Loader operators must be aware that the logs they load will shift in route to the mills. Drivers must inspect their loads and not take loads that are unsafe. Employers must instill a safety mindset that a few extra minutes to fix this type of error could be a lifesaving step. Unfortunately, if it is not fixed, it could be a devastating loss of life or property, or be a legal nightmare. Take time to check it before it leaves your control. **DO NOT LET THIS BE THE NEXT NEWS CAST.**



Nikki R. Haley
Governor



Kevin A. Shwedo
Executive Director

State of South Carolina

Department of Motor Vehicles

SCDMV BULLETIN
September 9, 2015

EMPLOYER NOTIFICATION PROGRAM

The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) developed a service designed to monitor an employee's driving record for an employer. This service will be especially useful for trucking companies and companies with fleet vehicles. The intent of this service is to notify the employer that an event has occurred which resulted in a change to the employee's driving record.

"It doesn't replace the need for a company to get a copy of a driver's motor vehicle record," said DMV Executive Director Kevin Shwedo. "Any accident or violation that changes a driver's record is only one part of the story. Employers should review the driver's entire motor vehicle record before taking any action against the employee."

Any driving violations, suspensions, and license changes will be reported for a period of one year. Accidents which cause physical damage over \$1,000 or result in bodily injury will also be reported. Employers interested in the web-based service should visit the DMV website at www.scdmvonline.com and click on Commercial Services and then Employer Notification for information on how to enroll and use the service. Once enrolled in the reporting process, the employer will be responsible for obtaining employee consent and entering the employee's license number and last name. DMV will run the watch list report the following Saturday. The report can be viewed online or downloaded as either an Excel or CSV file.

The cost of using this service is based upon a sliding scale of the number of employees enrolled by the employer and will be billed annually. SCDMV reserves the right to audit reports any time after initial enrollment. If employers exceed the sliding scale that they are being billed at during the audit, they will be billed at the level uncovered during the audit.

For more information, citizens may visit the DMV website at www.scdmvonline.com.

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Forestry Mutual Initiates TEAM Truck Safety Task Force

By Chris Brown, NCFA Director of Communications

Back in the late 1990's, loggers were suffering heavy equipment losses caused by fire, resulting in climbing equipment premiums. Forestry Mutual Insurance Company took a bold step back then to create the Timber Equipment Applications Management Task Force, which was shortened to TEAM Fire.

This group of loggers, insurance carriers and equipment manufacturers began meeting to discuss ways to combat these fire losses head on through improved logger training on the issue, increasing the awareness of the problem through printed materials/stickers and eventually a video production, and technical changes with the machines.

The success of TEAM Fire can be measured in the reduction in the amount of equipment loss to fire, the normalization of insurance rates, and in the significant changes manufacturers made in their equipment over the past 10 years.

"TEAM Fire demonstrates what can be achieved when everyone comes together for a common goal," stated Forestry Mutual President Keith Biggs. "People checked their egos and special interests at the door, rolled up their sleeves, and started working on solutions. And, it worked. We are much better off now."

With TEAM Fire as a starting point, Biggs and his Forestry Mutual crew decided it was time to take on truck safety – a constant worry for the industry that has risen in prominence in recent years. At one point, it was estimated that an overwhelming majority of log truck accidents were precipitated by an error by the passenger car driver. Recently, the pendulum of blame has swung more on the side of the truck driver. This is a trend the forest products industry cannot allow to continue.

"We need to do something," stated Biggs. "In almost all of the cases of a serious accident or rollover incident, excessive speed for the road or traffic conditions was the cause of the accident. Our drivers

need to do better. It's not equipment failure. It's poor decisions by the driver. We, and I mean everyone in this industry, needs to do better with training our truck drivers from start to finish."

Forestry Mutual's Jimmie Locklear and J.J. Lemire, the same duo that chaired TEAM Fire, coordinated the first meeting of TEAM Truck Safety in late July. Insurance carriers, loggers, mill representatives, associations and equipment representatives were invited to discuss in an open forum the truck safety problem.

Based on the discussion that took place in the day-long meeting, the challenge is substantial.

Consider some of the points brought forward by veteran loggers about how conditions have changed over the past 15 years. The typical haul has doubled for most from 40 miles to the mill to 80 or 90 miles. Sparked by equipment improvements, the pace of production has improved to the point where some loggers are now striving for 110 loads a week instead of 40. Almost all loggers have the ability to harvest more wood on a daily basis than they ever could before. Mills pride themselves on turnaround times. The quicker the better so the typical driver might be able to get in and out in seven minutes, easily outperforming what a turnaround time may have been in 1990. North Carolina's population has exploded over the past 20 years, putting more drivers on the roads. *(And we will not even touch the rise in the percentage of distracted drivers on the road due to cell phone use!)*

These elements all point to double exposure for our truck drivers, at the very least.

Combine the fact that the cost of diesel fuel now costs twice as what it did 20 years ago, the cost of the daily maintenance on an average truck and trailer is significant, and the lack of a consistent work week, it's apparent that the profit for margin is pretty fine for the trucker regardless of whether he is a subcontractor owner/operator or incorporated

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into the logging operation. This economic truth contributes to the ongoing problem of a shortage of experienced, qualified drivers in the forest products field.

Another complicating factor in this truck safety equation is time, namely time management. Consider the average logger operation is not just one business – there are three rather compelling, somewhat complicated and certainly time consuming businesses: harvest operations, machine maintenance, and fleet management. How is the average logger able to achieve all of this in one work week, which for many covers six days?

It is pretty easy to see all the elements are in place for the “perfect accident conditions” for the forest products industry.

Biggs acknowledges the realities of the situation, but he remains adamant the time to act is now. After hearing reports from every representative from every segment touched by this issue in the room, he had one simple question.

“Okay, guys,” asked Biggs, “What are we going to do about it?”

Weighing all the facts, figures and testimonies, the group concluded the top priority for the task force was to concentrate on improving the training the driver regardless of their experience level. To achieve this, the group developed the following mission statement:

Mission: To reduce accidents through effective fleet management, increasing the number of safe, qualified drivers in order to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain.

The group plans to achieve this by developing specific subcommittees that will tackle the topics of Awareness, Education & Training, and Accountability. Each subcommittee will develop specific action items and potential deliverables to forward the group’s mission.

The first meeting was a success, but as Forestry Mutual’s Jimmie Locklear reminded the group near the conclusion of the meeting, this process will take time and the active participation over everyone in the room for the program to achieve the goal of reducing the amount of log truck accidents.

FLYING TREES: TRIBES PART OF RENEWABLE ENERGY WORK

RONAN — Leftover tree parts from logging operations usually end up as piles of useless ash, but academic researchers and tribal forestry officials hope that recent projects will result in less waste and a possible energy market for local forest products.

Alaska Airlines hopes to fly a jet with biofuels produced by processing trees from the Flathead Reservation and other parts of the Pacific Northwest by 2016.

Jim Durglo, head of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Forestry department, said the Tribes recently contributed several tons of fuel to the jet fuel project, which is spearheaded by the Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance. The alliance is a consortium of 22 member organizations, including the tribes, from industry, academia and government laboratories that have a five-year grant from the USDA to foster the development of the biojet and biofuels industries that utilize forest products that would otherwise become waste. The initiative is meant to help the U.S. reach its goal of producing 36 billion gallons of biofuel by 2022.

“Now we are in the process of making the fuel,” NARA Communication Coordinator Charles Burke said.

The group hopes to make 1,000 gallons of biofuel that will be mixed with equal parts conventional fuel in an initial run. It will likely be a historic accomplishment as no other cellulosic, sugar-based biofuel has been used to fly a plane to date.

The project could eventually pave the way for a market for residual forest products for the Tribes, according to Durglo.



(Continued on page 28)

(Continued from page 27)

"The chemistry and the technology is available to do it," Durglo said. "But the problem is the cost of doing it at a scale that would be economically feasible at this time."

Currently the Tribes have to burn tons of branches and other parts of trees that are not able to be processed into lumber.

Durglo pointed to the McGinnis Creek logging project that will likely produce 900 tons of slash. "We would like to do something with that, other than burn it," Durglo said.

But the nearest facility that has any use for the residuals is the Stoltz Mill in Columbia Falls, which has a maximum capacity of 30 tons. Even at that, the Tribes would have to subsidize the delivery, and no profit would be made.

As ideas abound, one study done by NARA and other officials in 2012 has identified Pablo as a possible future hub for processing biofuel materials.

A site once owned by Plum Creek that processed lumber has three-phase power, a prime location, and other elements that are favorable for biofuel development, the study found.

The trees are out there, waiting for a company to take the initiative to pursue biofuels development.

"Everything is hypothetical at this point," Durglo said.



STUDY: FORESTRY PROVIDES 90,000 JOBS, NEARLY \$19B TO STATE ECONOMY

By Ashley Heffernan
aheffernan@scbiznews.com
Published Aug. 19, 2015



The forest products industry makes a nearly \$19 billion annual contribution to the state's economy, according to the S.C. Forestry Commission.

Earlier this year, the Palmetto Agribusiness Council completed a study primarily on the manufacturing arm of the forestry industry, according to Tim Adams, resource development division director at the S.C. Forestry Commission. He said the council's study left out some nonmanufacturing sectors such as the pine straw industry, forestry-based recreation and Christmas tree sales.

So the forestry commission paid for a study by David Hughes, a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee, on those other sectors. Results of the study (.pdf) were released during a statewide meeting of forestry professionals today.

With data from both studies combined, Hughes estimated the total contribution of forestry and forest products to the S.C. economy to be 90,320 jobs, \$4.481 billion in labor income, \$6.757 billion in gross state product and \$18.573 billion in economic impact on the state.

Hughes also broke down the figures by sector.

Forestry-based recreation, which includes hunting and bird watching but not fishing, had a \$778 million economic impact based on 10,178 jobs and \$268 million in labor income, the study said.

Christmas tree production and forest service providers generated almost \$64 million and 1,425 jobs for the state's economy. Firewood, mulch and soil conditioners, pine straw and shavings mills combined to generate nearly 400 jobs and \$112 million. Additionally, woody biomass producers, which create energy from wood and other sources, created 115 jobs and \$111.4 million, according to the study.

Window blinds and shades, as well as wood laminate, wood caskets and wood mattresses added about \$250 million to the economy and just more than 800 jobs, while forestry-related federal government, state government and university activity generated almost \$58 million in spending and 556 jobs, the study said.

"It's about what we were expecting," Adams said. "The last study we did was in 2006. It was \$17.4 billion in economic impact."

After that study, the commission initiated a program with a goal to grow the industry to \$20 billion by 2015. Adams said the latest study is a "midterm report on our success" since most of the data for it came from the past two years.

"We won't know whether we met the \$20 billion goal for a couple years, maybe late 2016 or early 2017," he said.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2015

CONTACT:

Doug Wood, Director of Communications
803-968-1576 (cell)
DWood@scfc.gov

Forestry generates \$18.6 billion impact on SC economy

COLUMBIA—South Carolina Forestry Commission officials announced the economic impact of the forest products sector in grand fashion today, unveiling a large wooden sign representing the industry's \$18.6 billion contribution to the state's economy.

The new economic impact figure was revealed at a statewide meeting of forestry professionals organized by the SCFC, the South Carolina Forestry Association and forest industry allies.

While the updated figure was the main attraction of the meeting, other highlights of a recent economic analysis show that South Carolina forestry represents the state's:

- **Number one manufacturing sector**, in terms of jobs (**90,320**) and labor income (**\$4.5 billion**)
- **Number one export commodity** from the Port of Charleston, at **\$1.5 billion**
- **Number one agribusiness crop**, totaling **\$759 million**

A daylong program of speakers addressed other forestry-related economic issues, including a damage report update from the February 2014 ice storm, the establishment of a forest products marketing program, and the overall U.S. economic outlook presented by Wells Fargo Senior Economist Mark Vitner.



State Forester Gene Kodama, agency director of the South Carolina Forestry Commission, left, joined South Carolina Forestry Association President & CEO Cam Crawford Tuesday in announcing forestry's sizable contribution to the state's economy.



SCTPA Is a Supporter of Letter to Senators

SCTPA has signed on as a supporter to this letter to U.S. Senators urging and supporting wild fire funding reform.

September ##, 2015

Dear Senator:

Our organizations write to urge you to take quick action on wild fire funding reform and reform of federal forest management this fall. As you are aware, we are enduring a record breaking fire season, with more than 8 million acres of land – the vast majority of it Federal public land – burned so far this year. Many Senators from the impacted States have committed to addressing the current system for funding wildfire suppression. We applaud this effort – but we strongly urge you to include forest management reform in any legislation intended to stop fire borrowing.

Our national federal forests are facing serious threats from fires, insects, and diseases due to lack of active forest management. The poor health of our federal forests also threatens wildlife habitat, watersheds, and neighboring non-Federal lands, as well as the vitality of rural, forested communities across the country. House passed legislation, HR 2647, contains provisions intended to both address the disruption caused by fire borrowing and expedite needed forest management to improve the health and vitality of our federal forests.

HR 2647's use of Categorical Exclusions (CE's) under the National Environmental Policy Act will allow routine, collaborative projects with known effects to be more quickly prepared, analyzed, and implemented. It will also allow needed forest recovery projects to proceed more quickly, addressing a dire need created by this summer's extreme wildfire season. The Forest Service has long experience with management techniques to reduce forest pests, thin hazardous fuels, create and maintain habitat for species, recover damaged timber and protect water quality. These projects mitigate risk and help create early successional forest habitat which is good for wildlife. These projects are routine, recurring activities with known effects, and therefore should qualify for exclusions from repeated, extensive analysis.

HR 2647 addresses both the excessive analysis requirements currently imposed on even modest, collaboratively developed forest management projects, as well as the dysfunctional system of funding suppression costs out of forest management program accounts. Provisions in the bill limit the acreage of Categorical Exclusions, and prohibits their use in sensitive areas. The legislation provides access to the disaster relief fund for wildfire suppression expenses in excess of the 10-year average.

Clearly, Congress understands that forest health conditions on over 65 million acres of our national forest system are unacceptable. Congressional leaders also understand that the wildfire suppression funding mechanisms developed in the past are no longer adequate to address the conditions we are experiencing. We urge the Senate to take up and pass legislation that address both the forest management crisis and the fire funding crisis. Anything less is a half measure.

We stand ready to work with the Senate to advance responsible solutions to these serious national problems.

Sincerely,



For Media Inquiries Contact:

Danny Dructor
American Loggers Council
Phone: 409-625-0206
E-mail: americanlogger@aol.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**U.S. Representative Bruce Poliquin Introduces the
“Securing America’s Next Generation of Safe Loggers and Truckers Act”**

Legislation would encourage family logging operations to sustain themselves for generations.

Hemphill, Texas (July 30, 2015) –Congressman Bruce Poliquin (R-ME) has introduced legislation today that would assist the logging industry across the country at a time when family-owned logging businesses are struggling to attract new employees and faced with concerns about survivorship.

The legislation title, the “Securing America’s Next Generation of Safe Loggers And Truckers Act” would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and allow the 16 and 17 year old children of timber harvesting business owners the ability to legally perform certain tasks on mechanized logging operations, as well as lower the age requirement for the operation of commercial motor vehicles across state and International borders.

Congressman Poliquin stated that “Maine is home to the best loggers and truckers in the Country. Unfortunately, the logging and trucking workforce is declining due to obsolete regulations that are prohibiting our young Mainers from choosing this career path.” “The Securing America’s Next Generation of Safe Loggers and Truckers Act will remove outdated regulations that are hindering the logging and trucking workforce.”

“Timber harvesting and log hauling have a long and storied history in the State of Maine,” said Dana Doran, Executive Director of the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine. “Both are family-based businesses that have been passed down from generation to generation to create an \$8 billion forest products industry. The Securing America’s Next Generation of Safe Loggers and Truckers Act will ensure that family-based businesses in the State of Maine can sustain themselves for the long term. Without common sense legislation like this, the future of this industry will continue to be at risk.”

The American Loggers Council, representing professional timber harvesters in 30 states, supports the Bill as well. ALC Executive Vice President Daniel Dructor stated that “the Securing America’s Next Generation of Safe Loggers and Truckers Act will help to ensure that the next generation of timber harvesters and log haulers will be able to pick up the family businesses that are inherent to the industry, and help rural Americans recover from the economic recession that continues to plague forest dependent communities by sustaining jobs in the industry while training the next generation of professional loggers.”

Congressman Labrador introduced similar legislation, the “Youth Careers in Logging Act, H.R. 1215, in March of this year. Both pieces of legislation have been referred to committee.

In June, Senate Bill 1672, the Commercial Driver Act, which calls for allowing states to lower the age for a commercial interstate license to 18 introduced by Senator Deb Fischer (R-NB) that became incorporated in a larger transportation bill introduced by Senator John Thune (R-SD) has been referred to committee.

About American Loggers Council

The American Loggers Council is a non-profit 501(c)(6) organization representing timber harvesting professionals in 30 states. For more information contact the American Loggers Council office at 409-625-0206 or visit their website at www.amloggers.com.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2015

NWTF and SFI Sign Agreement for Forest Health

EDGEFIELD, S.C. – The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI) announced today an exciting new partnership for future forests. The two organizations have established a memorandum of mutual support that promotes forest management for the benefit of the nation's forests and wildlife.

"Every year, millions of people enjoy recreational opportunities in forests managed to meet SFI standards," said NWTF Chief Conservation Officer Becky Humphries. "If we hope to achieve the conservation goals of the NWTF Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative, partnerships like this one with SFI are critical."

The agreement establishes a partnership for cooperation and collaboration in promoting well managed forests that provide wildlife habitat, clean water and recreational access. Both organizations work to promote responsible forestry practices to improve forest health, biological diversity, and recreational opportunities while also supporting conservation, communities and family traditions in North America.

"This agreement exemplifies SFI's long-standing commitment to balance environmental, social and economic interests to meet the many needs of forests and the communities that rely on them. Our partnership with the NWTF will advance our shared interest in the forests of the future," said Craig Blair, chair of the SFI board of directors.

SFI and the NWTF agree to recognize, support and promote programs of common interest including, but not limited to:

- SFI Forest Partners Program to increase forest land certification by 10 million acres.
- NWTF Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative goal to conserve or enhance 4 million acres of wildlife habitat.
- Promote youth education in conservation through the NWTF JAKES program and Families Afield initiative, Boy Scouts of America and other leading outdoor youth education and scouting programs.
- Use SFI-labeled materials for NWTF Turkey Transport Boxes, NWTF publications such as "Turkey Country" and "JAKES Country," magazines.

Read the full version of the Memorandum of Mutual Support

"SFI and NWTF share common values and an equally strong commitment to the health and future of forests and the wildlife habitat they provide," said George Thornton, CEO of NWTF. "I look forward to working together to grow this partnership. It will make a real difference today and for generations to come."

(Continued on page 33)

(Continued from page 32)

About Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.

The NWTF Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative is a charge that mobilizes science, fundraising and devoted volunteers to give the NWTF more energy and purpose than ever. Through this national initiative, the NWTF has committed to raising \$1.2 billion to conserve or enhance more than 4 million acres of essential upland wildlife habitat, create at least 1.5 million hunters and open access to 500,000 acres for hunting, shooting and outdoor enjoyment. Without hunters, there will be no wildlife or habitat. The NWTF is determined to Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.

About Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. (SFI)

SFI® Inc. is an independent, non-profit organization responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized SFI Program. Across the U.S. and Canada, approximately 270 million acres are certified to the SFI forest management standard. In addition, the SFI Program's unique fiber-sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands. SFI works to ensure conservation of water quality, wildlife habitat and other critical forest attributes through application of the standards, through its unique research requirements, and through grants made in support of conservation and community-related objectives. SFI on-product labels identify both certified sourcing and chain-of-custody claims to help consumers make responsible purchases. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally. Learn more at www.sfiprogram.org and www.sfiprogram.org/Buy-SFI.

Media Contacts:

Peter Muller
Public Relations Specialist
National Wild Turkey Federation
Tel: 803-637-7698
pmuller@nwtf.net

Elizabeth Woodworth
Vice President, Communications & Community Engagement
Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.
Tel: 202-596-3452
media@sfiprogram.org



Timber Talk

*Your Voice for South Carolina
Timber Harvesting*

Contact Crad Jaynes at
1-800-371-2240 or bcjpaw@windstream.net

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Dr. Ernest Moniz
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

The Honorable Tom Vilsak
Secretary
U. S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Administrator McCarthy, Secretary Moniz, and Secretary Vilsack:

We write to support biomass energy as a sustainable, responsible, renewable, and economically significant energy source. Federal policies across all departments and agencies must remove any uncertainties and contradictions through a clear, unambiguous message that forest bioenergy is part of the nation's energy future.

Many states are relying on renewable biomass to meet their energy goals, and we support renewable biomass to create jobs and economic growth while meeting our nation's energy needs. A comprehensive science, technical, and legal administrative record supports a clear and simple policy establishing the benefits of energy from forest biomass. Federal policies that add unnecessary costs and complexity will discourage rather than encourage investment in working forests, harvesting operations, bioenergy, wood products, and paper manufacturing. Unclear or contradictory signals from federal agencies could discourage biomass utilization as an energy solution.

The carbon neutrality of forest biomass has been recognized repeatedly by numerous studies, agencies, institutions, legislation, and rules around the world, and there has been no dispute about the carbon neutrality of biomass derived from residuals of forest products manufacturing and agriculture. Our constituents employed in the biomass supply chain deserve a federal policy that recognizes the clear benefits of forest bioenergy. We urge you to ensure that federal policies are consistent and reflect the carbon neutrality of these types of bioenergy.

Sincerely,

SCTPA COMMENTS: This letter was signed by several U.S. Congress members including South Carolina's Congressmen Clyburn, Duncan, Mulvaney, Rice, Sanford and Wilson.

DAVID PRICE
4th District
NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
RANKING MEMBER, HOMELAND SECURITY
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION &
VETERANS AFFAIRS



**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

2162 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1784

436 N. HARRINGTON STREET, SUITE 100
RALEIGH, NC 27603
(919) 859-5999

1777 FORDHAM BLVD., SUITE 204
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514
(919) 967-7924

301 GREEN STREET, SUITE 315
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28301
(901) 323-0260

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July 31, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Dr. Ernest Moniz
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U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

The Honorable Tom Vilsak
Secretary
U. S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Administrator McCarthy, Secretary Moniz, and Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing regarding the nation's interest in biomass energy and your ongoing efforts on biomass carbon accounting.

I believe that biomass energy has an important role to play in our nation's energy future. Already, we are seeing increased interest at the national, regional and state level in using biomass to meet renewable energy and carbon reduction goals, including woody or forest biomass. This is important in my home state of North Carolina, which has significant woody biomass resources (approximately 18,7 million acres of forestland) and where biomass is one of the key contributors to our state's renewable electricity generation.

The long-term benefits of forest biomass energy are well-established in scientific literature. Compared to fossil fuels, forest biomass energy has been found to yield significant net decreases in overall carbon accumulation in the atmosphere over time. The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that, "In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit."

The beneficial long-term impact of biomass energy could greatly assist in achieving our nation's carbon emissions reduction goals. However, I am also sensitive to concerns about potential negative carbon impacts in the short-term, particularly if forest biomass is derived from harvesting mature trees or clearcutting areas that serve as a carbon sink. The best practice would appear to be deriving biomass energy through sustainable forest and agricultural practices, emphasizing the use of forest wastes and residues first, so that increased reliance on biomass does not compromise healthy forests. As we strive to achieve such a balance, I encourage each of your Departments to establish clear and consistent policies that promote the low carbon potential of sustainably managed forests and the biomass that can be derived from them. On behalf of the interested stakeholders from my state and district, I look forward to working with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

David E. Price



SCTPA Member Alert Baldwin Filter Discount Program



SCTPA's Baldwin Filter Program is effective for our Member Discount Program. Program is available for active dues paid members to receive a **45% discount** on Baldwin Filters. Per Jesse Gonzalez, SCTPA's Baldwin representative, this program is available to all association active dues paid members.

This association is proud to partner with Jesse Gonzalez and Baldwin Filters to provide a cost savings program for members. Program effective until notification by Jesse and Baldwin Filters.

A logger member who is using our program, compared the Baldwin Program to what they had spent the previous year on filters and figured their business would save \$ 20,000 in the program. Now that's real money!

The program will require members to purchase filters from Baldwin Warehouse Distributors (WD) and wherever Baldwin WD's have branch locations. Local retail outlets selling Baldwin Filters are not included. Only Baldwin WD's are to be used for the member discount. Active dues paid membership verification is required to qualify for the member discount.

If you have any questions, contact the association office.

Baldwin Filter Program

1. Baldwin Filter discounted pricing to active SCTPA members.
2. SCTPA members select from list of participating Baldwin Warehouse Distributors (WD).
3. SCTPA member pricing wherever Baldwin WD's have branch locations.
4. SCTPA informs Baldwin district sales manager of member choices in order to complete Baldwin internal paperwork.
5. Members complete credit application/other with Baldwin Warehouse Distributor(s).
6. Baldwin WD's will adjust filter inventories to match up with SCTPA member's usage.
7. SCTPA member can contact SCTPA office and request their Member Verification Form be faxed or emailed to Baldwin WD to receive filter discount. Member verification can be forwarded to the member as well. Baldwin WD can contact SCTPA for Member Verification Form at 803-957-9919, 1-800-371-2240, bcjpaw@windstream.net, or Crad Jaynes cell 803-530-5874.
8. Baldwin WD will take care of obsolete Baldwin filters annually on a swap out (if filters are clean, re-saleable and can be put back in the WD inventory).

Thank you for the opportunity to service your member's filter requirements with Baldwin Filters through our Baldwin Warehouse Distributor network in your service area.

Jesse Gonzalez
Baldwin Filters
Charlotte, NC
704-451-2466 Office/Cell / jgonzalez@baldwinfilter.com

SCTPA Baldwin Filter Warehouse Distributors

BRANCH MANAGER	STREET ADDRESS	CITY, STATE ZIP		
Fred Heitman	7350 Industry Drive	Charleston SC 29418		
Truck Pro / CR&W		843-767-7600	800-832-9001	Fax 843-767-4965
Mike Pilotte	5130 Rivers Avenue	N. Charleston, SC 29406		
Fleet Pride		843-747-1547	800-726-0578	Fax 843-744-5342
Larry Duncan	1308 Upper Asbury Ave.	Charlotte, NC 28206		
Truck Pro / CR&W		704-334-7276	800-832-6219	Fax 704-334-7270
Ron Johnson	2330 Tipton Drive	Charlotte, NC 28206		
Truck Pro		704-596-2761	800-274-1256	
John Gasiiecki	3740 Jeff Adams Drive	Charlotte, NC 28206		
Fleet Pride		704-596-6964	800-852-5846	Fax 704-596-3735
Todd Johnson	233-H Interstate North Dr.	Charlotte, NC 28206		
Stone Truck Parts		704-887-1111	800-279-6385	Fax 704-887-1116
David Crouch	550 Old Dairy Drive	Columbia, SC 29201		
Truck Pro / CR&W		803-799-4010	800-922-2225	Fax 803-256-3802
Gene Lane	1631 Shop Road	Columbia, SC 29201		
Fleet Pride		803-799-4812	800-922-1267	Fax 803-799-2833
Jamie Cathcart	1137 White Horse Road	Greenville, SC 29605		
Fleet Pride		864-277-8362	800-922-6850	Fax 864-299-1831
Zack Raines	1144 White Horse Road	Greenville, SC 29605		
Truck Pro		864-422-1800		

bcj/SCTPA/7-22-13

New Markets for Wood

Goin' Against the Grain: Wood Is Good, but Tallwood Is Beautiful, Baby

Al Steele, U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

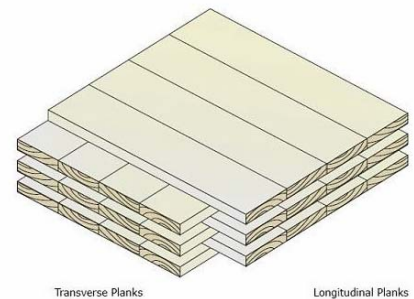
"Forests were the first temples of God and in forests men grasped their first idea of architecture."

— James Snyder, **Introduction to Architecture**

Building large structures with wood isn't anything new. In Norway and other Scandinavian countries, massive stave churches go back to 1150 A.D. or earlier. Chinese timber bridges with spans of 200 feet were built 1,000 years ago. Starting around 600 A.D., the Japanese imported both Buddhism and pagoda-style houses of worship from China. The 122-foot Horyu-Ji Temple built in 607 A.D. still exists today. It and hundreds of other pagodas (many taller) have survived centuries of Japan's earthquake-ridden history.

In more recent times, building with wood has gotten rather boring, with conventional thought being that wooden buildings were constrained pretty much to four or five stories. As noted in ArchDaily, a Web site for architects, "Quests for material permanence, taller heights, structural innovation, and new architectural styles conspired to stem advancements in wood craftsmanship during the last 200 years. Steel and concrete rose to new heights in European and North American cultural centers during the 19th and 20th centuries. Meanwhile, wood became associated with lower-grade and lower-cost construction—buildings of lesser stature, safety and durability. The widespread adoption of concrete and steel coupled with the enormous manufacturing infrastructure for these materials and building codes that now favored noncombustible construction led to their dominance, and a general lack of investigation of other materials."

Old Materials, New Drivers. Beginning in the 1990s, Europeans began investigating using wood in new and innovative ways. Improvements in manufacturing methods and composites have allowed for huge wooden members and panels to be prefabricated, enabling whole sections of a building to be constructed at the plant then put in place at the job site. According to an article in the Boston Globe, "One of the most widely used [wood products], cross-laminated timber [CLT], was first developed in Switzerland in the early 1990s, and further refined in Austria. It comes in panels up to nearly 20 inches thick, 18 feet wide, and 98 feet long. It binds multiple layers of wood with the grain running in perpendicular directions, creating a material that is strong, durable, and resistant to shrinking and swelling." Lumber used in construction typically varies from 5/8 to 2.0 inches in thickness with widths of 2.4 to 9.5 inches. Boards used are finger-jointed using specialized structural adhesives. Lumber is kiln dried and either visually or machine stress rated (for strength).



Example of a CLT panel configuration. Adhesive is applied between layers. (From CLT Handbook, U.S. Edition)

Various names have been coined for this type of construction, including "mass timber" or "mass construction." Buildings can be residential or commercial, with current thought being that multistory commercial/institutional and multiresidential buildings have the highest potential for cost competitiveness. Proponents have various names for buildings made from these materials, including "Tallwood" or "plyscrapers."

The Europeans were the first to fully embrace the notion that building large structures with wood could provide environmental benefits as well. Recognizing the likelihood that greenhouse gas reduction would become a larger global issue and knowing that wood is roughly 50% carbon by weight, Europeans built Tallwood buildings as a prac-

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tical way of achieving long-term carbon sequestration. Pioneering research has shown that the lifecycle greenhouse gas impacts (think of this as the “cradle to grave” sum of all the carbon impacts of using a material) are much less for wood than concrete and steel too. Utilizing wood from sustainably managed forests, Tallwood buildings can play a significant role as a greenhouse gas reduction strategy. All benefits of building with wood aren’t so technical and serious, however. The unparalleled warmth of wood, positive associations with old world craftsmanship, and the relative ease with which it can be shaped into awe-inspiring forms are draws to use wood in a time hungry for everything that doesn’t feel mass produced.

Tallwood Jumps the Pond

“If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up people to collect wood and don’t assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.” — Antoine de Saint-Exupery

In today’s globalized environment, good ideas don’t stay put long. For big societal shifts, often it takes a unique visionary who can both understand a new opportunity and convince others of its merits. The idea for Tallwood buildings jumped from Europe to British Columbia in Canada due in large part to the efforts of a young architect named Michael Green. With the support of Canadian forest industry associations and others, Green authored a 240-page document released in February 2012 called *The Case for Tall Wood Buildings. How Mass Timber Offers a Safe, Economical and Environmentally Friendly Alternative for Tall Building Structures*. If reading a 240-page document written principally for architects feels a little ambitious, see Green’s TED talk on YouTube instead. Reaching for ever higher limits, Green recently proposed in a design competition to build the world’s tallest (and carbon neutral) building in Paris of 36 stories and is working with the Finnish forest products company Metsa Wood in producing a design showing that the Empire State Building could be made from wood.

Growing Tallwood in the U.S.: The Supportive Role of USDA & Woodworks

I am fortunate to be the grant monitor for a project awarded in 2014 to an organization called Woodworks. In a press release about the initial announcement of this project, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack noted, “Wood may be one of the world’s oldest building materials, but it is

now also one of the most advanced. Building stronger markets for innovative new wood products supports sustainable forestry, helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and puts rural America at the forefront of an emerging industry.” The partnership of the U.S. Forest Service and others with Woodworks enables them to train architects, engineers, and builders about the benefits of advanced wood building materials. Educational events, informational materials, and one-on-one assistance to design professionals are all part of the portfolio of services provided by Woodworks.

Tallwood in the U.S. and North America: Putting Down Roots

Claimed to be the first multifamily residential project in North America, a 24-condominium unit was built in 2012 in 22 days by 5 framers over the dead of a Canadian winter.

Not surprisingly architect Michael Green and the Tallwood boosters in British Columbia have built a wood lover’s temple. Completed in 2014, the Wood Innovation and Design Centre at the University of Northern British Columbia is an 8-story, roughly 100-foot-tall wood structure that uses no concrete other than for the first floor slab. Intended as a focal point for mass timber construction in Canada, the building’s first three floors are used by the University to house offices associated with a new Master of Engineering in Integrated Wood Design. As with any boundary stretching effort, challenges must be proactively identified and creatively addressed. A YouTube video describes efforts to demonstrate first-of-its-kind innovations in both design and construction. Wood’s unique role as a renewable resource that can be managed sustainably is an explicit part of their messaging.

Projects are sprouting up across the U.S. The two-story Long Hall in Whitefish, MT, has the distinction of being the first commercial building in the U.S. to be made from mass timber. An urban in-fill project, this building was completed in 2011 and took just 5 days to complete. A West Virginia elementary school was the first in the Nation to use cross-laminated timber. West Virginia University football coach Dana Holgersen has an 8,000-square-foot CLT house near Cheat Lake. The Woodworks Web site also has a nice list of CLT projects across the U.S.

UMass Amherst: Our good friends to the north in British

(Continued on page 40)

(Continued from page 39)

Columbia don't have the market cornered in educating the next generation of wood structures designers. In 2013, the University of Massachusetts (UMass) began exploring the potential for building a mass timber facility on campus to serve as both a demonstration of the technology as well as provide space for research and education for their programs. Their initial vision statement for the facility captures the ethos of the effort: *The Integrated Design Building will exemplify principles of sustainability and represent the thoughtful integration of human creativity and ecological sensitivity that is the foundation of our professions.*

Started this summer, the 86,000-square-foot building will be the largest engineered wood building east of the Mississippi.

When completed in 2017, the facility will house offices, computer labs, classrooms, and a wood shop. With a portion of the building thatched in green roofs, it is expected to achieve LEED gold status. The Building and Construction Technology program and two closely related building/design departments will share the space, with both grad and undergrad programs.



Integrated Design Building at UMass.

It Almost Didn't Happen: I'd heard there was more to the story, so I contacted the catalyst for building the structure with wood, Peggi Clouston, an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation at UMass. A structural engineer by training, she has taught wood design for many years at the university. Since mass timber building is still new, cost overruns were a significant concern for the university. When you try anything for the first time, it takes longer to get it right. Contractors know that, too, and build the extra costs in. Analysis showed that compared to steel and concrete, the mass timber building would cost \$2 million more. Though the total project cost was estimated by consulting architects to be \$52 million, the additional cost was almost a deal breaker. If it weren't for unique circumstances, it would have been a concrete and steel edifice.

As detailed in an article from the New England For-

estry Foundation, Clouston "was invited to make a general presentation at [the Forest Forum]. Former Massachusetts Congressman John Olver was in the audience. A few weeks later, Olver and Clouston were invited to tour a local lumber mill and the Berkshire East ski lodge, recently constructed of heavy timber. When Olver learned UMass was contemplating a wood and concrete composite design for its new building, he went to work."

The article goes on to quote the ex-Congressman. Olver said, "Peggi and her colleague Alexander Schreyer gave me information about where these buildings had been done, what were the good features, what was good for a rural economy, and what were the advantages from a climate point of view. These advantages were huge, because the waste from steel and concrete is enormous. If you construct a building out of wood, you sequester the wood for at least 100 years..." The article continued, "At one point, Olver stood in the parking lot of a roadside diner, advocating for the wood option with a state official. 'The official was texting on his iPhone and I thought, 'He is not even listening to me.' But, that text message was on its way to a key decision-maker, paving the way for a plot shift.'"

Relying on Fortuitous Circumstances Is Not a Strategy

It wasn't *just* unique circumstances that brought this project to life. While Mr. Olver played a pivotal role, it was the information provided to him and the networks he had access to that enabled him to make a compelling argument. If you read the New England Forestry Foundation article, you get the definite idea that the ex-Congressman had access to folks who know wood and its benefits, and who know how to operate on many different "landscapes."

People Who Grow Wood & Know Wood: Private landowners, State natural resource agency foresters, and those with similar roles will play an integral role in mass timber development. The TED talk by architect Green predicted that there are going to be billions of new housing units required worldwide in the coming decades. This demand can create significant opportunities for new wood markets, but with that opportunity comes responsibility, too. The timber wars in recent decades have shown that a restive public can alter how forest management is conducted. Attending

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to issues of sustainability in both word and deed will have to be as much a part of mass timber development as are building codes.

I have the privilege of working with many folks who know wood too. Think that our ex-Congressman friend's visit to a sawmill or that Clouston's command of the rural benefits of using local wood just happened? Many States have utilization specialists who know wood, know forest products production, and know who to work with. They play an integral role in linking the resource people with producers and markets. In future years they'll play an increasingly important function as both new markets and new pressures on the resource emerge. One of these folks, Gordon Boyce, played an important role in the UMass project. Recently retired, he can relax and ski to his heart's content knowing that he's played a key role in helping start something really, really big.



Gordon Boyce, Marketing and Utilization Forester, MA Department of Conservation & Recreation (retired).

Tallwood, Part 2: As with any newly emerging industry or large-scale transformation, there are a multitude of details. Technical, regulatory, and perceptual issues (myths like mass timber projects are firetraps) have to be addressed to facilitate growing to scale. For mass construction to reach its full potential, a whole "ecosystem" of landowners, natural resource professionals, designers, information providers, manufacturers, suppliers, and others will have to whistle in harmony. While I recognize that this is a stewardship rather than an economic development or architects newsletter, I thought you might want to get a sense of how *the pieces can fit together and what you and others can do to help*. That will be the subject for a second article.

Deeper Dives: Interested in a relatively concise document about CLT to share with others? We'll include lots more info in a second article, but here's a great start:

Cross Laminated Timber: Taking wood buildings to the next level

Making the case for forestry's role in addressing carbon related issues

Upcoming Mass Timber Conference





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Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2015

24 – 26 American Loggers Council Annual Meeting, Eureka, CA

OCTOBER 2015

- 28 & 29 2-Day TOP SFI Training Class, Columbia. Contact Sally Tucker, SC Forestry Association, 803-798-4170, for registration.
- 22 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, SC Forestry Commission Headquarters, 10:00 a.m., Columbia.
- 27 Newberry District Meeting, Farm Bureau, Wilson Blvd, 7 p.m.

Notice for Fall District Meetings

As of this newsletter, Fall District for around the state have not been scheduled due to SCTPA's busy Fall schedule for October and November. However, if state-wide district meetings can be scheduled, meeting information will be posted on the SCTPA website and usual meeting notices mailed.

District meeting dates may be changed. Meeting notices will be mailed prior to scheduled meeting. Meeting dates will be posted on SCTPA website ... www.scloggers.com

Members & Non-Members are encouraged to attend our district meetings to know what the issues are affecting the industry.

Need SFI Trained DVD Class or other training?

SCTPA can provide the New DVD Training Module for SFI Trained status. SCTPA is an approved DVD training class facilitator and will be scheduling classes during the year. Other training programs are available for safety, driver training, equipment lockout & tagout, hazardous materials spill control on logging sites and forestry aesthetics.

Truck Driver Training Workshops will be scheduled. Watch the Mark Your Calendar section of this newsletter for dates. Notices for SCTPA workshops & events will be forwarded.

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Our Mission

The **Mission** of the *South Carolina Timber Producers Association* is to serve as the voice for timber harvesting and allied timber businesses to advance the ability of its members to professionally, ethically, efficiently, safely, environmentally and profitably harvest, produce and transport timber to meet the timber supply demands of our state by providing continuing educational and training opportunities, distributing timber harvesting, hauling, manufacturing and selling information, representing our members in national and state-wide legislative activities, and aggressively promoting, supporting and conducting programs of state, regional and national advocacy.