

GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST AWARD

Beech Island Timber & Construction, Inc.

Jackson, SC

The 2013 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award is proudly presented to Josh Key and Beech Island Timber & Construction, Inc. for their sincere commitment to professional timber harvesting, supporting this association, participating in community and industry activities, practicing sustainable timber harvesting, promoting education and positive promotion of professional business practices.

Beech Island Timber & Construction is a conscientious professional business that understands the value of relationships with customers, employees and their industry, environmental stewardship and promoting a positive image as professional loggers.

Beech Island Timber & Construction operates two in-woods fuel chipping sides thinning and clear-cutting private landowner tracts. Primarily focused on chipping, the operation does produce some roundwood when available per tract to local markets. Josh buys 95% of their timber tracts with other purchases coming from outside sources.

This business is truly about family. Josh's brother John works on the jobsites as well as other family members. Josh's wife Cindy, daughters Shelley and Allison handle the business administration.



Josh Key

Beech Island Timber & Construction, Inc.

Weekly total production averages 90 – 100 loads of chips delivered to the Ameresco biomass power plant located at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site. Other markets for chips include IP Augusta and Allendale Biomass, LLC. Roundwood markets include Elliott Sawmilling, Estill, West Fraser, Augusta and Georgia-Pacific, Allendale-Fairfax.

The range of equipment for the two crews is a John Deere 700 bulldozer, four service trucks, one CAT 559C loader with delimeter, one Tigercat 234 loader with delimeter, one Bandit 2590 chipper, one Bandit 3090 chipper, one Tigercat 720D feller buncher, one John Deere 843K feller buncher, one John Deere 643K feller buncher, one Tigercat 620E grapple skidder, one John Deere 748G3 grapple skidder and one John Deere 648G3 grapple skidder. The trucking fleet consists of two Peterbilts, four Freightliners, one Mack, three ITI chip trailers and four Peerless chip trailers along with several spare log trailers ready when needed.

Josh started logging in 1985 harvesting poles for Southern Wood Piedmont. He

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Beech Island Ladies

(l-r) Shelley, Cindy & Allison

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started out shortwooding with his uncle and then started his own business out of high school with a shortwood truck. After many years of conventional logging, in 2010 Josh made the switch to fuel wood chipping.

Beech Island Timber and Construction is committed to being a professional business, but also committed to giving back to their industry and community. Beech Island is a tremendous partner with Jackson Ballpark sponsoring and supporting recreation league teams such as the Jackson Bulldogs football team, and the baseball, softball, tee ball and football cheerleading teams. Daughter Allison Lowe does photos for the ball teams they support as well as other teams. Daughter Shelley Bowman is a past board member of Jackson Ballpark and helped grow the programs to better serve the community. Josh has been a football coach in the recreation league.

His business is logging, but Josh's hobby is farming. He farms some 200 acres and has been doing so since 2007.



Beech Island Timber Service Truck

But logging and his fuel chipping business are his passion.

Josh contributes his time to his community by delivering firewood to the elderly. He is a member of Augusta Old Line Primitive Baptist Church. Brother John is a Sunday school teacher, usher and building and grounds committee member at Matlock Baptist Church.

One of Josh Key's goals is to teach and mentor young adults about professional logging. In fact, he is helping one of his young feller buncher operators learn the business so this young man may have an opportunity to have his own business in the future. He strives to educate not only young adults about our sustainable forestry and professional timber harvesting industry, but also the general public. He feels both groups need to understand that our industry is dedicated to environmental stewardship and maintaining our sustainable, renewable and healthy forest resources for the many products made of wood, wildlife and wildlife habitat, clean water and aesthetic values.

Josh's daughter Shelley developed business manuals for the company. These manuals enhanced their record keeping and has assisted in upgrading their record keeping methods. She developed an operational safety manual, truck driver load sheet manual, loader operator load manual, on-road fuel record manual, driver vehicle inspection report manual, equipment safety checklist manual and timber harvest request manual for buying timber.

Josh and his company take pride in

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(l-r) Jason, John, Josh and John Boy

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not only mentoring to young adults, but also in assisting other contractors and truckers in their business practices. Many of Beech Island's business practices have been adopted by other contractors they work with or have worked with over the years.

Josh and Beech Island Timber & Construction are proud of their safety performance. Safety is top priority. In 2009, Josh and Beech Island received the Ameresco Safe Work Activities Award for safe work activities and practices on the D.O.E. Savannah River Site Biomass Cogeneration Facility construction site.

Josh and Beech Island Timber & Construction received the 2009 Logger of the Year award from Elliott Sawmilling Co., Inc. in Estill.

An impressive aspect of Beech Island Timber & Construction is the company website... bitimber.com. Their opening statement on their Corporate Values page states, "We believe in and will make all corporate decisions with regard to the highest of Christian principles and ethics. We uphold and share with our employees the values of integrity, morality, mutual respect, professionalism, personal responsibility, teamwork, and concern for people and the environment."

Beech Island is a generous contributor to Log A Load For Kids and Josh, wife Cindy contribute personally to this worthy program.

In 2009, Josh and Beech Island Tim-

ber & Construction voluntarily worked to clear downed trees and debris from roads and properties the night of the tornado in Beech Island. For their work, Josh was



Beech Island trucks on deck.

awarded by News Channel 6, WJBF, in Augusta, the Giving Your Best Award that stated, "For giving your best to your fellow man through compassion for others and your commitment to the community."

Beech Island Timber & Construction are members of SC Timber Producers Association, SC Forestry Association and SC Biomass Council. Shelley and Josh were instrumental in arranging the first SCTPA district meeting ever held at the Jackson Community Center in Jackson on November 7, 2013 for Aiken, Barnwell and surrounding areas.

Josh and his brother John, Jason Reynolds and Jonathan Lowe are SC SFI Trained loggers. The company emphasizes sustainable harvesting practices, safety, professionalism, SC Timber Harvesting Best Management Practices and works conscientiously to meet landowner expectations through exceptional environmental, harvesting and

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*Beech Island Timber
John (l) and Josh (r)*

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*Beech Island - JD
Feller Buncher*

business practice standards.

Josh believes strongly promoting and practicing professional timber harvesting and sustainable forestry principles are integral to his business, industry and success. Josh says, "You have to practice what you say to help the public, landowners and our customers understand we are professionals harvesting timber. We take a great deal of pride in our business and work hard to meet and exceed our customers' expectations."

Understanding the responsibilities and importance associated with how professional loggers contribute to their local and state economies, how professional loggers must work with landowners, wood suppliers and wood receiving companies in cooperative, mutually beneficial partnerships, promoting and practicing sustainable forestry, educating the critical public regarding professional timber harvesting, demonstrating a stewardship attitude about our sustainable and renewable forest resources and our environment are all important issues to the company's business and operational standards.

Josh says he is proud to be a professional logger and proud to be in the chipping business now. "Logging has always had such a bad name in some respects," relating to conventional logging. "We

know what we're doing, but the public doesn't understand." The public views a clearcut and doesn't realize the tops left will eventually cycle back into nature. Yet the average person driving past a logging site or clearcut "looks out there and goes, man, that is a mess, it looks like a bomb went off." Yet chipping paints a different portrait. "It looks like it got swept with a broom. That's the cool thing about what we do. So I was proud to get into it (chipping) because it helps the logging industry."

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

At the end of the day, Josh says he still loves the thrill logging has always brought him through the good years and bad. "I have held on strong because of my



*Beech Island
Tiger Cat Loader*

faith in the Lord, dedication to my family, dedication to the logging industry in general... and of course, all of their dedication to me. I have always said when times get tough, the good Lord will see us through... and I know the Lord has been good to us and will continue to be good to

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us. And we thank the good Lord we have work to do.”

As an industry leader with a sincere commitment to professional logging, sustainable forestry, community, family and the principles of outstanding business, SCTPA is proud *Josh Key and Beech Island Timber & Construction* is our 2013 *Gene Collins Logger Activist Award* recipient.



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

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

PREVIOUS GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST WINNERS

- 1999 - Dennis Wall, W. V. Wall & Sons, Inc. ■ Edgefield
- 2000 - Larry Cromer, W. A. Cromer & Son, Inc. ■ Newberry
- 2001 - Gene Collins, Gene Collins Logging, Inc. ■ Georgetown
- 2002 - Tommy Barnes, Ideal Logging, Inc. ■ Edgemoor
- 2003 - Jim Curry, Piedmont Pulp, Inc., & Pulpco Inc. ■ Laurens
- 2004 - Joe Young, Low Country Forest Products, Inc. ■ Georgetown
- 2005 - Crawford Wilks, Wilks Logging, Inc. ■ Chester
- 2006 - Tim, Reg & Martha Williams, Log Creek Timber Company, Inc. ■ Edgefield
- 2007 - BoBo Seckinger, Seckinger Forest Products, Inc. ■ Hampton
- 2008 – Norman Arledge, Arledge Logging & Timber, Inc. ■ Landrum
- 2009 – Billy McKinney, McKinney Brothers Logging, Inc. ■ Union
- 2010 – Billy & Robert Walker, Walker & Walker Logging, LLC. ■ Laurens
- 2011 - Donnie, Marty, Rodney & Gail Lambert, Leo Lambert Logging, Inc. ■ Georgetown
- 2012 - Danny McKittrick, McKittrick Timber, LLC ■ Heath Springs