



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

2015 Annual Meeting Review

On The Rebound!

By SCTPA President, Crad Jaynes

A tremendous attendance highlighted our 16th Annual Membership Meeting at Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center, Myrtle Beach, February 6 – 8 for a successful meeting with over four hundred members, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and friends attending to hear informative speakers, attend the SFI TOP Trained Update DVD module session, visit with exhibitors, conduct association business and enjoy the fellowship of industry peers.

For so many to attend is a great tribute to everyone and a great indication of the interests in our association and annual meeting for hearing the speakers, learning about the industry and discussing issues among peers.

THANKS to everyone for making our 16th Annual Meeting successful, informative and pleasurable. Your support was absolutely tremendous.

On The Rebound! was our theme as timber harvesting, wood supplying and forestry products industries are beginning to rebound as the economy continues to improve. As the economy has revived somewhat and economical improvements have been seen, professional loggers, wood suppliers and timber truckers are in greater demand in the wood supply chain.

Thanks to our members, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, silent auction and door prize donors and guests for making this annual meeting a great experience

and our largest ever.

The conference began with the Friday afternoon board meeting discussing annual meeting business, and hearing from Todd Martin, Executive Director and Bill Jones of the Southern Loggers Cooperative (SLC) for the pilot program partnership of SCTPA and Southern Loggers Cooperative to locate SLC fuel depots throughout SC. The Allendale depot has been operational since December. SCTPA



will continue to help locate sites for future SLC depots. The 2014 association financials were reviewed and approved by the board. Myles Anderson President of Anderson Logging, Inc. and President of the American Loggers Council was in attendance and provided comments about how things were going in the West and with ALC. The board was presented the Bylaws amendment that would be presented on Saturday for member approval to create two new board seats to take the board to eleven members.

This board expansion will help increase the association's effectiveness. Board member candidates for the two new

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seats, Josh Key and John Rice, were present for the meeting.

Friday evening's Welcome Reception featured Mike Lockaby and the *No Holes Barred* band of Columbia playing a variety of music.

Saturday's General Session speakers were outstanding.

Leading off was Wendy Farrand, WFarrand Consulting, of Limerick, Maine presenting her "How To Build A Kick#*\$ Logging Team workshop. Wendy has been in the logging business and forestry as a procurement manager for a logging company so she brought her on the ground experience and knowledge to this very informative and motivational ninety minute presentation.

A long break was taken so everyone could visit with the twenty seven exhibitors inside the center and visit the trucks, trailers, knuckleboom loader, chippers, skidder and tire boom truck located in the parking lots.

Rob Moseley, attorney with Smith Moore Leatherwood in Greenville followed the break. Rob is one of the foremost trucking attorneys in the U.S. He discussed the FMCSA Compliance Safety Accountability (CSA) program briefly, but concentrated on the issues of sub-contract trucker relationships. He noted the general contractor, the logger, must be very careful and aware of the inherent liabilities of using a sub-trucker and take the necessary steps to protect the logger and the logger's business. He outlined steps that can be taken to reduce the liabilities of using a sub-trucker. Rob provided information each participant could take away and incorporate into their business.



Myles Anderson

The Saturday luncheon featured Myles Anderson of Anderson Logging, Inc. located in Fort Bragg, California on the rugged north coast in the Redwood region. Myles is also current American Loggers Council President. Myles presented how his family and company began in the logging business, showed scenes of his business and jobs and the "big" timber they harvest. His company is a full service logging contractor which falls, skids, loads and hauls and employs about 100 people. He titled his presentation, Logging in the Peoples Republic of California ... You Just Don't Know which was perfect for describing all the rules, regulations and environmental issues his company faces in that state. He described the process to get a timber sale ready and all



Wendy Farrand talks teamwork

the regulations required to be met that can cause the actual logging to not be done for a year and cost the timberland owner much money. He described the air quality regulations banning trucks from use if the truck is over a certain age. He talked about the public pressures from environmental groups and the slow-down in markets for his area. Plus his logging season is only about seven months long. So if anyone in this state thinks we have it tough, try logging in California. We have it great here!

The Business Session opened with the 2014 financial report by CPA Larry Godwin of Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP. Members were provided the statement as he reviewed the association's financial status. He talked about the financial improvement of the association due to the revenues from the Forestry Mutual Insurance Company endorsement and the Swamp Fox Agency, LLC insurance program assisting over the year. He noted the member dues revenue was down by \$10,000 due to non-renewals and terminations for non-payment. But the association ended the year with a positive financial balance.

Larry asked the members to talk about the association's value and challenged everyone to seek new members and asked if you can, contribute a little more to keep the association moving forward for their best interests.

Secretary-Treasurer Robby Crowder presented the proposed Bylaws amendment to change the board of directors from nine to eleven members. The membership voted and approved the change to eleven board of directors.

Nominations Committee Chairman Ricky Chapman conducted the Board of Directors elections for three seats. Board members Tommy Barnes, Danny McKittrick and Joe Young ran for re-election and were re-elected by acclamation. Then the election for board members to fill the newly created Seats 10 and 11 was held. Josh Key, Beech Island Timber & Construction, Inc., Jackson, and John Rice, Rice Land & Timber, LLC, Allendale, were elected for the seats. Congratulations to all five members.

The luncheon awards session began with Philip Sligh of Forestry Mutual Insurance Company presenting their com-



Rudy Ritter & Philip Sligh

pany's SC Logger of the Year award to Rudy Ritter, R. A. Ritter Logging, Inc., Moncks Corner, for their safety, operational performance and business practices as a Forestry Mutual policy holder.

Next, Greg Hutson, Swamp Fox Agency, Inc. presented their Timber Industry Leadership Award to BoBo Seckinger, Seckinger Forest Products, Inc., Hampton.

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SCTPA President Crad Jaynes talked about issues presented to the industry now and how the association had worked the past year. He presented the President's Awards to Swamp Fox Agency, Inc. and Forestry Mutual Insurance Company for their loyal support and financial contributions to the association.



BoBo Seckinger & Greg Hutson

Crad proudly presented the 2014 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award to Frampton Ferguson and Ferguson Forest Products, Inc., Luray, for outstanding work in professional timber harvesting operations, positive advocacy, community activity, professional business practices, association and industry leadership and positively representing the logging profession and sustainable forestry.

Annual meeting sponsors were recognized and thanked for their tremendous financial support as well as the exhibitors for displaying their services and products. Twenty-



seven exhibitors were on hand with inside display tables and trucks and logging equipment in the parking lots.

Outside exhibitors were: Shealy's Truck Center, Triple T Truck Cen-

ters, Blanchard Machinery Company & Pioneer SC, Diamondback Trailers, Flint Equipment Company, CRTS, Inc., Bandit of the Southeast, Worldwide Equipment Kenworth of SC, Carolina International Trucks, Piedmont Truck Tires, Vermeer Mid-Atlantic, Tidewater Equipment Company and Pressure Washer Systems & Service.

Thanks to Delaine, Mary, Erin and Brenda for their sales work for the shotgun, Honda Pioneer 700 Utility Vehicle, Honda Generator and Springmaid Beach Resort stay drawings. Thanks to Nichols Store in Rock Hill for furnishing the Benelli Supernova Camo 12 Gauge Shotgun and a case of ammo won by Norman Arledge, Arledge Logging & Timber, Landrum. Thanks to everyone for buying those shotgun tickets.



Our Silent Auction was successful

again raising funds to assist the association's operating budget. Thanks to all the wonderful members, allied suppliers and friends for your donations. We had over fifty outstanding silent auction items.

Thanks to everyone for purchasing the Big Drawing tickets for the Honda Pioneer 700 Utility Vehicle, the Honda EU2000i Quiet Portable Generator and the four days / three nights at Springmaid Beach Resort. Winners were drawn after the business session with Deanna Williams, Log Creek Timber Co. winning the Springmaid Beach Resort gift certificate, Lorraine Green of Foothills Forest Products winning the Honda Generator and Jim Curry of Piedmont Pulp, Laurens winning the Big Prize of the Honda Pioneer 700 Side by Side Seat Utility Vehicle. Thanks to everyone who participated for making this a successful fund raising event to support the association.



Saturday afternoon's workshop featured SC Forestry Commission's BMP Foresters Holly Welch, Tonya Smith, Clay Chaplin and BMP Chief Herb Nicholson leading the he SFI Trained TOP DVD Module. Loggers and foresters attended fulfilling their annual SFI Trained status continuing education requirement.

Sunday's prayer breakfast was outstanding featuring the spirit filled southern gospel group *Pine Ridge Boys* based out of Inman, SC. Even Todd Martin with Southern Loggers Cooperative joined in to sing gospel favorites. Todd sings in a gospel



Prayer Breakfast

group in Louisiana. This talented group provided an inspirational message through song and testimonies to make this a blessed event. As they said, "We love the Lord and want to share His love, mercy and grace in song and praise." Thanks guys, you were tremendous.

A big grateful hug and heartfelt thanks to my sister-in-law Delaine Peake, her cousin Mary Rawl, my daughter Erin and my wife Brenda for their tireless and tremendous efforts in making our annual meeting successful. Couldn't do it without yall. Thanks, you are the best.

Thanks again to our sponsors, exhibitors, silent auction and door prize donors for your contributions and willingness to attend.

And THANKS again to everyone for attending. It was a GREAT 16th Annual Meeting!

**MORE ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS ON
PAGES 44-45.**

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GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST AWARD



Ferguson Forest Products, Inc. Luray, SC

The 2014 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award is proudly presented to Frampton Ferguson and Ferguson Forest Products, Inc. for their sincere commitment to professional timber harvesting, supporting this association, participating in community and industry activities, practicing sustainable timber harvesting, promoting education and positive promotion of professional business practices.

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

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

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

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

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



Tammy, Frampton & Anne (l-r)

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

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

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featured in Timber Harvesting magazine in 1997.



Foreman Norris Fennell & Frampton

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



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

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



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

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

In 2007, a local attorney came out and publicly said, "All loggers are timber thieves." He wrote a scathing editorial published in low country newspapers regarding the same. Frampton was quick to respond and contacted SCTPA. He was instrumental in responding to the attorney personally and assisted SCTPA in responding with an editorial in the local newspapers

challenging the attorney's accusations and quickly set the record straight. Thanks to Frampton's involvement, not another word was heard from the attorney.

One of the things, and this is a side note, when Frampton served on the board, he would stop in Denmark at the Amish bakery and bring fresh pastries to the meeting in Columbia. But he was an active board member providing guidance and direction

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

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

healthy forest resources for the many products made of wood, wildlife and wildlife habitat,

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clean water and aesthetic values.

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



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

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

Understanding the responsibilities and importance associated with how professional loggers contribute to their local and state economies, how professional loggers must work with landowners, wood suppliers and wood receiving companies in cooperative, mutually beneficial partnerships, promoting and practicing sustainable forestry, educating the critical public regarding professional timber harvesting, dem-

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

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

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



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

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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.



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Up to a \$1,000 **CASH** rebate is currently being offered to American Loggers Council members!

Program Details:

Peterbilt offers the American Loggers Council (ALC) an opportunity to bring Peterbilt quality and performance to its members. Members are invited to come into any Peterbilt dealership and make their best deal on a new Day Cab including Models 567, 367, 365, or on a new Model 348 or Model 337 from an authorized Peterbilt dealer to take advantage of these great incentives:

- Members receive a \$1,000 **CASH** rebate on all eligible Class 8 units including Models 567, 367, and 365 (limited to Day Cab configurations only for all eligible models).
- Members receive a \$500 **CASH** rebate on a Model 348
- Members receive a \$250 **CASH** rebate on a Model 337
- Limited to three (3) rebates per member for calendar year 2015.
- To be eligible, ALC members must be in good standing for at least 90 days prior to taking retail delivery.
- ALC members must take retail delivery between **January 1, 2015** and **December 31, 2015**. Retail delivery is defined as the time the ownership of the truck is transferred from the Peterbilt dealer to the customer.

This offer comes directly from Peterbilt Motors Company and is not a dealer rebate. So, make your best deal and get up to \$1,000 cash back!

Other Requirements:

- Allow 6 to 8 weeks from receipt of form for check to process.
- This program is limited to **three (3) new trucks** per ALC member for calendar year 2015.
- This program may not be combined with any other rebate offers from Peterbilt.
- Glider Kits are not included in this program.
- Limited to Day Cab configurations only for all eligible Class 8 models.
- Request for customer rebate incentives must be received by Peterbilt within 30 days of taking retail delivery.

10 Predictions for Wood Consuming Industries in 2015

10 predictions for wood consuming industries in 2015, from Forest2Market's President and CEO, Pete Stewart.



1. The sleeping giant will awake to biomass demand.

For years, the pulp and paper industry's attitude toward bioenergy demand has shifted between head-in-the-sand and wait-and-see. In 2015, this sleeping giant will awaken as pockets of the US South experience significant price appreciation, the result of increased competition.

2. Pine fiber supply will be tight and get tighter.

There will be no easy way out of tight pine fiber markets in 2015. Pine fiber demand from pulp/paper mills, OSB mills, small log sawmills and pellet manufacturers will ratchet higher. It will be at least a decade, when trees planted after years of delayed sawtimber harvests will be ready for a first thinning, before supply restrictions abate.

3. Conflict between new entrants and old will come to a head.

New entrants are likely to face stiffer resistance to plans as forest products companies take a more active role in protecting their supply.

4. The pellet industry will grow because demand is tied to regulation, not economics.

The industrial wood pellet industry will continue to grow despite the availability of much cheaper oil and natural gas because demand is tied not to these economic harbingers but to regulation. The extent of this growth will be determined once UK and EU requirements for sustainable biomass are clarified.

Based on missed deadlines for previous announcements on matters of sustainability, I have no prediction about when that might happen.

5. The strong US dollar will inhibit exports.

Despite the feeling of many economists that the US dollar might be in trouble in 2014, the USD is actually in a strong position as the year closes. This will continue throughout 2015 and most of 2016. The downside, of course, is the crimp the strong USD puts in the competitive position of US manufactured goods around the world.

6. Weakening world economies will mean increased imports of wood and paper products to the US.

Most other economies around the world are experiencing slower growth or contractions, and that means their manufactured goods will be good buys in the US.

7. No rebound in solid wood, on top of increasing imports, will degrade the economics for lumber mills.

The housing market has stalled at 1 to 1.1 million starts (SAAR) annually. And we don't see this getting significantly better in 2015 or 2016. Profitability at lumber mills will come under pressure as a result.

8. China still drives the train, but the train will have fewer cars.

China's economy continues to dominate world markets, but growth has slowed. It will continue to slow in 2015, leading to lower demand for pulp, logs, lumber and recovered fiber from suppliers across the world. With European economies in the doldrums, these suppliers will look to the US markets as a place to off-load these commodities.

9. The Brazilian economy will weaken further in 2015.

Along with a weaker Real and slack domestic markets, Brazilian solid wood producers will look to the US to move product. New hardwood kraft pulp production coming on line will seek a home in the US, putting further pressure of the US hardwood pulp producers.

10. Wood-based biofuels and biochemicals markets will begin to toddle in 2015.

These markets are currently in their infancy, equivalent to the size and shape of the pellet market in 2008. The fundamentals are favorable, however, so they may just find their feet in 2015.



Better Business Practices



Being in the logging business has always meant long hours away from home, hard work and a special fulfillment associated with accomplishing things most couldn't dream of. As a business owner regardless of the industry, there are specific items that demand attention; cost of operations, a safe work environment, well maintained equipment, productive employees, just to mention a few. At times regardless of the amount of attention paid, problems can occur and a business owner must be prepared to deal with them. Unfortunately there are also cases where less than honest business practices can prevent an honest business owner from being able to compete on a level playing field.

Operating in one of the most dangerous industries in the country forces any good business managers to closely watch all business practice that adds to their overall liability. Any business in the Timber Harvesting industry should be a Corporation, LLC or some other structure that would limit an owner's personal liability. If your business is not classified in this manner, it would be well worth your while to look into making a change. If you use subcontractors for falling timber, hauling logs or other activities then a well thought out and legally binding Subcontractor Agreement must be in place. If your Insurance companies have not already talked to you about this then I would contact them or your State Association for more information on the subject.

Understanding the legalities of a subcontractor's role in your business is very important information, and at the end of the day, knowledge and the associated response are the things that separate a successful business from the others. A subcontractor is not privileged to the benefits that your company may give to employees such as health care, retirement, your workman's

compensation coverage or coverage under your liability insurance policy. A subcontractor is told where to do the work but not how to do it, and must possess the necessary tools required for the job. Ignoring the legality of this responsibility may in the short term provide an advantage in securing work, in the long run when the lawyers, insurance companies and injured third parties have their day in court, I for one would not want to hide behind ignorance of the law as my defense.

A fair bid process is one that would put cost control and production as the primary factors that dictate the outcome; however that is not always the case. Understanding the law and the liability associated with having subcontractors working for you is critical. As a business owner you cannot provide tools to a subcontractor to perform a service and at the same time enjoy the benefits of a subcontractor relationship, the same is true for the entity you may work for.

As the need for fiber increases, and we all hope it does, the path to get our products to consumers will be an interesting one. Laws have been put in place and continue to govern us as a country however some businesses tend to operate with comfort in the grey area. As an industry it seems the timber harvesting community has always put their heads down and worked harder and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that, assuming they are compensated appropriately. Fiber supply and consuming businesses are operated for a profit, just as we the producers do, some do it legally and some operate in the grey area.

Business practices are merely decisions that are made by individuals and if your business is run in the most

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ethical way you know, then you can look yourself in the mirror every day and be proud of what you've accomplished. I like to believe that in most cases, the CEOs of the companies that operate in the grey area are not completely aware of what is going on under them. One can only hope that these people that cannot look in the mirror with pride will be replaced with managers that can. Unethical business practices are not a sustainable business model. If we are to succeed as an industry it will be due to our character, the trust we have established and positive working relationships.

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.

2015 Energy Policy Priorities

January 7, 2015

Jack Gerard

President & CEO

American Petroleum Institute

The 114th Congress was sworn in this week with a clear pro-energy mandate. An election night poll found 90 percent of midterm voters agree that increased production of domestic oil and natural gas could lead to more U.S. jobs. Eighty-six percent recognize the connection between increased production and economic growth, which is their No. 1 priority.

This year's State of American Energy report emphasizes that the United States stands on the threshold of energy self-sufficiency at a level unthinkable just a few years ago. But achieving our full potential as an energy superpower requires getting energy policy right. Congress and the Obama administration should waste no time acting on the following job-creating energy policies:

Keystone XL: We could have built the Keystone XL pipeline three times over during the six years the project has been under review. Five positive environmental assessments in six years have con-

cluded the pipeline is safe for the environment, and the State Department says the pipeline will support 42,000 jobs putting \$2 billion in workers' pockets during the two-year construction phase.

Renewable Fuel Standard reform: RFS implementation went from bad to worse last year. The EPA has already publicly acknowledged that it will be at least six months late in issuing 2015 standards that were due in November, and the agency failed entirely to issue standards for 2014 – which were due in November 2013. The only real solution is for Congress to scrap the program and let consumers, not the federal government, choose the best fuel to put in their tanks. Failure to repeal could put millions of motorists at risk of higher fuel costs, damaged engines, and costly repairs.

Access: While oil and natural gas production is thriving on private and state lands, it's slumping on federally controlled acreage and off limits entirely in 87 percent of federal waters. New studies show opening the Atlantic, Pacific and eastern Gulf of Mexico to development could create nearly 840,000 new American jobs and grow our economy by up to \$70.2 billion per year.

To start the year with legislation guaranteed to create jobs and grow the economy, the new Congress should move quickly to advance these commonsense energy policies.



ALC Washington Report – January 30, 2015

Members of the newly elected 114th Congress have wasted no time in picking up where they left off following the adjournment of the 113th Congress in December. Already, we are seeing the reintroduction of legislation that stalled during the last session, as well as legislation that will prove to be controversial with the threat of a Presidential veto such as the Keystone Pipeline debate.

Committees taking shape

Several House and Senate committees and subcommittees have selected those members that will serve during the first session of the 114th Congress. With the majority switching from Democrat to Republican in the Senate, and the significant gains the Republican Party picked up in the House of Representatives, there have been several changes made on both sides of the Hill.

Of special significance is that Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) will be the Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, as well as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, where much of the pro-forestry legislation introduced during the 113th Congress faded into the sunset.

Congressman Glenn Thompson (R-PA) will Chair the Agriculture Committee Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry while Congressman Ken Calvert (R-CA) will Chair the House Interior Appropriation Subcommittee. Representative Tom McClintock (R-CA) will serve as the Chair of the Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee.

Secure Rural Schools

Committee sources indicate that the House will focus initially on Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization, since the program expired last year and counties just learned that they will divvy up only \$50 million in revenue sharing, a drastic drop from the over \$300 million they received from the guaranteed payment program of SRS.

Wyden O&C Bill reemerges

In early January, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced the Oregon and California Land Grant Act of 2015, S. 132, a carbon copy of legislation introduced in the waning days of the 113th session. The American Loggers Council, working with the Associated Oregon Loggers, The American Forest Resource Council and Douglas Timber Operators sent a letter opposing the legislation which passed in the Senate Committee yet died trying to work its way attached to a Defense Appropriations Bill passed in late December.

Wildfire Funding

Both the House and The Senate have once again introduced the Wildfire Funding Disaster Act to serve as a way to fund wildfire suppression costs from a “FEMA-like” fund without continuing the “fire-borrowing” still currently practiced that oftentimes uses funds from other Forest Service line items such as forest products and hazardous fuels reduction projects. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) will be reintroducing his FLAME Act Amendment as an alternative to the Wildfire Funding Disaster Act.

Youth Careers in Logging

Staff of the American Loggers Council met with Congressman Labrador (R-ID) in mid-December and were assured that the Youth Careers in Logging Act would be reintroduced in 2015. Members of the American Loggers Council will be working with Congressman Labrador’s staff on both support for and timing of the reintroduction.

Right to Haul Act

The Right to Haul Act of 2014 died in Committee at the end of 2014. Congressman Steve Southerland (R-FL) who introduced the Bill in July of 2014, was unsuccessful in his re-election bid in November to retain his seat in the House. Members of the ALC are currently seeking help on the hill to reintroduce the Bill in 2015.



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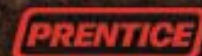
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Support the Future Logging Careers Act

Like farming and ranching, the timber harvesting profession is often a family run business where the practice and techniques of harvesting and transporting forest products to receiving mills is passed down from generation to generation. Timber harvesting operations are similar to family farms with sophisticated and expensive harvesting equipment that requires young men and women to learn how to run the business, including equipment operation and maintenance, prior to the age of eighteen.

The agriculture industry enjoys regulatory exemptions that permit family members between the ages of sixteen and seventeen to participate and learn the operations of the family business under the direct supervision of their parents. However, young men and women in families who own and operate timber harvesting companies are denied the opportunity to work and learn the family trade until the age of eighteen. This bill amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to allow for sixteen and seventeen year olds in mechanized logging operations to work in the business under parental supervision.

The ***Future Logging Careers Act*** would ensure that the next generation of mechanical timber harvesters can gain on-the-ground safety training and experience under the close supervision of their parents.

The following organizations support the Future Logging Careers Act to ensure the long term health of the logging industry by supporting the entrance of youth into this vital economic sector of our economy.

National/Regional Organizations

Allegheny Harwood Utilization Group, Inc.
American Loggers Council
Federal Forest Resource Coalition
Forest Resources Association
The Hardwood Federation
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Woodland Owners Association
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association
Southeastern Wood Producers Association

State Organizations

Alabama Loggers Council
Associated California Loggers
Associated Logging Contractors - Idaho
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.
Arkansas Timber Producers Association
Florida Forestry Association
Green River Loggers Council (Kentucky)
Independent Logging Contractors of Alabama
Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Louisiana Loggers Association
Louisiana Logging Council
Michigan Association of Timbermen
Michigan Forest Products Council
Missouri Forest Products Association

Missouri Loggers Council
Mississippi Loggers Association
Montana Logging Association
New Mexico Forest Industry Association
New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Council
New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association
North Carolina Association of Professional Loggers
Northern Arizona Loggers Association
Oregon Women in Timber
Professional Logging Contractors of Maine
South Carolina Forestry Association
South Carolina Timber Producers Association
Tennessee Forestry Association
Texas Forestry Association
Texas Logging Council
Virginia Loggers Council
Washington Contract Loggers Association
West Virginia Forestry Association

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Loggers Insurance Agency II, LLC
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Member Alert Your Action Is Needed Oppose SC House Bill 3671



On February 17th Representative Jenny Horne (R-Dorchester) introduced SC House Bill 3671 that **proposes to end the sales tax exemption on certain items** and to use the tax revenue from formerly "exempt" items to fund, in equal measure, the South Carolina Public Education Program Fund and the State Highway Fund.

The bill has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Representative Brian White.

Currently under Title 12 – Taxation, Chapter 36 – SC Sales & Use Tax Act, Article 21 – Maximum Tax & Exemptions, Section 12-36-2120 – Exemptions from sales tax, **two current exemptions would be removed. This would mean having to pay sales tax on the following items.**

(15)(c) fuels used in farm machinery and farm tractors; and

(16) farm machinery and their replacement parts and attachments, used in planting, cultivating or harvesting farm crops, including bulk coolers (farm dairy tanks) used in the production and preservation of milk on dairy farms, machines used in the production of poultry and poultry products on poultry farms, when such products are sold in the original state of production or preparation for sale. This exemption does not include automobiles or trucks;

The two exemptions are important for the agriculture and timber industries in South Carolina. Currently, no sales tax is paid on "Off Road Diesel" which is (15)(c). Currently no sales tax is paid on machinery replacement parts which includes logging equipment which is (16).

These two exemptions are effective provided the purchaser has filed with the provider the SC Department of Revenue Form ST-8F Form. If provider does not have this form on file, then sales tax is charged. This form verifies your business exemptions.

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED AND REQUESTED.

Please contact your SC House of Representatives member and tell them to OPPOSE this bill.

Representatives hearing from their constituents is very important. Talking points if needed.

- These two exemptions are critical financially to maintaining your business.
- The cost of doing business has risen faster than product delivered prices.
- Off road diesel fuel is critical to your timber harvesting business.

Information for House Member contacts can be found at SC Legislature Online at www.scstatehouse.gov

Please help stop these two exemptions from being removed. Thanks from SCTPA.



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Three Rivers Timber Co., Inc., Walterboro
Sandy Run Forest Products, LLC, Varnville
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A Comprehensive Strategy to Address Public Forest Land Management

The American Loggers Council (ALC) believes that the negative effects of current Forest Service policies now extend well beyond the timber industry. Whole communities are at risk from catastrophic wildfire, leading to depleted water resources, reduced recreation and tourism, and incinerated wildlife habitat. Smoke and decaying wood are pumping millions of tons of CO₂ into our atmosphere each year.

Rural counties that depend on timber dollars for their economic vitality are being reduced to “federal welfare” dependency. The Forest Service timber sale program that once provided revenue for local county schools and roads is now virtually gone. Through the 1980’s rural counties had robust timber economies however since then we have seen infrastructure depleted and sawmills close. The United States is now the world’s second leading importer of lumber. Many of these imports come from countries that do not have the environmental standards of the U.S. It is high time to change course.

Without comprehensive legislative changes to the way in which current policies are written, our public forestland will continue to be an economic burden to the American citizen whose tax dollars fund wildfire suppression efforts while the health of our public forest lands continue to deteriorate. In September of 2013, the House passed H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Communities Act that contained titles that would improve and increase management on both the Forest Service and BLM lands; however, no companion bill was passed in the Senate and the “status quo” remains in place for managing our federal forest lands.

ALC’s Recommendations for Change:

1. Stop redirecting money intended for forest management to fire suppression.
2. Increase the pace and scale of the timber sale program. Begin reducing our dependency on foreign timber markets while rebuilding our own timber supply infrastructure.
3. Overhaul the NEPA guidelines for both the green timber sale program and fire salvage. There has to be a reduction in the cost to prepare projects and too much burned timber is being wasted while waiting on cumbersome and outdated NEPA salvage policies.

ALC’s Ideas to Move Forward:

1. Develop a streamlined federal fire salvage policy. Consider implementing Best Management Practices (BMP’s) as federal “standards and guidelines” in lieu of NEPA to simplify the NEPA fire salvage process.
2. Develop a pilot project in 2015, to implement in 2016, that showcases what our forests could and should look like. Emphasize the production of local wood products, wildfire prevention, protecting wildlife habitat, and providing water to our cities and farms. Make the project large enough (± 1,000 acres) and accessible enough that the public can easily view it. Develop an ad campaign around the project that stresses “the future of USFS.”
3. Rejuvenate the timber supply infrastructure by implementing (5,000-10,000 acre) stewardship projects with long term contracts (5 – 10 years).

Possible Avenues for Legislative change:

1. **“Fire Borrowing Legislation”:**
 - a. The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (H.R. 3992 and S.1875) has been reintroduced in the House of the 114th Congress as H.R. 167. If passed, it will move about \$400 million annually of 10 year rolling aver-

(Continued on page 23)

age fire suppression funding to the off-line Emergency funding account. The Senate has also reintroduced S.1875 from last session which is a companion bill to H.R. 167. The Senate bill does not yet have a number.

- b. Several Republican senators from western states are working on a separate Senate Bill aimed at solving the crisis of federal wildfire funding. Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), and John Barrasso (R-WY.) said their bill would provide for complete funding for the total forecast costs of fire-fighting estimated by the Interior Department and Forest Service. Furthermore this bill sets goals for acres treated by the USFS and requires annual reporting to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2. “Fire emergency exemption”:

- a. The Stafford Act is the controlling statute for Natural Disasters. In the existing 86 page Stafford Act the definition of “Major Disaster” at Section 102(2) already includes Fire and Storm. Further, the Act at Sec. 316 states an action taken which has the effect of restoring a facility substantially to its condition prior to the disaster or emergency, shall not be deemed a major Federal action within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act. This is why a NEPA document is not required for restoration following a hurricane, etc. Minor wording changes are required to the Stafford Act to be explicit about restorative activities, following a large wildfire or wind throw event. By being part of the emergency under this Act, fire and storm can be funded through the emergency fund and be exempt from NEPA. This falls under the Homeland Security Committee.

3. “Promote Green Forest Health and Timber Harvest”:

- a. Federal Forest Resource Coalition (FFRC) believes project level NEPA Streamlining could lead to at least a \$100 million annual savings for the USFS that then could be put into increasing pace and scale. An amendment to the Farm Bill may be the way to do it. We would suggest the guiding principles below:
 - 1. The streamlined procedures would apply to all projects in Condition Class 2 or 3 Federal lands
 - 2. Since Forest Plans (as amended) and BLM Resource Plans contain Desired Conditions and Standards and Guidelines done under an EIS, the project level NEPA burden is substantially reduced such that only an EA is required.
 - 3. Analysis of the No Action and Action Alternatives shall be based on existing available information only.



MeadWestvaco, RockTenn to Merge



The recently announced merger of MeadWestvaco Corp. and RockTenn Co. is estimated to close during this year's second quarter. The new company—name still to be determined—will have a combined net value of \$15.7 billion. MWV shareholders will own about 50.1% of the company, while RockTenn holders will own 49.9%.

RockTenn's Chief Executive Steven Voorhees will serve as Chief Executive of the new company, while MWV Chairman and CEO John Luke will serve as nonexecutive Chairman of the Board. Mr. Voorhees noted the “exceptional cultural fit” of the two companies, stating that the transaction “brings together two highly complementary organizations to create a new, more powerful company with leadership positions in the global consumer and corrugated packaging markets.”

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FOR RELEASE March 4, 2015

Congressman Labrador Introduces H.R. 1215 The Future Logging Careers Act

Ensures the next generation of mechanical timber harvesting businesses

On March 3, 2015, Congressman Raul Labrador (R-ID) introduced H.R. 1215, the Future Logging Careers Act in the United States House of Representatives that included original cosponsors Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC), Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA), Rep. Reid Ribble (R-WI), Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI), Rep. Stevan Pearce (R-NM), Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX), Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI). The Bill would help to ensure that the 16 and 17 year old sons and daughters of family-owned timber harvesting businesses are able to begin following in the footsteps of their parents by amending the Fair Labor Standards Act to allow for the exemption.

Like farming and ranching, the timber harvesting profession is often a family run business where the practice and techniques of harvesting and transporting forest products to receiving mills is passed down from generation to generation. Timber harvesting operations are similar to family farms with sophisticated and expensive harvesting equipment that requires young men and women to learn how to run the business, including equipment operation and maintenance, prior to the age of eighteen.

The amendment would only apply to those sixteen and seventeen year old children who would be working under the direct supervision of their parent or by a person standing in place of their parent in a logging or mechanized operation owned or operated by such parent or person. The bill excludes the manual use of chain saws for felling and processing timber as well as operating cable skidders, which are not considered operations in a mechanized timber harvesting operation.

Members of the American Loggers Council support H.R. 1215 and are urging members of Congress to support the legislation to ensure the long term health of the logging industry and support the entrance of youth into this vital economic sector of our country.

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.americanloggers.org.

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Youth Careers in Logging

The American Loggers Council (ALC) is a non-profit organization representing professional timber harvesters in 30 states. It is our goal to ensure the health of the industry and in so doing support entrance of youth into this important economic sector of our country, opening up opportunity that is already afforded to farmers and ranchers to professional timber harvesters. Like farming and ranching, the timber harvesting profession is often a family run business where the practice and techniques of harvesting and transporting forest products from the forest to receiving mills is passed down from one generation to the next.

Timber harvesting operations are labor intensive, highly mechanized and technical careers that require on-the-ground training to promote efficiencies and expertise in performing those operations. Today's current mechanical logging machines are enclosed with safety cages that protect the occupant from many of the hazards previously experienced in conventional chain saw harvesting operations. The workman's comp. claims history bears this out – logging in today's enclosed machines is as safe as many other professions where sixteen to eighteen year olds are allowed to work.

In many respects, timber harvesting operations are very similar to family farms with sophisticated and expensive harvesting equipment that requires young men and women to learn how to run the business, including equipment operation and maintenance, prior to obtaining the age of eighteen.

Currently, there are no on-the-ground programs in place to facilitate that training and ensure the sustainability of the timber harvesting industry's next generation of family members who chose to enter the profession.

Other agricultural businesses, including farmers and ranchers, enjoy exemptions to existing child labor laws that permit family members between the ages of sixteen and seventeen to participate in and learn the operations of the family businesses under the direction and supervision of their parents. However, young men and women under the age of eighteen who are members of families that own and operate timber harvesting companies are denied the opportunity to work and learn the family business because of current child labor laws.

However, young men and women under the age of eighteen who are members of families that own and operate timber harvesting companies are denied the opportunity to work and learn the family business because of current child labor laws.

The American Loggers Council (ALC) supports extending the agricultural exemption now enjoyed by family farmers and ranchers to train their sixteen and seventeen year old sons and daughters to carry on the family business to mechanical timber harvesters as introduced in the 113th Congress as HR. 4590 and S. 2335. The exemption would ensure that the next generation of mechanical timber harvesters can gain the needed on-the-ground training and experience under the close supervision of their parents who have a vested interest in their children's safety and in passing down the profession to the next generation of timber harvesters. For more information, please contact the American Loggers Council at 409-625-0206.





State-legal Loads On the Interstate System The Right to Haul Act

Individual states have long set weight limits for their roads and highways. With the advent of the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways (Interstate system) the Federal Government established its own weight limits for this system. Thirteen states have received various exemptions from these limits. Transit buses and fire and other disaster response vehicles have temporary exemptions pending studies of their weight and use, and many “new” sections of the federal Interstate Highway system have been “grandfathered” in to allow the existing state legal load limits prior to the roadway becoming a portion of the Federal Interstate Highway System.

Generally, Title 23, Section 127(a), U.S. Code sets Interstate System weight limits at 20,000 pounds on a single axle; 34,000 pounds on tandems and a gross weight of 80,000 pounds on a 36 foot tandem spread. A bridge formula is used to recognize different axle spreads. These maximums include enforcement tolerances.

Based on safety considerations, the American Loggers Council (ALC) is proposing an additional exemption for agricultural (including forest) commodity loads that meet state-legal requirements and tolerances. The exemption is expected to result in a shift of a substantial amount of existing trip mileage from two-lane secondary roads and highways to the Interstate System and result in nominally fewer trips – and improves safety for the motoring public, including the trucks themselves. This proposal would also “fix” the issue with the addition of “newly” designated federal interstate highways having to receive piecemeal exemptions based on existing State weight tolerances.

Language introduced in the 113th Congress titled the “Right to Haul Act of 2014, H.R. 5201” included:

Amending Title 23, Chapter 1, Subchapter I, Section 127(a), United States Code, by adding the following final paragraph:

“(j) State Agricultural Exemptions. –

“(1) IN GENERAL. – Notwithstanding subsection (a), individual State weight limitations for an agricultural commodity that are applicable to State highways shall be applicable to the Interstate System within the State’s borders for vehicles carrying an agricultural commodity.

“(2) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY DEFINED.—The term ‘agricultural commodity’ means any agricultural commodity (including horticulture, aquaculture, and floriculture), food, feed, fiber, forestry products, livestock (including elk, reindeer, bison, horses, or deer), or insects, and any other product thereof.”.

For assistance regarding this proposal, please contact Danny Dructor, American Loggers Council, (409) 625-0206.



SENATORS MCCAIN, BARRASSO AND FLAKE REINTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO FULLY FUND WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION AND BOOST PROACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ), John Barrasso (R-WY), and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) this week reintroduced the FLAME Act Amendments of 2015, legislation that would allow for the full funding of wildland fire-fighting budgets for the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior, and dramatically increase resources for forest restoration programs.

“Congress must fully fund our fire suppression needs, but to reduce wildfire costs over time we must also thin our fire-prone forests,” said Senator McCain. “There are similar proposals in Congress that support fire suppression spending, but they don’t as clearly guarantee funding for forest treatment programs, put an end to fire-borrowing, or promote the utility of private timber industry as this legislation does. We need to end the current practice of throwing billions of taxpayer dollars at wildfires year after year and begin to aggressively manage our forests.”

“It’s crucial that our federal, state and local agencies have all the resources they need to fight fires and ultimately save lives, homes and property across Wyoming and the West,” said Senator Barrasso. “We also must end the unsustainable practice of ‘fire-borrowing’ and prioritize funding for active management activities that will help prevent large scale forest fires in the future. Our bill gives land managers the tools and resources they desperately need to invest in hazardous fuels reduction and disease treatment projects. This will go a long way in preventing forest fires and saving taxpayer dollars.”

“This bill aims to get ahead of the massive wildfire threat that plagues communities throughout the country by making fire suppression and proactive forest management priorities,” said Senator Flake. “Enacting this measure would prohibit the crippling practice of fire borrowing, while responsibly budgeting for wildfire management at levels commensurate with the size of the problem.”

Rather than budgeting for wildfires using just 70 percent of a 10-year historic average of suppression expenditures as the Obama Administration proposed in its Fiscal Year 2015 budget request, this bill requires the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to budget for 100 percent of their suppression costs using the most accurate budget forecast model available (known as the “FLAME regression model”). The bill also would prohibit federal agencies from raiding non-wildfire accounts to pay for wildfires, a practice known as “fire-borrowing.”

While the Administration’s proposal would allow wildfire spending to automatically exceed statutory budget caps on disaster funding, this legislation would establish a limited process for accessing emergency funds in the event of a catastrophic wildfire, while investing aggressively in suppression and forest management programs. Finally, this bill would establish a streamlined environmental review process to expedite forest treatment projects across 7.5 million acres of federal land and promote the use of private industry under forest stewardship contracts. (See also: S. 1966, National Forest Jobs Management Act of 2014 by Senator Barrasso as introduced in the 113th Congress and S. 326, Stewardship Contracting Reauthorization and Improvement Act by Senator Flake as introduced in the 114th Congress).

If this bill had been enacted for Fiscal Year 2015, the Forest Service could have had on hand approximately \$1.5 billion that the agency predicts is needed this year to suppress wildfires compared to the \$1.01 billion appropriated by Congress. The Forest Service would also be allowed to access up to \$1 billion in emergency spending while dedicating at least \$750 million for hazardous fuel management under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, landscape-scale forest restoration, addressing insect infested areas, and promoting timber projects on Indian reservations.

INFRASTRUCTURE FORUM FEATURES STRONG WORDS FROM LEGISLATORS

Moving South Carolina Forward: Congressman Tom Rice joined business leaders to discuss federal infrastructure funding. “We’ve got to quit punting and putting Band-Aids on these fixes,” he said.

On Tuesday, February 24, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce hosted the second annual Infrastructure Forum, presented by the South Carolina Tire Manufacturers Council. The Forum featured many national and statewide speakers as well as a very vocal legislative panel.

Senator Larry Grooms (Berkeley) began by telling business leaders, “We passed a reform bill, now it’s time to fund the agency,” referring to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). “We have to do something,” he said. Senator Thomas McElveen (Sumter) agreed. “The next generation will have real trouble if we don’t do anything.”

Representative Russell Ott (Orangeburg) voiced his frustration that “there is a lot of agreement between Republicans and Democrats on infrastructure, yet we have a product of inaction over the years.” He urged business leaders to contact their legislators to encourage movement on the issue.

Representative Gary Simrill (York), who led the House Ad Hoc Committee to study infrastructure, reiterated that there must be diversity in how the state creates revenue for roads and bridges. He referenced New Jersey, which has 4,000 miles of state roads but roughly the same budget to maintain them as South Carolina does. However, South Carolina has more than 40,000 miles of state roads.

Representative Phyllis Henderson (Greenville) told members, “We cannot go home in June without passing something or working to address the problem.”

Representative Simrill told business leaders that both the House Ad Hoc Committee proposal and Governor Nikki Haley’s proposal to fund infrastructure will be taken up by the House in the next couple of weeks.

The Senate Finance Transportation Funding Special Subcommittee, appointed by Senate Finance Chairman Hugh Leatherman (Florence), has met to discuss a variety of infrastructure proposals. Chaired by Senator Ray Cleary (Georgetown), the committee has proposed to forward a bill to bond car sales tax revenue to pay for interstate expansions and will also examine increasing the gas tax, increasing fee-based revenue streams (driver’s licenses, registrations, etc.) and raising the cap on car sales taxes to pay for roads. Also under consideration is a corresponding reduction in the small business income tax, personal income tax or state sales tax.

Tuesday’s Infrastructure Forum also featured a highway user’s panel with trucking and agribusiness industries, both heavily dependent on sound infrastructure. Jerome Jones of N.W. White & Co. reminded attendees, “If you own it, it came on a truck. The more it costs to truck, the more it costs for you to own it.” Jones also told business leaders that congestion is a huge problem for the trucking industry. In 2008, his trucks averaged 10 deliveries per day in metro areas. That average is now down to eight deliveries per day, all due to congestion. Likewise, Clifton Parker, head of G&P Trucking, is concerned that bad roads are hurting the ability for trucking companies to do their jobs as congestion causes more and more problems with just-in-time delivery.

The panel also discussed the problem with weight limits on secondary road bridges. Cathy Novinger of the Palmetto Agribusiness Council encouraged “building to the future” by designing bridges to withstand higher weight limits. Cam Crawford, who leads the SC Forestry Association, told business leaders the story of a South Carolina timber owner who lost \$15,000 due to re-routing because of load restricted bridges. SCDOT reported that today South Carolina has 8,400 state owned bridges with 1,600 of those substandard, 778 functionally obsolete, 390 load-restricted and 10 closed.



Just Letting You Know

Jeff Baumann, Technology Division Director, SC Forestry Commission, sent SCTPA this message so it is being passed along as a public service.

The Federal Trade Commission's Division of Consumer & Business Education recently released their top 10 imposter scams of 2014 (see listing below).

How do you avoid being a victim? The US Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) with the Department of Homeland Security offer these tips.

Be suspicious of unsolicited phone calls, visits, or email messages from individuals asking about employees or other internal information. If an unknown individual claims to be from a legitimate organization, try to verify his or her identity directly with the company.

Do not provide personal information or information about your organization, including its structure or networks, unless you are certain of a person's authority to have the information.

Do not reveal personal or financial information in email, and do not respond to email solicitations for this information. This includes following links sent in email.

Don't send sensitive information over the Internet before checking a website's security (see Protecting Your Privacy for more information).

Pay attention to the URL of a website. Malicious websites may look identical to a legitimate site, but the URL may use a variation in spelling or a different domain (e.g., .com vs. .net).

If you are unsure whether an email request is legitimate, try to verify it by contacting the company directly. Do not use contact information provided on a website connected to the request; instead, check previous statements for contact information. Information about known phishing attacks is also available online from groups such as the Anti-Phishing Working Group (<http://www.antiphishing.org>).

Install and maintain anti-virus software, firewalls, and email filters to reduce some of this traffic (see Firewalls, Understanding Anti-Virus Software, and Reducing Spam for more information).

Take advantage of any anti-phishing features offered by your email client and web browser.

FTC's top 10 imposter scams of 2014

1. A taxing situation. Internal Revenue Service imposters are the #1 imposter scam and they're on the rise. Fake IRS agents may try to scare you into thinking that you owe back taxes or there's a problem with your return. The real IRS won't initiate contact by phone or email – instead they'll start with a postal letter.

2. Sur-prized? Did the Prize Patrol ring you up to say the only thing between you and a pile of winnings is a little processing fee? If you need to send money to collect your prize, hang up. They're just pretending to be from Publishers Clearinghouse.

3. You need professional help. Maybe the con

(Continued on page 32)

(Continued from page 31)

artist tries to persuade you that your computer is on the fritz. In this twist, scammers try to convince you that your computer has a serious and urgent technical problem and that you desperately need their help.

4. Mal-where? Another version goes like this: “I’m calling from Microsoft Technical Support. I’m looking at your computer and there’s dangerous software popping up.” In reality – and you have my “Word” on this – it’s a scam. Put down the phone or refuse to click the pop-up. The fee they demand is usually very low to avoid raising your suspicions. Sometimes they say they’re from billing and you owe money or they need your account information.

5. Fake FBI. In an old twist on the Nigerian email scam, a phony G-man contacts you with supposed “certification” of the legitimacy of Prince So-and-So from the United Kingdom of Scamnation or some other official-sounding offer. The Prince supposedly wants you to help him move a, well, princely, sum of money out of his troubled country. Nope, not a chance.

6. Kidnapped computers. You click on a link in an email that seems like it’s from a legitimate company. The window that pops up says a destructive program has locked you out of your files. The pop-up might tell you to click a link so an “FBI agent” can help you. Or they tell you to get a prepaid card and pay for a password that will unlock your files. More often than not, even if you pay the ransom, they don’t release your files. Regularly back up your files to minimize any damage these thieves could cause.

7. I’ll grant you that... Imagine the caller posing as a government official – could be from the Treasury Department, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security or a made-up agency name with the word “federal” in it – with the surprising news that you’ve won a government

grant for thousands of dollars. They encourage you to seal the deal by forking over hundreds of dollars in “taxes” or “fees.”

8. Medicare masquerade. The sham government representative claims to work for Medicare or in connection with the Affordable Health Care Act or even a made-up agency that sounds a lot like Health and Human Services. They threaten your medical benefits to get your personal information or fees from you.

9. Fueling fears. Another variation involves a phony Homeland Security caller who threatens immigrants with deportation notices. They offer, for a charge, to help you certify your immigration status. They hope scare tactics will get you off guard long enough to part with valuable information or money.

10. Caller ID Don’t. An emerging imposter scam involves misusing caller ID. Sometimes they make it seem that the Caller ID number is your telephone number. Others spoof the caller ID with “Mom” to get you to pick up the call.



BIOMASS PLANTS GAINING STEAM, BUT DO THEY RESULT IN LESS CARBON?

With the Obama administration hammering out its Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions, the biomass industry is positioning itself as a leader in the renewable energy world. With that, a major U.S. utility has struck a deal with other mega-electricity consumers to provide all of their biomass-produced power.

Constellation, a subsidiary of Exelon EXC - 2.12% Corp., is investing \$200 million in a Georgia-based biomass facility that will produce 50 megawatts when it is completed in 2017. Under a 20-year power purchase agreement, Southern Company's Georgia Power will buy all of the unit's electricity while Procter & Gamble PG -2.33% Co. will purchase all of the steam that will be used to dry its paper products.

The unit will be fired with wood scraps from Georgia's rich forestry — biomass materials that the state says must be cleaned up to allow those wooded acres to revitalize. By placing that sustainable fuel source in a new boiler, Constellation says that is producing the electricity to power homes minus much of the carbon. At the same time, the steam that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere will be captured and reused to complete a manufacturing process.

While the project is part of a renewable portfolio requirement in Georgia, it is also a company goal for Procter & Gamble — to fuel itself by using 30 percent green energy by 2020. This project, which is in Albany, Ga.,

will get the consumer product giant half way there.

To this end, the Biomass Power Association says that its fuel comprises 22 percent of the nation's renewable energy usage. As such, it would like the fuel to fully qualify as renewable under the US Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan that would require a 30 percent cut in carbon by 2030.

The question, though, is whether biomass actually cuts carbon. If trees are trimmed to produce the woody chips that would fire up boilers, then there would be fewer trees to absorb carbon emissions. Newly plant trees, meanwhile, can't absorb that carbon at the same rate as older trees.

Constellation's project is using abandoned wood scraps that it says would otherwise get sent to landfills where methane gas is released, or it would be allowed to just decay. Now, the woody material is used in a plant that still produces carbon, although much less than if coal or natural gas were the primary fuels.

"Georgia wants to replant its forests and to retreat them so that they are cyclically sustainable," says Gary Fromer, senior vice president of Constellation, in an interview. "It needs the waste wood cleared. And the most efficient way is to consume it in a power plant in a co-generation way."



Wildfire Suppression Funding

In 1985, federal wildfire firefighting suppression costs for the U.S. Forest Service totaled \$161,505,000. In 1995 those costs more than doubled to \$367,000,000. In 2005 the costs of wildfire suppression almost doubled again rising to \$690,000,000. In 2014, during a fire season in which many believe to be mild in comparison to the previous three seasons, wildfire suppression costs have reached \$1,195,955,000, nearly doubling the amount spent 9 years earlier.⁽¹⁾

This trend in wildfire suppressions costs and the impact it has on the budget of the US Forest Service is one that is not taken lightly by members of Congress, and one which the members of the American Loggers Council hope to see reversed.

One of the impediments to being active instead of reactive to lowering the cost of wildfire suppression has been, and still is the practice of “fire-borrowing” where the US Forest Service “borrows” from one line item in their budget to meet the need of escalating fire suppression activities. This practice oftentimes taking critical dollars from forest management projects such as fuels treatment, stewardship contracting and the federal timber sale programs that could help to prevent catastrophic fire events; and even more importantly, generate funds to do more work in fuels treatment projects, stewardship contracting, and forest timber sale programs that would make our nation’s forest more fire resilient and create jobs in the rural communities that depend on a stable source of wood fiber for their economic vitality.

The American Loggers Council supports reform to the system of fire borrowing to pay for fire suppression, but asks when considering reform that any legislation provide:

1. Funds that are directly used for pre-fire suppression activities such as fuel reduction projects, timber sales and stewardship contracts,
2. Prohibited those funds from being “borrowed” for wildfire suppression costs, or any other budget line item that would not be used to treat the forests for catastrophic wildfire prevention,

3. The activities and projects described above include and focus on the removal of forest material for forest products such as pulpwood and sawtimber to make them economically feasible with a return to the agency to accomplish more projects,
4. Use of an expedited NEPA process when reviewing the proposed treatment projects when the intent of the project is to reduce the risk of wildfires, and
5. Generate an annual progress report on the number of acres treated and the type of treatment project for pre-wildfire suppression activities from the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service to members of Congress.

Members of the 113th Congress introduced two pieces of legislation in 2014 addressing the need to change the way that wildland firefighting activities are funded, showing the sense of Congress that changes are needed to alleviate the borrowing from other accounts which only prolongs the time in which the US Forest Service may accomplish fire prevention treatment projects.

The members of the American Loggers Council, representing professional timber harvesters across thirty-one states in the US, and also the largest customer base for the federal timber sale program, stand willing and ready to work with members of Congress as you seek ways to address this most important issue. For further information or if we can be of assistance please feel free to contact us at (409)625-0206 or e-mail Danny Dructor at americanlogger@aol.com.

(1)www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_documents/SuppCosts.pdf



Conservationists, Loggers Team up on Forest Health

JOHN DAY, Ore. — Dec 26, 2014, 1:07 PM ET
By JEFF BARNARD Associated Press
Associated Press

Logs are piled high in the yard of the Malheur Lumber Co. mill in this small town in northeastern Oregon, ready to be sawed into lumber. Steam pours out of the stacks. Trucks loaded with logs roll in.

John Day, a town of 1,700, nearly died two years ago. Its lifeblood, the sawmill, was about to close. So few logs were coming off the nearby Malheur National Forest, the mill's owners decided it was time to shut down.

But the mill and the town's economy were rescued by a detente between the timber industry and environmentalists, foes since the battles over logging that erupted in the Pacific Northwest three decades ago. The sides uncovered a shared goal: thinning overgrown forests to prevent catastrophic wildfires.

Talk to people in town and you'll still hear grumbling from those who don't trust environmentalists. But not from Art Andrews, manager of Malheur Lumber.

"When I tell people that it's the environmental community that saved this community, they say, 'Oh, baloney!'" Andrews said. "But I lived it. I know it's true."

Mills in timber country have been steadily closing as fighting continues over how to log national forests without killing protected species like spotted owls and salmon. Across the West, there are efforts to build trust among timber interests, environmentalists and local residents, and the U.S. Forest Service hopes the success of John Day serves as a model.

There is little private timber to draw on in such towns, east of the Cascades. One logging project after another in the Malheur National Forest was shot

down by lawsuits from environmentalists. Meanwhile, the community was demanding logs.

"We were at a stalemate," recalled Steve Beverlin, supervisor of the Malheur National Forest.

Then, Blue Mountains Forest Partners formed in 2006, a collaborative group designed to bring together all sides of the community, especially environmentalists and the timber industry, to come up with projects that lawsuits wouldn't stop.

Out of innumerable meetings and forest tours grew a few key friendships among people who became peacemakers in the timber war. Among them were Mike Billman, timber buyer for the Malheur Lumber Co. mill, and conservationist Tim Lillebo.



"I had never met him, but I'd heard of him plenty," Billman said of Lillebo. "He was the devil, I guess."

Lillebo was a founder of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, now Oregon Wild. They first met at a meeting of the collaborative,

and they soon found they agreed on most of the issues.

Before long, Billman and Lillebo were getting together for camping trips.

"Early on, we talked about industry, ecological and collaborative things," Billman said. "As we became better friends, our discussions became about our personal lives, our families and all that."

They weren't the only ones. Outside the collaborative, John Shelk, managing partner of Ochoco Lumber Co., which owns Malheur Lumber, decided in 2008 he had to do something and invited Andy Kerr, another founder of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, to his office. By 2009, they were telling others they had a truce.

"We agreed that there was a lot of (timber) to be had from ecological forestry," Kerr recalled. "And he didn't want the big trees anyway, so why were we fighting?"

January 13, 2015

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The undersigned groups strongly urge you to pass H.R. 185, the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015, which would modernize the 69-year old Administrative Procedure Act and improve how federal agencies write the regulations that most significantly affect the U.S. economy.

Our members believe that regulations need to be narrowly tailored, supported by strong and credible data and evidence, and impose the lowest possible burden while still implementing Congressional intent. When agencies produce regulations that do not reflect these ideals, better mechanisms to hold them accountable are needed.

The Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015 would enhance the regulatory process by:

- Increasing public participation in shaping the most costly regulations before they are proposed;
- Requiring that agencies must choose the least costly option, unless they can demonstrate that public health, safety, or welfare requires a more costly requirement;
- Giving interested parties the opportunity to hold agencies accountable for their compliance with the Information Quality Act;
- Providing for on-the-record administrative hearings for the most costly regulations to ensure that agency data is well tested and reviewed;
- Restricting agencies' use of interim final regulations where no comments are taken before a regulation takes effect and providing for expedited judicial review of whether that approach is justified; and
- Providing for a more rigorous test in legal challenges for those regulations that would have the most impact.

The Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015 builds on established principles of fair regulatory process and review that have been embodied in bipartisan executive orders dating to at least the Clinton Administration. These principles would make the regulatory process more transparent, agencies more accountable, and regulations more cost-effective. H.R. 185 would not affect the vast majority of new regulations that are not high-impact rules, regulations that are already in effect, or the enforcement of current regulations.

We urge you to support this important legislation.

Sincerely.

SCTPA TIRE PROGRAM

COOPER TIRE'S ROADMASTER BRAND TRUCK / TRAILER TIRE PROGRAM

SCTPA is proud to partner with Cooper Tire & Rubber Company and its designated tire dealers for SCTPA to offer Cooper's Roadmaster Brand commercial truck / trailer tires discount program.



ROADMASTER TIRES ARE THE SCTPA ENDORSED TRUCK / TRAILER TIRES.

Qualified Member Loggers owning trucks and trailers and Member Unmanufactured Forest Products (UFP) Truck Owners can purchase Roadmaster Truck and Trailer Tires at member prices at participating designated tire dealers.

- Qualified Members are: Logger and UFP Truck Owner Member.
- Categories in good standing with Paid Current Dues.

Please follow these steps for this valuable member benefit.

- Members Only Tire Pricing List can be obtained by contacting the SCTPA office. The tire pricing is not public and for Member Use Only. Only qualified members can receive the pricing. The tire pricing is not to be disclosed to others by a qualified member.
- Qualified Members cannot purchase tires for a non-member. If such abuse results, member will be terminated from participating in the program.
- **Qualified Dues Paid Members must purchase Roadmaster Tires from Cooper's Designated Participating Dealers in SC and GA.**
- The tire dealer or the member **must** contact SCTPA for an official **Member Verification Form** showing the member's information and membership identification number.
- A Member Verification Form will be provided to the member for use or sent to the tire dealer directly.
- Qualified Member Renewal or New Dues must be paid to be eligible for the program. Prompt dues payment maintains member's eligibility for the tire discounts.

We are excited to partner with Cooper Tire and their Roadmaster Brand to offer these savings to qualified members.

For a participating Roadmaster Dealer, contact SCTPA,
Or contact Clayton Krebs, Cooper Territory Manager, 419-306-9534.

Designated Dealers Should Contact SCTPA's Crad Jaynes
For Active Member Verification.
Office 803-957-9919, Fax 803-957-8990, Cell 803-530-5874,
Email bcjpaw@windstream.net

SCTPA / 9-18-14



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



WSRI UPDATE

“Improving wood supply operations through research”

Spring 2015

Dear WSRI Members, FRA Members, and Friends:

Welcome to the second issue of the **WSRI UPDATE**, a quarterly E-Newsletter designed to keep you up to date on what’s happening at the Wood Supply Research Institute – where we are *“improving wood supply operations through research.”* **Foresters and loggers who want to be added to the mailing list to directly receive the WSRI quarterly e-newsletter should contact WSRI Executive Director Jim Fendig at fendig@bellsouth.net.**

WSRI FaceBook Page Update

Since its launch in October 2014 the WSRI Facebook Page has received 51 likes (followers)’. We encourage all foresters and loggers with an interest of the wood supply chain to check out the WSRI FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/woodsupplyresearchinstitute> and to click the “like” and “follow” buttons so you can keep abreast of the latest wood supply research developments.

WSRI Annual Meeting Coming Up

We look forward to seeing you at the next **WSRI Annual Meeting which will be conducted on April 27th** in conjunction with the FRA Annual Meeting, April 27-29, 2015, Nashville, TN. Full details will be available very soon.

Tentative Schedule:

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM WSRI Annual Business Meeting

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Update presentations on three WSRI research projects

Research Project Selection Process

- WSRI receives proposals from anyone year round. **We encourage you to submit a research proposal that will improve wood supply chain operations!**
- Proposals format is a brief three part email communication. 1 - Name of Project & background of need, 2 - Expected deliverables, and 3 - How Project data might be used. Send proposal to fendig@bellsouth.net .
- Proposal will be reviewed by WSRI Technical Team. Selected proposal will be sent to potential researchers with request for RFP’s. A final research project selection will be made by the Technical Team and sent to WSRI Board for approval.
- Completed research Project is made available on the WSRI web site—<http://wsri.org/> and through a Technical Release published by FRA.

WSRI Editorial Board Briefings

WSRI has started on an ambitious schedule of Editorial Board Briefings with major Forestry and Logging Magazines. Briefings have already been conducted with the Editors of the ***Journal of Forestry, Northern Logger, Timber Mart-South, Timber Harvesting and Sothern Loggin’ Times***. Four more Editorial Briefings are now being scheduled in February.

WSRI Ads

The WSRI Board offers special thanks to DK Knight of Hatton Brown Publications for developing color and black and white WSRI advertisements; also for volunteering to run the WSRI adds for three months (complimentary!) in ***Timber Harvesting*** and ***Southern Loggin' Times***.

 Wood Supply Research Institute <i>"Improving wood supply operations through research"</i> Are you interested in taking part to improve the efficiency, productivity and profitability of your forest management or timber harvesting and transportation operations? WE CAN HELP! Please visit: www.wsri.org or contact: WSRI Executive Director Jim Fendig fendig@bellsouth.net 912-598-8023	 Wood Supply Research Institute <i>"Improving wood supply operations through research"</i> Are you interested in taking part to improve the efficiency, productivity and profitability of your forest management or timber harvesting and transportation operations? WE CAN HELP! Please visit: www.wsri.org or contact: WSRI Executive Director Jim Fendig fendig@bellsouth.net 912-598-8023
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We are also asking other WSRI partners to run these as “public service” ads in their publications. Please contact Richard Lewis at rlewis7575@aol.com for camera-ready copies of the ads.

WSRI Member News

We thank these new WSRI Members:

Drax Biomass
Forisk Consulting
Georgia Biomass
Northeastern Loggers Association
Timber Mart-South

With best wishes,

Danny

Danny Norman, WSRI Board of Directors Chair.

Jim

Jim Fendig, WSRI Executive Director

The Wood Supply Research Institute (WSRI) is a joint project of professional loggers, forest landowners, wood consuming mills, educators, and manufacturers that facilitates and funds research to promote and improve efficiency in the wood supply system.

Frederick:

Fuel for thought: Why ethanol should help power South Carolina

By Jim Frederick
The State Newspaper, Guest Columnist, February 20, 2015

Columbia, SC — There are no oil wells in South Carolina. Nor are there any coal mines. So if we don't want to reduce our energy dependence, we have to rely on hydroelectricity and wind and solar power and — imagine this — growing our own energy.



Biofuels can be an important piece of South Carolina's energy future. But that won't happen as long as critics obscure the facts to undermine public support. Bad information about the costs and worth of biofuels leads to bad decision-making that can impact the lives of South Carolinians who buy fuel to power their cars, their homes and their businesses. It's also bad for our farmers, the environment and, in the long run, our food security.

Biofuels are made from plants grown for fuel, such as those raised for making ethanol, or else they are leftovers from crop and timber harvests. Yet even as technology advances are bringing down the costs and streamlining the process of converting plants into energy, biofuel is being downplayed, even dismissed, by critics. Recently, the World Resources Institute issued a report that says federal and state governments are misguided in their support for biofuels as an alternative energy source. As evidence, it reports that ethanol has replaced less than 10 percent of the gasoline consumed in the United States and says that the ethanol production has removed a food source for humans and livestock. Both claims are misleading.

By law, ethanol can be mixed with gasoline only up to a 10 percent blend (soon to be increased to 15 percent for newer cars). And there are no laws mandating that gasoline must be mixed with ethanol. Thus, it stands to reason that the maximum amount of gasoline that could be replaced with ethanol would be less than 10 percent. This is a good first step.

As for blaming high food prices on ethanol, while about 40 percent of the U.S. corn crop is grown to produce biofuels, only about a third of that amount is actually converted to ethanol. The rest ends up as a high-value feed for livestock and as carbon dioxide, which can be used for industrial purposes, such as carbonation for soft drinks. Clearly, a much smaller portion of the nation's corn crop is converted to biofuels than critics would have us believe.

Critics also say using corn for ethanol increases the price of corn and thus the cost of food. In fact, the corn itself accounts for less than a fifth of the cost of food sold at grocery stores and

(Continued on page 43)

(Continued from page 42)

restaurants. Most of the cost is due to the processing, packaging, transportation, distribution, re-tailing and marketing of the food product. Increasing biofuel production actually has the potential to lower food costs by providing less expensive energy for processing and distributing food.

Without the biofuel market for corn, there would be an oversupply that would drive corn prices down. The price that farmers are receiving for corn — about \$3.60 per bushel as of this writing — is about half what it was two years ago and below the level the federal government has determined needed by farmers to profitably produce the crop.

Almost all professionals in the biofuel industry realize that using more corn to make biofuels will not be sustainable. Most agree making ethanol from vegetative material makes more economic and environmental sense than using corn grain. If done correctly, growing biofuel crops can also be better for the environment than producing many of our traditional crops.

Potential plant material for making biofuels includes leaves and stalks left on the ground after harvesting grain crops, waste wood from harvesting trees or from the lumber mills, or special trees and native grasses grown on marginal soils not suitable for food-crop production. Hence, there will not be widespread production of biofuel crops on fertile food-crop land, as critics contend. There are a lot of opportunities on the horizon with new biofuel technologies and production systems.

South Carolina's future energy portfolio should be diverse to include all the opportunities associated with solar, biomass, offshore wind, water and nuclear energies. Diversity is a good strategy for spreading out risks by not depending on a single solution. Becoming an energy-wise state begins with having the facts that will guide — not misguide — us.

Dr. Frederick is a Clemson professor who has been researching food crop production for more than two decades and studying how to sustainably produce biofuel crops since 2007. He is stationed at Clemson's Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence; contact him at jfrdrck@clemson.edu.





ANNUAL MEETING PHOTO GALLERY



(l-r) Wendy Farrand & Billy McKin-



"IN THE REBOUND



(l-r) Keith Biggs, Forestry Mutual and Rick Quagliaroli, Swamp Fox Agency



Todd Martin, Southern Loggers Cooperative, sings with Pine Ridge Boys





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Mark Your Calendar

March 2015

- 11 & 12 SFI Trained 2-Day Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Classes, Saluda Shoals Park Conference Center, Bush River Road, Columbia. Contact Sally Tucker, SC Forestry Association for registration, 803-798-4170.
- 19 – 21 American Loggers Council Spring Board of Directors Meeting & Legislative Visits, Washington, DC.

APRIL 2015

- 23 SCTPA, Board of Directors Meeting, SC Forestry Commission Headquarters, Columbia, 10 a.m.
- 27 – 29 Wood Supply Research Institute Annual Meeting & Forest Resources Association Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN

MAY 2015

- 7 Walterboro District Meeting, Old House Café, Walterboro, 7 p.m.
- 12 Richburg District Meeting, Front Porch Restaurant, Richburg, 7 p.m..
- 18 Union District Meeting, Midway BBQ, Buffalo, 7 p.m.
- 19 Georgetown District Meeting, Bill's Low Country BBQ, Georgetown, 7 p.m.
- 21 Easley District Meeting, Fatz Restaurant, Easley, 7 p.m.
- 26 Newberry District Meeting, Farm Bureau, Newberry, 7 p.m.
- 28 Clinton District Meeting, Blue Ocean Restaurant, Clinton, 7 p.m

JUNE 2015

- 1 Lugoff District Meeting, Hall's Restaurant, Lugoff, 7 p.m.
- 4 Edgefield District Meeting, Pleasant Lane Baptist Church, Edgefield, 7 p.m.
- 9 Jackson District Meeting, Jackson Community Center, Jackson, 7 p.m.

Spring District Meeting Dates Are Tentative As of March 3rd.

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.