

GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST AWARD



AUSTIN LOGGING, INC.

GASTON, SC

The 2015 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award is proudly presented to Joey and Danny Austin and Austin Logging, 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.

Austin Logging is a conscientious professional business understanding the value of relationships with customers, employees and their industry, environmental stewardship and promoting a positive image as professional loggers.

Austin Logging operates a tree length crew focusing on thinning and logging landowner tracts around the midlands area working with Tommy Laney of Johnson Company, Inc., Sumter, and their foresters for their timber tracts and markets since 2002. Local markets such as International Paper in Eastover, Canfor in Camden, Resolute Forest Products in Catawba, Georgia Pacific in Prosperity and West Fraser in Newberry and other markets are delivered their harvested timber.

Austin Logging is a family business Joey and Danny's grandfather started sixty years ago back in the shortwood days. Shortwood was hand loaded onto short trucks in the woods and delivered to sites and hand loaded into railcars. Their father Frank Austin started Austin Logging in the early 1960's still in the shortwood era and moved to short logs and then to longwood. Frank and Austin Logging was the main logging and timber supplier for M. L. Corley & Sons, Inc. sawmill in Lexington for seventeen years.

Joey and Danny acquired the business from their father in 2000 when "Mr. Frank" decided to retire. Joey, 46, and Danny, 62, have built a professional reputation for operating a professional timber har-

vesting business and taking care of their customers. Joey leads the harvesting job and Danny drives to deliver wood to markets.

Operating a lean, efficient business works very well for Austin Logging. Producing 60 to 70 loads weekly they maintain a steady flow matching their crew and equipment spread. Tigercat logging equipment is the preferred brand on their job. Two Tigercat 620 grapple skidders, one Tigercat feller buncher and one Tigercat 234 knuckleboom loader with delimeter make up the harvesting equipment spread. Their trucking fleet consist of two Macks and three Western Stars pulling their conventional log trailers. Including Joey and Danny, the total employees is eight. One very positive aspect of Austin Logging is their trucking fleet is well maintained and displays a professional image on the road.

Austin Logging takes an active role as a SCTPA logger member supporting the association and promoting sustainable forestry and professional harvesting education. Joey has presented sustainable



forestry and professional timber harvesting classroom programs at Wood Elementary School and Congaree Elementary School. They regularly attend the SCTPA Newberry district meetings, have never missed an annual meeting and participated in the SC State Transport Police Safety Fair at the State Farmers Market in April 2013 furnishing their truck and loaded trailer as an exhibit for display and truck/trailer safety, inspection and regulation training sessions. The business supports Log A Load For Kids

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and participated in the SCTPA Newberry district members' visit to Palmetto Richland Memorial Children's Hospital and Newberry district Log A Load donation efforts.

Joey is SC SFI Timber Operations Program Trained promoting and practicing SC Best Management Practices and SFI Standards in their timber harvesting operations.

Joey's wife Kay and Danny's wife Cheryl are strong supporters of their business. Kay is a nurse at Lexington Medical Center and Cheryl works in the Columbia American Red Cross's blood donation center and on mobile units traveling the state. Joey serves as the President of Airport High School's Booster Club. Danny and Cheryl attend St. James Lutheran Church and he is active in the Lutheran Men's Group. Joey and Kay attend Calvary Chapel in Lexington.

Danny and Joey strive to educate the public about our sustainable forestry and professional timber harvesting industry. They recognize 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, clean water and aesthetic values.

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.

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

Both Danny and Joey say, "We appreciate the SC Timber Producers Association and the American Loggers Council for being the professional loggers' representatives. We need their presence for legislative and regulatory issues, to enhance the logging industry and to provide education and guidance for better understanding of what we do as professional

loggers as we harvest our sustainable, renewable forests to provide the wood to manufacture products enhancing our daily lives. And to enhance the industry's image of professionalism and let the public know we truly care about our environment and healthy forests."

As an industry leader with a sincere commitment to professional logging, sustainable forestry, community, family and the principles of outstanding business,



SCTPA is proud *Joey and Danny Austin and Austin Logging, Inc.* is our 2015 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award recipient.

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

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