



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

4TH QUARTER 2023



AS WE SEE IT ... DECEMBER 2023

"THAT WAS THEN . . . THIS IS NOW" A Tale of Two Fires

By: Mike Albrecht, ALC Chairman

I'd like to start with a "thank you" to those of you taking the time to read this, and to keep you reading, I'll share a quick joke that is pertinent to this topic . . . you'll see why at the end.

A logger went to see his doctor. The doctor said, "Unfortunately, I have some bad news and some even worse news for you." A logger nervously asked the doctor to give him the bad news first. "The bad news is you only have 24 hours to live." The logger said, "What could possibly be worse than that?" The doctor said, "I should have told you yesterday."

We're going to take a look at two catastrophic western wildfires, the 1933 Tillamook Fire that burned on the Oregon Coast and the 2021 Dixie Fire that burned in Northern California. The following short description of the Tillamook Fire comes from a 320-page book titled "Tillamook Burn Country: A Pictorial History." It is a comprehensive documentation of one of America's most horrific wildfires written by Ellis Lucia.

The Tillamook burn raced through over 300,000 acres of mostly Douglas fir and was described this way by a reporter: "From the summit of the Coast Range to tidewater lines, it is simply one vast and dense forest. It is

a forest area of the giant breed, with trees ranging from eight to thirty feet in circumference and reaching upward from 150-300 feet. In August of 1933, the Oregon coast weather was extreme, humidity dropped to record lows, and a bad fire that had been burning for several days "exploded with the ferocity of an H-bomb." In twenty incredible hours, the Tillamook Fire "rampaged over 220,000 acres, burning fine trees at an astounding rate of 600,000 board feet an hour."

What occurred on that burn-scarred landscape in the following decades is truly a "legacy of achievement" by citizens, foresters, and loggers. "The flames had hardly died, and the embers cooled "when foresters and loggers launched what was one of the great salvage efforts of all time."

At the time, the entire burn area was privately owned. To get this burn salvaged and restored, private timber interests met with local, state, and federal officials who all agreed to the formation of the huge Consolidated Timber Company. This was a bold cooperative enterprise at a time when such things were considered sinful, "almost bordering on Communism." Consolidated immediately spent \$1.5 million for railroad construction, \$800,000 for truck roads,

(Continued on page 2)

Inside ...

As We See It ... December 2023	Cover
SCTPA President's Message	3
2024 SCTPA Annual Meeting	5
2024 Annual Meeting at a Glance	6
2024 SCTPA Annual Meeting Room Reservations	7
2024 Annual Meeting Registration Form	8-9
Silent Auction Item Donation Form	10
2023 Logger Activist Award Nomination Form	11
Welcome New Members	13
Save the Date - Klays for Kids	14
Why FRA Supports the Safe Routes Act	15
Researcher: Managed Forest Needed to Fight Climate Change	23
84 Lumber Opening First SC Truss Plant	24
As We See It ... October 2023	27
\$17.7 Million Investment Will Create 30 New Jobs	28
A Message from ALC Chairman Mike Albrecht	29
Photos from ALC Annual Meeting	30
NAFO - Logging and Hauling Workforce Threats and Solution	31



(Continued from page 1)

and \$1.25 million for locomotives, cars, and rolling stock.

And so, the salvage and restoration began. When it was all over, 7.5 billion board feet of the estimated 10-billion board feet killed had been salvaged and converted to lumber. 73 million trees were hand planted, with an additional one billion Douglas fir seeds dropped from helicopters. Although a private undertaking, the US Forest Service offered this advice and encouragement: “Measures to rehabilitate the burn should be taken, the cornerstones of which are intensive protection, hazard reduction, intensive salvage logging, and reforestation.” There was no environmental impact statement written – the environmental impact spoke for itself.

Decades later, when all the salvage and restoration work had been completed, Ellis Lucia summarizes: “What once was a bleak, desolate land is again alive and beautiful.”

That was then . . . this is now.

On July 13, 2021, the Dixie Fire started in the Feather River Canyon of Northern California. When finally contained on October 25, the Dixie had burned through 963,000 acres of Sierra Nevada forests and became the most expensive wildfire suppression effort in US history, costing \$637.4 million. The fire damaged or destroyed several communities, including Greenville on August 4th, Canyon dam on August 5th, and Warner Valley on August 12th.

Two years have passed since the Dixie Fire was contained. Estimates of the total timber destroyed range from 10 to 12 billion board feet on private and public timber combined. The bulk of the private timber has been salvaged. Upwards of 10 billion board feet of public timber remains standing, most of it worthless as lumber at this point. Between 2021 and 2024, the Forest Service Dixie Fire salvage program is estimated to yield 64 million board feet or 64 percent of the burned timber. The Dixie Fire landscape is destined to rot, grow brush, and reburn.

There is no Ellis Lucia documenting the Dixie Fire story. The scenario that exists on the Dixie Fire today reflects the deterioration of forest management that has been quietly progressing through the western timber-producing states for over four decades, accelerating dramatically since the turn of this century. The extreme environmental groups are being allowed to “manage” our forests by litigation.

The end result is that grossly overcrowded forests rot from insect attacks and burn in catastrophic wildfires while America increasingly imports lumber from other countries. Consider this from the United States International Trade Commission: in 2020, the US imported \$44.6 billion of forest products. 16% of US imports (over \$7 billion) came from China, the country that is the leading importer of lumber in the world.

A logger sat before the California Legislature at a hearing called to discuss the condition of California’s forests. His testimony was quick and to the point. He told the chairman, “I have some bad news, and some even worse news for you.” The chairman asked the logger to tell the bad news first. “The bad news is that even though California is one-third forested, it now imports over 75% of its wood products. In 1985, California had 150 sawmills. Now, in 2023, only 27 sawmills remain. The chairman replied, “I had no idea . . . what could possibly be worse than that?” The logger said, “We’ve been telling you this for over 50 years. Now, America, with almost 780 million acres of forests, is the second leading IMPORTER of lumber in the world, only behind China.

The joke I started with and the story of the logger both have bad news and then worse news, but the difference is, in the joke the patient has no hope. He dies. In the story of the logger, there is still some hope, but only if legislators and agencies recognize that time is getting short for our western forests and take bold action.

Like the legacy of the Tillamook, our legacy needs to be one of achievement. The apathy of “Dixie” stands in the way.

Mike Albrecht has a master’s degree in forestry from Duke University, is a Registered Professional Forester in California, and has worked for over 45 years in forest management and the forest products industry. Mike currently serves as president of the American Loggers Council and is a past president of Associated California Loggers and the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference.

The American Logger – A Legacy of Achievement





SCTPA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



First... I hope everyone had a Safe, Blessed Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It was a great holiday season at our house with family and friends sharing our love and times together.

As I am now 70 years old, I appreciate my time with my family more so now than before. I don't take it for granted. The holidays have always meant so much to me cause it renews my spirit, my faith and my desire to love and be with those I love. Hope yours was as meaningful as mine.

Second... I want to say THANK YOU to everyone who renewed their SCTPA membership, the new members who joined and the folks that financially supported SCTPA in 2023. THANK YOU for your support. The association depends on the financial support of our members and supporters to carry out our mission of representing and servicing the logging and wood suppliers of SC.

As I mentioned in my last President's message, I've been in, around, and associated with our timber harvesting and wood supply segments for 46, no going on 47 years, and I must say 2023 was the toughest year I've ever witnessed. Here in SC we had the mill closing in North Charleston, the Canton, NC mill closing, the Riegelwood, NC mill shutdown and the mill change from wood fiber to recycle material coupled with the slowdowns of wood deliveries to pulp, paper and containerboard mills creating all kinds of ripple effects throughout the wood supply chain. Yes... it was a "tough" year.

Now we enter 2024, a New Year. I have been diligently reading articles regarding economic forecasts for 2024 and have seen positives. With interest rates lower now, housing starts should improve. The inflation rate has been lower which is good, but will it last. The forecasts for consumers using paper products is trending down, but overall there is a positive side whereby forecasts are showing improvement for forest products usage. Solid wood products, lumber, OSB, plywood and wood for mass timber construction, are looking to be improved. All well and good. But perhaps a wait and see proposition.

But...I am still optimistic, perhaps cautiously optimistic, we will see improvements in 2024. I've been around our industry too long to ever believe we won't be there tomorrow. Loggers and wood suppliers will hang in there and make their businesses work.

But now is a time, and the right time I feel, for needed changes in the wood supply system. With fewer loggers to deliver to the mills, with old systems not functioning properly and the need for more logging and wood delivery compensation, now is a good time to look at revamping the system. Will it happen? Your guess is as good as mine. But something to think about. Okay enough of my soap box delivery.

SCTPA is looking forward to 2024. SCTPA will continue to work with our partners, Forestry Association of SC, SC Trucking Association, SC Forestry Commission and other partners on local and state issues such as advocating for the SC Justice Act, SC Senate Bill 533, to be passed in the SC General Assembly's second session beginning in January 2024. This tort reform desperately needs to be passed to eliminate the search for the deep pocket in liability lawsuits.

SCTPA will visit Washington, DC for the 2024 American Loggers Council Spring Fly-In and visit our SC U.S. House and Senate members. We'll continue to advocate for support and passage of the Safe Routes Act, Jobs in the Woods Act, Youth Careers in Logging Act and the Elimination of the Federal Excise Tax on new trucks and trailers. We'll be involved in the SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers Tour as well as Wood Magic Forest Fair. We'll continue to participate on the SC Forest Recovery Task Force to seek opportunities to grow our wood supply and forest products industries to better serve the needs of our forest landowners, loggers, wood suppliers and forest products manufacturing segments.

We'll really put a push on to obtain new members and retain members. Our Spring District Meetings will take place around the state. We will look to seek more member programs to help save money on

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

products and services used. We'll continue to serve the members and our industry's segment to help where we can with issues for regulations and local and state issues that come up.

Our 2024 Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, February 23 – 25 at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront is coming up soon. I hope you will make every effort to attend. I feel we have a good speaker lineup and will certainly have a good meeting for everyone. WE need your support. Invite a non-member to come join us.

I will let you know some issues about the annual meeting. DoubleTree Resort is undergoing an incredible remodeling period now. The conference center remodeling is finished now and will be available. The Live Oaks building is closed and the SCTPA room block is in the Palmetto Building. The registration, restaurant and bar in the main building are closed. Registration will be in the administration building on the street across from the main building. Southern Tides Restaurant on the Springmaid Pier will be open for meals and the bar. Sorry for the interruptions, but SCTPA doesn't control what the resort wants to do. But I can say... the entire place will be something to behold next year.

Our speakers will be; Joe Conrad, Associate Professor for Forest Operations at the Warnell School of Forestry, University of Georgia, speaking on how mill closures are impacting forest operations; Rob Moseley Alex Timmons, defense attorneys with Moseley & Marcinak Law Group, speaking on liability issues; Jonzi Guill, Executive Director Carolina (NC) Loggers Association speaking on mill closure

impacts in NC; Bob Lussier, Team Safe Trucking President, speaking on how changes have been made in Team Safe Trucking and his trip to New Zealand and visiting loggers there; Swamp Logger Bobby Goodson speaking on Overcoming Challenges; Rick Quagliaroli, speaking on the Forestry Insurance Company of the Southeast; and Colonel Dean Dill, SC State Transport Police, speaking on how log trucking is doing for safe trucking operations and safety compliance.

We'll have our Live and Silent Auctions and provide the SC 2024 SFI TOP Update for logger training. Drawings for a nice shotgun or rifle will be held, inside exhibitors and parking lot exhibitors with trucks and equipment on display and hold our Sunday morning Prayer Breakfast.

Registration packages have been mailed and available on the SCTPA website, scloggers.com. Come join us for our 2024 Annual Meeting. We'll have a good time.

Feel free to contact me and let's talk about anything you have on your mind. The association will continue representing and servicing our industry to help determine opportunities and solutions for our segment. Loggers are the life blood of the wood supply chain.

Tough times don't last forever... tough, smart people do. Hang in there and let's make it together. As our annual meeting theme says... Moving Forward to Better Times. Let's hope and pray 2024 will be better times.

As always...Log On & Truck Safe!

Crad



Timber Talk

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

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



2024 SCTPA Annual Meeting

SCTPA is excited about our 2024 Annual Meeting to be held February 23 –25, 2024 at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront, 3200 South Ocean Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, SC.

2023 has been a very challenging year for the timber harvesting and timber supply segments with the mill closures and reduced wood flows due to market conditions. As we move into 2024, our meeting theme will be ... ***Moving Forward to Better Times!***

Friday's schedule will be a board of directors meeting, afternoon registration and evening welcome reception with food and entertainment. There'll be a DJ and some Karaoke. We'll have a LIVE AUCTION at the Friday Reception.

Saturday General Session speakers will be: Joe Conrad, Associate Professor of Forestry Operations, University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources; Rob Moseley, Moseley & Marcinak Law Firm; Bob Lussier, President Team Safe Trucking; Jonzi Guill, Executive Director Carolina (NC) Loggers Association and Colonel Dean Dill, SC State Transport Police.

Saturday's luncheon featured speakers will be: Swamp Logger Bobby Goodson, Scott Dane, Executive Director American Loggers Council (invited) and Rick Quagliaroli, Forestry Insurance Company of the Southeast.

Saturday's association business session will feature the association's 2023 financials, Board of Directors elections, any bylaws changes, awards and presentations. Drawings will be held for a nice rifle and/or shotgun and free stay at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Resort Myrtle Beach Oceanfront. Saturday evening is free to enjoy Myrtle Beach.

We'll have the gospel group Port City Quartet for our Sunday Prayer Breakfast to bless us with their Southern Gospel music and faithful testimony.

Our Silent Auction will be available with a variety of nice items for bidding. The prize drawings, live and silent auctions help the association financially and Log A Load for Kids. We encourage folks to contribute to the Silent Auction and Live Auction.

Exhibitors will be inside the conference center with their products and services. Outside exhibits of equipment, trucks, etc. will be in the parking lots.

For the 2024 Annual Meeting, Carolina Opry will not have a normal show. Carolina Opry will have Gladys Knight in concert on Saturday evening, February 24. SCTPA cannot secure any block seats. If you'd like to see Gladys Knight perform, get your tickets soon as the show will sell out. Tickets are \$110.35 each by calling Carolina Opry direct at 843-913-4000 or go to... www.thecarolinaopry.com

Contact the Hilton World Wide Reservations directly to make your room reservations. **SCTPA's Group Code is... 91C.** Call Hilton World Wide Reservations at 1-855-778-1190. Be sure to specify "DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Myrtle Beach Oceanfront" when making reservations. Book online at... www.myrtlebeachrrresort.doubletreebyhilton.com

Room block cut off is January 26, 2024. After January 26, 2024, standard room rates apply.

Our meeting is a casual family atmosphere. We encourage everyone to bring your family and employees. Dress is business casual. We ask attire suited for a business meeting is worn.

Go ahead now and block the dates to join us February 23 – 25 for our 2024 Annual Membership Meeting. Meeting forms are located on the SCTPA website, www.scloggers.com

Brenda and I look forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach.

Best regards,

Crad

Crad Jaynes
President

PLEASE NOTE: SPONSOR / EXHIBITOR PACKAGES
WILL BE MAILED SEPARATELY TO
ALLIED SUPPLIERS & ALLIED SUPPORTERS.

2024 SCTPA Annual Membership Meeting

MEETING AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 1:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting ... Members & Guests Welcome
3:00 p.m. Registration Desk ... Open Until 7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. Welcome Reception... Food, Music, DJ & Karaoke

Conference Center
Osprey Room Live Oaks Bldg.
2nd Floor
3rd Floor

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 6:30 a.m. Member & Guests Breakfast 3rd Floor
6:45 a.m. Registration Desk Opens 2nd Floor
8:00 a.m. General Session Welcome, Invocation, Antitrust Statement
& Announcements, SCTPA Chairman's Remarks 2nd Floor
8:15 a.m. Speaker: Joe Conrad, University of Georgia Warnell Forestry School
8:30 a.m. Ladies Breakfast 3rd Floor
8:55 a.m. Speaker: Rob Moseley, Moseley Marcinak Law Firm
9:35 a.m. Speaker: Bob Lussier, President, Team Safe Trucking
10:05 a.m. Speaker: Jonzi Guill, Executive Director, Carolina (NC) Loggers Association
10:35 a.m. Speaker: Colonel Dean Dill, SC State Transport Police
11:20 a.m. Morning Break to Visit Exhibitors & Silent Auction
11:50 a.m. Move to Membership Luncheon
12:00 p.m. Membership Luncheon & Business Meeting 3rd Floor
12:45 p.m. Chairman's Welcome, Board of Directors Introductions & Announcements
Speakers: Swamp Logger Bobby Goodson, Scott Dane, American Loggers,
Council Executive Director, & Rick Quagliaroli, Forestry Insurance Company
of the Southeast
Business Session: President's Report, Financial Report, Bylaws Report, Board Elections,
Awards & Special Presentations, Door Prizes & Prize Drawings
2:50 p.m. Afternoon Break 2nd Floor
3:00 p.m. Workshop: SFI Trained TOP DVD Module for SFI Training 2nd Floor
For July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 SFI Trained Status
5:00 p.m. Adjourn
Saturday Evening On Your Own. Enjoy Your Evening!

Conference Center

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Special Guest: *Port City Quartet - Gospel Music Group*
10:05 a.m. Silent Auction Announcements & Final Comments
10:30 a.m. Adjourn Meeting

Conference Center
3rd Floor

SILENT AUCTION BIDDING HOURS - CONFERENCE CENTER

Friday, 5:00 – 9:30 p.m. Saturday, 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Sunday, 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

EXHIBITOR HOURS - CONFERENCE CENTER

Friday, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Saturday, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING!

2024 SCTPA Annual Meeting Room Reservations

SCTPA 2024 Annual Meeting will be February 23 – 25, 2024 at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront, 3200 South Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Reservations are to be made directly with **Hilton World Wide Reservations** by calling **1-855-778-1190**. The **SCTPA Annual Meeting Group Code** is **“91C.”**

Provide **Group Code 91C** when making room reservations. Be sure to specify *DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Myrtle Beach Oceanfront* when making room reservations.

Reservations can be made online by using this booking link. Be sure to use the entire URL for it to work properly. **Use Booking** link as follows:

www.myrtlebeachresort.doubletreebyhilton.com

If you have difficulty in room reservations, contact Melissa Durham, SCTPA Event Manger at DoubleTree Resort, at melissa.durham@hilton.com.

The DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront is undergoing upgrades now to improve their services and rooms. Therefore, the Live Oaks Building will be closed as room renovations will be underway in that building. Due to this, **the SCTPA Annual Meeting room block will be located in the Palmetto Building.**

SCTPA Encourages Everyone to Register As Quickly As Possible to Assist the Association in the Meeting Plans. This is important and will help SCTPA make appropriate arrangements for the meeting. Please register early.

SCTPA room block rates cut off is January 26, 2024. Room block number is limited. After January 26, 2024, regular room rates will apply. SCTPA has no flexibility with this cut off. Hilton reservation cancellation policy applies.

There is no reservation form for your use. Make room reservations direct with Hilton.

SCTPA ANNUAL MEETING DOUBLETREE RESORT BY HILTON MYRTLE BEACH OCEANFRONT ROOM RATES

Room Type	Single Rate	Double Rate
Deluxe Room - King or Double Queen	\$ 139	\$ 139
King Suites	\$ 209	\$ 209

Please Note: All rooms are subject to applicable state and local taxes and resort fee plus any other applicable fees charged by the DoubleTree Resort per guest room per night. Hilton policies and fees apply for room reservations as well as room cancellations. SCTPA has no control on these charged fees.



2024 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

February 23 -25, 2024

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION BELOW.

Name _____ Badge Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact #: Work _____ Home _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____ Badge Name _____

Please list any additional badge names on page 9. Credit Card Payment Form on page 9. Thanks!

	Early Registration #	\$	After February 5, 2024 #	\$
Member *	_____ @	\$ 235 = _____.	_____ @	\$ 270 = _____.
Member Spouse *	_____ @	\$ 130 = _____.	_____ @	\$ 170 = _____.
Active Member Employee **	_____ @	\$ 130 = _____.	_____ @	\$ 140 = _____.
Active Member Employee Spouse	_____ @	\$ 105 = _____.	_____ @	\$ 120 = _____.
SATURDAY, FEB. 25 ONLY	_____ @	\$ 185 = _____.	_____ @	\$ 215 = _____.
Non-Member	_____ @	\$ 250 = _____.	_____ @	\$ 265 = _____.
Non-Member Spouse	_____ @	\$ 135 = _____.	_____ @	\$ 145 = _____.
Children - Per Child – Age 6 – 18 <small>Children Under 6 – No Charge</small>	_____ @	\$ 35 = _____.		
TOTAL \$ DUE & PAID \$ _____.				
<small>* Please Refer to Member & Active Member Employee Descriptions Below *</small>				

Return Completed Registration & Check Payable To: SC Timber Producers Association (SCTPA)

*Members ** = Active Members, Allied Supplier Members & Allied Supporting Members with Paid Dues.
Active Member Employee ** = Active Logger, Wood Dealer or Trucker Member Sponsored Employees Only not an owner, partner or corporate officer of active member's business. Supervisors & employees are encouraged to attend.
All other Non-logger, dealer or trucker active members use member registration rates per person attending.
 Call SCTPA if questions.

RESERVE YOUR ROOMS DIRECTLY WITH HILTON WORLD WIDE RESERVATIONS.

HILTON WORLD WIDE RESERVATIONS 1-855-778-1190 ... *USE GROUP Code ... 91C*

BOOKING LINK ... WWW.MYRTLEBEACHRESORT.DOUBLETREEBYHILTON.COM

FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS ... BE SURE TO SPECIFY -

DOUBLETREE RESORT BY HILTON HOTEL MYRTLE BEACH OCEANFRONT

SCTPA ROOM BLOCK RATES CUT-OFF IS JANUARY 26, 2024

Regular Hotel Room Rates Will Apply After January 26, 2024. Hilton Room Cancellation Policy Applies.

SCTPA Annual Meeting Cancellation Policy: Full refund if written cancellation received by January 1, 2024.
 50% refund if written cancellation request received by January 15, 2024. NO REFUND after January 15, 2024..

Additional Names for Annual Meeting Registration & Name Badges:

2024 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Total Registration Fees \$ _____

4% Credit Card Fee \$ _____
(4% Credit Card Processing Company Fee on Amount Charged.
Fee Does Not Go to SCTPA.)

Total Amount Charged \$ _____

Credit Card Used: **VISA** **MASTERCARD** **DISCOVER**
(Circle Card Used)

Card Holder Name: _____

Card Number: _____

Card Verification Number on Back of Card: _____
(Three or Four Digit Number on Back of Card)

Card Expiration Date: _____

Card Billing Address Zip Code: _____

I agree to pay according to the Terms & Conditions of the Card Used.

Signature

Print Name

2024 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Silent Auction Item Donation

Our Silent Auction has been successful because of the participation of our Allied Supplier, Allied Supporting and Individual Members. Our 2024 Annual Membership Meeting, February 23-25, at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront, Myrtle Beach, will again feature our Silent Auction. Auction proceeds are used to help financially support the association.

Would you and/or your company like to donate an item or contribute financially towards the purchase of a Silent Auction item? This is voluntary. Even if you are not attending the meeting, but would simply like to participate, we would certainly appreciate your contribution and involvement.

If you are interested, please return this form to the SCTPA office. Or you may contact the SCTPA office at 1-800-371-2240, fax 803-957-8990, email bcipaw@windstream.net or Crad's cell 803-530-5874 for more information. Your company will be recognized at the meeting as a Silent Auction Donor.

Thanks for your support in our efforts to continue representing professional loggers and timber producers here in South Carolina. Your Silent Auction donation is greatly appreciated. Your contribution may be tax deductible as a contribution to this association.

Silent Auction Item

Please Circle as Silent or Live Auction Item ... SILENT AUCTION LIVE AUCTION

Donated Item Description _____

Item Value \$ _____

Donated By _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Name _____ Telephone (____) _____

Silent Auction Financial Donation

** Financial Donation Toward Purchase of Silent Auction Item: \$ _____. **

** SCTPA will purchase Silent Auction items. Financial contributor will be designated for the item. **

Please Mail, Email or Fax To: SC Timber Producers Assoc. P.O. Box 811 Lexington, SC 29071

Shipping Address: Crad Jaynes SCTPA 601 Carola Lane Lexington, SC 29072

2023 Logger Activist Award Nomination

Nominations for SCTPA's **2023 Gene Collins Logger Activist of the Year Award** are being sought. Award will be presented at the 2024 Annual Membership Business Luncheon and Meeting convening at noon, Saturday, February 24, 2024 at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront, Myrtle Beach, SC.

This award recognizes a Professional Logger who has demonstrated an exceptional desire to positively promote and represent the timber harvesting profession by actively participating in association activities, educational efforts, community action, industry advocacy, and engendering the public's trust with commitment to the American Loggers Council Professional Logger Code of Practices and by displaying a commitment to sustainable forestry principles and practices.

You may nominate a SCTPA Logger Member or yourself. Contact the Nominations Committee or SCTPA office by January 25, 2024. Thank you for your nomination and association support.

Nominations Committee

Chairman, Josh Key, Beech Island Timber & Construction, Inc., Jackson
Office 803-827-1807 ■ Cell 803-507-8995 ■ jkey@bitimber.com

Tommy Barnes, Ideal Logging, Inc., Edgemoor
Office 803-789-5467 ■ Fax 803-789-3565 ■ Cell 803-385-7994 ■ ideallogging@truvista.net

Buster Harrison, Harrison Forest Products, Inc., Round O
Office/Cell 843-908-0085 ■ carey.harrison@canfor.com

2023 Logger Activist Award Nomination

2023 Nominee Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **SC** **Zip** _____

Contact Office _____ **Home** _____

Mobile _____ **Email** _____

Nominated By _____ **Date** _____

Contact: Office _____ **Cell** _____

Describe nominee's activities: _____

Use Additional Pages If Needed



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Chad Houze

Brandon Stiglbauer

Debbie Kelley

Katrina Teel, CISR

Rosemary Davis, CISR

Keep on Loggin'



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

SCTPA welcomes our 2023 4th Quarter New Members & Restart Members.
Your support is appreciated.

Streamline Timber, LLC, Orangeburg
Colony Tire Corporation, Columbia
Primrose Oil Company, Inc., Bolivia, NC
Grant Massey, Marsh McLennan Agency, Charlotte, NC

*Dedicated representation & service to the professional timber harvesting segment of
South Carolina's forest products industry.*



Timber Talk

*Your Voice for South Carolina
Timber Harvesting*

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

SAVE THE DATE!!

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Society Hill, SC



ALL PROCEEDS ARE DONATED TO THE McLEOD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE



Please Consider Becoming A Sponsor -- Sponsor Levels:

\$250 Bronze (includes 1 entry, 1 shirt, lunch, name or company name on a custom sign at one of the shooting stations)

\$500 Silver (includes 2 entries, 2 shirts, lunches, name or company name on a custom sign at one of the shooting stations)

\$1000 Gold (includes 4 entries, 4 shirts, lunches, name or company name on a custom sign at one of the shooting stations)

\$2500 Platinum (includes 8 entries, 8 shirts, lunches, name or company name on a custom sign at one of the shooting stations)

\$10,000 Diamond Also Available...Ask For Details!

**We are currently looking for auction items...
All donations greatly appreciated!**



Log A Load For Kids is a national organization dedicated to fundraising by loggers and other forest industry personnel in conjunction with forestry organizations and associations to raise money for local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. It started in South Carolina in 1988 and has grown to include at least 27 states! To learn more about them visit www.logaload.org



**For more information contact
Cindy Lussier 860.234.0928
cindy@greatwoodscos.com**



Why FRA Supports The Safe Routes Act (H.R. 2493, S.1818)

September 2023



Why Support the Safe Routes Act:

- Provisions of the Safe Routes Act allow trucks transporting logs, pulpwood, chips or biomass access to the safer U.S. Interstate Highway System at legal state GVW.
- Limits transportation distance to 150 air miles from point of harvest to storage or processing facility on interstates which are three to four times safer than rural secondary roads.
- Provides for state legal weight tolerance in effect on the enactment date of the legislation. States cannot arbitrarily raise their weight limits after the bill is passed into law.
- Reduces pedestrian and vehicle encounters with log trucks.
- Saves fuel and reduces emissions and damage on state rural roads.
- Improves the U.S. forest industry's global competitiveness.

In the US, weight limits on interstate highways are established by the federal government while weight limits on other roadways are established by state or local governments. State weight limits for log trucks exceed federal interstate highway weight limits in all major timber-producing states. This disparity discourages log trucks from traveling loaded on interstate highways. Log trucks traveling on non-interstate roads have a greater risk of accidents as they encounter two-way traffic, intersections, school zones, pedestrians, and driveways. Allowing trucks transporting raw forest products (logs, pulpwood, chips, or biomass) access to the U.S. Interstate Highway System at legal state GVW is safer.

- A 2020 study published in the peer-reviewed *International Journal of Forest Engineering* assessed the safety benefits of allowing log trucks access to the interstate highway system. The results of the research show that allowing state-legal truck weights and configurations access to an interstate route for a short distance that avoided small towns, school districts, and intersections would improve safety, reduce CO2 emissions, cause less damage to rural roads, and reduce transportation costs for small logging businesses (Conrad, 2020).
- Another separate study of log trucks in Georgia showed that 50 percent of accidents occurred in urban areas. This same study also showed that 41 percent of the log truck accidents occurred within five miles of an interstate (Conrad, 2018).
- Findings of a nationwide study of fatal log truck crashes in the U.S. stated that the most common pre-crash event occurred when another vehicle traveled into a truck's lane from the opposite direction (Cole, 2019).
- All these studies suggest that moving log trucks to interstates would be safer.
- This suggestion is supported by a pilot project in Maine where trucks are permitted to haul heavier weights. The Maine Department of Transportation statistics showed that truck accidents decreased 23 percent, the number of fatalities decreased by 33 percent, and property damage was reduced by 11 percent after the pilot went into effect.
- The Maine pilot is consistent with national findings that rural interstate highways are three to four times safer than secondary roads (Maine DOT, 2010).
- Reduces the carbon footprint of transporting raw forest products as less fuel is used due to fewer stops and shifting, and a shorter, more direct route provided by the interstate.

Request:

- ❖ Cosponsor Safe Routes Act (H.R. 2493, S.1818)
- ❖ Vote in favor of House Bills
 - H.R.3372 authorizes a pilot program allowing trucks to haul 91,000 pounds on 6 axles on interstates
 - H.R. 3013 streamlines the process to obtain a commercial drivers license (CDL)
 - H.R. 3318 establishes a 10% axle weight variance for dry bulk materials



About FRA:

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) represents the interests of nearly 350 organizations and businesses in the forest products industry. Our members include forest landowners, suppliers, consuming mills, associated businesses, and state forestry associations.

The Mission of FRA is to promote the interests of its members in the economic, efficient, and sustainable use of forest resources to meet the needs of the wood fiber supply chain through private enterprise. FRA members are represented in 49 states and 384 congressional districts.

For more information, please contact:

- Deb Hawkinson, FRA President, 202-296-3937 or dhawkinson@forestresources.org
- Tim O'Hara, FRA Vice President, Government Affairs, 218-390-7965 or tohara@forestresources.org

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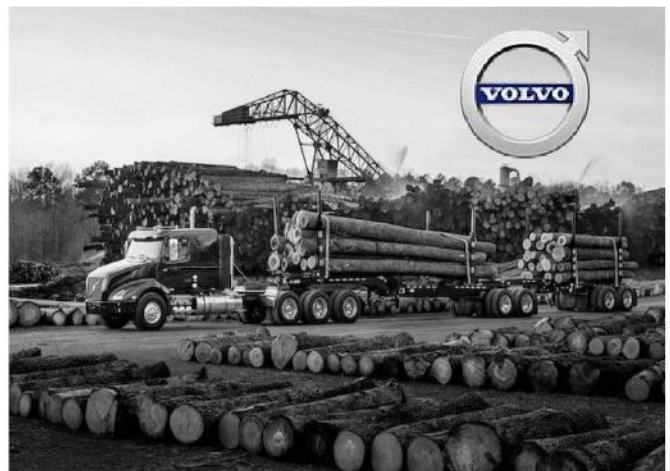


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John Walsh: (for any Upstate or Western Carolina needs) Cell: 864-347-0563





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Christian Houston-Floyd is the Samsara Account Executive. His direct contact is 470-502-6900 extension 3 or online at christian.houston@samsara.com.

Christian spoke at the American Loggers Council 2022 Annual Meeting in Couer d'Alene, Idaho. The Mississippi Loggers Association has had great success with their partnership with Samsara. SCTPA is proud to provide this Samsara program as a member benefit and service.



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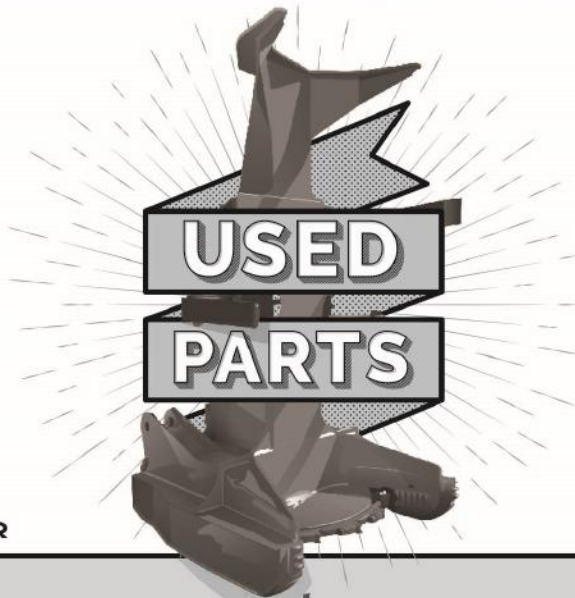
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Team Safe Trucking Driver Safety Training Modules Outline (additional modules available covering various subjects)

The South Carolina Timber Producers Association Educational Sponsor Website

southcarolinatimberassociation-teamsafe.talentlms.com - (31 courses) Driver Refresher Training Program Courses
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RESEARCHER: MANAGED FORESTS NEEDED TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

By Brian Gawley
Olympic Peninsula News Group
December 20, 2023, Sequim Gazette

Wood products and managed forests are necessary for climate mitigation, a 20-year forest management researcher told the Clallam County commissioners.

Dr. Edie Sonne Hall of Three Trees Consulting in Seattle gave a presentation Nov. 27 on the role of forest management in climate mitigation. She was invited by commissioner Randy Johnson as part of the commissioners' ongoing focus on timber harvest issues.

"We have been discussing forest management a lot lately," county commissioner Mark Ozias said. "There's a lot of interest around here."

Hall said 74 percent of annual resource extraction is of non-renewable resources. Since 1970, the Earth's population has doubled while global extraction of materials has more than tripled and is expected to double again by 2050, she said.

Hall has more than 20 years of experience and connections developing sustainable forestry strategies and policies at the state, regional, national and international levels. She has a Ph.D. in forestry from the University of Washington, where she specialized in forest carbon accounting and life cycle assessment, and a bachelor of science degree in biology from Yale University.

Several wood products could replace existing fossil fuel-based materials, Hall said, giving the following examples:

- Engineered wood made from saw logs can replace concrete, steel and bricks in buildings.
- Wood foam can be used as insulation in walls, furniture and doors, and packaging can replace polystyrene and polyurethane.
- Textiles made from wood pulp can replace polyester, polyamides, acrylics and cotton.
- Bioplastics made from pulp byproducts such as tall oil, wood sugars and lignin can be used in packaging, including food grade packaging.
- Composites made from wood chips can be used in decking, siding, roofing and furniture.

"We have a growing population and we have non-renewable resources," she said. "There's real climate benefits to using renewable resources."

A high demand for timber corresponds to stable or increasing carbon stocks, which are measured using field plots monitored by the Forest Carbon — Forest Inventory and Analysis National Program, Hall said. Strong demand for wood products also keep forests from being cut down for other uses, such as agriculture or urban development, she said.

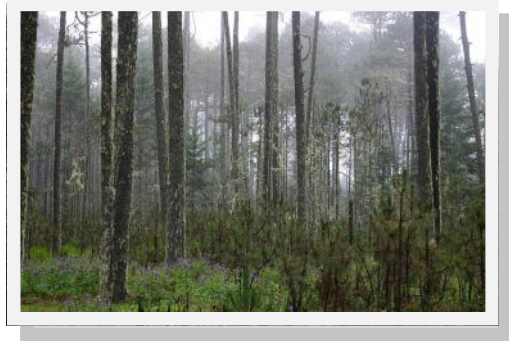
The two risks to Washington state's forests are land conversion and forest health and fire, Hall said.

Forest acres declined by 394,000 acres (2%) between 2007 and 2019, and Western Washington's small forest landowners are expected to convert almost 80,000 more acres by 2030, with the majority going to residential development, she said.

The average number of acres burned by wildfires in Washington state has increased more than five-fold since the 1980s, Hall said.

The inventory of managed forests in the Southeast and Northwest have increased since the 1960s because of commercial forestry, she added.

The Forest Service is putting more biomass in the forest every year, but their forests have a higher mortality rate and they do less harvesting, she said.





84 Lumber Opening First S.C. Truss Plant

As the industry nears the end of 2023, truss manufacturing action remains red-hot.

Andy Carlo, LBM Editor, 12/12/2023

As 2023 winds down, 84 Lumber continues to close out the year with expansion plans that are coming to fruition.

The prodealer announced today that it will open a truss plant in the state of South Carolina, just outside of Columbia. This marks 84 Lumber's first truss facility in the state.

The plant is tentatively set to open in January 2024, the Eighty Four, Pennsylvania-based lumber and building supplies dealer said.

This new truss plant, located in Lugoff, will provide trusses and wall panels while providing a greater supply of materials and services for customers.

The facility will also be equipped with brand-new, state-of-the-art equipment for operation. Once open and operating, the 78,624-square-foot facility will employ roughly 90 associates when fully staffed.

"We are very excited to open our first truss plant in the state of South Carolina," said Ken Kucera, vice president of installed sales and manufacturing at 84 Lumber. "This is a prime location for us, being in the center of the state, as it enables us to supply to multiple locations in the Carolinas and parts of Georgia."

84 Lumber has made moves in four states in recent weeks. 84 Lumber said that it has been supplying builders and contractors in the area since 1991.

In 2007, the dealer's yard in the market was relocated to its current Lexington location. That move was followed by the company's door production team being relocated to a Columbia standalone facility in 2007. The move allowed the team to exclusively focus on door sales and production.

According to 84 Lumber, In the decades since the original opening, the market and store have "grown to become one of the most promising opportunities for 84 Lumber and its customers."

"We are confident we will see great success upon the opening of this plant," Kucera said, regarding the new South Carolina plant.

Last week, 84 Lumber announced that it plans to open a new truss plant in Cartersville, Georgia by the end of December. The facility will serve the greater Atlanta market while working in tandem with an existing plant in Oxford.

Other recent expansion moves by the company have been in the West, including the opening of a new door shop in the Denver, Colorado market.



Lugoff, South Carolina truss plant

SCTPA Comments: While this new 84 Lumber truss plant in Columbia will not be receiving and using raw wood fiber, logs, they will be using lumber generated at other wood receiving mills, sawmills, from 84 Lumber's finished timber product manufacturers. So this is good for the timber industry across a wide area. Perhaps even here in SC for 84 Lumber to purchase lumber manufactured in our state.

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...BREAKING NEWS...

After months of hard work, we have launched our new website. Members will now have access to their SLC invoices 24/7 with a member login! Amongst the new features are the "find the nearest station" to my location feature, an approved national tires and parts dealers with location info, fill out an application on-line and other features that will assist in the improved communication with our members. The SLC's founding "Cost-Cutting Mission" continues!



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Inconsistent Federal Transportation Policy Hurting the Economy and Environment

The U.S. Federal Transportation Policy is a disjointed, bureaucratic hodgepodge of restrictions and requirements lacking consistency across the states, imposed under the extortive threat of federal funding losses.

What weighs more? A ton of milk or a ton of logs?

A ton is still a ton, there is no difference. Why, then, can a truck hauling milk carry heavier loads than a truck carrying logs on the Federal Interstate? This is but one example of the vagaries of a federal policy that allows specific commodities exemptions or authorization to carry more weight on the Federal Interstate System.

In many areas, there is a wide disparity between the speed and weight limits on state and interstate roadways, even when compared with other Interstate Highways. For instance, in New England states, trucks hauling timber are authorized to access the Federal Interstate System at 100,000 pounds. Meanwhile, on a specific 23-mile corridor of federal interstate in Minnesota, trucks are allowed to haul timber up to 99,000 pounds. Other sections of the interstate in different states are grandfathered in at higher weights than the standard Interstate weight limit.

Are particular Federal Interstate Highways in New England or other states built to a different engineering standard than federal interstates in other states?

The answer is no, they are all built to the same standards. Similar bureaucratic manipulation is apparent with the Electric Vehicle push. The heavier electric semi-trucks would by law have been forced to carry less cargo, thus increasing transportation costs which would be passed onto the consumer. But EV semi-trucks have now been authorized to carry 2,000 more pounds (4,000 in Europe) to accommodate the heavier batteries of the EV semi-trucks. So again, what weighs more? Batteries or logs?

Optimum transportation weights are recognized as a major contributing factor in maximizing transportation efficiency, reducing consumer costs, and improving safety while resulting in less carbon emissions. Transportation engineering studies have recognized the opportunity to safely increase truck weights on the federal interstate system. Congress has established precedents with carve-outs and exemptions in select states for specific commodities, routes, and weights. Globally, other countries and

regions, specifically Canada and the European Union, allow for heavier weight limits on their roadways.

Why doesn't Congress and the Administration establish competitive, efficient, and uniform weight standards for the federal interstate system?

It seems that the influence and targeted opposition of the railroad lobbyists are derailing (pun intended) the overriding goals of the Transportation Department to provide safe and efficient avenues for the nation. It would be much better for our national transportation goals if the railroad industry invested in their equipment, tracks, and safety instead of investing in politicians. With the history of accidents and hazardous chemical spills exposing communities to life-threatening situations, the railways have

Why, then, can a truck hauling milk carry heavier loads than a truck carrying logs on the Federal Interstate?

plenty to focus on.

This year Congress has the opportunity to put the economy, environment, and public safety above monopolistic railroad interests by supporting the Safe Routes Act of 2023. This Bill has been introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives. Failure to pass the Safe Routes Act of 2023 will continue to expose the public to unnecessary safety risks, increase consumer product costs, generate more carbon emissions, and contribute to climate change by requiring the use of more fossil fuels.

The question for Congress and the Administration is simple –

Are you going to establish uniform, consistent, and fair Federal Transportation Policies across the country, or are you going to continue to allow unelected lobbyists to dictate transportation policy at the expense of the general public?

The Administration and many in Congress profess wanting to reduce fossil fuel use, reduce carbon emissions, improve the economy, create rural jobs, and support general welfare and safety. This is the perfect opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to these priorities by passing the Safe Routes Act of 2023. Choosing not to support the Safe Routes Act of 2023 would be a demonstration of whose best interest is being served by our elected officials.

\$17.7 MILLION INVESTMENT WILL CREATE 30 NEW JOBS

West Fraser, one of the largest timber producers in North America, today announced it is growing its Newberry County, SC sawmill operations with its third expansion in 10 years. The \$17.7 million investment will create 30 new jobs.

Founded by three brothers in 1955, West Fraser is a diversified wood products company that manufactures lumber, engineered wood and other products including pulp, newsprint, wood chips and renewable energy. Its products are used in home construction, repair and remodeling, industrial applications, papers, tissue and box materials.

Much like the 2014 and 2016 projects, the expansion of the facility located at 3287 College Street in Newberry will help West Fraser modernize and increase productivity. The company purchased an additional 60 acres of land to accommodate the growth. There are more than 60 West Fraser operations in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

Operations are expected to be online in early 2024. Individuals who are interested in joining the West Fraser team should visit the company's jobs board.

"West Fraser is excited to grow our presence in Newberry County. This expansion and upgrades will ensure our Newberry facility is well equipped to compete in the global lumber markets and provide quality products to our customers for many years to come. Many thanks to the county of Newberry and the greater Newberry community, who supported this project and built a competitive investment climate with a skilled labor force, making Newberry an ideal community to grow our business." -West Fraser Vice President of Capital and Technology Chuck Watkins

"We are proud that Newberry County proves to be a viable location for West Fraser. By providing a strong and dedicated workforce and supporting West Fraser's vision, South Carolina plays a pivotal role in helping the company continue to expand its South Carolina presence." -Gov. Henry McMaster

"Today's expansion announcement from West Fraser further enhances South Carolina's booming agribusiness industry. Congratulations to the com-

pany and Newberry County on continuing such a prosperous partnership." -Secretary of Commerce Harry M. Lightsey III

"West Fraser's continuing investments in its Newberry sawmilling operations reflects its confidence in our state's resilient forest resource and the many landowners who sustainably manage their forestland. The abundance of healthy, fast-growing and privately managed wood in South Carolina makes the Palmetto State ripe for forest product-based capital investment and helps power our industry's \$23 billion economic impact." -State Forester Scott Phillips

"West Fraser is a very important part of Newberry County. This expansion includes a significant financial investment and the addition of stable, good paying jobs to our community, which is a great win for everyone in Newberry County. This addition also helps to ensure their continued presence in Newberry County for years to come"
-Newberry County Council Chairman Todd Johnson

FIVE FAST FACTS

- West Fraser grows its Newberry County sawmill operations with its third expansion in 10 years.
- The company's \$17.7 million investment will create 30 new jobs.
- West Fraser is a diversified timber products company.
- The company is located at 3287 College Street in Newberry, S.C.
- Individuals interested in joining the West Fraser team should visit the company's careers page.

Article from the SC Department of Commerce website, October 5, 2023.

SCTPA Comments: SC Timber Producers Association is excited to see West Fraser is expanding its operations in Newberry and finds Newberry County to be a location favorable to the company's business operations plan. This expansion will help the sustainability of our loggers and wood suppliers in Newberry and surrounding counties. This sawmill expansion along with the current West Fraser oriented strand board mill in Kinards, SC, not far from the sawmill, will be a boost to local economies, employment and to wood supplying businesses.





A MESSAGE FROM ALC PRESIDENT MIKE ALBRECHT

Did you know that one-third of America's land base is covered in forest? Despite that, our country has the dubious honor of being the second leading IMPORTER of lumber in the world . . . only behind China. More on this in a moment but let me switch to a more positive note.

The American Loggers Council (ALC) recently completed a very successful and informative 2023 Annual Meeting, headquartered at the Sunday River Ski Resort in Newry, Maine. For this Californian, traveling around Maine felt as if I'd stepped out of a time machine that had nothing to do with the difference in time zones.

Crowded California cities separated by vast areas of ag land and rolling foothills were replaced with white, colonial-style homes with window shutters and tall columns. Two-lane highways lined with hardwoods and the colors of fall relaxed my mind and felt comforting to my soul. A few days before the meeting, my wife, Vicki, and I took some time to visit Acadia National Park and the Maine coast, with its lighthouses, lobster, haddock, and Whoopie Pies – tastes and sights I'll never forget.

We attended the ALC Annual Meeting along with about 275 other loggers, wives, and families following our customary annual agenda: listen to the business of our Council, see how loggers operate in the host state, hear from guest speakers, and hold an auction to benefit "Log A Load for Kids."

The event was hosted by our president, Andy Irish, and his wife, Kathy. They worked closely with ALC's tireless Executive Director, Scott Dane, the ALC staff, and many unsung volunteers. Their 2023 theme was "A Family Tradition" and was best captured during a moment at the logging tour when Andy gathered his grandkids around him with four Tigercat machines as a backdrop.

The 2023 ALC Annual Meeting was unique in its location and the beauty and history that surrounded it. As with past ALC meetings, business was conducted, tours and seminars informed, and all enjoyed good food and time to visit with old friends. It made me think that "A Family Tradition" has been, and always will be, an underlying theme.

The final dinner at every annual meeting is called the President's Farewell Banquet. At that dinner, the members from the individual states sit together for the "roll call of the states," with each state trying to outdo the last, being as loud and obnoxious as possi-

ble. The loudest state (judged by Executive Director Scott Dane) wins. The host state usually wins, and yes, Maine won.

The last order of business at the conference is to pass the president's gavel from the outgoing to the incoming president. As 1st vice president, the gavel was passed to my hand, and I am humbled and honored to serve as the 2023-2024 president. That night, I announced the ALC theme for 2024: "The American Logger – A Legacy of Achievement."

As we look ahead to the work to be done in our industry, I think it's important to reflect on our past accomplishments . . . tremendous accomplishments like the 5 million cross ties and beams we were instrumental in supplying to complete the Transcontinental Railroad in 1860, or the 28,000 buildings we helped rebuild after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire.

But more importantly, my hope is that American loggers will look ahead with confidence as we retool, build a workforce to meet our country's constant demand for lumber and paper products, and meet future demand for new wood energy, cross-laminated timber, and wood insulation products.

Our current and future work is increasingly challenged by higher operating costs, tightening state and federal regulatory processes, and some folks who label themselves as "environmentalists" but in fact, are agenda-driven extremists that prefer to see our logging equipment parked.

Fortunately, our equipment won't stay parked, as even the extremists continue to build and renovate their homes, as new crossties replace the old so our railroads can continue to move American products, and as loggers continue to stand firm on the fire lines, clean up after hurricanes and bark beetles, and sponsor little league, football, and soccer teams.

Looking ahead, here are some of the goals I hope we can make significant progress on:

1) So, back to that #2 lumber importer issue. At our next "DC Fly-In" ALC is going to be very vocal about this. IMPORTING almost 8 billion board feet of lumber while many of our forests burn and rot is unacceptable. America must do better!

2) ALC just added Rhode Island to its state membership list, bringing the total to 39. There are 6 more to add . . . Alaska, Oklahoma, New Jersey, Delaware, New

(Continued on page 30)

(Continued from page 29)

Mexico and Arizona. Adding these additional states to our Council will give us the strongest national voice of “loggers working for loggers.”

3) In addition to promoting American-grown lumber, ALC is going to double down on all things biomass. This includes gaining the same renewable resource recognition and support from private, state, and federal forests for biomass as wind and solar power. Converting forest biomass to electrical energy is not only carbon neutral, it provides tremendous air quality benefits when compared to the alternatives of wildfires and rotting wood. Biomass power technology has been around for decades but is demonized by the same extreme environmental groups that want our equipment parked.

4) The American Loggers Council is becoming increasingly active in workforce development in each of its member states. New heavy equipment simulator technology for training and a growing interest in tele-operated equipment is bringing intelligent young people into our world of logging. (Just as long as they re-

member, there will always be blood, sweat, and tears!)

5) The American Loggers Council is moving full steam ahead, developing a positive national campaign to improve the image of the timber industry. We aim to highlight the many benefits of using wood, a renewable resource, to build and rebuild our country’s homes, businesses, and cities. New products like cross-laminated timber and wood insulation show great promise. To add emphasis to our campaign, we only need to turn to this quote from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: “The future of our climate is inextricably tied to the future of our forests.”

The year ahead for the American Loggers Council and for our industry is full of promise. There will no doubt be obstacles and setbacks, but we will go forward with confidence. Our history reminds us of our ability to overcome challenges . . . that only serve to make us stronger and more focused.

The American Logger – A Legacy of Achievement

A few photos from 2023 Annual Meeting held at River Ski Resort in Newry, Maine





Logging and Hauling Workforce Threats and Solutions

Background: Logging and hauling workforce capacity is a top-of-mind concern to nearly every NAFO Board member. The Executive Committee recently asked member company CEOs to identify 1) the primary threats to the logging and hauling workforce, 2) what NAFO member companies can do to address those threats and expand workforce capacity, and 3) how government can help. Staff also reached out to the American Loggers Council and other organizations and individuals representing logging and hauling contractors for input. The following summarizes responses received.

I. Primary Threats

Logging and hauling is a difficult, low margin business with long hours, dangerous conditions, workload and operational uncertainty, seasonality, and other factors affecting recruitment and retention. Board members identified the following primary threats to capacity:

Profitability. Logging and hauling must be more profitable to remain economically viable. The following factors most significantly impact profitability, recruitment, and retention:

- Uncertainty caused by rate schedules tied to unpredictable fluctuations in market demand, high operating costs (fuel, repairs, parts, etc.), weather, and other factors outside of the contractor's control with limited to no recourse.
- High capital investment requirements for equipment purchase.
- High costs associated with maintenance and scarcity of diesel mechanics.
- Wage/benefit and employment competition from other similarly skilled industries that offer higher wages, better benefits (health insurance) and better work/life balance.
- Insurance availability and costs, especially for younger drivers.
- Regulations on CDLs, truck weights, transportation routes, family leave, worker safety, etc.
- Seasonality and climate impacts.
- Inefficiencies created by logistical requests, including deadheading, mill wait times, poor communication, and lack of access to time-saving equipment, tools, and technology.
- Safety, including injury downtime, worker disqualification due to zero-tolerance drug standards, and inadequate safety training.

Perceptions and comparisons. Quality of life perceptions about logging and hauling are significant barriers to entry, especially when other similarly skilled trades offer alternatives that are more comfortable, profitable, and safe. Parents are concerned that logging and hauling is a profession with low wages, minimal benefits, and high risk located in rural areas with inadequate public infrastructure and services. Such

Continued on page 32

perceptions are further influenced by popular culture, federal lands conflicts, and limited public relations from the sector.

Educational gaps. Current vocational education and training opportunities in secondary and post-secondary schools are insufficient to fill the logging and hauling recruitment pipeline, fewer students are pursuing logging and hauling careers based on perceptions, and schools are not making the investments required to modernize programs.

Age. A large portion of the logging and hauling workforce is nearing or at retirement age, and an increasing number of logging and hauling contractors do not have succession plans. Many discourage their children and other younger people from entering the business. Consequently, the number of mid-career and new professionals is inadequate to replenish the workforce.

II. What NAFO Companies Can Do

Board members suggested a variety of potential approaches to address these threats, including:

Engage logging and hauling contractors as long-term service providers with rate stability. This can include developing long-term contracts or relationships to stabilize rates and workflow, reduce risk, increase efficiency, subsidize or reduce insurance costs, and adjust for market cycles and fluctuations in fuel prices and other operating costs. It can also include investments in affordable housing near operations centers.

Support improvements in equipment, tools, and technology. This can include contributing to contractor investments in advanced logging equipment (e.g., tethered logging, drones, in-woods weight scales, etc.), subsidizing equipment repairs, and investing directly in technologies and tools to help contractors accomplish more with a smaller workforce.

Vocational training and career awareness. This can include supporting and helping to update existing Career Technical Education (CTE) programs at the state and local level, direct engagement in on-the-job vocational training through existing programs or new partnerships, assisting contractors to promote and attract new entrants into the sector, providing extended training and development opportunities for existing contractors, working with contractors on transferring skills for off-season employment, and providing training and employment opportunities for veterans and rehabilitated felons.

Improve supply chain efficiency. This can include fostering better planning and communication between landowners, contractors, and mills to improve log delivery and return times, stabilizing stumpage supplies and wood agreements, engaging third party decoupled trucking operations, and identifying more efficient hauling routes.

Improve safety. Support efforts and programs to advance logging and hauling certifications, improved safety standards, truck maintenance, and other measures to improve operator safety awareness and well-being.

Continued on page 33

Professional development and contractor certification. This can include supporting or engaging directly in efforts to help contractors improve their operations, including business management, software, data analysis, training, risk management, recruitment, and retention. It can include supporting the professional development efforts of state, regional, and national contractor-led associations. It can also include replacing training mandates to meet certification requirements with incentives that also seek to increase efficiencies and encourage more professional logging businesses.

III. How Government can Help

Board members recommended the following federal and state government actions, some of which are already in motion through NAFO partners:

Financial incentives and investments. Federal and state tax benefits coupled with federal funding made available in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other financial incentives to 1) help contractors invest in additional mechanized equipment through loan programs with favorable rates, 2) help offset fixed costs for contractors to incorporate best management practices, 3) support organizations that offer scholarships, apprenticeships, and ongoing workforce development, and 4) invest in affordable housing for federal, state, and private sector employees in rural communities.

Education and workforce development. Federal funding to community colleges and other institutions for career awareness, workforce development, vocational training, and competency standardization, H2B program improvements allowing legal and reliable H2B workers to transition into the logging and hauling workforce, and measures to incentivize the transition of veterans and rehabilitated felons into the workforce.

Improved operator recruitment and efficiency. Simplified commercial driver's license requirements – especially for those with military trucking and heavy vehicle driving experience – and increased legal payloads for log trucks through the federal and state DOTs.

Operator risk reduction. State tort reform to reduce risk and insurance rates for drivers, especially younger drivers.

IV. Potential Role for NAFO

Building logging and hauling capacity across the sector will require thought leadership and coordination. Our first step is to work internally and with partners to develop a common vision for the future. This exercise is a good start. We may benefit from learning how other sectors are addressing similar workforce challenges to inform the solutions we are beginning to identify. We may also consider new and innovative partnerships within USDA and other federal agencies to identify what additional tools and resources are available to help. Ultimately, we must identify and focus on a few practical yet impactful actions we can take individually and collectively to position ourselves as a thriving sector that attracts and retains strong talent through our common commitment to good paying jobs, strong families and communities, and a legacy of clean air, clean water, abundant wildlife habitat, and rural prosperity.

SCTPA MEMBER BENEFIT & SERVICE



MICHELIN & B. F. GOODRICH TIRE SCTPA MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

SC Timber Producers Association is proud to offer this Member Benefit Program. SCTPA has partnered with Michelin and B. F. Goodrich (BFG) to offer ACTIVE dues paid members the opportunity to save money on tires through this program.

SCTPA President Crad Jaynes said, "SCTPA is pleased and proud to partner with Michelin North America to offer this valuable and cost saving opportunity for our members. Our members are always our first priority and when our association can provide a cost saving program like this, it is a "win" for everyone. I appreciate Michelin partnering with us in this program."

This program is available to ALL active dues paid members in all SCTPA member categories. Members are able to visit any local Michelin dealer. Program requires an application be completed and the use of a credit or debit card.

MEMBER PROCESS FOR SCTPA MICHELIN & BFG TIRE PROGRAM

1. Contact SCTPA to receive active member number, membership period and member status (logger, wood dealer, etc.).
2. Must be an Active Dues Paid SCTPA Member.
3. Interested SCTPA members should reach out to your local Michelin Tire Dealer.
4. Contact Michelin's Sharon Warner, 386-479-1169, email sharon.warner@michelin.com to receive an application. Sharon will ask questions regarding number of tires to be purchased, who pays and how.
5. Sharon Warner will verify active membership with SCTPA's Crad Jaynes.
6. Once application is verified, it will be sent to Michelin for approval.
7. Michelin will provide the customer with a Bill To and Ship To Number. At that time, the member will have to Register their account at **Michelinb2b.com** and upload the member's Credit or Debit Card.
8. Program available to ALL members registered as active dues paid SCTPA members.
9. Program available for Michelin and B.F. Goodrich tires. Tires available are Truck, Light Truck, Passenger Car & Agricultural, Industrial & Off Road Tires & Retreads.
10. Once a member is registered on Michelinb2b.com, member will have access to all their purchase reports and tire pricing.
11. Members can go to any Michelin dealer to purchase tires.
12. Tires cannot be ordered online or shipped to the customer. Must go through a Michelin dealer.

SCTPA is pleased to offer our members this tire discount program on the high quality tire products offered by Michelin Tire and B. F. Goodrich Tires. Should a member have any questions, feel free to contact Sharon Warner or SCTPA.

9-8-23

Please contact our
endorsed SC Timber
Producers Association
broker - Mark Snelson
(843)325-1211
msnelson@sc.rr.com

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We feel that groups in today's complex and constantly changing environment need more than simply proposals and service. We understand that you are expected to sometimes be a lawyer, accountant and human resources department all at once, and we've expanded our portfolio of services to include things to help you wear all those hats.

Here are some of the cool things we are doing very, very well.

Online Benefit Enrollment Tool

Enroll and manage your entire employee benefits package online—no more paper forms!

Customized Benefit Booklets

We create a customized professional benefit booklet for you. They run the full gamut of all the benefits that your group offers their employees.

ERISA WRAP Documents

That's right, we will complete the ERISA WRAP Documents, and have the full Summary Plan Descriptions (SPDs) including mandated ERISA language ready for your group to distribute to employees.

Full Online HR Library

Easily share our HR Library with your employer groups and can assist them with such areas as OSHA, ERISA, COBRA, Immigration, Taxation and more.

Think

RateFactory

employee
NAVIGATOR

Quoting Tool

Send us a small group census and we'll send you quotes back from every fully insured carrier available in your market in one concise, easy to read spreadsheet.

1094 Completion and Distribution

We take the burden off the HR administrators by providing all forms ready to distribute to the employees of your insured groups, as well as signature ready employer tax forms. All your customers have to do is distribute them to their employees, sign the corporate form and mail to Uncle Sam.

ACA Compliance

Our software tracks and maintains your plan to make sure that you are hitting the required governmental benchmarks.

Our Carriers



ATTENTION SC Timber Producers Association Members!! Our exclusive broker, **Mark Snelson** is here to help you with all of your Medicare needs. Please contact him at:

(843)325-1211 or msnelson@sc.rr.com

Medicare Supplement Plans from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina



Medicare alone won't pay for all your expenses. We can help you fill the gap! Call **Mark Snelson** at **(843)325-1211**. Mark is an authorized agent for BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



2023 Western Star Association Rebate – US ALC Associations

Western Star is proud to support the American Loggers Council (ALC) and its affiliates through the extension of the association rebate program. Dealers can apply the rebate to the truck purchase or process a direct rebate to the customer. ALC Members may qualify for a rebate when they purchase a brand new Western Star 49X or 4900 logging service truck, the leading brand in the logging industry.

Rebate amount:

- \$3,000 for 49X or 4900 model with vehicle service code of A85-012, Logging Service

Requirements:

- **Valid only on vehicle service data code of A85-012, Logging Service.**
- **Valid only on StarQuote pricing.**
- **Not valid with stock truck concession or other program incentive claims.**
- Verification of membership or affiliation status with ALC.
- Association membership must be valid for at least **90 days prior** to retail sold date.
- Trucks must be **new** and never been retail sold regardless of model year or mileage.
- Maximum of **two (2)** trucks per customer/company in a calendar year.
- Rebate claim must be processed within **30 days** of retail sale date.
- No gliders or used trucks are eligible.
- Only one association rebate can be applied per claim per truck.

Process:

1. Association member advises dealer they are a member of the American Loggers Council or affiliate organization, and asks dealer to verify membership with ALC.
 - To verify membership, dealer needs to contact Mr. Scott Dane, American Loggers Council via e-mail scott.dane@amloggers.com at or by phone at 218.780.5927.
 - Please identify yourself as a Western Star Dealer requesting approval to offer a discount to the customer. Provide applicant name, organization, and membership number, if applicable.
 - Mr. Dane will verify and provide you with an approval. He will also send a copy of the approval to WST-Training@Daimler.com
2. Association member purchases up to **two (2)** new trucks, per customer/company in a calendar year.
3. Dealer report and enter the retail sale date and warranty registers the truck(s).
4. Dealer submits a TIA using request type, Trade Association/Sales Rebate category

- *If Association does not have a membership list or number, proof of membership (i.e. Membership Card or Membership dues receipt) must be attached in TIA system.*
- 5. Dealer submits Rebate Claim Form through DTNA Portal
- 6. Association membership and truck sale are verified before TIA is processed.
- 7. Dealer can apply the credit as requested by the customer/member:
 - Dealer credits customer's parts/service account with full rebate amount.
 - Dealer pays the customer full rebate directly.

Dealer is responsible for ensuring all conditions of this program and Association memberships are met. TIA's will not be approved if any condition or Association memberships are not in accordance with this program.

Western Star Trucks reserves the right to terminate this program at any time without notice. Transactions submitted and approved for this offer are subject to audit at any time. Western Star reserves the right to charge back any incentives provided if it is discovered that the transaction does not fully meet the program requirements.

For questions, please contact WST-Training@Daimler.com



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*Your Voice for South Carolina
Timber Harvesting*

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

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Contact Crad Jaynes at
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Mark Your Calendar

January 2024

- 12 SC Teachers Tour Steering Committee Meeting, Forestry Association of SC, 10:00 a.m., Columbia
- 16 Wood Magic Forest Fair Steering Committee Meeting, Forestry Association of SC, 10:00 a.m., Columbia

February 2024

- 12 SC Teachers Tour Steering Committee Meeting, Forestry Association of SC, 10:00 a.m., Columbia
- 16 Wood Magic Forest Fair Steering Committee Meeting, Forestry Association of SC, 10:00 a.m., Columbia

SCTPA is available to those needing to view the 2024 SFI Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Update Video to continue to be SC SFI Trained for the July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 period. Contact SCTPA and a group live class or individual live class can be arranged.

Spring District Meeting dates are subject to change. Meeting notices will be mailed, posted on SCTPA Facebook page and listed on the website www.scloggers.com prior to scheduled meeting.

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.

Crad Jaynes
President & CEO
SCTPA

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For Over 35 Years."*



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 statewide legislative activities, and aggressively promoting, supporting and conducting programs of state, regional and national advocacy.