



ut of the Woods

"Voice of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association"

Volume 25

Issue 3 2015

AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION?

FLORIDA

IT'S GEORGIA'S TURN

*2015 Annual Meeting
Photos and More inside...*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
The Value of Your Association

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE
How Bad Do You Want It?
(GA Ad Valorem Tax Exemption)

GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION
Georgia Legislative Report

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
Sets National Prescribed Fire Record



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

July-August 2015
Executive Director
Tommy Carroll

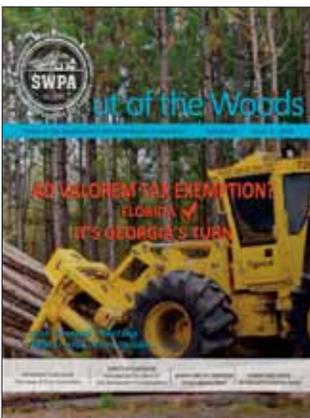


How Bad Do You Want It?

As generations come and go, so seems the drive for achievement. I am not talking about high paying jobs and careers but just the simple notion of doing something for yourself without requiring assistance from others. We have become dependent on a service oriented environment where you have to hire someone to fix something a past generation fixed themselves.

“There is no scarcity of opportunity to make a living at what you love; there's only scarcity of resolve to make it happen.”— Wayne Dyer

The desire to work together as a team may be disappearing as patience to accomplish long term goals is declining. Today it's what can you do for me now? To get a trophy, just show up. You don't need to earn it anymore. If you watch the national news on a regular basis, this is what you are lead to believe.



However, I am fortunate to work for a group of hardworking men and women that do not give up when obstacles appear, instead they embrace them. Loggers joined forces twenty five years ago because they realized that accomplishment as a group rather than each individual company made sense. When the Southeastern Wood Producers Association was formed, a statement was conveyed saying that the logging companies of Georgia and Florida would have a voice on issues affecting their businesses.

Well it's time to add another victory to the list. This victory will be an ad valorem tax exemption on logging equipment for Georgia loggers. Florida has already achieved this objective and now it is Georgia's time. However, there must be a plan of action and it will take some effort from all that will benefit from this achievement. I cannot accomplish this alone, but when we exercise the combined strength of the association's members and associates, it will happen.

So what is the plan? Simply contact you Georgia State Representative or Senator and tell him or her that your company needs the same equipment ad valorem tax exemption as farmers have. You can access the Georgia Code section that applies at [swpa.ag](http://www.swpa.ag). (<http://www.swpa.ag/news/georgia-political-issues/>)

If you have access to the internet you can also Google the Georgia Code and type in the number describing the law interpretation. The code section is O.C.G.A. § 48-5-41.1 (2014), TITLE 48.5.41.1. If you do not know your legislator, call me directly, and I will assist you.

Also, if you know your county commissioners, do not hesitate to talk to them since they will be your greatest opposition. You will never have a better chance than the 2016 Georgia legislative session to achieve this.

Let's demonstrate the influence that the SWPA can have on its own destiny. I assure you I am here to back you up and will attend any meeting necessary or make phone calls that you advise me will be beneficial to this cause. Other SWPA board members will do the same. Make your voice heard!

Keep in mind this is not the end of the "bucket list". It's just one item that is overdue. Once again, the SWPA Staff and Board of Directors are here to serve you. Please feel free to contact any of us. Contact information is available at the new SWPA website at swpa.ag

Tommy Carroll is the Executive Director of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association, Inc., which represents logging professionals in Georgia and Florida. The SWPA Inc is headquartered in Hilliard, Florida. For more information please contact us at (904) 845-7133 or you may contact Tommy directly at (478) 952-2809. website: www.swpa.ag Tommy's email: tcarroll@swpa.ag

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

*Thoughts from the Woods
by Richard Schwab, President SWPA*



Is Your Association Working For You?

Sometimes we don't consider the merit of, or the need for the existence of our association. We need a reminder of the great value our association provides. My message in this issue is intended to remind all of us how important our association is and this will be conveyed by highlighting a few accomplishments that we have helped to achieve.

Great news! As of July 1, 2015 loggers are eligible for a sales tax break in Florida for parts and supplies related to agri-business. Georgia has had the GATE card system for a few years now. The GATE program has given Georgia agri-business sales tax exemption for supplies and parts related to agri-business which includes logging.

Very similarly The Florida Legislature passed a sales tax exemption for Florida agri-businesses. You can get detailed information from our website at www.swpa.ag/news/FLORIDAPoliticalIssues as to what is exempt and how to obtain the exemptions for your business.

Another helpful piece of legislation passed that was initiated by logger members of the SWPA. CS/HB 145 - "Commercial Motor Vehicle Review Board" a general bill by Highway & Waterway Safety Subcommittee and Representative Halsey Bashears passed in the 2015 extended session. The bill deletes a provision authorizing any officer of the Florida Highway Patrol to require that a vehicle be driven to the nearest weigh station or public scales under certain circumstances; requiring the officer issuing the citation to escort the driver and attend the reweighing; providing for appointment of additional members by the Governor and the Commissioner of Agriculture; providing for removal of members by the Governor under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Transportation to provide space and video conference capability at each district office to

enable a person requesting a hearing to appear remotely before the board, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Both states sales tax exemption and the Commercial Vehicle Review Board legislation were the direct result of the SWPA working together with other members of the states' Ag-collations, our own members and each states' legislators within the legislative process. A special thank you to all who pushed, pulled, and reminded the right legislators who we are, what we do and what we need to keep our state economies healthy.

As of July 21, 2015 we have also forged a tentative agreement with the FLSIC Education sub-committee to bring back more choices and options for Florida Master Logger education. Our staff, along with our Executive Committee worked with the SFI Education Committee to set up proposed new standards and a revised format for logger education in Florida. This proposal will be considered by the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative (FLSFI), Florida State Implementation Committee (SIC) at their next regular meeting in August 2015. This revisions proposed would give us flexibility and choice for relevant topics as well as reciprocity from other states including accredited online training, I believe Florida and Georgia Logger continuing education can be the best in the country.

More importantly, we can get our chapter meetings started in Florida again so that we can strengthen relationships and avoid the loss of in-woods production. Look for a news broadcast directly to your email or at: www.swpa.ag/news after August 20th to confirm the status of the FLSFISIC's action on this proposal.

These are just four examples of the great accomplishments that the SWPA has worked hard to push through with our partners in the ag community. Please take a moment to thank your staff and our board for their hard work and commitment to making our businesses and industry the best it can be.

We still have a long way to go. As you are going about your daily business please encourage other loggers to join the SWPA. Get the word out on how valuable the SWPA is and what we are doing for all loggers in Florida and Georgia.

*Richard Schwab, President
Southeastern Wood Producers Association Inc.*



SWPA
Southeastern Wood Producers Association Inc.
is the voice of timber harvesting professionals in Florida and Georgia since 1990. The association exists for the sole purpose of furthering the timber harvesting profession through advocacy and services provided to our membership.

OUR MISSION

- Establish a positive public image of wood producers
- Provide quality continuing logger education
- Encourage responsible harvesting practices
- Be the leading advocate for timber harvesting professionals in Georgia and Florida
- Report news and economic data
- Monitor workers compensation & other business insurance issues

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Contents

REGULAR FEATURES

Director’s Message3
 President’s Message.....4
 American Loggers Council6
 Association Events and News12
 SWPA Classifieds: Used Equipment, Jobs, Services
 and Transportation Marketplace13
 New and Renewed SWPA Members22-23
 Purchase Programs Information for Members.....24-25
 Out of the Woods Advertisers Index31
 Membership Information32

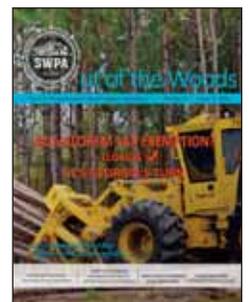
FEATURE ARTICLES

The Commission’s Corner, GFC8
 Florida Forest Service, Director’s Desk9
 Obamacare, What’s Next? (Bates & Hewett)15
 Gray Logging Hosts “REACH” Field Trip27
 FHPCVE, Clarification Empty Trucks STOP
 at Weigh Station.....29

INSERTS THIS ISSUE:

1. 2015 Outstanding Loggers for Florida and Georgia
2. Safety Meeting Material

**ARE YOU PAYING THE
LOWEST PRICE POSSIBLE
FOR TIRES AND FILTERS?
...YOU SHOULD BE
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PURCHASE PARTNERS!**





As We See It

The Endangered Species Act – Second Take



Growing up in a small rural town in Northern California I have seen first-hand how well intended regulation can destroy jobs once manipulated by the regulatory agencies and the environmental industry. Recently we saw how dwindling populations of the Northern long eared bat pushed Federal Fish and Wildlife to take immediate action. Many of us were to be impacted by this action, which raised the question of the quality of science, the proposed restrictions and the real reason for the decline. This action sent tremors across the wood products industry of our Nation. Industry professionals from across our country began to see first hand what those of us in the Pacific North West have been dealing with for over 25 years.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 was signed into law by President Richard Nixon on December 28, 1973, it was designed to protect critically imperiled species from extinction as a "consequence of economic growth and development un-tempered by adequate concern and conservation." The U.S. Supreme Court found that "the plain intent of Congress in enacting" the ESA "was to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction, whatever the cost." The summer of 1990 on the North Coast of California was a time that would change the course of our regional timber industry forever due to a pair of events. The first was Redwood Summer, where a few hundred college students decided to spend their summer vacation in sunny California protesting the nations most stringent forest regulatory system and sampling some of the regions local produce. The second event was the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Amongst other factors these two propelled the California timber industry into a death spiral, which led to the closure of 84 out of 117 sawmills and reduced the industry by 70% in just 20 years.

In order for any timber harvest in Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) territory to take place survey protocols must be followed to locate and protect the species. This process has evolved over the years and has become very burdensome; however the level of thoroughness has provided some very interesting data, collected mostly by biologists employed on private land. This data shows that the species is declining on Federal Forests, Parks and areas where management is non-existent. While the opposite is true for private landowners that have continued to manage their land and are seeing NSO populations increase. As with all species they need life's essentials to thrive and they are finding that in our managed forests.

More recently the finger has been pointed at the Barred Owl as one reason behind the decline of Northern Spotted Owl, and the solution has been to authorize management of the Barred Owl species by termination. A logical person has to ask how many years this termination policy will take to produce another endangered specie for us to protect. Termination seems like a simple solution because the Barred Owl is not a listed species but it begs the question, what do you do when a federally listed Southern Sea Otter is eating a federally listed Coho Salmon? History has shown that biologists, usually through the help of lawyers, add regulation to the fishing industry and others to make up for this natural process. Currently under the ESA it is not uncommon to shut down timber operations for months to protect potential habitat for species in areas that represent the extreme reaches of their range.

After 40 years of living and working with the Endangered Species Act I think it is time to revisit the actual intent of Congress. If nothing else we need an Endangered Workers Act, designed to protect critically imperiled Humans from extinction as a consequence of overzealous laws and regulations. After a 70% decline in the last 25 years it is time to petition the California State Fish and Wildlife to list the California Logger as an endangered species, but we wouldn't stop there because we would have to add mill workers, log truck drivers, foresters and many other professions specific to the forest products industry. We would also have to look at indirect jobs that have been affected and why whole communities have become dependant on the government for support rather than their own initiative.

This trend is on the move across the Nation, and many states are already seeing the impacts from regulations like these being used for purposes other than their intended use. Perhaps if proper science rather than political science was the determining factor for these listings, the ensuing regulations and restrictions would actually help the species and lead to their recovery. At that point perhaps both the imperiled species and imperiled workers could be removed from their respective endangered list.

¹ Wikipedia, Northern Spotted Owl

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 offices at 409-625-0206.

SWPA Executive Officers 2014 - 2016

President: Richard Schwab **MA Rigoni Inc.**



Richard Schwab began working with the family business, M. A. Rigoni, Inc., Perry, Florida, in 1990. He worked his way up within the organization as an equipment operator in the woods, to a mechanic, to managing a crew in 1992. From 1992 to 1995 Richard worked as crew foreman. From 1995 to present Richard has been responsible for procurement and new business development for all of the company crews and contractors. MA Rigoni operates three crews, a couple of private contractors, and a land clearing crew. Richard accepted a leadership role in the SWPA in the Fall of 2008 because "he is passionate about the logging industry and wants to do as much as possible to make a difference." Richard said, "I realized that unless we speak up for ourselves as a unified industry we are allowing others to control our destiny."

Vice President: John Lane **Coastal Logging Co Inc**



John Lane's childhood memories stem from working in the woods on his father's logging crew. Growing up in the industry made it easy for him to begin his own business in 1981. He and his wife Donna started Coastal Logging Co from humble beginnings and today it has grown to a three crew operation. John's son, Johnny, and his wife Sarah are active in the business as well and represent the fifth generation of the Lane family in the timber industry. John also and serves in the national logging association, the American Logger's Council, as SWPA's representative, within the Georgia Forestry Association as well as the Glynn County Forestry Commission. John stated that he got involved because: "I felt it was my responsibility to become more active in issues that affect loggers and the future of the logging industry."

Secretary-Treasurer: Scott Gies **Gies Timber & Land Inc.**



Scott first joined the SWPA after leaving the consuming side of the industry to establish a logging business in early 2007. He was elected to serve as a Board member in 2010. Scott's harvesting operations are primarily in northeast Florida and southeast Georgia. He is married to Sheila Gies and has a daughter, Jennifer Hale (husband Clint Hale), granddaughters Ella and Anna, a son Douglas and a daughter Kelli. Scott was also a Florida Logger's Council member of the Florida Forestry Association. When asked why he serves loggers as an SWPA Board Officer he said: "I feel that it important for those of us in the timber harvesting profession to have a unified voice. We are the ultimate stewards of the forest, and unless we as group make this known there is an assumption that we are not. By serving the members of the SWPA it is my hope to help get this message out to the public at large."

Past President: Brian Henderson **Midway Forest Products Inc.**



Brian Henderson obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1996. After college he returned to Lincoln County to join the family logging business, and extend it to a fourth generation. In order to expand purchasing/marketing operations, Midway Forest Products Inc. was incorporated in 2001. He married Paula Graves of Lincolnton in 2002. Currently, he serves as President/CEO of Midway Forest Products, Inc. and Vice President/CFO of Henderson Logging Co., Inc. When asked why he chose to serve Brian answered: "Obtaining a degree gave me choices about my future. I made the choice to be a logger. I became a member of the SWPA because I believe that to be a successful business owner I must surround myself with a network of likeminded professionals. Taking a leadership role in the SWPA puts me in a position to help shape my own future rather than just react."

Executive Director: Tommy Carroll **SWPA Inc.**



Tommy Carroll, Executive Director of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association (SWPA), has 37 years of experience in the timber harvesting industry. This includes 10 years with Union Camp Corporation working as crew foreman on company timber harvesting crews and later as a wood yard manager. For the next 15 years, Carroll was employed by Canal Wood Corporation as Harvesting Compliance Coordinator. The primary focus of this position placed an emphasis on safety and environmental compliance programs with Canal's timber harvesting contractors and company facilities throughout the south eastern and mid-western United States. Carroll began work for the SWPA in 2001 first as Education Director and became the Executive Director in 2007. Carroll served as chairman of the Georgia Forestry Association's Logging and Transportation Committee from 1996 to 2000 and currently sits on Georgia's SFI Statewide Implementation Committee and Logger Education Committee.



The Director's Corner

Georgia Forestry Commission

Robert Farris, Director

July, 2015

The Georgia General Assembly debated close to a thousand bills during this last session, with 301 making it through the final hurdles and onto the governor's desk for signing. Two were especially important to the forestry community, including House Bill 199, which, as of July first, simplifies systems for various sectors of the wood processing business.

Sponsored by Representative John Corbett (R-Lake Park) and carried in the Senate by Senator Tyler Harper (R-Ocilla), House Bill 199 amends Georgia's timber harvest notification law to achieve greater uniformity among counties that have a timber harvest ordinance and to create operational efficiencies for Georgia loggers. The previous law had been administered differently in counties throughout the state and was considered burdensome for many in the logging community. The new legislation changes several provisions of the law.

Major accomplishments of HB 199 include:

- * Allows a contractor up to 24 hours after entering a tract to notify the county (or designated agent.)
- * Allows notification by email.
- * Clarifies that the notification form provided by the Georgia Forestry Commission is the only information a local governing authority can require from a contractor.
- * Removes the requirement for a bond on every tract harvested; only one bond is required by each person or firm so long as the bond remains in effect.
- * Clarifies that local governing authorities cannot charge fees for notification of a harvest.
- * Enables counties to put a system in place that better tracks timber harvesting, to ensure all ad valorem taxes are being paid.

Several public hearings were held in June to present the new Notice of Timber Harvesting Activity form to interested community members. To read a copy of House Bill 199 and to see the simplified timber harvesting activity form, visit the Georgia Forestry Commission's website at GaTrees.org.

Efficiency in the workplace is an attribute that simply cannot be overrated. I'm pleased that our representatives and the governor concurred, by passing this law that streamlines our processes across all of Georgia. Loggers, public officials and landowners alike will reap the benefits of these changes.

Let's always stay open to ways we can work smarter, so we can continue to serve the citizens of our state and support forestry's future for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Robert Farris

The Florida Forest Service

Director's Desk



Jim Karels
State Forester

Florida Forest Service Sets National Prescribed Fire Record, Encourages Forestry Practitioners to Become Prescribed Fire Certified

The Florida Forest Service recently announced that more than 246,000 acres of Florida state forests were treated with prescribed fire last year, the highest number ever reported by any state forestry agency in the country. We are incredibly proud of our accomplishments on Florida's state forests using prescribed fire to ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk. Last year, we were fortunate to experience many days with conditions favorable for prescribed fire. Conditions can change quickly and drastically in Florida, so we have made it a priority to take advantage of favorable conditions whenever they are present.

Prescribed fire is an important land management tool used to protect Florida's homes, structures and valuable natural resources by reducing the buildup of flammable plant materials. The reduction of this hazardous buildup results in increased wildfire safety for surrounding areas. In addition, many of Florida's plant and animal communities, such as its deer and quail populations, are dependent on the regular occurrence of fire for a healthy existence. Prescribed fires mimic this natural process, returning nutrients to the soil, providing better forage for wildlife and livestock, and helping control certain plant and tree diseases.

Because of prescribed fire's important role in Florida's ecosystems, the Florida Forest Service works hand-in-hand with private landowners and partnering agencies to pro-

mote the use of prescribed fire throughout Florida. In addition to its record breaking state forest prescribed fire program, the Florida Forest Service boasts the most active overall statewide prescribed burning program in the nation.

As the managing agency for all outdoor burning within the state of Florida, the Florida Forest Service provides a unique program that trains and verifies individuals as Certified Prescribed Burn Managers. I encourage anyone who uses prescribed fire or conducts controlled burns on a regular basis to consider enrolling in this useful and educational program. Certified Prescribed Burn Managers receive certain extra privileges such as liability protections, additional burn time and permission to obtain nighttime burning authorizations (when dispersion indices are favorable). Certified Prescribed Burn Managers also have the advantage of being able to submit open burn authorization requests online.

To become a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager, practitioners must take the certification training course (offered in distance and in-class formats) and obtain direct experience conducting at least three acreage burns. Classroom courses will be offered at various times and locations across the state. Certified Prescribed Burn Managers maintain their certification by conducting a minimum of two authorized prescribed burns and participating in a prescribed fire-related class or Prescribed Fire Council meeting once every five years. Further information and application forms can be found at FloridaForestService.com or by contacting the Withlacoochee Training Center at (352) 797-4172.

The Florida Forest Service manages more than one million acres of public forestland while protecting 26 million acres of homes, forestland and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire. To learn more about Florida Forest Service programs, visit www.FloridaForestService.com



SWPA 2015 ANNUAL MEETING WRAP UP

St Augustine, Florida June 5-6, 2015

The SWPA Annual Meeting was held June 5-6, 2015 this year at the Renaissance World Golf Village and St. Augustine Convention Center in St. Augustine, Florida. Members, sponsors, partners and old friends gathered to enjoy the Florida sunshine, the excellent golf and the ritual and enjoyment of re-connecting with great friends and family. The weekend began with our **annual golf**



tournament, sponsored by Guffin and Eleam. Participants enjoyed lunch at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club and headed out to enjoy the links.

The President's Reception, **sponsored by John Deere Forestry dealers Beard Equipment Co. and Flint Equipment Company** took place in conjunction with our vendor trade show tables. The evening included an opportunity for all attendees and families to visit talk about the past year and future possibilities for the industry and their respective businesses. A complete list of sponsors that were a part of SWPA's 2015 annual fundraising efforts can be viewed at the conclusion of this article on the facing page.



Saturday morning's Sponsor Appreciation breakfast was made possible by the support of **Caterpillar dealers Ring Power Corporation and Yancey Brothers Co.**

The full membership breakfast featured a special presentation of SWPA's Long Haul Award to Mr. Clyde Barber. In 1990, when founding logger members met to discuss the potential of creating an organization dedicated to assisting loggers, it was Mr. Barber who agreed to take on the job of the incorporation and filing of The South-eastern Wood Producers Association, Inc. The presentation of the award was pro-



vided by Mr. Dillon Stratton, founding logger member and Past President of SWPA.

The recipients of SWPA's 2015 Bart Allen Memorial Scholarship were mentioned during the weekend. Nicholas "Cole" Schwab was the Florida recipient of the \$1000.00 Wood Producer scholarship. Cole is the son of Jennifer and Richard Schwab, M.A. Rigoni, Inc. in Perry, Florida. Cole attended Aucilla Christian Academy in Monticello, Florida and plans to attend TCC and University of Florida. Hanna Grace Wilson was the Georgia recipient of the \$1,000.00 Wood Producer scholarship. Hanna is the daughter of Melissa and Chris Wilson, River Road Logging Inc. in Folkston, Georgia. Hanna attended Charlton County High School In Folkston, Georgia and plans to attend Valdosta State University.

SWPA's annual membership breakfast event once again included a "Five Minutes of Fame" segment where all Event Table sponsors and vendors took the stage and the spotlight to voice their appreciation for their customers as well as their support and involvement with the association's mission for professional loggers. The morning concluded with a special presentation by Shawn Green, Vision Link/Technol-



ogy Coordinator with Ring Power Corporation on the advances in forestry equipment and technology to promote better logging profitability, efficiency and business management. After lunch a number of our

group enjoyed the hospitality of the **Ring Power Corporation** for a family fishing event with lunch provided.

Continued page 11...

SWPA 2015 ANNUAL MEETING WRAP UP

St Augustine, Florida June 5-6, 2015

The keynote speaker for the SWPA banquet was Kevin Thieman, President of Caterpillar Forest Products and based in LaGrange, Georgia. In 22 years with Caterpillar, Kevin has held a variety of leadership positions in product development, sales and marketing and operations. His message provided insight into the global forest market and highlighted the critical nature of relationships at home and abroad relative to the future of our industry.



2015 Outstanding Logger's of the year for Georgia, Triple J Logging - James, Jason, Josh and Jamye Dawson; and Florida, M. A.



Rigoni, Inc - Rodney Schwab and Gary Brett were recognized and provided an opportunity to speak with the group. Be sure to read the official press release for these outstanding logging operations included as an insert in this magazine issue.



SWPA would like to thank American Loggers Insurance and Fogmaker (FMNA | USSC Group) for recognizing the 2015 Outstanding Loggers of the Year by awarding each with an FMNA automatic fire suppression system as part of their prize package. AmericanLoggers Insurance is a nationwide insurance program offering affordable coverage in the Trucking and Forest Products Industry. To find out more go to www.americanloggersinsurance.com

If you were not able to be with us this year, you truly missed the a worthwhile gathering of friends and family as well as the chance to share with other loggers and our partners in furthering the best people in the best industry in our corner of the world - logging.

A number of sponsor/partners and members are already working with staff for the 2016 SWPA Outdoor Expo at the Rainwater Conference Center in Valdosta, Georgia. Contact Tommy Carroll at 478-952-2809, or Pam Bennett at 904-845-7133 to be in on the development of what may prove to be the largest, most comprehensive and biggest SWPA meeting to date.

Association leadership is extraordinarily grateful to have Davis Garvin as our Diamond Partner in the mission to support and further the logging profession in Florida and Georgia.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2015 SPONSOR-PARTNERS!

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TRUCK TIRE CENTER OF CHATTANOOGA

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GEORGIA 2015 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Do you want an Ad Valorem Tax Exemption in Georgia for Loggers?

Use the text below and send a message or copy this and take or send it to your representative asking them to give Loggers the same exemption. Stay connected here on our website as we move this issue through the process together.

2010 Georgia Code

TITLE 48 - REVENUE AND TAXATION

CHAPTER 5 - AD VALOREM TAXATION OF PROPERTY

ARTICLE 2 - PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS AND DEFERRAL

PART 1 - TAX EXEMPTIONS

§ 48-5-41.1 - Exemption of qualified farm products and harvested agricultural products from taxation

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) "Family owned farm entity" means a family corporation, a family partnership, a family general partnership, a family limited partnership, a family limited corporation, or a family limited liability company all of the interest of which is owned by one or more natural or naturalized citizens related to each other within the fourth degree of civil reckoning. It shall include an estate of which the devisees or heirs are one or more natural or naturalized citizens related to each other within the fourth degree of civil reckoning. It shall include a trust of which the beneficiaries are one or more natural or naturalized citizens related to each other within the fourth degree of civil reckoning. Such family owned farm entity must have derived 80 percent or more of its gross income from bona fide agricultural uses within this state within the year immediately preceding the year in which the exemption provided by this Code section is sought.

(2) "Family owned qualified farm products producer" means an individual or family owned farm entity primarily engaged in the direct cultivation of the soil, including soil removed from the land and placed in pots or containers, or operation of land for the production of qualified farm products. A family owned qualified farm products producer shall not include wholesalers, distributors, storage facility owners, manufacturers, processors, or other similar entities that primarily prepare qualified farm products for any intermediate or final market or that primarily operate to move or facilitate the movement of qualified farm products from a producer to any intermediate or final markets.

(3) "Farm products" means only those farm products eligible to qualify for exemption from ad valorem taxation pursuant to the former provisions of paragraph (10) of subsection (a) of Code Section 48-5-41 as it existed prior to January 1, 1999.

(4) "Harvested agricultural products" means only those harvested agricultural products eligible to qualify for exemption from ad valorem taxation pursuant to the former provisions of paragraph (10) of subsection (a) of Code Section 48-5-41 as it existed prior to January 1, 1999.

For more go to: <http://www.swpa.ag/news/georgia-political-issues/>

FLORIDA 2015 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Two important pieces of legislation passed in the 2015 extended Florida Legislative session. 1.) CS/HB 145 - Commercial Motor Vehicle Review Board and 2.) EQualifying Power Farm Equipment Exemption Expanded to Include Replacement Parts, Accessories, Repairs, and Power Farm Equipment. For more information on how your logging business is impacted and how you can take advantage of new exemptions including necessary forms and information go to: <http://www.swpa.ag/news/florida-political-issues/>

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Obamacare: What happens now?

Corey Booth, Multi-Line Agent, CSWCS, CIPS

Now that the latest Supreme Court case has ended on Obamacare what effect does it have on you, your business and your employees? This is a vital question that regardless of any political view has real consequences for every working American.

The short of it is the penalty for not having compliant coverage in the current 2015 tax year has doubled over the penalty for the tax year of 2014. For example if you have an employee with a family of 4 that has a combined annual household income of \$50,000 that family paid a tax penalty of \$1500 for not having compliant coverage.

Next spring that penalty will double to \$3000 when that family files their tax return. If that family doesn't enroll in coverage during the 2016 open enrollment this fall, the penalty for not having coverage will be \$3750 due in the spring of 2017.

(b)...“the penalty for not having compliant coverage in the current 2015 tax year has doubled over the penalty for the tax year of 2014”

Those penalties can be steep for a family to absorb which leads to the question of how to manage that risk that will best benefit that family. Plans are different from state to state and in many cases some plans are available only in certain counties. The monthly cost for plans can vary on many factors including age, annual income, family size and zip code.

- Employers have many new reporting requirements based on the number of full time employees as provided by the federal government guidelines.
- The example given is for illustrative purposes but is based on the calculations for the tax penalty that is contained in the healthcare law.
- Anyone filing a federal tax return has requirements as instructed in the healthcare law or penalties will be assessed by the IRS.

For more information on how you and your employees can avoid costly penalties and, or obtain health care coverage contact Corey@bates-hewett.com or call (386) 328-1100.



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THANK YOU

NEW AND RENEWED SWPA MEMBERS

In an effort to streamline the costs of invoicing member companies the SWPA Board of Directors voted in January 2015 to move to one annual renewal date for all SWPA members. This will provide your leadership and staff the ability to develop more accurate annual budget-forecast models resulting in a more productive association. This issue's "New and Renewed" list reflects a large response to the annual invoicing project. *The list below (continued on page 23) reflects all renewals received as of July 24, 2015. If you have recently renewed your company will appear in the next issue. Thank you to all of our members for their quick and efficient response to this change! Want to know more about SWPA membership?*

Go to: www.swpa.ag/programs/membership-benefits/

WOOD PRODUCERS NEW

Deerpoint Timber Products
DK Trucking & Logging
G&N Logging Inc.
M Jones Trucking Inc
Steve Morris Logging Inc.

WOOD PRODUCERS RENEWED

A and H Logging Inc
A.P. Jones Timber Co.
Agri-Timber, Inc.
Alpine Lumber Company Co.
AW Timber Co. LLC
Axson Timber Company, Inc.
B & J Timber, Inc.
B&K Logging Co.
B.P. Timber Co.
Battle Lumber Company Inc
Bob Jones Logging Inc
Boland Timber Co.
Bowles Timber, LLC
Boyett Timber Inc.
Bubba Knight Logging
Burgundy Timber, Inc.
C & S Forestry LLC
C F Webb & Sons Logging LLC
Cantrell Forest Products
Carpenter Logging Co Inc
Carswell Timber Co., Inc.
Central FL Logging, Inc.
Chad Ward Enterprises, Inc.
Chipola Timber Harvesting Inc.
Coastal Logging Co. Inc.
Cobb Brothers Logging Inc
Columbia Timber Co.
Conner Timber Co., Inc.
Coon Dog Logging Inc.
Cooper Timber Harvesting
Cox Land & Timber Inc
Cremer Wood Procurement

D & S Logging Inc.
D.M. Stratton, LLC
Daniel Dunagan, Inc.
David T. Pickle Timber Co.
Deep South Timber, LLC
Diamond Timber
Dock Junction Lumber Sales, Inc
Dollar Timber Harvesting, LLC
Donald Walden Inc
Dubberly Timber Inc.
Eastern Forest Resources LLC
Elbert Flowers Timber Co.
ET Logging
Evergreen Timber Inc.
Fall Line Land & Timber
Ferrell Timber & Site Prep Inc.
Flint River Wood Inc
Forehand Logging Co Inc
Forest Resources Services, Inc.
Forks Timber Company Inc
Gainey Land & Timber Company Inc
Gary Neidlinger Logging, Inc
Gary's Pulpwood & Logging Co. Inc.
Geiger Logging, Inc.
Georgia Forest Products
Gies Timber & Land
Gilliard Logging
Graham Forest Products
Gray Logging LLC
H & H Logging, Inc.
H Jones Timber LLC
H.B. Tuten Jr. Logging, Inc.
Hammock - Wicks Timber Inc
Harley Forest Products LLC
Harrell Logging
Harrod Logging Inc.
Hicks Creek Logging LLC
Hill Logging Inc.
Howell Logging Inc.
J and J Logging Inc.
J M Forestry Inc

J&H Logging Company Inc
JD Burns & Sons Logging
Jeff Powell Trucking Inc.
Jerry L. Burns Logging Inc
Jerry Powell Farms Inc
JM Burgess Inc.
John A. Cruce Jr Inc
John S. Bell
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Johnson Timber Company
Jordan Logging
Justice Enterprises Inc
K&L Dawson Logging, Inc.
K.P. Green Logging
Kennedy Logging Inc
Knight Timber Co
KS Harvesters, Inc
L.A. Hood & Son Logging
LeeWay LTD.
LGD Logging, Inc.
Linton Land and Timber LLC
Lloyd & Sons Logging
Logging Inc
Loncala, Inc.
Long Leaf Timber LLC
Long's Logging
Lott Logging Inc
Lowndes Timber Inc.
Lynn Timber Co., Inc.
M. Clark Logging
M.A. Rigoni Inc
McIntyre Lumber Co Inc
McLendon Enterprises Inc.
Mickey Johnson Logging, LLC
Midway Forest Products
Millwood Bros. Inc.
Monroe Timber Co, Inc.
Moore & Crowell Co Inc
Morris Timber Products, Inc.
MW Collins Inc
NeeSmith Timber Co., Inc.

THANK YOU

NEW AND RENEWED SWPA MEMBERS

Continued from page 22...

WOOD PRODUCERS RENEWED

NeeSmith Timber Co., Inc.
Nicholls Logging Co. Inc.
North Florida Timber Dealers Inc
Oliver Logging Co Inc
Padgett's Pulpwood, Inc.
Pate Logging Co.
Paulk Timber Co.
Payne Bros Logging
Pettit Timber Inc.
Pickett Logging, Inc
Pierce Timber Company, Inc.
Pinetree Trail Enterprises LLC
Pitts Logging Inc.
Poulnott Timber Harvesting
Quality Forest Products
R J Nathe & Sons, Inc.
R&R Timber Harvesting Inc.
R. Moore Construction & Development, Inc
Randolph Logging LLC
Register's Enterprises Of Bay County, LLC
River Road Logging Inc.
Riverland Logging, Inc.
Roberts Timber Co., Inc.
Rocky Comfort Forest Products Inc
Rogers & Son, Inc
Roger's Timber
Ronnie Lloyd Logging, Inc.
Rutherford Timber
S & C Logging and Sons
S&S Timber Inc
Sandlin Logging Co Inc
Sands Logging
Satilla Logging Company Inc
Shepherd Brothers Woodlands LLC
Smith Timber Harvesting Inc
Smith Timber Inc.
SNS Operations Inc
Southeast Logging Inc.
Southern Tracts Inc
Standard Timber Company, Inc.
Story Logging Inc.

Sunbelt Forest Products
T W Byrd's Sons Inc.
T&R Timber, Inc.
T&T Timber Inc
Tanner Logging Co.
TAR Land and Timber, Inc.
Taylor Timber Co., Inc.
Thomas Neidlinger Logging Inc.
Thom's Transport Co
Thurmond Logging Co.
Timber Services of GA, Inc.
Timberland Truckers Inc
Tommy Burke Logging LLC
TSB Martin Logging
Turner Timber
Usher Land & Timber Inc.
Vanzant Brothers' Pulpwood Inc
W&W Timber LLC
Washington Bros. Inc.
Wayback Forestry Inc.
Wayne Smith Logging, Inc.
West Logging Inc.
Whitfield Timber Co., Inc.
Williston Timber Co., Inc.
Wilson Bros. Inc.
Wood Products Inc
Wood Resource Recovery
Woodlands Enterprises

TRUCKING RENEWED

Ashley Bryan Trucking
Pritchett Trucking, Inc.

ASSOCIATES RENEWED

A. J. Enterprises
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Bandit of the Southeast
Beasley Timber Management LLC
Bitco Insurance Company
Burns Forestry, Inc.
Caribou Software
Cason Truck Co.
Commercial Insurance Services Inc
Cooper Timber Harvesting
Cooper Timber Harvesting

Diamond Timber
Diamond Timber
Florida Forestry Assn.
Fram Renewable Fuels
Gilman Building Prod.
Gray Logging, LLC
Guffin & Eleam, Inc.
Hopkins-Gowen Oil Co., Inc.
Huber Engineered Woods LLC
John S. Bell
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Longleaf Timber Products, Inc.
Lube Specialists
Maxi-Load Scale System
Mizell Development Inc.
Murray Oil Sales
New Timber Cruiser
Peter Opolka
Premier South Timber LLC
Quality Equipment & Parts
Randolph Padgett
Rotochopper Inc
Rowland Land Clearing Inc.
S.A. Allen, Inc.
Safety On Site, Inc.
Schaeffer Mfg. Co.
Southern Cleaning Systems
Southwood Manufacturing, Inc.
Stearns Weaver Miller
Swamp Fox Agency, Inc.
Trowell Insurance Agency Inc
Truck Tire Center Of Chattanooga
Voluntary Benefit Solutions
Westcott & Associates Inc.
Wheeler 3G Logging Inc.

ASSOCIATES NEW

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Gray Logging LLC
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OTR Services Inc.
Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP

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SWPA MEMBER TESTIMONIALS...

R.P. Glass Jr

Timber Services of Georgia

"About a month ago I bought a couple of fuel filters at the NAPA store for another brand at a cost of \$102 and change. Later that day my travel route changed and I was able to go by my Baldwin dealer where I purchased the same two filters for \$47 and change. The SWPA Baldwin Filter program saved me over 50% for the same filters!"

Jerry Gray

Gray Logging Inc.

"Last month I bought two new SWPA Purchase Program (Primex-30.5, 26 ply) Forestry Tires and saved over \$800.00 on the purchase. I just saved enough to pay my SWPA dues for two years and believe I will save more before this year is out. Thank you SWPA for an excellent member benefit!"

Tracy Walden

Donald Walden Inc.

"I tried the RM 185 on my steer axle for a while, but experienced a lot of uneven wear and a short life. I switched to the RM 234 and have had great service out of it. The SWPA Tire Program really saves us a lot of money!" (Member Experience Using SWPA's Commercial Tire Purchase Partner)

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(see www.swpa.ag links below for more information.)

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<http://www.swpa.ag/pdf/SWPA-PrimexTireDealerList.pdf>

- **Cooper-Roadmaster Commercial Tires**

<http://www.swpa.ag/pdf/SWPA-CooperTireProgramDealerList.pdf>

<http://www.swpa.ag/pdf/SWPA-CooperTireProgramPriceList.pdf>

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28I-26	EXTREME	20	TBL	2075.00	461518
30.5-32	LOGMONSTER	26	TBL	2450.00	464917
30.5-32	EXTREME	26	TBL	2750.00	461588
35.5-32	LOGMONSTER	26	TBL	3538.00	464882
35.5-32	EXTREME	26	TBL	3895.00	461882
67x34x25	HF4	20	TBL	3800.00	45149
66x43x25	HF4	20	TBL	4300.00	451501
73x44x32	HF4	20	TBL	4800.00	452593
18.4-26	Steel flex	16	T/T	1200.00	453509



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Rudy's Mobile: 229-873-1806
Attn: Rudy Harrelson

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Columbus, GA 31901
706-321-8133
Attn: Dan Snively

Dorsey Tire

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Pooler, GA 31322
Attn: BruceChamblee
912-964-6798
And
13061 GA 251
Darien, GA 31305
912-437-2390

Duncan Tire

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Dublin, GA 31021
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Attn: Scott Beasley

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Orange Park, FL 32065
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Attn: Andy

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White Plains, GA 30678
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Attn: Kenny Stewart

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6371 Corley Rd. Norcross, GA 30071
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Collins and Sons

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912-367-2003

Dalton Commercial

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706-272-0986

Dorsey Tire

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Pooler, GA 31322 912-964-6798
13061 GA 251
Darien, GA 31305 912-437-2390

Duncan Tire

301 Telfair St. Dublin, GA 31201
478-272-5404

Giant Tire

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229-762-3230

Griffin Commercial

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J&R Tire

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Macon Commercial

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863-682-5171

6815 Adamo Dr. Tampa, FL 33619
813-621-5445

Shamrock Tire and Automotive

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On Friday, May 1st, several members of the homeschool group from Madison County, REACH, took a field trip to the woods operation of Gray Logging, LLC. The students, along with their parents, met at Gray Logging, LLC's shop and business headquarters. Jerry Gray, owner and operator of Gray Logging, LLC welcomed them. He discussed with the students the many things that are made from wood, how wood products are an important and beneficial part of our lives, and that "wood is good". Hard hats were passed out to all.

Next, the group was able to travel to the woods operation. Special thanks to the landowner, Mitchell L. McElroy, for allowing this field trip to take place on his property. The students were divided into two groups and the excitement and fun began.

One group went with Todd Witt, local forester with Genesis Timber, LLC. He discussed various tree species, determining the age of a tree, and the renewability and sustainability of the forest. He bored a hole in a pine tree and pulled out the core for examination. The students were able to count the rings and determine the age of the tree, which was twenty-four years.



Another group was under the direction of Joshua Light, Logging Operations and Tract Manager for Genesis Timber, LLC. He discussed the job of each piece of

equipment used in the woods operation and each student was able to see and touch the equipment. The students were allowed to ride on the loader. Then, the groups switched.



To end the day, Jerry Gray presented each student with a Loblolly Pine seedling to be planted at home. The seedlings were donated by Superior Trees, Inc. of Lee, Florida. Forester Todd Witt gave the instructions on planting and caring for the seedling which is native to our area. In all, it was a fun learning experience.



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ATTENTION: FOREST PRODUCTS TRUCKING CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPTY FOREST PRODUCTS TRUCKS STOP AT WEIGH STATIONS

August 2015

Recently there have been questions raised on the applicability of empty forestry product trucks pulling into “OPEN” weigh stations along our highways. I have heard from drivers and carriers that they have been told in the past that there was no need for them to pull into the weigh stations if they were empty. In short, that is not true. Below I have detailed this concern in an effort to clarify the state statutes and requirement for drivers of empty forestry products pulling into the weigh stations.

Florida State Statute 316.074 applies to drivers of commercial vehicles letting them know to enter “OPEN” weigh stations.

- Obedience to and required traffic control devices

(1) The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device, placed in accordance with the provisions of Florida State Statute (FSS) 316, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, subject to the exceptions granted to the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle.

What is an **OFFICIAL TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE**.—All signs, signals, markings, and devices, not inconsistent with this chapter, placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic. This definition is found in FSS 316.003 (23)

(2) No person shall drive any vehicle from a roadway to another roadway to avoid obeying the indicated traffic control indicated by such traffic control device.

So, what does this mean?

This law means that if the weigh station sign is shown in the “OPEN” position on an official traffic sign then the driver of the vehicle shall pull into the “OPEN” weigh station, unless the driver is directed by an officer to bypass.



Above are a couple of photographs of common signs that a driver may see when approaching a Weigh Station.

- The green and white sign says “Weigh Station Next Right”- “OPEN”.
- The white and black sign says “All Trucks Enter Weigh Station”
- What is a Truck? FSS 316.003 (59) says that a TRUCK is any motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

I have discussed this concern with Mr. Jerry Bullard, Statewide Weigh Station Manager with the Florida Department of Transportation/Motor Carrier Size and Weight. Mr. Bullard will be putting out information reminding his inspectors on this law and its applicability regardless of the vehicle empty or loaded.

The intent is to ensure that all drivers and carriers know if the weigh station signs say “OPEN” regardless if the vehicle is empty or loaded the driver must pull in the station unless directed by the officer to bypass.

SWPA members with questions or concerns should contact the association at (904) 845-7133 or by email contact Tommy Carroll at tcarroll@swpa.ag.

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Barko.....	2,28	HPBS Booking & Payroll	26	Southeastern Bank.....	20
Bates-Hewett & Floyd.....	15	John Deere Forestry		Swamp Fox Agency Inc	20
Beasley Forest Products	14	with Beard & Flint Equipment.....	18	Tigercat- Tidewater Equipment.....	30
Bitco	31	Knight Forestry Inc	2	Timber Mart South.....	26
Cooper/Roadmaster Tire Program.....	19,25	Lane & Associates	14	Vulcan Scales	21
CAT Forestry - RingPower & Yancey Bros.....	18	Maxi-Load.....	13		
Commercial Insurance Services Inc.....	20	Mizell Development Inc.....	26		
Davis Garvin.....	35	Murray Oil Sales	20		
Ferrell Timber & Site Prep Inc.	14	PRIMEX-SWPA (Purchase Partner).....	16		
Foetry Mutual	33	Quality Equipment & Parts Inc.....	2,28		
GCR Tire	36	Safety On Site.....	20		
Giant Tire Sales and Service.....	34				



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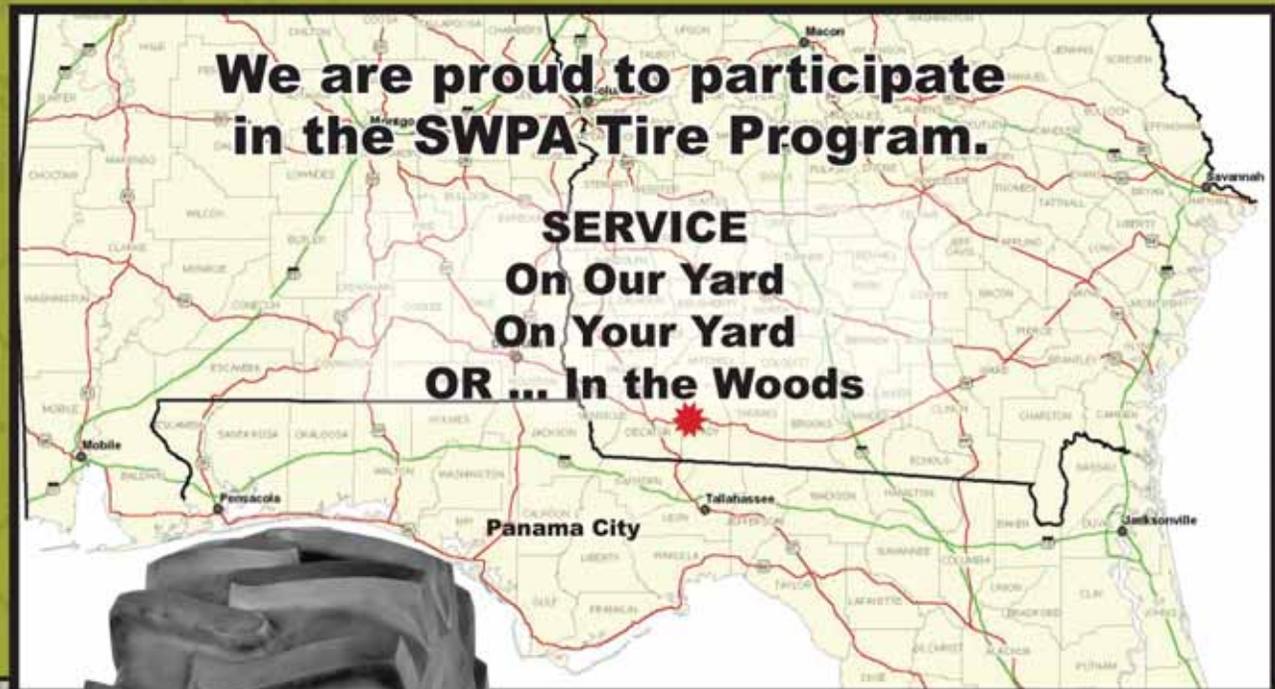
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