



Out of the Woods

"Voice of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association"

Volume 25 Issue 4 2015

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New Year Ahead! What to Expect?

Well, here we are again facing another new year. One of the key words everyone will continue to discuss is logging capacity. Many will agree the time has arrived to split the word logging into two words; harvesting and transportation. Both provide separate challenges to a timber producing company and many times must be assessed differently.

While on the subject of capacity, why not add a third capacity word. That would be Management Capacity! At the end of the day who is making the final business decisions for each timber harvesting company? Let me explain what I am getting at.

There are three basic strategies to increase harvesting and/or transportation capacity:

1. Squeeze more out of existing companies' equipment.
2. Existing companies purchase more equipment/add more crews, employees
3. New companies are created to add NEW production. By the way, selling an existing crew to another owner is not new capacity for the industry.

In some of these scenarios, management capacity must be increased as well. Each additional truck, machine and employee will require supervision and measured accountability. Also factor in the increasing cost of equipment and trucks which at best may level off in coming years. Someone has to have an acceptable credit score to finance additional purchases.

Another critical issue showing its presence is a decreasing market for truck and driver insurance. CSA scores, failed drug tests, accident fatalities, out of service violations and other factors associated with commercial vehicles are driving away insurance companies from insuring log trucks. This provides a significant threat to trucking capacity.

Of course each new year brings a new birthday adding to our growing ages. Next year many woods workers and drivers will retire ending their careers. The question is will there be sufficient new workers entering the workforce to take their place? If not and this trend continues over the next five to ten years' the workforce needed to produce enough wood fiber to supply the receiving facilities may become insufficient.

What are the answers to slow down and reverse this trend? Next year is also an important election year with opportunity to send a message to the federal government that timber harvesting companies need help or their numbers will continue to decline. The current administration has run its course and it is time for new leadership that is pro small business. Pay attention to the candidates' qualifications and achievements and not just listen to what sounds good. Please do your own research too and avoid falling prey to the opinions of the news media.

Once again I reach out to the SWPA members to contact your legislators whether state or federal. An example is the equipment Ad Valorem exemption for Georgia loggers. When I speak to a state representative or senator about this issue, their response is no one from their district has contacted them on this subject. Therefore, this is their excuse to avoid dealing with me. You must help me by contacting them yourselves and let our combined efforts make the difference to achieve success on this matter.

One event to mark your calendars for next year is the SWPA Logging and Transportation EXPO at Valdosta, Georgia on June 10 and 11. More information will be coming soon. This is shaping up to be an event for all ages to share fun and fellowship while learning more about new harvesting and transportation technologies.

"We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions."

— Ronald Reagan

As always, Pam and I feel very blessed to work for this great organization and its members. We are always just a phone call or email away. Please do not hesitate to contact us when you need assistance. Do not forget to check out the new website at swpa.ag and use it.

Also, go to the website and learn the names of the SWPA Board of Directors. These individuals and their companies contribute their time and resources to represent all the timber harvesting companies in Georgia and Florida at their own expense. These individuals are the SWPA leadership and make the decisions that represent the SWPA logo: Founded by Loggers to Represent Loggers!

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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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"Out of the Woods" distributed quarterly.





AS WE SEE IT - *Trucking*



Everywhere I go and talk with loggers there is a one common problem that is discussed during the conversation. TRUCKING!!!!

We are beginning to realize that a perfect storm is brewing off the coast and is headed our way to collide with our businesses. Federal CSA standards, increasing cost to comply with new safety standards, unwillingness of contact trucking companies to go to the woods, Insurance Underwriters unwilling to write policies for loggers, are examples of challenges we face. Just yesterday I learned that The American Trucking Associations are forecasting a 50,000 driver shortage by the end of the year and The American Transportation Research Institute is forecasting a 250,000 driver shortage in 10 years. These stats are for all drivers. Imagine trying to compete for drivers in these kinds of shortages and then ask them to go to the woods. We have not even thought about house of service compliance. On and on I could go about the issues that we face but I'm only limited to a few words here.

Trucking has become a big enough issue where insurance underwriters, loggers, and industry companies have started a task force to try to head off the super storm that is headed our way. We will let Jimmie Locklear write an AS WE SEE It column to discuss what the TEAM concept is and why we need this group.

The ALC has been working through our Transportation Committee to establish good federal policy on trucking for years. Including federal truck weight reform on federal highways and combating CSA standards. We have even worked on the new EPA regulations on emissions coming out of our trucks.

All this said what can we do as loggers on the ground now to combat what is going on now? These are some of the ideas that my families logging business has discovered in the last 3-5 years.

We needed to increase our trucking capacity a few years ago and did not want to invest in the trucks or worry about drivers. We went to the larger bulk hauling companies and asked them for rates and availability. We were shocked to see how expensive their rates were.

Once we got over the sticker shock we contracted with a company to the trucking for a whole crew. We discovered that trucking companies and their employees do not work like we do in the logging business. We went through two trucking companies because the drivers were missing about 5-10 loads a week because of dependability issues. Keep in mind that these were not fly-by-night operators.

Through this process and frustration we had a bright idea. IF WE PAY OURSELVES THE HIGHER RATES THAT TRUCKING COMPANIES CHARGE WE CAN MAKE MONEY IN THE TRUCKING BUSIENESS!!! Imagine that. You mean that we do not have to subsidize our trucking with our logging rates??? We started doing this and our profitability increased and we stopped missing as many loads. Evaluate what you are getting paid or what you are paying yourself. I know some of us are not in market places where an increase in trucking rates is not possible. Start letting the powers to be what we are dealing with. Remember the STORM IS COMING!!!

Through this process we had to increase our mechanics in the shop to keep our fleet in better shape. I'm not talking about the major issues but the little things. Our CSA scores were going up not because of serious infractions but because of the little things. Marker lights, straps that the tags that could not be read, windshield washer fluid tank not being filled, air buzzers not being loud enough, ect. Up until recently we enjoyed grace on the little things. NOT ANY MORE!!!! The little things cost.

These are a couple of things that we discovered. The most important things that we are learning through all of this are that loggers cannot afford to just be able to stay in the woods and log. That would be nice. We are going to have to face the fact that there is a trucking storm coming and for some of us it is already here. ALC is working as hard as we can on the federal issues. TEAM is working on insurance and safety. We as loggers are going to have to be proactive think outside the box and do all we can to keep things going. We have a strong history of doing amazing things and being amazing business men. Let us take on this storm as we always have and solve this problem too. Log and Truck on!!!

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

One of the most important environmental services provided by Georgia forests is clean water. Two out of every three raindrops that fall in our state fall on forestland, which slows storm water runoff, helps prevent erosion and serves as nature's massive water filter.

Keeping Georgia's waterways clean near forestry operations is something we take very seriously here at the Georgia Forestry Commission. With the dedication of partners such as the SWPA, we're proving that our natural resources can be simultaneously utilized, protected and conserved, which is a reality we can all take pride in.

The newest leader of our GFC team of water quality specialists is not a newcomer at all to our agency. Scott Thackston, Water Quality Coordinator for the Georgia Forestry Commission, came to us 18 years ago and has worked in a variety of positions in every region of the state. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resource Management from Clemson University, and since taking over the Water Quality helm, has demonstrated how all his past experience is on tap for the benefit of all who value clean water.

When I asked Scott what he'd like you to know about his water quality goals, he credited his predecessors for establishing a program that upholds honesty. Because open communications between those who monitor the implementation of Best Management Practices and those who work to comply with them is paramount, Scott intends to stay that course. He will continue to provide advice and education on forest water quality and BMP issues, and expects the latest Forestry BMP survey to be completed soon. The report should be available in early 2016 and its findings will guide our ongoing education efforts.

Scott is also anxious to see more landowners take advantage of the cost share program for portable logging bridges that is currently available. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division grant can be used for the construction of either steel or wooden bridges, and BMP implementation will be tracked at sites where they are used. For additional details about the program and its requirements, visit GaTrees.org/forest-management/water-quality.

It's a real pleasure to have Scott overseeing the important matter of water quality for the GFC. He is looking forward to spending a good bit of time out in the field and if you haven't met him yet, I hope you will soon. Better yet, shoot him an email (sthackston@gfc.state.ga.us) and let him know how we can help, as you, too, work for the sustainability of Georgia's forest resource.

Sincerely,

Robert Farris



What Does WOTUS Mean for the Timber Industry?

Jacob T. Cremer

On August 28, 2015, a new rule promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took effect in Florida. The rule, called WOTUS, seeks to clarify the definition of “waters of the United States,” which is critical to those agencies’ regulatory reach under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The CWA prohibits the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States without a permit. Violators are subject to penalties of thousands of dollars per day (even if unintentional) or costly lawsuits by neighbors or environmental groups.

Many of the waters subject to federal jurisdiction are easy to identify: navigable water bodies, rivers, streams, creeks, impoundments of those waters, and wetlands directly adjoining any of those waters. Beyond those, though, what qualifies has been unclear for decades. A series of U.S. Supreme Court cases created confusion because the justices could not agree on just how far federal agencies could reach. This meant that, for many small waters and wetlands, the Corps had to perform a site-specific jurisdictional determination (called a “JD” for short). While burdensome to the agencies, case-by-case analysis at least forced the agencies to use science to determine whether more-isolated waters and wetlands had a “significant nexus” with a water that was subject to federal jurisdiction.

Now, the federal agencies have adopted WOTUS, a rule that will mean fewer case-by-case analyses. While this may make the process more “efficient” for the agencies, that comes at the expense of more areas automatically being deemed as falling under federal jurisdiction simply because the agency says so, rather than because of any scientific connection to another water.

Thus, WOTUS now designates all tributaries and waters and wetlands “adjacent” to or “neighboring” other jurisdictional waters as falling under federal jurisdiction. In some cases, waters and wetlands 1,500 feet away

from another water body are considered “neighboring,” even if there is no hydrologic connection. Even ephemeral drains and ditches that water only flows in after a rain are now almost always under federal jurisdiction.

These changes may not seem important at first glance, since the timber industry has traditionally been excluded from a number of permitting requirements. For example, CWA permits are not required to manage the runoff from many common forestry practices, such as site preparation, thinning, control burns, and road construction, as long as they are undertaken in accordance with standard industry practice. Even so, WOTUS is important to watch because it will expand the need for obtaining CWA permits for some commonplace practices, such as for application of herbicide and fertilizers in and near wetlands and for construction of some roadside ditches near wetlands. Prudent professionals should now think twice about past “common knowledge” for whether a CWA permit is required.

WOTUS has provoked fierce opposition. Legislation to block it is progressing, but it would likely face a presidential veto. At least half the states are challenging WOTUS. A federal judge recently enjoined the rule’s implementation in thirteen states, but this did not include Florida. Therefore, while the ultimate fate of WOTUS remains unclear, what is certain is that Florida’s timber landowners and those who work with them must comply with it today.

Jacob T. Cremer is an attorney with Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. based in Tampa. He practices environmental, land use, and property rights law. His family has been involved in Florida’s timber industry for five generations. He blogs about the effects of new regulations on Florida’s landowners at www.jacobtcremer.com.

The Florida Forest Service

Director's Desk



The Florida Forest Service recently announced the results of a new update to the 2013 inventory of Florida's 17.3 million acres of forestland. The study evaluated the distribution, availability, ownership and sustainability of Florida's timber resources. Overall, the study confirmed that Florida's forests were sustainable, meaning timber resources are meeting or exceeding the demand for forest products in Florida. Below are some of the highlights from the study:

Economic Output

Of Florida's 17.3 million acres of forest land, 15.4 million acres of timberlands supported economic activities. These economic activities generated \$16.34 billion in total output impacts in 2013. This was 1.6

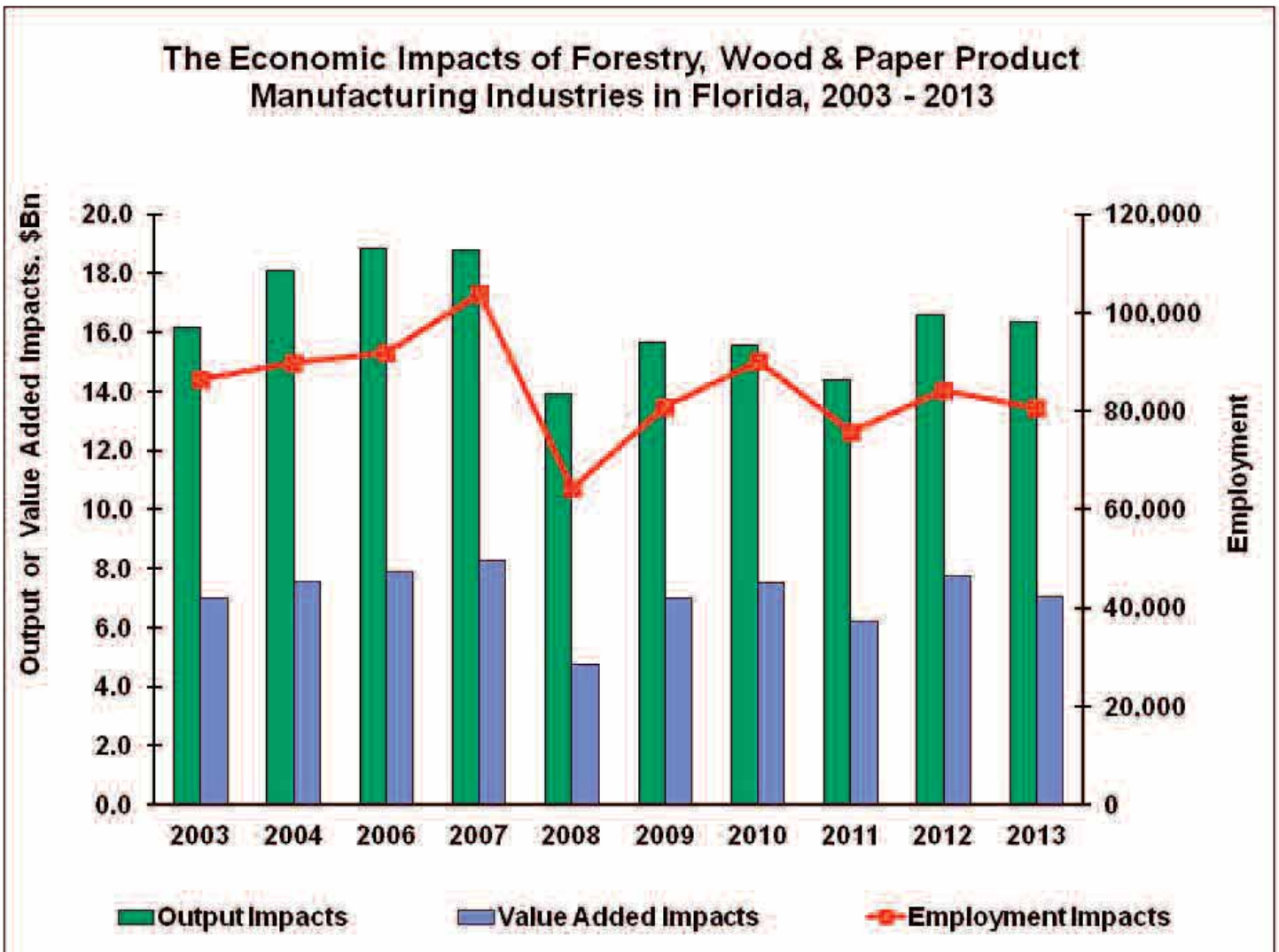
percent less than the previous year, but still 18 percent more than in 2008, which was the lowest point in the recent economic recession.

Employment

During 2013, the Florida Forest Industry provided 80,665 full and part-time jobs, which represented a 25 percent increase over 2008 employment at the lowest point of the recession.

Compensation

In 2013, the pulp and paper products industry supported 73 percent of the income paid to the labor force employed in forestry and related industries. At 12





Jim Karels
State Forester

The Florida Forest Service

Director's Desk (Continued)

percent, the secondary wood products sector was the next largest in terms of income paid out to workers. Forest management and logging generated 11 percent of income, while lumber, veneer and panels manufacturing paid the remaining 4 percent of wages and benefits in forestry related occupations. In dollar terms, forestry, wood and paper products industries had income impact of \$4.15 billion in 2013, which was 8 percent less than in 2012, but still nearly 31 percent more than in 2008 at the bottom of the recent recession.

Export Value

At \$6.14 billion in 2013, and different than other economic indicators, the export value of Florida's forest products to out-of-state destinations increased by 4 percent since the previous year, and was 56 percent higher than exports during the low point of the recession.

Fiscal Impacts

In 2013, tax impacts on production and imports of forestry and forest products industries in Florida were \$483 million. Of that amount, \$382 million was generated by the pulp and paper sector, \$45 million by forest tract management and logging activities, \$41 million by secondary products manufacturing, and \$15 million by lumber, veneer and panel manufacturing industries.

Total other property income impacts, such as interests, rents, royalties and dividends, were \$2.43 billion in 2013. The largest share, again, was generated by pulp and paper manufacturing and \$1.74 billion. Forest tract management and logging activities generated \$269 million; the secondary forest products sector generated \$264 million, while lumber, veneer and panels manufacturing generated \$156 million.

Forest Ownership

In 2013, Florida timberland ownership, which supports the forest products industry, was 71 percent private (66 percent non-industrial and 5 percent forest industry), 18 percent state and local, and 11 percent federal. That

translates into 11 million acres in private ownerships, 2.8 million acres in state and local, and 1.7 million acres in federal government.

Local Importance

In 2014, there were 73 primary wood using mills in Florida. The local economic importance of forests depends on a number of factors including proximity to markets. The primary wood-using mills in Florida are located mostly in the northern part of the state in proximity to timberland resources. Depending on type and size, which dictates raw material needs, they have the biggest economic impact in a 50 to 75 mile radius. This corresponds to an area from which they can purchase wood in the most economical way, providing income to local timberland owners.

The Comprehensive Statewide Forest Inventory Analysis Study (CSFIAS) was mandated by the Florida Legislature in 2012 (House Bill 7117) to evaluate timber resources in Florida and was updated recently based on landowner data, remote sensing techniques and the latest available 2013 FIA data. The study mapped forest land cover, identified forest land ownership, and analyzed the distribution and timber demand of primary wood-using mills and their woodsheds.

For more information, visit www.FloridaForestService.com or contact Jarek Nowak, Forest Utilization Specialist at (850) 681-5883 or Jarek.Nowak@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Florida
Roundwood-Using Mills, 2014

Mill Type	Number
Sawmill	27
Mulch	17
Pulp, Paper	6
Chip-n-saw	5
Pole	3
Post	3
Animal Bedding	3
Chip	2
Biomass Power	1
Firewood	1
Pallet	1
Pellet	1
Plywood	1
Strand Board	1
Veneer	1
TOTAL	73

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Augusta/Sandersville to bring back towards

Montgomery/Wheeler/Telfair/Jeff Davis/Appling/Tatnall.

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2016 Outstanding Logger of the Year Award Nomination Deadline - 3/18/2016

Please Note: Nomination must be accompanied by a brief summary detailing why the nominee should be the Florida or Georgia 2016 "Outstanding Logger of the Year". The summary should explain how your nominee demonstrates the following qualities of an exceptional logger in areas listed below along with any other information you would like to present for consideration:

1. Regulatory Compliance Programs and Recordkeeping
2. Business Management (planning, personnel, resource and asset management, recordkeeping, character, innovation)
3. Harvesting Practices (environmental, utilization, wood security and aesthetic considerations)
4. Community activism and industry advocacy
5. A track record of sustainable harvesting and business practices

Join SWPA in searching for Georgia and Florida's outstanding loggers of the year! Whether you are a forest landowner or industry professional, use this opportunity to nominate a professional timber harvesting business that has exceeded your expectations and is deserving of recognition.

Businesses nominated should be a credit to their profession and consistently demonstrate the qualities of an exceptional timber harvesting operation. These include, but are not limited to: compliance with all applicable laws, evidence of safety and loss control programs, equipment maintenance practices, personnel management, environmental considerations, wood security practices, business management, sustainable harvesting and good standing within the community including community activism. Finally, the business must be a participant in Master Logger (in Florida) or Master Timber Harvester (in Georgia) programs and a resident of the state for which they are nominated. The selection process will place significant emphasis upon evidence of sustainable harvesting and business practices.

All potential qualified harvesting businesses should be considered, regardless of operation size. Nominations will be reviewed and award recipients selected by the SWPA Joint

Logger of Year Committees based on the highest point value attained during the evaluation process. The SWPA Joint Committees include SWPA, industry, associated industry and merchants, and state SFI committee representatives.

Nominations must contain the following information: business name and business owner's name(s), address, best contact phone numbers, area of operation and a brief summary detailing why the nominee should be the 2016 Outstanding Logger of the Year. Anonymous nominations will be accepted provided the nomination package is complete and the nominee has agreed to participate. The deadline for nominations is March 18, 2016.

Initial consideration of nominees and site visits will be based on the information provided in the nomination. Prior winners of this award must wait 10 years before becoming eligible for consideration in a current year. SWPA will present the "Outstanding Logger of the Year" award at our Annual Meeting at the John H. Rainwater Convention Center in Valdosta, Georgia on June 10 – 11, 2016. The Georgia and Florida forestry associations may also choose to recognize recipients at their annual meeting events. For more information, please contact Tommy Carroll at (478) 952-2809.

2016 Outstanding Logger of the Year Nomination Florida or Georgia

Please print clearly

Timber Harvesting Operation Name: _____

Owner(s): _____ **Area(s) of Operation:** _____

Address: _____ **City/ST/Zip** _____

Phone: _____ **Mobile:** _____

Email: _____

Nominee Signature: I, _____, **hereby agree to participate in the 2016 Logger of the Year program. (Agreement to participate by phone or fax is acceptable)**

Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Company: _____

Phone: _____ **Mobile:** _____

Email: _____



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Poor Driving Habits

JJ Lemire

Have you noticed that whenever you turn on the news, there is a deadly vehicle wreck being reported? In this year, 2015, our company has experienced fatalities and severe injuries resulting from some of the wrecks that were reported on the evening broadcasts.

As you drive, you have probably experienced one of the negative impacts of a bad accident - sitting for hours on an interstate waiting for the area to be cleaned up and the wreckage removed. There are other impacts such as: business interruptions, including late deliveries, hour of service violations due to traffic congestion, grief for the families and their loss, and overworked trauma centers, emergency rooms, law enforcement and emergency response personnel.

Several leading automobile insurance companies have done statistical analysis of these crashes and found not one but many areas that are underlying causes. These crashes set in motion a chain of events that impact so many individuals, families, and businesses. It is not only the victims and their families that are affected by the crash, but they take a toll on mental health of company employees, and the first responders/law enforcement personnel as well. How troubling to have to call and inform a parent that their child was killed or is struggling to hold onto their life in an emergency room.

Some of these same studies from the insurance industry have yielded a list of causes for most severe and deadly crashes. Here are some of the leading causes/poor driving habits:

- Failure to stay in your lane or improper lane changes
- Failure to yield the right of way – especially on ramps
- Overcorrecting in a bad situation
- Not adjusting speed to meet the road surface conditions (wet, ice, etc.)
- Improper turns – no signaling or deliberate crossing into other lanes
- Driving your vehicle on the wrong side of the road



- Not adjusting speed for construction/obstructions (items falling off trucks/animals/mattresses/work zones)
- Not having a safe vehicle or all required equipment
- Distractions – cell phone use/eating/drinking/reading

The serious threat of a vehicle crash confronts drivers daily. Studies show cell phone distraction is the leading cause of distraction crashes. I know folks are tired of hearing about it but mobile phones cause distractions and remove the precious seconds needed to react to an immediate threat. Many corporations have established a “best safety practice” by implementing policies that prohibit employee cell phone use while driving. Does your company have a policy?

Company owners, supervisors and managers must make sure you have done everything possible to prevent an accident. Brief your employees constantly on the many poor driving habits that can cause accidents. Establish policies for company vehicles. Make sure your employees know that you require a post-accident drug and alcohol test. DO your part to make so that every employee can go home each day.

2015 Safety Meeting Record

Date: _____ Company: _____

Names and signatures of ALL attendees to be attached.

Conducted by:(signature) _____



Truck Driver Safety

JJ Lemire

One item released from the US Federal Highway Administration each year tells a chilling story about driver safety. Make safe driving a lifelong habit

EVERY 21 MINUTES: A road departure fatality occurs.

Each day across America millions of truck drivers haul products to support our economy. Trucking plays a huge role in the wood products industry from logs to finished furniture. Trucking is the way our industry moves its products to market. Once the truck leaves the logging job, warehouse, plant or mill, drivers are on their own and away from direct supervision. There is a huge amount of responsibility and liability based upon the driver's decisions and actions.

Recently a number of truck wrecks, some proving fatal, have occurred. Each driver killed was a family member that did not go home at the end of the workday. The most common causes of accidents involve driver distractions such as talking on a cell phone or CB radio, becoming sleepy from long hauls, and boredom.

In order to reduce the number of road departure fatalities hold regularly scheduled safety meetings to help keep safety awareness at a high level. Some topics to discuss include:

- Make sure all medical requirements are met for drivers with commercial licenses.
- Do a thorough pre-trip inspection of the truck and trailer.
- Has scheduled maintenance been completed?
- Are the brakes and tires serviceable?
- Check the load often. Tighten binders and chains frequently.
- Know your load. A double bunk load of cut logs pulls and handles differently than a load of tree-length wood. Pallets and finished furniture handle differently than



- wet or dried packs of lumber.
- Use your seat belt.
- Drive alert and avoid distractions - Do not use cell phones while driving.
- Constantly scan your mirrors. Be aware of blind spots.
- Adjust your speed for the driving conditions you encounter.
- Do not do anything that can impair judgment before or during your trips.
- Be aware of following distances, your truck doesn't stop on a dime.

Accidents can be prevented. Lowering risk through safety awareness reduces the chance of an accident. Taking the time to hold safety briefings with your trucking employees will demonstrate your concern for them. Drive safely.

2015 Safety Meeting Record

Date: _____ Company: _____

Names and signatures of ALL attendees to be attached.

Conducted by:(signature) _____



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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 November 3, 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

BRM Harvesting Inc.
 Deep South Forestry LLC
 Enterprise Trucking Inc.
 Floyd Quality Timber, LLC
 LMJ Spraying / MO-CLAY Timber
 M.C. Logging
 Ocmulgee River Logging
 Sanders Logging Compay Inc.
 Southern Appalachian Timber, Inc.
 Timber Source, LLC
 Warwick Logging LLC

C A B Logging Inc.
 Callahan Timber Co. Inc.
 Carden Timber Harvesting LLC
 Carey Locke Logging Co. Inc.
 Carroll County Pulpwood & Timber
 Inc.
 Cedar Creek Timber Co.
 Champion Logging, LLC
 Church Hill Logging, Inc
 Circle S Timber Harvesting Inc
 Clary Logging Inc.
 Clemons Timber Inc.
 Colvin Logging
 Conner & Conner
 Cowart Logging Co., Inc.
 Crawford Logging Co.
 Crossed Timber Harvesting Inc
 Custom Cut Timber, Inc.
 D & W Logging
 D&D Timber Products
 D&H Logging Co., Inc.
 D&S Griffis Timber
 Dasher Industies, Inc.
 Dixie Wood Products Inc.
 Dixieland Thinning
 DMS Trucking
 Donald Smith Logging Inc.
 Double A Timber Co., Inc.
 Douglas & Tracy Logging Inc
 Dunagan & Sons, Inc.
 E&L Thomas Logging
 E. T. Tatum Timber

Eason Forestry
 Edwards Timber Co Inc
 Eric Knowles Inc
 Exley Lumber Co.
 Flatwoods Forest Products Inc
 Flatwoods Forestry Services, Inc.
 Flint River Timber of Ga. Inc.
 Forte Contracting Inc.
 Foster Logging Inc.
 Gay's Logging, Inc.
 Gillis AG & Timber, Inc.
 Greenwood Resources, Inc.
 Grey Bomber Outdoors, Inc
 Haddock Timber
 Haddock's Logging
 Hardee Timber Inc
 Hawkins Logging & Timber Co., LLC
 Hearn Logging
 Henderson Logging Co. Inc.
 Holmes Logging
 Holton Logging Co Inc
 Infinity Wood Products, Inc.
 J&A Farms, Inc.
 J. Faircloth, Inc
 JD Gordon Logging LLC
 JR Holton Logging LLC
 Justin Logging Inc.
 K&B Land and Timber Co.
 Ka-Jen Logging LLC
 L and P Logging, LLC
 L&J Logging
 Larry Bell Logging

WOOD PRODUCERS RENEWED

A 2 Z Forestry & Trucking
 A&B Crews & Sons Inc
 A&D Logging
 A.L. Baxley & Sons, Inc
 Adam Wicks Logging, Inc.
 Aldean Dukes Logging, Inc
 Awbrey Logging Inc.
 B and B Timber, Inc.
 B&V Timber Inc.
 Baxter Forest Products Inc
 Ben Attaway Logging Inc
 Bev Mar Logging
 Blanton Logging
 Boatright Timber Services Inc.
 Bobby Claxton Timber Harvesting, Inc.
 Bryant Logging Inc.
 Buster's Logging, Inc.



THANK YOU

NEW AND RENEWED SWPA MEMBERS

Lee Thompson Logging Inc
Lloyd Timber, Inc.
Lone Pine Farms Inc
Lynn Haddock Logging
Lynn's Land Clearing & Tree Service
Inc
M & K Dawson Co Inc
M&L Forest Products, Inc.
Mac Rosencrantz Logging
Mansfield Logging
Matt Owens Logging Inc
McDaniel Hauling Inc.
McIntyre Lumber Co Inc
McWhorter Logging Inc.
Melvin Waters Logging Inc
Merritt Logging Inc
Middle Georgia Timber, LLC
MidSouth Timber Company
Mike Cowart Trucking
Mitchel Vaughn
Momon Logging Inc.
Mullis Logging Inc.
Murray Forestry, Inc.
NK Poole Logging
Perkins Timber Co. Inc.
Piedmont Timber Co., Inc.
Pine Hill Timber Co., Inc.
Pine Timber Wood Production Inc
Plains Logging Company
Pollock Logging Inc
Ragsdale Timber Processing
Raileys Logging
RB Timber Company
RBJ Timber Inc
RB's Logging Co Inc
Reece Logging Inc.
Regional Timber Co. LLC
Renewable Energy Innovation

Robin Pickle Logging Inc
Ronald Davis Logging
Roy Todd Logging Inc.
Rozar Logging Inc
Savannah River Timber Co Inc
Scherer Logging Inc.
Shumans Brothers Logging Inc.
Smith Brothers Logging, Inc.
Southeastern Forest Land LLC
Southern Pine Timber Co., Inc.
Southern Timber Products, Inc.
Southwind Timber LLC
Strother Timber Company
Stubbs Logging, LLC
Sugar Creek Timber, LLC.
Sunshine Palms Timber Inc.
Suwannee Forest Products Inc
Tatum Brothers Timber, Inc.
Thompson Logging LLC
Thompson Timber Harvesting Inc
Thornton Logging
Tree Toppers LLC
Triple J Logging
Triple J Logging Inc
Triple S Timber Harvesting LLC
Trouille Bros. Timber Co. Inc.
TRW Timber Company
Tumbling Pines Inc
Usher Land & Timber Inc.
Varnes Logging, Inc.
Vickers & Sons Logging
W. S. Boney Timber
Wayback Forestry Inc.
Wheeler Logging LLC
Williams Forestry Products, Inc
Wood Products Inc
Yoder's Logging

TRUCKING RENEWED

LCR Construction, Inc.

ASSOCIATES RENEWED

B and B Timber, Inc.
Balfour Timber Company Inc.
Dell Clinic
Dorsey Tire Co.
Elberta Crate and Box
Environmental Wood Inc.
FCCI Insurance Group
Flint Equipment Co.
Flint Forest Products
H & H Logging Inc
Hughes Logging
Lane and Company
PGP
Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.
Queensborough National Bank & Trust
Company
R&M Logging Inc.
RockTenn
Schaeffer Specialized Lubricants
South Georgia Timber Co., Inc.
Stoutamire-Pavlik & Associates, Inc.
Swamp Fox Agency
Tidewater Equipment Co.
Tim Schafer Logging
TimberMart-South
Trelan Southeast
Truck Tire Center Of Chattanooga
Vulcan On-Board Scales
Weyerhaeuser
Wilson's Land Service

ASSOCIATES NEW

J.P. Smith Lumber Company, Inc.



SOUTHEASTERN WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
BART ALLEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP 2016
PO Box 9Hilliard, Florida 32046
(904) 845-7133 Fax: (904) 845-7345
Email: scholars@swpa.ag

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2016

ATTENTION: SWPA's ability to award these scholarships is dependent upon funding!

Please send in a DONATION to fund these scholarships by April 15, 2016.

Call SWPA at 904-845-7133 for more information.

SWPA is pleased to announce that SWPA will be awarding two (2) \$1,000.00 college scholarships and two (2) \$500.00 college scholarships for eligible 2016 and one \$500.00 scholarship will be awarded to eligible Florida recipients and one \$1,000.00 and one \$500.00 scholarship each will be awarded to eligible Georgia recipients. This scholarship was established in 2001 in memory of Bart Allen, the son of Joe and Marion Allen, who was tragically killed on August 22, 2001.

If you are a member of SWPA in good standing and have a qualifying recipient interested in one of these scholarships, please complete and return the application or call the SWPA office at (904) 845-7133. In addition to a complete application, a letter of recommendation and a short essay as to why the applicant feels he or she is the best candidate must be attached. Winners will be required to submit a photograph for use in SWPA Publications including: "Out of the Woods", www.swpa.ag and possible press releases. In addition, scholarship recipients selected are required to submit proof of college registration to in order to receive their scholarship funds.

Please don't delay! The applications and supporting documentation must be received by SWPA no later than April 15, 2016. We would like to make an award at their respective high school graduation or awards day if time allows and the winners will also be recognized at the 2016 SWPA Annual Meeting.

EACH YEAR DONATIONS TO THE BART ALLEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND MAKE THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE 2015 BART ALLEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE SURE THIS CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO DESERVING MEMBER FAMILIES PLEASE CONTACT US AT 904-845-7133 AND ASK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN DONATE TO THIS WORTHY PROGRAM.

SOUTHEASTERN WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
BART ALLEN MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

BAMS APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 15, 2016

CHECK One:

\$1,000 GA \$500 Assoc. GA
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Name in full: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

Parents' or Grandparents

(Qualified SWPA Name: _____

MEMBER Name) Address: _____ City: _____ ST/Zip ___/____

Member

Relationship: Parent Grandparent

Graduation Date/Time: _____ **Location:** _____

(If Applicable) Awards Night Date/Time: _____

Name & Phone No. for High School Guidance Office: _____

ACADEMIC

RECORD:

High School Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

High School GPA _____ Class Rank _____ Graduation Date _____ Scores: SAT _____ ACT _____ Other _____

University and/or College you will be attending* _____

Anticipated date of enrollment _____

Summarize your high school achievements and activities. (Attach additional documents please).

(a) Honors and Awards

(b) Extracurricular Activities

(c) List all work experience and your responsibilities

(d) Attach a short essay as to "Why you feel you are the best candidate" to receive this scholarship

(e) Attach Letter of Recommendation.

I certify that all the above information on this application is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

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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 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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 Andy Smart

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Virginia Logger Frank Myers Receives American Loggers Council 2015 “National Logger Activist of the Year Award”

Veteran Virginia logger selected by his peers to receive recognition



l-Frank Myers, r-Myles Anderson

On Saturday, September 26, 2015, Virginia Logger Frank Myers with M.M. Wright Inc. was recognized by the American Loggers Council as the 2015 recipient of the National Logger Activist of the Year Award during ceremonies held at the ALC’s 21st Annual Meeting in Eureka, California.

Frank has been serving the logging industry for 34 years and is a member of the Virginia Board of Forestry and the Virginia Loggers Association Board of Directors.

Ron Jenkins, Director for the Virginia Loggers Association submitted Mr. Myers as a candidate for the award based on his tireless efforts to improve the logging industry as a whole in the State of Virginia and at the federal level. Frank’s nomination was received along with an endorsement from both the Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Todd Haymore and Virginia State Forester Bettina Ring.

The 2014 recipient of the award, Mike Albrecht, introduced Frank to the audience and ALC President Myles Anderson made the presentation.

About American Loggers Council

The American Loggers Council is a non-profit 501(c)(6) organization representing timber harvesting professionals in 32 states. For more information contact the American Loggers Council office at 409-625-0206 or visit their website at www.amloggers.com.

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The Southeastern Wood Producers Association Inc., formed by loggers for loggers in 1990, is the leading advocate for professional loggers in Florida and Georgia. Your membership dues also support the American Loggers Council, which is a national logging association uniting all state logging associations in the United States. The SWPA staff is always available to serve you and answer your questions. Please give us a call to discuss member benefits and to learn about how you can be involved in your association. Together we make a difference.

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Member companies are eligible for all SWPA Purchase Power Programs. Member employees may attend any SWPA CLE workshops or SWPA Chapter Meetings at no cost. Your annual dues provides for one full time woods crew and office staff. An additional \$50.00 is due annually for each additional woods crew employed by your operation at the time of your membership renewal.

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Consuming Wood Fiber Companies:

(Pulp, Kraft, Cellulose, Chip, Mulch & Large Saw mills). All employees eligible for Education rate of \$30 per person for all full day SWPA Workshops. No Charge for District- Chapter Meetings and workshop 4 hours or less.

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*All Memberships receive SWPA “Out of the Woods” Newsletter Subscription
The American Loggers Council represents over 50,000 logging professionals in 28 states. The Southeastern Wood Producers Association is proud to be a member of the American Loggers Council.
For more information please contact the ALC office at 409-625-0206 or e-mail at americanlogger@aol.com.*

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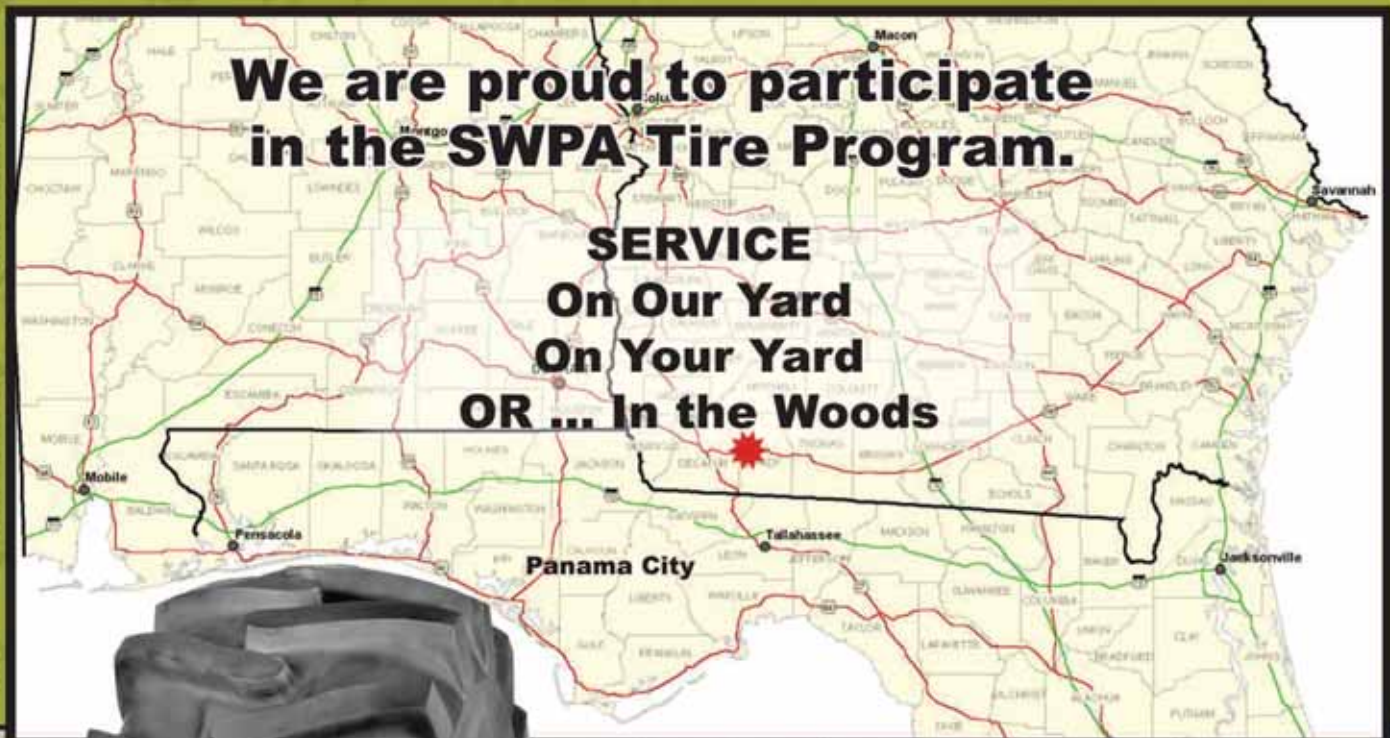
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