



ut of the Woods

“Voice of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association” Volume 27 Issue 3 2016

It's Your Association
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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Sept/Oct 2016
Executive Director
Tommy Carroll



It's Your Association, Use It!

When the founding fathers of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association created the organization twenty-seven years ago, their biggest concern at that time was the cost of worker's compensation insurance. Although equipment modernization was underway it still required workers on the ground to harvest timber thus injuries were one reason rates were high. Lawyers were also beginning to find fertile ground representing accident victims further increasing the cost of claims. In addition, safety programs for loggers were not at the levels of sophistication back then as they are today.

The point here is many logging companies were all experiencing a common problem. They finally realized there was no simple solution to solve their problem. Thus insurance cost became the milestone of awareness when they decided to create a common organization which could not only address insurance costs but all issues affecting logging companies. So in 1990 the SWPA was established.

The early days were challenging as the association had to develop by-laws, become incorporated as a non-profit organization, create a board of directors, hire staff and move into mostly uncharted territory on how fund the operation and what issues should be focused on. The good news is that through the leadership and dedication of the early founders, the SWPA has survived and is a highly respected and successful organization today representing the logging companies of Georgia and Florida.

So what about the next twenty-seven years? After all I have discussed earlier I still come across loggers today that do not fully understand what the SWPA does. Although some are young and just getting started, there are more than I care to count that benefit each day from the successful ventures of the association that are not members. I attribute this in part to a generational shift that is occurring where the new and upcoming loggers take for granted what their fathers and grandfathers worked hard to attain. They find less value in past success and are more interested in what are you doing for me today. They fail to understand legislative success has to be maintained and guarded if you want to keep in place.

The SWPA was formed by loggers to serve loggers. The volunteer leadership of the association gets no financial compensation. In fact, they donate their time and expense to work to help the industry achieve a more professional image. To be clear, their

efforts help all logging companies and not just their own companies. The association is also a great resource for assisting with interpretation of state and federal regulations, especially trucking regulations. The SWPA workshops and chapter meetings provide valuable information to its members from understanding laws to introducing new products and emerging technologies.

Many logging companies do not take advantage of the assets the SWPA provides to its members. The website has been updated to access accurate information about trucking and other regulations which the association constantly monitors. It also offers an opportunity to use as a market place for selling or purchasing products and services. The SWPA purchase discount on forestry tires and filters alone can recoup your membership dues in just a few purchases.

So, for those of you that are SWPA members and reap the benefits, pass your experience along to someone you know that is not a member. You will be helping yourself and them as well. There truly is strength in numbers. Pam and I always available to help with any issue within the SWPA member family so please never hesitate to contact us.



"A healthy attitude is contagious but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier."

— **Tom Stoppard**

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

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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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Publisher: SWPA Inc.

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“Out of the Woods” distributed quarterly.



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AS WE SEE IT



I was pleased to take the position of President at our annual meeting in Valdosta a few months ago. For those who don't know me, I have owned and operated Coastal Logging Co. for over 35 years in Brunswick Ga. Being a fourth generation logger, I've had my share of ups and downs in our industry and I can relate to any of you that is currently in the logging business. As I assume the role of President, it's my desire to help equip loggers and truckers with the tools and information we need to make our jobs more profitable. I can't wait until the election is over so we can see what we have to endure for the next four years but I already know that the only help we will get in the future will come from ourselves. In the near future I will be sharing with you a tool that will help all of us to bid on timber and negotiate logging rates in a hope to make our jobs easier.



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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 2016 - 2018

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."

Vice President: 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."

Secretary-Treasurer: Russel Fowler

Flint River Timber of GA, Inc.



Russell received a B.S. in Forest Resources in 1988, then started his career in the industry working for G.P. and the former Stone Container in the Big Bend of Florida and southwest Georgia. His exposure to the industry in the early 90's, along with its changes, led to the founding of a private wood dealership, Flint River Timber in Cairo, GA. The buying and selling of wood developed into investment in the logging business. The support of sub-contractors and company owned logging crews is vital to the success of a modern day timber dealership. Russell has always supported loggers and feels communication between forestry associations, the public and the industry is essential. Involvement with the SWPA is the most important link in accomplishing this task.

Past President: Richard Schwab

MA Rigioni Inc.



Richard Schwab began working with the family business, M. A. Rigioni, 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 Rigioni 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."

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

As the Georgia Forestry Commission's new fiscal year begins, we're looking at how our professionals are furthering the agency's mission to protect and conserve Georgia's forest resources. Certain programs are ending, others are beginning, and statistics show we're staying on track, which is cause for us all to be pleased.

Water quality is always a critical issue in harvest operations, and the portable logging cost-share program we've just closed out will help ensure this vital resource is safeguarded. A total of 20 portable steel bridge sets for 12 separate entities throughout the state were funded, and they will be put to use by multiple loggers on a variety of logging sites. These structures have been shown to help improve Best Management Practice (BMP) Implementation scores on stream crossings where portable bridges are applicable, and therefore preferred over other types of crossings. The bridges are valuable for reducing potential problems with erosion, sedimentation and stabilization. Their use can also lower the costs, labor and time needed for installation and maintenance of stream crossings, and serve as an example/incentive for others to build and use similar structures. The GFC will continue to do BMP Assurance exams to monitor BMP implementation on forestry sites. As opposed to our BMP surveys, which are completed after forestry operations are completed, Assurance exams are performed while the operators are still onsite and may be done by request or when we receive complaints.

With prescribed burning season in sight, there's positive news about BMP implementation concerning firebreaks. A recent statewide survey by GFC shows our overall Firebreak BMP Implementation score is 93%. Scores for both wildfire firebreaks and pre-suppression firebreaks were also 93% each. These are

good scores overall, and compare well with scores for other types of forestry activities in general, as sampled biennially in the statewide compliance survey.

In preparation for this next cycle, we'll soon begin collecting sites for the 2017 BMP Implementation Survey. We use Landsat information and random stratification to select sites from all across the state in all ownership classes for all types of forestry activities and categories. They include stream crossings, Streamside Management Zones (SMZs), forest roads, special management areas, harvesting, mechanical site prep, chemical site prep, firebreaks/burning, tree planting and equipment servicing. Landowners are contacted for permission to inspect their property, but their names are not released; only ownership classes (NIPF, corporate or public) are recorded, to help ensure a non-biased survey site selection. Sites are later inspected and scored by GFC's Water Quality staff.



Best Management Practice implementation and compliance are critical measures of our industry's commitment to the environment and to successful harvesting processes. With your partnership, we look forward to continuing the advance toward 100% scores across the board!

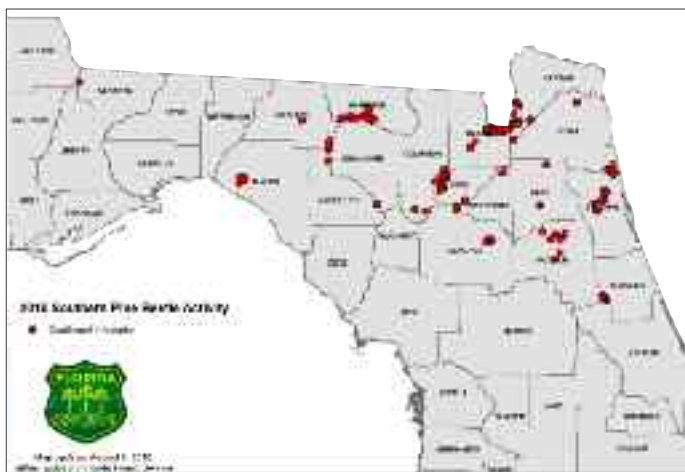
The Florida Forest Service

Director's Desk



Jim Karels, State Forester

Although southern pine beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) is rarely encountered, when an outbreak occurs, it can be one of the most destructive pine forest pests in the southeast. At the peak of the last major southern pine beetle outbreak in Florida, almost 3,000 infestations or “spots” were documented in a single year, killing pines on nearly 17,600 acres. By comparison, only 175 southern pine beetle spots, covering a total of 1,129 acres, were detected over the entire thirteen years that followed. Typically, southern pine beetle outbreaks occur on a 7-12 year cycle. According to the cycle, Florida is currently “overdue” for another southern pine beetle outbreak.



This year, southern pine beetle activity got off to a very early start, with the first active spots found in January, following a period of unusually warm winter temperatures. During the spring and summer, more spots were detected in new areas at increasing rates. As of the first week in August, 174 infestations have been documented, covering more than 921 acres in 17 counties. More possible locations are being investigated and the Florida Forest Service is actively conducting aerial surveys and ground checks. Landowners in many locations are also conducting suppression/salvage harvests.

It is important to note that this year's southern pine beetle numbers are minimal compared the last major outbreak between 2000 and 2002. However, it does raise an important question: does this year's activity signal the

beginning of a new outbreak period? This, of course, remains impossible to predict with any confidence because much is still unknown about the factors that influence the timing of southern pine beetle outbreaks. The best science-based prediction tool currently available is the annual southern pine beetle Spring Pheromone Trapping Survey, which is used to estimate the likelihood of southern pine beetle activity in the coming year. The measurement is based on the February-March abundance of southern pine beetle compared to the number of predatory beetles that feed on them. The Florida Forest Service's forest health section has already made plans to increase the number of trap locations during the survey period in 2017.

When southern pine beetle activity occurs, there are well-known factors that influence risk of loss at the stand level. Densely-stocked pine stands (>80 ft²/acre basal area), particularly those consisting of mature loblolly or shortleaf pine, are most at risk. In Florida, southern pine beetle activity has never been documented south of the natural range of loblolly pine, which extends down to Pasco and Orange Counties. However, other pine species and age classes are often infested when a local southern pine beetle population is high.

Some ways that landowners can help prevent southern pine beetle timber loss include thinning overstocked stands, prescribed burning, and planting pines that are less susceptible, such as longleaf and slash. In North Florida, where southern pine beetle has historically occurred, the Florida Forest Service administers the Southern Pine Beetle Assistance and Prevention Program. The program offers cost-share reimbursements and incentive payments to non-industrial private landowners who conduct preventative practices. Although the 2016 sign-up period recently closed, we encourage forest landowners to take preventative action now and consider applying for the program in 2017. To learn more about southern pine beetle prevention in Florida, visit www.FreshFromFlorida.com/SouthernPineBeetle.



2016 NATIONAL LOGGER OF THE YEAR

M.A. RIGONI: 2016 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING LOGGER

Washington, DC – The **Forest Resources Association** honored M.A. Rigoni, Inc., based in Perry, Florida, as **2016 National Outstanding Logger** at FRA’s May 5th Annual Awards Dinner in Colorado Springs, Colorado. FRA Chairman Tom Reed congratulated co-owners Gary Brett and Rodney Schwab, presenting them with a commemorative plaque.

Kent Hall of STIHL Inc, which has supported the Outstanding Logger Award Program for several decades, added his congratulations, presenting Gary and Rodney with a \$1,000 cash award on behalf of STIHL.

Gary Brett thanked FRA and STIHL and stated, “It is certainly nice to be honored in this way.” He thanked his long-term partner, Rodney, and expressed special thanks to his wife: “We have been incredibly blessed. This summer, we’ll have been married 41 years, and she’ll have been married to a logger for 40 of those.”

Rodney Schwab observed, “It’s hard to explain all the things that have happened in your life. You don’t always know why, but you know you’re supposed to be a logger. We are blessed. There’s a lot of good people in this industry.”



“FRA Chairman Tom Reed (left) congratulated Rodney Schwab and Gary Brett of M.A. Rigoni, Inc., 2016 National Outstanding Logger.”

M.A. Rigoni, Inc., of Perry, Florida, had its beginnings in 1960, founded by M.A. “Matt” Rigoni—a forester-turned-logger who set a high bar for innovation and professionalism in logging. Current owners Rodney Schwab and Gary Brett joined the company in 1974 and 1980, respectively, and bought the company in 1995. The company has grown significantly in the past two years, now employing three company chipping crews and contracting with six logging crews for a combined weekly production of 600 truck loads.

M.A. Rigoni employs 44 and enjoys a stable and skilled work force. Half of these employees have been with Rigoni for over five years, and half again of those have been employed for over ten years. The roster includes eight Master Loggers, who renew their training in SFI guidelines annually.

2016 NATIONAL LOGGER OF THE YEAR (Continued)



The company performs all types of harvest: clearcutting, thinning, real estate-cutting, and harvests customized to clients' wildlife management objectives. The three company crews, with whole-tree chipping capability, are able to clean up sites and remove unmerchantable materials, allowing them to work in real estate development. The company has been awarded three USFS Forest Stewardship contracts, one in each of Florida's three National Forests, performing fuel reduction, road construction/maintenance, and pine cone harvest—all financed through the sale of timber.

M.A. Rigoni strongly emphasizes safety, and both Rodney and Gary wear full Personal Protective Equipment, as an example to their in-woods employees, and provide First Aid and CPR training to all employees every two years. If safety-related incidents occur, the company reviews them carefully and makes appropriate changes in procedures, communicating new policies at safety meetings. Safety policies include a very robust drug testing program, in force since the mid-1990s, along with a drug education program.

Rodney's sons Richard and Chad are both active in the business, positioned to carry M.A. Rigoni into the next generation. Rodney, Gary, Richard, and Chad are active in their community and in local, state, and national associations. They have participated in hurricane relief and clean up efforts, and are all active in church leadership, Rodney, Gary, and Richard participating in missionary work in Central America.

FRA has honored 27 National Outstanding Loggers since establishing the national award in 1990. Recent National Outstanding Loggers include Comstock Logging of Hampden, Maine (2013), Anthony B. Andrews Logging of Trenton, North Carolina (2015), and last year's Moulton Logging, Inc. of West Charleston, Vermont. Nominees for this year's award passed through state-level recognition to regional award programs administered through FRA's Regional structure. A jury of national-level leaders in forestry and conservation selected the winner.

The Outstanding Logger program is designed: to recognize outstanding logging contractor performance; to raise the visibility of competent, professional independent logging contractors in the forestry community; to encourage other independent logging contractors to emulate the outstanding performance of the award winners; and to improve forester-logger relations by publicly recognizing outstanding logging performance as an essential element of every planned timber harvest.

The **Forest Resources Association Inc.** is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents forest landowners and managers, wood consumers, independent logging contractors, wood dealers, and businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.

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2016 Outstanding Georgia Logger



Leon Hood

Hood Landing Timber and Landscape, Adel, GA

Leon Hood started in the timber business in 1980 by purchasing timber and utilizing contract loggers to harvest it. As his business began to grow, he decided to purchase logging equipment and start harvesting the timber himself. In 1985, with the help of his family, he opened Hood Timber Company. It has since become one of the largest timber harvesting companies in South Georgia.

Leon soon realized there was a large amount of unused by-products left in the woods. He decided to make these by-products useful and purchased a grinder. With this grinder, he was able to grind the by-products into landscaping materials. This was a very successful venture which led him to purchase a facility in Adel, GA in 1996. At this facility he was able to bag the product. He launched his own brand of landscaping materials, and so began Hood Landscaping Products.

Hood Landscaping Products soon began bagging for large stores such as Lowe's. With the growth of the company, Leon decided to purchase a second facility in Nashville, GA in 2000. This helped to increase production and the company continued to grow. In 2015, he purchased a third bagging plant in Valdosta, GA, which became Hood Landscaping and Garden Products.

Leon also saw a need for transportation of his product. He purchased several tractor-trailers early on and began

transporting the product himself. This cut cost significantly, saving on transportation. As his fleet grew, Hood Trucking Company was started. The company now runs 22 trucks full time.



Leon has seen success in all three business areas. He relies on his family for a lot of the day to day management of the businesses. His daughters, Kristy Joiner and Karen McCann, manage sales and marketing of Hood Landscaping Products. His wife, Jeanie Hood, is office manager. His son, John Hood, and his grandson, Joe Joiner, are both Georgia Master Timber Harvester certified and manage the timber business. Joe is also an active member of the Georgia Farm Bureau Forestry Committee. His grandson, Houston Joiner, manages the Valdosta Plant and his grandson, Chris Hood, manages the Adel plant. Jenna Hood, his granddaughter, manages the freight business. Leon says the success of his companies is because of good management and the help of his family.



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Heat Related Illness

JJ Lemire

Heat-Related Illness

In August, we will encounter the “Dog Days of Summer”. The temperatures will soar and more cases of heat exhaustion will be reported. In our industry, the majority of vigorous physical activity is in a hot environment. The body will rid itself of excess heat through two efficient ways; by sweating and blood vessels dilating. When sweat evaporates from the skin, you begin to cool off. When blood vessels dilate, blood is brought to the skin surface to release heat.

Background: Heat-related illness takes several forms. Heat rash occurs when sweat ducts get clogged. Heat cramps are painful muscle spasms caused by loss of electrolytes from heavy sweating. **If employees develop these conditions, immediately get them out of the heat so they can rest.** Heat exhaustion and heatstroke develop from prolonged exposure to heat.

What must an employee know: Heat exhaustion occurs when the body has lost too much water and salt.

Signs Include:

WEAKNESS

DIZZINESS

NAUSEA

HEADACHE

HEAVY SWEATING

AND SLIGHTLY ELEVATED BODY TEMPERATURE.

Hot Tips to Cool Conditions

As a supervisor or employee, you should know how to recognize a victim of heat-related illness. Evaluate the symptoms and follow these first aid actions:

Heat cramps: Have the employee sip water or a diluted sports drink. Gently stretch the muscle.

Heat exhaustion: Lay the employee down in a cool area with his or her legs raised. Remove excessive layers of clothing. Give up to 1 liter of water. Do not give anything to drink if the employee vomits. Cool the worker with cold, wet cloths and a fan.

Heatstroke: Call for medical help immediately. While you wait for help to arrive, move the employee to a cool place, remove clothing down to underwear and apply ice packs at the neck, armpits and groin. Cover the employee with wet towels or cloths or spray him or her with cool water, and fan the employee to quickly evaporate the dampness on the skin. Heat stroke can cause irreversible damage.

Catch It Early

Supervisors and employees need to watch for warning signs. Employees adapt to the heat, but they usually know their limitations and supervisors should never push beyond those limits. Employees can take other preventive measures to combat the heat:

Eat light. The more calories you eat, the more body heat you produce.

Drink plenty of fluids throughout the day. Drink at least 8 ounces per half hour.

Choose the proper type and amount of clothing. Cotton allows skin to breathe and absorbs sweat. Wide-brimmed hats protect from direct sunlight.

Awareness is vital to prevent heat-illness.

2016 Safety Meeting Record

Date: _____ Company: _____

Names and signatures of ALL attendees to be attached.

Conducted by:(signature) _____



Driver Fatality In The Woods

JJ Lemire

Safety in Strapping Loads

Safety is a key factor in our daily lives. As we get older, sometimes simple acts of movement can create a situation that can lead to injuries. Such is the case with several drivers across the Southeastern states. We have experienced a larger number of claims involving truck drivers injuring their shoulders while throwing straps across their loads.

There is a huge amount of responsibility and liability based upon the driver's decisions and actions. So when it comes to a simple task of throwing a strap, why has there been an increase in injuries? And why are the folks suffering these injuries in their 40's, 50's and 60's? One thing that we need to understand is that what we did in our youth is not always simple anymore. So let us look at the dynamics of throwing a strap and why so many of the drivers are experiencing rotator cuff tears.

Once the load of logs, lumber, machinery, or equipment is completed, the next step is to secure the load. If you are chaining equipment, one of the most important issues is the weight of the chains and binders. Chain weight for grade 8 and higher chain can be between 1 and 7 pounds per foot based on the link diameter. For example, 3/8" Grade 80 Alloy Chain weighs in at a hefty 3.0 pounds per linear foot and 5/8" Grade 80 Alloy Chain weighs in at 3.5 pounds per square foot. Similarly, a 20-foot chain will weigh 60 and 70 pounds respectively. While we have some injuries when chain is used to secure logging equipment to low bow trailers it is rare since most drivers do not throw the heavy chain overhanded like a pitcher. Most often they drag it across the equipment or have the loader operator pick up the chain and place it over the load.

However, we have seen increasing numbers of shoulder injuries when it comes to strapping log loads. Straps normally weigh around 3 to 6 pounds each depending on the attachment provided. Straps with buckles weigh in at 4.5 pounds for a 27-foot strap compared to 6 pounds with a strap with a chain end. This weight if you try to throw it high over the logs, contributes to tearing your rotator cuff.

The majority of injuries involving rotator cuff tears require surgery. For some it is the only option to correcting the tear. Besides the surgery, you must factor in 6 to eight months of therapy as well. The recovery is long and tedious with physical therapy required to return you to a place where you will not reinjure your shoulder. The costs are large and can cost your employer and insurance carrier over 90 thousand dollars.

When investigating these claims, we discovered that the majority of the claims were drivers throwing the straps overhanded. You add in their age and the risk for an injury increased.

One of the recommendations we make is to swing it and throw it underhanded like a soft ball pitcher. Another recommendation is that the loader operator can pick up the strap and place it across the load of logs similar to how they do it when you have a heavy chain.

So throw the straps underhanded to reduce your chance of an injury.

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.

2016 Safety Meeting Record

Date: _____ Company: _____

Names and signatures of ALL attendees to be attached.

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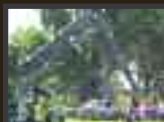
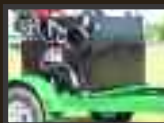
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2016 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP





2016



SWPA Annual Meeting Recap

The Southeastern Wood Producers Association held its 2016 Annual Meeting and Transportation EXPO at the James H. Rainwater Convention Center in Valdosta, Georgia. Over fifty indoor and outdoor exhibitors participated in the event. Although many of the activities were outdoors, attendance was very good.

Thursday night kicked off the event with a Sporting Clays event followed Friday morning with a Golf Tournament with all proceeds donated to the Log A Load for Kids Charity. Over \$2000 was raised.

At 1:00PM on Friday the EXPO officially opened with indoor and outdoor vendors. There was variety of various products and services available to those attending. Friday evening was open as vendors were able to entertain their customers with the many food and beverage venues around Valdosta.

Saturday was full of activities beginning with a loader competition featuring loaders from all the major manufacturers. After lunch a live chipping demonstration took place which was a first for the SWPA annual event.

Concluding the EXPO was the President's Banquet Saturday Night featuring motivational speaker Steve Gilliland with his theme, "Enjoy the Ride". Next year the SWPA Annual Meeting will be in Jekyll Island, Georgia on June 2 and 3, 2017.

Annual Meeting *and* EXPO



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28L-26	20	Log Monster LS-2	TBL	\$1,860.	464518
28L-26	20	Log Stomper Extreme LS-2	TBL	\$2,100.	461518
30.5-32	26	Log Monster LS-2	TBL	\$2,300.	464917
30.5-32	26	Log Stomper Extreme LS-2	TBL	\$2,750.	461917
35.5-32	26	Log Monster LS-2	TBL	\$3,400.	464921
35.5-32	26	Log Stomper Extreme LS-2	TBL	\$3,895.	461921
67x3400-25	20	LS Super Flotation Steel HF-4	TBL	\$3,700.	451497
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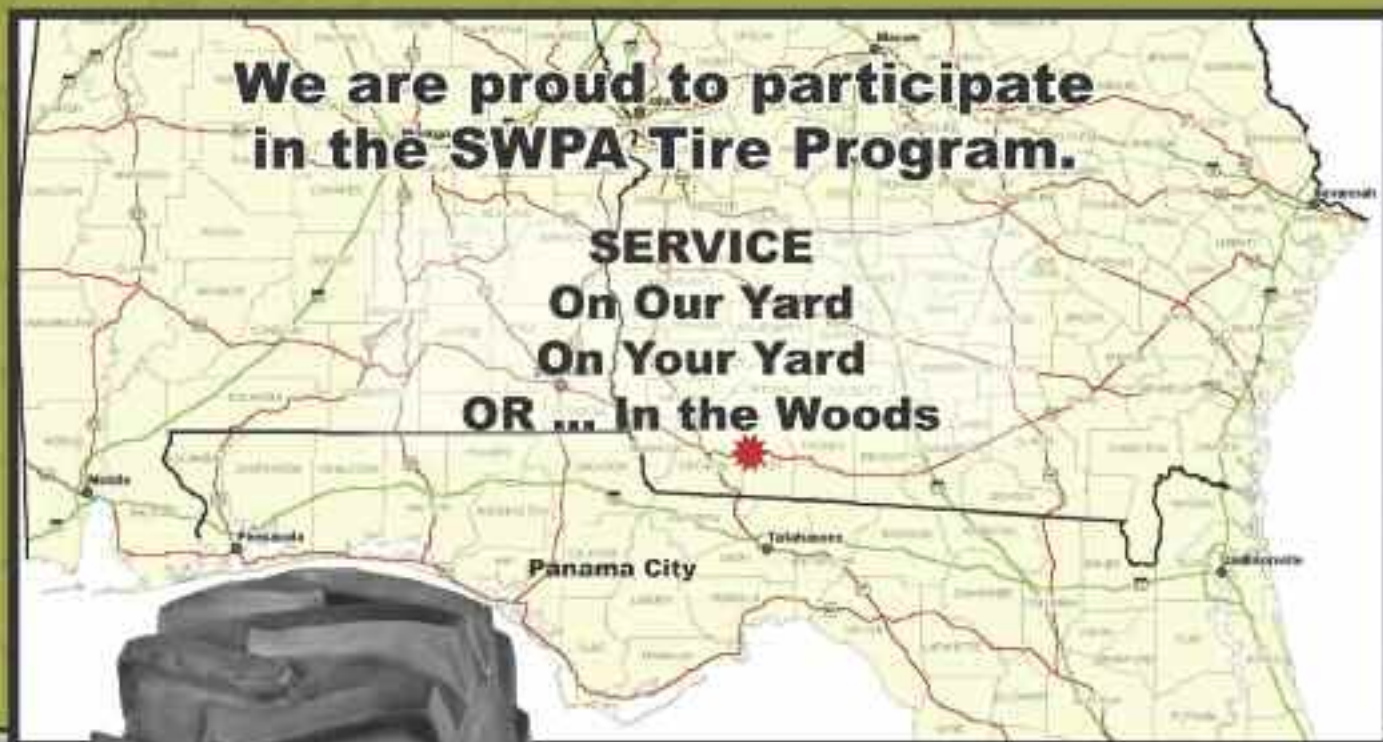
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