



out of the Woods

"Voice of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association" Volume 28 Issue 2 2017

Welcome!

TO THE 2017
SWPA ANNUAL MEETING
AT JEKYLL ISLAND, GA

Please take off your shoes!



**Inside: Schedule of Events - Logger of the Year
Bart Allen Memorial Scholarship Recipients**



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

MAY/JUNE 2017
Executive Director
Tommy Carroll



Why Is Unification Important?

Once again, the topic of unification and the effectiveness of strength in numbers is on the table. The presence of endless laws and regulations affecting every aspect of a logging business along with inconsistent wood procurement policies by industry companies critically impair a logging company's ability to develop an effective long-term business plan.

Logging costs, especially in capital investment items such as equipment and trucks, have risen substantially over the last ten years. The sophistication of this newer equipment has triggered other rippling costs associated with the parts and labor needed to keep this equipment operating at a profitable level. Increased harvesting efficiency has allowed the supply of loaded trailers to exceed the demand for loaded trailers. Trucking capacity currently, and for the near future, appears to be the weakest link in the wood supply system due to unaffordable insurance premiums for many companies.

Logging company owners and their families are unique in the category of small business owners. It is safe to say that anyone attempting to start and succeed in business has an independent spirit and wants to have more control over their destiny in life. They also possess a stronger stress level than most people do. It is my personal belief that logging company owners are at the top percentage levels of small business stress.

When the SWPA was formed back in 1990, its purpose was to provide a unified voice for the logging companies in Florida and Georgia. There are many accomplishments to be proud of and many more to come. The future is currently and will continue to be passed on to a new generation of logging company business owners.

The question now is where will the new leadership come from and who will they be? The average age of the current SWPA board of directors is well over fifty years of age. Many young men and women possess natural leadership abilities, but it takes time to integrate these abilities into an established organization that is governed by a set of by-laws.

One way to get acquainted with the leadership of the SWPA is to attend this year's annual meeting at Jekyll Island, Georgia on June 2nd and 3rd meet them. Many of the board members will be attending. This is also the opportunity to mingle among the many vendors and sponsors that also support the association and understand its importance in representing the logging companies of Georgia and Florida.

If you cannot be at the annual meeting, take the opportunity to attend a SWPA board meeting and see firsthand how the business of the organization is managed. You will find out quickly that the association is focused on many components concerning logging company issues. Call me at 478-952-2809 if you are interested in volunteering to share your time and ideas.

By the time you read this annual meeting will be upon us. Pam and I look forward to seeing you at Jekyll Island. If we can ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

"The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are." — C.S. Lewis



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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As of print date 5/15/17

EVENTS

Thursday - June 1, 2017

1:00PM	Golf Tournament	Oleander Golf Course
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Friday - June 2, 2017

9:00AM – 1:00PM	Continuing Logger Education	Marshside Meeting # 8
1:00PM - 6:00PM	Exhibit / Vendor Areas	Atlantic Hall - Ballroom F-H

Saturday - June 3, 2017

8:00AM – 2:30PM	Exhibit / Vendor Areas	Atlantic Hall - Ballroom F-H
6:00PM – 7:00PM	President's Reception	
6:45PM – 9:00PM	Kid's Night Out	Marshside Meeting #11
7:00PM – 9:00PM	Annual Meeting Banquet	Atlantic Hall Ballroom E-G



2017 LOGGER OF THE YEAR

FLORIDA

DAVID AND SAM GRIFFIS
D&S Griffis Timber, Inc. Live Oak, FL



Logging has always been a tradition in the Griffis family, David started his own business in 1996 as a two-man crew and his son Sam joined him in 2004. As the business continued to grow David and Sam decided to become “D&S Griffis Timber, Inc.” in 2011. It has grown with every aspect of logging, (new equipment and semi-trucks). Their production is at an all-time high.

With the love and support of their wives, Chessy and Mindy taking care of the office duties the company will grow for generations to come. Our grandson / son, Peyton Griffis already has his eyes set on the skidder. D&S Griffis Timber, Inc. supports others in need and works with a humble hard working hand and heart. We humbly thank you all for the recognition. It truly means a lot.



GEORGIA

DANIEL DUNAGAN
Daniel Dunagan, Inc. Rome, Georgia



Daniel learned the logging trade by working for his father’s logging company throughout high school and even while in college. He is a native of Armuchee, Georgia where he graduated from Armuchee High School in 2001 followed by earning a Bachelor’s of Business Administration degree from Kennesaw State University (KSU) in 2006. Upon graduation he continued to work for his father, Tommy Dunagan, and helped manage the crew.

In 2013 he began expanding into 4 crews and 2 full time office staff which leveled out at 38 employees. He currently has a full-time mechanic, welder, runner, two office staff, 11 truck drivers, and 9 woodsmen. He runs John Deere, Tiger Cat and Prentice machines paired with Mack, Western Star and Peterbilt trucks. He has over 50 trailers that run the spectrum plus four new Pitts trailers with custom air ride suspension that gauge the trailers weight using air pressure to keep loads at legal weight limits.

Daniel’s wife, Maggie Wilson Dunagan, from Forsyth Georgia, also grew up around the logging industry. She runs the office and oversees internal operations. They met at KSU and have been married 10 years. They live in Rome, Georgia with their three children, Georgia (6), Sawyer (4), and Gretchen (2). Daniel is a member of the Rome Chamber of Commerce, First Baptist Church of Rome and enjoys being with his family, teaching his kids to fish and play ball, and of course being in the woods logging.





From Our President

I hope this article is finding everyone in good health and good business. It will be a busy summer for the forestry community with all the things going on in the first half of the year. I have never seen so many mills down at one time and for so long for scheduled shut downs in my 36 years in business. As I write this, fires are burning in south Ga and possibly even into north Fla that will complicate even more the wood flow problems that we have been faced with all year. Even with all this, I hope you can find a way to attend the SWPA annual meeting on Jekyll. The only opportunity for a group of loggers to get together and discuss the problems facing your

operation is at this meeting. I encourage all members to be there so your voice can be heard. Jekyll Island is an excellent mini vacation destination and a convenient location for our meeting. Please be there to help your association be a stronger voice in Ga and Fla.

John Lane, Coastal Logging Co. Inc.
315 Grants Ferry Road
Brunswick, Georgia 31525
912-269-2772

jhlane50@yahoo.com



The Director's Corner Georgia Forestry Commission

Robert Farris, Director

Are you a conservationist? My belief is that the majority of people involved in the forest industry are. Members of SWPA most definitely fit the definition of conservationist, as written by the well known forester, conservationist and author, Aldo Leopold: A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke [of the axe] he is writing his signature on the face of the land.

In many ways, you are the face of forestry to landowners who employ your services and to passersby who see your work. Sharing the high standards to which wood processors adhere is an ongoing effort that we all should strive to communicate. Healthy, sustainable forests would not be possible without your efforts on the front lines. Think about these amazing Georgia forestry facts, and ways you can share them through the people with whom you interact every day.

Georgia forests provide \$37 billion in ecosystem services annually. Every time you fulfill a harvesting contract, you are contributing to this enormous forestry benefit. By paying scrupulous attention to Best Management Practices at each stage of the harvesting process, you are protecting Georgia's natural resources for your fellow citizens and for future generations. Continuing logger education programs provide opportunities to stay current on issues affecting the ecosystems in which we work. Caring properly for streamside management zones and safeguarding forest roads has an enormous impact on waterways and wildlife, and sharing information about your proactive role in the process is something worthwhile.

Georgia forests provide 133,000 jobs. I'm proud to hold one of those jobs and am prouder still to count you and our col-

leagues as dedicated fellow workers - and conservationists. Healthy forest markets provide ongoing benefits to landowners as well as the people who staff every stage of the production process. We have a noteworthy impact on our communities, just as our industry has a great impact on our state; a \$32 billion impact, to be exact! Sure, Georgia's known for its peaches, but when the opportunity presents itself at church, at Rotary, or even at the PTA, you can be proud to share that Georgia is the #1 forestry state in the nation.

Georgia forests are sustainably managed. Georgia's forests are annually producing 48% more volume than is being removed by harvesting and losses to insects, diseases, storms, and wildfires. The reforestation efforts you help promote following harvests has helped lead to the fact that Georgia has more forests today than it did 75 years ago.

In recent months, wood producers have given new meaning to forest sustainability by partnering with landowners in battling outbreaks of Ips engraver beetles. In addition, the ongoing drought and devastating storms have added to wood in the woods that needed removal. Many tree farmers have expressed their gratitude for producers who've come to the rescue in a jiffy and helped them find places to sell. Ongoing sustainability just isn't possible without being nimble and strategic in meeting the constant challenges of raising a living product subject to the whims of Mother Nature.

Thanks for all the work you do to bring success to Georgia's forest industry. I hope you're proud of the role you play and that you will share our story - and your signature - through the many relationships you inspire.

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-Treasure: Russell 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. 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."

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 Florida Forest Service

Director's Desk



Jim Karels, State Forester



Many places around our nation have a particular time during the year which is referred to as “wildland fire season”. Here in Florida we routinely experience an increase in wildland fire activity from April through June. However, due primarily to our climate and volatile fuels, our state has a year-round fire season. We have been fortunate in the past few years with a run of below average wildfire activity. In fact, in 2014 Florida experienced 2,000 fires that burned 88,955 acres statewide. This represents the lowest annual number of fires since 1981. In stark contrast, this year as of April 26th, Florida had already experienced over 1,730 wildfires burning more than 88,000 acres with significant fires in Broward, Collier, Glades, Hernando, Marion, Franklin, Lee, Baker, Gulf, Nassau, Polk, and the West Mims Fire straddling the Florida and Georgia State line near the Okefenokee Swamp. All these fires prompted the Commissioner of Agriculture to ask our Governor to issue an Executive Order in support of the increasing need to respond to wildfires throughout the State.

Weather is the most common reason for increased wildfire danger and is the key factor that causes wildfires to spread and intensify once ignited. Research has shown that there is a correlation between acreage burned in Florida wildfires and sea surface temperature (SSTs) in a region of the tropical Pacific Ocean. When SST's are warm (El Niño), fire activity is reduced. When SSTs are cold (La Niña), drought related fire activity is enhanced. Over the past seventeen years, the five most active years featured La Niña conditions immediately prior to or during Florida's peak wildfire activity. We have transitioned into a neutral phase from a brief El Niño which was preceded by a lengthy La Niña - El Niño is forecast to return by early summer. We entered April, which is typically our dry season, with a rainfall deficit in many parts of the state. This was compounded by severe and increasing drought conditions in much of the Florida Peninsula.

Although lightning caused fires generally increase in the spring of each year, on average 80% of all wildfires in Florida are human-caused. Because many of our fires are

started by causes that are preventable, our joint FFS/Fire Department wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts are critically important throughout the year. Wildfires that don't start cannot injure residents, firefighters, or cause damage to structures. Our efforts in wildfire mitigation focus on hazardous fuel reduction and, equally as important, information and education on how residents can protect their homes and property from the destructive effects of wildfire while also working together as a community to become more fire adapted. Fire adapted communities provide less need for active structure protection efforts and provide a safer working environment for firefighters as they protect structures.

Also at risk during these destructive wildfires is our valuable timber resource which has already taken a negative impact from fires, and is increasingly threatened as fire danger conditions are predicted to deteriorate. This, of course, has a direct impact on loggers and the logging community in the state - both in terms of the forest resource and the potential for equipment caused wildfires.

For additional information on things you can do to lower the wildfire risk around homes in your community, how to help in wildfire prevention efforts, and how to spread the preparedness messages before wildfire strikes, please visit our website at www.floridaforestservice.com.



Photo from the West Mims Wildfire on the Florida-Georgia line that was ignited by a lightning strike in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge on April 6, 2017. Photo courtesy of Florida Forest Service.

The Florida Forest Service



Permits No Longer Needed from the Water Management District to Practice Silviculture

The Florida Forest Service's Forest Hydrology Section provides specialized technical services and information to Florida's private and public forest landowners for the protection of the State's water resources in association with silviculture activities. The core of this area of service is Florida's Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMP) program, which originated in 1979. Under this program, the Forest Hydrology Section is responsible for Silviculture BMP development and implementation, as well as monitoring Silviculture BMPs for both compliance and effectiveness. Florida's Silviculture BMP Program was one of the south's first to address forest operational activities and was the first to establish a monitoring program. The use of BMPs protects our natural resources from the degradation and sedimentation that can sometimes occur because of forestry operations. Silviculture BMPs also help maintain shelter and food for aquatic organisms and certain wildlife species. The Florida Forest Service's Silviculture BMP Foresters are located to provide information, recommendations, and technical assistance for proper Silviculture BMP implementation prior to, during, and after recent forestry operations. Available services include voluntary Silviculture BMP Courtesy Checks – which are on-site inspections to evaluate ongoing or recently completed forestry operations such as timber harvesting, site preparation, forest roads, and stream crossings. Also, BMP Foresters are available to assist with Silviculture BMP planning and training.

Water Management Districts

Florida is divided into five Water Management Districts (WMD) which roughly follow the State's major drainage systems. These are the South Florida, Southwest Florida, St Johns, Suwannee, and Northwest Florida WMDs. Each WMD has statutory authority over the waters and wetlands within its jurisdictional boundaries. In October 2013, all 5 WMDs adopted identical language under a new "No-Fee Noticed Exemption" (62-330.0511 F.A.C.). This new language specifically exempted silviculture activities

from permitting by the WMDs. However, it is still necessary to "Notice" the WMDs via the internet or by mail - but there is no longer a fee for doing so. Silviculture activities conducted in conformance with the BMPs qualify for this No-Fee Noticed Exemption. The rule language describes activities which apply and requires that Silviculture BMPs are adhered to in accordance with the current Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual (2008).

Please feel free to contact the Florida Forest Service for more information about BMPs and/or the Water Management Districts regarding the No-Fee Noticed Exemption.

Or visit our website at

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Best-Management-Practices-BMP>.

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SWPA has no responsibility or liability for any activity related to information provided or any services provided as a result of these listings.



SWPA LOGGING AND TRANSPORTATION EXPO & 2017 ANNUAL MEETING WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Tony Iarocci's exposure to the forestry industry began in the mid 1960s as an engineering student working at Koehring-Waterous; a leading manufacturer of tree harvesting machinery, where he spent over twenty years in senior engineering and marketing positions. Mr. Iarocci progressed from project engineering to customer service and executive positions in sales, marketing and engineering management, leaving the company just before it was purchased by Timberjack (which was subsequently acquired by John Deere). Tony and CEO, Ken MacDonald then started Tigercat Industries Inc. in 1992 with Tony leading the growing business as President with primary involvement in engineering, product development and marketing. "From day one at Tigercat we adopted a strategy to build tough, reliable, productive machines aimed at reducing the cost of harvesting trees and this strategy continues to this day," states Tony. Tigercat celebrates its 25-year anniversary this year with great pride in offering an extensive product line with over 18,000 units sold in over twenty countries around the world.

Tigercat specializes in the design and manufacture of tree harvesting systems and specialized machines for severe duty off road applications. Tigercat forestry systems deliver processed wood to roadside at the lowest cost per tonne. Learn more about innovative Tigercat harvesting systems and off road industrial products at www.tigercat.com.

**ANTHONY (TONY) IAROCCI (B.E., PE)
PRESIDENT, TIGERCAT INDUSTRIES INC.**



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Future Logging Careers Act: Training the Next Generation, Safely and Legally.



The American Loggers Council has made passing the Future Logging Careers Act a top priority in the 115th United States Congress. We're very pleased with the bipartisan support it is receiving in both the U.S. House and Senate. This is a credit to the hundreds of loggers who have contacted their representatives in support of the legislation. We need to keep up the calls and emails to Congress. In a moment I'll tell you how you can get involved.

It's become clear over the past several weeks that some in the news media, and some who follow ALC's Facebook page, don't have a clear understanding of what the Future Logging Careers Act actually does, and what it doesn't do. For example, a Washington D.C. reporter wrote a story last month attempting to link our bill to a very tragic accident involving an 18-year-old logger in Washington State.

Simply put, the Future Logging Careers Act is intended to give 16- and 17-year-olds hands-on training in mechanized timber harvesting in a safe and legal setting, under parental supervision. The bill is aimed at helping family-owned logging companies that wish to keep their sons and daughters in the profession. The Future Logging Careers Act, as its name suggests, is all about recruiting and retaining the next generation and to help families continue to run professional logging businesses.

The text of the legislation is straightforward. It extends an existing agricultural exemption-- now enjoyed by family farmers and ranchers-- specifically to family-owned logging companies.

For the purpose of amending the Fair Labor Standards Act, the bill defines logging as "the felling, skidding, yarding, loading and processing of timber by equipment other than manually operated chainsaws and cable skidders; the felling of timber in mechanized operations; the bucking or converting of timber into logs, poles, ties, bolts, pulpwood, chemical wood, excelsior wood, cordwood, fence posts, or similar products; the collecting, skidding, yarding, loading, transporting and unloading of such products in connection with logging; the constructing, repairing and maintaining

of roads or camps used in connection with logging; the constructing, repairing, and maintenance of machinery or equipment used in logging; and other work performed in connection with logging."

Now for what the bill doesn't do: the Future Logging Careers Act does not permit 16- and 17-year-olds "the manual use of chain saws to fell and process timber and the use of cable skidders to bring the timber to the landing." Unfortunately, this important point was missed in the news story that misinterpreted our bill.

Safety is an issue that should unite all professional timber harvesters. ALC is deeply committed to promoting safety in the woods, and on the roads, in the hope that someday logging is not included in the annual list of "America's Most Dangerous Professions." Nobody wants to put young and inexperienced loggers in dangerous situations. The Future Logging Careers Act is one solution to promote safety for the future, and help young loggers learn the trade in a supervised setting.

The Future Logging Careers Act is gaining support as more members of Congress learn about the bill, and understand why supporting family-owned logging businesses and recruiting and retaining the next generation of loggers are so important. If you haven't already, contact your House and Senate members and ask them to sponsor and support the bill. You can do this in just two minutes by visiting <https://www.votervoice.net/iframes/HFHC/Campaigns/48964/Respond>. Together, we can pass this simple measure as one way to strengthen our profession for the future.

Danny Dructor is the Executive Vice President for the American Loggers Council with offices near Hemphill, Texas. The American Loggers Council is a 501 (c)(6) not for profit trade organization representing professional timber harvesters in 32 states across the United States.

If you would like to learn more about the ALC, please visit their web site at www.amloggers.com, or contact their office at 409-625-0206.



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Ground Personnel and Truck Drivers Safety

JJ Lemire

In the past several years, several loggers and truck drivers have been killed or seriously injured as they worked around the deck or landing. These accidents involved individuals struck by logs, as well as ran over by loaders or hit by another truck.

Tips to Keep Ground Personnel Safe

Per OSHA, standards, a driver can remain in the cab of the truck during loading if the loader does not swing the logs over the cab and if the cab is protected.

- The safest place for drivers is out of the cab and in a designated waiting area that is both a safe distance from trucks being loaded and out of the path of moving machinery or trucks.
- All ground personnel, including log truck drivers who are out of their cabs, should wear hard hats, safety glasses and high visibility vests. High visibility clothing is a must for ground personnel as well as safety glasses and a hard hat.
- Ground personnel cannot be seen at times due to the many items at the deck or landing. Slash piles, sawbucks, log piles and parked vehicles can impede the equipment operators from seeing the person on the ground. Do not forget to look for visitors.
- Loader operators must stop loading operations if anyone enters the danger zone around a truck being loaded.
- Drivers should receive clearance from the loader operator before approaching their truck and should be sure that the logs are stable before walking the load or applying binding or straps.
- Equipment operators must be aware of the line of site problems their equipment present due to size and attachments. Skidder operators lose sight of ground personnel

because of engine covers and loaders operators have a blind spot because of the boom.

- Good communications are the key to a successful and safe log deck. CB Radios, walkie-talkies, or cell phones can keep the loader operator in direct contact with everyone entering or exiting the log deck. Hand signals and direct eye-to-eye contact can keep visitors from walking into a danger zone with moving equipment.

Safety meetings are important ways to make sure employees learn about the hazards of the logging site. Always remind employees how to find and contact emergency services in the event of an injury. Slow down and look carefully around you so everyone goes home each day.



2017 Safety Meeting Record

Date: _____ Company: _____

Names and signatures of ALL attendees to be attached.

Conducted by:(signature) _____



Protect Your Hands

Bryan Wagner

We constantly use our hands whether we are at work or at home. Have you slammed a door on your fingers, grabbed something only to break a finger nail or get a sliver? Have you cut hands with a razor blade or sharp object? Ever have a piece of wire from the winch cable enter your hand? The National Safety Council reported recently that annually, over 500,000 plus, disabling hand and finger injuries occur in the United States. However, if we take our hands for granted, then they experience more injuries than of any part on our body.

Hand and Finger Injuries

Simple injuries can range from a pinched finger to slivers or burns. However, more harmful injuries include cuts, punctures, broken bones or amputation. While many cuts or punctures are minor and can be handled with an antiseptic and bandage, it is different if the skin is pierced. Sometimes, the material that pierces the skin can have bacteria. Sometimes the object or liquid have a tremendous amount of force behind them and can be hazardous. In these instances, severe damage can occur to nerves, tendons, or ligaments. Any injury, small or large is susceptible to become infected.

Another type of injury that can occur, comes from contact. These injuries are usually skin diseases or burns that result from direct contact with hot or cold objects, or with chemicals, allergens, plants (poison ivy or oak), detergents, or metals. Symptoms like swelling, itching, rash, burning, or blisters can be bad enough to make it impossible for you to work and can show up immediately after contact.

Basic safety to protect your hands:

- Follow manufacturer's (SDS) and employer's instructions for using tools and equipment.
- Use proper personal protective equipment.
- Wear appropriate gloves for the task:
 - gloves when handling dried wood,
 - cut resistant gloves when changing chipper or grinder knives,
 - work gloves when handling winch cable,
 - or a piece of cardboard when searching for a hydraulic leak.
- **DO NOT USE YOUR HAND TO SEARCH FOR HYDRAULIC LEAKS!**
- Feed materials into moving machinery with a push stick, not your hands.
- Keep your hands away from moving machine parts.
- Do not remove guards until all parts have stopped moving..
- Always cut away from your body with sharp objects.
- Store tools so that no sharp edges are exposed.
- Use brushes, not hands, to sweep up metal or wood chips.
- Check materials for sharp edges, burrs, splinters, etc., before handling them.
- Make sure you know how hot or cold an object is before handling it.
- Wipe off greasy or slippery objects before handling them.
- Lift an object so your hands are not near the pinch points.
- Put materials down carefully so you don't mash your fingers.
- Use the right tool for the job and use it correctly.
- Pass tools to other workers, handle first. Never throw tools.
- Be aware of sharp edges on panels and covers.

Hand injuries can occur in the woods, at the mill, or at home. If you pay attention to the task at hand, you can protect your hands and keep potential injuries from happening.

2017 Safety Meeting Record

Date: _____ **Company:** _____

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LAWTON CARTER

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Son of Wesley and Jenny Carter. Gainesville FL
SWPA Member Loncala, Inc.
High Springs, FL



Lawton Carter



GEORGIA RECIPIENT

Harley Durrence

My name is Harley Durrence. I grew up in Tattnall County, Georgia. My mother is a teacher, and my father is a law enforcement officer. I am a proud member of my high school marching band, and I also participate in my local 4H by competing on the archery team. I also compete in ASA and S3DA archery tournaments. I spend a lot of time in my church youth group. We help with our children's church ministry and Gospel Project children's ministry and do a lot of mission work in our community. I also sing in the church choir. I love helping people! I have chosen to go to East Georgia State College and then transfer to Georgia Southern University to earn a degree in Chemistry. With this degree, I plan to work in a crime lab with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. I can't think of a more rewarding job than to be able to use my love of science to help those who have been affected by crime.



Harley Durrence

Daughter of Clint and Ginger Durrence
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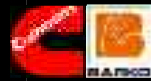
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