

# 2017 Annual Report



## Message from Paul Spillers, 2018 LFA President

### 2018 Officers

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The unexpected passing of LFA President Marty Toms gives us pause. Marty once commented that he aspired to have a “servant’s heart.” The full impact of Marty’s comment was not revealed to me until his funeral.

I now understand.

Marty believed the essence of leadership and a life well-lived is to serve others. We all are stronger and more successful when a helping hand is extended. Marty was just that type of guy. He helped, without desire for recognition or fanfare.

The LFA also has a history of helping. Our association for 70 years has been a beacon to our industry as it endured numerous storms and slippery slopes along the way. Now surely is no time for rest. We must continue to serve, support and improve the efficiency of our industry. There are always new and difficult challenges but corresponding opportunities. One opportunity available to us today is to not only use more wood ourselves but tell wood’s story to others.

One fact is irrefutable: our industry is totally dependent upon consumers. Landowners, loggers and mills (that three-legged stool) are critically important to our industry, but it is the millions (or billions) of forest product consumers whose purchases support the



three-legged stool. This fact we know.

Our exciting story for consumers is that forest products are environmental superstars. The large carbon footprint of substitute products pollute. Our trees “scrub” and cleanse the pollution. Trees convert carbon and other toxins into inert wood where it is sequestered for hundreds (or thousands) of years. Trees purify and conserve both oxygen and water on which daily living around the world depend. Trees provide a habitat for plants, animals and humans. Our cleaning robots, a/k/a trees, work 24/7, in all weather, without supervision, without pay and without recognition. Our message for consumers is simple, true and compelling: Use More Wood. The name of our publication, Forests & People, gives recognition to the symbiotic and mutually beneficial relationship between people and their trees. This relationship has existed for thousands of years, is healthy and should be protected and perpetuated.

We are proud of our environmental record. We should tell wood’s story around the world as we encourage the use of more trees and less steel, concrete and plastic. Greater usage of wood lifts all of our boats.

It is my honor to serve as your president.

*Paul D. Spillers*

## Financial figures for the Louisiana Forestry Association

Figures from 2017 are actual, but include some anticipated revenue and expenses; 2018 figures are budget.

<b>2017</b> (Actual figures)		<b>2018</b> (Budget figures)	
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues	\$408,968	Dues	\$435,000
Special Assessments	\$102,988	Special Assessments	\$105,000
Program/Annual Meeting	<u>\$438,444</u>	Program/Annual Meeting	<u>\$484,500</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$950,400</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,024,500</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Program/Services	\$379,067	Program/Services	\$370,150
Office	\$114,397	Office	\$111,900
Administrative	<u>\$533,607</u>	Administrative	<u>\$542,450</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,027,071</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,024,500</b>

# Hunt will build new lumber mill in Urania

Hunt Forest Products will build a new, state-of-the-art lumber mill in Urania beginning in April, the company announced in February.

The \$115 million facility is expected to employ about 60 people when operations are planned to begin in January 2019 and projects a workforce of about 110 people when operating at full capacity, according to the company's press release.

"We are excited to be bringing a high-tech sawmill, and the skilled jobs it will provide, to central Louisiana, and to provide a local outlet for the massive inventory of southern yellow pine that exists in this region," said James D. Hunt, co-owner and vice chairman of the Board of Directors for Hunt Forest Products.

The mill anticipates taking in 850,000 tons of wood each year and producing 200 million board feet of lumber in that same period.

The new mill will be built on 125 acres of the old Louisiana Pacific sawmill site, near the new pellet mill recently acquired by Drax Biomass. The pellet mill, which is on the remaining 160 acres, will receive residuals and wood fiber from



the lumber mill, according to the release.

"This makes perfect sense for our business model, lowers our carbon footprint and is an incredibly efficient, cost-effective way to capitalize on wood residuals," said Pete Madden, president and CEO of Drax Biomass.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said Louisiana Economic Development FastStart workforce development program will be used in coordination with the Central Louisiana Technical and Community College to build and train the local skilled work force the new mill will need, according to the press release.

"This project is a great economic boost to the center of the state, in the heart of our historic timber industry, and it will help create hundreds of direct and indirect jobs across the forestry, industrial services and retail sectors in Urania and LaSalle Parish," the governor said.

The new mill is a joint project between Hunt Forest Products and Tolko Industries Ltd. and will operate under the name LaSalle Lumber Co. LLC. Tolko Industries is a family-owned Canadian forest industry company in operation for the past 60 years. The Vernon, British Columbia-based company, which produces a wide range of forest products for customers worldwide, will own a 50-percent share in the mill.

Hunt will manage day-to-day operations.

"This is our first venture into the United States," said Brad Thorlaxson, Tolko president and CEO, "and we are thrilled to be in Louisiana with Hunt Forest Products, a family-owned company like ours, and one that has played a vital, reliable role in this state's forestry industry for more than a century."

## Gearing up for Shreveport

The Louisiana Forestry Association 71st annual convention moves north this year, at Sam's Town Hotel & Casino in Shreveport.

This year's convention scheduled for Aug. 28-30 and is sure to be another great event. This year's theme is "Valued Past; Exciting Future," focusing on how the innovation of forestry's past is projecting it for a hopeful, bright future for the forest products industry.

Details are still being worked out, but look for information to register for the convention online and book a room online as well.

So now is the time to set the date in your calendar, Aug. 28-30, for you to be in Shreveport at Sam's Town Hotel & Casino.

And bring a friend!

## Approval process begins for LFF scholarships

March begins the process to go through applications and interviews of forestry students at LSU, Louisiana Tech, Central Louisiana Technical & Community College and, new this year, Southern University. In 2017, the Louisiana Forestry Foundation awarded 55 scholarships worth \$66,000 to students studying forestry at the schools mentioned above. The potential for more scholarships exists this year as two new scholarships were endowed last year. The Jeff Hughes Memorial Scholarship and Stephen Muslow Memorial Scholarship will be available for forestry students to pursue.

## Our sympathies go out to:

- The family of **Autley Benard "A.B." Smith**, West Monroe, forester, longtime board member and World War II veteran, who died Feb. 8.

Know a forester or logger who needs the Advanced BMP training that is mandatory for obtaining their 2019 Master Logger certification? Advanced BMP classes are being held at various mills across the state. Many already have been held. Those still needing training should contact the mill they work closely with to get information about when the mandatory training classes will be held.

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\*Ex-officio

\*\*Directors Emeritus



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## ***Highlights of 2017***

- Almost 400 people attended the 71st annual LFA convention in New Orleans. Hurricane Harvey put a damper on things for the event regularly scheduled in August, but it was rescheduled for the end of September and still drew an admirable crowd at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Hanna Gamble, owner of the St. Lucia Plantation in DeSoto Parish, was honored as the 2017 Tree Farmer of the Year. Master Logger Aaron Jorden of Benton was recognized as Louisiana Logger of the Year for 2017.

- The Louisiana Forestry Foundation awarded 55 scholarships to students studying forestry at Louisiana Tech University and Louisiana State University and the Forestry Technician program at the Central Louisiana Technical Community College at Oakdale for the 2017-2018 academic year. The scholarships totaled \$66,000 for those students. That brought the total scholarship money awarded to forestry students to \$885,000 since the inception of the Foundation's program in 1967.

- The annual Louisiana Forestry Association Teachers Tour program took to the road in the summer of 2017, drawing 36 science and math teachers from across the state to Southeast Louisiana. It was the first time the tour, well, went on tour to another part of the state. Included in the weeklong program were tours of wetlands, which added Project Wet to the Project Wild certification.

- Project Learning Tree trained 181 teachers last year in its award-winning environmental program in 10 workshops.

- PLT also raised \$3,362 at its Silent Auction during the annual meeting in New Orleans. It was the first time the auction and exhibitors were lo-

cated in the same room, which organizers said was a boost for the rescheduled event.

- The Sustainable Forestry Initiative had some different avenues it took in 2017. Louisiana Tech University launched its inaugural Agriculture and Forestry Day at one of its home football games. LFA staff set up a station at the Thomas Assembly Center to greet more than 300 FFA students who were guests of the university. There also was recognition in radio, print and social media prior to the event, as well as an ad displayed on the scoreboard at various times during the game. A statewide magazine about the outdoors included an ad about the SFI and LFA.

- The Forest Protection Committee approved a \$2,000 reward to a person for providing information that led to the arrest and conviction in a timber theft case.

- Total members for LFA in 2017 was 4,313, maintaining the organization's status of being the largest forestry association in the South.

- There were 1,498 hunting clubs and landowners under the liability insurance program in conjunction with our insurance partner Outdoors Underwriters.

- Sixty-nine new loggers and eight new foresters completed the Master Logger Core Classes in 2017. In all, there are 828 loggers and 384 foresters who have completed Master Logger certification.

- Ninety-two Louisiana Tree Farms were included in the 2017 sampling for recertification. Also, eight new Tree Farms were certified.

- The Louisiana Forestry Association website and Facebook page regularly engaged the public in timely issues.