October 4, 2008

State of the Association Report

History

The NCAPL is up and running and marking its first anniversary. The initial twelve loggers who chartered the group in mid - 2007 has grown to 60 logging members and 45 partner members. Doug Duncan was hired in November 2007 as Executive Director and has the group organized and off to a strong start. The association just had its 1st annual meeting in Greenville NC with over 140 attending. The first Board of Directors had been elected earlier by ballot and they were installed at the event. Hats off to the acting officers who had a vision for forming the NCAPL; Chip Capps, Randy Mickey, Joe Ross and Perry Hunt. They along with eight other board members will elected the corporate officers and begin filling our standing committees. Our goal is a working group of at least 300 loggers and 50 partner members taking an active role in their business future.

Mission

The NCAPL is a 501 C 6 non-profit that functions as a business league. The "Loggers Business Exchange" is the association's website found at www.ncloggers.com. The site is updated almost daily and is the link for numerous distributions of timely information. Fostering partnerships with other organizations is strength of the NCAPL. Alliances with state forestry associations, landowner groups, regulatory groups, extension services and others continues to build. Business relationships are the common element and upon which the NCAPL will grow its influence.

Officers and the Board of Directors

Our corporate officers were elected from within the twelve member Board of Directors for a two year minimum term.

Chairman of the Board – Billy Corey, Tim-Con Wood Products, Inc.

President – Norman Nance, Pine State Group, Inc.

Secretary/Treasurer – Perry Hunt, Hunt Forest Resources, LLC

All Officer and Board Member contact information is available at www.ncloggers.com.

Legislative

The NCAPL is a registered lobbying principle in NC government with Doug Duncan as the lobbyist. The state legislative short session in 2008 saw some action with additional truck weight for roundwood hauling added to our existing variance for chips and residuals. A coalition of forestry, logging and farming interests pushed through an omnibus bill including the extra weight. Particular attention was devoted to any rulemaking or legislation that would hamper new biomass markets, but no such actions arose. The ALC Washington DC board meeting was a success with 14 NC congressional members and staff being visited and our new association introduced on Capitol Hill.

Training

SFI compliance training is under the NC Forestry Association. The NCAPL requires all its members to be in good standing with any state certified logger training program. Being a business based organization the NCAPL has embarked on meaningful training programs for its members. The Hardwood Value Improvement Project brings real value to hardwood loggers and mills by recognizing grade logs to be bucked on the deck. Four training sessions were conducted by the NCAPL across NC. Field work is now underway to produce a “Storm Damage Clean-Up Operations” dealing with safety hazards and correct procedures in logging storm damage. The NCAPL has also taken a lead role in educating loggers and the public as to the emerging biomass industry and has participated in numerous field trips and indoor presentations. The NCAPL also has proprietary harvest cost, trucking cost and fuel indexing spreadsheets available to members. The ALC Master Logger Certification Program is being presented to our new Board for discussion and anticipated acceptance.

New Meeting Formats

The NCAPL has recognized the need for members to reduce travel time to meetings. Areas have been identified to keep members no more than 45 minutes from meetings. We currently have 8 area focal points from the Piedmont eastward and gradually moving westward. A typical format is a supper meeting and business speaker at a local restaurant. We recently have moved this format outdoors and make available to our partner equipment members the ability to live demo equipment on a members logging job followed by supper and a business meeting. This has become a popular approach with 50-60 attendees each time. Our new venture is a one-day logger day at the Eden NC fairgrounds with equipment demos, turkey shoot, bluegrass band, lunch, business meeting and equipment auction as a fundraiser.