Benefits of Belonging

The Association is always at work for our members…

- Advocating on local, state and national levels to protect members’ ability to grow, harvest and use forest resources by reducing taxes, opposing unnecessary regulations and supporting favorable programs and funding;
- Defending the Greenbelt ad valorem classification for agricultural lands and protecting private property rights;
- Promoting healthy markets for wood by maintaining a strong industrial base of wood consuming mills;
- Serving as the voice of the forest industry through opinion pieces, awareness campaigns, advertising and other outreach programs to promote the benefits of working forests;
- Supporting the election of officials that understand the importance of Florida’s forests and increasing the engagement and visibility of the forest industry in campaigns;
- Aggressively supporting forestry best management practices (BMPs) as the best approach to water quality in lieu of regulations;
- Keeping wood moving to the mills by working to pass legislation allowing for increased truck weights and an expanded travel radius for trucks with forestry tags as well as a streamlined process for coordinating with the governor to lift truck weights during times of natural disaster;
- Alerting members to available government programs, pending legislation and regulations and other issues of interest to the forest industry;
- Partnering with the Florida Forest Service (FFS) and others to educate Florida teachers on the many public benefits of our working forests so this knowledge is shared with thousands of young minds in their classrooms and to develop educational programming for the Forest Discovery Center at the Florida State Fair;
- Training loggers in sustainable business, safety and forestry practices;
- Providing valuable networking opportunities at regional membership events and the Association Annual Meeting, the largest gathering in Florida of forest business owners and managers, landowners and professional foresters;
- Promoting government reforestation programs that provide maximum flexibility to landowners in establishing commercial pine plantations and helping identify incentives essential for landowner cooperation in government habitat conservation cost-share programs;
- Opposing the “listing” of wildlife species as Endangered or Threatened as the best way to provide for their protection and participating in the development of voluntary wildlife BMPs for forestry as a means for avoiding the need for “incidental take” permits for a set of 16 wildlife species;
- Providing important input on the FFS’s statewide forest inventory project and updates to provide the most current and detailed information on Florida’s forest resources;
- Providing leadership development through the Forestry Forward program;
- Sponsoring an insurance program providing low-cost hunting lease, timberland liability, wildfire and prescribed burn liability insurance to members; and
- Working with the Governor’s Office to appoint Association members to boards and commissions of importance.