

2021 Annual Report



Message from David Grassi, 2022 LFA President

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Looking back on 2021 there were several challenges for the Louisiana forest industry, however there were also many new and evolving opportunities.

Many of the opportunities have been on our radar for a while but seemed to have only a slim chance of ever happening. Progress has been made to expand our markets; adoption of green building materials seemed to be gaining traction in the market; and recognition of the environmental contributions of our forests seemed to blanket the headlines. All these opportunities indicate an extremely bright future for the forest industry.

Who would have thought 10 years ago we would have four new sawmill announcements in Louisiana?

It is obviously the direct result of hard work and investments by forest landowners and professionals who we are blessed with along with an abundance of forest resources in our state.

The LFA has helped promote our state with representatives of prospective mills looking to set up shop in Louisiana. Over



the past couple of years, we have seen very high demand for lumber and panels. Supply constraints, temporary shutdowns and labor issues related to the pandemic have reflected directly to the high prices for these products. These prices have generated great returns for the mills and have helped encourage investment in these new mills. Several forest stakeholders stand to benefit from these new mills in the

years to come.

Who would have thought 10 years ago investors would be requesting that companies reduce their carbon footprint?

Due to these requests many companies across all industries are looking to utilize greener building materials. Mass timber buildings made with products such as cross laminated timbers (CLT) have begun to gain traction globally. I'm not an economist, but I would not be surprised to see investments in new mass timber mills across the South within the decade.

Companies are also looking to utilize greener fuels such as bio diesel and bio jet

Continued on next page

Financial figures for the Louisiana Forestry Association

Figures from 2021 are actual; 2022 figures are budgeted.

2021 (Actual figures)		2022 (Budget figures)	
INCOME		INCOME	
Dues	\$418,035	Dues	\$420,000
Special Assessments	\$97,804	Special Assessments	\$100,000
Program/Annual Meeting	<u>\$317,475</u>	Program/Annual Meeting	<u>\$429,700</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$833,314	TOTAL INCOME	\$949,700
EXPENSES		EXPENSES	
Program/Services	\$146,515	Program/Services	\$328,400
Office	\$128,098	Office	\$112,500
Administrative	<u>\$565,448</u>	Administrative	<u>\$608,570</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$840,061	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,049,470



Several volunteers braved freezing temperatures on Friday, Jan. 21 for the LFA's annual Arbor Day Tree Giveaway. From left are Karla Johnson, Tyann Smith, Kassidy Kelley of the FFA at Ruston High School, Belinda Lewis, Chad Kacir with NRCS, LFA President David Grassi, Sharonte Williams with NRCS, Stacy Blomquist with Kisatchie National Forest, Jeff Zeringue and retired forester Ed Robichaux.

1,200 trees given away

The Louisiana Forestry Association's annual Arbor Day Tree Giveaway went on as scheduled, despite below freezing temperatures for much of the morning.

Thanks to ArboGen Super Seedlings, sawtooth oak, persimmon, green ash and American elm seedlings, about 1,000 in all, were handed out to motorists who passed through the office circle driveway. In addition, about 200 red maple saplings in gallon pots were donated by Louisiana Forest Seed.

The annual LFA Arbor Day Tree Giveaway takes place every third Friday of January, the day designated for Louisiana to celebrate Arbor Day.

Next year's event will be held Friday, Jan. 22, 2023.

President's message

Continued from previous page
fuel. There have been several announcements of biofuel plants across the South. We are hopeful these facilities will be able to operate on a commercial basis, but the jury is still out on that. The forest industry will be here to help when they do.

Who would have thought 10 years ago a forest landowner could get paid not to harvest their timber?

We have been hearing about various forest carbon credit markets for several years now and none have ever really proved to be legitimate opportunities for most landowners. Today there are carbon programs available that have the potential to generate non-timber revenue for landowners. I encourage folks who are considering these programs to do their due diligence and seek help from an attorney and their forester to understand their contractual obligations.

The LFA's mission is to be an advocate for the sustainable growing, harvesting and manufacturing of Louisiana's forests and for the people whose livelihoods depend on these forest resources.

Over my years as a member of LFA I have always looked to the association through a couple of different lenses. First as a forester looking for ways to improve my abilities to manage and protect the resources for which I am responsible and secondly as the president of a family-owned timber company looking for resources that help protect private property rights and promote the forest industry.

It is my goal as president of the LFA to help improve our ability to bring awareness, information, and resources to all our members and forestry stakeholders. I always welcome new ideas and feedback on how we can improve. I look forward to working with our staff, committees, and members to make 2022 a great year.

David Grassi

In Memoriam ...

LFA mourns the loss of these forestry leaders:

Don L. Essmeier

Forester, former Continental Forest Industries, Louisiana Tech graduate

Richard "Dick" Myers

Past LFA president

Max Johnston

Forester, Soil & Water Conservation District Rapides Parish

Richard P. Barlow

LFA Board of Directors Emeritus

Norman E. Welch Jr.

LFA Past President and Board of Directors Emeritus

Alex T. Hunt

Tree Farmer, Hunt Forest Products

John Shealy

Past President, Lifetime Member

Marcus D. Wren Jr.

Board of Directors Emeritus

William P "Bill" Fuller

Owner Fuller Forest Products

William Dan "Bill" Files Jr.

Files Timber Company – Winnfield

William Rand Almond

Almond Brothers Lumber Co.

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Crowell Forest Resources LLC	John D. & Eric G. Johnson	Retired	Carl Wells**
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LDAF	Louisiana State University	La. Tech University	David Young III
Jim Dickson**	Todd Martin	Jack Simmons**	Young Estate
Retired	Southern Loggers Co-op	Retired	
John Dickson	G.J. "Pie" Martinez**	Deborah Slaughter	
International Paper	Martinez & Son Inc.		

*Ex-officio

**Directors Emeritus



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Highlights of 2021

- Good news came with the announcement of three new mills, one mill to reopen and two biofuel facilities planned in Louisiana. The first announcement was in Taylor, Louisiana, near Interstate 20 where Hunt Forest Products and Tolko Industries will build a second lumber mill. In 2018, the partnership opened a new state-of-the-art mill in Urania, which is doing well.

The second announcement came from Canada-based Interfor, which acquired the mill in DeQuincy, Louisiana, previously owned by Georgia Pacific but was idled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

In nearby DeRidder, Canfor Southern Pine will build a new lumber mill in what came in the third piece of good news. And just before the close of the year, Teal Jones Group announced it will build a lumber mill in Bossier Parish.

In Columbia, Louisiana, Strategic Biofuels announced the creation of Louisiana Green Fuels that will build a plant using forest residuals to make biofuels.

And New Legacy Technologies announced it is considering property in Pineville to build a new biofuel facility, though it did not have a time frame of when a deal could be finalized.

- The Louisiana Forestry Foundation awarded 70 scholarships totaling \$82,200 to students who are attending Central Louisiana Technical Community

College Huey P. Long Campus in Winnfield, SOWELA Technical Community College in Lake Charles, Louisiana State University, Louisiana Tech University and Southern University.

The students were awarded the scholarships of up to \$1,200 for the academic year.

- In the wake of Hurricane IDA, the LFA participated in programs to get information to forest landowners seeking help to clean up and restore their property. Southeast Louisiana, which was struck hardest, struggled following the massive storm in part due to fewer loggers are in the region.

- Due to a rise in the delta variant of the coronavirus, sad news about the cancellation of the LFA's annual meeting in Lake Charles for the second consecutive year was announced a month prior to the big event. By November, however, the LFA was able to put together a single-day mini-conference in Alexandria. The scaled-down event was a success that allowed members to meet in person for the first time since the last annual meeting in 2019. It is hoped that a regular annual convention can be held in 2022.

- The LFA through its SIC Outreach completed its first year of a new podcast, "Minding the Forest," with twelve episodes. The podcast will continue in 2022 with new slate of episodes.

- And don't forget you can check us out online at www.laforestry.com or on Facebook.