

# 2016 MASTER LOGGER OF THE YEAR

NOMINATED BY & ARTICLE PROVIDED BY: ADRIAN HANKINS

PHILLIP HANKINS LOGGING, PIKEVILLE, TN

In a state agriculture is credited for being one of the largest employers, it is important to recognize individuals who have managed to sustain and help their business thrive in an ever changing economy. One thing remains true for most every American; they cannot go the course of a day without touching one thing a logger has helped create. Phillip has spent the past forty years working in the forestry business to provide for his family, to promote the safe and efficient practice of harvesting timber, and to continue a family legacy. He is a member of TFA and the TN Master Logger program since 1994. He is married to his wife of 33 years, Angela, and also has 3 sons; Adrian, Dylan and Cameron. He has spent his whole life providing for his family and giving his family everything necessary while being a great role model. I believe his hard work and dedication to the business for a such a long time is something to be commended for and he is very deserving of such an award

Phillip began his logging career as a teenager working with his father in his sawmill and timber operation. During those years, he was very involved in FFA, competing in many agricultural related events. He won a proficiency award in farming for timber his junior year, and winning the state farmers award for timber his senior year. During the same time, he continued working for his father in the evenings after school, weekends, and summers doing whatever each job required. Shortly after graduating in 1975, at the age of 18 he ran his first full time logging operation. Whether it was manually loading trucks with saw logs, stacking slabs, skidding logs by tractor or mule team, maintaining equipment, he always found a way to get the job done and enjoy doing it.

Phil Hankins Logging didn't have access or the luxury of the equipment he used today back then, so in the beginning it was a lot harder to get the job completed compared to today. He and his crew began with a 440C John Deere Cable Skidder, a Husky 100 Knuckle-Boom Loader, a couple of chainsaws, and a two ton single axle truck to haul timber to the mill with. As his operation grew over time, so did his amount of equipment. He now has two John Deere 648H Dual Arch Skidders, and 840 Timberjack Feller Bunch, a 337 and 437 John Deere Knuckle Boom loader, and 3-4 Stihl chainsaws. His hauling is contracted, but in the past he had several trucks and trailers of his own on the road hauling timber to the mill. Weekly safety checks are conducted on all of his equipment to ensure there is no possibility of a hazard.

He has always made it a priority to hire local, hard working, and knowledgeable people to be part of the crew. All crew members are encouraged to become a Tennessee Master Logger, and all course fees are covered by the business. He carries on average six employees between one or two jobsites, with each employee cross trained to step in for a coworker when necessary. All employees are required to know basic safety and first aid skills if an emergency were to occur. Every Monday morning, safety meetings are held to discuss safety procedures, and check all safety and medical gear to assure it is up-to-date. He mandates all crew members wear protective gear at all times to greatly reduce the possibility of an accident.

By taking these precautions, his crew hasn't had a single major work related accident in the last 20 plus years.

Phillip's main type of harvesting method used over the past five years is thinning, although he continues to use other methods at the request of the landowner or agency. The majority of tracts cut by him in the past five years were on government lands, with pulpwood being the most harvested type of timber with thinning being the primary method. Nearly all pulpwood cut by Phillip is then hauled to Resolute Forest Products, where it has been taken since 1975. Occasionally, other mills and local buyers will procure select stands of timber from Phillip to create their respective products. The other percentage of his time is spent working with private landowners. Many private land owners reach out to him to inquire about potential land development and selling their timber to best suit their interests. After visually inspecting the property, a financial overview is prepared and reviewed. A contract is signed between both parties and the harvest begins. After all terms have been met, he then devises a plan with the landowner to construct roads in the harvest area. Next, he begins to search areas that are appropriate for a landing deck, and how to properly build them to not allow run-off into streams, reducing erosion problems. He also consults with local foresters if any help is needed on how to effectively move timber across stream side management zones, and how to best utilize BMP's on any areas that could be affected by improper planning. Throughout the harvest period, he is very persistent in ensuring everything is satisfactory to the landowner or agency. After completion of the job, any area of the job traveled by the crew are checked to ensure no trash or debris is left behind, leaving behind an area as close to natural as possible. Any areas that are in need of re-sowing, roads in need of grading, or re-graveling are tended to before the jobsite is vacated, appearance is of high concern. Once the job is completed, a final meeting with the landowner takes place to make sure all expectations have been met by both parties, along with future conversations to ensure satisfaction of the landowner.

Phillip is also very active within the legislature. He stays in touch with his elected officials to ask their help on legislation involving the forestry industry in Tennessee. Most recently Phillip has made several trips to Nashville regarding county road supervisors imposing weight limits on roads at their discretion. He is a consistent supporter within his community, through either his logging operation, or his convenience store, by donating items to volunteer fire departments, benefits and the Log a Load for Kids Foundation.

Mr. Hankins has been a great asset to the southeast Tennessee forestry industry for last forty-plus years, and will continue to be an asset for years to come. TFA is honored to be able to give Philip Hankins of Phillip Hankins Logging the 2016 Outstanding Master Logger of the Year Award.

