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NEWSLETTER

May 2011

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President's Comments

With stumpage prices lower in the market than we would all like to see, the news of a new wood processing facility is welcome. We have all heard talk about the wood pellet plant in Baton Rouge over the past few years and now it may become a reality. Construction may begin by the end of the year on Point Bio Energy's wood pellet plant at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge. William New, Chairman and CEO of Point Bio, told the port commission recently that the European utility that would burn the pellets to generate electricity and the international trading company that would finance the plant have been "deliberate" in the evaluation of the project, which has delayed the process. "Everything is falling into place except the timing," he said. New assured port commissioners that the demand for wood pellets is there, noting that the nuclear disaster in Japan has boosted the prospects for alternative energy in Europe considerably.

Mr. New told the Port in a letter that he expects the construction contract to be signed this month, and that the utility that will use the pellets will have representatives here in June. "I am anticipating construction to start late this year," he wrote. The plant would cost as much as \$115 million to build and would be one of the largest wood pellet plants in the country. The utility is looking for 400 metric tons per year of pellets, which would be made out of local and regional wood. The plant would grind the wood into sawdust and press it into small pellets to ship overseas. New said that he has letters of intent from local wood suppliers to supply green wood to the plant for the next twenty years.

Point Bio will team up with Houston based Quanta Services to build the plant, which will be located on the Port Allen side of the Mississippi River, near the foot of the bridge. You can read more about this project at the website Pbioen.com. (Taken from [The Advocate](#) on April 30, 2011)

Sincerely, Tommy Klein

Annual Meeting

The Association held its annual meeting on Thursday, January 27, at the American Legion Hall in Clinton. 167 members and guests enjoyed the dinner and presentation by Sarah Rachal, the West Feliciana teacher we sponsored for the LA Forestry Teacher Tour. The featured speaker was wildlife biologist Chris Davis who spoke on feral hogs. We also celebrated our 15th anniversary with a large cake for dessert.

Clinton businessman and landowner Bill Dart was named the 2011 Outstanding Forest Landowner for his hands-on forest management and stewardship of his property. He was humbled by the presentation and thanked the Association.



The Dart Family with the Outstanding Forest Landowner sign. Pictured from left to right are William Jr and wife Kelly, Patty and Bill, Sarah D Andrews and David.

The following individuals were elected as officers: Tommy Klein – president, David Dart – president elect, Mack Herrod – treasurer, and Brian Chandler – secretary. Board members for East Feliciana are Dennis Aucoin Jr, Neil Record, John Edwards and Richard Reed. Board members for West Feliciana are Melvin Harvey Jr, Leonard Sullivan, William Daniel and Jim Fowler.

Timber Sales Seminar

This free seminar was held on November 9, at the Civic Center in Jackson. Topics and speakers included ‘Preparing for a Timber Sale’ - Mike Thomas and Brian Chandler, ‘Legal Issues’ - Attorney Rob Ligon, and ‘Tax Considerations’ - CPA Mack Herrod. Forty-five members and guests participated in the seminar.

The speakers’ talk outlines have been compiled into a five-page publication for anyone interested in a copy. It was emailed to the membership in February. If you would like a copy emailed to you or a hard copy mailed to you, contact Brian at bchandler@agcenter.lsu.edu or 225-683-3101.

Oil and Gas Leasing Seminar

The Association board decided to conduct this seminar in response to the recent land leasing activity in the Felicianas. Over 165 forest landowners and others attended the seminar in March. They came from the Felicianas, Baton Rouge, Pride, Zachary, Port Allen, Pine Grove, Prairieville, Walker, Denham Springs, Washington, Lafayette, and even Mississippi and Arkansas.

Geologist Kirk Barrell, discussed the oil and gas potential in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale and Austin Chalk Trends. Professional Landman Dan Collins discussed typical unit configurations, lease prices and should you lease. Attorney Rob Ligon discussed basic landowner protection clauses in a lease.

Fall Activity

We plan to take a tour of the KPAQ paper mill near St Francisville as our fall activity. It will probably be on a Friday in September. According to The Advocate, the mill will start a second paper machine to make wax paper sheets for the food industry this summer.

Here are answers to questions sent to Allen Byrd, KPAQ CEO.

What is your ratio of pine to hardwood now at the mill? Pine is and will continue to be the predominate species used in our process however we blend in modest quantities of hardwood chips.

Will the new wax paper machine increase wood use and if so, more hardwood or pine? The new machine is a smaller scale, 100 tons/day versus 700 tons/day for our liner machine. This represents a 14% increase in our wood usage, same pulp.

How has the new bridge affected procurement for the mill? We are excited about the potential of this great new resource in terms of fiber flow and out bound product shipments

What else is happening at the mill? The mill has steadily improved performance since the start last July. Currently 215 people work here, we expect that to grow to 245 before year end.

Membership

Our current membership is 260, by far the largest parish forestry association in the state. New members since the first of the year include Lance Foster – Ethel, Jeff Gardner – Clinton, Mark Carline – Ethel, Rob Farmer – St Francisville, Charles F Haynes III – Clinton, Bernie & Reba Humphries – Norwood, Henry Rogillio – Jackson, Lela Mae Wilkes – Baton Rouge, Don & Shirley Lord – Jackson, Joel & Cecelia Odom – Jackson, Ken Rester – Baton Rouge, Claude Rouchon – Clinton, Jason Hooge – Clinton, Larry Granier – Clinton, John Brownhill – Jackson, William Dart Jr – Clinton, Felix Cucullu – Clinton, Alvin Clayton – Clinton, Cindy McDonald – Clinton, Barbara McRight – Pride, Sarah Williams – Baton Rouge, Tim Robertson – Ethel, Shawn Colclough – Ethel, and Bobby Adams – Baton Rouge.

Membership applications are available from Brian at 225-683-3101 or bhandler@agcenter.lsu.edu.