

## **Benefits of Belonging**

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*The Association is always at work for our members...*

- Advocating on local, state and national levels to protect the 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 relevance** of the forest industry with policymakers;
- Aggressively **supporting forestry 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 coordinating with the Commissioner of Agriculture 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;
- **Promoting voluntary wildlife BMPs as the best way to prevent listings as *Endangered or Threatened*** and to provide for their protection;
- Providing **leadership development** through the Forestry Forward program;
- Sponsoring an **insurance program** providing low-cost hunting lease, timberland liability, and prescribed burn liability insurance to members;
- Partnering with Forestry Suppliers to provide **member discounts** on all purchases; and
- Working with the Governor's Office to **appoint Association members** to boards and commissions of importance.