



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **BRANFORD WOOD PRODUCERS NAMED FLORIDA'S LOGGER OF THE YEAR**

TALLAHASSEE-- A Branford logging company has been recognized as Florida's Logger of the Year by the Florida Forestry Association. T. W. Byrd's Sons, Inc. was recognized as the state's best logger last week in St. Augustine.

In presenting the award, Bryan Olmert, President of the Association said that "T.W. Byrd's Sons, Inc. had always been a family oriented logging business. Dating back to the 1930's, the Byrd family has a long history of logging excellence. Operating in north central and northeast Florida, the company has an excellent safety record, employs over a dozen Florida Master Loggers, and brings a total package to the business table. Not only do they set high standards, they exceed them," Olmert said.

Perhaps the best part of their story is the family and generational heritage. Four brothers, Jack, J.W., Earl, and Paul with their sister Benita are the flagship of a multitude of businesses under the Byrd umbrella. All the siblings are directly involved in the daily operation of the various Byrd enterprises. Their eleven (11) sons and two (2) daughters are all involved as well.

"There is no finer forestry and logging family anywhere in the world than the Byrd's," said Jeff Doran, Executive Vice President, Florida Forestry Association. "Jack, J.W., Paul and Earl, their sister Benita and the other professionals associated with the company are held in high esteem for their outstanding service and strong ethical standards. Florida will be well represented as these loggers will now be considered for regional and national recognition," Doran said.

The Florida Logger of the Year Award was initiated in 1987 to spotlight loggers in the state who manage their operations in compliance with forestry best management practices, maintain safe highway and woods operations, use logging personnel and equipment effectively, develop unique business practices and practice high business ethics. A logger selection committee made up of foresters and loggers from the Florida Forestry Association and Southeastern Wood Producers Association choose district winners and then an overall state winner.

The Florida Forestry Association is the oldest state-wide, forestry trade organization to represent the interests of forest landowners, wood producers, foresters and the wood-using industry in Florida.

For more information visit [www.floridaforest.org](http://www.floridaforest.org).

**PHOTO CAPTION:** The Byrd brothers Jack, J.W., Paul and Earl of T. W. Byrd's Sons, Inc. pose after receiving the Best Logger in Florida Award from the Florida Forestry Association.