

TEACHERS' TOUR 2023



The 2023 Teachers' Tour participants gathered in front of a skidder for a snapshot at a Log Creek Timber logging job site in Edgefield, SC.



Above left: Tuesday's schedule included a tour of Collum's Lumber Products mill in Allendale, SC.

Above right: Denae Beckett, a Palmetto Christian Academy teacher, holds a loblolly pine seedling during the tour of ArborGen's nursery in Trenton, SC.

The SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Tour was held June 19-23, 2023 in Aiken, SC. Twenty-seven teachers from across South Carolina participated. The teachers were given a comprehensive overview of SC's \$23 billion forestry industry, looking at forestry's economic, environmental and social impact, and learning about sustainable forestry practices, conservation, endangered species, careers in forestry and much more.

A Sponsor's Dinner was held at the conclusion of the program on Thursday evening at The Old Timber Lodge & Venue in Edgefield, SC, sponsored by Log Creek Timber Co. and Swiss Krono. Special thanks was expressed to all sponsors, tour stop hosts, speakers, volunteers, and participants.

"I find that each year the Teachers' Tour brings even more inspiration to teachers, not to mention how continuously impressed I am with how much work, effort, and joy our tour sponsors contribute to our program. The best part of the Tour is being able to experience the forest industry through the teachers' eyes, and the incredible amount of appreciation and sense of community they feel from our industry when they leave," said Emily Oakman, the Forestry Association's Director of Landowner Outreach, Forestry Education and Programs, Director and Instructor of the Teachers' Tour program.



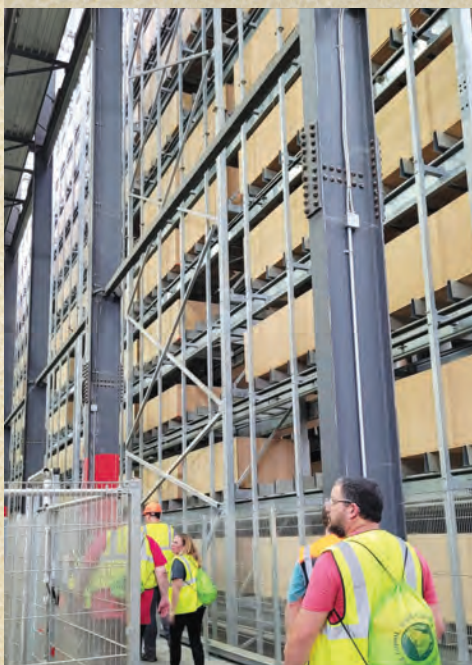
Emily Oakman



The teachers examined tree health during a Project Learning Tree exercise.



The teachers visited Wallace Wood's Pinewood Farm in Plum Branch, SC and saw how a certified SC Tree Farm is managed. Wallace also instructed teachers on forest measurements, and demonstrated how to use various measurement tools.



The teachers enjoyed a tour of Swiss Krono USA Flooring facility in Barnwell, SC, and participated in a SC Project Learning Tree Workshop at Hitchcock Woods in Aiken, SC.



THE TOUR STOPS

The 2023 SC Teachers' Tour stops included:

- ArborGen's Trenton Nursery
- Collum's Lumber Products in Allendale
- Hitchcock Woods Foundation & Property in Aiken
- Key Farms Cabin in Jackson
- Log Creek Timber's logging job in Edgefield
- Log Creek's Old Timber Lodge & Venue in Edgefield
- Sylvamo Mill in Eastover
- Swiss Krono USA Flooring facility in Barnwell
- The National Wild Turkey Federation headquarters in Edgefield
- Wallace & Susan Wood's Pinewood Farm in Plum Branch

Thank you!

TEACHERS' TOUR SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

The Tour was hosted by the Forestry Association of SC, SC Forestry Commission, SC Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, and SC Timber Producers Association.

ArborGen, Association of Consulting Foresters - SC Chapter, Beech Island Timber & Construction, Inc., Belle W. Baruch Foundation, Carriage House Inn, Charles Ingram Lumber Co., Collum's Lumber Products, Domtar Paper Company, LLC, Flowers Forestry Inc., Georgia-Pacific, Hitchcock Woods Foundation, International Paper, Log Creek Timber Co., National Wild Turkey Federation, Palmetto Agribusiness Council, Palmetto Pulpwood & Timber, Potts Forestry & Real Estate, SC Tree Farm Committee, Sabine & Waters Inc., SC Pole & Piling, Sylvamo Eastover Mill, Swiss Krono, The Longleaf Alliance, West Fraser, WestRock, Wilson, Wright & Coleman, Inc.



Tour participants and a few of the program speakers and sponsors posed with an autographed WOOD IS GOOD banner .

COMMENTS FROM A FEW OF THE PARTICIPANTS

I enjoyed meeting all the people and hearing them passionately talk about their careers. I learned that cutting down trees is good for forest sustainability and conservation. – Emilee Bailey, Greenwood High School, Greenwood, SC

I now see so many opportunities for our youth in forestry. This entire program helped open my eyes to sustainable forestry and its value. I can't wait to take the PLT curriculum back to my classroom! – Denae Beckett, Palmetto Christian Academy, Mount Pleasant, SC

This was a once in a lifetime experience. – Packy Burke, Dorchester Academy, St. George, SC

I now understand how managing forests is vital to sustaining forests and the forestry industry. I have gained an appreciation for the environmental efforts of mills and lumber production. – Christa Elledge, Gray Court Owings Elementary School, Gray Court, SC

I gained motivation and knowledge I want to share and invite my students to explore. I also gained even more respect for the careers and passion of people in these industries today and in the past. – John Gibson, Fort Mill High School, Fort Mill, SC

My perception of logging has turned completely 180°. I now know that logging is a very positive thing. – Michael Guthrie, Fairforest Middle School, Spartanburg, SC

This was truly the best organized and orchestrated professional development I have attended! I was completely ignorant about all the conservation efforts of the Forestry Industry and all the programs they actively engage in to protect, expand and promote the sustainable woodlands and forests. – J. Michael Jacobs, Birchwood Institution (SC Dept. of Juvenile Justice), Columbia, SC

I had NO idea what went into forestry management. I now have a new appreciation for this trade. – George-Anna Lyden, Mauldin Middle School, Simpsonville, SC

The mills, nursery and logging site gave me a true understanding from beginning to the end process... as an indoor person, I have learned so much about this industry. – Chantelle Loyd Rogers, Cherryvale Elementary School, Sumter, SC

I enjoyed every bit of this program. The program removed some of my misconceptions and I learned what effectively managed forestry is. – JanakiKutty Vipindas, Kingstree High School, Kingstree, SC

Touring the mills and logging site was eye-opening. The Sponsor's Dinner was so generous, and I enjoyed hearing from them; their character and integrity was made very clear through this experience. I am thankful to have had this amazing opportunity, and I look forward to sharing it with my colleagues and students. – Shannon Wilder, Lewisville High School, Richburg, SC

