

The Tennessee Forestry Association is proud to announce that Rocky Mound Logging of Allons is our 2006 Logger of the Year. Rocky Mound Logging was nominated by the Tri-County Forestry Association, which represents Clay, Overton, and Pickett Counties.

Dee Hammock, the patriarch of Rocky Mound Logging, first began logging in the 1960s with horses and mules. In the 1980s, his sons Scott and Toby joined the family business. The 1980s also saw Rocky Mound Logging start to utilize logging skidders, a tandem truck, and a backhoe in their operations. Starting in the late 1990s, Rocky Mound began to truly modernize its business by purchasing a feller buncher, bulldozers, newer logging skidders, a dump truck, a service truck, log trucks and trailers, and tractors. Rocky Mound Logging also has built a 6200 square foot workshop where they do all the maintenance and repairs on their equipment. Rocky Mound's commitment to safely logging, along with its modern equipment having all the latest safety features, have lead to zero accidents in the last 10 years.

Rocky Mound conducts all types of timber harvests, from selective cuts to clearcuts, in both softwood and hardwood stands. The harvests are accomplished on a wide variety of terrain, from relatively level hilltops or overgrown fields to steep hillsides. Rocky Mound uses their bulldozers to create landings and roads, before any actual timber harvesting occurs. When written management plans are present, Rocky Mound implements them closely, being sure to adhere to the State of Tennessee's BMPs guidelines. If situations arise where Rocky Mound is unsure of the proper management technique, they will contact professional foresters for assistance. Rocky Mound also promotes reforestation of harvested areas through written materials and verbal communication. Visual buffer strips along roadways are also employed by Rocky Mound.

Rocky Mound has 16 pieces of heavy equipment that it utilizes for harvesting woodlands. Trips to North Carolina and Virginia were necessary to purchase their technologically advanced equipment. After 250 hours of use, Rocky Mound services each piece of equipment at their shop. When using their equipment, Rocky Mound places signs along roadways to warn motorists that a timber harvesting operation is in effect.

Currently, Rocky Mound has a 5-man working crew—Dee Hammock, Scott Hammock, Toby Hammock, Waylon Ledbetter, and James Morgan. Toby's wife Angela does the bookkeeping for Rocky Mound, utilizing QuickBooks software. Rocky Mound is a family affair. As Toby stated "it keeps the family together."

Written and verbal contracts are utilized when purchasing timber from landowners. Recently, Rocky Mound harvested 43 acres on Standing State Forest, near the town of Hilham. Rocky Mound are Master Loggers, members of TFA, Tri-County forestry association, and contribute to local charities. They are a great representative to for Master Loggers in Tennessee and will be nominated by TFA for the Regional Logger of the Year in 2006. Toby stated Rocky Mound's dedication to logging best himself: "You definitely must love it." That is why we are all here. We are interested in doing the job and doing it right." Congratulations, Rocky Mound, and keep up the great work!