



GEORGIA
FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION

2020 IMPACT REPORT

WE ARE POSITIONED TO GROW, NO MATTER THE ODDS.

In its 113 year history, the Georgia Forestry Association (GFA) has survived through wars, natural disasters, economic depressions and recessions and more. 2020 has, without a doubt, been another challenging year. I am proud that, despite the external odds, your Association has not only survived in 2020, it has continued to grow.

Thanks to the continued support of our members, donors and leaders, GFA has continued to advance priorities across all of our vision areas with a strong focus on adding value to anyone who is invested in working forests, forestry businesses or forest products manufacturing.

In 2021, we will continue our promise to keep you protected, connected and empowered. We are set to have the most aggressive legislative session in our organization's history, focused on a variety of issues that impact the bottom line of all forestry investments across the supply chain. We have made strategic investments to expand our bandwidth

to provide you with more access to relevant and engaging information and resources. In addition, our Foundation continues to increase awareness and understanding of the benefits of working forests through our education initiatives, and we are making significant progress in increasing the efficiency of the forestry supply chain and identifying new markets for forests and forest products.

We understand the challenges that you have also faced in your businesses and personal lives this year. However, I hope that GFA has been a consistent, trusted partner. Your support through membership allows us to do all of this great work and expand our impact on behalf of the forestry community in Georgia. Thank you for trusting us and for all you do to keep Georgia the #1 Forestry State in the Nation.

Sincerely,



Andres Villegas
PRESIDENT & CEO



ADVOCACY

2020 STATE-LEVEL LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

✓ **HOUSE BILL 897**

Improving Efficiency of Timber Harvest Notification and Reducing Regulatory Burdens

✓ **HOUSE BILL 777**

Updating Building Codes to Allow for Tall Mass Timber Buildings in Georgia

✓ **HOUSE BILL 966**

Strengthening Laws Related to Palmetto Berry Theft

✓ **SENATE BILL 410**

Helping Landowners Who Won Tax Appeal Cases Recoup Attorney's Fees

KEY FEDERAL ISSUES

- » Securing an H2B Visa Exemption for Forestry Workers
- » Funded research to support the Safe Routes Act to gain truck weight parity on federal interstates
- » Providing support on Endangered Species Act Listings and Regulatory Definitions
- » Supported the distribution of USDA Block Grants and the Forest Restoration Act to provide Disaster Relief for Forest Landowners after Hurricane Michael

FOREST RESOURCE TEAMS / FORT

193 FORT
MEMBERS

120 COUNTIES
REPRESENTED

FORESTPAC

\$95K RAISED
YTD


45+ CANDIDATES
ENGAGED





BRINGING THE FOREST TO THE CLASSROOM

Our programs and partnerships are focused on fostering connections to working forests and the myriad of benefits they provide.

We partner with respected educators and organizations to design and develop an engaging digital education curriculum and unique in-class experiences that transcend the classroom.

DIGITAL / VIRTUAL REALITY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT		
<div>KEY PARTNER</div> <div></div>	<div>26,357</div> <div>VIRTUAL / DIGITAL CONTENT VIEWS</div>	<div>7,000+</div> <div>TEACHERS TRAINED WITH FORESTRY CONTENT</div>

METRO ATLANTA AFTER-SCHOOL FORESTRY PROGRAMS			
<div>KEY PARTNER</div> <div></div>	<div>91</div> <div>SCHOOLS SERVED</div>	<div>6,971</div> <div>STUDENTS REACHED</div>	<div>2,257</div> <div>AT-HOME EDUCATION EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS</div>

BUILDING A MORE VALUABLE, EFFICIENT AND COMPETITIVE FORESTRY SECTOR

The long-term economic and environmental success of the forestry sector in Georgia depends on increased access to healthy markets for forest products and standing timber and the efficiency of the supply chain. We are focused on research, relationships and engagement that drives real value.

- 1

IDENTIFYING NEW, NON-TIMBER MARKETS FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS
 - Hired former Georgia Forestry Commission Director Robert Farris as Ecosystem Services Manager
 - Conducting study to identify structures for payments to landowners for providing clean drinking water
- 2

INCREASING EFFICIENCY OF THE HARVESTING & LOGISTICS SECTOR
 - Completed research with the University of Georgia’s Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources focused on:
 - Log Truck Insurance Rates
 - Interstate Routing
 - Increasing Hauling Weights
 - Research will help to inform policy decisions