FORESTRY MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY

E. K. Pittman Safety Award

2019 Logger of the Year

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E. K. Pittman Safety Award

Forestry Mutuals' most prestigious award recognizes businesses that show a genuine concern for the safety of their workers by going beyond the minimum safety requirements to ensure a safe and productive workplace.

- Named in honor of the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- Chosen by the President & Staff

Safety Circle-of-Honor

Lets take a look back at our previous “Logger of the Year” recipients who have been inducted into the Circle of Honor.

2009 – Vic Simmons – Simmons Logging South Hill, VA

2010 – William Wright - Wright's Trucking and Logging, Inc. Amherst, VA

2011 – Chip Goodman & Paul Tillett - Goodman Lumber Wilsons, VA

Dual Winners in 2012

2012 – Mike Gibson –
Mike Gibson & Sons Logging
King & Queen C.H., VA

Dual Winners in 2012

2012 – Larry Roach - PRO Logging
Alta Vista, VA

2013 – Bob Fauteux – Mid-Atlantic Tree Harvestors Aylett, VA

2014 – Chris Scott - Chris Scott Logging Waverly, VA

2015 – C.K. Greene – Virginia Custom Thinning Dolphin, VA

2016 – Bill Wood - Blue Ridge Logging
Alta Vista, VA

2017 – Ray Sickal – Sickal's Logging Inc. Brahamsville, VA

2018 – Palmer Dugger

Lawrence P. Dugger Logging, LLC

Brodnax, VA

Safety Circle-of-Honor

2018 – Lawrence P. Dugger Logging, LLC – Palmer Dugger
2017 - Sickal's Logging Inc – Ray Sickal
2016 – Blue Ridge Logging – Bill Wood
2015 – Virginia Custom Thinning – C.K. Greene
2014 – Chris Scott Logging, LLC. – Chris Scott
2013 – Mid-Atlantic Tree Harvestors - Bob Fauteux
Dual Winners in 2012:
2012 – Mike Gibson & Sons Logging – Mike Gibson
2012 – PRO Logging – Larry Roach
2011 – Goodman Lumber – Chip Goodman & Paul Tillitt
2010 – Wright's Trucking and Logging Inc. - William Wright Sr.
2009 – Simmons Logging – Vic Simmons

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Lets get to know more about the 2019 E. K. Pittman Safety Award Winner

Ronald E. Wright Logging, Inc.

Ebony, Virginia
Brunswick County

Owned and operated by Ronnie Wright, Ronald E. Wright Logging, Inc. is based out of Ebony, Virginia and provides products for WestRock and other local markets through River Ridge Forest Products.

$uccess in $afety

- Born 1950 in Roanoke Rapids NC, Ronnie is the son of Herbert & Mabel Wright. Raised on the homestead in Ebony VA, with 4 sisters, Odell, Margaret, Gretchen and Debbie. Ronnie is the last surviving child.

- Ronnie got his start in logging in 1979 working for Herbert Conner - AKA Punkien. Ronnie worked for 3 years and decided to make a change

- In 1982 Ronnie purchased the logging equipment from Punkein and started his own logging business

- In the past 37 years, Ronnie has grown the business to a 23-man operation that includes 3 logging crews, 3 mechanics & 3 truck drivers

Crew #1

Brandon Clary
Edward Richardson
Ulyisses Patillo (PeeWee)
Sonny Bright
Ronnie Wright

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- Crew #2

Cliff King
Ricky Noblin
Ronnie Wright
Thomas Cypress
Joe Harrison

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Crew #3

Thomas Ruffin
Matt Torain
Earnest Banks Jr.
Ronnie Wright

$uccess in $afety

RONNIE WRIGHT
Ronald E Wright
LOGGING AND TRUCKING
SPECIALIZING IN PINE THINNING, CLEAR CUT & CHIPPING
(434)-636-2908
POST OFFICE BOX 63
EBONY, VIRGINIA 23845
CELL 804-370-2082
EMAIL ronwri02@gmail.com

- Prep
  Tim Clary

$afety Pay$

Shop

Alfonso Morgan
Roger Wright
Stephon Jones
Ronnie Wright

$uccess in $afety

- Supported by 3 Company Truck Drivers

Keith Phillips

- Supported by 3 Company Truck Drivers

Eugene Gillis

Linburg Singleton

- Clear communications creates clear expectations. This proven method results in the very low turnover rate this operation experiences.

RONNIE WRIGHT

Ronald E. Wright

LOGGING AND TRUCKING

SPECIALIZING IN PINE THINNING, CLEAR CUT & CHIPPING

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POST OFFICE BOX 63
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Years of Experience Supports Success in Safety

Ronnie Wright = 40
Sonny Bright = 37
Tim Clary = 30+
Thomas Ruffin = 32
Keith Phillips = 22
Roger Wright = 22
Cliff King = 20+
Ricky Noblin = 20+
Thomas Cypress = 20+
Joe Harrison = 20+
Edward Richardson = 19

Ulyisses Patillo (PeeWee) = 12
Brandon Clary = 10
Eugene Gillis = 10
Earnest Banks Jr. = 8
Stephon Jones = 5
Linburg Singleton = 5
Matt Torain = 2
Alfonso Morgan = 2
Stephon Jones = 5
Linburg Singleton = 5

336+ Years of Experience

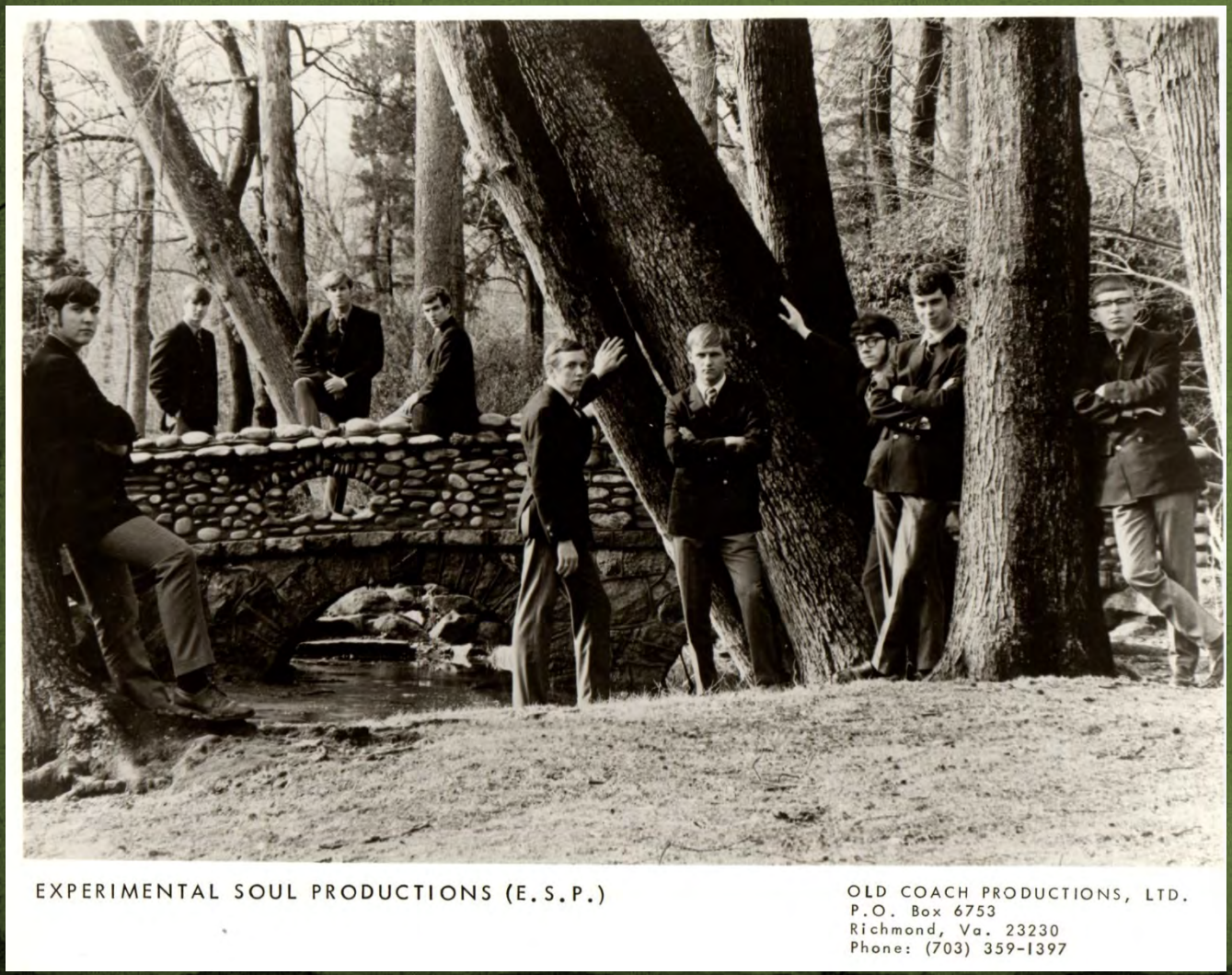
- Ronnie is very humble about his success and credits his employees.
- Ronnie also believes that success comes from training his employees, from the bottom up, to instill respect of others & all positions.
- Ronnie stated, " My crew is the best! And the Man upstairs has given me good health and opportunities to get where I am today."
- Ronnie truly believes in treating his workforce like family. He has been there for them whenever there was a need. This alone has created a loyalty to Ronnie and the byproduct of this loyalty is a VERY LOW, nearly zero, turnover rate.

- Ronnie did have dreams of selling everything at one time, to become an outlaw, but that just never panned out.

So what are Ronnie's passions, past and present?

$uccess in $afety

Did you know Mr. Wright can sing?!?! ESP - 1968



- Ronnie attends church at Rehoboth United Methodist Church and continues to sing actively in his community, while serving other local churches.

- Ronnie was bitten by the racing bug several times in his life

1976

- Pictured here from 1976 is Ronnie and his great friend & nephew David Clary who worked for Ronald E. Wright Logging till his passing at the age 55

Then again in the mid 90's

Another passion is motorcycles

- And still loves to ride today

- Ronnie serves his community - he served as Fire Chief of Ebony Volunteer Fire Department, where he is now a life time member

- 1980 Fire Dept Christmas party with daughter Angela.

- Life passions & priorities changed for Ronnie in March 2013, daughter Angela, gave him a granddaughter, Ella Jane.

- Instead of that motorcycle ride when an occasional opportunity appears, now it's off to a ballfield or beach trip for family fun.

It is evident that Ronnie has a lot to be proud of. He and Linda's investment is in their family whom they hold close.

- Words that helps describe Ronnie Wright?

How about “Respect & Professional”

Southern Loggin’ Times even called him *Classy!*

- Ronald E. Wright Logging story was featured in the Southern Loggin' Times in the March 2001 publication, 18 years ago.

Classy Businessman

■ Virginia contractor Ronnie Wright credits others with his celebrated success.

By Jim Mooney

EBONY, Va. Ronnie Wright, 51, President of Ronald E. Wright Logging, Inc., practices a simple philosophy: "There's not one thing in particular that makes a successful logger. It's the thousands of little things you do every day." Based in this southeastern Virginia community, Wright has operated and expanded his businesses along these lines since 1982, the year he bought out his employer, logger Herbert Conner.

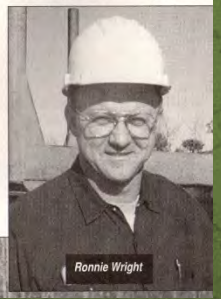
He is quick, though, to give credit for much of his success to his dedicated, long-time employees: "Logging is not what it used to be, and if it were not for my men, I am not sure how much longer I would be doing this. I keep going for them because they have stood by me and made us what we are today."

Some of the men have more than 10 years with Wright.

Operating primarily as a thinning contractor, Wright's dual crews, along with separate timber buying and trucking businesses, help provide pulpwood and sawlogs to International Paper mills in North Carolina. The logger previously had dealt with local sawmiller George Ragsdale and then Champion International, acquired by IP last year.

Wright's core men now oversee different areas of his first class enterprises. David Clary overlooks the second crew as the loader operator, while Frank Wright Sr. runs the Tigercat 240 on crew one. Bill Reed is still a key driver and recently retired James (Cave) Taylor handled topping duty and drove one of the service trucks. "Cave was a good employee and friend," says Wright. "He had to retire for health reasons and we really miss him. Cave kept that truck in such good shape, it looked new." Other long-time employees include skidder operators Sonny Bright, Thomas Cypress and Ricky Sykes, as well as buncher operator Jessy Taylor, all with more than 10 years of experience.

Wright's wife, Nancy, performs shining service by keeping the books and looking after other important pa-



Ronnie Wright

SOUTHERN LOGGIN' TIMES™

"The Southern Logger's Best Friend" MARCH 2001 • $5

Methodist Church in Ebony and a long-time member of the Ebony Volunteer Fire Dept., located across the street from his home. He is an active member of the Virginia Loggers Council, serving on the Board of Directors, and has completed the Virginia Sharp Logger Program. Wright Logging also participates in the Virginia Self Insurance Program as one of the founding members and he continues to serve on the board of directors.

Wright takes very little credit for the success of his organization. "My crew is the best and the man upstairs gave me the health and opportunity to get where I am. I learned a lot from others as well. The biggest challenge today is getting paid what we're worth. If we are doing a good job we should get paid a fair price. For the sake of my crew we'll keep going for now."

Large shop near Wright's residence is kept clean and orderly.

Crew One, left to right: Marc Clary, Jessy Taylor, Frank Wright Sr., Edward Richardson, Sonny Bright, Ricky Woodard, Thomas Cypress, Ronnie Wright and Frank Wright Jr.

VIRGINIA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

- Ronnie has served the VLA since it's inception in 2002
- He has served the VLA with his positive attitude and determination to advance the efforts of many initiatives.

VIRGINIA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

- Ronnie received the VLA Service award for his service as President from 2004 to 2010
- Ronnie continues to serve today as an Active Board Member
- His contributions continue to be part of the collative voice that the VLA needs for future initiatives.

This honor is being awarded as a result of the following:

- NCCI Experience Mod = .78
- Current Loss Ratio = 0%
- Since becoming a policy holder the operation has no lost time claims in the woods.
- Safety record demonstrated through a safe work environment.
- Leadership and crew approachable by Safety/Loss Control inspectors.

This honor is being awarded as a result of the following:

- Willingness to accept recommendations - no *blaming & justifying*.
- Safety awareness, training/education
- Accountability of all employees & contractors; these Best Practices are in line or exceed industry standards.
- Documentation of OSHA required annual training is maintained.

This honor is being awarded as a result of the following:

- Attitude - one that takes true ownership of the business; makes no excuses.
- A mindset of proactive vs. reactive; ahead of the game.
- An understanding of what strategic relationships are & fosters those relationships to benefit operations.

- We are very pleased with Ronald E. Wright Loggings' achievements in appreciating the cost savings associated with quality & safety, and creating a safe work environment.
- Ronald E. Wright Loggings' hard work and safety mindedness continues to pay dividends!

$afety Pay$

“The Ronnie RIGHT Way!!

“There’s not one thing in particular that makes a successful logger; it’s the thousand of little things you do everyday”

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~ Congratulations ~
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