

2015 FLORIDA LOGGER OF THE YEAR

Rodney Schwab and Gary Brett, M.A. Rigoni, Inc., Perry, Florida

M. A. Rigoni, Inc. had its beginning in 1960, started by founder M. A. "Matt" Rigoni. Matt was a forester turned logger that brought a lot of innovation and professionalism to the industry.

Rodney Schwab joined Rigoni in 1976 as a production manager. Rodney came from an equipment background having worked for Franklin Equipment and Tidewater Equipment Company. Gary Brett, a second generation forester, joined Rigoni in 1980, also as a production manager. Gary came from Union Camp Corporation where he managed company logging crews. The two bought the company in 1995. The company has experienced significant growth in the last 2 years. The production force is made up of 3 company chipping crews and 6 contract logging crews, all of which combined produce approximately 600 truck-loads per week.



M. A. Rigoni, Inc. employs 41 workers. Rigoni enjoys a stable and skilled work force. Half of the employees have been with Rigoni for over 5 years and half of those workers have been with Rigoni for over 10 years. The Rigoni roster includes 8 Master Loggers. Also in the business are Rodney's 2 sons and 1 grandson. Richard Schwab is Procurement Manager and New Business Development. Chad Schwab is a Production Manager. Reece Borklund is a Crew Foreman and chipper operator.

The equipment spread is mostly Tigercat in the woods and Kenworth on the road. Rigoni has: Six (6) Feller Bunchers, all Tigercat; Six (6) Skidders, all Tigercat; Five Loaders, Three (3) Tigercat and two (2) Caterpillar; Three (3) Chippers, all Morbark. The trucking fleet includes eighteen (18) Haul trucks, 15 Kenworth; Two (2) Peterbilt, One (1) International and Thirty-three (33) trailers. The company also owns fourteen (14) pickup, crew and mechanics trucks.

Repairs and service are handled by three (3) mechanics that work out of the company shop in Perry, FL. Administrative work and accounting are performed by three (3) ladies in the office in Perry, who handle a multitude of paper each week. Between Rodney, Gary, Richard and Chad, much has been and is being given in activism for the industry and community. Rodney has held various positions within the Florida Forestry Association, served on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Florida Forest Service in the development of Florida Best Management Practices and served on the Board of the Florida Forestry Association. Rodney has also spent the last decade or more in extensive involvement in mission work in Honduras and Nicaragua. Gary Brett has held various positions within the Florida Forestry Association, serves as a Board Member of Doctors Memorial Hospital and is also involved in mission work in Honduras and Nicaragua.

Chad Schwab is a Board Member of the Florida Forestry Association. And Richard Schwab has served as a board member on The Forest Resources Association, The American Loggers Council and The Southeastern Wood Producers Association. Richard is the current President of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association and serves as an officer of the American Loggers Council as well.

M. A. Rigoni, Inc. exists to succeed by practicing the values of: Whatever is TRUE - Whatever is HONORABLE - Whatever is RIGHT. God has blessed us and graced us through this commitment. *Congratulations M.A. Rigoni, Inc. on your well-deserved selection as the 2015 Florida Outstanding Logger of the Year!*