

# AOL ELECTS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

by Jim Geisinger, Executive Vice President

On January 14, 2011 AOL members elected Bruce Zuber with Zuber & Sons Logging in Wedderburn, as President of the Association. Also elected to statewide positions were Internal Vice President Brad Haga with D&H Logging in Coos Bay, External Vice President Mark Turner with Turner Logging in Banks and Secretary/Treasurer Jaime Yraguen with Basco Logging in Sutherlin. Rick Gibbons will also serve on the AOL Executive Committee as immediate past President.

The following members were elected to serve on the association's Board of Directors:

- NORTHWEST DISTRICT**  
*District Representative*  
Mark Gustafson, Gustafson Logging Co., Astoria  
*District Board Member*  
Wayne Stone, Wayne Stone Logging, Sandy  
*District Board Member*  
Andrew Siegmund,  
Siegmund Excavation & Construction, Stayton

- MID-VALLEY DISTRICT**  
*District Representative*  
Rod Surcamp Surco Log, Inc., Springfield  
*District Board Member*  
Lee Miller, Miller Timber Services, Inc., Philomath  
*District Board Member*  
Larry Kirkpatrick, Kirkpatrick Logging, Eugene

- SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**  
*District Representative*  
Jeff Unger, Jeff Unger Logging, Reedsport  
*District Board Member*  
Ray Driscoll, Wood River Timber, Klamath Falls  
*District Board Member*  
Dave Brink, Dave Brink Logging, Roseburg

- EASTERN DISTRICT**  
*District Representative*  
George Hagedorn, Hagedorn Logging, La Grande  
*District Board Member*  
Rick Kriege, Kriege Logging, Prineville

We wish to express our appreciation for these gentlemen's willingness to serve in the governance of their association. ♦



Rick Gibbons, AOL President  
Lee Miller, Miller Timber Services

# LEE MILLER

## AOL LOGGER OF THE YEAR

by Jim Geisinger, Executive Vice President

Lee Miller of Miller Timber Services was named AOL Logger of the Year at the association's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention on January 15, 2011. AOL President Rick Gibbons had this to say about Lee:

"Our logger of the year started out working for his dad on their large Siletz area farm which also included timber lands. Always a hard worker, this youngest of five brothers and sisters found out early that he loved working in the woods. He also believed in getting a good education, graduating as a forest engineer from Oregon State University in 1980. But, as you know, times were not good then, and he lost his job after a year as a forest technician with Publishers Paper.

Not being one to feel sorry for himself, he decided he would start contracting, going into business for himself in 1981 cutting brush with a pick-up truck and with chain saws he borrowed from his dad.

His co-worker then, his first employee, is still with the company today.

His business grew to what has become today, a family of companies providing a full array of forest services from planting and caring for young trees, to harvesting timber and also protection of the forests from the ravages of fire.

Based in Philomath, our logger of the year got involved with wildland fire suppression in 1987, operating crews and a fleet of engines and tenders.

Then, commercial harvesting activities began in earnest in 1994. His early interest in cut to length technology was the foun-

ation for branching into all aspects of logging. The first yarder side was started up in 1996. Today they can operate five yarder sides, all paired with processors.

Our logger of the year noted that there is not one company out there that has not been downsizing recently, and although running up to 140 employees in the past, they employ less than that today.

But instead of running his equipment into the ground, a common response to terrible logging prices and fewer logging jobs, our logger of the year is replacing his older equipment.

He approached the Austrian manufacturer of Koller Yarders, contracted with them to design and build their new and largest machine yet, the K702, had it shipped here and along with operating it has also become Koller North America Inc, providing the logging industry nationally with parts, service and yarder sales.

Lee's companies are well diversified, and anyone who knows him knows that he is a forward looking, hands-on problem solving contractor who believes in hard work, dedication and a deep commitment to excellence. His firm is a certified Oregon Professional Logger.

Lee has also served AOL as our District 5 Representative and Mary's Peak Chapter Chair. He has served for almost 10 years on ODF's smoke management committee, to oversee forest burning regulations. He represents Oregon loggers on the Oregon State University College of Forestry's Forest Research Laboratory Advisory Committee, as well."

Congratulations Lee! ♦