

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Wendy Burnett
(770) 631-6704
wendy@slma.org

**ALLISON TERRY WINS SLMA'S NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK
ESSAY CONTEST**

RED OAK, VA, November 30, 2009 – The Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (SLMA) today announced that Allison Terry, a fourth grader at Scottsburg Elementary School in Scottsburg, won the 2009 National Forest Products Week Essay Contest.

Morgan Lumber Company, the local sponsor of the contest, selected Allison's essay as the winning essay for her class. Allison's essay was then submitted to SLMA for consideration in the regional contest and was selected as the winner out of many essays from across the Southeastern U.S. As the regional winner, Allison will receive a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond from the SLMA.

"We had so many wonderful essays to choose from – it was a difficult decision for us," said Debbie Brady, President of SLMA. "Allison did a fantastic job in her essay of recognizing the importance of forests and the impact the forest products industry has on our everyday lives."

Allison is the 9-year-old daughter of W.T. and Donna Terry. She enjoys reading, writing and swimming. Allison plans to be a veterinarian when she grows up.

This is the first year that Morgan Lumber Company sponsored the National Forest Products Week Essay Contest at the local level. Entrants wrote one page, minimum, on why forests are most valuable to them and the role that the forest products industry plays in maintaining the health of forests.

The National Forest Products Week Essay Contest was open to fourth grade students across the Southeast. One winning essay was chosen for each class, and all winning local essays were submitted to SLMA for the regional contest. Essays were judged on effort, accuracy, creativity and grammar.

Morgan Lumber Company, located in Red Oak, was founded in 1939. The company employs 65 men and women and manufactures a variety of quality Southern Pine products.

The Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association represents independent lumber manufacturers throughout the Southeast. Members of the association produce an average of 4.5 billion board feet of quality hardwood and softwood lumber annually. SLMA represents 130 member companies with the continued goal of helping perpetuate family-owned lumber businesses.

###