

Release

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission



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Batesburg man convicted of petit larceny after stealing timber

SCFC investigators matched heartwood of stolen wood to pieces left at logging site

COLUMBIA—James Norwood Corbett, Jr., of Batesburg was convicted of petit larceny Friday, Jan. 15 for stealing \$168.74 of timber the week of Thanksgiving 2015.

A witness observed Corbett cutting and removing wood Nov. 23 from a pile harvested by another logging operation, which had left the area temporarily because of wet conditions.

South Carolina Forestry Commission investigators followed the witness' tip to nearby Hare & Sons Shavings and Pallets in Batesburg. They confirmed that the trees brought to the mill by Corbett were stolen by matching the distinctive shapes of the heartwood in the delivered logs with that of the wood left at the logging site.

Corbett failed to appear in court for his trial and was convicted in absentia. Judge Gary Morgan ordered Corbett to pay restitution and sentenced him to serve 30 days in jail or pay a fine of \$2,130.

REFERENCE: SC CODE OF LAWS SECTION 16-13-30. Petit larceny; grand larceny.

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Forestry and timber-related businesses constitute the number one manufacturing industry in South Carolina. The South Carolina Forestry Commission is committed to protecting the Palmetto State's public and private forest resources, crimes against which cost landowners millions of dollars each year. To report a suspected case of timber theft, fraud or arson, call the South Carolina Forestry Commission at (803) 896-8800.



James Corbett, Jr., faces a fine of more than 12 times the value of the purloined logs.

