

# Environmental STEWARDSHIP **Conservation Certification**

Within sight of large pulp and paper mills making thousands of tons a year of cellulose, tissue and containerboard products, the threatened gopher tortoise thrives, longleaf pine habitat is being restored, the American chestnut is getting a new lease on life and wildlife of all kinds can find a home.

It's part of the work being done at Georgia-Pacific mills with Conservation Certification from the **Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC)**.

Created in 1988, WHC helps companies and other landowners manage their lands for the benefit of wildlife as well as conservation education. Conservation Certification recognizes company efforts to create, restore and enhance wildlife habitat on their lands.

Participating in the Conservation Certification program reflects Georgia-Pacific's commitment to our communities by being a good steward of our natural resources and the environment.



## Big Island, Virginia

Certified Since 2011

Employees at the Big Island containerboard mill work on initiatives focused on birds, vegetation and education. The mill's signature project is a partnership with The American Chestnut Foundation to reintroduce the American chestnut to its native habitat. The species was wiped out by disease in the early 1900s.

Georgia-Pacific and the Foundation planted 560 test chestnut saplings on mill property in 2011. More saplings were planted in 2014 and 2015 to monitor new genetic "families" and check for resistance to a soil-borne fungus to which chestnuts are susceptible. The mill has made a 20-year commitment to maintain and manage the protected plot of land so the saplings can be monitored in a natural setting.

Another mill project involves providing nesting boxes for the wood ducks that live on the mill property.

Ordinarily, wood ducks build nests in holes in damaged trees, but they can face competition from other wildlife for these nesting sites.

The mill's wildlife team partnered with the President Madison Inn, an assisted living home for adults with challenges and disabilities, to build the duck boxes. Ten wood duck nesting boxes are now located on 6-foot-tall poles around ponds on the mill property and along the bank of the James River, where they host breeding pairs of wood ducks.

In addition, Big Island employees have planted perennials for a butterfly and hummingbird garden, installed bluebird boxes and a house for purple martins, and put in wildlife feed stations on the mill property.

For more information on Georgia-Pacific's support for environmental programs, visit our website at [www.gp.com](http://www.gp.com).

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