



Since 1928

The Standard

Monthly Newsletter of APPALACHIAN Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.

June 2008



AHMI Crowd Filling Up Grove Park Inn

The Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. room block is filling up quickly for the 2008 AHMI Summer Family Conference on July 26-29 at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC.

With two weeks remaining in the room block, almost 70 percent of the block has been filled. The pre-registration includes many new faces and recent additions to the AHMI membership.

"We have attracted more than 20 news companies in the past year and several have already registered for this meeting to see what AHMI is all about," said Tom Inman, AHMI president. "This is shaping up to be a great meeting with very timely information, a certification workshop and the outstanding accommodations of the Grove Park Inn."

U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC) is the keynote speaker and will discuss energy issues, immigration reform and the upcoming election. He will also meet with contributors to the Hardwood Federation Political

2008 AHMI Summer Conference July 26-29



To reserve your room, please call the Grove Park Inn at 1-800-438-5800 and use the AHMI code: 6898HJ. Cut-off is June 15

cal Action Committee.

Shuler was elected to Congress in 2006 and serves on the House Committee on Small Business, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and
(See Meeting on page 3)

AHMI Sad To Report Death Of Jim Gundy

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. is saddened to report the death of Jim Gundy on May 12. Jim was the executive director of AHMI from 1970 until he retired in 1993 and was instrumental in establishing AHMI's Export Division and its Poplar Promotion in the 1980s.

Gundy retired from the association in 1993 and worked in industry sales for a brief time. He had been living in the San Diego, CA, area and had bladder cancer.

A military service honoring Jim's career in the U.S. Marine Corps was held May 16 at the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego. He is survived by his wife, Andrea, and six children in North Carolina, Texas and Oregon.

Cards may be sent to Andrea Gundy, 18218 - 144 Paradise Mtn. Rd., Valley Center, CA, 92082. Memorials may be made to Odyssey Hospice, 9444 Balboa Ave. Suite 290, San Diego, CA 92123.



James L. Gundy

AHMI, P.O. Box 427, High Point, NC 27261
phone: 336-885-8315 fax: 336-886-8865
e mail: info@appalachianwood.org
web: www.appalachianwood.org

APPALACHIAN Future Meetings

2008 Summer Family Conference July 26-29

The Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC

2008 Inter-Industry Meeting - Oct. 28-29

Central Pennsylvania

2009 Annual Meeting - Feb. 25 - March 1

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, Ponte Vedra, FL

The way I see it...

By Tom Inman, AHMI President

...the battle to move hardwood lumber exports to customers is getting more intense every week. And there is no relief in sight.

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. invited the major eastern United States port authorities to the 2008 AHMI Annual Conference. These marketing officials advised that container availability was going to tighten and rate increases were likely. These warnings, however, may not have been sounded loud enough.

In the past two weeks, the number of "rolled over" containers ready to ship with hardwood lumber at many U.S. ports has escalated dramatically. The price to get the boxes on vessels has also spiked with a surcharge of \$1,000 above the booking fee reported by one North Carolina exporter in mid-May.

Every AHMI exporter I have spoken with in the past month has struggled with container shortages. Those that have boxes are working VERY closely with the freight forwarders and trucking lines to get them in and out of their mills and yards.

All of this has come with added time, effort and expense - none of which have been recoverable. The hassle has caused export lumber to back up and other loads to move in domestic markets.

AHMI has contacted the Hardwood Federation and learned that Federal Maritime Commission has jurisdiction over these issues. In a recent contact with FMC, I found them interested in working with Appalachian hardwood exporters to learn of your frustration and provide assistance.

Please contact the AHMI office to learn how you can submit a complaint to FMC.

...we have a great crowd pre-registered for the 2008 AHMI Summer Conference at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC. With two weeks left to reserve rooms, almost 70 percent of our room block has been taken. Please make you reservations today by calling the **Grove Park Inn at 1-800-438-5800 and mention the AHMI code: 6898HJ. The cut-off is June 15, 2008.**

Please see the story and agenda for the conference in this newsletter. We have very timely information on energy, immigration, carbon credits and insurance that will help your business in 2008. There is also a forest certification and product labeling short course planned for the final day. Please register with AHMI at your earliest convenience.



MEMBERSHIP

HIGH POINT - Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. welcomes the following new members to the association:

Distributor

Red Rock Enterprises, LLC
Phillip Frantz
9659 Friendsville Rd.
Friendsville, MD 21531

Consumer

E.J. Victor, Inc.
Edward W. Phifer, III
PO Box 309
Morganton, NC 28680

C.R. Laine Furniture Co. Inc.
Warren L. Frye
PO Box 2128
Hickory, NC 28601

If you know of a company that should be a member of AHMI, please contact Tom Inman at (336) 885-8315 or email tom@appalachianwood.org.

AHMI Exhibits At IWF

ATLANTA, GA — Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. will be one of 1,000 exhibitors at The International Woodworking Machinery & Furniture Supply Fair-USA® Wednesday-Saturday August 20-23, 2008, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

AHMI's booth is A425 between buildings A and B. To register for the event, please contact the AHMI office or visit online www.iwfatlanta.com. The New Oak Partnership has contracted with Trading Spaces Designer Laurie Smith to participate in the show and sign books in the AHMI space.

"We are very pleased to work with New Oak in developing a very attractive booth that will educate attendees about the beauty, versatility and availability of Oak and Appalachian Hardwood lumber," said AHMI President Tom Inman.

IWF Chairman Charles R. (Tommy) Tomkinssaid the show is known throughout the world as a buying show with over 51% of the buyers holding top management positions within their company. For more information, contact Tom Inman at (336) 885-8315 or email tom@appalachianwood.org.

Meeting from page 1

Committee on Natural Resources.

Climate change continues to make headlines and AHMI members will receive information on new carbon credit exchange programs. These services allow forest landowners to receive payments for acres of forests dependent on the average age of the trees and overall condition of the forest.

Many companies choose to buy credits from the Chicago Climate Exchange to offset their carbon output. Justin Maxson, president of MACED in Berea, KY, will explain the program and how Appalachian landowners can become involved and what impact this may have on timber production.

A third session is planned on the ever-changing insurance landscape with a presentation by Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance on having plans when disaster strikes.

AHMI will offer its third Forest Certification and Labeling Workshop on Tuesday, July 29 at the Grove Park Inn. The workshop educates AHMI members about the forest and product certification schemes in the marketplace.

Participants receive a binder with each of the standards and detailed explanation of how each can be applied. A separate workshop registration form is included with this newsletter.

The Grove Park is an AHMI member favorite with its panoramic view of the Appalachian Mountains, award-winning spa facility, newly-designed golf course and central location.

The Spa is one of the country's finest and provides full services to guests. The spa appointments go quickly and members are encouraged to reserve times today by calling (828) 252-2711 ext. 2772.

AHMI meeting attendees will also be able to experience Asheville's finest attractions with:

- Accommodations at the The Grove Park Inn
- Optional tour of the Biltmore House on Sunday.

A bus will take participants from the Grove Park to the Biltmore House and return. The tour leaves at 1:30 p.m. and will return at 5:30 p.m. in time for the Welcoming Reception.

- Annual Bele Chere Festival in the downtown area is Friday-Sunday. Bele Chere means "beautiful living" and the festival is a celebration of that with music, food, crafts and celebrations.

2008 AHMI Summer Conference Agenda

Saturday, July 26

Bell Chere Festival in downtown Asheville

6:30 pm - Early arrival reception in Chairman's Suite

Sunday, July 27

Bell Chere Festival in downtown Asheville

Optional 1:30 pm Biltmore House Tour departs from Grove Park

6:30-7:30 pm - Reception

Dinner on your own

Monday, July 28

8:30 am - General Session

U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC)

Carbon Credit Program in Appalachia

Disaster Plan Preparation

12 pm - Sporting Clays Tournament at Fowler Farms

1pm - Golf Tournament at Grove Park Inn course

2 pm - Tennis Tournament at Grove Park Inn courts

6:30-7:30 pm - Reception

Dinner on your own

Tuesday, July 29

8 a.m. AHMI Board of Trustees Meeting

Optional 10 am-4 pm Forest Certification Workshop at Grove Park Inn. (*Participants may register for the workshop only. See form on page 6*)

AHMI will have golf, tennis and sporting clay tournaments in conjunction with the meeting. There is also whitewater rafting, hiking, mountain biking and more recreational opportunities available in the Asheville area.

There are registration forms on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter. You may also sign up online at www.appalachianwood.org/meetings.htm. If you have questions, please call the AHMI office at (336) 885-8315.

There is a separate registration for the certification workshop. Certified foresters can receive 5.0 hours of CFE credit for participating in the workshop. Please complete the form and send to AHMI.

Register online at www.appalachianwood.org/meetings.htm

AHFRA Forest Regeneration Study Revealed

PRINCETON, WV - Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.'s Forestry Division and the Appalachian Hardwood Forest Research Alliance will hold a joint meeting July 16 & 17 to discuss research on forest regeneration in the Appalachian Region.

Dr. Tom Fox of Virginia Tech will present his findings on Silviculture of Appalachian Hardwoods and will share information on new modules for assisting with regeneration. The presentation will be held at the Wood Education Resource Center in Princeton on July 16 at 10 a.m. The group will move to the Pipestem State Park for a reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 7:15 p.m. with an update from Curt Hassler, AHFRA program director, on two other research projects that are near completion.

On July 17, a tour begins at 8:30 a.m. and includes harvest sites and a look at regeneration. Fox will discuss his research and its application in these areas of southern West Virginia.

10.5 Hours of SAF Continuing Forestry Education Credits Available

The Society of American Foresters has approved 10.5 hours of CFE credit for the workshop and certificates will be awarded at the meeting.

Meeting registration fee is \$65 and includes materials, lunch, reception, and dinner. Please complete the registration form below and send to AHMI with your payment.

This meeting is open to all AHMI members and guests. It the annual meeting of the division and an opportunity to see forest management in the field. **Rooms are available at Pipestem Resort beginning at \$79. Call the park at (304) 466-1800.**

AHFRA was founded in 2005 to oversee research throughout the region. The coalition of forest land management companies received a U.S. Forest Service grant to fund the research work.

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. Forestry Division and the Appalachian Hardwood Forest Research Alliance Meeting & Tour - July 16 & 17

**WERC in Princeton, WV and Pipestem State Park, Athens, WV
Program on July 16 at WERC, Princeton, WV, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Reception on July 16 at Pipestem Resort, Pipestem, WV, at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and Program at 7:15 p.m.
Tour on July 17 begins at 8:30 a.m.**

MEETING FEE: \$65 per person (includes materials, lunch, reception, dinner)

NAME: _____ Fee: \$65

NAME: _____ Fee: \$65

COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT (Visa or Mastercard only)

CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION _____

CARD BILLING ZIP CODE _____

You may also send payment by check with registration. Mail to: AHMI, PO Box 427, High Point, NC 27261. Please duplicate this form if needed.

USFS Grants Target Eastern Hardwoods

PRINCETON, WW - The U.S. Forest Service recently awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants to 23 competitively selected projects. The grants encourage innovation and the sharing of processing and marketing knowledge with wood products manufacturers in the Eastern United States. The primary goal of the grants is to keep local wood businesses globally competitive and sustainable.

Selections were based on a number of factors, including consideration of whether the project or grant recipient could:

- * Maintain the economic competitiveness of hardwood industries.
- * Bring information and technology to existing and emerging businesses that develop and manufacture wood products.
- * Bring marketing and business-related skills to existing and emerging wood products businesses.
- * Encourage the adoption of new technology to improve competitiveness and profitability.
- * Provide support and key information to entrepreneurs and start-up businesses.
- * Address global issues and assist communities and industries facing threats from invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer.
- * Increase the use of woody biomass for domestic energy use.

Ten projects will address increasing the economic competitiveness of the hardwood industry, with grant awards totaling \$743,147. Six projects will focus on

woody biomass utilization using grant awards totaling \$340,579. An additional four projects focus on education with \$222,272 in grant funds, and three projects pertain to urban wood utilization and invasive species control, with grant awards totaling \$211,600. All proposed projects combined were seeking \$5.1 million in Federal funds.



MARKETS

Swedish Furniture Maker Opens Southside VA Plant

DANVILLE, Va. - About 175 workers helped a Swedish furniture maker celebrate the opening of its first U.S. factory in Virginia.

Swedwood, a subsidiary of home furnishings giant IKEA, has 40 plants worldwide. The \$281 million plant in Danville spans 930,000 square feet.

Plans call for the operation to employ 300 by the end of 2009, said Swedwood North America president Bengt Danielsson. There is room for expansion on the 209-acre site, and the plant could have as many as 800 workers in 10 to 15 years.

Local officials say more foreign companies may locate in Virginia, because of the weakened dollar. Not only are jobs returning, but they're better jobs, they said.

Congress Overrides Veto And Passes Farm Bill

WASHINGTON - After more than a year of hearings, debates, discussions, and procedures, the House and Senate passed the Food and Energy Security Act of 2008, also known as the Farm Bill.

The House and Senate Farm Bill Conference Committee Members spent over a month reconciling differences between each Chamber's proposed Bill. Passage of the 2008 Farm Bill was a top priority for the Hardwood Federation.

In addition to illegal logging, the following provisions are included in the final legislation:

- Export promotion programs under the Foreign Agricultural Service – including funding for the American Hardwood Export Council (approximately \$10 million a year).
- Environmental Quality Incentive Programs – which assist family forest owners with land manage-

ment and proper stewardship.

- The Healthy Forest Reserve Program – designed to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires and provide a more timely response to disease and insect infestations that threaten to devastate forests (funded at \$39 million over 10 years).
- The Timber Revitalization and Economic Enhancement Act – changes to the tax code will make timber taxes comparable to competing countries.
- Incentives for development of Cellulosic Biofuels – which encourages the use of woody-biomass for alternative fuel production.

The HF continually contacted over 140 Members of Congress asking for their support. HF members made individual constituent contacts to many of these key Congressional leaders and supporters of the industry.

Forest Certification & Labeling Short Course

A third Certification and Labeling Short Course is set for AHMI members to learn about their options for forest and product certification and labeling. The professional facilitator will outline the unique characteristics of each standard, how member companies could achieve conformance with the standards, which labeling and claims could be made, and what the costs of implementation and auditing would be.

There will be consideration of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the Forest Stewardship Council and the American Tree Farm Systems. The course is designed for owners, mill managers, land managers and procurement personnel and will provide copies of the most recent standards and a presentation with notes that each participant can take away from the course.

The workshop is limited to 40 participants.

Asheville, NC on July 29 from 10 am to 4 pm
The Grove Park Inn

Rooms are available for July 28 at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC for \$229 by calling 1-800-438-5800

The alternate hotel is Comfort Inn West at I-40 exit 44. Rooms are \$80.99. Call 1-828-665-6500 and ask for the Appalachian room block.

You do not have to register for the 2008 AHMI Summer Family Conference to participate in the Forest Certification Short Course.

Foresters
receive
5.0 hours
of CFE
credits

***Please return this form with your check or complete the credit card info below. Mail to:
AHMI, P. O. Box 427, High Point, NC 27261***

MEETING REGISTRATION FEE: \$75.00 PER PERSON

NAME: _____ **\$75**

NAME: _____ **\$75**

COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE _____

E MAIL _____

VISA / MC # _____ **Exp.** _____

Billing address zip code _____



APPALACHIAN Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.



2008 Summer Family Conference The Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC July 26-29, 2008

To accurately plan the functions and make sure all participants are included on the Registration List, please complete this form and return it with your check or complete the credit card information below by June 30, 2008 to AHMI, P.O. Box 427, High Point, NC 27261.

MEETING REGISTRATION FEES:

AHMI MEMBER - \$270 per person

GUEST - \$370 per person

MEMBER SPOUSE - \$140

GUEST'S SPOUSE - \$240

ADULT CHILDREN - \$30

CHILDREN UNDER 18 FREE!

Full registration will be refunded on cancellations received by June 30, 2008. Cancellations received after that time will be subject to 50% forfeiture.

PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING FOR AHMI'S SUMMER FAMILY CONFERENCE

Name: _____ Badge Name: _____ FEE: \$ _____

Name: _____ Badge Name: _____ FEE: \$ _____

Name: _____ Badge Name: _____ FEE: \$ _____

Name: _____ Badge Name: _____ FEE: \$ _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____



The Grove Park Inn[®]
RESORT & SPA

ASHEVILLE, NC

To reserve your room, please use the enclosed Grove Park Inn form and note that rates start as low as \$229 per night. Call The Grove Park Inn at 1-800-438-5800 and mention the AHMI code: 6898HJ. Cut-off is June 15, 2008.

Please register for optional Biltmore Tour and Sporting Events and complete payment information on reverse page of this form



APPALACHIAN Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.

Tour and
Sporting
Event
Registration

2008 Summer Family Conference The Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC July 26-29, 2008

BILTMORE HOUSE TOUR (optional) (Sunday at 1:30 p.m. departs on bus from Grove Park Inn)

Name: _____ FEE: \$55

Name: _____ FEE: \$55

Name: _____ FEE: \$55

Name: _____ FEE: \$55

GOLF TOURNAMENT (Monday at 1 p.m. The Golf Course at The Grove Park Inn)

Name: _____ Hdcp _____ FEE: \$155

Name: _____ Hdcp _____ FEE: \$155

TENNIS TOURNAMENT (Monday at 2 p.m. on Grove Park Inn courts)

Name: _____ FEE: \$25

Name: _____ FEE: \$25

SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT (Fowler Farms Sporting Clays northwest of Asheville at 12 p.m.)
One round of 100 targets - Includes transportation, boxed lunch, and ammunition

Name: _____ FEE: \$75

Name: _____ FEE: \$75

Total (include registration fees from reverse page) _____

Payment information

Check enclosed _____

Credit Card: VISA / MasterCard # _____

Expiration date _____

Name on card: _____

Billing zip code _____