



Appalachian Sustainable



Fall Mill, Manufacturing Tours Successful

A diverse mix of sawmill, concentration yard and secondary manufacturing companies participated in the joint 2011 fall meeting and tours sponsored by Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. and the Hardwood Manufacturers Association.

The meeting was held Oct. 12-13 in central Ohio and included tours of two Yoder Lumber Co. facilities, HW Chair and Brenneman Lumber Co. Participants were able to see Appalachian hardwood products from logs to finished goods.

"This was a terrific tour to see the entire process and three places that do an exceptional job," said AHMI President Tom Inman. "They allowed us to walk through each facility at our leisure and ask questions of employees and management."

Yoder Lumber Co. kilns and dimension facility in Berlin, OH, was the first stop. Attendees toured the dry kilns, stacking stations, rough mill and millwork plants. Yoder is a third generation family-owned business with sawmills near



Yoder Lumber President Mel Yoder (left) explains lumber bin sorter during tour

Millersburg and Charm, OH, and the yard in Berlin, OH. Logs are procured within a 100-mile radius with 90 percent from stumpage bought by company procurement foresters and 10 percent from gatewood logs.

The yard provides kiln dried lumber and dimension parts for customers around the world.

The group also toured Yoder's Buckhorn mill south of Millersburg. It is the former Seemac facility and was renovated in 2010 to include a new headrig and resaw which are almost identical. The carriage has a 17-degree slant with four head blocks to provide more yield per log, according to company President Mel Yoder.

Yoder Lumber has 700,000 board feet of pre-dryer capacity and 455,000 board feet of kiln capacity. There is more than 2 million board feet of **(see Meeting on page 3)**



Yoder Lumber mill has state-of-the-art resaw

Monthly newsletter of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.
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Meetings

2012 Annual Meeting - Feb. 29-March 4
The Marco Island Marriott, Marco Island, FL
2012 Summer Conference - July 28-31
The Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC
2012 Fall Meeting & Tour - TBA

The way I see it...

By Tom Inman, AHMI President

...the 2011 fall tours and meeting may have been one of our best. Tour participants were able to:

1) freely walk around one of the industry's most modern and state-of-the-art sawmills at Yoder Lumber Co. and ask questions of the employees, equipment providers and top managers

2) watch thousands of hardwood boards and parts being processed at Yoder Lumber's dimension mill

3) view solid wood chairs being made from rough lumber in a rough mill and finishing plant at Hochstetler Wood and HW Chair

4) and see a productive concentration yard facility owned by Brenneman Lumber Co.

All in all it was a couple of great days, remarked most of the participants in the joint Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers Inc. and Hardwood Manufacturers Association fall meeting and tours. This is the second of such events in the past six years.

There was an even mix of association members attending the tour: 26 people were members of both organizations; 27 people were members of AHMI; and 22 people were members of HMA. People were able to renew relationships or make new contacts with new companies.

There was a little competition between the groups with a Hardwood Federation Political Action Committee fundraiser. AHMI's Chris Keziah and HMA's Pem Jenkins hosted a challenge pitting the groups against each other. People who were members of both split their gift but in the end HMA won by \$50 with \$5,157.50 in pledges to AHMI's \$5,057.50.

All of the contributions help the Hardwood Federation support House and Senate candidates who assist the hardwood industry.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Linda Jovanovich and Darleen Tubbs of the HMA for their work and spirit of cooperation in the planning and implementation of the meeting and tours. We three worked very closely together to make the meeting a great success and I look forward to doing this again in the future.

Upcoming Events For Appalachian Promotion

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. will attend / display at the following shows and other events to promote members and products:

Oct. 21-26 - High Point Furniture Market, High Point, NC

Oct. 24 - American Society of Furniture Designers, High Point, NC

Oct. 26-28 - Architectural Woodworking Institute, Charlotte, NC

Nov. 8 - Appalachian Lumbermen's Club, Blacksburg, VA

Nov. 14 - NC State University Graduate Forestry Class, Raleigh, NC

Jan. 10, 2012 - Appalachian Lumbermen's Club, Hickory, NC

Feb. 8-9, 2012 - Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN

Feb. 15-16, 2012 - Hardwood Federation Winter Fly-In, Washington, DC

High Point Market Is Oct. 22-27

The High Point Market is the largest furnishings industry trade show in the world, bringing more than 85,000 people to High Point every six months.

The fall 2011 event is set for Oct. 22-27 with 2,000 exhibitors filling more than 180 buildings. Participants attend from more than 106 countries.

Showroom hours are Saturday – Wednesday: 8am – 7pm and Thursday: 8am – 5pm.

The final two days are considered supplier days with company purchasing staff on hand to view product and meet with suppliers. Appointments are recommended prior to arriving to make sure staff is available.

AHMI will complete its annual Furniture Design & Species Survey during the fall market. Students from High Point University assist with the survey.

For more information on market or if you plan to attend, please contact the AHMI office for assistance with transportation and hotels. Our office is located across the street from free market shuttles and we can help with showroom locations.

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dry storage capacity.

The group visited HW Chair in Millersburg, OH, one of two companies owned by the Hochstetler family. Hochstetler Wood Ltd. produces furniture components and H.W. Chair Ltd. manufactures dining room chairs. The companies employ 35 people in both woodworking businesses.

Hochstetler Wood buys lumber, green and dry. The dried lumber is remanufactured into furniture components. The company uses primarily red oak, maple, cherry, poplar, white oak, and hickory and begins at the rough mill to plane and rip it before gluing into panels and cutting to length. Workers sand and machine it for HW Chair and others.

HW Chair produces residential dining room chairs, chairs for the hospitality industry and chairs for institutions, like colleges and libraries. The company sells about 20% of its production within Ohio, about 60% in Eastern states, 12% to customers in the West and 8% to Canadian markets.

The group returned to Zanesville for a reception and dinner at the city's convention bureau office. The program included discussions of the Hardwood Checkoff, log and lumber inventories going into winter and top concerns.

There was also a fundraiser for the Hardwood Federation Political Action Committee which pitted AHMI members against HMA members. More than \$10,200 was raised with HMA members winning the competition by \$50.

The second day was a tour of Brenneman Lumber Co. in Mount Vernon, OH. Founded in 1932, Brenneman Lumber markets both green and kiln dried lumber ranging in thickness from 4/4 to 16/4. The concentration yard covers 20 acres and includes 280,000 board feet of kiln capacity, a surfacing mill, two heated warehouses and T sheds for air drying.

Brenneman Lumber provides surfacing, straight line ripping, sanding, individual length sorts and bundle tallies. It is owned by the third generation, Charlie and Doug Brenneman.

"I want to thank each of these AHMI member companies for opening up for our tours being great hosts," Inman said. "These companies and their employees provided valuable information."



Yoder's green chain operated by four men



HW Chair utilizes modern router technology to manufacture parts for its use and resale



HW Chair employees assembly chairs at the finishing plant in Millersburg, OH. The company uses oak, cherry, maple and walnut

House Passes BoilerMACT Delay

On Oct. 13, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2250, the Boiler MACT bill by a vote of 275-142. The bill would delay a ruling by the Environmental Protection Agency on achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators. The bill stays the Boiler MACT rules and gives EPA 15 months to re-propose with a more reasonable set of regulations.

Now the focus will move to the Senate to pass the EPA Regulatory Relief Act (S 1392).

Earlier this month AHMI signed on to an industry letter to House Majority leader Boehner, House Minority Leader Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Reid and Senate Minority Leader McConnell supporting Boiler MACT legislation from the Hardwood Federation.

AHMI Participates In International Conference On Hardwood Processing

The third International Scientific Conference on Hardwood Processing (ISCHP2011) was held at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA recently and AHMI's Tom Inman participated.

ISCHP2011 provided opportunities for managers, policymakers, and scientists to discuss key issues related to hardwoods. The conference served as a bridge between science, industry, and policymakers to shape paths into the future.

Inman participated as an organizing committee member and in sessions on Hardwood Lumber Supply Chain, Exploring International Opportunities for American Hardwoods, Energy Consumption and Efficiency at Hardwood Sawmills; Assessments of the Impacts of the Economic Downturn on Sawmills, and Use of Multivariate Analysis Techniques to Develop Standard Hardwood Log Grades.

For more information on these sessions, please contact Inman at the AHMI office at (336) 885-8315 or tom@appalachianwood.org.



Mark Vollinger, Pem Jenkins, Sen. Kay Hagen of North Carolina and Tom Inman

HF Fly-In Nets 85 Hardwood Meetings

The 2011 Hardwood Federation Fall Fly-in was Oct. 4-5 and more than 35 industry leaders representing all facets of the industry held 85 meetings with key Members of Congress, their staffs, and the Obama Administration officials at the USDA and Department of Defense.

Topics included green building and government procurement, curbing illegal logging, sound energy policy, and common sense approaches to forest management and forest roads. Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers Inc. was represented by HF Board Member Chris Keziah of Oak Ridge Hardwoods; John Crites Sr., John Crites II and Donna Reckart of Allegheny Wood Products; Mark Vollinger of W.M. Cramer Lumber; and Tom Inman.

Hardwood industry reps engaged with 40 members of Congress during HFPAC events contributing over \$43,000. With the industry's unified voice, HF participants secured several key victories during the Fly-in.



Tom Inman, John Crites Sr., Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, John Crites II, Donna Reckart



AHMI's Tom Inman (center) presents Appalachian Hardwood Verified Sustainable certificate and letter to Jiu Cheng Flooring's Lin Zhu (left) and Xin Min Qian at the NHLA Convention. The company buys hundreds of containers of Appalachian hardwoods from AHMI members each year and manufactures flooring for domestic markets in China.

AHMI Offers Green Resource Solutions

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. has six offerings for members who are seeking "green" documentation for their Appalachian hardwood products.

AHMI has partnerships with the WoodNet Market Council and Columbia Forest Products to provide access to Forest Stewardship Council Group Certification to AHMI members. The two companies currently hold group certificates with participants across the eastern U.S.

AHMI began offering pre-audit services from a contractor in 2008 for members seeking Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council or Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification approval. SFI discounted its fees for AHMI members.

The association also developed a relationship with NSF to provide auditing for all of the schemes at a discounted rate for AHMI members.

The Appalachian Hardwood Verified Sustainable program offers certificates and letters verifying the resource is from the sustainable Appalachian Hardwood forest. To learn more about all of these offerings, please visit the AHMI website at www.appalachianhardwood.org. For specifics on Group Certification, visit the website and click on the link from the home page. There are forms to print, complete and return to the AHMI office.

Approval for the group program could be completed in less than 30 days. If you have questions, please contact Inman at 336-885-8315.

Paul Brayton Designs Expands NC Plant

ARCHDALE, NC – High Point-based Paul Brayton Designs said it will relocate its upholstered furniture manufacturing plant to the former Bobby Labonte building in Archdale, NC. Plans call for the contract and hospitality furniture manufacturer to add 100 jobs over the next two years; it had 12 employees in March.

Among the projects planned is to renovate the the interior for production space, and to add a loading dock with a lift and an elevator for handicapped access to the office area.

The Paul Brayton Designs Furniture Collection made its debut at the June NeoCon with an 11-items seating series, including the Tamino leather lounge chair, Innsbruck sofa with adjustable backs, and sled-base Vienna chair.

This is owner Paul Brayton's second independent furniture venture in the contract furniture arena. In 1987 he sold his Brayton International brand to Steelcase. He left Steelcase in 1993 to start Paul Brayton Designs, a textile and leather collections company focused on the hospitality, healthcare and contract markets.

Appalachian Hardwood Verified Sustainable certificates

US Green Building Council LEED 5.1 & 5.2 requirement certificates

Pre-Audit Services for FSC, PEFC & SFI certification

FSC Group Certification for forestland and chain of custody

SFI forestland and chain of custody certification cost-savings plan

Audit Services for FSC, PEFC, SFI & American Tree Farm System

AHMI '12 Meeting Set For Marco Island Marriott

The Marco Island Marriott is the site of the 2012 Annual Meeting of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. on Feb. 29-March 4.

"Our members were extremely pleased with this property in 2008 and the Board of Trustees are ready to return for what should be another excellent meeting," said AHMI's Tom Inman. "Our agenda already includes Bruce Cochrane of Lincolnton Furniture on the return of furniture manufacturing to the U.S.; we have invited a Congressman to speak about the 2012 election; and the final push for the Hardwood Checkoff."

The Marco Island Marriott includes renowned restaurants, championship golf, a world-class spa and a wide range of activities. There are up-

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scale shops for men and women, a free-form fantasy pool with views of the Florida Gulf, and redesigned guest rooms.

"We will take advantage of the beautiful white sand beach with another special beach reception where participants can sport their Hawaiian shirts and flip flops and relax," Inman said.

Registration materials will be mailed to members soon but you are encouraged to make your flight reservation to Fort Myers, FL, now for the best seats and rates. You can make your room reservations at www.marcoislandmarriott.com.

NHLA Offers Lumber Drying Short Course

A Basic Hardwood Lumber Drying Course is set for Nov. 7–8 at the Brooks Forest Products Center at 1650 Ramble Road, Blacksburg, VA. This course is for beginning operators and supervisors drying hardwood lumber using air-dry yards, pre-dryers, steam or dehumidification dry kilns. The program will cover practical techniques for the efficient and effective operation of dry kilns. The program will include moisture measuring and the use of sample boards; kiln and predryer operational techniques; drying schedules; causes and cures for drying defects, special drying techniques, quality control procedures and more. Classes will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Brian Bond has extensive experience in working closely with the wood industry as an extension specialist and consultant in the areas of lumber drying, wood and moisture relations, and sawmill efficiency. The seminar fee includes course materials, NHLA Rules Book, a Certificate of Completion and lunch each day. Please bring a notebook and a grading stick, if you have one.

For additional information, contact Brian Bond at bbond@vt.edu or 540-231-5182 or register online at www.woodscience.vt.edu/workshops/lumber-drying/



NHLA Offers Lumber Grading Short Course

The value of "rules conscious" employees is a more carefully manufactured product, a more profitable yield from the log, and a better sense of the value of the lumber being handled. The National Hardwood Lumber Association is offering a three-day workshop with a thorough study and explanation of the NHLA Rules Book, emphasizing the basics of hardwood lumber inspection.

The workshop is Nov. 9–11 at the Brooks Forest Products Center at 1650 Ramble Road, Blacksburg, VA. Classes are from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. This short course will be taught by Benji Richards, NHLA Inspector. The seminar fee of \$295 US per person (\$395 US for non-members) includes registration, course materials, NHLA Rules Book, Certificate of Completion and lunch each day. Please bring a notebook and a grading stick.

For additional information, contact Chris Churchill, NHLA Director of Education, at 901-399-7555 or c.churchill@nhla.com. Rooms are available for \$119 at the Inn at Virginia Tech at 1-877-200-3360.