

Appalachian Sustainable

Session: CLT Has Potential For Hardwoods

Cross Laminated Timbers are rapidly gaining popularity with architects and building designers and the application for solid Appalachian hardwood lumber is very positive, reports one researcher.

The potential will be discussed at the **2015 Summer Family Conference of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers Inc. on July 25-28** at Colonial Williamsburg. The session is one of three during the business program on Monday morning.

The Summer Conference is an excellent time to meet with other members and guests and learn about issues for the industry. The business program includes:

Cross Laminated Timbers Utilize Solid Hardwoods - Virginia Tech Professor and Researcher Dr. Dan Hindman will explain a new construction product, cross laminated timbers, for lower grade hardwoods. The engineered walls provide strength and begin specified in high-rise buildings and other construction.

Business Property Insurance Changes in 2015 - substantial claims and changes for a major provider in the hardwood sector have impacted insurance this year and property rates have increased dramatically. Two insurance brokers, Robin Little with BB&T Insurance National Forest Practice, and Preston Herrington with Continental Underwriters, will explain the changes and new programs.

Northern Long Eared Bat AND Timber Harvesting - US Fish and Wildlife officials have been invited to explain the impact the recent bat designation will have on timber harvests and management in the Appalachian Region.

The conference begins with an informal reception for early bird arrivals on Saturday, July 25 at the Golden Horseshoe Clubhouse at 6 p.m.

The official activities begin on Sunday, July 26 with meeting registration from 4-6 p.m. and the Welcoming Reception at 6 p.m. (*There is optional golf available early that day*) The business session begins Monday at 8:30 a.m. followed by golf and sporting clays tournaments. The Monday reception begins at 6 p.m. There will be an AHMI Board of Trustees meeting Tuesday at 8 a.m.

AHMI has rooms in the Williamsburg Inn where Queen Elizabeth has twice-visited and accommodations in the historic Colonial Houses where you and your family can truly step back in time and live as they did in 1750 (*modern plumbing and air conditioning have been added for your comfort!*) The majority of rooms are in the Lodge which has been expanded and renovated since our last visit.

Please make your room reservations today at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/17159>. Rates start at \$180 per night and our block includes deluxe rooms, suites and the Houses. Please remember the group room rate is available for three days before and after the meeting if you want to take advan-

(See Meeting on page 3)

Colonial Williamsburg

**AHMI Summer
Conference
July 25-28, 2015**



May 2015

Monthly newsletter of Appalachian Hardwood
Manufacturers, Inc., P.O. Box 427, High Point, NC 27261
T. 336-885-8315 | F. 336-886-8865
info@appalachianwood.org | www.appalachianwood.org





AHMI welcomes the following new members:

Supplier

Member Insurance Agency

Brad Steele

19620 W. Catawba Avenue, Ste 206

Cornelius, NC 28031

New members are the lifeblood of the association and if you know of potential members, please contact AHMI at (336) 885-8315.

Future Meetings

The following is the list of future meetings of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. that have been contracted. More information will be mailed to members and guests. Please mark your calendar today and make plans to attend.

2015 Summer Conference - July 24-28

Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, VA

2015 Fall Meeting & Tours - Oct. 20-22

in conjunction with the National Wooden Pallet & Container Association, Charlotte, NC

2016 Annual Meeting - Feb. 25-Feb. 28

Naples Beach Club, Naples, FL

2016 Summer Conference - July 24-28

The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, WV

The way I see it...

By Tom Inman, AHMI President

...the furniture and wood flooring industries have one thing in common in 2015 - they hope homebuilding is better than last year.

In conversations at the High Point Furniture Market and the NWFA Wood Flooring Expo in recent weeks, most manufacturers agreed that economists missed it in 2014. Many of them forecast 10-14% increases in home starts which they thought would translate into flooring, furniture and cabinet sales.

The actual number was between 6-8% so inventories of flooring and cabinet finished goods remain high. Until this is sold, new manufacturing will likely stay flat.

One economist was asked at the Virginia Forest Summit how they could miss it by so much. He admitted that it is more difficult to forecast today because they have more variables to consider.

For the hardwood industry, sawmills still have to determine what timber they will buy and when to cut certain species. Distribution yards have to determine the species and inventories that make sense for them. Secondary manufacturers have to be optimistic and build goods based on existing and projected orders.

But linking this to the 2015 housing starts forecast should be reconsidered.

AHEC Asia Convention Set In Nanning, China

The American Hardwood Export Council will mark its 20th anniversary of the AHEC SEA & GRCH Convention by visiting Nanning, China on June 24-26.

More than 2,300 companies from China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have participated in past events and a large crowd is expected this year. Nanning has been regarded as the most important city in Southwest region of China,

The Convention will open on Thursday, June 25, 2015 with a media conference and SEA and

Greater China market discussion panel. On Friday, June 26, the Convention opens to all pre-registered delegates with a focus on traders/importers/manufacturers/distributors/designers, AHEC members and media.

During the Convention day on June 26 there will be a mini trade show and reception where traders can directly meet AHEC members/US hardwood companies face-to-face. AHMI's Tom Inman will participate in the convention and will have an exhibit space.

If you plan to attend, please contact AHEC immediately to register at www.ahec-china.org and follow the link to the Asia Convention. If you would like to participate in the AHMI booth, please contact Tom Inman at (336) 885-8315.

Meeting from page 1

tage of additional family time.

The will be the annual golf and sporting clays tournaments on Monday afternoon with prizes for the winners. The Ladies are invited to The Baker and The Barista Ladies Breakfast on Monday, July 27 from 9-10 a.m. as Chef Rhys bakes breakfast items and pairs with coffee and teas in the Taste Studio. This will be a great fellowship and fun time for your spouse!

Please see page 6 or visit our website www.appalachianwood.org and click on "Meetings" for information and registration. There is also a link to Colonial Williamsburg room reservations.

If you have questions, please call the AHMI office at 336-885-8315 or email to info@appalachianwood.org

2015 AHMI Summer Meeting Agenda

Saturday, July 25

6 pm - Early arrivals reception in Golden Horsehoe Clubhouse

Dinner on your own

Sunday, July 26

4-6 pm - Registration open in Lodge Lobby

6 -7 pm - Reception on Oval Garden

7:15 pm - AHMI Board of Trustees Dinner at King's Arms Tavern (*invitation*)

Dinner on your own

Monday, July 27

8:30 am - General Session in Tidewater

1) Business Property Insurance in 2015

2) Cross Laminated Timbers Utilize Solid Hardwoods

3) Northern Long Eared Bat Alters Timber Harvests

9 a.m. - Ladies Breakfast in the Taste Studio "The Baker and The Barista"

12:30 p.m. - Golf Tourney on Gold Course

1 p.m. Sporting Clays Tourney at Old Forge Sporting Clays

6-7:30 pm - Reception on East Lawn & Queens Garden (*Williamsburg Inn*)

Dinner on your own

Tuesday, July 28

8 a.m. AHMI Board of Trustees breakfast in Tidewater B

Have a safe trip home

Federal Forest Management: The Time Has Come

by Dana Lee Cole, HF Executive Director

The Hardwood Federation

The management of U.S. federal forest lands has been a concern to many members of the Hardwood Federation since its inception 10 years ago. Unfortunately, this concern has not been shared by those in the U.S. Congress...at least not those that could make significant change.

Although the issues have certainly been raised and debated to some extent in the past, little or no traction was realized. However, the status seems to be changing.

As she took over as the Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) commented that "forest management reform was left on the table in the last Congress and we must get back to work on it. There is bipartisan agreement that we must improve the management of our forests. That includes getting the timber harvest up to get a handle on the wildfire problem, protect our water supplies, and sustain our rural economies. Although there may be a need for some place-based solutions, it is my view that we need nationwide forestry reform legislation."

Ranking Member Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) has also signaled her intention of floating federal forestry reform legislation. Cantwell's bill will tackle four areas she sees as problematic: hazardous fuels, wildfire borrowing, budget accountability and emergency response coordination.

"Extreme weather, the amount of hazardous fuel in our forests resulting from decades of sub-optimal management and increasing development in the wildland-urban interface are combining to produce more lethal fires," Cantwell said recently. "If we are ever going to get ahead of the problem, the Forest Service needs to respond to wildfires in a fundamentally different way."

Rob Bishop (R-UT), the Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, is also new to

(See Forests on Page 4)

Forests from page 4

the Chairman's seat, and has voiced similarly strong interest in approaching management of our federal lands in a practical, bi-partisan manner that serves both conservation and economic needs. He recently wrote in an op-ed for Roll Call.

"Both parties treasure our lands and want to see them healthy and pristine. Both parties want folks to be able to support their families. When it comes to the current policies that order how we conserve and utilize our nation's resources, however, there is a major disconnect between our respective goals and solutions. This debate is mired in the premises and prejudices of the past, as we rely upon policies that were written for a different time when our country had different needs. It's an approach that no longer protects the land, yet leaves powerless the people who use that land."

Both Murkowski and Bishop have remained active on issues related to forest management, calling for multiple hearings on various issues, including wildfire management funding and timber harvest levels. Members of Congress in both Houses and on both sides of the aisle continue to ask pointed questions of USFS leadership about harvest levels, spread of disease, increasing numbers of forest fires and local economic impacts of under-managed forest lands.

And they are starting to take action, not just ask questions. Legislation that would structure funds to fight forest fires in such a way that would not negatively impact funds for other essential USFS programs, including timber harvests, has been introduced in both the House and the Senate and is moving through the process.

Although forest fire funding legislation seems to have a decent chance of passing through Congress and being signed by the President, other modifications may not be so easy to realize. While change may be incremental as Congress, the Administration and the nation move towards the next presidential election, the table is being set for future debate and hopefully, meaningful reform in the near future.

The Hardwood Federation fully intends to be part of the debate as it moves forward. I know we can count on your support!

Solid Appalachian Gets Attention At Expo

ST. LOUIS, MO - Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. promoted the benefits of solid wood at the 2015 National Wood Flooring Association Expo recently here.

Thousands of manufacturers, distributors, installers and suppliers attended the 30th annual expo. AHMI gave away hundreds of Resource Guides, talked with flooring manufacturers and marketed the lumber resource from the Appalachian region.

The mood was position at the show but the flooring industry is still recovering from over-production in 2014. Demand for hardwood flooring is expected to rise slightly this year as building forecasts have been reduced.

The majority of new product on display at the show was engineered hardwood. Hickory and Oak remain the dominant species but exotic wood is on the rise.

AHMI Activities

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

May 15-17: **ALC Beach Mtg.**, Myrtle Beach, SC

June 3-4: NC Society of American Foresters, Wilmington, NC

June 22-23: **American Hardwood Seminars**, Hanoi, Vietnam

June 25-26: **AHEC Southeast Asia Convention**, Nanning, Guangxi, China

July 26-28: **AHMI Summer Conference**, The Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA

Sept. 8-10: **Hardwood Federation Fly-In**, Washington, DC

Sept. 28-Oct. 1: **WPMA Tours**, Millersburg, OH

Oct. 7-9: **NHLA Convention**, Nashville, TN

Oct. 17-22: **High Point Furniture Market**, High Point, NC

Oct. 19: **American Society of Furniture Designers**, High Point, NC

Oct. 20-22: **Fall Meeting & Tours with the NWPCA**, Charlotte, NC

For more information, contact the AHMI office.

Furniture Designers Blend Wood, Steel, Glass

HIGH POINT, NC – Furniture designers combined wood, metal, stone, glass and resin materials into more furniture than ever before at the Spring 2015 High Point Furniture Market.

The new looks ranged from simple glass tops on traditional designs to very contemporary pieces with wood fronts, metal frames, acrylic sides and glass handles all in the same piece. Retail buyers and interior decorators were positive in response to most of the combinations with interest and sales exceeding expectations.

“Our top 10 groups are mixed media, whether it’s stone and glass, metal and wood, or other materials. It’s how we try to make the table more than four legs and a top,” said John Labarowski, president of LaurelHouse Designs in Valdese, NC. “Our product offerings continue to evolve with input from our growing dealer base. We value their thoughts regarding design, size, scale and finishes appropriate for their customer.”

The LaurelHouse Kent Collection, the largest new group at market, featured a weathered oak finish with English dovetail joinery contrasted by brushed nickel bases.

Bassett Mirror targeted first-time home buyers and empty nesters in condominiums, urban lofts, retirement communities and other homes where space can be limited with their introductions. The smaller pieces were solid wood in Ash, Maple and mixed hardwoods, veneers and metal.

Powell Home Fashions introduced 15 dining room groups and half were well-received said Neely Peck, merchandise manager. The sets were made of wood and metal and glass and metal. “You have to have the mix at the right price and make sure everything works,” he said.

SpectraWood had a great market as the residential and commercial furniture maker had product from solid cherry for home office and bedroom. The company is headquartered in State College, PA, and displayed contemporary designs with natural finishes and metal handles at market. The response was positive from buyers, according to Eric Friberg, contract sales.

SpectraWood is committed to building beautiful, solid wood furniture of great value and good



Kincaid Furniture combines wood and iron in bedroom group

design, its marketing materials state.

Modern Metro is the newest addition to Caracole’s distinctive collections of cased goods. The pieces feature oak and zebrawood in a medium-gray finish with a brown undertone. Stainless steel and brushed chrome feet and other metal accents on wood pieces as well as upholstery.

Thomasville and Broyhill introduced several smaller scale collections, said Bruce Frenzel, vice president of merchandising for Heritage Home Group, parent company of the brands. The response was positive for the imported pieces made of North American and international wood species.

RuffSawn specializes in quality, handmade solid wood furniture and uses hard maple, oak and ash from North America. The bedroom and dining room furniture on display was a unique blend of rustic and modern rustic collections.

“Solid wood is by nature an environmentally friendly, natural and renewable resource,” said Paul McMullen, North American Sales Manager. “Our customers like that and our sales this market have been really strong.”

The High Point Furniture Market attracts 70,000 manufacturers, retail buyers and designers twice a year to downtown High Point, NC. The next market is Oct. 17-21.

6 - May 2015- Appalachian Sustainable



APPALACHIAN Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.



2015 Summer Family Conference Colonial Williamsburg, VA July 25-28, 2015

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 July 10, 2015 to AHMI, P.O. Box 427, High Point, NC 27261.

MEETING REGISTRATION FEES:

AHMI MEMBER - \$245 per person

GUEST - \$345 per person

MEMBER SPOUSE - \$145

GUEST SPOUSE - \$245

CHILDREN 10 & older - \$95

CHILDREN UNDER 10 FREE!

Full registration will be refunded on cancellations received by July 11, 2015. Cancellations received after that time will be subject to 50% forfeiture.

PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING FOR AHMI'S SUMMER FAMILY CONFERENCE

Name: _____ FEE: \$ _____

Name: _____ FEE: \$ _____

Child: _____ FEE: \$ _____

Child: _____ FEE: \$ _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

GOLF TOURNAMENT (Monday at 12:30 p.m. The Gold Course; includes boxed lunch)

Name: _____ FEE: \$145

Name: _____ FEE: \$145

SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT (Monday at 1 p.m. Old Forge Sporting Clays)

100 targets, ammo, gun rental and boxed lunch

Name: _____ FEE: \$110

Name: _____ FEE: \$110

LADIES BREAKFAST (Monday 9-10 a.m. in the Taste Studio)

"The Baker and The Barista"

Name: _____ FEE: \$45

Payment information

Check enclosed _____

Credit Card: VISA / MasterCard # _____ **Total** _____

Expiration date _____ Security code _____

Name on card: _____ Billing zip code _____

You may also register online at www.appalachianwood.org/meetings.htm.

Room reservations should be made at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/17159>