



# Appalachian Hardwood *Sustainable & Legal*

Monthly newsletter of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.

## AHMI Summer Conf. SOON At Biltmore

HIGH POINT – Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. invites you to join us at The Inn at Biltmore Estate for the **2017 Summer Conference on July 23-25** in Asheville, NC. This is our first visit to The Biltmore properties with exceptional rooms and views, dining and a wide array of activities for all.

AHMI has developed informative business sessions on:

- ELD Mandates For Trucks Take Effect In December - Attorney Rob Moseley
- International Markets Mid-Summer Update
- AHEC Director Mike Snow
- AHMI Verified Sustainable Celebrates 10 Years - USFS FIA Director Bill Burkman

AND we will come together for a Monday reception and dinner as a group at Lioncrest on site at Biltmore. This will be a special time to network and is included with your registration.

There have been two last-minute changes to the agenda. The U.S. Congress is expected to be in session so a Representative will not be attending the Monday program.

The tour of the CLT building planned for Tuesday morning has been cancelled because construction has not begun.

AHMI members will have access to length-of-stay passes to The Biltmore House, the luxurious family home of George and Edith Vanderbilt.

**See Conference on page 3**



**Meeting Chinese Lumber Buyers**  
AHMI's Tom Inman talks with representatives of the Qingdao Furniture Association at the 2017 AHEC China & SE Asia Convention.

## Buyers Seek Lumber, Logs At 2 China Shows

SHANGHAI, CHINA - Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. staff participated in two trade shows in China recently.

The American Hardwood Export Council held its 2017 China/Southeast Asia Convention in Qingdao, China on June 22-23. More than 500 lumber buyers and manufacturers from across the region participated in the meetings and exhibit hall.

Speakers discussed the sustainability and availability of American hardwoods. The theme was Designed In China, Built In China, Made from

**See China Shows on page 2**

July 2017

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## *The way I see it...*

By Tom Inman, AHMI President

...Chinese timber importers want American logs. The availability is more important than the grade according to many importers.

Those were my findings during recent trips to Qingdao and Shanghai for two hardwood conferences. The demand for logs has increased in the past year as Chinese importers and manufacturers want the resource in its raw state.

I would estimate that requests for logs was equal to the inquiries for lumber at both events. Many of the American suppliers said their findings were the same.

I asked several Chinese manufacturers how they will use the logs. Most said that Chinese factories are installing rough mill operations along side the furniture and flooring plants.

The logs arrive by container from the U.S. and are sawed into specific dimensions for the factory. The lumber is dried and moved by forklift or conveyer right into the plant.

The Chinese importers claim they can utilize every part of the log for lumber, fuel and other products. There was little consideration given to the grade of the logs, the volume of water in green logs, round logs in a square container or really any other concerns.

They want logs and want them now. I wrote about this last month and my thoughts were confirmed time and time again by Chinese buyers on this trip.

This raises concerns for some American hardwood sawmill owners and managers. If logs continue to ship to China at a profit for U.S. loggers, log yard owners and even sawmills, what is the future for log markets here?

China is clearly a huge market with tremendous demand. Is there enough demand for American lumber AND logs in that market? The answer is yes but how long can U.S. lumber exporters compete with lumber that is being produced in China from U.S. logs?

These are questions the industry will be discussing in coming months and years. The U.S. remains as one of the few countries in the world that continues to exports logs.

## China Shows from Page 1--

American Hardwoods.

More than 40 American companies participated in the convention and trade show which gave attendees a chance to discuss lumber availability.

There were dozens of attendees from furniture manufacturers in the Qingdao area. They reported that business was good and were seeking lumber supplies for the summer and fall.

The species being requested were Walnut, Hickory, Poplar and Cherry. There was an equal number of requests for lumber and logs.

AHMI exhibited at the trade event and distributed hundreds of Resource Guides and Export Division Member lists.

The second show for the trip was SylvaWood 2017 in Shanghai. Many of the AHEC Convention attendees traveled to Shanghai for the three-day show which attracted lumber buyers from across central China.

The American Pavilion was the largest at the show and more than 30 American companies participated. AHMI staff worked in the AHEC booth and met with timber importers.

Most were seeking lumber and logs in Walnut, Poplar and Hickory. Market conditions in Shanghai were positive and buyers were seeking supplies for the coming months.



AHMI welcomes the following new members:

**Distributor**

Magnolia Forest Products  
Clay Adams  
503 W. 26th Street  
Lumberton, NC 28358

New members are the lifeblood of the association and AHMI has developed a package of materials to send to prospective members to show them the benefits of joining.

If you know of potential members in any category from Producers through Forestry, please contact AHMI at (336) 885-8315. We will send materials and schedule a visit to their facility.

## AHMI Summer Conference Agenda

The Inn at Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC

**Sat., July 22** - All activities on your own

*Biltmore House-length of stay tickets available and will be mailed in advance*

**Sunday, July 23**

*Biltmore House-length of stay tickets available and will be mailed in advance*

**3-5 pm** - Meeting Registration at Inn on Biltmore Estate lobby

**3 pm** - AHMI Board of Trustees Meeting in Inn Hunt Room

**6 -7 pm** - Welcoming Reception at Inn on Biltmore Grand Terrace

Dinner on your own

**Monday, July 24**

**8:30 am** - General Session in The Inn Vanderbilt Ballroom

- **ELD Mandates For Trucks Take Effect In December**

- **International Markets Mid-Summer Update**

- **AHMI Verified Sustainable Marks 10 Years**

**12:30 pm** - Golf Tournament at Broadmoor Golf Links, Fletcher, NC

**12:30 pm** - Sporting Clays Tournament

**1 p.m.** Fly Fishing

**6-7 pm** - Reception at Lioncrest Veranda

**7 pm** - **NEW** - Dinner at Lioncrest

**Tuesday, July 25**

Enjoy Biltmore Estate and have a safe trip

## Conference from Page 1----

It is a marvel of elegance and charm, as magnificent today as it was more than a century ago. You will also have time to visit the Biltmore Winery, shops in Antler Hill Village or tour the grounds and gardens of the Estate.

Attendees will have a choice for accommodations: the luxurious Inn on Biltmore Estate that offers first-class service, exceptional views and luxurious appointments OR The Village Hotel at Biltmore with more casual rooms, self-service options and adjacent to the Village and Winery. Please make your room reservations today by calling the AHMI office for availability.

Please visit our website **[www.appalachianwood.org](http://www.appalachianwood.org)** and click on "Meetings" for information and to register online.

Members of the Appalachian Lumbermen's Club have been invited to the Monday business session so there is opportunity to meet new buyers.

There are golf and sporting clays tournaments planned for Monday afternoon as well as fly fishing available. Please register by July 12 so plans can be completed.

For more information on the Summer Conference, please contact the AHMI office. We look forward to seeing our members and guests in Asheville.

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## AHEC Launches New Site With Forest Map

The American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) recently launched a newly redesigned website. The website is designed to be the go-to destination for any information on American hardwoods including news, events and insights from industry professionals.

[Americanhardwood.org](http://Americanhardwood.org) also features a newly developed interactive forest map showing the growth, removals and net growth of all American hardwood species across Northern America. The data is available by state.

For more info, contact the AHMI office.

## WCMA Tour Set Aug. 21-23

Registration is now open for the Wood Component Manufacturers Association's 2017 Fall Conference and Plant Tour event on Aug. 21-23 in Grand Rapids, MI. The conference is an exceptional occasion for wood component and dimension manufacturers and manufacturers and importers of woodworking machinery and equipment to network and make contacts.

The two-day program features a membership meeting, educational sessions, area plant tours, and a wood technology expo each evening. Registration for the conference is open and those interested can register at: [http://www.wcma.com/cgi/page.cgi/conference/registration\\_info.html](http://www.wcma.com/cgi/page.cgi/conference/registration_info.html).



AHMI's Tom Inman (left) and Anthony Hammond of Roy Anderson Lumber Co.

## AHMI Exhibits At Furniture Expo

ATLANTA - Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. recently exhibited at the first Home Furnishings Manufacturing Solutions Expo (HFMSSE) Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA. The trade show showcased supplies, machinery, fabrics, and solutions for home furnishings manufacturers.

Hundreds of buyers and company representatives attended. AHMI promoted the Verified Sustainable program and distributed dozens of Resource Guides.

Many attendees were looking for Poplar, Soft Maple, Ash and Walnut. The lumber was for domestic and international plants.

AHMI's Tom Inman gave two educational seminars at the Expo on the Sustainability of the Appalachian Resource and Designing With Hardwoods: Ash To Walnut.

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### Join Us On Twitter, Facebook

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. invites you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Our Facebook page is **Appalachian Hardwood** at <https://www.facebook.com/Appalachian-Hardwood-115082515210245/>

Our Twitter account is **Appalachian Hardwood** at <https://twitter.com/AppalachianHdwd>

## AHMI Trade Show / Meeting Activities

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

July 22-25: **AHMI Summer Conference**, Biltmore Inn, Asheville, NC

Sept. 12: **Appalachian Lumbermen's Club**, Concord, NC

Sept. 12-14: **AHMI & Hardwood Federation Fly-In**, Washington, DC

Sept. 19-21: **WPMA Annual Meeting & Tours**, Providence, RI

Sept. 25: **PennYork Lumbermen's Club**, State College, PA

Oct. 14-18: **High Point Furn. Market**, High Point, NC

Oct. 16: **American Society of Furniture Designers**, High Point, NC

Oct. 25: **SFI Certification Workshop**, Nashville, TN

Oct. 25-27: **NHLA Convention**, Nashville, TN

Nov. 2: **SFI Certification Workshop**, Newark, NJ

Nov. 14: **Appalachian Lumbermen's Club**, Johnson City, TN

Jan. 10, 2018: **Appalachian Lumbermen's Club**, Hickory, NC

Jan. 17-21, 2018: **AHMI Annual Meeting**, Marco Island, FL

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## AHMI Mourns Lyskava Passing

AHMI is sad to report the passing of Paul Lyskava, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association. Our sincerest of prayers and condolences are extended to his wife Kathleen and their son, Sean.

He was well-known for continual interaction with members of the Pennsylvania State Congress kept legislatures perpetually abreast of the concerns of their forest product constituents and the ramifications associated with legislation under consideration. He recently served on the Governor to serve on the Governor's Green Ribbon Task Force, a commission to further advance the forest products industry.

# House Bill Eases Legal Fight On US Forests

*By Dana Lee Cole, HF Executive Director*

You may remember that a major focus of Hardwood Federation (HF) advocacy activity in the 114th Congress (2015-16) was The Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015 (H.R. 2647). The bill addressed our concerns as to how the Federal Forest system is being managed, especially the dramatically increasing budget needs to fight fires on federal lands, mostly at the expense of other forest and wildlife management programs housed within the U.S. Forest Service.

H.R. 2647 also sought to address the slow pace of reforestation after wildfire, increasing fuel reduction programs in lands close to urban communities, streamlining timelines for project planning, including timber sales, and allowing expedited review of collaborative forest management projects. Unfortunately, H.R. 2647 did not gain traction in the Senate after passage in the House.

## **However ... The Return of H.R. 2647**

The sponsor of the original bill, Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR), is back and has reintroduced a new version of the bill. On June 15, the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on the draft bill. And on June 20, H.R. 2936, the final bill was introduced.

While essentially the same as the former version, the 2017 bill does have some new language, and also authorizes some new tools to satisfy requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA—a long standing statute that forms the basis for environmental reviews required before forest thinning work can begin. (These reviews, if they drag on too long, can be problematic as projects become less attractive.)

The new tools are known as Categorical Ex-

clusions from NEPA, or CEs, and can be for:

- Expediting salvage operations in response to catastrophic events

- Meeting forest plan goals for early successional forests

- Improving, restoring and reducing the risk of wildfire

- Expediting critical response actions

The bill would also allow expedited environmental analysis - essentially an action vs no action decision - for certain collaborative forest activities on lands suitable for timber production, or covered by a community wildfire protection plan.

## **Other H.R. 2936 significant changes**

CEs can be issued for projects up to 10,000 acres, which doubles the cap from the House-passed version last Congress. And one of the more interesting provisions in the draft is the creation of up to 10 Pilot Arbitration Projects, per Forest Service region.

The intent is to resolve legal challenges against forest management activities through binding arbitration, providing organizations the opportunity to offer an alternative to challenged activities proposed by the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management. An independent arbitrator would review and make the determinations.

We'll keep you posted!

Remember, this is still a very new bill, and language could change depending on discussions with fellow Members of Congress and the public. But it is a great start. And HF is anxious to get to work in support of Mr. Westerman, and his co-sponsors on H.R. 2936, to ensure that this bill gets a fair hearing in the House and Senate.

## **AHMI & Hardwood Federation Meeting**

The **2017 AHMI Fall Meeting** will be in conjunction with the Hardwood Federation Fly-In on Sept. 12-14 in Washington, DC at the Marriott Marquis. There will be meetings planned with members of Congress and staff to explain industry positions.

There are also plans for a Capital Tour after

one evening and a tour of the White House. Registration must be completed ASAP to be included in the White House tour.

Please visit [www.hardwoodfederation.com](http://www.hardwoodfederation.com) and follow the link for the Fly-In to register. You can contact AHMI for more information.



# AHMI Summer Conference | July 23-25, 2017

## The Inn on Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC

### Registration BY JULY 12!

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 12, 2017 and mail to AHMI, P.O. Box 427, High Point, NC 27261.

**MEETING REGISTRATION FEES** *(includes dinner on Monday):*

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| AHMI MEMBER - \$385 per person | GUEST - \$485 per person            |
| AHMI MEMBER SPOUSE - \$265     | GUEST SPOUSE - \$365                |
| CHILDREN 10 & older - \$195    | MONDAY BUSINESS SESSION ONLY - \$45 |
| CHILDREN UNDER 10 FREE!        |                                     |

*If you will not be attending dinner on Monday, please contact the AHMI office. Full registration will be refunded on cancellations received by July 10, 2017. Cancellations received after that time will be subject to 50% forfeiture.*

**PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING FOR AHMI'S SUMMER CONFERENCE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**BILTMORE HOUSE TICKETS** *good daily for entire stay.* \_\_\_\_ OF TICKETS @ \$46 each FEE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**AHMI GOLF TOURNAMENT** *(Monday at 12:30 p.m. Broadmoor Golf Links includes lunch)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \$85 WILL YOU NEED SHUTTLE: YES \_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \$85 WILL YOU NEED SHUTTLE: YES \_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

**SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT** *(Monday at 12:30 p.m. Biltmore Outdoor Adventure Center includes lunch)*

*One round of 100 - Includes gun, ammo and targets*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \$160

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \$160

**FLY FISHING** *(Monday at 1 p.m. at Biltmore Outdoor Adventure Center)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \$185

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing zip code \_\_\_\_\_

*You may also register online at [www.appalachianwood.org/meetings.htm](http://www.appalachianwood.org/meetings.htm). Please make your room reservations at [www.appalachianwood.org/meetings.htm](http://www.appalachianwood.org/meetings.htm) and follow link to Biltmore Room Reservations*