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INSIDE VT WOOD

Reminder...

Remember to submit department news items by Friday 3 p.m. of each week to Will Pfeil at wpfeil@vt.edu for inclusion in Inside VT WOOD each Monday morning. All past issues of Inside VT Wood reside on our department website under the [publications link](#).

Inside VT Wood Summer Publication Schedule

[July 14](#) | [July 28](#) | [August 11](#)

We will resume weekly publication on Monday, August 18.

News From Paul Winistorfer

- Our Wood Industry Student Placement website is now live on our department homepage. This is a new site where industry can post and manage their job postings, and VT students can post their resumes. Thanks to Will Pfeil for his excellent work on bringing this innovative tool to our portfolio of student support services in our department. A national press release went out a few weeks ago and we have had many inquiries about the site. Students – access the system today and get your résumé posted! Help promote this to our industry and bring awareness of career opportunities to our students.
- We had a great alumni and friends reception at the Forest Products Society International Convention. Congratulations to our faculty and students on your participation and presentation of research results. Check out [page 5](#) for photos from the reception.

VT Students Take Second Place at First Ever Quiz Bowl Student Competition at International Convention

Brian Perkins, Gi Young Jeong, Jose Maria Villasenor Aguilar, and Ryan Bamberg made up the Virginia Tech team that competed in the student quiz bowl at the recent Forest Products Society meeting held in St. Louis, MO, June 22 - 24, 2008. The wood science competition was a single-elimination team tournament consisting of multiple-choice and open-ended toss-up and bonus questions. Our students won their first match against Mississippi State and advanced toward the final match. The University of Minnesota also won their first match against the University of Maine and advanced toward the final match. In the final round, we were tied with the University of Minnesota until the very last question, but in the last few seconds, Minnesota pulled out the answer and were declared the champions.

Wood Week 2008 Career Fair Registration is Now Live

Wood Week 2008 is set for the week of September 15, 2008. Our Career Fair is Thursday September 18, on the Drillfield of the Virginia Tech campus. We have increased our capacity this year to 75 companies. Registration is now live and linked from the Wood Week 2008 link on our homepage. Please help spread the word on the career fair and help us reach our goal of 75 participating firms this year. A press release is now available on our website announcing the career fair.



Look Who's Already 'In' for Our Career Fair

- Mann And Parker Lumber Company
- Universal Forest Products Inc
- Georgia-Pacific LLC
- Blair Dumond, Inc.
- American Woodmark Corporation
- Roy O. Martin Lumber Co. , LLC
- Columbia Forest Products
- Huber Engineered Woods, LLC
- The Danzer Group
- Baillie/American Lumber

VT Researchers Visit NAHB's New Laboratory and Market Research Facility

Randy Cantrell, Manager of Innovation Research at the National Association of Home Builders' NAHB Research Center (<http://www.nahbrc.org/index.aspx>) in Upper Marlboro, MD, and adjunct research professor at VT's Center for Housing Research, hosted faculty and students from Virginia Tech's Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at its new Laboratory and Market Research Facility for a brainstorming session about current and future potential projects. NAHB, a Washington, D.C. based trade organization (<http://www.nahb.org/>) with 235,000 members is the nation's umbrella organization for "everybody who makes a living from residential construction." The NAHB Research Center is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NAHB and serves the industry through research, product testing and certification, and information on housing construction and development issues. It employs 85 individuals.

On June 10, 2008, Joe Loferski, Daniel Hindman, Urs Buehlmann, John Bouldin and Gavin Wherry from the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products and Andrew McCoy from VT's Myers-Lawson School of Construction met with Randy and his colleagues from the NAHB Research Center in their new Laboratory and Market Research Facility in Upper Marlboro, MD. This 45,000 sq. ft. facility houses research laboratories, product installation and testing areas as well as marketing research areas comprising focus-group meeting areas, observation rooms with one-way-glass windows and conference facilities. The research team also maintains outside, real-world test structures and offers industry the opportunity to conduct on-site events, should the problem require it. Picture 1 shows the inside of the product and structure testing part of the Research Center's Laboratory and Market Research Facility.

The Lab's installation testing area (Picture 2), where dry installation runs can be executed and observed by third parties from observation rooms and cameras, allows the Research Center to help their clients assess installation processes and detect problems and potential areas for improvements. Since the observers are separated from the actual testing and work area through one-way-glass windows, the tests are not biased from observers and other interferences. Ed Hudson, the Research Center's Director of Marketing Research, stresses the benefit of such observations combined with targeted focus-group activities just aside of the testing area.



NAHB Research Center's Director of Laboratory Testing, Robert Hill, explains a test set-up in its new Laboratory and Market Research Facility to Randy Cantrell (NAHB Research Center), Andrew McCoy, John Bouldin, Gavin Wherry, Joe Loferski and Daniel Hindman.

“The lab’s strength is the wide range of projects that can be pursued and integrated in one facility” said the Research Center’s Thomas Kenney, Vice President of Engineering and Research. Such comprehensive services as offered by the Research Center, ranging from product development, testing and certification, to market introduction and research can only be offered within a single facility by few institutions in the nation.

The visit concluded with a discussion about research projects and possible research collaborations. Areas of interest identified by the participants include green building efforts (Hindman and Buehlmann), low-cost emergency housing (Loferski), housing construction safety (Hindman), quality assurance and inspection (Bouldin and Loferski) and manufactured housing (Wherry and Buehlmann). Follow-up visits already have been scheduled and collaborative efforts helping advance the understanding and efficiency of housing construction and maintenance are certain to evolve. Picture 3 shows a group picture of the participants from VT:



NAHB Research Center’s Manager of Marketing Research, Kevin Tilley, explains the installation testing area to VT’s visitors.



NAHB’s Randy Cantrell, Andrew McCoy (Myers-Lawson School of Construction @ VT), Gavin Wherry, Urs Buehlmann, Daniel Hindman, Joe Loferski and John Bouldin (all Department of Wood Science and Forest Products @ VT).

Bond Presents at James River Green Building Council

Dr. Brian Bond presented information about sustainable and certified wood products at a meeting of the Charlottesville Division of the James River Green Building Council held in Charlottesville, VA on June 17th. He presented information about the availability, consumer interest and industry perspectives of sustainable and certified wood products. Dr. John Munsell of the Department of Forestry at Virginia Tech introduced the topic of sustainability and certification for forest lands and Charlie Becker presented information regarding how forest certification programs affect Virginia landowners and give insights to landowner perspectives on certification. The group consisted of architects and building officials interested in learning more about sustainable forestry and forest products.

Bond and Buehlmann Participate in Field Day

Dr. Brian Bond and Dr. Urs Buehlmann participated in “Making Something of your Woods: Portable Sawmilling” a field day conducted with Matt Yancey the Northwest District Extension Forester. The field day was offered to landowners interested in using a portable sawmill to produce lumber for sale or for personal use. The two-day workshop offered an in-depth look at portable sawmilling: from purchasing a mill to marketing kiln-dried lumber. Participants also learned how to determine which trees to harvest based on the current health of the woods, safely fell a tree, and extract trees with a farm tractor. “Making Something of your Woods: Portable Sawmilling” was held June 12 and 13 at Shenandoah Valley Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Steeles Tavern, Virginia.

Wood Enterprise Institute 2008 Open House

1-5 PM — Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Brooks Forest Products Center

The students for this year’s Wood Enterprise Institute invite you to join them to come see their business, their product, and their business systems. The open house is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon on July 8 at the Brooks Forest Products Center.

- Meet WEI 2008 students
- See WEI 2008 Product offerings
- Tours and demonstrations of WEI operations including the new Laser Engraver
- Enter the raffle for a free 2008 model Tabletop Bookshelf
- Refreshments provided!



WEI 2008 — L-R: Tim Coplan, Matt Black, Sarah Hutchinson, Tim Stiess, Amy Jahnke, Gavin Wherry, Earl Kline, Daniel Fore.

VT Wood Science Alumni and Friends Reception at the 62nd International Convention of the Forest Products Society – St. Louis Missouri June 23, 2008



Interesting Things to Do With Wood



Radius's Source Toothbrush

<http://www.radius toothbrush.com/>

Miniot's iWood for the iPhone

<http://www.miniot.com>

A row of five iPhones, each with a different colored wooden case. From left to right, the cases are labeled: Oak (light tan), Padouk (reddish-orange), Cherry (light brown), Mahogany (medium brown), and Walnut (dark brown). Below this row is a close-up of a wooden iPhone case. The screen shows a weather forecast for Schagen with a temperature of 19°C. The text on the screen reads: "12:01", "Schagen", "H: 21° L: 15°", and "19°".

Natural protection for your iPhone. Carved from a single piece of the finest woods, with your monogram, logo or personal message engraved!

Sequoia National Park – Home of the Largest Trees on Earth

Sequoia National Park, located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of the San Joaquin Valley in California is home to the land of giants – the Giant Sequoias (*Sequoia gigantea*)

