

June 2008						
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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](mailto: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

[June 2](#) | [June 16](#) | [June 30](#) | [July 14](#) | [July 28](#) | [August 11](#)

We will resume weekly publication on Monday August 18

## News From Paul Winistorfer

- The Northeastern Utilization and Marketing Council of the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) meets at the Brooks Center on June 3. Dr. Bob Smith, Associate Dean for Engagement and Charlie Becker, State Department of Forestry Staff Utilization Forester are hosting this group. The group is traveling to Danville and other parts of the state in the following days.
- Our Wood Week Career Fair and Wood Industry Student Placement Program national press releases have been distributed to all trade press and wood industry associations in the United States.
- Dr. Henry Quesada-Pineda will be joining our faculty in August as an assistant professor and extension specialist working in the broad arena of forest products business management. We are excited to have Henry and his family, join us from Costa Rica to begin his faculty career with us in Blacksburg. Their arrival date is not yet set – but we'll roll out some Hokie hospitality when the time comes.
- I will be joining Southside Partners for two presentations this week; with the Utilization and Marketing group in Danville at the Regional Center for Advanced Technology and Training (RCATT Danville Community College - [www.dcc.vccs.edu/workforce/](http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/workforce/)) hosted by Jeff Arnold and Gerald Sexton and at the Higher Education Center in South Boston for the Conference 'Building Communities Through the Arts: The Business of Art and Design' hosted by Director Ted Bennett and Amy Lammerts, Director of program Development and Outreach. ([www.svhed.org](http://www.svhed.org)). I will be presenting summaries of our efforts to build capacity and educational pathways in Southern Virginia and our partnering work over the past two years.

## 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

## A Reminder from the Engineering Lab

The test machines in the Engineering Lab are in high demand this summer. There are many sponsored projects and graduate projects going on. If you need to use the machines in the Engineering Lab, you should schedule a time with Rick a MINIMUM OF TWO WEEKS in advance. The technicians in the Wood Science and Forest Products Department are very capable and talented people. They are very busy and it is important that they are respected. Have a good summer and BREAK LOTS of WOOD!

## Total Productive Maintenance Workshop received high marks at the 2008 Richmond Expo

Virginia Tech and the Virginia Forest Products Association (VFPA) partnered to offer a workshop on "Total Productive Maintenance (TPM)" on May 15 at the 2008 Richmond Expo to forest products industry participants. Instructors Brian Bond, Don Bright, Earl Kline, and Amy Jahnke led a "hands-on" workshop to teach and demonstrate systems to control and prevent critical production problems caused by maintenance-related issues. The USDA's Wood Education and Resource Center helped fund the hands-on training materials used for this workshop.



Above: Dr. Brian Bond discussing TPM concepts with workshop participants. Below Left: Don Bright (BS 1998) surveying equipment for maintenance needs. Below Right: Wibke Pohle Duvall (MS 2002) correcting a maintenance issue as team partners discuss ways to prevent its reoccurrence.



## Perkins Attends SmallWood 2008 Conference

Brian Perkins attended the SmallWood conference in Madison, Wisconsin. Brian presented a poster showing the results from his master's thesis which determined the feasibility of utilizing small diameter red oak logs. The conference was well attended with a diverse audience from across the U.S. As a lot of you know, the interest in wood biomass has grown since the last SmallWood conference 2 years ago and that was evident at this conference. There were two days of technical sessions and a tour on the third day. A list of presentations and a copy of them are available at the Forest Products Society's website. A tour of the USDA Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory was very interesting. A couple of notable news items from the conference:

- Flambeau River Biorefinery, LLC is slated to be built in Park Falls, WI. The facility will sell electricity and steam to an adjacent paper mill. The facility will produce 40 million gallons per year of Fischer-Tropsch fuels from local wood waste using gasification.
- Between state- and county- owned forestland, Wisconsin has approximately 3 million acres of certified public forestland.

## WBC IAB Meeting at Virginia Tech

By Linda Caudill

The Industry Advisory Board of the Wood-Based Composites Center met on the campus of Virginia Tech on May 21-22. Research and Development leaders from WBC member companies gathered to listen to technical presentations and visit an impressive poster session during the day on Wednesday. Students from VT's Department of Wood Science and Forest Products provided much of the technical content, along with faculty from Oregon State, the University of Maine, the University of British Columbia and Virginia Tech. USDA Forest Products Laboratory scientist Christopher Hunt and former WBC Fellow David Finkenbinder (now employed by Simpson Strong-Tie) rounded out the list of presenters. Evening social events at Awful Arthur's Seafood Company and The Cellar were enjoyed by all.

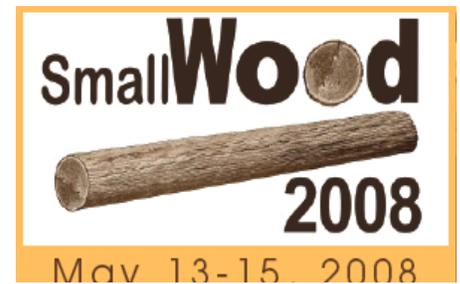
On Thursday, May 22, the Advisory Board met to discuss the activities and future direction of the WBC, after which time the faculty rejoined the group to receive feedback. Center Director and Professor Chip Frazier facilitated the meeting with assistance from WBC Managing Director Linda Caudill and Administrative Assistant Angela Riegel. Department Head Paul Winistorfer participated in a large part of the meeting. Many others within the Department contributed to make the event a great success.

The Wood-Based Composites Center was established at Virginia Tech in 1999. VT houses the research center that is supported by 17 large companies working in the wood composites industry. Four partner universities, including Oregon State, the University of Maine, the University of British Columbia, and Virginia Tech, share funding provided through gifts from member companies for support of graduate students studying in this important area. It is the mission of the WBC Center to advance the science and technology of wood-based composites materials. This is accomplished through the education and training of students and the financial support of fundamental research. Visit the Center's website at [www.wbc.vt.edu](http://www.wbc.vt.edu) for more information.

## 2nd Annual Wood Science and Forest Products Summer Research Symposium

By Dan Hindman

The 2nd Annual Summer Research Symposium is being planned. The purpose is to share the research findings being done at Virginia Tech and allow graduate students an opportunity to practice their presentations before professional conferences. All graduate students and interested faculty members who are presenting oral or poster presentations are welcome to attend. If interested, please send a note to Dr. Hindman at [dhindman@vt.edu](mailto:dhindman@vt.edu).



## News From the Wood Education and Resource Center

### The Wood Education and Resource Center has awarded 23 grants totaling

more than \$1.5 million. This year we received a total of 83 grant proposals requesting over \$5 million. See the following News Release.

The National Association of Home Builders - Research Center has partnered with WERC to develop a web site featuring hardwood product usage data in residential construction. The web site is for small businesses investigating opportunities for hardwood products in residential applications. The web address is <http://www.nahbrc.org/hardwood/default.aspx>. Please share this web site with your small business contacts.

West Virginia University, Division of Forestry and Natural Resources has partnered with WERC to update and expand the "Managing Your Woodlot"

website. The web site, developed for educating private forest landowners, includes a "Stumpage/Log Value" calculator that provides a glimpse of the variability in value among hardwood species. The web address is [http://ahc.caf.wvu.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogsection&id=12&Itemid=91](http://ahc.caf.wvu.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=12&Itemid=91)

Please remember to visit the WERC web site periodically -- [www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/)

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Ed Cesa, Deputy Director

Wood Education and Resource Center

Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry USDA Forest Service, Princeton, WV

Phone: 304-285-1530

FAX: 304-285-1505

Cell: 304-376-1607

WERC website: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/>

Mailing address:

180 Canfield Street

Morgantown, WV 26505

### USDA Forest Service Awards Over \$1.5 Million to Enhance Hardwood Forests

PRINCETON, WV— Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Director Kathryn Maloney announced that the U.S. Forest Service is awarding 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.

"An important component of improving the health of hardwood forests is to maintain a vibrant forest products industry that has the ability to sustainably utilize lower-value trees for products that will assist our citizens with their energy needs as well as provide locally-produced wood products used in our daily lives," said Maloney. "These projects will help advance the use of woody biomass for energy, and support the adoption of new forest products and their markets from our eastern hardwood forests."

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.

## **WERC Selects Proposals**

- Increase the use of woody biomass for domestic energy use.

The maximum grant amount is \$100,000. Grant recipients are required to match Federal funds, dollar for dollar. The selected projects will provide matching funds in excess of this requirement, totaling \$1.9 million, for a grand total of approximately \$3.4 million invested in these endeavors. The 23 grant recipients include:

Agri-Tech Producers, LLC (Columbia, S.C.), \$100,000

Allison Tree Care, Inc. (Verona, Wis.), \$43,000

Architectural Woodwork Institute (Potomac Falls, Va.), \$92,000

Concord University (Princeton, W.Va.), \$58,860

Conway & Robison, LLC (Sharpsburg, Ga.), \$79,100

CuddleBug Firewood & Forestry Products (Campbell Hill, Ill.), \$15,000

Haywood Community College (Clyde, N.C.), \$77,522

Itasca Economic Development Corporation (Grand Rapids, Minn.), \$50,000

Maine Forest Service (Augusta, Maine), \$76,879

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (Brunswick, Maine), \$50,000

National Network of Forest Practitioners (Athens, Ohio), \$100,000

North Carolina State University (Raleigh, N.C.), \$96,874

National Hardwood Lumber Association (Memphis, Tenn.), \$25,000

Penn State University (University Park, Pa.), \$89,561

University of Minnesota Duluth (Minneapolis, Minn.), \$89,500

Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation District (Marquette, Mich.), \$48,700

Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association (Rutland, Vt.), \$42,647

Virginia Tech University (Blacksburg, Va.), \$98,786, \$45,928, \$32,050, and \$27,750 (4 projects)

Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (Philadelphia, Pa.), \$78,441

Young Furniture Mfg. (Bow, N.H.), \$100,000

## **WERC Selects Proposals**

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. The selected projects competed with many other worthy proposals. All proposed projects combined were seeking \$5.1 million in Federal funds.

Funding is provided through the U.S. Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center, located in Princeton, W.Va., and administered by the agency's Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry organization. The Center's mission is to work with the forest products industry toward sustainable forest products production for the eastern hardwood forest region. It provides state-of-the-art training, technology transfer, networking opportunities, applied research, and information. For more information, visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/>.

## **Current State of Technology in the Advanced Wood Manufacturing Sector**

A situational analysis written by Lignum Consulting Corp. on behalf of Industry Canada is now available through the Canadian Wood Manufacturing Council website at:

<http://www.wmc-cfb.ca/programs/current-state-of-tech-in-advanced-wood-manu-sector.pdf>