

May 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](#).

## News From Paul Winistorfer

- Thanks to Dr. Urs Buehlmann for his financial contribution to 'Building Our Future'. Contributions from our wood science faculty are so very special and much appreciated. Thank you Dr. Buehlmann for your support! We are approaching the 100% contribution status of department faculty. Have you given yet to 'Building Our Future'?
- Congratulations to all of our students who are graduating this week; college commencement is Saturday, May 10th. We are very proud of you and this significant accomplishment at the onset of your career. We believe we have the highest quality undergraduate degree program in North America and the foundation you have built by completing the wood science major will be a significant cornerstone in your career. Congratulations to you and your parents and family and best wishes as you begin the next chapter of your life. Go forth and 'do good'. Please stay in contact with us and come by to visit whenever you are near.
- I will finish 'exit interviews' of all graduating seniors this week. Now in its 6th year, exit interviews allow us to glean useful information from our students as they leave our program. The graduating class this spring has been particularly forthcoming with good suggestions on how we can improve our program. A summary will be available soon.
- As a member of the board of directors, I will attend the board meeting of The Woodwork Career Alliance of North America [WCANA] this week in Tysons Corner, VA.. The Alliance is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization actively promoting a skilled work force for the advanced woodworking industry in the United States and Canada. The Woodwork Career Alliance hopes to develop Skill Standards as a means to support the woodworking industry in preparing productive woodworkers. It will sponsor a voluntary assessment program which will allow woodworkers to demonstrate their competency in the Skills and earn credentials that are recognized nationwide.
- The department staff is meeting this week to look at possible upcoming projects we undertake annually during the summer months. These projects are above and beyond the normal routine duties of our department staff. Suggestions of summer projects are welcome.

## Coming Up – Richmond Expo – May 16 -17 Richmond Fairgrounds

Show Dates for Expo Richmond 2008 are May 16-17, 2008

The 29th East Coast Sawmill and Logging Equipment Exposition

EXPO Richmond is one of the largest shows of its type in the country, and in 2006 attracted 326 exhibiting companies and over 13,000 visitors from 47 U.S. states and territories and 20 foreign countries.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE!](#)

## Scholarship Application Deadline is May 15th

Our department scholarship application deadline is May 15th, for scholarships to be awarded effective fall 2008. Application may be made on line. You can find our downloadable application form, and link to the online application on our department website at <http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/students/scholarships/scholarlist.asp?type=1>

Notification is made during the summer, and students are recognized at our Wood Week Scholarship Recognition Reception. The reception is scheduled for September 17th , 2008 at the Inn at Virginia Tech.



## Register for Wood Week 2008 Career Fair

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.

## First Registrants On Board for Wood Week 2008 Career Fair!

- American WoodMark – Winchester Virginia
- Roy O. Martin – Alexandria, Louisiana
- Blair Dummond, Inc – Richmond, Virginia

## New State Forest Products Marketing Specialists Joins Virginia Department of Agriculture

The Division of Marketing, Office of International Marketing, is pleased to welcome Mr. Joel Stopha to VDACS as the new International Marketing Specialist -Forest Products. Joel comes to the position with a very strong background in forest products marketing having worked in the wood products industry in for many years. For nearly seven years, Joel was an Extension Specialist of wood products marketing at the Appalachian Hardwood Center at West Virginia University where he conducted market research and worked with companies developing marketing campaigns and new products. Joel also worked five years as the Project Manager- Marketing Representative, Forest Products Industry for the West Virginia Development Office in Charleston, which included representing the State of West Virginia at foreign trade shows. Most recently Joel worked working as a marketing representative for Pfizer Inc.

Joel holds a Masters Degree in Forestry Economics from State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a BS degree in Forestry from West Virginia University.

## Congratulations to Our Wood Science and Forest Products Class of 2008



L-R Front Row:

Joey Taylor  
Mike Elebash  
John Foster  
Jesse Paris  
Adam Birkett  
Daniel Watson  
Kevin Knight

L-R Back Row:

Randy Feehan  
Dr. Paul Winistorfer  
Rob Hart  
Will Youngblood  
Josh Hosen  
Keith Horn  
Josh Turner  
Adam Hutchison

## Bamboo-Wood Hybrid Composites

For WOOD 4446, students had the opportunity to design a new wood-based composite material. Teams of students submitted an original composite design based on a literature search to determine the current state-of-art related to their idea. After submitting their designs, the students were required to develop a “yard stick” to judge and rank their classmates



design. The top design was a particleboard reinforced with bamboo strands submitted by Adam Birkett and John Foster (pictured in lower photo), beating out among others, carbon fiber reinforced balsa wood and glass fiber reinforced fluting for puncture resistant cardboard boxes. In addition to the design and judging the submissions, the teams were provided an opportunity to write a rebuttal addressing the weaknesses pointed out in their designs. Students harvested local bamboo, refined it in a counter rotating knife flaker, sorted it, and extracted the waxy and extractive components from the bamboo. Wood particles were combined with bamboo at 60:40 ratio and hotpressed into a 3/8” panel product. Special acknowledgement for GP Resins who donated the adhesive for the course projects and Rick Caudill for helping to get the panels manufactured.



## Matt Gillin Visits Brooks Center



Matt Gillin is a Senior Scientist and Coordinator for the NIOSH Construction Program and works in the NIOSH Office of the Director in Washington, DC. Matt visited the Center for Innovation in Construction Safety and Health for a seminar on “Second Decade of NORA and draft NORA Construction Goals.” NORA is the National Occupational Research Agenda, which is the guiding document produced by NIOSH for the direction and approach to safety research. Dr. Hindman is a member of the Center for Innovation in Construction Safety and Health and is currently the principal investigator on a project involving the lateral buckling of unbraced wood beams during construction. “Safety research in Wood Science is actually a very good fit. Most safety research has focused on the human factors but not on the quantifiable loads and material behaviors that humans interact with on the construction site” says Dr. Hindman. The tour included a brief tour of Brooks and a visit in the Engineering Lab as well as a demonstration of joist buckling.

## Sixth Drying Lumber With a Solar Kiln Was A Success!



Dr. Brian Bond and Dr. Fred Lamb conducted the Sixth Drying Lumber with a Solar Kiln workshop on April 24-25th. The workshop was attended by fifteen individuals who traveled from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and as far away as Michigan and Montreal, Canada. The workshop was held at the Courtyard by Marriott and introduced the principles of drying hardwood and softwood lumber in a solar kiln. Information on the design and operation of solar kilns was also presented. A tour to the Virginia Tech solar kiln, located at the Brooks Forest Products Center, was included. The participants were full of enthusiasm and all indicated that the course provided knowledge that would greatly benefit them as they move forward in expanding their businesses. For more information on the Virginia Tech solar kiln or solar kiln operation, visit our solar kiln web page at [www.woodscience.vt.edu/about/extension/vtsolar\\_kiln/](http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/about/extension/vtsolar_kiln/). We are already planning for next year's course, to be held April 23-24, 2009.

## A Record Infestation of Beetles is Turning Western Canada's Forests From a Carbon Sink Into a CO<sub>2</sub> Source

By Peter N. Spotts | Staff writer of [The Christian Science Monitor](http://www.csmonitor.com) from the April 24, 2008 edition

A beetle about the length of a well-trimmed fingernail may be challenging scientists' projections for global warming.

Forests store large amounts of carbon drawn from the atmosphere, helping Earth keep cool. But an infestation of mountain pine beetles is turning more than 144,000 square miles of woods in British Columbia from a slight carbon absorber – or sink – to a net CO<sub>2</sub> emitter. Canadian scientists unveiled projections Wednesday that between 2000 and 2020, the forest will have lost 270 million tons of carbon into the atmosphere.

The process has the potential to become a vicious cycle: As the climate warms, it favors more severe outbreaks, and if severe outbreaks increase, that leaves fewer trees to absorb carbon and more emissions as dead trees decompose. Researchers say British Columbia's problem highlights a growing threat that North American forests, too, face from climate change.

"This is very important," acknowledges Tom Veblen, a geographer at the University of Colorado at Boulder who is looking at the interplay of climate change, insect infestations, and wildfires in forests in the western United States. He

notes that climate models do not take this type of feedback into account when they gauge temperature trajectories as human-related greenhouse-gas emissions rise.

“It’s been known for some time that insects are an important part of the boreal-forest carbon cycle,” says Werner Kruz, a scientist at the National Resources Canada’s Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria, British Columbia, who headed the modeling effort. But, he adds, the failure to include bugs’ cumulative effect in climate models could be leading researchers to overestimate the amount of human-generated CO<sub>2</sub> forests can absorb.

### **Worst outbreak**

British Columbia is deep into its worst infestation of mountain pine beetles on record. Annual emissions from the worst year of infestation come close to matching the average annual emissions from all the forest fires the country experienced between 1959 and 1999, researchers say. Over the 21-year period the projections cover, emissions from the affected forests appear comparable to five years’ worth of emissions from Canada’s entire transportation sector.

Canada’s beetle problem highlights a threat North American forests face from climate change, in addition to wildfires, logging, mining, and other development activities, say researchers. By some estimates, mountain pine beetles and their bark-burrowing cousins infest some 50 million acres of forest, stretching from Alaska to the southwestern US.

And the outbreak highlights the challenges resource managers face as they try to preserve forest resilience in the face of a changing climate and pressure to exploit timber and mineral resources. Because the beetles stay burrowed underneath the bark, the only known method to control infestations before they get out of hand is to cut down the trees they’ve killed or the live trees they’ve infected. It’s an approach that raises the hackles of some environmentalists and ecologists alike.

Nor is the challenge limited to North America’s boreal forests, adds Olga Krankina, a forest ecologist at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Russia has had severe outbreaks of Siberian gypsy moths, which attack foliage.

Historically, the outbreaks have run in cycles, notes Allan Carroll, an entomologist with Natural Resources Canada who was part of the modeling project. The results appear in this week’s issue of the journal *Nature*.

Western North America, where the mountain pine beetles occur naturally, has seen four or five outbursts in the past 100 years. But the current episode represents a perfect storm for British Columbia’s forests. Wildfire suppression over the past 60 to 70 years has yielded a forest populated by large numbers of pines 80 to 160 years old – the beetles’ habitat of choice. Milder winters and hot, drier summers have helped the beetles thrive.

The exploding bug population found “a real smorgasbord” to support it, Dr. Carroll says.

### **Spreading east**

Those climate factors have also permitted the beetles to move east through mountain passes once too cold for them to clear. And in the summers, significant numbers of the flying beetles have gotten caught up in thunderstorms, which deposit them on the Rockies’ eastern slopes.

This migration comes at a time when some 1,500 scientists from around the world are imploring the Canadian government to preserve large swaths of the country’s boreal forests. Last May, they sent a letter to the Canadian government asking it to set aside at least half of the forest’s 2.3-million-square-mile expanse and keep it free of industrial development, the balance to be managed sustainably.

The bugs’ eastward march is likely to be slow, Carroll suggests. And it could further be slowed by the mix of trees east of the Rockies. Stands of jack pine, which the beetles can infest, exist in isolated patches in areas where they’ve crested the mountains. “The jack pines are not as contiguous as other species, so that would be a barrier,” he says.

But control efforts would likely still be needed, he adds. That would mean flying crews into the infested area, cutting down dead and infested trees, and burning them on the spot. The alternative, he says, is watching a “disturbance agent move into a forest that hasn’t seen it before ... which could increase the fire risk in the future.”

And forest managers are coming around to the idea that it may not be wise to salvage harvest in every circumstance, Dr. Kurz adds. The forest’s other benefits, from biodiversity to water and soil conservation, may be better retained from leaving dead trees where they are, especially if they stand along rivers and streams, deep in forests where building access roads would do more ecological harm than the deadfall, or along slopes, where removing trees would lead to serious erosion problems.

## Job Announcements

### Sales and Marketing - F&W

F&W is a family business that is over 100 years old. The company has changed a lot over the years and today operate a dimension or component plant, dry kilns and a concentration yard. We employ 90 people and are located in the small village of Ellicottville, NY, which is 50 miles south of Buffalo. We have two ski areas here.

Ron Mercer will be retiring and I am interested in bringing in a young person to train in sales and marketing of hardwood lumber and components. Exports have been an important market for us for over 30 years.

We have a full time Forester on staff and he manages several thousand acres of timberland the company owns. We did close our sawmill six years ago and now buy in green and KD lumber for our kilns and dimension plant.

Visit our website at [www.fitzweller.com](http://www.fitzweller.com)

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### Process Control Technician - Georgia Pacific

Georgia-Pacific, a leader in the forest products industry is seeking a skilled candidate for a Process Control Technician position opening in our oriented strand board plant located in Brookneal, VA. The plant is approximately 30 minutes from Lynchburg, VA. This Plant is capable of providing a safe and financially stable work environment.

#### List of Job Responsibilities

- Works with the Team Leader to resolve quality and/or production problems.
- Performs daily quality control tests as outlined by Georgia-Pacific Corporation standards and APA specifications including but not limited to: surface inspections, thickness tolerance checks, verification of flake geometry and flake moisture content, cross-panel density, internal bonding, parallel and perpendicular.

#### List of Job Requirements

- Desire to work in a team-based environment.
- Willingness to work rotating shifts which will include weekends and holidays.
- Solid working knowledge of APA performance standards and polices for structural-use panels, production methods, tests and reporting procedures for quality control from receipt of raw materials to shipment of the finished product.
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to compose technical material including letters, reports and proposals.
- 3 – 5 years of job related experience and/or a Bachelor's Degree in Wood Science.

#### What All Applicants Can Expect

- Interested applicants should forward a current resume, cover letter and salary requirements to:

Georgia-Pacific Corporation  
Attn: Keith Scott  
Post Office Box 340  
Brookneal, Virginia 24528

- Any applicants offered employment would be required to take a post-offer drug screen.
- Deadline to apply is May 12th, 2008.



## **Carolina Inspection Services, Inc.**

**Position:** Quality Inspector for wood packaging materials program under the IPPC/ALSC regulations for the ISPM 15. This is a field staff position.

**Territories Available:** Southeastern

**Job Description:** This position requires a lot of travel to multiple sites/states in a territory inspecting facilities (manufacturers, packaging/freight companies, heat treaters, etc.). This candidate will inspect companies on a monthly basis for records management, required HT mark o lumber inventory, and wood packaging materials for compliance in the IPPC program. There would be a 2-3 week training period, possibly in the NC office and in other states. Ongoing training provided also. A good driving record is required for this individual also.

It requires a person that is self-directed and very detail oriented. They will work with little supervision. Reliability, dependability, and the ability to learn and grow with the company are characteristics that we are looking for in a candidate. Flexibility and the ability to handle problem solving situations is a necessity.

**Background requirements:** An associates degree/bachelors degree preferred. We are looking for a candidate with knowledge of wood products or a forestry background. Drug test, background check, and motor vehicle record check required.

**Compensation:** Salary DOE. A vehicle for travel will be provided and all applicable expenses paid. 2 weeks vacation/yr. and all major holidays paid. After 90 days of employment, 50% of health insurance will be paid by company. (Employee will be responsible for retaining their own health insurance) After the first year of employment, they would be eligible for a simple matching IRA. Commissions available with sales development.

For interest in our company, please contact Amanda Gilreath-Eaton at 866-753-5738 or [cis@carolinainspection.com](mailto:cis@carolinainspection.com). P.O. Box 398, Marshville, North Carolina 28103. Access our website at [www.carolinainspection.com](http://www.carolinainspection.com) for more information.

P. O. Box 398 Marshville, North Carolina 28103-1145  
Business: 704-624-1996 · Fax: 704-624-1946  
[www.carolinainspection.com](http://www.carolinainspection.com)



## Augusta Lumber

Finishing school? Looking for a company on a growth curve? Looking for a job where you can apply what you have learned in school?

We are Augusta Lumber a wood products company poised to grow and grow rapidly. Growth requires the right people, the right backing and the right opportunities. We know we have all of these but want to find more of the right people. Are you one of those people?

We believe...

- you are graduating from a great program that has given you the necessary skills to succeed.
- that you need the opportunity to apply those skills and gain experience.
- that it is important for managers to know how a company works from the ground up.
- that great people are who make any company great.

To help you gain the right experience we have developed a 30 month managerial training program to guide you through each of our functional areas of procurement, yard management, lumber production, flooring production and sales. Upon completion we expect you to have the knowledge and experience necessary to contribute to the growth of Augusta Lumber as a manager.

We expect...

- commitment to excellence.
- commitment to results.
- commitment to people.
- commitment to success.

In other words we expect you to be committed to the program and to bringing your best effort to work.

In return, we offer you the opportunity to grow with us, learn from some of the best in the industry, very competitive compensation, great benefits, and a strong commitment to success.

If you have interest in working with us please contact Terry Campbell at [terrycampbell@augustalumber.com](mailto:terrycampbell@augustalumber.com) with your resume' and any questions you may have.