

September 2006							
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# INSIDE VT WOOD

## Reminder...

Remember to submit department news items by Friday 3 pm 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

- Last week I participated in the review of the department of Wood Science and the Advanced Wood Processing Center at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC. The UBC program has recently joined the Wood-Based Composites Center as a partner university. I have department annual reports if you are interested in taking a look.
- Wednesday this week is our discussion with the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station (VAES) Directors. The program will be from 9am – 2pm in the Brooks Classroom. Faculty will be making presentations of their work and we will be engaged in a general discussion about our program, our research and outreach.
- Friday is the dedication of the new Ag-Natural Resources Building (Latham Hall). Please participate if you can. Latham Hall tours and open house: 1:30-4:15 p.m. All contractor work has been requested to stop the afternoon of Sept 22 and first and second floors will NOT be on the tours. In addition to the Tour Guides, there will be floor facilitators on floors 3-5. A light dessert reception will follow the dedication; bottled water will be available at the start of tours. A Spotlight package, with related links to researchers' websites, will start to run on the VT homepage Sept 22.
- Congratulations to Bob Smith, who will serve as interim Associate Dean of Outreach. Please see the announcement below on Bob's appointment.

## Smith Named Interim Associate Dean of Extension



The College of Natural Resources would like to announce the appointment of Dr. Robert L. "Bob" Smith as Interim Associate Dean for Extension in the college. Dr. Smith brings many years of experience in extension and outreach gained through his current role as Professor and Extension Specialist in Forest Products Marketing and Director of the Forest Products Marketing and Management Center in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech. In addition, Dr. Smith brings 14 years of industry experience to the position. Dr. Smith received his undergraduate degree from Michigan Tech, an MBA from the University of Wisconsin, and his doctorate from Virginia Tech. His extension and research efforts have focused on assisting the forest products industry in Virginia in identifying and expanding markets for their products, recycling of solid wood products and wood residues, and developing and offering a variety of continuing education courses and workshops in marketing and sales throughout the U.S. Dr. Smith will assume his new role on September 25, 2006.

## **VFPA Summer Meeting Was Held Sept 15-16**

The Virginia Forest Products Association (VFPA) Summer Meeting was held last weekend at Virginia Beach, Virginia. Scott Renneckar Presented the world of nanotechnology in the forest products industry.

WoodLINKS USA was also represented by Mark Smith, a very successful WoodLINKS teacher from Shiloh High School in Hume Illinois.

## **Department to Coordinate VT Wood Shirt Order**

The department will be coordinating an order for denim shirts with our VT Wood logo on the front. An order form will be posted on the counter at Brooks and Cheatham. You will be able to select short sleeve, long sleeve, size, and possibly denim color. The order will be placed October 1. Payment will be due at time of order. Watch this week for the order form to be posted.



## **Department Meetings Scheduled for Fall Semester**

Please plan on attending Department Meetings on the following dates:

September 27 – 8 a.m. Brooks Classroom

October 18 – 9 a.m. Brooks Classroom

November 15 – 10 a.m. Brooks Classroom

December 1 – 9 a.m. Brooks Classroom

Agenda items are welcome before the meeting agenda is finalized, and from the floor if time permits.

## **WOOD WEEK 2006**

Wednesday, October 4th – 6:30 p.m. is our student scholarship awards reception at the Inn at Virginia Tech.

Thursday, October 5th is our Career Awareness Fair. Please mark your calendar and participate.

## **Thailand Faculty Visit CULD**

by Bonnie MacCubbin

Faculty from the Department of Forest Products, Kasetsar University, Bangkok, Thailand, along with a pallet manufacturer also of Bangkok, visited with Mark White on Saturday, August 26. The visitors toured the center to learn about our operations and capabilities and to discuss the possibility of collaboration and faculty (visiting scientist) and student exchange.



left to right (Dr. Mark White, Dr. Teera Veenin, Opas Cheewatammanon, and assistant professors Songklod Jarusombuti and Ampai Peamaroon)

## **Log Grading Workshop**

by Brian Bond

Despite a tropical storm, the log grading workshop scheduled for Friday, September 1st was held at the Coleman Lumber Company located in Orange County, Virginia. Thirty-two loggers gathered, despite the heavy rain, to learn about grading hardwood logs using the clear face grading method. Attendants received credits for the Sharp Logger

program. The course was held inside the dry lumber grading and sorting shed, so everyone was able to stay dry. Adam Downing, Associate Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources arranged the course and Dr. Brian Bond of the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products was the primary instructor. Many thanks to Robert Coleman, Jamie Coleman and the Coleman Lumber Company for making this program possible by providing logs and the use of their facility.

## Income Opportunities for Woodlot Owners Conference

by Tom Hammett

Tom Hammett served on the organizing committee for a major conference entitled “Income Opportunities for Woodlot Owners” held on September 8th and 9th at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in Covington, Virginia. Others serving on the committee were Jim Chamberlain (USFS), Charlie Becker (DOF), Matt Yancey (VCE and WSFP graduate), and Andy Hankins (VCE, Virginia State). Tom presented the key note address during the opening session “Managing the whole forest: Why not include niche products or Non-Timber Forest Products?.” Later his presentation entitled “How to set up your business: Opportunities with Non-Timber Forest Products” introduced the business development track in the conference. With Phil Radtke of the Department of Forestry at Virginia Tech he helped give a hands-on demonstration in charcoal production. The conference was funded in part through VSU from the USDA Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) and supported by Virginia Tech, the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE).

## Furniture China 2006

by Bob Smith

Bob Smith represented Virginia Tech and the Commonwealth of Virginia at the “Furniture China 2006” trade show held in Shanghai China. Bob was part of a delegation from the Appalachian region which included representatives from Alabama, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Virginia, the



David Wong and Bob Smith at Virginia Booth at Furniture China 2006

US Dept. of Commerce and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) that were promoting hardwoods to the furniture industry in China. Other representatives from Virginia included Mr. George Hiller from the Southwest Virginia Higher Educational Center and Mr. David Wong from the Virginia Dept.

of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Along with the state representatives, a number of companies that are members or associated with the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management were participating at the show and included Anderson Tully Corporation, Gilco Lumber Co, AHC Export Group and Northwest Hardwoods.



Dept Display at Furniture China 2006

## VFPA Recognizes Department of Wood Science and Forest Products

At the recent summer conference of the Virginia Forest Products Association, the board of directors recognized the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products and Virginia Cooperative Extension for their contribution to the 2006 Expo Richmond held this past May 19 and 20th in Richmond, Virginia. Brian Bond, the department's representative was presented with a framed collage of pictures from the show as a token of appreciation from VFPA and the Board of Directors. The department worked closely with VFPA on the conference and provides the educational sessions for the EXPO.

The VFPA Board of Directors also agreed to continue to provide financial support for Wood Magic, the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management, and is providing new financial support for efforts in Virginia to organize WoodLINKS across the state.

The department appreciates our working partnership with VFPA and we look forward to our continued partnership and in making a difference to the forest industries sector in Virginia.

## WOODY BIOMASS UTILIZATION GRANTS

The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Technology Marketing Unit, located at the Forest Products Laboratory, is requesting proposals for forest product projects that increase the use of woody biomass from national forest system lands. The woody biomass utilization grant program is intended to help improve forest restoration activities by using and creating markets for small-diameter material and low-valued trees removed from forest restoration activities, such as reducing hazardous fuels, handling insect and diseased conditions, or treating forestlands impacted by catastrophic weather events. These funds are targeted to help communities, entrepreneurs, and others turn residues from forest restoration activities into marketable forest products and/or energy products. Eligible applicants are State, local, and tribal governments, school districts, communities, non-profit organizations, businesses, companies, corporations, or special purpose districts, e.g., public utilities districts, fire districts, conservation districts, or ports. The pre-application deadline is the close of business November 3, 2006. The full application deadline is the close of business February 2, 2007.

<http://a257.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-14707.htm>

## General Campus Announcements

### VT Majors Fair

To: Deans, Department Heads, and University Center Directors  
From: Kimberly LaBoone (klaboone@vt.edu), Assistant Director, College Transition Programs, Center for Academic Enrichment & Excellence

Dear Colleagues,

It is time for departments to register to participate in the VT Majors Fair.

October 12, 2006  
10 am - 4 pm  
Owens Banquet Hall

This year, Cassell Coliseum is being renovated so we have reserved Owens Banquet Hall for our program. Owens is actually undergoing renovations as well, but the planners believe the renovations will be completed in time for the Fair. Although the set up of Owens does not offer the same features as Cassell, the location promises to attract a lot of students as they visit Owens for lunch, snacks, and meals throughout the day.

Last year, there were more than 400 students and 42 departments who participated. The feedback from students was very positive and appreciative! Students at last year's Fair learned about majors and minors available at Virginia Tech. More importantly, they were able to meet the people who are the programs! Faculty, administrators, staff, and graduate students interacted with undergraduates to show what makes their programs so special and what exciting futures can be found with their programs of study. Such an experience far exceeds anything a student can gain from online information or by reading a brochure. The VT Majors Fair is a great way for your department to join this university-wide effort to help students enjoy academic success and realize their full potential.

### Latest Issue of Synergy Available

TO: Deans, Department Heads, and University Center Directors  
FROM: Ben Dixon, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs and Kevin McDonald, Director, Office for Equal

Opportunity (by way of Ray Plaza, rp25@vt.edu)

RE: Latest edition of Synergy

The latest issue of Synergy is now available online through: [www.multicultural.vt.edu/synergy](http://www.multicultural.vt.edu/synergy)

Synergy, produced by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Office for Equal Opportunity, is a new tool designed to reach out across all areas of the university community and provide a new vehicle of communication on issues of diversity, multiculturalism and inclusion.

**Submissions:** All members of the University Community (faculty, staff and students) are encouraged to submit items to be included in Synergy.

**E-Alerts:** If you or your staff /students are interested in receiving direct e-alerts when new issues of Synergy are posted online, please sign-up to join an electronic mailing list at <https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1156362497845>

**Distribution:** Please share information about Synergy with your fellow colleagues and students. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity as we help to breakdown the communication barriers in order to develop synergy across the entire campus in our efforts to “enhance the future of Virginia Tech through synergy in the promotion of equity and diversity”.

If you have any questions about Synergy or would like to submit items to be included in future issues, please contact: Ray Plaza, Project Specialist for Diversity Initiatives at 231-7289 or at [rp25@vt.edu](mailto:rp25@vt.edu).

## **2006 CRC Annual Family Picnic**

The 2006 CRC Annual Family Picnic will be held September 22nd from 5:00 to 8:00. Catered by Sigma Grill, this event offers food and fun for all ages. Live music will be provided by G.T. Swing, Virginia's number one swing and variety band.

Attached is an invitation and registration form. Please distribute this to all employees. Please note that registration forms must be returned to the CRC Administrative office by close of business on September 14th.

Please feel free to contact me should you need additional information.

Dawn M. Crigger

Tenant Programs and Relationship Manager

Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center

1872 Pratt Drive, Suite 1000

Blacksburg, VA 24060

Phone: (540) 961-3600 x2101 Fax: (540) 961-2304

[www.vtcrc.com](http://www.vtcrc.com)