



Appalachian Hardwood News

June 2022

Monthly newsletter of
Appalachian Hardwood
Manufacturers, Inc.
info@appalachianhardwood.org

Crowd Expected For Summer Conf.

US Furniture, Training & Stave Mill Tour Are Popular

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. asks you to finalize plans TODAY for the 2022 Summer Conference on **July 23-26** at **The Homestead in Hot Springs, VA**. A great crowd has filled the room block and AHMI is on a list for more rooms.

The attraction is informative business program that include:

1) **Domestic Furniture Makers Boom** with Vaughan-Bassett Furniture President Doug Bassett who will discuss the tremendous growth in US-made furniture manufacturing. VB has grown to more than \$100 million in sales in the past two years.

2) **Appalachian Hardwood Training Institute** with Dr. John Rainone president of Mountain Gateway Community College. He will update members on this ARC funded project to train workers in the hardwood industry.

3) **Real American Hardwood** ramps up with an engaging consumer website this summer. A report from the Coalition Board.

Two breakout sessions for Tuesday to gain more value:

a. **Poplar CLT Passes The Test** with Sailesh Adhari, a Virginia Tech researcher who is working with AHMI to submit an application for Poplar CLT to be included in International Building Codes. He will present the results and process.

b. **AHMI 401k Enrollment** - Representatives from UBS Financial will be on site to answer questions and enroll AHMI members in this multiple-employer program that offers retirement accounts for employees.

All attendees are invited to tour the **Speyside Bourbon Stave Mill** in nearby Millboro, VA on



Tuesday at 1:30pm after you depart the conference. The specialty saw mill creates staves for bourbon barrels from Appalachian white oak.

There will be ample time for networking with members and guests at receptions and between sessions. We will also have the Summer Golf and Sporting Clays tournaments and a Tomahawk Throwing Contest has been added to Monday's reception.

Experience the southern hospitality and elegant charm that have made The Homestead a premier destination. The resort provides timeless comforts and an array of exciting activities.

Please visit www.appalachianhardwood.org and click on "Meetings" for information and to register online. A paper registration form is included on page 6.

Please call the AHMI office for room reservations list at (336) 885-8315 or email to info@appalachianhardwood.org.

The Omni Homestead Resort is an experience unlike any other. Surrounded by the Appalachian Mountains, The Homestead creates the perfect
(See Summer on page 3)

The way I see it...

By Tom Inman, AHMI President

...the railway tie industry is strong in 2022 and expected to remain stable for the next 12 months, according to participants in the Railway Tie Association's Summer Tours at facilities in Virginia and West Virginia.

I attended these and RTA allowed me to speak about the state of the hardwood production sector. Many attendees were buyers/processors like Stella-Jones and Koppers and maintain weekly contact with sawmills across the Appalachian region.

The visits included processing facilities for Stella-Jones in Goshen, VA, and Koppers in Salem, VA. There were also stops at Virginia Tech; Allegheny Wood Products in Princeton, WV; Norfolk Southern's Material Yard in Roanoke, VA; and the Transportation Museum in Roanoke.

These tie processing facilities have been in operation for decades and manufacture thousands of railroad ties annually. The companies have added processing equipment to speed production and address labor issues.

The tie industry is a key consumer of lower grades of Red Oak, Hickory, Gum and other species. Buyers noted the region grows an excellent resource for their needs.

The railroad tie industry purchases approximately 1 billion board feet of materials annually or about 20% of industrial hardwood production.

These facilities also process bridge and road timbers. Demand for these products is also good. For more information, visit www.rta.org.



Sen. Warner Visits AHMI Booth

US Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) speaks with (from left) Tom Sheets of Blue Ridge Lumber, Roy Zangari of Meadow River Hardwood Lumber and Jamie Coleman of RS Coleman Lumber at the Expo Richmond in May. Sheets invited Warner and his staff to the Expo to learn more about the forest products industry in the region in 2022.

The conversation centered on the immediate pressures from domestic and export freight issues, rising fuel prices and labor shortages. Warner was aware of all three for most industries and receptive to dialogue about the cost burdens for forest products.

He said Congress has passed the legislation to address some of these problems and working on other solutions. AHMI provided his team with information on the Appalachian hardwood industry and forest sustainability.

Coleman and others toured Warner around the show to view equipment and meet vendors. He was impressed with new technologies to increase production and address workforce issues.

AHMI's booth at the Expo was very successful offering information to landowners, producers and manufacturers from Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Special thanks to the Virginia Forest Products Association for assisting AHMI with the space and promotion.

Summer from page 1

environment for outdoor pursuits every family member can enjoy. From horseback riding and hiking to fly fishing and archery, there's an activity for any age.

Indoors offers a classic movie theater, pool, spa, and lobby for relaxation. Please visit the website for details and reservations.

Dining: The Dining Room offers fine dining with a refined continental cuisine with regional influences served across multiple courses. Open for breakfast, afternoon tea and dinner. Reservations are recommended and dress code is encouraged.

Jefferson's Restaurant features a farm-to-table approach with a hand-picked selection of prime and regional meats from Virginia and beyond. Serving dinner daily. **Jefferson's Tap Room** is more casual with pub-style classics for lunch and dinner with large TVs and floor to ceiling windows.

Woody's is named after beloved, long-tenured associate Woodrow "Woody" Pettus and is a guest favorite for lunch and dinner. Full bar service.

Spa: Treat your mind, body and senses to a rejuvenating experience with The Omni Homestead Resort's comprehensive wellness services.

Advanced reservations for all activities are strongly recommended. Please contact the Resort at (540) 839-3860 for reservations and details.

For room information, please contact the AHMI office at (336) 885-8315.

AHMI 2022 Summer Conference

July 23-26 | The Homestead

Saturday, July 23

Early arrivals enjoy The Homestead

6 pm - Early Bird Reception in Tower Suite

Dinner on your own

Sunday, July 24

2-4 pm - AHMI Board of Trustees Meeting

3-5 pm - Meeting Registration in Lower Lobby

6-7 pm - Welcome Reception on Mt. Vernon Lawn

Dinner on your own

Monday, July 25

8:30 am - General Session in Empire Room

Virginia's Climate For Business

Domestic Furniture Makers Boom

Appalachian Hardwood Training Institute

Real American Hardwood

12:15 pm - Golf Tourn. on the Old Course

12:15 pm - Sporting Clays at Shooting Club

6-7 pm - Monday Reception Casino Lawn 2

Dinner on your own

Tuesday, July 26

Breakouts

9 am - Poplar CLT Test Results & Next Steps

9 am - AHMI 401k MEP Program

1:30 pm - Speyside Stave Mill Tour in Millboro, VA

Have a safe trip home.

Real American Hardwood Seeks Industry Donations

The Real American Hardwood Coalition is asking forest industry companies to fund a consumer campaign to engage people to buy American hardwoods.



A new website is under development to endear consumers to American Hardwood products and drive them to purchase. More than 30 associations (including AHMI as a founding member) comprise the Coalition, and their respective staff make up the leadership. The group has been posting on

social media over the past 12 months about the beauty, authenticity and availability of Real American Hardwood products available to them. The new website will showcase the beauty, authenticity, and Real features of solid American hardwood.

Please visit the industry website www.realamericanhardwood.org, and find resources. You can also learn the latest about the campaign, download the logo and see the list of companies that have contributed.

For more information, please contact the RAH at info@realamericanhardwood.org.

Hardwoods Provide Solutions To Climate Agenda

By Dana Cole, Hardwood Federation

As the Biden Administration approaches its two-year mark, the federal government has undertaken many initiatives to place climate mitigation front and center on policies ranging from agriculture to forest management.

During his first week in office, President Biden issued Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad," a sweeping directive placing the climate issue "at the center" of all executive branch actions. USDA was one of the first agencies to get the memo and wasted no time to initiate two actions impacting the hardwood industry: a request for comments on a proposed strategy for a "Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF)" program in March 2021, followed up by a "Request for Information" in September 2021 possible characteristics of a CSAF program that would promote new markets for "climate smart" commodities.

The Federation submitted comments to USDA on both proposals, underscoring ways that increased use of hardwood products could help meet the Administration's goals outlined in its executive order and subsequent actions.

The Administration doesn't run a monopoly on climate policy. Congress passed the bipartisan "Infrastructure and Jobs Act," a law that includes provisions language creating a new federal system for subsidizing sawmills and other wood processing facilities, along with \$400 million in assistance.

The provision specifies that "close proximity" to a sawmill would become a factor for agencies to consider when funding federal land restoration. One of the ongoing challenges to making thinning projects economical is access to processing facilities; existing wood processing infrastructure is not in close proximity to many federal forests that desperately need active management.

The Infrastructure Bill also authorized a bioproduct pilot program to explore the use of agricultural commodities in building construction materials and products. The provision provides \$4 million to the USDA to partner with a college or university to examine cost savings of using alternative materials, greenhouse gas emissions

benefits, landfill quantity and waste management cost reduction benefits and other factors.

Hardwoods Deliver Federal Climate Objectives, the Importance of "Life-Cycle Analysis"

We expect potential legislation in coming months and regularly remind policy makers that they should recognize and include the long-term storage value of carbon benefits of hardwood products in carbon reduction policies.

Companies and employees engaged in the U.S. hardwood economy firmly believe that the sustainable forestry practices used to grow raw materials and the products derived from the harvest of hardwood trees are an essential part of the solution to problems associated with atmospheric carbon sought by the President.

Hardwood Trees and Products Deliver Environmental and Economic Co-Benefits

The Federation works every day to educate federal policy makers on how to leverage the hardwood story to reach their environmental policy goals, essentially offering a "two birds and one stone" approach to federal initiatives. Well-managed hardwood trees and forests protect water resources and support critical habitat and wildlife diversity, current forestry practices have the potential to create safe harbors from counterproductive regulation under the "Clean Water Act" and "Endangered Species Act."

Hardwoods also create employment opportunities for rural and underserved communities and supply chains, addressing the Administration's environmental justice and diversity and inclusion (D&I) priorities.

When there is a steady demand for fiber and the resulting wood products, hardwood operations ensure that forests will remain as forests in the future and make up a key element of promoting a healthy environment. To that end, the USDA officially recognizes hardwoods as a "Green and Renewable" product that is sustainably managed and an environmentally preferred natural resource.

If you have questions about the Federation, visit www.hardwoodfederation.com or hardwood.federation@hardwoodfederation.com.

Furniture Manufacturing Expo

The Furniture Manufacturing Expo returns to Hickory, NC offering education programs and exhibits on upholstery, woodworking, technology, and more. The Expo is held at the Hickory Metro Convention Center on July 20 & 22.

Hours are:

July 20 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

July 21 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Visit www.furnituremanufacturingexpo.com for more information.

IWF Atlanta Attracts New Technologies

AHMI members are invited to attend and see engineering breakthrough innovations in products to keep business moving forward at IWF Atlanta on August 23-26.

IWF will deliver the industry's newest business solutions and largest U.S. product mix in North American woodworking's must-attend show. At IWF 2022, visitors will see three factors at play in new technologies:

Reduced labor requirements: infeed and offload systems, and materials transfer equipment lets just one individual manage jobs like lifting panels, and feeding CNC machines.

Digitalization is transforming individual free-standing machines.

Industry 4.0 and the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) now links a mix of manual and equipment-focused work centers, or plant floors.

The show is held at the Georgia World Congress Center at 285 Andrew Young International Blvd., Atlanta, GA on Aug. 23 - 26. AHMI will exhibit in **space BC 516**.

You can register now at www.iwfatlanta.com. A discount of 40% is available from the AHMI office. Please email info@appalachianhardwood.org or call (336) 885-8315.



AUGUST 23 - 26 | 2022

AHMI Event Calendar

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. plans to attend the following events to promote AHMI member companies and products.

Members are welcome to participate in the AHMI exhibit and we can assist with registration if required. Please check with the AHMI office before you make final plans:

June 21-22: **Pellet Fuels Institute**, Milwaukee, WI

July 20-21: **Furniture Manufacturing Expo**, Hickory, NC

July 21-23: **NCFAE Conference**, Asheville, NC

July 24-26: **AHMI Summer Conference**, The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA

Aug. 23-26: **IWF Atlanta**, Atlanta, GA

Sept. 13: **ALC**, Asheville, NC

Sept. 21-23: **NHLA Convention**, Cleveland, OH

Sept. 28-30: **NCFA Annual Meeting**, Greensboro, NC

Oct. 18-20: **NWPCA Tours**, Augusta, GA

Oct. 22-26: **High Point Furniture Market**, High Point, NC

Nov. 8: **ALC**, Johnson City, TN

If you know of events that we should consider, contact AHMI at info@appalachianhardwood.org and provide details.

Follow AHMI on social media with updates on members, hardwood promotion and more.

Certified Appalachian Helps Sell Lumber

AHMI members seeking certification for products to meet customer needs should consider Certified Appalachian Legal & Sustainable. The program provides a third-party audit of resources and processing.



For more information, please call the AHMI office at (336) 885-8315 or email info@appalachianhardwood.org.

2022 AHMI Summer Conference

July 23-26 The OmniHomestead Resort



Registration

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 11, 2022 and mail to: AHMI, P.O. Box 427, High Point, NC 27261.

OMNI® RESORTS
the homestead

MEETING REGISTRATION FEES

AHMI MEMBER - \$380 per person

AHMI MEMBER SPOUSE - \$250

CHILDREN 10 & older - \$200

CHILDREN UNDER 10 - \$50

GUEST - \$480 per person

GUEST SPOUSE - \$350

MONDAY SESSION ONLY - \$200

Registration after July 11, 2022 incur a \$100 late fee. Full registration will be refunded on cancellations received by July 12, 2022. Cancellations received after that time 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: _____

AHMI GOLF TOURNAMENT (Monday at 12:15 p.m. The Old Course includes boxed lunch)

Name: _____ FEE: \$240

Name: _____ FEE: \$240

SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT (Monday at 12:30 p.m. The Shooting Club includes lunch)

One round of 100 - Includes gun, ammo and targets, boxed lunch

Name: _____ FEE: \$240

Name: _____ FEE: \$240

STAVE MILL TOUR optional (Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Speyside Stave Mill, Millboro, VA)

Name: _____ FREE

Name: _____ FREE

Check enclosed _____

Total _____

Credit Card: _____

Expiration date _____ Security Code _____ Billing ZIP code _____

Name on card: _____

You may also register online at www.appalachianhardwood.org and follow the link to Meetings. The room block is filled so please make your room reservations with the AHMI Office at (336) 885-8315.