

'23 Annual Sessions Offer Timely Information

A great crowd is registering for the 2023 Annual Meeting of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers **on Feb. 22-26** at The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club in Ponte Vedra, FL.

The business sessions will focus on:
hardwoods in the **cabinet sector**
hardwoods storing **carbon**
hardwoods influence on **consumers**.

There will be business sessions in the morning, sporting events in the afternoon and receptions each evening to network and renew friendships.

Ponte Vedra Inn is near Jacksonville, FL, and all accommodations are oceanfront. There is excellent dining, spa and miles of beach for relaxation. The business presentations are:

* Cabinet Markets In

2023 – Marsh Cabinets Chief Executive Officer Edwin Underwood will discuss cabinet markets in the U.S. The company is based in High Point, NC, and he is a former chairman of the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association.



* Carbon and the Climate Agenda on Timberlands

– The president of The Forestland Group, Blake Stansell, will discuss the recent sale to anew and what that means for thousands of acres of



timberland in the Appalachian region. anew climate, LLC, was formed in February 2022 from industry leaders Element Markets, LLC and Bluesource, LLC.



Please make room reservations ASAP as the room block is filling.

Call (904) 285-1111

Register with AHMI before Feb. 15

* Real American Hardwood Influence –

RAH will report on current actions with social media and consumer influencers in residential and commercial settings. It will include exciting advertising plans for 2023.



* USNR Expands Product Offerings – Industry

supplier USNR has east coast operations in nearby Jacksonville, FL, and will explain acquisitions in 2022 that have increased its business. Tours of the facility are available Wednesday and Thursday.



* **Hardwood Federation** report by Dana Lee Cole, **AHMI Member anniversaries** and the **Chairman's Report** by Tom Sheets on the State of the Association.

* **Producer and Distributor Divisions Meeting** – Separate sessions for these AHMI groups to discuss issues of importance.

(See Meeting on page 2)

2023 Annual Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, Feb. 22

6 p.m. Early Bird Reception

Dinner on your own

Thursday, Feb. 23

Informal golf and fishing available. Call AHMI

2 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting

3 p.m. Registration Opens

6 p.m. Welcome Reception by Stringer Industries

Dinner on your own

Friday, Feb. 24

8:30 a.m. General Session

(1) Cabinet Industry Growth in 2023

(2) Hardwood Federation Report

(3) anew climate Timberland Management

11:30 a.m. Golf Tournament on Ocean Course

12 p.m. Fishing Tournament

6 p.m. Reception by Stiles Machinery

Dinner on your own

Saturday, Feb. 25

8 a.m. Producers Meeting (Producers only)

8 a.m. Distributors Meeting

9 a.m. General Session

Chairman's Report

USNR Expands Products

Annual Meeting & Member Anniversaries

Real American Hardwood Promotion

12 p.m. Golf Scramble Tournament on Ocean Course

1 p.m. Beach Fun on the Atlantic

2 p.m. Croquet Tournament

6 p.m. Reception

Dinner on your own

Sunday, Feb. 26

8 a.m. Fellowship of Christian Lumbermen

Safe travel

Meeting from page 1 -----

FUN!! There are several activities daily:

The **Annual Golf Tournament** is Friday at PVI's Ocean Course.

The **Annual Fishing Tournament** is Friday with sportfishing from chartered boats.

There is a **Golf Scramble** Saturday on PVI's Ocean Course.

New This Year – The Inaugural **AHMI Croquet Tournament** on Saturday on the PVI Croquet Court.

Make room reservations at the Ponte Vedra Inn by calling **(904) 285-1111** and ask for the Appalachian Hardwood block.

Please complete the registration form on page 6 of this newsletter and print and mail or visit **www.appalachianhardwood.org/meetings**.

Have questions? Call AHMI at (336) 885-8315 or **info@appalachianhardwood.org**.

Annual Meeting Sponsorship

The 2023 Annual Meeting of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. will be **Feb. 22-26** at The Ponte Vedra Inn in Ponte Vedra, FL. There are Meeting Sponsorships available to enhance the session and encourage companies.

Sponsors receive:

- 1) Recognition during the Annual Meeting;
- 2) Signage for each sponsored event;
- 3) Recognition in the meeting program;
- 4) Table for literature in the Meeting Room.

Please contact the AHMI office today about the remaining sponsorship opportunities.

AHMI Dues For 2023

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. mailed its 2023 Membership Dues recently and are payable by Jan. 31. The dues are annual for Distributor, Consumer, Forestry and Supplier Divisions. Producer members pay monthly. (Export membership is for Producers and Distributors in addition to primary dues.)



MEMBERSHIP

AHMI welcomes the following new member:

Forestry

Grist, Inc.

Richard Grist

PO Box 669

Lewisburg, WV 24901

Phone: 304-646-8837

Email: richard@foxfirenation.com

Website: www.foxfirenation.com

New members are vital to the work of AHMI. If you know of companies that should join, please share that information with the AHMI office.

Hopkins Wins 'Real American' Guitar Raffle

John Hopkins, Jr., of Hopkins Lumber in Ridgeway, VA, was the winner of the Custom T model guitar from Hardwood Market Report and Real American Hardwood.

Hardwood Market Report (HMR) is celebrating its 100th Anniversary and offered the custom guitar from Ferner Fine Instruments in Memphis, TN, with proceeds benefitting RAH.



The fundraiser generated more than \$14,000 for hardwood promotion. You can learn of other ways to participate by visiting the websites:

RealAmericanHardwood.com for consumers.

RealAmericanHardwood.org for industry

Please follow RAHC with original, branded content is produced each month on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and YouTube that you can share on your own social media channels.

Please use **#RealAmericanHardwood** when posting to help spread the reach.

2023 Resource Guide Materials Due Soon

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. will publish its **2023 Appalachian Hardwood Legal & Sustainable Resource Guide** in the Spring to assist more than 8,500 consumers of hardwood lumber make wise buying decisions.

The annual Guide is distributed to furniture and cabinet makers, millwork and flooring producers, architects and designers. An electronic version is emailed twice annually to more than 12,000 buyers in Asia, Indonesia, Europe, and Mexico.

The Guide promotes AHMI members by listing contact information for all active members, species of lumber available, other hardwood products and certifications. It also details the specific characteristics of Appalachian Hardwood Lumber that wood consumers should demand!

Are you an Exporter? The AHMI Export Division offers you an exclusive section aimed at international customers of Appalachian Hardwoods. We ask that you complete the "Guide Exporter" form to list your company in this section. There is an additional \$225 fee to be an Export member and this information is emailed to international customers.

We look forward to your participation in the 2023 Appalachian Hardwood Legal & Sustainable Resource Guide. Please send your materials immediately to be included.

Advertisements are available in a variety of sizes. For details, please contact the AHMI office at (336) 885-8315.



EU Moves Forward with Anti-Deforestation Rules

*By Dana Lee Cole, Executive Director
Hardwood Federation*

The three branches of the European Union (EU) signed off on long-anticipated rules to ban imports of products—including U.S. hardwoods—originating from land linked to deforestation, including a geo-location requirement prove a product's precise location of harvest.

The Hardwood Federation has been working closely with the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) to raise concerns and to provide the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with recommended language to address this problematic requirement.

In early December, staff from the Federation, AHEC, Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers and the National Hardwood Lumber Association joined an invitation-only call with USDA for an update on their efforts to address this and other issues U.S. exporters have identified regarding this new regulation.

USDA assured us that our efforts have been well received, and that proposed language has been sent to the USDA team in Europe to share with their E.U. counterparts.

USFWS Conducts Webinar on New NLEB Rule

Also in early December, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) conducted a webinar to review general requirements for the new Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEP) "endangered" classification. Unfortunately, the session was

short on specifics related to possible future red tape for forestry projects. Federal regulators, however, recommended that industry send questions about specific projects to regional managers with the Ecological Services Program, while informing industry that they will release more specific guidance in early 2023.

Industry Allies Head House Panels

As the 118th Congress opens, the hardwood industry will have two strong allies in key House leadership roles. Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA) is set to assume the chair of the Agriculture Committee, and Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR), an ex-forester and an influential champion of active forest management, will be heading up Natural Resources.

The Federation met with GT Thompson's senior staff, late in 2022, to discuss key 2023 Farm Bill priority issues, including recognition of the carbon storage benefits of hardwood (and the need for dollars to educate consumers, architects, and designers of these facts), funding for international trade promotion programs, and incentives for low-carbon materials such as wood products. Meetings to discuss our hardwood priorities with Westerman's team are slated for January/February.

And as members of both committees—from both sides of the aisle—are named, we will be scheduling meetings with their offices as well.

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.



It also verifies by county of origin the lumber that is being shipped in all transactions. Program participants have learned Certified Appalachian provides value to their customers.

For more information, please call the AHMI office at (336) 885-8315 or email info@appalachianhardwood.org. Application is simple and most companies are approved within seven days.

Lewis In *Hardwood Floors* 40 Under 40

DICKSON, TN - Forrest Lewis, plant manager of Lewis Lumber and Milling's Reliance Hardwood Flooring, was named one of *Hardwood Floors* magazine's 40 Under 40 recipients. It honors industry professionals who are helping to determine the future of the wood flooring industry.

Forrest Lewis was recognized for overseeing the installation of the company's engineered flooring department while he learned how to operate new machines and manage a full team of employees. He was an important part of the installation of the new solid flooring line, as well as the company's growth and expansion.



**Forrest
Lewis**

Colleagues say he leads with confidence and accountability, while holding a clear vision of his next steps and the future of Lewis Lumber and Milling.

While earning his degree in business management and entrepreneurship at Samford University, Lewis worked at his family's sawmill. He has completed the National Hardwood Lumber Association Inspection Training School and classes at the Weinig-Holz-Her Education & Training Center.

Lewis, his wife, and their two sons are active members of their church and community. He is passionate about the outdoors and enjoys time with his family.

Lewis Lumber and Milling manufactures Reliance Hardwood Flooring branded flooring. Manufacturing high quality, unfinished hardwood wide plank flooring for the quality-oriented hardwood flooring distributor.

For info visit reliancehardwoodflooring.com or telephone (615) 560-0324.

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:

- Jan. 10, 2023: **ALC**, Greensboro, NC
- Feb. 6-8: **IHLA Convention**, Indianapolis, IN
- Feb. 22-26: **AHMI Annual Meeting**, Ponte Vedra Inn, Ponte Vedra, FL
- Mar. 14: **ALC**, Roanoke, VA
- Mar. 28-30: **KFIA**, Lexington, KY
- Apr. 22-26: **High Point Furniture Market**, High Point, NC
- Apr. 26-28: **Virginia Forestry Summit**, Williamsburg, VA
- May 4-7: **ALC Beach Meeting**, Myrtle Beach, SC
- July 19-20: **Furniture Manufacturing Expo**, Hickory, NC
- July 23-25: **AHMI Summer Conference**, The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, WV
- Sept. 11: **PennYork Lumber Club**, State College, PA
- Sept. 12: **PFFPA**, State College, PA
- Sept. 12: **ALC**, TBD
- Sept. 13-15: **WMMA Fall Tour**, Hershey, PA
- Sept. 15-17: **Virginia Forest Products Association**, The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA
- Sept. 26-29: **GreenBuild**, Washington, DC
- Oct. 4-6: **NHLA Convention**, Louisville, KY
- Oct. 14-18: **High Point Furniture Market**, High Point, NC
- Nov. 14: **ALC**, Johnson City, TN

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

2023 Annual Meeting on Feb. 22-26

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, Ponte Vedra, FL

REGISTRATION FORM



To reserve your room, call the Ponte Vedra Inn at (904) 285-1111 for Appalachian block

The room cutoff is Jan. 27, 2023 and all oceanfront rooms are \$339.

Make reservations online at www.appalachianhardwood.org/meetings

To plan functions and include all participants on the Registration List, please complete this form and return with your payment to: AHMI, PO Box 427, High Point, NC 27261. Badges and other materials will be on site.

Registration before Feb. 10, 2023:

AHMI MEMBER - \$450 per person

GUEST - \$550 per person

SPOUSE & ADULT CHILD - \$350

GUEST SPOUSE - \$450

CHILDREN AGE 10-18 - \$250, UNDER 10 - \$150

Add \$75 to any registration fee after Feb. 10, 2023

Registration includes three receptions, business sessions and breaks, afternoon at the beach, and fun.

Full registration fee refunded on cancellations received by Feb. 1, 2023.

Cancellations received after will be subject to 50% forfeiture.



REGISTER for AHMI'S 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Name: _____

FEE: \$ _____

Name: _____

FEE: \$ _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Optional Events I / We will attend

(included in registration fee)

___ Early Bird reception Wed, Feb. 22 at 6 pm

___ Beach Fun & Drinks, Saturday, Feb. 25 1-3 pm

Golf Tournament Friday tee times start at 11:30 a.m. at PVI's Ocean Course *(includes shuttle, lunch, range balls. Rental clubs are available)*

Name: _____

FEE: \$250

Name: _____

FEE: \$250

Fishing Tournament Friday at 12 p.m. sportfishing inshore *(4-hour fishing trip, includes boxed lunch, tackle, bait, license)*
\$200 for each of four slots on multiple chartered boats

Name: _____

FEE: \$200

Name: _____

FEE: \$200

Golf Scramble Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at PVI's Ocean Course *(includes shuttle, lunch, range balls. Rental clubs are available)*

Name: _____

FEE: \$200

Inaugural AHMI Croquet Tournament Saturday 2 p.m. at Ponte Vedra Inn Court

Number of spaces reserved _____ @ \$25 each

FEE: \$ _____

Check # _____ Received _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____ Sec. Code _____ Billing Zip _____