



June 2026 Newsletter

A monthly publication of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.

Technology, Markets Are Focus Of 2026SC

The ways technology is improving timber purchasing and sawmill production will top the agenda for the 2026 Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. Summer Conference. There will also be presentation on domestic and international markets and updates on promotion.

The Conference is set for Aug. 1-4 at the Colonial Williamsburg Lodge in Williamsburg, VA. It is a special time to visit Colonial Williamsburg with celebrations set to mark the nation's 250th anniversary and the 100th year of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation which oversees the historic events and buildings.

Confirmed speakers are:

- **AI in the Sawmill: Business to Bucking Log Technologies.** Virginia Tech Associate Professor and Extension Specialist Pipiet Larasatie will discuss developments in artificial intelligence for sawmills for business and bucking.

- **Tariffs and the EUDR Impact on U.S. Hardwoods in 2026** by American Hardwood Export Council International Program Manager Tripp Pryor. He will discuss the latest updates and impact on exports.

- **Domestic Markets For Hardwoods** by Hardwood Market Report/Fastmarkets Editor Andy Johnson will update domestic markets for hardwoods from a recent survey.

- **TimberSync Finds Trees For Mills** by Ace Heinle who will share new technology to connect sawmills with forest landowners that generates results.

- **Real American Hardwood** will present the latest videos, social media and design contests promoting solid hardwood products to **architects & designers.**

**2026 Appalachian
Hardwood Manufacturers
Summer Conference
Aug. 1-4**



Conference includes tour of pit sawmill where lumber is cut for use in colonial buildings on property.



- **Pit Sawmill Tour on Tuesday at 10 am** to view the Colonial Williamsburg method of producing lumber. The mill was rebuilt with funds from AHMI, PLM and several AHMI members.

There will be ample time for networking with the leading producers and distributors of Appalachian hardwoods and secondary manufacturers. Plan to join the fun with the summer golf tournament, croquet and pickle ball.

The Colonial Williamsburg Lodge offers top-ranked golf, a decadent spa, and close proximity to historic Williamsburg. Attendees will have access to passes for multi-day visits to the period homes, shops and more. There are also theme parks and other historic sites in the area.

All AHMI attendees are invited to march with a fife and drum team to reception and dinner at Shields Tavern sponsored by PLM Insurance. It is a return to the 1700s for drinks and dinner.

You may register online at www.appalachianhardwood.org and follow the link
(See Conference on page 2)



AHMI's 2026 Summer Conference - Aug. 1-4 Williamsburg, VA

The way I see it...

By Tom Inman, AHMI President

....the 2026 Hardwood Federation Fly-In to Washington, DC to meet legislators and staff was successful in gaining support for our issues.

Attendees from dozens of states issued the plea from the Federation for support on a relief measure, trade talks and help on market research and development.

In what was likely my 25th Fly-In, the audience is frequently the same. Young staffers who understand the policy but not as much about its human impact. Parton Lumber Co. co-owner Patrick Parton of Rutherfordton, NC, shared specific details about the cost of doing business in 2026.

One request was for an increase in truck weights on the interstate highway system. Several states allow agriculture products to carry 90,000 pounds on state roads and we have asked for the same on interstate highways for years.

We learned that a voluntary 10-year pilot program to increase weight limits on interstates has been included in the BUILD America 250 Act. Under this program, states could permit trucks to carry up to 91,000 pounds, provided they utilize a six-axle configuration.

Currently, the national standard is capped at 80,000 pounds on five axles. Proponents argue that the extra axle helps distribute the weight more effectively, potentially reducing road wear while allowing for greater efficiency per load.

The measure would allow approximately 17% more weight to be trucked efficiently on the interstate. That saves trips and fuel. It makes sense.

Final passage of the measure is expected this summer. Rep. David Rouzer, NC-7, was an author of the measure and his team met with the NC leaders at the Fly-In.

That's great news for NC companies and hopefully more states will participate.

Conference from page 1

to Meetings. Please make your room reservations there or directly with the Colonial Williamsburg Lodge at (800) 261-9530. **Book your room by July 1, 2026 and rooms start at \$229.**



Fife & Drum team will lead the AHMI group to dinner on Monday at the Summer Conference in Williamsburg

AHMI 2026 Summer Conference

Colonial Williamsburg Lodge, VA

Saturday, Aug. 1

Relax on your own

6 pm Early Bird reception

Sunday, Aug. 2

TBD - AHMI Board of Trustees Meeting

3-5 pm - Registration in Lower Lobby

6 -7 pm - Welcome Reception sponsored by Stringer Industries

Dinner on your own

Monday, Aug. 3

8:30 am - General Session

12 pm - Golf Tournament on Green Course

2 pm - Pickle Ball Tournament on tennis courts

2 pm - Croquet Tournament on Spa Lawn

6-7 pm - Monday Reception and dinner at Shields' Tavern sponsored by PLM Insurance

Tuesday, Aug. 4

8:30 am - Breakout Session Real American Hardwood

10 am - Tour of Pit Sawmill
Departure

Have a safe trip home

Please make dining reservations early for the best selections. Business casual is requested.

For more information, call the AHMI office at (336) 885-8315.

Industry Talks Trade, Relief With Congress

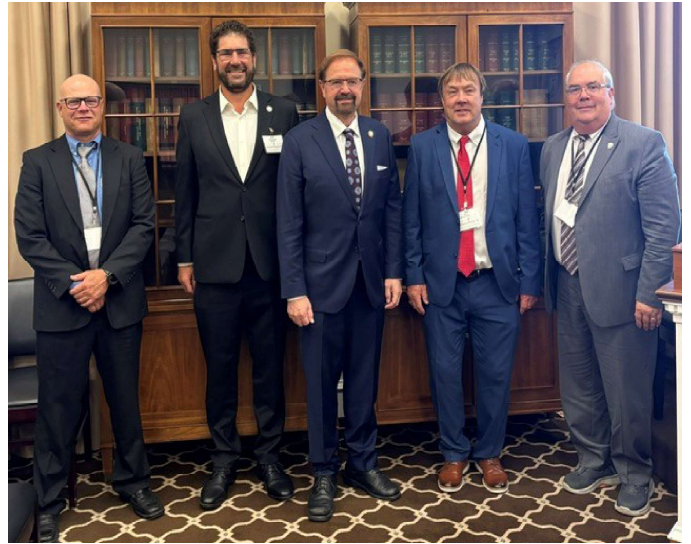
More than 65 hardwood industry leaders met with dozens of House and Senate members during the 2026 Hardwood Federation Fly-In last week.

The annual event educates legislators and staff on key issues for hardwood company owners and operators. Participants came from more than a dozen states.

Top issues for 2026 were:

- a \$200 million relief package to assist hardwood companies with losses over the past three years;
- trade and retaliatory tariffs on U.S. products;
- the EUDR and request for no-risk designation by the Europeans;
- an increase in interstate truck weights to 90,000 pounds.

You are encouraged to invite legislators to your facility during weeks when they are in the district. More information is available from Dana Cole at the Hardwood Federation. Please visit www.hardwoodfederation.com to learn more.



Patrick Parton, Parton Lumber Co.; Jack Matson, MillTech; Cong. Chuck Edwards, NC-12; Ray Hunt, Hunt Lumber; and Tom Inman, AHMI; meet at the 2026 Hardwood Federation Fly-In in Washington, DC

Trump Admin. Views Forced Labor Threats

From Home News Now reports

WASHINGTON — In what could be a further challenge to U.S. industry's reliance on global trade, the Trump administration is considering imposing additional tariffs on countries that it believes have not taken steps to reduce forced labor.

Earlier this month, the Office of the United States Trade Representative announced that the initiative potentially impacts some 60 countries that represent 99.4% of goods shipped to the U.S.

The USTR report said the following 54 economies "have failed to impose a legal prohibition on the importation of goods produced wholly or in part with forced labor and to effectively enforce such a prohibition": Algeria; Angola; Argentina; Australia; The Bahamas; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Brazil; Cambodia; Chile; China, People's Republic of; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Egypt; El Salvador; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; India; Iraq; Israel; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Ku-

wait; Libya; Malaysia; Morocco; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Peru; the Philippines; Qatar; Russia; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; South Africa; South Korea; Sri Lanka; Switzerland; Taiwan; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; Türkiye; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; Uruguay; Venezuela; and Vietnam."

It also said the following six economies have failed to effectively enforce a forced labor import prohibition: Canada, Ecuador, the European Union, Indonesia, Mexico and Pakistan.

The USTR went on to define forced labor as "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty for its nonperformance and for which the worker does not offer himself voluntarily," adding, "The existence of forced labor imports in markets across the globe has nurtured an economic system that favors the use of forced labor or forced labor inputs."

Wood Innovations Remain In '27 Appropriations

On June 3, the House Appropriations Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2027 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The vote was 35–27. The committee-passed measure includes \$30 million for the Wood Innovation Grant (WIG) program, which funds cutting-edge wood manufacturing projects around the country.

The Hardwood Federation team was part of a coalition advocating for a “plus up” to \$40 million, but we are pleased with this number and the committee’s recognition that WIG is an important program necessary to spur markets for wood products.

The measure also includes \$18 million for the Community Wood Energy program, a \$3 million increase over the current funding level. Community Wood also provides money for wood manufacturing, but its emphasis is on biomass heating and power projects. This program is critical for building markets for sawmill residuals.

One final notable in this bill is language reauthorizing the Hardwood Federation–supported provision directing the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy to recognize forest-based biomass fuels and energy as “carbon neutral” in any environmental or energy policymaking.

Farm Bill Text Imminent

The Hardwood Federation picked up signals that the Senate Agriculture Committee may release text of a Farm Bill reauthorization measure soon. If a committee draft does emerge in the coming days, the Hardwood Federation team will promptly prepare a summary and make that available.

Recall, that the House approved its version of a Farm Bill reauthorization measure at the end of April on a 224-200 vote. We remain hopeful that the Senate will act expeditiously and that Congress delivers a final product to the President before the August recess.



Ray Hunt, Hunt Lumber; Scott Cummings, Cummings Lumber; and Bill Joyce (right) Middle Tennessee Lumber; thank Cong. GT Thompson of PA and Chair of US House Agriculture Committee for Farm Bill work

U.S and China Establish Board of Trade

A key outcome of the recent summit between President Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping is the establishment of a Board of Trade, a bi-nation group that work to address long-standing economic policy differences between the two countries. In particular, the Trump Administration has cited reducing tariffs on at least \$30 billion on “non-sensitive” goods traded between the two countries.

Although details about the Board are limited, indications from the Administration are that the goods in question are primarily agricultural in nature.

Prior to the Summit, the Hardwood Federation Board of Directors sent a letter to the U.S. Trade Ambassador (USTR) reminding them that China agreed to hardwood lumber purchase targets as part of the Phase One Trade Agreement in 2019, targets that were interrupted due to COVID and other issues. The Federation Board encouraged USTR to re-engage China on purchase agreements of hardwood lumber as part of Summit negotiations. With the announcement of the Board of Trade, the Federation will continue to push the Administration to add lumber to discussions both privately and through the public comment period

Designs Show Beauty, Function Of Hardwood

SAVANNAH, GA – Solid American hardwood species were crafted into functional works of art at the 2026 Student Furniture Design Competition at Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD).

Students from one of the country's largest furniture design programs showcased Cherry, Walnut, White Oak, Hard Maple and Red Oak in the year-long design and build contest. The entries included lamps, chairs, cabinets, and benches.

The competition was a joint effort by Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. (AHMI), and the Real American Hardwood Coalition (RAHC), a national organization of hardwood lumber trade groups. AHMI President Tom Inman served as contest director and said the designs ranged from contemporary to modern.

"SCAD is internationally known for design across a variety of media but especially for furniture," Inman said. "That is a reason we held the competition there – we believed it would generate the exceptional pieces that it did."

The contest winner was Sophia Hicks of St. Petersburg, FL, with a four-sided lamp made of American Cherry. It was inspired by Shoji designs with six rotating doors, one with an open knot, and one full panel covered with mulberry paper.

Second place was the Loxo Chair, designed and built by Heechan Kim of Savannah, GA. It was designed to evoke the experience of leaning against

Student design contest winner Sophie Hicks created and built a solid Appalachian cherry lamp for the 2026 competition.



an elephant's trunk and drew inspiration from Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan.

Honorable mention went to Jade Wells of Savannah, GA, for the Marlow Entryway table. The design created a balance between sculptural presence and functional clarity using Walnut and Hard Maple solid lumber.

It highlighted the natural variation of the materials and contrasted the simplicity of surrounding form. The result was a visually distinctive yet practical entryway table for both residential and commercial settings.

Judges included Dan Cox of Peach State Lumber in Kennesaw, GA, whose company contributed lumber. He recognized the students for their attention to the grain and beauty of the hardwood species. Other judges were Ashley Johnson and Brennah Hutchinson of the National Hardwood Lumber Association and Real American Hardwood; Paul McGroary, SCAD professor of Industrial Design; and Inman.

Another lumber contributor was Beasley Forest Products of Hazlehurst, GA, who also welcomed the faculty on a tour of the facility.

The winners are encouraged to enter the Student Furniture Design competition at the IWF in Atlanta in August and the ISFD Pinnacle Awards in High Point in October.

For more information, visit www.appalachianhardwood.org/design-SCAD



Second place winner Heechan Kim poses with judges Dan Cox of Peach State Lumber; Ashley Johnson of NHLA; and SCAD Professor Paul McGroary.

SCAD Professor Fred Spector; Ashley Johnson of NHLA; and SCAD Professor Paul McGroary.

Member Benefits

401k Multiple Employer Plan

AHMI members can enroll in the **AHMI 401(k) Multiple Employer Plan** for existing retirement accounts or start new programs for employees. Participants have access to low-cost investments like large corporate plans. There is also no individual company audit requirement, saving staff time and creating efficiencies.

Adopting employers have plan design flexibility and can retain their individual plan features such as a matching formula, vesting, and eligibility. AHMI's retirement consultants, Tampa Wealth Management Group | UBS Financial Services, have over 50 years of retirement plan experience. Contact: John Faircloth 813-227-2892 and Michael Carey 813-227-2837 or AHMI at 336-885-8315.

Group Health, Wellness

AHMI member companies have access to group health insurance and group wellness programs.

The **Benefit Health Plan Inc.** offers four health insurance options and the largest independent, nationwide primary preferred provider organization. There are 920,000 practitioners, 4,800 acute care hospitals and 87,000 ancillary facilities in system.

Employer's Choice offers wellness options that are partially funded by tax savings under ACA. These preventative care programs lower long-term health risks and pair with existing health insurance or the new AHMI/BHPI group medical plan

Call **Delta Wealth Services** today at (828) 382-7755 or email info@DeltaWealthServices.com to schedule a time with a dedicated agent.

Lumber Payroll software

Dough HCM LLC offers unique, proprietary technology to its customers through **Lumber Payroll**. It is specific to the hardwood industry payroll needs and offers electronic access to wages.

AHMI members will be guaranteed a minimum cost reduction from their existing providers. As more AHMI members adopt, Lumber Payroll increases the rebate. For more information, contact Nick Koen at Lumber Payroll at (315) 750-9031 or email: nick@lumberpayroll.com.

AHMI Event Calendar

AHMI 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:

2026

July 16-18: **West Virginia Forestry Assoc.**, Canaan Valley, WV

Aug. 1-4: **AHMI Summer Conference**, Williamsburg, VA

Aug. 24-28: **International Woodworking Fair**, Atlanta, GA

Sep. 8: **ALC**, Tryon, NC

Sep. 16-18: **NHLA Convention**, Cleveland, OH

Sep. 21: **PennYork Club**, State College, PA

Sep. 22-23: **PFPA**, State College, PA

Oct. 12-14: **CLT Conference**, Lexington, KY

Oct. 17-21: **High Point Furniture Market**, High Point, NC

Oct. 19: **ISFD Pinnacle Awards**, High Point, NC

Nov. 10: **ALC**, Johnson City, TN

To participate in these events or form more information, contact AHMI office at (336) 885-8315.

Appalachian For Your Exhibits

AHMI has brochures, books, wood sample kits and other materials member companies can use in exhibitions to explain the benefits of Appalachian Hardwoods and forest management.

We also have videos and slide presentations for interactive messaging. AHMI has increased the number of promotion videos posted on our website and YouTube. We encourage members to link these from your website or social media pages.

Visit www.appalachianhardwood.org for links to these and meeting presentations. For details, please email info@appalachianhardwood.org.

2026 AHMI Summer Conference

Aug. 1-4 Colonial Williamsburg, VA



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 10, 2026 and mail to: AHMI, P.O. Box 427, High Point, NC 27261.

MEETING REGISTRATION FEES

AHMI MEMBER - \$475 per person
 AHMI MEMBER SPOUSE - \$350
 CHILDREN 10 & older - \$250
 CHILDREN UNDER 10 - \$50

GUEST - \$575 per person
 GUEST SPOUSE - \$525
 MONDAY SESSION ONLY - \$200



Registration after July 10, 2026 incur a \$100 late fee. Full registration will be refunded on cancellations received by July 10, 2026. 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: _____

WILL ATTEND (add #)

(incl. with registration)

____ Early reception

____ Monday dinner at
Shields Tavern

____ Tuesday sawmill
tour at 10 am

AHMI GOLF TOURNAMENT (Monday 12 pm. Green Course incl. boxed lunch)

Name: _____ FEE: \$125

Name: _____ FEE: \$125

CROQUET TOURNAMENT (Monday at 2 p.m. at The Spa Lawn)

Name: _____ FEE: \$30

Name: _____ FEE: \$30

PICKLEBALL FUN (Monday at 2 p.m. at the Tennis Center)

Name: _____ FEE: \$10

Name: _____ FEE: \$10

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.

Please make your room reservations there or directly with the Colonial Williamsburg Lodge at (800) 261-9530. **Book your room by July 1, 2026.**