



July 2026 Newsletter

A monthly publication of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.

Summer Conf. Crowd, Excitement Grows

Registration remains open a few more days for the 2026 Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. Summer Conference. The crowd continues to grow as well as anticipation for remarks on domestic and export markets, AI and 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.**

- **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 AHMI members.

(See Conference on page 2)

2026 Appalachian
Hardwood Manufacturers
Summer Conference
Aug. 1-4



AHEC Expands Tool For EUDR Needs

AHMI members and guests will be the first to see demonstrations of the new American Hardwood Export Council online tool to better meet the needs of the European Union Deforestation Regulations.

AHEC just announced the expansion of the American Hardwood Assurance program.

"We have demonstrated the new system to European competent authorities in several countries in recent weeks and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive," said Mike Snow, AHEC executive director. "The accumulating experience of the AHA team combined with recent accelerating advances in AI, processing power, and public access to satellite data, are bringing this objective within reach."

AHEC International Program Manager Tripp Pryor will provide details and a demonstration of the system.

"If successful this would mean that points of harvest (for harvests under 4 hectares) and polygons (for larger harvests), could be supplied as part of the AHA Statement," Snow said. "The workflow would remain unchanged for users of the AHA Platform, who would continue to identify the counties of harvest, as now. However, each county polygon would be substituted by the geolocations of all harvest sites identified in that county."

Pryor will speak on Monday, Aug. 3 at the AHMI Summer Conference. Registration remains open until July 22 and rooms may be available from the AHMI office.

The way I see it...

By Tom Inman, AHMI President

....we have a great crowd planning to attend the 2026 Summer Conference in Colonial Williamsburg, VA.

It is a great venue for AHMI:

within driving distance for many;

outstanding accommodations;

leisure time in the nation's largest living history area;

and 2026 marks the 250th celebration of the United States and the 100th anniversary of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

There are special events daily in Williamsburg. The 4th of July has passed but activities continue to celebrate while we are there Aug. 1-4.

AHMI attendees have access to discounted passes to visit the Colonial area as well as Jamestown and Yorktown. Please purchase these upon arrival.

The group will also tour the pit sawmill on property that produces lumber daily. These handsawn boards and timbers are used to build and repair structures on property.

The tour will include the mills and the adjoining brick plant.

There will be a visit from James Madison who was the nation's the fourth President, serving from 1809 to 1817. He is often referred to as the "Father of the Constitution" for his significant role in drafting and promoting the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

It is not too late to register and there are two rooms remaining in the AHMI block. Please call the office today to reserve and register.

There are adequate times at receptions for networking with fellow industry owners and leaders. Plus golf, croquet and this year we have added pickleball.

A fun time will be had by all.

Conference from page 1

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.

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.

Register at www.appalachianhardwood.org and follow the link to Meetings. The room block has ended but call the AHMI Office for options.

AHMI 2026 Summer Conference

Colonial Williamsburg Lodge, VA

Saturday, Aug. 1

Relax on your own

6 pm Early Bird reception

Sunday, Aug. 2

8:30 am - 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 - Pickleball 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

Have a safe trip home



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

IWF2026 Set Aug. 25-28 | AHMI Is C715

Woodworking industry employees from across the U.S. and around the world will participate in the International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta on Aug. 25-28 in the Georgia World Congress.

It is billed as the industry's must-attend show and thousands of exhibitors will showcase new products. The following % of IWF buyers say:

IWF 2024 met or exceeded all show expectations - 93 %

attend IWF to see and do business with exhibitors - 87 %

expect to see woodworking's newest technologies, machinery, equipment and supplies at IWF - 86 %

IWF is North America's must-attend woodworking show - 83 %

discover and specify products for future purchase - 82 %

find new product introductions first at IWF -

IWF ATLANTA

81%.

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers will exhibit in space C715 along with Real American Hardwood in C717.

Register before Aug. 1 for only \$25. The fee doubles after that date. Visit

registration.experientevent.com/ShowIWF261/

Hotel accommodations are available through the same website.

Please plan to visit or work out of the AHMI booth. You will meet new customers or have your existing customers contact you there.

WHY IT CREATES DEMAND

Buyers want more than quality wood—they want responsible sourcing they can trust. Certified Appalachian turns Appalachian origin into a documented market advantage.



Build customer trust
with verified origin



Provide documentation
to support sustainability claims



Assure legal sourcing
through procurement and ownership records



Deliver transparency
with county-level harvest data



Strengthen your story
with third-party audit review



Back it up with data
from U.S. Forest Service forest inventory

WHAT CERTIFIED APPALACHIAN VERIFIES



VERIFIED APPALACHIAN ORIGIN

Hardwood is sourced from within the defined Appalachian Hardwood region.



LEGAL HARDWOOD SUPPLY

Procurement records support legal ownership transfer through the supply chain.



COUNTY-LEVEL TRANSPARENCY

Harvest origin is tracked to the county level for greater visibility and accountability.



THIRD-PARTY AUDIT REVIEW

Participants are reviewed for compliance with program requirements.



DATA-BACKED SUSTAINABILITY

The program is tied to U.S. Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis data tracking forest growth, removals, mortality, and harvest activity.

BUILT FOR REAL HARDWOOD MARKETS



Cabinets



Furniture



Flooring



Millwork & Moulding



Wood Components



Truck Trailer Flooring



Pallets



Railroad Ties



Industrial Hardwood Products

From manufacturers to designers to end users—Certified Appalachian helps meet the growing demand for legal and sustainable wood.



CERTIFIED ORIGIN. CUSTOMER CONFIDENCE. STRONGER MARKETS.



APPALACHIAN HARDWOOD
MANUFACTURERS, INC.

Learn more about the Certified Appalachian program and how it can strengthen your products and your brand.

www.appalachianhardwood.org

2026 Fly-In Has 100+ Congress, Admin Meetings

The Hardwood Federation welcomed 65 industry leaders to Washington DC for a successful Fly-In with more than 100 meetings with members of Congress, staff, and key members of the Trump Administration.

HF scheduled meetings with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the US Trade Representative (USTR). The topics were specific hardwood priorities including the pending economic relief package in the Senate.

There was discussion that hardwood lumber be included in upcoming negotiations between the US and China, specifically encouraging that Chinese lumber purchase commitments be secured. The US and China will be conducting these negotiations through a bilateral "Board of Trade" which is still being developed.

The importance of the US government's continued engagement on the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) was also noted during conversations.

USDA Farm Production and Conservation Undersecretary Richard Fordyce, a long time supporter of the hardwood community, expressed strong support for our relief package proposal.

Josh Jamison, the Chief of Staff to Natural Resources and Environment Undersecretary Michael Boren (who has oversight over the US Forest Service), echoed this support and also encouraged the Federation Board to raise lumber purchases with USTR and to submit formal comments noting the importance of including lumber on the list of agricultural products discussed by the Board of Trade.

USTR officials spent a significant amount of time with the Federation Board members, expanding their understanding of hardwood issues and the impact of Chinese, Vietnamese, and European Markets. They also strongly encouraged HF to officially comment on the Board of Trade, noting the list of included products is still very much in the development stage.

Prior to the Fly-In the Federation was already developing Board of Trade Comments and has secured commitments from House and Senate leaders to solicit signatures from their colleagues on a letter from Congress to USTR encouraging the in-

clusion of lumber.

Fifteen teams of hardwood leaders descended on a very busy Capitol Hill on June 10. Our key messages to Congressional offices were simple:

- Support the \$200 million in economic relief for the hardwood industry currently included in the Senate agriculture relief package language;
- Include hardwood industry friendly initiatives allowing for greater truck weights in the Transportation bill;
- Pass the Farm Bill and include funding for Wood Innovation and Energy grant programs, funds for forest products related job training, including woody biomass in the Renewable Fuels Standard, and approve binding language recognizing the carbon neutrality of biomass;
- Sign the letter asking that hardwood lumber be added to the Board of Trade discussion topics; and
- Encourage the Trump Administration to continue efforts to reduce the burdens of the EUDR.

HF followed up with each office our teams met with, thanking them for their time and interest.

The Fly-In included HF Political Action Committee events that recognize key Congressional leaders. HF welcomed House Agriculture Committee Chair GT Thompson (R-PA), House Natural Resources Committee Chair Bruce Westerman (R-AR), Congresswoman Shontel Brown (D-OH), (who is poised for Agriculture Committee leadership in the next Congress, and Pat Ryan (D-NY). These allow Members of Congress time to interact with industry leaders and to see firsthand the strength of industry engagement in the political process.

The Hardwood Federation's continuing goal...to bring awareness and understanding of this uniquely American industry to the highest level of U.S. policy making. Thank you to everyone that participated in the Fly-In, this year and in years past. Every interaction builds on past efforts.



Real Info

Studies from the EPA have found that indoor air can be two to five times more polluted than outdoor air. In some cases a lot more.



A big part of why: the materials in your home.

- Carpet traps allergens, dust mites, and pet dander and releases them back into the air every time it is disturbed.

- Some laminates and engineered products use adhesives that off-gas formaldehyde over time.

- Vinyl flooring is petroleum-based and can emit VOCs as it ages and breaks down.

Real American Hardwood does not off-gas. It does not trap allergens. It does not hide synthetic compounds behind a surface layer. It is wood — the same material all the way through.

Join Real American Hardwood on Instagram, X and Facebook. Share the message with your friends and followers.

www.realamericanhardwood.com

SUSTA Offers Export Readiness Training

SUSTA's Export Readiness Training provides agribusinesses the tools to create a successful international marketing strategy. During training, participants will assess their capacity for exporting, identify key foreign markets and learn practical export fundamentals so they can confidently export their products.

Participation Fee: \$150

Early Bird Fee: \$125 register before Sept.8

Fee includes: Three modules to be conducted via Zoom sessions (8:30am-12:30pm CST).

- Oct. 8: Developing Export Readiness Skills
- Oct. 15: Export Tools of the Trade
- Oct. 22: Getting Products to Global Customer

Participants will learn about viable international marketing strategies. Participants that complete training will also receive a SUSTA Export Readiness Certificate.

Training will be provided on Zoom by Goldencrest Global, an internationally focused consultancy firm helping businesses expand their global reach in the areas of international marketing and business development.

Registration Deadline: Oct. 1, 2026

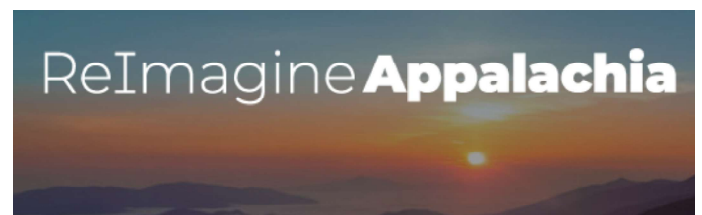
Learn more at www.susta.org.

Group Targets Manufacturing In Appalachia

ReImagine Appalachia recently held a series of discussion sessions to hear from manufacturers in the region.

The Summer 2026 Manufacturing Roadshow Discussion Series invited manufacturing stakeholders, labor leaders, policy experts, and community members from West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania. They discussed how to fix what's broken in the region's manufacturing ecosystems, capitalize on existing strengths, and outline policy and investment needs to remove obstacles that have barred the region from fulfilling its modern industrial potential.

The group invites manufacturers in the region to collaborate with The American Manufacturing



Communities Collaborative (AMCC) for a feedback discussion on the draft Appalachian Manufacturing Action Plan (A-MAP).

To register, visit:

https://secure.everyaction.com/U_7XXh7eSkKP6QUGvebbMA2

For more information, please contact the AHMI office.

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: **PFFPA**, 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

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 ASAP 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.