

# SWST Newsletter

September-October 2000

SOCIETY OF WOOD  
SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY

**SWST**

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## Editor's Note

Dear Readers:

In Maine, we are enjoying the last few days of 70-degree weather in addition to the beautiful fall foliage. The beginning of the academic year leaves me scrambling to address student needs, attend too many meetings, and prepare papers and presentations for upcoming conferences. I just finished assembling my promotion and tenure documentation, and everyone in academia knows how much fun that is! My travel schedule is pretty full for about five weeks beginning at the end of October. I'm looking forward to the Board of Directors meeting on Oct. 28 at Marco Island, Florida. When I return, I'll fill you in about Stan's?????? I also have a trip planned to visit Germany and Slovakia in November. That, too, will deserve mention in upcoming installments.



Did I ever tell you about the fellow up our way who was hit by lightning?

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# News Items

## SWST Policy and Position Statements

One of the hallmarks of a professional society is to provide relevant and objective information to policy makers, and to express a collective professional opinion on issues about which the membership can speak authoritatively and objectively. SWST has provided this type of information through various critical-issue papers and other outlets over the past 10-15 years.

Recently, some members have requested that the Society respond more quickly to a perceived need for a professional voice in important policy discussions. In June, your Executive Board approved a process to develop and promulgate professional positions and statements on topics of concern and interest to the membership. The guidelines for developing and issuing SWST Policy and Position Statements are now available on the SWST web site ([www.swst.org](http://www.swst.org)).

These guidelines allow any member to propose advocacy, informational or facilitative positions on important and appropriate topics that meet specific criteria. The web site describes these criteria and the process that will be used to ensure that any SWST professional statements reflect the consensus of the membership. A key component is an action plan for how the statement or position will be communicated and disseminated to appropriate audiences.

The Policy and Critical Issues Committee, chaired by Judd Michael, has the responsibility to manage this process. However, Society members interested in the future of our profession are essential to the success of these efforts. Judd and your Executive Board would be pleased to hear from you.

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## Nominations Sought for DSA

The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is given by SWST to individuals who have made unusually significant contributions to the profession of Wood Science and Technology. The recipient need not be a member of SWST, but any nomination must be endorsed by SWST members. The Past Presidents' Council, chaired by Tom McLain, is asking members for nominations for 2001 and future awards. Please see the awards section of our web site, [www.SWST.org](http://www.SWST.org), for details about the award and past recipients. Contact Tom at (541) 737-4224 or [thomas.mclain@orst.edu](mailto:thomas.mclain@orst.edu) with your suggestions.

## Mississippi State University Installs New Hot Press

The Department of Forest Products of Mississippi State University recently installed a DIEFFENBACHER 915mm-x-915mm HOT PRESS SYSTEM at the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL). This hot press with steam-injection capability is coupled with the Alberta Research Council's Pressman operation and monitoring software. The Dieffenbacher Press will greatly enhance the FPL's Wood Composites Program's capabilities by allowing the following:

- producing boards with 837mm-x-837mm-x-76mm dimensions with a 20-step control for hot-pressing time with respect to mat thickness, platen pressure, and steam-injection timing and duration;
- real-time monitoring of hot-pressing parameters such as mat thickness and temperature and internal gas pressure, allowing evaluation and control of the ongoing mat consolidation and bonding progression.



The research needs of the industry can be met with improved accuracy and consistency of board manufacturing with this new hot-press system. These needs include the following:

- studying effects of press time and temperature and mat-consolidation speed on various board properties;
- manufacturing a number of consistent boards for various performance tests;
- comparing various adhesive resins and catalysts for curing speed and/or bonding performance;
- studying board density or density-profile variations;
- studying effects of additives to improve water resistance and durability; and
- evaluating the steam-injection advantages in board manufacturing.

This state-of-the-art equipment is available for contract research work. You and your associates are invited to attend an OPEN HOUSE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2000, where the capabilities of the new hot press will be demonstrated with an opportunity to meet the FPL sci-

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entists involved in wood-composites research.

Additional details on the Open House will follow in a few weeks. Please mark your calendar to attend! Registration will be limited, so watch for the upcoming announcement. We look forward to your participation.

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**WoodPlanet.com Launches new Online Tool for Buyers and Sellers of Lumber and Wood Products**

**Cambridge, MA (July 3, 2000)** - WoodPlanet.com has recently unveiled the latest version of the site's Request-for-Quote (RFQ) Engine. The RFQ Engine is a buying tool that allows buyers of hardwood lumber, specialty lumber and wood products, instantaneous access to tens of thousands of wood suppliers and processors. The improved tool requires no special software, just an Internet connection. The simple, step-by-step process allows buyers to enter product specifications, and the site generates a list of potential suppliers for that product. The RFQ Engine helps to manage the inquiries, but the buyer and supplier are free to carry out the actual wood transaction any way they want.

WoodPlanet's product-development team worked closely with dozens of lumber buyers to create the new RFQ Engine, which can be accessed at [www.woodplanet.com](http://www.woodplanet.com). According to the company's founder, Klaas Armster, "The new RFQ Tool will help to assure that buyers of lumber and other wood products will find the best supplier for their wood needs. In nearly every instance, we have been able to save both time and money for the buyer. Our value is especially evident among all the small and midsized wood-using companies that don't have the time to explore all their purchasing options."

The latest version will greatly enhance the existing service, which has already been collecting up to 20 RFQs each week. The service is free of charge to all registered users. Suppliers are encouraged to call or visit the site in order to verify the correct company information.

WoodPlanet, Inc., is an online marketing company for the noncommodity lumber and wood products industry. In addition to the RFQ tool, WoodPlanet.com offers free services for sawmills, furniture manufacturers, professional woodworkers and cabinetmakers, architects and engineers, carpenters/builders/contractors, and molding/millwork and component producers. For more information, please contact Han Soh at (617) 354-1811 or e mail the company at [info@woodplanet.com](mailto:info@woodplanet.com).

**Editorial Links to [www.hardwood.org](http://www.hardwood.org)**

- Furniture/Today magazine, [www.furnituretoday.com](http://www.furnituretoday.com) - *Furniture/Today* is the leading trade publication for the furniture industry.
- Professional Builder magazine, [www.probuilder.com](http://www.probuilder.com) - *Professional Builder* covers new products, trends, housing design, builder interviews and case histories, and general business and marketing trends.
- Luxury Home, [www.homeplanners.com](http://www.homeplanners.com) - This monthly publication is a showcase for homes larger than 3,000 square feet.
- Home Systems, [www.gohomesystems.com](http://www.gohomesystems.com) - A bi-monthly publication, Home Systems is designed as a "how-to" resource that addresses technical, marketing and business aspects of home systems, including heating, security, audio/video, climate, home electronics and convenience.
- Professional Remodeler, [www.proremodeler.com](http://www.proremodeler.com) - *Professional Remodeler* focuses on new products, new technologies, and management and marketing issues.
- Contractor magazine, [www.contractormag.com](http://www.contractormag.com) - This magazine/Web site is edited for owners and senior managers of specialty contracting firms.

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**Upcoming Exhibition  
WOOD: An American Tradition**

Have you heard about the upcoming exhibition **WOOD: An American Tradition, at the National Building Museum**? A group tour of this exciting exhibition would be perfect for your members and staff, especially if you are in Washington, D.C., for a conference or meeting.

The exhibition, which opened on September 9, explores the importance of wood as a building material. Through models, photographs, a hands-on education room, and wood-construction tools, visitors will learn the history of wood construction and the potential of wood as a future resource. The 7,000-square-foot show also includes an actual log cabin and timber-framed structure.

The Museum staff has coordinated many successful tours for associations, as well as groups, related to the building industry. Nancy Lawler, conference planner for the Society of American Florists, noted "the docents

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gave excellent tours and our guests had an experience they might never have had. I highly recommend the Museum to others!"

In addition to a tour of the informative exhibition, your visit could also include a docent-led tour of what noted architect Philip Johnson has called "the most astonishing interior space in America." The Museum's historic home is one of Washington's most majestic buildings, hosting such major events as presidential inaugural balls since 1885. With our other noted exhibitions, the Blueprints Cafe, and the popular Museum Shop, your group is sure to have a pleasant and memorable visit.

To schedule a tour, please call (202) 272-2448, ext. 3302. Please note that there is a group tour fee of \$40 for groups under 50 and \$75 for groups over 50, but ad-

### WTCA Announces New Professional Membership Program

The Board of Directors of the Wood Truss - Council of America (WTCA), a trade association of more than 600 component manufacturers, is proud to introduce a new Professional Membership Program. This new program will further WTCA's mission to educate those involved in all aspects of the building industry about the unique characteristics of metal-plate-connected wood trusses.

The program is available to individuals not actively connected with a truss-manufacturing business and who are interested in furthering their education about the truss industry. For an initial fee of \$150, a new Professional Member receives the following:

- **One-Year Membership in WTCA (\$100.00 value).**
- **Metal-Plate-Connected Wood Truss Handbook (\$59.95 value).** This revised, "first-of-its-kind," 400-page reference book contains comprehensive information regarding the truss-manufacturing industry, including appendices containing roof and floor-span tables, design aids and specifications.
- **Commentary for Permanent Bracing of Metal-Plate-Connected Wood Trusses (\$9.00 value).** This 26-page document provides guidelines for Building Designers to use in designing and specifying permanent bracing for metal-plate-connected wood-truss systems. Illustrations throughout the document help clarify key points.
- **Subscription to WOODWORDS Magazine (\$45.00 value).** Nine times a year, WOODWORDS reaches professionals involved in the engineered-structural-components industry, including component manu-

facturers, architects, designers, code officials, industry suppliers, and association and organization members, as well as academics and government officials. The publication actively informs its readers of industry news, industry-related questions, legislative issues affecting the industry, and much more.

- **Engineering Components for Efficient Framing (\$3.50 value).** This 28-page booklet is an excellent educational document on the use of trusses. It includes information on structural design, working with a truss designer, using trusses on the jobsite, and much more.
- **All additional technical and informational brochures from WTCA (\$5.00 value).** These include copies of the WTCA Job Site Warning Poster, *What We Learned by Framing the American Dream* and *Standard Responsibilities in the Design Process Involving Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses*, along with our *Truss Technology for Builders (TTB)* series of technical brochures.

Additional benefits of becoming a WTCA Professional Member include ongoing communications from WTCA on technical and legislative issues, a member discount on WTCA's warning poster (available in Architectural "C" and "D" sizes to accommodate your layout drawings and to assist you in providing proper bracing information to the field) and truss-related technical assistance via phone and email.

To learn more about becoming a Professional Member of WTCA, or for a photo of the information package, please contact Anna L. Stamm at (608) 274-4849 ext. 19 or [astamm@woodtruss.com](mailto:astamm@woodtruss.com).

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### USA Pavilion Announced for LIGNAPLUS HANNOVER 2001

#### Cost-Effective American Group Exhibit at World's Largest Woodworking and Forestry Tradeshow

(Princeton, NJ) - Hannover Fairs Usa, Inc. (HFUSA) has announced that it will organize and manage the USA Pavilion at LIGNAPLUS HANNOVER 2001 (April 23-28; Hannover, Germany), the world's largest tradeshow for woodworking and forestry equipment and machinery. Joachim Schafer, president of HFUSA, said, "We're pleased to offer this exhibit option to U.S. manufacturers and service providers. The USA Pavilion is an affordable way for small and medium-sized companies to take part in the industry's most influential international sales and marketing event."

The USA Pavilion will be located within Hall11 as part of

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LIGNA's Wood Materials sector, which hosted roughly 45,000 attendees and 175 exhibitors in 1999. The pavilion will use 1,775 square feet of exhibit space and will spotlight the latest raw materials and wood products from America. The group exhibit is open exclusively to American companies, offers several turnkey booth options, and includes comprehensive administrative, business and hospitality services.

LIGNAplus HANNOVER, the world's largest tradeshow for the woodworking and forestry industries, is managed by Hannover, Germany-based Deutsche Messe AG and takes place on the Hannover Fairgrounds. LIGNAplus HANNOVER 99 showcased 1,874 exhibitors and attracted 110,000 attendees. For more information, contact Hannover Fairs USA, Inc., at 103 Carnegie Center; Princeton, NJ 08540; phone (609) 987-1202; Fax (609) 987-0092; lignaplus@hfusa.com; www.lignaplus.com.

## Conferences

### CALL FOR PAPERS

**Second International Conference on Advanced Engineered Wood Composites  
Grand Summit Resort Hotel & Conference  
Center-Sunday River  
Bethel, Maine, USA**

The **Second International Conference on Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWCs)** will be held from **August 14-16, 2001**, at the **Grand Summit Resort Hotel & Conference Center-Sunday River, near Bethel, Maine, USA**. The First International Conference, held in Bar Harbor, Maine, in 1999, was attended by over 150 people from seven countries.

The upcoming conference will provide a focused venue for presenting and discussing the commercial, scientific, and engineering aspects of AEWCs. These composites, which combine wood with Fiber-Reinforced Polymers (FRPs), represent an important industrial segment with a unique set of issues. A combination of industrial researchers, business-development specialists, structural engineers, and materials researchers will gather in a setting designed to create valuable and necessary interactions among all interested parties.

Papers and poster presentations are being solicited in the following areas:

- market-development case studies,
- durability,

- structural performance,
- processing,
- extruded composites,
- reinforced composites (both laminated and integral reinforcements),
- code implementation,
- alternative technologies,
- engineered wood composites,
- building systems,
- bridge systems,
- automotive applications.



Abstracts to be considered for inclusion in the conference should be submitted by **December 1, 2000**. Extended abstracts for the conference proceedings will be due **June 1, 2001**.

Proceedings of the papers will be available at the conference. A workshop covering processing and design fundamentals of wood/FRP hybrid composites will be offered to assist interested parties in becoming more familiar with this important and expanding materials area.

***For further information, contact:***

**Ms. Doreen Parent**

**Mailing Address:**

Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center  
5793 AEWC Bldg.  
University of Maine  
Orono, Maine  
04469-5793

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**Telephone:** (207) 581-2123

**Fax:** (207) 581-2074

**E-mail:** contactaewc@umit.maine.edu

**AEWC Website Address:** <http://www.aewc.umaine.edu/>

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**Forest Products Society 55th Annual Meeting  
Omni Inner Harbor Hotel  
Baltimore, Maryland, USA  
June 24-27, 2001**

**Adhesives Group and Chemistry Group (Joint)**

**Theme:** Hybrid Adhesive Systems (Half-Day Session)  
**Contacts:** Louis A. Pilato, Consultant, 598 Watchung Rd., Bound Brook, NJ 08805, (732) 469-4057, Fax: (732)764-9747, E-mail: pilato-consulting@worldnet.att.net;  
Charles E. Frazier, Virginia Tech, Dept. of Wood Science & Forest Products, 210 Cheatham Hall, Mail Code 0323, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0323, (540) 231-8318, Fax: (540) 231-8176, E-mail: cfrazier@vt.edu

**Biology Group**

**Theme:** Technological Advances in Assessing Wood Quality (Half-Day Session)  
**Contact:** Barbara L. Gartner, Oregon State Univ., Dept. of Forest Products, Corvallis, OR 97331-7402, (541) 737-4213, Fax: (541) 737-3385, E-mail: barbara.gartner@orst.edu

**Milling and Machining Group and Quality Control, Process Control, and Production Management Group (Joint)**

**Theme:** Quality Control and Quality Machining in the Furniture Industry (Full-Day Session)  
**Contacts:** Philip H. Mitchell, North Carolina State Univ., Dept. of Wood & Paper Science, Box 8003, Raleigh, NC 27695-8003, (919)515-5581, Fax: (919) 515-8739, E-mail:phil-mitchell@ncsu.edu;  
Scott Leavengood, Oregon State Univ. Ext., 3.128 Vandenberg-Rd., Klarnath Falls, OR 91603-3796, (541) 883-7131, Fax: (541) 883-4582, E-mail:scott.leavengood@orst.edu

**Physics Group and Drying and Storage Group (Joint)**

**Theme:** None (Half-Day Session)

**Contact:** Rubin Shmulsky, Univ. of Minnesota, Dept. of Wood & Paper Science, 2004 Folwell Ave., Rm. 322B, St. Paul, MN 55108, (612) 624-4716, Fax: (612) 625-6286

**Structural Panels Group**

**Theme:** None (Half-Day Session)

**Contact:** Dominique Janssens, Structural Board Assn., 45Sheppard Ave. E., Ste. 412, Toronto, ON, Canada M2N 5W9, (416) 730-9090, Fax: (416) 730-9013, E-mail: janssens@osbguide.com

**Temperate and Tropical Hardwood Lumber Group and Furniture and Hardwood Veneer/Plywood Group (Joint)**

**Theme:** Hardwoods: From Forest to Consumer (Full-Day Session)

**Contact:** Brian H. Bond, Univ. of Tennessee, Dept. of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries, PO Box 1071, Knoxville, TN 37901-1071, (865) 974-7991, Fax: (865) 974-1005, E-mail:bbond7@utk.edu

**Treated Wood Products Group**

**Theme:** Protection Against Biodegradation/Weathering of Wood (Tentative) (Half-Day Session)

**Contact:** Mike H. Freeman, Consultant, 7421 Hunters Tree Cove, Memphis, TN 38125, (901) 754-2116, Fax: (901) 753-1006, E-mail: wooddoc@aol.com

**Wood Engineering Division**

**Theme:** Field Modifications of Engineered Wood Systems (Half-Day Session)

**Contact:** Scott M. Kent, Wood Science & Technology Inst., 6300 SW Reservoir Ave., Corvallis, OR 97333, (541) 929-9784, Fax: (541) 929-3694, E-mail:scottk@woodcompositesengr.com

**Wood Engineering Division**

**Theme:** Wood-Based Composite for Marine Structures (Half-Day Session)

**Contact:** Donald A. Bender, Washington State Univ., WoodMaterials & Engineering Lab., PO Box 641806, Pullman, WA 99164-1806, (509)335-2829, Fax: (509) 335-5077, E-mail: bender@wsu.edu

**Wood Engineering Division**

**Theme:** Wood Engineering/Mechanics Education in Forest Products (Wood Science) Curriculum (Half-Day Session)

**Contact:** Rakesh Gupta, Oregon State Univ., Dept. of Forest Products, 114 Richardson Hall, Corvallis, OR

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97331, (541) 737-4223, Fax: (541) 737-3385, E-mail: rakesh.gupta@orst.edu

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**Upcoming Conferences from FPS**

- Durability & Disaster Mitigation in Wood-Frame Housing; November 6-8, 2000; Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
- FPS-Sponsored Technical Forum at the 35th International Particleboard/Composite Materials Symposium; April 2-5, 2001; Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, USA
- 6th International Conference on Woodfiber-Plastic Composites; May 15-16, 2001; The Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
- FPS 55th Annual Meeting; June 24-27, 2001; Omni Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
- FPS-Sponsored Technical Seminars at the Forest Products Machinery & Equipment Exposition; July 19-21, 2001; Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
- FPS 56th Annual Meeting; June 23-26, 2002; Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
- FPS 57th Annual Meeting; June 22-25, 2003; DoubleTree Hotel, Bellevue, Washington, USA
- FPS 58th Annual Meeting; June 27-30, 2004; Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

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**6th International Conference on Woodfiber-Plastic Composites**

**Call for Papers and Conference Announcement**

*Madison, Wis.* -A conference on composites that incorporate virgin or recycled plastics and wood and nonwood natural fibers will be held Tuesday, May 15, through Wednesday, May 16, 2001, at the Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin, USA. An optional "Woodfiber-Plastic Composite Basics" tutorial will be held at the USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory on Monday, May 14, 2001.

The conference is the sixth in a series that has been

held every other year in Madison. Hosted by the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, the conference is sponsored by the USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin, the University of Toronto, and the Forest Products Society.

The conference will feature technical and poster presentations, discussions, and tabletop exhibits on the following:

- characteristics of wood and other natural fibers;
- fundamental principles of polymer composites;
- additive effects and chemistry;
- composite structure and performance;
- compounding, profile extrusion, injection molding, and other processing technologies;
- product design, performance, and durability;
- end-use applications - automotive, building, household goods, and others.

During the conference, a Reception, Suppliers' Showcase, and Technical Forum will be held both on Monday and Tuesday evening. During the reception, attendees can browse through tabletop displays presented by suppliers of equipment, products, and technical services of interest to the woodfiber-plastic-composites and natural-fiber-composites industry while enjoying complimentary hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and beverages from the cash bar. In addition to these displays, a number of Technical Forum (poster) presentations intended to expand the transfer of information related to this subject area will be given.

Individuals interested in presenting a formal paper or presenting in the poster session must submit a 1-page abstract by August 31, 2000, to Conferences & Meetings Department, Forest Products Society, 2801 Marshall Court, Madison, WI, USA 53705-2295; phone: (608) 231-1361, ext. 208, Fax: (608) 231-2152, E-mail: conferences@forestprod.org, web site: www.forestprod.org.

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**ICWSF 2001  
The Fifth International Conference on the  
Development of Wood Science,  
Wood Technology and Forestry  
Ljubljana, Slovenia  
5th - 7th September 2001**

You are invited to attend/contribute to the Fifth Interna-

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tional Conference on Wood Science, Technology and Forestry, to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in September 2001. This international conference will build on the success of the previous conferences by providing another opportunity for discussion of current wood science, technology and forestry research. Following the fourth conference, held in the United Kingdom in 1999, this well-established, truly international event will provide an opportunity for experts from the wood- and forestry-based disciplines to meet, share ideas, promote their specific areas of research and enhance their network of contacts. The conference will facilitate collaboration between institutes and industry and thereby help them to secure funding for research and consultancy. The sponsorship the conference attracts and the number of participants from around the world indicate its importance for all those working in the field. We look forward to receiving many presentations on the topics outlined below.

#### **Aims of the Conference**

- To provide an opportunity for an international group of wood scientists, wood technologists and foresters to meet.
- To present state-of-the-art wood-related technologies.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas to examine emerging technologies and scientific advances.
- To provide a meeting ground for unique cross-cultural discussion with a view to collaboration in seeking funding of international projects for research and consultancy.

#### **Topics of the Conference**

The conference will have four main themes, which will typically include the topics shown.

##### **1. Forestry**

Forest Policy  
Forest Management  
Timber Certification  
Tree Physiology

##### **2. Wood Science**

Wood Material Properties  
Non-destructive Testing  
Wood Durability  
Dendrochronology

##### **3. Wood Technology**

Wood Drying  
Wood Preservation  
Wood Machining

Wood Coatings  
Wood-based Composites  
Adhesion and Wood Gluing  
Timber Engineering

#### **4. Commerce and Training**

Life Cycle Analysis  
Global Markets and Marketing  
Business Development Strategies  
Education and Training

#### **Official Language**

The official language of the conference is English.

#### **Submission of Papers and Synopses**

An international Selection Committee of some ten experts from different countries will select papers on the basis of the synopses submitted. They will assess the papers for technical merit and relevance to the declared programme profile.

The offer of a paper is taken to imply that the author will attend and present the work. Synopses should be approximately 300 words long and include the paper's title and the names of all the authors.

Accepted papers should not be more than ten sides of A4 text, including tables and illustrations. They must be submitted as camera-ready hardcopy and electronically in MS Word format. All documents should be prepared in MS Word 6 format, and be sent on disk or by E-mail.

#### **Timetable**

Synopses must be received at the correspondence address by 30th November 2000. All conference attendees are invited to submit the synopses by filling out the synopsis window and the registration form on the web page of ICWSF 2001. Notification of the accepted papers will be issued in February 2001. Completed camera-ready copy papers and electronic version must be submitted by 30th April 2001.

#### **Conference Proceedings**

Bound copies of the Proceedings will be supplied to all conference delegates; additional copies will be available for purchase after the Conference.

#### **Special Events**

- A poster Exhibition - an opportunity for presenters, and others, to display their work, and for delegates to examine new technologies close up and have a one-to-one with the presenters.

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- Optional cultural trips on Saturday - at an extra fee.
  1. Visit to the virgin forest and Caves of Škocjan, which are included in the world heritage list by UNESCO,
  2. Visit to the Triglav National Park.

**Conference Fees**

The cost of the conference will be 320 GBP for speakers and 350 GBP for nonspeakers. The conference registration fee covers the organizing expenses, pick-up from Brnik airport to Ljubljana (on request), return transport to Brnik airport on Friday evening (on request), the book of abstracts, coffee breaks with refreshments during the Conference, Conference dinner, and lunches from Wednesday 5th to Friday 7th September.

**Venue**

The Conference will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. With its 280,000 inhabitants, Ljubljana most certainly ranks among the smaller European capitals, but we are convinced that many bigger cities could be envious of all that it has. Ljubljana did not become a capital overnight—it prepared for this for centuries. When it was still "only" a provincial capital of Carniola, it became the capital for all Slovenians in 1918, when the Austro-Hungarian monarchy collapsed. A year later, in 1919, it acquired a university, in 1938 the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, a radio station as early as 1926 and TV in 1957. It had its own Philharmonic in 1701 and its opera exactly one hundred years ago, not to speak of its theaters. In short, if smallness is its only deficiency, let it be so, as long as it can!

Organizing committee and correspondence address:

- Dr. Bojan Buèar
- Dr. Željko Gorišek
- Dr. Jože Resnik
- Dr. Mark Irle
- Darja Vranjek
- Maja Cimerman

All correspondence should be addressed to:

ICWSF2001 Secretary  
 Biotechnical Faculty  
 Department of Wood Science and Technology  
 Rozna dolina C. VIII/34, P.O.Box 2995  
 SI-1001 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA

**E-mail:** ICWSF2001@uni-lj.si

**Internet:** <http://www.bf.uni-lj.si/wood/ICWSF2001>

**Phone:** +386 01 423 11 61

**Fax:** +386 01 257 22 97

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**PATH Conference**

***Working Together to Build the Next Generation of Durable and Disaster-Resistant Homes, Madison, WI*** -The 2nd annual "Durability and Disaster Mitigation in Wood-Frame Housing" conference will be held November 6-8, 2000, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Design professionals, builders, code officials, government officials, researchers, and educators will present the latest information on issues related to housing durability and disaster mitigation.

The conference is sponsored by the PATH (Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing) Wood-Frame Housing Consortium in cooperation with the Forest Products Society. This Consortium consists of the National Planning Committee for Forest Products (which includes the Advanced Housing Research Center located at the Forest Products Laboratory [FPL]), USDA Forest Service; several universities; the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension services; the American Forest & Paper Association; APA-The Engineered Wood Association; and the National Association of Home Builders Research Center.

PATH is a government and industry partnership committed to improving the energy efficiency, durability, affordability, and disaster resistance of the nation's housing through the use of advanced housing technologies.

Elizabeth Burdock, PATH Executive Director, noted that "practical and scientific information on the performance of building components presented at the conference will not only help shape future housing research, but it will provide useful information to an industry profession searching for techniques to increase the quality of housing."

Participants of this conference will review case studies of product and systems durability performance; national durability programs; wind, fire, flood, seismic, pest, mold, and rot issues; new products and technologies; construction quality assurance and implementation; and builder perspectives on durability and disaster mitigation. The conference will also include a suppliers' showcase, displays of products, and poster presentations on various subjects related to durability and disaster mitigation.

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tion.

According to Mike Ritter, of FPL's Advanced Housing Research Center and Conference Technical Co-Chair, "This conference offers builders and researchers the opportunity to join together and share perspectives gained from actual field experiences, and it is just one more step toward ensuring that tomorrow's homes have added durability and a better chance of withstanding natural disasters."

For further information, contact the Conferences & Meetings Department, Forest Products Society, 2801 Marshall Court, Madison, WI 53705-2295 USA, Phone: (608) 231-1361, ext. 208, Fax: (608) 231-2152, E-mail: conferences@forestprod.org, or visit the Forest Products Society web site at www.forestprod.org, or the PATH web site at www.pathnet.org.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Southern Saw Mechanics Workshop  
Memphis, Tennessee  
November 9-10, 2000**

**What You Will Learn**

You'll hear the latest technical information in the following areas:

- Bandsaw Mechanics,
- Thin-Kerf Saw Mechanics,
- State-of-the-art Curve Sawing,
- Properties of Tool Materials for Both Circular Saws and Bandsaws,
- Guide Technology and Maintenance,
- Bandsaw Alignment and Maintenance.

And you'll hear it from some of the very best. Familiar names like Bruce Lehman, Randy Parkes, John Taylor, Warren Bird, Leonard Valdez and Sandy Stewart will present a full day and a half of information-packed sessions.

For today -- you'll learn how to increase your recovery rates, reduce component failures and improve maintenance costs with your current sawing systems.

For tomorrow--you'll learn the essentials to plan the purchase of your next sawing system.

If you are employed in saw filing, lumber production, or-

quality control, or you just have a need for the latest information in sawing technology, this program is designed for you.

**Program**

As demonstrated below, industry leaders and research scientists from around North America have teamed up to bring you the most comprehensive technology-transfer program available:

- Bandsaw Mechanics and Maintenance: John Taylor, Forintek, Canada;
- Bandsaw Alignment: Bruce Lehman, Thin Kerf Technologies, Inc.;
- Thin-kerf and Stainless Steel Circular Saws: Warren Bird, California Saw and Knife Works;
- Thin-kerf Circular Sawguides: Leonard Valdez, California Saw and Knife Works;
- New Carbides for Band and Circular Saws: Sandy Stewart, Department of Forest Products;
- The Evolution of Numerically Controlled Curve Sawing: Mechanics and Control: CAE Engineering, Wood Products Division.

**Location and Lodging**

The program will be held in the Holiday Inn Memphis East, 5795 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38119, Tel: (901) 682-7881, Fax: (901) 682-0536.

A block of rooms is being held until October 18. Single or double occupancy rate is \$99.95, but after that date, availability cannot be guaranteed. Please be sure to mention that you will be attending the Southern Saw Mechanics Workshop when you call to reserve a room.

**Cancellation Policy**

Should you need to cancel your attendance at any or all of these programs, please give us a call at (662) 325-0100. Qualified substitutions can be made any time without penalty. The University will refund registrations for a cancellation received at least 10 days prior to the course. Unforeseen circumstances may require the University to cancel a program. In the event of a program cancellation, the University will refund all registration fees paid.

**Registration**

Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express credit cards are accepted for payment of registration fees.

(Continued on page 11)

*(Continued from page 10)*

We recommend registering as early as possible. The registration fee of \$245 includes instruction materials, a luncheon and refreshment breaks. Early registrations must include payment and be postmarked by the early registration deadline of October 18. After the early registration deadline you will be required to pay the regular fee of \$275. Please make checks payable to College of Forest Resources.

**By Phone:** Call Kay at (662) 325-3473

Register by phone to reserve your seat in class. Confirmation and information about the course location will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment.

**By Fax:** (662) 325-8726 Attn: Sandra

FAX your registration form to us any time. Confirmation and information about the course location will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment.

**By E-Mail:** sandra@cfr.msstate.edu

Register by e-mail to reserve your seat in class. Confirmation and information about the course location will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment.

**By Mail:**

Complete the registration form and return it with a check, money order, credit-card information or copy of purchase order. Please make checks payable to College of Forest Resources. Confirmation and information about the course location will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment.

**Mail to:**

Office of Continuing Education  
College of Forest Resources  
Box 9680 - 01  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
Attn: Sandra T. Cáceres

For more information, contact:  
Alan Brown, Coordinator or  
Sandra Cáceres, Assistant Coordinator  
Office of Continuing Education  
Thompson Hall #209, Box 9680  
Mississippi State, MS 39762.  
Phone: (662) 325-0100  
Fax: (662) 325-8726  
E-Mail: abrown@cfr.msstate.edu or  
sandra@cfr.msstate.edu

## Letters

We are developing an application of "Airless Drying" to manufacture Torrefied Wood (TW), an intermediate product between wood & charcoal. TW is an excellent fuel for biomass energy applications, in particular, co-firing with coal at PC power plants. Please see my Transnational Technology web site [www.techtp.com](http://www.techtp.com)

I would appreciate your comments re: TW an enhanced wood fuel !

Thank you,

James R. Arcate  
Transnational Technology  
3447 Pipa Place  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
[www.techtp.com](http://www.techtp.com)

**Editor's Note**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Well, Brother Mortimer felt that such a rare event was divinely inspired and was a calling for him to become a preacher. He learned the Bible backwards and forwards, and when the appointed time for his first sermon occurred, only one person showed up at the church. He wondered what he would do, so he asked the man seated in the pew what he thought. "Well," the man said, "I'm just a simple farmer, but when I go to feed the cows and only one shows up, I still feed her." Brother Mortimer thought that was a good philosophy. So, he started in with the four gospels, psalms, and Paul's letters. He went on for about 90 minutes and asked the farmer how he was doing. "Well," said the farmer, "When I go to feed the cows and only one shows up, I don't try to feed her the whole load!"

I guess that I will be signing off. I'm always looking for *Newsletter* items including gossip, guest editorials, photographs, etc. Electronic submissions are much preferred.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Gardner

The **SWST Newsletter** is published six times a year by the Society of Wood Science and Technology, One Gifford Pinchot Drive, Madison, WI 53705, USA.

Phone: (608) 231-9347

Web site: <http://www.swst.org>

Fax: (608) 231-9592

E-mail: [Doug\\_Gardner@apollo.umenfa.maine.edu](mailto:Doug_Gardner@apollo.umenfa.maine.edu) or [vicki@swst.org](mailto:vicki@swst.org)

**SWST** is a technical and professional organization for scientists and engineers working in academia, government, consulting and the forest-products industries and is dedicated to providing education and expertise regarding better ways to use and produce wood products.

Items for the newsletter may be sent to Doug Gardner, at the above Society address.

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