



The Standard

Monthly Newsletter of APPALACHIAN Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.

Demand the Appalachian Standard

March 2004



Meeting Offers Furniture, Flooring, Marketing

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL - Participants at the 2004 Annual Meeting of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. received reports on the state of the hardwood industry in furniture, flooring and marketing to consumers.

While two of the three programs were planned, the furniture report and expanded updates on AHMI efforts were last-minute additions. Participants were pleased with the changes, reported AHMI President Mark Barford.

A record snowfall across the Carolinas delayed a planned speaker and forced changes. Bush/Cheney '04 National Field Director Collister "Coddy" Johnson was snowed in at the Charlotte airport.

The 170 participants at the Annual Meeting, however, were treated to expanded presentations on AHMI activities in 2003 and plans for 2004. The group also heard remarks from AHMI Consumer Division Chairman Dennis Teague, lumber buyer for Kincaid Furniture Co., Hudson, NC, who has spent the past 30 years in the furniture industry in North Carolina.

"You would not believe how much the industry has changed in the past 10 years," Teague said. Offering specifics about Kincaid Furniture, he said in 2003 the company cut about 50-60 percent of the hardwood lumber it did 10 years ago.

"The economy and the Chinese furniture industry have had a tremendous impact on our business and I cannot stress the economy enough," Teague said. "We are recovering and a lot of positive things are happening."

The convention was held Feb. 26-29 at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort at Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Other speakers were Mullican Flooring President Neil Poland and Wood Promotion Network President Kelly

**2004-06
Chairman
Ed
Ramsey
(left)
hands
"Thank
You"
plaque to
2002-04
Chairman
Gary
White at**



the closing banquet on Saturday evening

McCloskey and reports on their comments are included in this newsletter.

"We were very pleased with attendance at this meeting, we were closer to the regular levels of the past," said AHMI President Mark Barford. "There were several of our active members in attendance, but also new people who came to learn more about what is happening with AHMI and that is always good."

During the Annual Meeting, participants elected officers and trustees. Ed Ramsey of Taylor-Ramsey Corp. was named chairman. A list of the officers and trustees is printed on page 6 of this newsletter.

AHMI staff detailed activities in 2003. AHMI Director of Communications Tom Inman introduced an "Appalachian FAS" promotion that will begin in the spring and market the benefits of the top grades of lumber to wood consumers.

2002-04 Chairman Gary White spoke on the highlights of his term. He thanked AHMI members for their support and efforts during the past two years.

(See Meeting on page 5)

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APPALACHIAN Future Meetings

2004 Summer Meeting

July 18-20 - The Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC

2004 Inter-Industry Meeting

Late Oct. - North Carolina

2005 Annual Meeting

Feb. 24-27 - The Sanctuary, Kiawah Island, SC

Mark my words.....

**By Mark A. Barford, CAE, CF
President**

As the presidential campaign starts to get into full swing, politics is on everyone's mind. So it may be perfect timing for the hardwood industry to join together for the first time to form a coalition to increase our voice in Washington.

The group is called the Hardwood Federation, based in Memphis, TN, and under the capable hands of Chris Allen, a former staffer for Sen. Fred Thompson (R-TN). Carrying out the efforts in Washington, DC is Grace Terpstra of Terpstra and Associates, a crackerjack lobbyist who has been working on behalf of the hardwood industry for years. Members may remember her presentation at our 2001 Annual Convention where she detailed the influence that the hardwood industry was beginning to have in DC.

The Federation's first task was to create its own Political Action Committee (PAC), and it began with an initial contribution from the now dissolved NHLA PAC. The PAC will be crucial to having any influence in DC. Wendell Cramer, chairman of the new PAC, explains that "money talks... early money yells!" So you will hear more on this.

In fact, since Cuddy Johnson of Bush/Cheney '04 could not join us in Florida due to weather, he is planning to join us this summer in Asheville at our Family Summer Conference... July 18-20. We will also invite Grace to join us, along with a few other surprises!

Do we have any work to do in Washington? Yeah, I think anyone looking around would answer a very clear YES. We have tended to spend a LOT of time on federal forest issues, while regulations, environmental issues, global competitiveness and taxation have taken a back seat. This will change with the new federation. You will see a whole set of issues on their radar screen, and AHMI will be active on the governing board through our representative... newly elected Chairman Ed Ramsey.

The more we see of the candidates for both parties, the sharper the differences are between them. Get involved. This industry is looking for a very good 2004 rebound year... your involvement will make sure that continues.



Mark A. Barford

AHMI Board Approves 2004 Activities

The Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. Board of Trustees approved the 2004 budget and program of work during the Annual Meeting.

Staff offered a review of the activities in 2003, which included the gaining of 11 new members, and the continued emphasis on promoting the "Demand the Appalachian Standard." Other reports included forestry and education efforts.

"The Board had just completed an extensive retreat in January," reported AHMI President Mark Barford, "and the staff had put legs to the ideas they generated, and provided details on some new activities planned for 2004."

Plans were approved for a promotion of grade Appalachian hardwood lumber through a new website. Staff will participate in additional trade shows and conventions designed for wood consumers.

The next board meeting is scheduled July 20 in conjunction with the Summer Family Conference at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC.

During the Annual Meeting, AHMI members approved the new AHMI officers and trustees. A listing is printed on page 4 of this newsletter.

Producers Discuss Sawmill Issues

The Producer members of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. met in a closed session at the 2004 Annual Meeting to address issues specific to Appalachian hardwood sawmillers.

The conversation was open and free flowing, and touched on many topics including the difficulties in finding reasonable trucking, and available loggers. The most recurring theme was the impact of imports, not just to Appalachian hardwood customers, but also in the form of lumber and plywood that is being brought into this country.

"The producers meeting coincides with the Distributors Division meeting and both are designed as a way for the association to be sure we are meeting the needs of our various membership groups within AHMI," said AHMI President Mark Barford. "The relaxed informal roundtable allows all attendees a chance to participate and helps staff to know where our members' concerns are, which is then reflected in our staff activities."

Wood Flooring Sales Predicted To Grow

An affinity for wood has been one of the key factors for the boom in the hardwood flooring industry, reports the president of the nation's second largest flooring manufacturer.

Mullican Flooring Co. President Neil Poland told attendees at the 2004 Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. Annual Meeting that homeowners like wood. The flooring industry has recognized that over the past 20 years and have developed products and finishes in response.

"Why has the hardwood flooring industry grown?" Poland asked. "Hardwood flooring upgrades the value of the home. You look at any newspaper ad with a home for sale, if it has hardwood flooring that is going to be one of the selling features.

"The American consumer has an affinity for wood," he said. "Someone gets a nice piece of furniture or they build a bar downstairs and it is out of wood, they want to show it off. It is the same for hardwood floors."

The hardwood flooring industry had \$2.9 billion in sales in 2003, about 10% of total floor covering sales. Hardwood flooring sales have doubled in percentage in the past decade.

"The thing that I see as a real positive is hardwood flooring is only 3.9% in footage so we've got a lot of room for future growth," Poland said. "We've got 96 % of floor covering in other products that we can take away from these other guys."

Hardwood flooring key selling points are its durability and look, but also it is clean and hypo-allergenic. "Hard surfaces have a strong selling point to people with allergies," he said. "Carpet is terrible to have in your home. There are doctors writing prescriptions to put wood flooring in for people with bad allergies."

Poland said in 1983 hardwood flooring was only a \$300 million industry, less than 2% of total floor covering. The industry exploded in the 1990s and has gotten even stronger over past five years.

"We have had just about as much growth in the past five years in dollars as we did in the previous 15 years," Poland said.

The two segments of the hardwood flooring industry, unfinished and prefinished, share equally for

demand in 2003. Prefinished flooring, however, has become the basis for much of the current growth of the industry and is making hardwood flooring available for more situations in the home.

Poland detailed housing starts and remodels in recent years. Both categories continue to climb along with home size and value. The three factors translate into more business for hardwood flooring as consumers place more value in their homes.

"Consumers are demanding a lot more upgrades in their homes and the builders are doing a better job marketing those upgrades," Poland said. "Hardwood flooring is an upgrade that people want."

Mullican offers 15 colors in its range of prefinished flooring with different levels of distressing and hand-sculpting. The company manufactures unfinished and prefinished in a variety of widths.

Poland told the hardwood lumber producers and distributors in attendance that demand for oak hardwood lumber should be stable and even increase in the near future. He said red oak accounts for about 70 percent of the oak flooring and white oak about 30 percent. Poland predicted a gradual increase in demand for specialty species of hardwood flooring.

The domestic flooring industry is closely watching the impact of imports. Poland said, however, imports account for \$119 million of the \$2.9 billion hardwood flooring industry. "It has grown but you have to remember the industry has grown significantly during this same time," Poland said.

The leading exporter to the United States is Canada, with China second and Brazil third. He said much of the Asian and South American flooring products are a design-driven engineered floor rather than a solid hardwood floor.

"When it comes to the solid hardwood floor, they have to import the wood, manufacture the product and ship it back and it is really no cheaper in price than our products," Poland said. "The amount of volume they can produce is really not that great. The threat we face from China or Russia or wherever is once the infrastructure is in place to get the forest to the manufacturers quicker. At the present time, that does not seem likely."

American hardwood flooring manufacturers have an advantage with delivery. The industry has adopted two-week delivery for flooring orders.

An audiotape copy of Poland's remarks are available from the AHMI office at (336) 885-8315.



Neil Poland

Vaughn Offers Input To Distributors Division Blackmon Elected Chairman

The Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. Distributors Division held its annual meeting recently.

The session was highlighted by remarks from former AHMI Chairman Emmet P. "Buck" Vaughn, Jr. He spoke about the current state of the hardwood industry as it relates to distribution yards and wholesalers.



Fred Blackmon

Immediately following his remarks, the division elected a new chairman for 2004-05. Fred Blackmon of Heritage Forest Products, Deland, FL, was selected to lead the division.

Vaughn said too many hardwood lumber distributors and wholesalers are not thinking beyond this week or this quarter. He said business leaders must plan for the future based on their experience in the past.

"We had better do a little different thinking than we did in the past," Vaughn said. "Our business has changed more since 2000 than in the previous 15 years and I don't know that I have ever seen anything



Emmet Vaughn speaks to Distributor's Division meeting

like that."

Business leaders in 2004 must focus on the key reasons they are in business, he said. Profit must be central to their business strategy, Vaughn said, as well as providing for employees.

"Some of you are in business because you simply love this business, but I submit to you that if you weren't making a profit you may not love it that much," he said. "You want your business to succeed because you love it."

Vaughn challenged attendees to review their businesses annually and their plans for the future. He recommended that leaders share these plans with employees to make certain everyone in the organization understands where it is headed.

Companies Provide AHMI Wood Sample Blocks

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. would like to thank the following member companies for donating wood and processing wood for the AHMI wood sample kits:

Beard Hardwoods, Greensboro, NC
Gilbert Hardwood Centers, Inc., Trinity, NC
Harold White Lumber Co., Morehead, KY

"These wood kits are a staple in the AHMI promotion and education programs," said AHMI Director of Communications Tom Inman. "We send out dozens of these kits annually to schools, businesses and groups to help them learn about the 12 commercial species of Appalachian hardwoods."

The donations by these companies allows AHMI to focus resources in other areas to promote the many benefits of Appalachian. The kits have ash, basswood, beech, birch, cherry, hickory, hard maple, soft maple, red oak, white oak, poplar and walnut samples.

"Without support like this, AHMI would not be able to accomplish all of our goals each year," Inman said.

The wood kits are available from the AHMI office



at (336) 885-8315. The cost is \$25 plus shipping for AHMI members.

The kits are distributed for free to schools, civic groups and wood consumers.

2004-06 AHMI Officers

Chairman J. Ed Ramsey, Taylor-Ramsey Corp.,
PO Box 11888, Lynchburg, VA 24506 Tel. 434-
929-7443

Chairman-Elect John W. Crites, Allegheny
Wood Products, Inc., PO Box 867, Petersburg,
WV 26847 Tel. 304-257-1082

Vice Chairman-Finance Richard Armstrong,
Homer Gregory Co., 620 Ky. Hwy. 519,
Morehead, KY 40351 Tel. 606-784-4707

Immediate Past Chairman Gary G. White,
Gilbert Lumber Co., PO Box 1210, Gilbert, WV
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Trustees

Fred Blackmon, Heritage Forest Products, P.O.
Box 2460, Deland, FL 32721 Tel. 386-738-2811

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Box 128, Hampton, TN 37658 Tel. 423-725-5410

Steve Hamer, Jim C. Hamer Co., P.O. Box 418,
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Michael S. Hoover, Neff Lumber Mills, P.O. Box
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Robert Kessel, Kessel Hardwoods, Inc., HC 84,
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Christopher R. Keziah, Oak Ridge Hardwoods,
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865-435-0054

David Melton, Georgia-Pacific Corp., 577
Clover Dew Dairy Rd., Princeton, WV 24740
Tel. 304-324-8337

Michael B. Parton, Gilkey Lumber Co., Inc.,
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John H. Patterson, Begley Lumber Co., Inc.,
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1228

Bob Radspinner, Plum Creek Timber Co., P.O.
Box 1109, Lewisburg, WV 24901 Tel. 304-645-
1542

Dennis H. Teague, Kincaid Furniture Co., Inc.,
PO Box 605, Hudson, NC 28638 Tel. 828-726-
2810

Mark Vollinger, W.M. Cramer Lumber Co., P.O.
Box 2888, Hickory, NC 28603 Tel. 828-397-7481

Meeting from page 1

Wendell Cramer of W.M. Cramer Lumber Co., Hickory, NC, spoke to attendees about the newly formed Hardwood Federation. The coalition of national, regional and state forestry associations, was organized to become a political force in Washington, DC, and replace the National Hardwood Lumber Association's Political Action Committee.

Cramer asked AHMI members to agree to solicitations from the Federation for contributions. He also asked each member to contribute so AHMI would be in 100 percent support of the federation.

For solicitation and contribution forms, please contact the AHMI office.

Annual Meeting Sports Tournaments

The 2004 Annual Meeting of AHMI offered golf, tennis and sporting clays tournaments for attendees. The winners were:

Golf - Men

Low Gross: 1-Joe Pryor; 2-John Winkler; 3-Wallace Murray

Low Net: 1-Dan Mathews; 2-Buck Vaughn; 3-Chris Keziah

Closest to the pin: Dennis Teague and Ben Powell

Longest drive: Fred Blackmon

Golf-Women

Low Gross: Susan Smith

Low Net: Marijo Wood

Closest to the pin: Marijo Wood and Bert Barrett

Longest drive: Marijo Wood

Saturday Captain's Choice

First place team - Robert Coleman, Jay Reese, John Winkler, Kelly McCloskey

Second place team - Webb Heintzman, Jack Swanner, Bert Barrett, Gladys Hamer

Third place team - Peter McCarty, Susan Smith, Wallace Murray

Tennis

Women: 1st-Lauren Burnett; 2nd-Iris Carr

Men: 1st-Kent Carr; 2nd-Frank Browne

Sporting Clays

First place - Tie between Tony Honeycutt and Keith Price

Second place - Lance Johnson

WPN Achieve Goals, Continues Marketing

Kelly McCloskey, president of the Wood Promotion Network, said the public is beginning to grasp the message about wood.

The organization has worked for three years to educate the public about the many benefits of wood products and that message is taking hold. While there have been successes, the WPN staff is not resting on those achievements and mounting new campaigns, McCloskey said.

The remarks came during the business session of the 2004 Annual Meeting of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. AHMI and several member companies have financially supported WPN since its inception in 2000.

The group was formed to address the anti-wood and anti-forest campaigns of environmental groups and the attack on wood by substitute materials. While gains have been made, there are tremendous opportunities to build on this growth, McCloskey said.

"The wood industry has about 15 percent of the share of building construction that can be made from wood products," he said. "There is a huge opportunity for wood in commercial and residential building."

The WPN uses advertisements and media events to promote wood products and drive attention to the group's website. Since WPN is a coalition of wood associations and private industry,



Kelly McCloskey

McCloskey said it does not get negative attention from environmental groups.

He detailed the campaigns of the past three years about the construction benefits, the environmental features and the sustainability of wood. All three have been well-received and promoted.

McCloskey said WPN has spent more money in the past year in contracts with building and remodeling "Mr. Fix-It" personalities. These segments have received national television exposure. "We do these in a way that is consumer friendly and people understand it," he said.

On the environmental side, WPN has emphasized forest growth and renewability. The group has contracted with Dr. Patrick Moore and developed a series titled "The Sensible Environmentalist."

"He has a message that is very powerful because here is the co-founder of Greenpeace saying you should use wood and not these other products," McCloskey said. "We are telling people that using wood is good for the environment because it makes us plant more trees and that is good. It is gaining attention."

WPN has determined that while strides have been made in the first three years of existence, the battle is not over. During surveys with 1,600 consumers and more than 500 builders and architects, the group learned that the perception of wood is improving.

"We found there is a lot more work to do," McCloskey said. "Our supporters have agreed to continue to support our efforts to reach these groups."

An audiotape of McCloskey's comments is available from the AHMI office at (336) 885-8315.

WVU Awards Bennett Scholarship

The West Virginia University Foundation recently awarded the Howard D. Bennett/AHMI Scholarship to John Hitchcock.

The \$800 scholarship comes from a grant established following the sale of a demonstration forest AHMI previously owned in West Virginia. The scholarship was named to honor of Bennett, a former AHMI executive director.

Hitchcock is senior majoring in Recreation Parks & Tourism Resources. He is from Falling Waters, WV. He received \$400 for the fall and spring semesters.

Hardwood Market Report Publishes Annual Review

The *Hardwood Market Report* has published its "2003: The Year At A Glance," annual statistical analysis of the North American Hardwood market.

The book is designed as a single source reference guide to industry data from 2003. The information was compiled from *Hardwood Market Report* research and industry sources.

For more information or to obtain a copy, contact *Hardwood Market Report* at (901) 767-9126 or e mail hmr@hmr.com.

AHMI Seeks Survey Help At Furniture Market

HIGH POINT - Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. is asking members to help survey wood usage and design at the Spring International Home Furnishings Market.

AHMI is responsible for a furniture market survey that has tracked wood trends since 1934. The survey is the basis for a furniture market news analysis prepared by AHMI staff.

"This is the only survey of its type that tracks wood use at market," said AHMI Director of Communications Tom Inman. "It is interesting to look back at previous markets and watch trends develop for species and design styles."

The spring market is April 22-28, 2004. AHMI is seeking volunteers to walk through furniture showrooms and view all wood furniture on display. The participants tally the species, the design and its manufacturing origin on scoresheets.

AHMI compiles the data and publishes an annual report which is used by the media and the furniture industry to track trends.

"This is a terrific opportunity for lumber sales staff

to see what the furniture market is all about," Inman said. "They will see a lot of furniture and probably see their own wood on display in a finished form."

The survey dates are Monday, April 26 and Tuesday, April 27 beginning at 8 a.m. Participants are paired with another volunteer and assigned a block of showrooms. A detailed training session is held each morning.

The survey dates precede Supplier Days at market when showrooms are open to suppliers to the industry. This is an excellent opportunity to call on purchasing people from hundreds of furniture manufacturing companies.

In 2003, 14 AHMI member companies sent individuals to assist AHMI with the survey. Many of these participants visited furniture market for the first time and were able to make new contacts in the furniture industry.

AHMI has a block of rooms available at an area hotel. To register, please contact Inman at the AHMI office at 336-885-8315 or e mail to tom@appalachianwood.org.

Associations Form Hardwood Federation

Eleven national, regional and state hardwood industry associations have formed a partnership to protect and promote the hardwood industry's interests in public policy.

The Hardwood Federation is designed to combine the political action efforts of these groups into one voice in Washington, DC. Ted Rossi, Rossi American Hardwoods, was elected president of the group.

"The creation of the Hardwood Federation and the Hardwood Federation Political Action Committee is the boldest move the hardwood industry has made in decades and will instantly enhance how the industry is viewed in Washington," Rossi said.

AHMI Chairman Ed Ramsey and AHMI President Mark Barford recently attended the federation's first meeting in Washington. AHMI members have been asked to complete a solicitation authorization form allowing the federation staff to contact them.

All members of the participating organizations have been asked to give financial support to the federation. Copies of the solicitation and contributions forms are available from the AHMI office.

If you completed these forms at the 2004 AHMI



Hardwood Federation
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
P. O. Box 34518 • Memphis, TN 38184-0518
Phone: 901-377-1818 • Fax: 901-382-6419

Annual Meeting, you do not have to fill out and sign the form again.

The organizations participating in the Hardwood Federation are: Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. (AHMI); National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA); Hardwood Manufacturers Association (HMA); Hardwood Plywood & Veneer Association (HPVA); Hardwood Distributors Association (HDA); National Oak Flooring Manufacturers Association (NOFMA); Penn-York Lumbermen's Club; Appalachian Lumbermen's Club; Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA); Pennsylvania Forest Products Association (PFPA); and the Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association (IHLA).

Appeals Court Orders Review Of Chip Mill Permits

RALEIGH, N.C. — The state Court of Appeals sent a lawsuit filed by the N.C. Forestry Association to block new chip mill rules back to the trial court recently, requiring that the case receive another review.

The decision follows a ruling by the state Supreme Court in December that the trade association did have standing to sue the state over stormwater runoff rules. The Court of Appeals had initially ruled that the group had no standing.

In April 1998, state regulators began requiring new chip mills to receive individual stormwater runoff permits tailored to each specific site. The change forced new mill owners to test runoff and submit the results to the state, and in some cases required the digging of retention ponds to contain runoff.

Prior to 1998, chip mills in the state had been covered under a blanket permit that required each to meet a general set of requirements in how they discharged stormwater. The same permit procedures covered lumber yards and other wood-products businesses.

The N.C. Forestry Association challenged the change, saying it would place “burdensome application procedures and additional monitoring and reporting requirements” on the mills.

League Ranks Legislators On Private Property Issues

The League of Private Property Voters (LPPV) recently released its Fifteenth Annual Congressional Vote Index, rating all members based on votes cast in 2003 and naming Champions and Enemies.

The report names 35 Champions of Property Rights and 35 Enemies of Property Rights in the Senate, and 192 Champions and 165 Enemies in the House. The entire Vote Index can be viewed on www.landrights.org.

“Congress was generally supportive of our agenda in the past year, in particular on forest management with passage of the Healthy Forest Initiative. That bill will both improve access for people and help the environment by allowing limited timber harvest in order to avoid catastrophic wildfires,” said LPPV Chairman Chuck Cushman.



COURSES

Forest Products Marketing Workshop Set At VA Tech

BLACKSBURG, VA - The Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management at Virginia Tech will conduct its annual workshop on Forest Products Marketing May 6-7 at the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg.

The program is designed for sales people and managers who want to learn about the products of wood based industries, marketing as it relates to small forest products businesses and how to gain a competitive advantage in the industry.

The workshop fee is \$395 (\$325 for companies that are members of CFPMM) and includes registration, instructional materials, breaks, continental breakfast and lunches.

The program will be held in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. Lodging rooms are available by calling the hotel at 1-877-200-3360 and mention the name of the short course for the discounted room rate of \$76.

For more information or registration materials, contact Bob Smith, CFPMM, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, 1650 Ramble Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24061-0503 or (540) 231-5876 or e mail to rsmith4@vt.edu.

Magistrate Paves Way For Allegheny Forest Logging

PITTSBURGH - A plan to log perhaps millions of dollars worth of timber in the Allegheny National Forest could go forward if a federal judge accepts the recommendations of a magistrate.

But logging advocates say environmentalists have tied the case up for so long that much of the land can't be logged even if the recommendation is accepted because the wood has deteriorated.

“This is a clear case where plaintiffs win by attrition. It's been elongated for so long that they won, even though by a magistrate's recommendation, they stand to lose the case,” said Jack Hedlund, executive director of the Allegheny Forest Alliance.

Groups opposed to the plan to log about 8,000 acres in the 513,000-acre Allegheny National Forest sued the U.S. Forest Service in 2001 to halt the project. The Forest Service proposed the logging to deal with tree mortality from insect, disease and drought.