

STRENGTH THROUGH Connections

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May 2015

EWTA News

EWTA Membership and Programs on Pace with Projections

EWTA is on track to meet or exceed its goals for 2015, Managing Director Terry Kerwood reported at the association's spring advisory committee meeting in Tacoma last month. The association's twice-yearly meeting was held this spring at APA – The Engineered Wood Association's headquarters in Tacoma, Washington. In addition to the regular agenda, meeting attendees enjoyed a tour of the APA research lab and updates from APA President Ed Elias and APA staff. Kerwood reported that membership numbers are on track with 101 committed members, compared with 97 last spring. Membership Director Melinda Lilley reported on the launch of the Info Fair 2015 registration. Communications Director and *Engineered Wood Journal* Editor Sheila Cain updated the committee on EWTA publications, including the *Connections* newsletter, *Engineered Wood Journal*, Annual Report and others. Kerwood also reported 2014 year-end financial results showing over \$40,000 in net revenue for the association thanks to strong membership, Info Fair and *Engineered Wood Journal* advertising support. The 2015 EWTA budget has been submitted to the APA Board of Trustees for approval. Within that budget, \$56,000 is currently planned to support four vital industry research projects in partnership with APA and others. The advisory committee's next meeting is Oct. 17 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in conjunction with APA's annual meeting.

2015 Info Fair Registration Now Open

Registration for the 2015 Info Fair supplier exhibition is now underway. Info Fair is scheduled for Oct. 17-19, 2015, at The Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and will be held in conjunction with the APA Annual Meeting. The "Early Bird" exhibitor registration deadline is July 31. For more information contact Melinda Lilley at mlilley@engineeredwood.org or (206) 818-7432. Photos from the 2014 Info Fair in San Antonio are now posted on the EWTA's Facebook page. "Like" the [page](#) and see [photos](#) of EWTA member exhibitors, as well as several shots of members and visitors taken at the Info Fair reception.

Spring *Engineered Wood Journal* Mailed

The spring issue of the *Engineered Wood Journal* has published and has been mailed to subscribers. The issue's cover story details APA's research center and the work its staff is doing to advance the engineered wood industry. The issue also includes the annual Business Outlook Survey, a story on the state of home ownership in the U.S., and the EWTA Membership Directory, which lists all EWTA members, their contact information and company descriptions. Click [here](#) to view the current issue. If you did not receive the printed version and would like to be added to the mailing list, please email Melinda Lilley.

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Kalesnikoff Lumber Joins EWTA

EWTA recently welcomed **Kalesnikoff Lumber Co.** of Castlegar, British Columbia, to the association. The mill offers more than 1,000 different products from lamstock to dimensional timbers, clears and commons. Marketing Coordinator Andrea Kennedy can be reached at andreak@kalesnikoff.com.

Michelman Offers New Release Agents, Opens New India Office

Michelman has introduced two new additions to its line of Michem Wood Release mold release agents and processing aids for manufacturers of medium density fiberboard, OSB, particle board and laminated strand board, according to a company press release. Michem Wood Release 1136 is a water dilutable mold release agent for pMDI based board that is sprayed over the fiber mat, board caul or press plate. Michem Wood Release 3002 is a new non-silicon, continuous belt conditioner that seals the surface of the press belt. It is easily dilutable with water and is sprayed on the belt during fiber mat processing. Also, Michelman India recently celebrated the grand opening of its new Business and Technology Centre in Mumbai.

Westmill Announces New System, Staff Members

Westmill recently announced its new WestVac Dryer Emission Control System for use with new and existing veneer jet dryers. The system controls emissions from escaping end-walls while increasing veneer dryer production and reducing energy consumption, the company said in a press release. Westmill also announced changes to its staff: Adrian Gold joined the company as Westmill's new sales manager, North America; Jim Hartt is the company's new general manager; and Danielle Irwin was promoted to Westmill's Parts Sales and Purchasing team.

USNR Acquires Söderhamn Eriksson

USNR announced that it has acquired Söderhamn Eriksson of Mariannelund, Sweden, and all of its subsidiaries from Cellwoodgruppen AB. The Swedish company supplies machinery and systems to sawmills worldwide. It is known for its log lines and edger systems, as well as for its Cambio debarker. USNR company leaders expect the acquisition will help USNR to more broadly introduce and support its products in Europe, according to a company press release. Henrik Lefvert will continue as managing director of Söderhamn Eriksson, and no interruptions to ongoing projects, services, or other operations are expected as a result of this acquisition.

Around the Industry

Canada Announces Funding for Forest Sector Research

The Canadian government announced recently the investment of \$20.6 million in forest sector innovation, supporting 2015-2016 research by FPInnovations. The funding will help develop technologies, processes and products in Canada's forest industry. FPInnovations is a non-profit forest research center that develops sustainable solutions to industry challenges through research and technological advances. Since 2007, the government of Canada has invested \$1.8 billion in support of Canada's forest sector, including the Investments in Forest Industry Transformation (IFIT) program, helping to bring innovative forest products and technologies into the marketplace.

Norbord and Ainsworth Complete Merger

Toronto, Ontario-based Norbord and Vancouver, British Columbia-based Ainsworth Lumber Co. announced the completion of their merger April 1. This follows approval of the merger by shareholders in January. Peter Wijnbergen, president and chief executive officer of Norbord, said in a press release that "with a larger mill network we will be in a better position to serve customers' evolving needs and meet increasing demand as the recovery in the U.S. housing market continues." The two companies have said the all-stock \$667 million (\$763 Canadian) deal will create one of the world's largest and lowest-cost producers of oriented strand board.

Swanson Purchases Assets of Olympic Panel Products

APA member Swanson Group Manufacturing, LLC, a Pacific Northwest forest products company, acquired the assets of Olympic Panel Products, LLC in March. Located in Shelton, Washington, Olympic Panel is the largest overlay plywood manufacturer in North America, according to an announcement made by news service Random Lengths. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Swanson plans to relocate the Olympic Panel assets to its state-of-the-art facility to be built in Springfield, Oregon. For the next year or so, Olympic Panel Products will continue to operate in Shelton to ensure a smooth transition for customers and suppliers, according to the release.

American Wood Council Approved as Continuing Education Provider

The American Wood Council (AWC) has been approved by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Continuing Education System as a provider of continuing education. The approval will apply to certain AWC live webinars and seminars. It is especially appropriate for building officials who require AIA credits for licensing, according to an AWC press release. The AWC is an association representing wood product manufacturers. It also develops standards for wood products and advocates for balanced government policies that affect wood products.

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