

STRENGTH THROUGH Connections

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November 2015

Connections encourages EWTA and APA members to submit news of interest to scain@engineeredwood.org

EWTA News

EWTA Supplier Award Winners Honored

Five EWTA member companies were honored in the 2015 Supplier of the Year Awards, which were bestowed during the Chairman's Dinner at the APA Annual Meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, October 19. Kadant Carmanah Design took top honors in the Equipment/Tooling category; Willamette Valley Company was the winner in the Materials/Supplies category; and three member companies tied in the Consulting/Services category: Hunt, Guillot & Associates, Nondestructive Inspection Service, and *Panel World Magazine*/Hatton Brown Publishers, Inc. APA members voted online as well as during the Annual Meeting and Info Fair. Winners will also be highlighted in the spring *Engineered Wood Journal* magazine.

EWTA Advisory Committee Recommends 2016 Budget

The EWTA Advisory Committee finalized the association's 2016 budget during its meeting last month in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The budget is for income of \$392,500 and expenses of \$399,880, resulting in a year-end net deficit of \$7,380 and cash reserves of \$111,422. The proposed budget was forwarded to the APA Board of Trustees for approval.

EWTA Allocates \$50,000 for APA Projects, Research

EWTA's Advisory Committee, at its fall meeting in Coeur d'Alene, voted to allocate \$50,000 in funding for five projects benefiting the engineered wood industry. The project proposals, presented by APA staff, included \$10,000 for a study on VOC emissions from wood, \$10,000 for a continuation of a study into industrial markets, \$10,000 to study acoustic and fire-related assemblies, \$10,000 for hygrothermal research, and \$10,000 for testing of the Flame Spread Index for wood structural panels. The recommendation was forwarded to the APA Board of Trustees as part of the overall EWTA budget for 2016.

Info Fair Breaks Record with Number of Sponsorships

This year's Info Fair in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, featured the highest number of paid sponsors in the history of the supplier exhibition. Of 75 exhibit spaces sold, 58 provided sponsorships. Seven companies were Platinum sponsors: Chem-Trend LP, CMA engineering Inc., COSTA Sanders LLC, Huntsman Polyurethanes, NESTEC Inc. Stratachem Solutions Group and Westmill Industries USA Corp. Twenty-one companies were Gold sponsors and 30 provided sponsorships at the Silver level. A complete list of exhibitors and meeting sponsors can be found on the EWTA [website](#). Click [here](#) to view photos from this year's Info Fair. Please "like" our Facebook Page! The next Info Fair supplier exhibition is November 5-8, 2016, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs, Florida

EWTA

Thank you to the following sponsors

Click the logos below to visit their websites



Plan Now for Journal Advertising

The 2016 *Engineered Wood Journal* media kit has been published and is now available via the EWTA [website](#). The *Journal*, which is both mailed free of charge to engineered wood products industry stakeholders throughout the U.S. and Canada and emailed to electronic subscribers, will be published in March and October next year. Advertisers with placements in both issues receive a frequency discount, and EWTA members receive an additional 10 percent member discount. In addition to conventional advertisements, companies may publish inserts for mailing with the *Journal*. Check out the Spraying Systems Co. [insert](#) that accompanied the Autumn issue of the *Journal*. For more information and pricing, contact Melinda Lilley at mlilley@engineeredwood.org or (253) 620-7493.

EWTA Member News

EWTA Welcomes New Members

One new member company has joined EWTA since the publication of the last Connections newsletter, bringing the association's member count to an all-time high of 110. The new member is:

- **Gateway Graphics and Rubber Stamps Inc.**, of Bonnington, British Columbia, a manufacturer and supplier of lumber and panel marking products. Western Division Manager Peter O'Brien can be reached at peobrien@shaw.ca.

Michelman Increases Production Equipment

Michelman recently announced in a press release that it has invested in additional production equipment to meet the demands of its fast-growing Asian markets. The new production equipment at its Singapore manufacturing facility is expected to increase capacity by 40 percent. The investment complements and supports acquisition activity and organic growth by Michelman in Asia, and will allow the company to better serve its expanding customer base, particularly in China and India, according to the announcement.

ADM Systems Promotes Fyffe to CEO

ADM Systems Engineering recently announced the appointment of Steve Fyffe to the role of CEO. Fyffe has been with ADM since 2010 as the business development manager for the company's mechanical group.

Ashland Separates Into Two Companies, Hires New VP

Ashland Inc. announced in a press release that it will separate into two independent, publicly traded companies—Ashland and Valvoline—by the end of the year. It also announced the hire of Greg Elliott as vice president and chief human resources and communications officer. The new Ashland will be a specialty chemicals company with positions in the consumer and industrial markets, according to the release, and Valvoline will be an engine and automotive maintenance business. Elliott was most recently a senior vice president at Navistar, a global manufacturer of commercial and military trucks, proprietary diesel engines and buses.

BASF Named One of Canada's Top 100 Employers

BASF was recently named one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2016 by Mediacorp, a publisher of employment periodicals. BASF Canada was cited for providing its employees with benefits that meet their needs at different life stages, from health care and parental leave to scholarships and retirement.

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Hexion Names New CEO

Hexion Inc. recently announced that George F. Knight would take over the role of executive vice president and chief financial officer of the company, effective January 1, 2016. He will replace William H. Carter, who is retiring. Knight is the current senior vice president—finance and treasurer for Hexion and has served in that role since 2005.

Paslode Introduces New Fuel for Cordless Nailing Systems

Paslode announced in a press release that it has introduced a new product, Framing Fuel, to work with cordless framing systems in weather as cold as 18 degrees F. According to the release, the new fuel is helpful when it is too cold for compressors to work properly. The fuel does not require warming a fuel cell, saving users up to an hour of compressor set-up and tear-down at the jobsite.

Valspar Provides \$25,000 in Scholarships

Valspar recently announced that its Valspar Foundation has donated \$25,000 to provide scholarship and research opportunities for North Dakota State University (NDSU) graduate students studying coatings and polymeric materials. Valspar's contribution will support five graduate students with scholarships of \$3,000 each. The remaining funds supported undergraduate students participating in the Coatings and Polymeric Materials Department's Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE).

West Fraser Acquires Manning Diversified

West Fraser announced today that it has entered into an agreement to acquire Manning Diversified Forest Products Ltd. (Manning Diversified), which has sawmill operations located in Manning, Alberta, and related timber harvesting rights. The acquisition was completed on October 30.

Correction

In the Advertiser Connections section of the fall issue of the *Engineered Wood Journal*, McLube was listed under "lubricants." McLube should have been listed under "release agents." The Journal regrets the error.

Around the Industry

Weyerhaeuser and Plum Creek Merge

Weyerhaeuser Company is purchasing Plum Creek for \$8.4 billion, the companies announced November 9, creating the world's largest timber, land and forest products company with more than 13 million acres of the most productive and diverse timberland in the U.S., according to a press release. The combined company will have a market capitalization of \$23 billion based on current prices, ranking it sixth among publicly traded companies based in Washington state. Doyle R. Simons, president and chief executive officer of Weyerhaeuser, will serve as president and CEO of the combined company. Rick R. Holley, Plum Creek's CEO, will serve as non-executive chairman of Weyerhaeuser's board, which will be expanded to 13 directors. The agreement was unanimously approved by the boards of directors of both companies.

Construction Unemployment Falls

The number of unemployed workers with construction experience dropped to the lowest total for September since 2000 as hiring continued to slow despite robust demand for construction, according to an analysis by the Associated General Contractors of America. Association officials cautioned that the hiring slowdown most likely reflects a lack of available workers that could lead to project delays unless more students and workers join the construction force. The number of unemployed jobseekers in September who last worked in construction totaled 479,000, the lowest figure for September since 2000. The unemployment rate for such workers was 5.5 percent, the lowest September number since 2001. Meanwhile, Census Bureau data released on October 1 showed that the growth in construction spending accelerated to a nine-year high of 13.7 percent in the latest 12 months—August 2014 to August 2015—from a 2.7 percent rate a year earlier. "The most likely explanation for these divergent trends is that the pool of unemployed workers with construction experience has evaporated," Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist, said in the release. "Overwhelmingly, contractors say they are having trouble finding workers to fill a variety of craft and supervisory positions."

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