

STRENGTH THROUGH Connections

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March 2015

EWTA News

Spring Journal, Directory Heading to Presses

The spring issue of the *Engineered Wood Journal* is in production and scheduled to mail to EWTA members and other subscribers in early April. The latest issue includes the EWTA Membership Directory, which lists all EWTA members, their contact information and company description. Also featured in this issue is the Business Outlook Survey, which suggests some optimism among members. Joe Elling, APA's Director of Market Research, explores the state of homeownership in the U.S. and what that means for the engineered wood products industry, and former APA and EWTA Communications Director Jack Merry looks at how APA's research center is supporting the industry.

Registration for Info Fair 2015 Opens April 1

It's never too early to start thinking about Info Fair. The 2015 supplier exhibition 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. Exhibitor registration opens April 1, and "Early Bird" 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 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.

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EWTA Welcomes New, Returning Members

EWTA's membership continues to grow with the addition of two companies.

Fusoni Componentes SL, based in Mexico City with U.S. operations in San Antonio, Texas, develops and manufactures release agents and chemical additives for panel board (OSB, MDF, HDF, PB) manufacturing. North American Manager Adrian Yovanovich can be reached at ayovanovich@fusoni.us.

SASCO Chemical of Albany, Georgia, is a researcher and manufacturer of release agents for the engineered wood industry. Director of Sales Ed Juline can be reached at ejuline@sascochemical.com.

Simpson Lumber Installs Metriguard Lumber Grader

Metriguard recently announced the installation of a Model 2350 Sonic Lumber Grader (SLG) at Simpson Lumber Company's Commencement Bay mill in Tacoma, Washington. The Model 2350 SLG is a transverse flow grader that uses proprietary scales to compensate for off-axis loading, improving accuracy and repeatability in the weight measurement. A rugged electro-mechanical hammer, requiring no shop air, strikes the end of each piece of lumber. The resulting acoustic signal is analyzed by software developed and maintained in-house by Metriguard engineers. Piece density and acoustic signal are used to determine the modulus of elasticity. In the Tacoma mill, data is handed off to an optical scanner for final MSR grade determination. Remote access capability allows for trouble-shooting issues as they arise.

Connections Welcomes Member News

EWTA's *Connections* newsletter, published electronically every other month, welcomes news from its members. News suitable for publication in upcoming issues includes press releases about new hires, new products, awarded contracts or awards won. Please send your information or direct questions to Sheila Cain, editor, at scain@engineeredwood.org.

LP Announces Management Team Changes

Louisiana-Pacific Corporation recently announced several internal changes to its executive management team. Mike Sims is the new senior vice president of sales and marketing, replacing Rick Olszewski, who is retiring. Brad Southern is the new executive vice president, OSB, replacing Jeff Wagner, who will retire mid-year. Brian Luoma becomes executive vice president, siding, replacing Southern. Neil Sherman becomes senior vice president, EWP, replacing Luoma.

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Weyerhaeuser Adds to Board of Directors

Weyerhaeuser recently announced that David P. Bozeman was elected as a member of the company's board of directors. Bozeman is senior vice president of Caterpillar Inc.

LP Expands Siding Production at Converted OSB Mill

Louisiana-Pacific Corp. is planning to increase production capacity to meet increased demand from builders, remodelers and shed fabricators for its LP SmartSide treated engineered wood siding products. The company's plans were discussed at the 2015 International Builders' Show in Las Vegas and involve converting its Swan Valley, Manitoba, OSB mill to siding production before the end of 2015. Production is expected to start in 2016. LP is also looking at expanding lap capacity at its mill in Hayward, Wisconsin, and adding trim capacity at its Newberry mill in Michigan in 2015, according to a report by the Woodworking Network.

Mill Plans to Rebuild Following Fire

Swanson Group Manufacturing announced recently that it plans to rebuild at the Springfield, Oregon, location where a fire destroyed a plywood and veneer mill last July. The company plans to start construction on an upgraded mill this summer and hopes to have it mostly complete by mid-2016. The fire displaced 250 workers. The company says the new mill will employ between 180 and 190 people, due to increased automation. The new mill will focus on specialty plywood products, such as forms for pouring concrete, and hardwoods for cabinet and furniture construction.

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Norbord and Ainsworth Shareholders Approve Proposed Merger

Toronto, Ontario-based Norbord and Vancouver, British Columbia-based Ainsworth Lumber Co. announced in January that shareholders had approved the merger of the two companies. The transaction is expected to close by the end of the first quarter of 2015. 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.

A plan by LP to acquire Ainsworth for \$1.1 billion was dropped last spring under a mutual decision. News sources at the time said the decision to terminate the Ainsworth/LP acquisition plan was made to avoid a possible legal battle with regulators over required divestitures.

Alamco and South Everson Lumber Company Join APA

The APA Board of Trustees has approved membership for Alamco Wood Products, LLC, a glulam manufacturer located in Albert Lea, Minnesota, and South Everson Lumber Company (SELCO dba Terminal Forest Products), a manufacturer of structural glulam posts located in Everson, Wash.

The Alamco plant last operated as an APA member in 2007. Alamco is one of the oldest and longest operating glulam manufacturing facilities in North America. Alamco is a manufacturer of structural glued laminated timber beams and arches for uses that include churches, schools, trusses, park shelters, bridges, and utility poles.

South Everson Lumber Company (SELCO) is a manufacturer and re-manufacturing facility located just south of the Canadian border. SELCO is a division of Terminal Forest Products, a forest products company that is recognized as an industry leader in the production of premium Western Red Cedar products from trees grown on the west coast of British Columbia. SELCO manufactures structural cedar glulam posts.

"We are pleased to welcome these glulam manufacturers to APA and look forward to bringing APA's full range of services to their operations," said APA president Ed Elias. "With Alamco and SELCO, APA now represents more than 90 percent of North American glulam manufacture and brings a strong voice to this important segment of our engineered wood industry."

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SFPA Celebrates 100 Years

The Southern Forest Products Association celebrated 100 years of service in January. The first annual meeting of the association—then called Southern Pine Association—was in New Orleans on January 19, 1915. SFPA is a nonprofit trade association representing manufacturers of Southern Pine lumber. It offers information about Southern Pine products for design-build professionals and consumers.

APA Offers New Wall Bracing Video

APA has produced a new online video designed to educate builders and designers about the wall bracing requirements of the International Residential Code (IRC).

In *Wall Bracing: Satisfy the Code With Strong, Resilient, Fully Sheathed Walls*, APA provides an overview of wall bracing methods required by the IRC which are designed to support a house against lateral loads, such as high winds and earthquakes. The wall bracing video and extensive additional information on resilient wall bracing are available at www.apawood.org/walls.

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