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EPAL Enjoys Record Production
Wisconsin Wood Pallet Operator Pleads Guilty to Illegal Stamp Use
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WPA Welcomes New Members
New members, including a profile of
Tony Carpenter of Carpenter's Choice.

Pallet Machinery Group
Announces New Employees
Rick Autey and Cody Evans

Wood-Mizer Introduces TITAN
Wood-Mizer introduces TITAN wideband sawmill equipment.

CHEP to Tackle Supply Chain Unsaleables
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WHY WOOD?

WOOD IS ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

We have lived among and nurtured a natural resource available to us from the very beginning. Our very understanding of the world as we know it has been touched by forests, wood and wood products. Our homes, flooring, furniture and fuel, provide us the warmth of our surroundings.

Today, wood’s responsibilities in the supply chain is to serve as a fundamental and sustainable part of moving goods from one point to another safely, quickly, and efficiently. It does so every day, millions of times a day. Wood pallets and wood packaging truly do move the world, and it’s done sustainably.

FROM CRADLE-TO-GRAVE, WOOD PALLETS ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY FAVORABLE

There is no other commonly-used building material that requires so little energy to produce as wood. Thanks to photosynthesis, trees are able to use an abundant natural resource (i.e. the sun) as it captures CO2 in the air, combining it with water these plants get from the soil to produce an amazing organic material, wood.

Wood pallets and packaging are naturally almost completely made out of wood. Wood’s strong environmental credentials have been captured in various Life-Cycle Assessment studies and Environmental Product Declarations.

The American Hardwood Export Council’s Life Cycle Assessment of Rough-sawn Kiln-dried Hardwood Lumber and the Canadian and American Wood Councils Environmental Product Declaration further the clear, fact-based, scientifically proven, and independently third-party verified environmental attributes of choosing wood.

According to the CEI-BOIS, here is a great example of the real-life benefits of using wood over alternative materials:

“Every cubic meter of wood used as a substitute for other building materials reduces CO2 emissions to the atmosphere by an average of 1.1 ton CO2. If this is added to the 0.9 tons of CO2 stored in wood, each cubic meter of wood saves a total of 2 tons CO2. Based on these figures, a 10% increase in the percentage of wooden houses in Europe would produce sufficient CO2 savings to account for about 25% of the reductions prescribed by the Kyoto Protocol.”

North America’s forests are now growing at twice the rate of what is removed for consumer use. Collectively we are planting significantly more to further expand this forest cover, which has already grown by 11.3 million acres in just the last ten years, the size of New Hampshire and Vermont combined. Each year 1.7 billion trees are planted in the United States – more than five trees for every man, woman and child in America – an average of 4.8 million seedlings each day, assuring the rapid expansion of forest cover will continue for generations to come.


CHOOSE THE SUSTAINABLE WAY

Promoting the use of wood-based packaging and pallets to users seeking sustainable, responsible and economical packaging solutions. NATURESPACKAGING.ORG

February 2017
The WPA is pleased to announce the following new member:

Jackie Garduno
The Pallet Center, Inc.
4880 Felspar Street
Riverside, CA 92509
ph: (951)361-1777
fax: (951)361-1770
web: www.thepalletcenter.com
email: jackieg@hepalletcenter.com

Tony Carpenter of Carpenter's Choice

Tony Carpenter of Carpenter's Choice was one of several first-time attendees at last month's WPA Annual Meeting in Rancho Mirage, California.

While being a first time attendee and with a recently launched business, however, he is no stranger to the forest products sector, having worked for 13 years as a faller until a series of back injuries gave him cause to reconsider going back to school and completing a business degree.

Most recently, Tony was enjoying success in redwood sales, until the company he was working for decided to get out of the redwood business. "I decided there was still a niche for redwood, and I have a good relationship with a lot of mills," he said. With this in mind, he launched his own company, called Carpenter's Choice, specializing in all grades of redwood with an emphasis on low-grade pallet material. He explained that this material develops in the course of redwood fencing and decking production, and that because of the material's strength and rot resistance, it is a good fit for pallets.

"I just try to put buyers and sellers together," Tony explained. While redwood is his main focus, due to customer demand, he has also expanded into Doug Fir and Western Red Cedar markets to better serve his customers.

For more information, contact Tony at (530) 723-5267 or tcarpy-westernwood@sbcglobal.net.

The Membership Drive Is On!

This year's membership drive is now underway, and as always, the competition will be intense.

In addition to valuable cash prizes, the winner now also receives the membership trophy, presented at the Annual Meeting. With the highly successful 2017 Annual Meeting now in the books, it is time to work toward 2018.

When you recruit new members, the entire WPA membership is the winner!

New members can join and pay on the website. Here is the link: www.westernpallet.org
Pallet Machinery Group is pleased to introduce two new employees, Rick Auty and Cody Evans.

**Rick Auty (top right):**
"After 30 years working in the pallet equipment industry, I have decided to change gears. It has been an honor to work with all the pallet manufactures around the world and now it gives me great pleasure to work with you representing The Pallet Machinery Group (PMG). This gives me an opportunity not only to work with a great company but to continue serving the pallet industry. PMG offers value added solutions on wood preparation and material handling equipment. With the wide range of equipment they offer, I'm able to help our customers improve efficiency, streamline processes and save money. I look forward to working with you now and in the future."

**Cody Evans (bottom right):**
"With over 18 years in the pallet industry, 10 years working at Stanley-Bostitch and 8 years with Viking Engineering it has given me a huge opportunity to build long lasting relationships in the pallet business. I have a great opportunity to shift gears and work with one of the most knowledgeable companies in the market, Pallet Machinery Group. I started with PMG in June and have hit the ground running with a wide range of material handling and material processing equipment. Not only has it been a challenge to learn the new product line but also exciting working with my customers solving labor issues and increasing their production output. 2017 should be an exceptional year for the pallet industry and I look forward to working with Greg Wine and his team. "

WPA Member News

Pallet Machinery Group Announces New Employees Well Known to Industry
Wood-Mizer Introduces TITAN Wideband Sawmill Equipment

Wood-Mizer, leading supplier of thin-kерf, narrowband portable and industrial sawmills, has significantly broadened its reach into the industrial sawmilling market. With the introduction of WoodMizer TITAN, the company now offers a full line of wideband sawmill equipment that is designed to improve timber production rates and elevate a sawmill’s operational efficiency. This new product line is a result of a purchase agreement with Multisaw, a well-established manufacturer of wideband sawmill equipment since 1990.

The Wood-Mizer TITAN Line
The Wood-Mizer TITAN line includes wideband primary and secondary breakdown sawmills and resaws as well as circular saw edgers, multirips, optimizing edgers, manual board edgers, and material handling equipment. The move will add further momentum to Wood-Mizer’s ability to offer innovative high capacity equipment and broaden the corporation’s global reach.

“Our well-known narrowband industrial range has helped wood producers worldwide cut costs and raise yields,” says Richard Vivers, President and CEO of Wood-Mizer. “But that is just one piece of a very big market. With Wood-Mizer TITAN, we will serve the high-throughput needs of industrial operations with our established network of locations and commitment to customer support throughout the world.”

TITAN wideband sawmill equipment has proven its advantages in the most demanding markets in the world. Customers, Patula Product Sawmill in South Africa, utilize the TITAN system to produce highthroughput of structural timber. Patula’s operation consists of a TITAN twin vertical bandsaw, TITAN double arbor circular multirip, TITAN twin head resaw, and two TITAN manual board edging systems.

“We wanted high production wideband sawmilling technology that we could rely on to cut the quality that we want and with enough additional capacity available to grow production into the future,” said Phillip Anderson of Patula Product Sawmill. “This is exactly what we’ve now achieved,” added Troy Cooper of Patula Product Sawmill. “In the last month, we have increased throughput again by 27%.”

The Wood-Mizer Product Line
TITAN wideband machines will greatly expand Wood-Mizer’s range, which will now consist of two distinct product lines, each geared towards the specific volume and budget requirements of the enduser.

1. Wood-Mizer’s portable and industrial sawmill line continues to provide narrowband sawmilling equipment for entry level to professional and industrial operations.
2. Wood-Mizer’s TITAN products are strongly-built wideband sawmilling equipment for highthroughput industrial sawmilling applications.

Each TITAN product is designed to operate as standalone equipment for existing sawmilling lines or to form an entire sawmilling line that can be customized to the requirements of the end-user. The TITAN line provides for primary and secondary log breakdown across a range of log diameters varying from 4” to 24” (100-600 mm). In addition, Wood-Mizer will be offering wideband blades soon for use on TITAN machines with blade widths up to 6” (150 mm).
CHEP Selected by FMI-GMA Trading Partner Alliance to Develop

CHEP has been selected by the Trading Partner Alliance (TPA) as its expert partner to help reduce unsaleable goods in the consumer packaged goods supply chain.

The TPA is a joint industry affairs leadership group formed by the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) and the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA). It is tasked with addressing manufacturer-retailer supply chain and information technology issues.

“Unsaleable goods in the consumer goods supply chain cost manufacturers, retailers and distributors more than $15 billion annually,” said Ben Eugrin, Director of Supply Chain Solutions, CHEP North America. “We are very pleased the TPA has selected CHEP for this project and look forward to working with manufacturers, retailers and distributors to help reduce unsaleable costs within their supply chains.”

CHEP will conduct in-depth marketplace research and analysis, and gather data from more than 100 consumer goods supply chain experts with the goal of identifying and cataloging successful and collaborative strategies for reducing damaged goods and other unsaleable products. CHEP is also tasked with creating an educational platform trading partners can use to implement new and innovative unsaleables reduction programs for key end-to-end supply chain functions.

“CHEP’s extensive experience and expertise as a supply chain solutions provider and strong track record in helping companies develop and implement innovative strategies to reduce product damage and unsaleable goods made them a logical partner for this project,” said Daniel Triot, Senior Director, Trading Partner Alliance. “We look forward to working with CHEP to successfully address the important issue of product damage reduction throughout the supply chain.”

The results of CHEP’s marketplace evaluation and best practices summary is expected to be presented at the TPA Supply Chain Conference, April 30th to May 2nd, in San Diego, California. The final report and education platform should be fully launched later in 2017.

Priority Pallet Makes Quality and Performance Job Number One

Congratulations to Priority Pallet, featured recently in Pallet Enterprise Magazine. As acknowledged by Pallet Enterprise, Priority is a major California pallet company that "sets a high standard for quality, environmental certification and fire safety. Unique for the West Coast, it cuts its own logs on a Baker saw line. Priority Pallet is the sister company of Commercial Lumber & Pallet, one of the largest combined operations in California." To Read the article, follow this link.

February 2017
Transportation: Shippers Would Be Wise to Have Contingency Plans Through 2017

FTR’s Shippers Conditions Index (SCI) for December, as detailed in the February Issue of the Shippers Update, remains just above neutral territory at a reading of 1.9. FTR expects that the current benign environment will make way for rate and supply trouble for shippers as 2017 progresses. A steady increase in capacity utilization is expected through the year climaxing early in 2018. The one uncertainty to this forecast is the ELD (electronic logging device) mandate, which may be tempered by the deregulatory forces of the Trump administration. Changes to the ELD mandate, though still unlikely, would alleviate some shortages.

The SCI is a compilation of factors affecting the shippers transport environment. Any reading below zero indicates a less-than-ideal environment for shippers. Readings below -10 signal conditions for shippers are approaching critical levels, based on available capacity and expected costs. The February issue of FTR’s Shippers Update, published February 7, 2017, details the factors affecting the December Shippers Conditions Index, along with commentary identifying risks in the current environment.

Source: FTR Transportation Intelligence
North American Softwood Prices

Weekly softwood lumber prices to February 21, 2017 are shown below, sourced at http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/industry/13309.

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February 2017
U.S. Lumber Prices Soar, Uncertainty Looms

The U.S. lumber markets are already seeing some major price volatility, where W-SPF lumber prices soared by a whopping 25% (US$78/Mbf) in the three-week period between January 27 and February 17, 2017 and up US$83/Mbf over the previous five-week period.

This three-week price increase in U.S. lumber prices is one of the largest short-term gains over the past 20 years. This is mirroring a similar scenario back in early 2001 when countervailing duties (CVD) on Canadian lumber shipments into the U.S. moved into their 90-day retroactive period in mid-May 2001 and the anti-dumping duties (ADD) followed later. The initial combined duties of 32.3% were both in effect in November, 2001.

The largest U.S. lumber price spike ever, based on price changes in consecutive weeks, was in 2001 – before the implementation of the last U.S. duties – when lumber prices spiked higher by US$165/Mbf over a 7-week period. This was followed by two major price collapses over the next six months: one over five weeks for a drop of US$111/Mbf; and a second over 9 weeks for US$122/Mbf (details are provided in this month’s WOOD Markets Monthly Report). Understanding the possible scenarios and implications of U.S. export duties on Canadian lumber shipments to the U.S., before and after duties are implemented, are critical factors to consider and understand for all players throughout the lumber supply chain.

Source: WOOD MARKETS Group

Global Softwood Log & Lumber Conference

WOOD MARKETS’ 7th annual Global Softwood Log & Lumber Conference on May 11 in Vancouver BC is scheduled just after the announcement of two key events:

The final CVD rate on Canadian lumber exports to the U.S. on April 27 (implemented on May 4); and The preliminary ADD rate on May 4.

A key focus of industry players is to factor in the impact of these pending duties on Canadian production and exports to the U.S., China, Japan, etc., as well as the direction of U.S. lumber prices and the ripple effect into other key export markets and exporting countries. The North American lumber markets are already volatile and changing quickly – all tied to the pending export duties and the tightening lumber market balance. These unpredictable times are expected to continue for the rest of 2017 and attending the Global Log & Lumber Conference on May 11 will give you the latest updates from our key speakers and participants.

The complete Global Conference program, prices and speakers can be viewed at: https://www.woodmarkets.com/conference/conferences-vancouver/2017-global-softwood-conference/. Early Bird rates are still in effect until March 17.
Wisconsin Wood Pallet Operator Pleads Guilty to Illegal Use of ISPM 15 Stamp

The site manager of a Wisconsin wood pallet and packaging supplier has entered a guilty plea in federal court to charges of using ISPM 15 stamps to mark untreated wood, resulting in almost $350,000 in losses to Wisconsin companies, according to reports (Upper Peninsula Breaking News and Manitowoc Herald Times Observer.)

The defendant, Russel Wetenkamp, plead guilty to two counts of stamp misuse at the Newton site of Timber Creek Resource. The controlled stamps are a key component of the ISPM 15 program used to confirm that wood pallets and packaging used for international trade have been treated, and therefore free of invasive wood pests. The integrity of the ISPM 15 program is critical to preventing the spread of invasive insects.

Court documents state that untreated wood was illegally marked as being treated and compliant in a period of time spanning Nov. 30, 2014, to June 16, 2015. The defendant will appear in Green Bay on May 5, 2017, for sentencing.

In a 2015 case of stamp fraud, another operator received a fine of $100,000 and was sentenced to three years probation by a New York court.

EPAL Repaired and Manufactured a Combined Total of 105.5 Million Pallets in 2016

In 2016, the European Pallet Association achieved another record result of 105.5 million EPAL pallets in total (production and repair): up 4.35% in comparison to the previous year. Production figures rose by 8.93% to 80.5 million EPAL pallets, while repairs rose by 1 million to 25 million repaired EPAL pallets.

“It is truly impressive that we could top 2015, our best year ever, and we are proud of all our EPAL licensees and the work of the EPAL National Committees, without whom this superb result would not have been possible,” commented Martin Leibrandt, CEO of EPAL.

In the last three years since the brand name “EPAL in oval” has been branded on all four blocks, following severing ties with UIC, the continuing upward trend of the EPAL pallet is a unique success story, based on quality, safety, and sustainability.

The quality and safety of EPAL Euro pallets are founded on three pillars: international uniform standardization, regular quality assurance of production and repair operations by independent and unannounced inspections, and the legal prosecution of inferior, counterfeit pallets.
Further Reading

Click on the links below to read articles:

Brambles Announces First Half Results

Tree mortality epidemic in California forests keeps spreading

Imports Surge at U.S. Ports

Axios Mobile Assets Ceases Logistics Operations – Reviewing Alternatives

Increased Interest in Square Plastic Pallets Reported

JR Simplot Switches to Aluminum Pallets at Idaho Processing Facility

AT&T Accelerates Deployment of LTE-M Network for Internet of Things

Pallet Pooling in Real Time: Over 40 Years Service and Continued Technology Leadership for Japan Pallet Rental

CHEP Solutions Portfolio Rollout Extends to New Zealand

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Advance Lumber
Carpenter's Choice
Go Fast Manufacturing
North American Forest Products
Northwest Hardwoods
PRS
Rotochopper
Timber Products Inspection
Viking Engineering & Development
Employers Are Reminded to Post Injury and Illness Summaries Now Through April

As previously reported in PalletCentral and online, OSHA reminds employers of their obligation to post a copy of OSHA's Form 300A, which summarizes job-related injuries and illnesses logged during 2016. The summary must be displayed in a common area where notices to employees are usually posted each year between February 1 and April 30.

OVERVIEW
Access to OSHA’s electronic injury and illness data collection system is available here. The site is scheduled to go live later this month, February 2017.

WHO
Establishments with 250 or more employees that are currently required to keep OSHA injury and illness records, and establishments with 20-249 employees that are classified in certain industries with historically high rates of occupational injuries and illnesses.

WHAT
Covered establishments with 250 or more employees must electronically submit information from OSHA Forms 300 (Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses), 300A (Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses), and 301 (Injury and Illness Incident Report). Covered establishments with 20-249 employees must electronically submit information from OSHA Form 300A.

WHEN
The requirement became effective on January 1, 2017. The new reporting requirements will be phased in over two years. In 2017, all covered establishments must submit information from their completed 2016 Form 300A by July 1, 2017. In 2018, covered establishments with 250 or more employees must submit information from all completed 2017 forms (300A, 300, and 301) by July 1, 2018, and covered establishments with 20-249 employees must submit information from their completed 2017 Form 300A by July 1, 2018. Beginning in 2019 and every year thereafter, covered establishments must submit the information by March 2.

HOW
OSHA will provide a secure website that offers three options for data submission. First, users will be able to manually enter data into a web form. Second, users will be able to upload a CSV file to process single or multiple establishments at the same time. Last, users of automated recordkeeping systems will have the ability to transmit data electronically via an API (application programming interface). We will provide status updates and related information here as it becomes available.

Note, businesses with 10 or fewer employees and those in certain low-hazard industries are exempt from OSHA recordkeeping and posting requirements.

VISIT OSHA’S RECORDKEEPING RULE WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.

Source: NWPCA
TIMCON Meeting Highlights

The Timber Packaging & Pallet Confederation (TIMCON) has revealed the results of its timber pallet and packaging survey, in collaboration with the Forestry Commission. The report gives an overview of the UK packaging and pallet business, including production and repair.

Presenting the results at TIMCON’s general meeting earlier this month, Guy Watt of John Clegg Consulting Ltd said that in 2015 the sector used over 380 million board feet of home-grown timber, with TIMCON members representing 70 per cent of this business. There are approximately 250 million wooden pallets in circulation in the UK, with more than 42 million new pallets added to the supply chain and 39 million pallet repairs carried out.

TIMCON’s membership employs a total of 2,994 people at 120 sites across the country. John Dye, President of TIMCON, said: “We are really pleased to unveil the results of this vital collaboration between TIMCON and the Forestry Commission, which provides us with an overview of our industry that is unparalleled by other associations around the world. Not only does it illustrate overall the substantial size of our business, it also highlights our prominence as an outlet for UK sawn timber and as an employer.

“This survey gives TIMCON members an essential overview of the industry and gives us the fundamental starting point for our discussions with Government agencies and NGOs. It is the cornerstone for our lobbying efforts, and the basis for creating a legislative environment that encourages the use of the most environmentally and economically sustainable choice of raw material: wood.”

Dye said that previous lobbying to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for correct measurement had paid off, with the result that the organization’s figures for new pallet production are now very close to those in TIMCON’s reporting.

There are approximately 250 million wooden pallets in circulation in the UK, with more than 42 million new pallets added to the supply chain and 39 million pallet repairs carried out.

David Hopkins, managing director of the Timber Trades Federation (TTF) gave a presentation on the impact of Brexit on the timber industry. A survey of TTF members revealed although almost 60% thought Brexit has had a negative impact on their business to date, approximately 30% of people believed the situation would become more positive into the future, with a further 35% giving a ‘don’t know’ answer.

Currency fluctuations have caused a great deal of uncertainty, he said, while access to the single market was the biggest concern for timber-based industries and as such is a priority for industry lobbying.

Hopkins said the TTF was taking a proactive approach to Brexit, meeting EU partners and participating in EU trade bodies, collaborating with supply chain organizations to stimulate growth in the market, and carrying out a strong programme of lobbying to MPs. He added that TTF members should support this process to highlight the economic potential of the wood-based industries.

In his presentation about the expected impact of Brexit on the UK forest sector, Martin Bishop, national manager for Wales at not-for-profit organization Confor, said Brexit had the potential to encourage more tree plantings. If the UK were to leave the Common Agricultural Policy as a result of Brexit, agricultural subsidies will be under pressure; and this could make planting more attractive, as CAP has been a limiting factor.
planting more attractive, as CAP has been a limiting factor. He added that leaving the EU could give scope to develop more robust protection for UK forestry.

Gabriel Roberts of the French Institute of Technology for forest-based and furniture sectors (FCBA) spoke about the organization’s work on a portable control tool for ISPM 15, which it is developing for France’s Agriculture and Technology department.

This and other presentations at our general meeting illustrate the benefits our industry gets from having close liaison with our European colleagues. The implications of Brexit will become clearer in the months ahead and TIMCON remains committed to

upholding its central position in Europe as a key player in FEFPEB. This will benefit our membership and the industry as a whole.”

TIMCON will hold its annual general meeting in Dublin on September 5th. Details will be posted on the recently relaunched TIMCON website.

Source: TIMCON

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### Upcoming Events


See you at the 2018 WPA Annual Meeting, January 12 - 16, 2018 in Rancho Mirage!