WPA Members Benefit from NWPCA's Congressional Fly-In in Washington DC

- Study recommends elimination of solid wood packaging imports
- Mold results in $5.3 million pallet lawsuit
- NWPCA Fall Plant Tour Heads West to Monterey
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Jeff Carr

Tyrone Konecny

Rob Myers

Derek Sampson

Please direct inquiries about the WPA to
David Sweitzer, Executive Vice-President
P.O. Box 1095, Camas, WA 98607
Ph. 360 335-0208
Email: wpa@westernpallet.org
Website: www.westernpallet.org

Softwood Lumber Prices
Our monthly softwood price graph, courtesy of NRCAN.

Rotochopper Completes New Addition
Rotochopper has completed its new corporate office addition.

Wood-Mizer Releases Vortex Bandsaw Blade
Wood-Mizer has launched its new sawdust removal bandsaw blade.

NWPCA Adds Barford
The NWPCA has added industry veteran Mark Barford to its staff.

PalletOne Launches SunOne Logistics
Country's largest pallet manufacturer creates a new transport operation.
This year’s membership drive is already in motion.

“Our 3 Optimax Saws are real workhorses. We run 12,000 plus recycled deckboards a day on two of them and our third saw runs recycled stringers all day long. We could not be happier with their performance and endurance”.

Jamie Gilbert
Custom Pallet & Crating
Charlotte, NC
Other Features

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25 Upcoming Events

WPA membership payment is now due. If your dues are still outstanding, please pay online by following this link, or remit to:

Western Pallet Association
PO Box 1095,
Camas, WA 98607
North American Softwood Prices

Weekly softwood lumber prices to July 16, 2016 are shown below, sourced at http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/industry/13309.

WPA Membership Drive Competition

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 2016 Annual Meeting now in the books, it is time to work toward 2017.

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
Rotochopper Completes Corporate Office Addition, Releases New Video

June 2016 brought the completion of the corporate office addition at the Rotochopper, Inc. headquarters in St. Martin, Minnesota. What better reason to throw a party, the company asks, than to celebrate the people who have made Rotochopper so great for the last 26 years?
Congressional Fly-In Receives Rave Reviews

NWPCA's Congressional Fly-In this June received an extremely positive response from those who participated in Washington DC, including a number of WPA members.

"I really enjoyed the whole experience," stated Kathleen Dietrich of Commercial Lumber & Pallet.

"I believe the collaboration with NAM (National Association of Manufacturers) really gave us an opportunity, with appointments to meet with those legislators specific to our districts and states. It was all very informative and the lobbyists from NAM really were prepared. It made for such a fun and knowledge-gaining experience. The evening at the Capitol Hill Club, where we actually met congressman and senators from different states, was such an intimate setting and you really got to literally “hand shake” with the legislators directly, and hear their viewpoints on those matters important to our Industry."
WPA-Past President Caroline Beach-Skinner of Westside Pallet and WPA President Kathleen Dietrich of Commercial Lumber & Pallet with United States Senator Thom Tillis (N. Carolina), one of five winners of NWPCA's inaugural "Champion of the Wood Pallet & Wood Packaging Industry" award.
"It was a very eye opening experience to see a small glimpse into how Capitol Hill works," added Caroline Beach-Skinner, WPA Past-President. "NAM put together a great program and they were very accommodating to our schedules. Meeting with different senators, representatives and their staff and listening to them speak about their viewpoints gave us great insight to the struggles that go on in Capitol Hill." She added that it was great to participate in having the industry's concerns being heard by lawmakers, and that she found a new found appreciation for what people like Patrick Atagi and others do on a day-to-day basis.

"I would definitely recommend others to participate next year if they get a chance," Beach-Skinner said.

WPA Director Jeff Carr of Northwest Hardwoods was also enthusiastic about his experience in Washington DC. "The Fly-In was excellent as well as surprising," he said.

"NAM and NWPCA organized the event very well. I was surprised at how many congress persons that I had access to and how much time I had with them for my own company's concerns. We will happily attend next year's event if the opportunity presents itself, likely with a couple company representatives, if possible."
“The NWPCA Congressional Fly-In was a great success, and the impact of having our West Coast members participate and discuss issues important to the industry was significant,” stated Patrick Atagi, Vice President of NWPCA. “It shows that our industry has depth and that it spans the entire country.”

Atagi added that many positive measurable outcomes come from these meetings. For example, Jacqueline “Jackie” Garduno from The Pallet Center Inc. was able to meet with the office of Congresswoman Torres (California 35th) and secure a commitment for a Congressional Mill tour at The Pallet Center Inc. in Riverside, California.

Mill tours not only educate Members of Congress first-hand on the issues facing the wooden pallet industry and small businesses, but help companies show they are a positive part of the community providing jobs and contributing to the local economy.

All in all, the Fly-In received high praise as a successful event.
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WPA Members in the News

Wood-Mizer Releases Vortex Sawdust-Removal Bandsaw Blade

WPA-member Wood-Mizer LLC, the world’s leading portable sawmill manufacturer, has introduced the groundbreaking Vortex® sawdust-removal bandsaw blade. Available now in North America, Wood-Mizer’s new Vortex® blade is engineered for pallet producers who need boards as free as possible from excess sawdust.

Developed by long-time, hands-on Wood-Mizer Blades Specialist Chris Vogel, the Vortex® blade removes dust while sawing in order to minimize or eliminate the need for sawdust removal after the lumber is processed. This extremely unique blade profile has generated positive results in high-production pallet factory tests.

Pallet producer, Jeff Coomer of Indiana-based Coomer & Sons Sawmill, tested the blade and says, “The Vortex blade was getting 98 to 99% of the dust off, so it was impressive on how much dust it took off [compared to] a typical saw blade.”

Additionally, Paul Smith of Smith Sawmill Service in Texas, comments, “The new Vortex blade does a great job of getting the sawdust off the wood. It’s going to be an asset for companies trying to produce a clean pallet.”

The Wood-Mizer Vortex® blade is now available to order in .042 x 1 ¾ at any length. Call 800.522.5760 or visit www.woodmizer.com/vortex for more information.
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- NEW - POWERED BELT RETURN
- QUICK AIR TENSION SYSTEM
- HEAVY DUTY ARBOR BEARINGS
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- 20" BLADES - STANDARD
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- INCLINED WASTE CONVEYOR OPTIONS

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The National Wooden Pallet and Container Association is hiring Mark Barford, CAE (shown at right), to the position of Senior Director, Business Partnerships. Mark retired this spring as Executive Director of the National Hardwood Lumber Association, after an impactful 40-year career.

Mark is a graduate of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, NY and started his career as a professional logger. Mark has been part of five different softwood and hardwood lumber associations and served as CEO of three of them.

For ten years, Mark served as Exposition Manager for the East Coast Sawmill and Logging Equipment Exposition in Richmond, VA, and has spent his entire career building and expanding business partnerships for lumber manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, and affiliated industries. “I’m excited to join NWPCA and help contribute to the association’s growth and impact,” Barford commented. “I’m confident my experience and relationships throughout the U.S. and global forest products community will support NWPCA’s strategic initiatives already underway.”
“I have had the privilege of working with Mark on several projects with his previous associations that saw us coordinating efforts to magnify the benefits to members,” commented NWPCA President and CEO Brent McClendon. “Mark joins our team August 1, and we have great excitement for what he will bring to our industry and NWPCA.”

The National Wooden Pallet & Container Association (NWPCA) is the largest organization of wood packaging professionals in the world, with more than 670 company members in 28 countries who manufacture, repair and distribute pallets and wood packaging in unit-load solutions, or who supply products and services to the industry. Its mission is to provide an environment for its members to succeed while promoting the wood pallet and wood packaging industry.

Source: NWPCA

PalletOne Announces Formation of SunOne Logistics

*Purchase of tractor-trailer fleet will expand and enhance service to customers*

PalletOne, America's largest new pallet manufacturer, has announced the formation of a new transportation subsidiary, SunOne Logistics, in conjunction with the acquisition of a trucking company in Hazlehurst, Georgia.

"With the purchase of Dirt Movers, Inc. and additional assets, PalletOne has gained a fleet of more than 50 tractor trailers that operate throughout the South and that specialize in the shipment of lumber and other wood-related products," said Howe Wallace, president and CEO of PalletOne. "The formation of SunOne Logistics will provide us with the opportunity to serve our customers better by expanding our services footprint."
SunOne Logistics will also deliver PalletOne's enhanced services, technology and expertise to Dirt Movers, Inc.'s current customer base, Wallace added.

Eleven of PalletOne's 15 locations are located in the Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia). "Through SunOne Logistics we will be able to maximize freight opportunities between our locations—including coordination of back hauls—and leverage our regional scale throughout the South with other recent acquisitions," Wallace said. Those acquisitions include 2 pressure treated lumber plants in Alabama and one in Florida.

SunOne Logistics will be headquartered in Hazlehurst, and accounting will be handled at PalletOne headquarters in Bartow, Florida.

With more than 40 years of experience in the industry, PalletOne, Inc. owns and operates 15 locations involved in the manufacture, recycle and distribution of wood pallets. The combined enterprises of PalletOne handle more than 500 million feet of lumber and employ more than 1,400 people.

In addition to the new SunOne Logistics, PalletOne's subsidiaries include Industrial Recycling Services Inc., which has three locations involved in the purchase, sale and resale of post-industrial waste, and Sunbelt, one of the largest pressure treaters in the Southeast, with four plants located in Florida and Alabama.

SOURCE PalletOne, Inc.
Environmental Study Targets Solid Wood Packaging Used in International Trade

A study published in the journal, Ecological Applications, says that the U.S. must step up its efforts to prevent the importation and spread of forest pests, and the elimination of solid wood packaging and pallets constitute their first recommendation towards improving the current situation. To read the paper, click here, or to read a summary based on the research, click here.

Dr. Gary Lovett, a forest ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and the paper’s lead author, explains, “Imported forest pests are the most pressing and underappreciated forest health issue in the U.S. today. We need to act now to strengthen prevention if we are going to protect billions of valuable trees in communities and forests all across the U.S.”

Co-authors include scientists from Harvard Forest, the USDA Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Dartmouth College, McGill University, and Michigan State. The Science Policy Exchange, a consortium focused on synthesizing ecological science for decision-making, convened the group.

According to the paper, more than 90% of wood boring insects that have recently invaded the U.S. entered in wood packaging. The paper proposes five basic steps towards improving forest health, which it refers to as Tree-SMART Trade actions.

Its top recommendations is in switching to non-solid-wood packaging which could reduce pests and result, it claims, in economic benefits.

Historically, the report noted, 70% of forest pests arrived in the U.S. on imported plants. Ending or greatly limiting imports of live trees and shrubs that share a genus or species with plants native to the U.S. is another high-impact option identified by the researchers.

Intercepting pests by improving early detection programs in the U.S. and strengthening pest prevention programs with trading partners abroad are two additional priorities. A fifth recommendation is to tighten
A fifth recommendation is to tighten trade enforcement guidelines.

In regard to discontinuing the use of solid wood packaging, the study recommends a variety of tacts, including trade incentives or other measures to encourage businesses to switch, as well as increasing import fees for the use of wood materials to offset the true cost of tree loss and pest mitigation efforts. Ultimately, it suggests eliminating solid wood packaging through the use of procedures established in international trade agreements.

More than 90% of wood boring insects that have recently invaded the U.S. entered in wood packaging.

Response from forest industry thought leaders has been measured. “Like most issues with hardwood forestry and the hardwood industry,” George Barrett observed in Hardwood Review, “it is the industry that has the largest vested interest in keeping the forests healthy and productive. Effective solutions like heat-treating and fumigation are already in place. Perhaps these efforts could be enhanced or better regulated, but banning solid wood altogether would do more damage to industries and economies than good to the forests.”
In recommending a cautious approach to any policy change, Barrett recalled how past policy aimed at protecting the Spotted Owl in 1994 had been well-intentioned, but with disastrous results. It resulted in devastating effects on jobs, business and the economy without helping the endangered species. He noted that the major culprit turned out not to be habitat loss or logging, but rather a competing species, the Eastern Barred Owl.

Patrick Atagi, NWPCA’s vice president of advocacy and external affairs was interviewed in Industrial Reporting’s Recycling Record, observed that such a move would have serious impacts on global supply chains in a way that would put workers at risk. He noted that a switch to plastic pallet usage would increase the use of fossil fuel.

Considering the negative impacts of other options is an important component of any policy debate. While the research paper suggests that an additional import fee be created to cover the external costs of inspection and pest mitigation related to solid wood packaging, there are externalities generated by any packaging choice, and it is unfair to consider just the external costs posed by only one of the options, in the absence of more fully exploring the others.

“ISPM-15 works when properly applied,” Atagi told Industrial Reporting’s Chaille Brindley, emphasizing that improved enforcement is needed.

In the same editorial, Brindley agreed that banning solid wood packaging would pose huge problems for the global supply chain, and suggested that in some countries, a ban simply would not be feasible. “Better enforcement of existing regulations is the answer,” Brindley concluded. “Nobody cares more about our forests than our industry, but this proposed solution would be worse than the problem.”

The best approach for the pallet industry is to continue to do everything in its power to make sure that the ISPM-15 program works as intended, both through its commitment to compliance, as well as through its ongoing contribution to policy dialogue.
NWPCA FALL PLANT TOURS, HOTEL RESERVATIONS OPEN!

Industry colleagues from around the country will convene October 11-12, 2016 in Monterey and Salinas, California for farm to fork tours of manufacturing, harvesting and processing facilities. The Hyatt Regency Monterey is now accepting hotel reservations. Reserve your room early.
http://www.palletcentral.com/page/PlantToursHotel
Further Reading

U.S. Senators Turn Up the Heat in Lumber Trade Dispute

Pallets at Center of $5.3 Million Lawsuit

Kamps Pallets Acquires Custom Pallet

Modesto Pallet Fire Causes Damage, Power Outage

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Timber Products Inspection
Viking Engineering & Development

Upcoming Events


9/18/2016-9/20/2016  CWPCA Western Focus Meeting, Kelowna, B.C.  www.canadianpallets.com

10/11/2016-10/13/2016  NWPCA Fall Plant Tours, Monterrey, California.  www.palletcentral.com

Just in Case...

Click on back issues to catch up!