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WPA Member News
New member announced, Wood-Mizer's new high capacity resaw.

More Pallets Diverted
Pallets are increasingly being diverted from landfills, as reported by Nature's Packaging.

Jury Awards $17 Million After Forklift Accident
Man lost leg after being run over by a backing up forklift while working as a security guard.

NWPCA to Develop Fire Code Compliance Manual
The manual is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2017.
Membership Drive

This year's membership drive is already in motion.

“PRS Group’s used machinery division has been a great resource for us, we’ve acquired several pre-owned machines at bargain prices, and cashed in idle surplus machines that we had no further use for.”

Terry Rodino
Recycled New Pallets
Elkhart, IN

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WHY WOOD?

WOOD PACKAGING IS RECYCLABLE

Wood is recyclable. The recycling of wood pallets and wood packaging material is being accomplished at a very high level throughout North America.

Recycling takes place throughout the product use cycle. New pallet manufacturing is only one part of how pallets are used. The pallet usage cycle also involves recovery and reuse of pallets that are in good condition as well as the repair and reconstruction of damaged pallets. Pallets can also be dismantled and the lumber used to remanufacture new pallets.

WOOD RECOVERY IS INCREASING

With the application of grinding, wood pallets and components that are at the end of their useful life end up in fiber based products such as landscape mulch, animal bedding, soil enhancements, wood particle board or are used in bioenergy.

This model of reuse delivers wood packaging materials and pallets that make multiple trips before they reach the end of their useful life, therefore minimizing waste generation and reducing overall consumption of wood fiber.

NORTH AMERICA

In 2011, 416 million new pallets were manufactured. In the same year, 474 million pallets were recovered out of which 326 million pallets were reused as pallets, with the remaining 148 million recycled to become other reprocessed products.

Use of recovered wood in pallet manufacturing is growing at a high rate while use of new lumber for wood pallets has remained unchanged. In 1992, recovered wood use was 1.02 billion board feet of lumber, in 2011, this number had increased to 5.25 billion board feet.

To claim that a product is recyclable there should be recycling facilities available to at least 60 percent of the consumers where the product is sold. In the United States there is a comprehensive network of pallet recyclers serving the industrial and retail marketplace that far exceeds the 60% requirement.

In Canada there are in excess of 80 recycling companies servicing every market sector in the country, far exceeding the 60% requirement.

CHOOSE THE SUSTAINABLE WAY

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1. http://www1.ncsu.edu/ncsu/vet/docs/qps/guidelines/wpd/16118200f4530351b2f2b415980445c601.jpg
3. The Federal Trade Commission’s Environmental Control Summary of the 2439 B.1
4. Search the NapSA Directory and WPARecycling Directory
5. Search the EWSA Recycling Directory
Indianapolis, IN – Wood-Mizer, a global manufacturer of wood processing equipment, introduces a large capacity, modular, multi-head HR700 industrial resaw to their expanding product range. The industrial resaw is the latest addition to the broad range of Wood-Mizer sawmilling equipment engineered for weekend woodworkers through to high-production commercial operations all over the world.

The HR700 is Wood-Mizer’s largest capacity resaw capable of handling up to 15.75” x 15.75” cants. The machine’s modularity makes it easy to expand from the standard two heads to a maximum of six heads. In its maximum configuration, the HR700 converts large cants into six boards and one slab in a single pass. Heavy, powered hold-down rollers stabilize cants on a durable twin-track steel belt conveyor as they are fed through each head during sawing.

**HR700 Resaw Features:**

- **Power Options**
  - 20HP (15kW) per head standard
  - 30HP (22.5kW) per head optional
- **Cutting Capacity**
  - 15.75” by 15.75” max cant height and width
  - 12’ max cant length or unlimited with additional tables
- **One to Six Head Modular Configuration**

---

**New Member**

WPA is pleased to welcome the following new member to the association:

Robert Wenner  
Pallet Service Corporation  
11201 90th Avenue N  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
Ph: (763)391-8020  
Fax: (763)391-8026  
Web: www.palletservice.com  
Email: rewenner@palletservice.com
“Wood-Mizer remains committed to offering high-quality equipment and service to a wide range of sawmilling operations throughout the world,” said Darryl Floyd, Wood-Mizer COO. “The HR700 further provides commercial timber companies the ability to process large capacity cants with the flexibility for future growth.” The Wood-Mizer HR700 industrial resaw is now available worldwide. Visit www.woodmizer.com for more information.

Wood Pallets Increasingly Diverted from Landfills

One of the biggest landfill avoidance undertakings that currently goes on, and is expected to increase, is that of recycling wooden pallets. According to the research published in “Pallet Reuse and Recycling Saves High Value Material from Landfills”, in 1992, only about 50 million wood pallets were recovered from landfills and recycled for further usage. Three years later, that figure jumped to 150 million pallets, and by 2006, the number had increased to over 350 million. By recycling so many pallets, it has been calculated that 5.7 billion board feet of lumber were saved in this country, by not having to produce new pallets from freshly cut lumber.

Wood pallet recyclability has been steadily increasing because lumber is a valuable and limited resource. To discard it in a landfill would truly be a waste. New studies are currently being conducted to determine how many wood pallets are diverted from landfills.

In 2014, approximately 258 million tons of waste materials were generated by Americans and eventually reached various landfills stationed around the country. A report issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) broke down the components of this enormous tonnage as follows: 28.2% was comprised of food waste and yard trimmings, 26% was attributable to paper and cardboard products, plastics accounted for 13% of the total, rubber and textiles contributed 9%, metals were 9%, wood products made up 6%, and glass accounted for 4% of the total.

Source: Nature's Packaging
Jury Awards $17 Million to Man Who Lost His Leg in Forklift Accident

In California, a Riverside Superior Court jury has awarded Steven Meier $17 million after he had his right leg amputated below the knee due to being run over by a forklift in October 2013.

Mr. Meier, who was a security guard employed by Securitas Security Services, was patrolling at a PennySaver USA facility in Mira Loma, CA, when he was struck from behind by a forklift operating in reverse on October 20, 2013. The forklift crushed Mr. Meier’s right leg, dragging him several feet and degloving his lower limb. To dislodge Mr. Meier’s leg from underneath the forklift, a second forklift was brought in to lift the first forklift off of Mr. Meier.

Mr. Meier was rushed to Riverside Community Hospital where he underwent various surgeries to repair his leg and ankle. Over the next year and a half, Mr. Meier underwent eleven surgeries to repair the damage to his leg, foot, and ankle. Due to the large zone of injury, Mr. Meier was plagued with complications, requiring multiple hospitalizations, and surgeries. Ultimately, however, these measures were for naught and on July 21, 2015, a year and a half after the collision, Mr. Meier’s right leg was amputated just below the knee.

Even after the amputation, Mr. Meier had to undergo three revision surgeries, and infections continued to set back his recovery. In September 2016, Mr. Meier was finally fitted for a temporary prosthetic leg, and is expected to get a permanent prosthetic towards the beginning of 2018.

Lead trial counsel for Mr. Meier, Ricardo Echeverria, said after the verdict “We are very pleased that the jury recognized the tragedy that this case presented. The verdict was a fair and reasonable result given the liability and damage issues in the case.”

The trial lasted ten days before the jury ruled in favor of Mr. Meier.

Without knowing the specifics of the case, it is important to emphasize the importance of training pedestrians who work in the vicinity of forklifts about preventive measures, and that if a forklift operator cannot maintain a line of sight in the direction of travel, a spotter is required to ensure safe passage.
NWPCA TO DEVELOP FIRE CODE COMPLIANCE MANUAL

The National Wooden Pallet & Container Association (NWPCA) has initiated the development of a Fire Code Compliance manual to address the revised requirements for outdoor pallet storage. The new requirements are part of the 2018 editions of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1) and the International Fire Code (IFC) of the International Code Council that specifically address the wood and composite wood pallet manufacturing and recycling facilities.

Coinciding with the NWPCA’s “Year of Safety,” President/CEO Brent McClendon stated, “The release of the manual just reinforces our commitment to safety of the entire industry, their workers, and first responders.” The NWPCA was influential in the development of the revised standards to address the fire risk with sound operating practices. McClendon added, “Our members practice safety first. The new manual will help this industry tremendously by outlining best practices for use in their facilities, while complying with the new fire codes coming their way.”

The new NFPA 1 and IFC code requirements highlight the need for a defined site plan, a fire prevention plan, a fire safety and evacuation plan, and a security management plan. The NWPCA Fire Code Compliance manual will include:

- Outline of specific steps each facility will need to take to comply with new fire codes and code regulations.
- Templates and checklists that facilities can use to assist in drafting required plans and maintaining documentation.
- Additionally, the manual will provide the necessary information facilities need to achieve compliance with the revised fire code requirements.

Gunilla Beyer, 1948 – 2017

TIMCON was sad to recently announce that its colleague and friend Gunilla Beyer of the Swedish Forest Industry Federation (SFIF) had passed away unexpectedly at the age of 68. She had only recently retired to enjoy time with her children and grandchildren. Gunilla was dedicated to the wood industry, spending 40 years working in the Swedish wood sector, focusing on issues of climate, sustainability, and wood as packaging material.

She was well known for her work on packaging standardization and was the chairman or an essential member of several international standardization bodies related to wood and wooden packaging. The Swedish “SJ-pallet” became the European standard for pallets, which is now produced in 400 million units annually. In 1989, Gunilla helped establish collaboration with NWPCA in the US. Gunilla was nicknamed “Pallet Queen” and received a necklace in the shape of a golden pallet; an award she wore with great pride.
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

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Gil Covey, Managing Director
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North American Softwood Prices

Weekly softwood lumber prices to Jul 18, 2017 are shown below, sourced at http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/industry/13309.
WASHINGTON, July 12, 2017 — Russel Wetenkamp of Manitowoc, Wisc., pled guilty and was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Wisconsin to criminal violations related to the Plant Protection Act (PPA). Wetenkamp fraudulently marked wooden pallets indicating that they were compliant with the regulations under the PPA that govern the use of wood packaging material in international trade even though they had not been properly treated to prevent the spread of wood boring pests.

As part of a plea agreement, Wetenkamp pled guilty to violating the Act and making a false statement (18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2); 7 U.S.C. § 7734(a)(1)(A)), which are both criminal charges. Wetenkamp was sentenced to pay a $25,000 fine, complete a two year probation term, and pay restitution in the amount of $18,748 to his customers.

From November 2014 until April 2015, Wetenkamp, who was working as the Site General Manager of the Timber Creek Resources’ Newton, Wisconsin, facility, sold falsely stamped pallets to numerous customers.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Office of Inspector General and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
Take a moment right now to renew your WPA membership for 2017-2018. It is as easy as clicking on the WPA membership link!
The alder tree: understated, fast-growing and resilient. This is how Northwest Hardwoods veteran and current Hardwood Lumber Product Manager, Dave Bosley, views the company that gave him his start 39 years ago.

“Working at Northwest Hardwoods has been like being on a rocket,” said Bosley, who has witnessed the company change from a one-mill operation to become today’s largest manufacturer and global supplier of hardwood lumber. “It has been a constant go, go, go environment.”

Founder Arnold Curtis established Northwest Hardwoods (NWH) in 1967, by creating a single alder mill in Arlington, Washington. With his pioneering vision, he set out to transform the under-appreciated alder tree into the high quality lumber product that it is today. Along the way, Curtis created a brand that has garnered admiration for its consistent high quality products, industry innovation, and its customer-focused philosophy.
“In the early years, Northwest Hardwoods showed an entrepreneurial spirit like a tech start-up, willing to experiment and take risks,” continued Bosley. “That time period set the groundwork for our continuing effort to do things differently from the rest of the industry.”

Innovation and Quality
One of the keys to its early success, and a cornerstone of the NWH brand, was the company’s introduction of a proprietary grading structure for alder. During the 1960’s and 1970’s, the hardwood industry was based on a limited number of standard grades. NWH identified an opportunity to more directly serve the needs of the customer, and took the bold step of creating proprietary grades, tailored to meet their specific application requirements. For example, by splitting the standard #1 Common into two distinct new grades (2-face Cabinet and 1-face Custom Shop), NWH offered the customer flexible options to maximize yield efficiency and lower costs.

This innovative move to proprietary grading has continued to evolve, as the company has grown and expanded its product offerings and reach. However, the program would not be a success without the parallel emphasis on quality control. “We deliver a consistent product year after year, truck after truck, container after container,” said Darren Gellerson, Plant Manager, Longview/Centralia and West Coast Regional Quality Control Manager. “Quality control has become a vital part of the business, and our book of best practice guidelines is like our playbook; we never waver from it. Everyone from the cleanup person to the sawyer and grader understands how the various lumber grades are used by the customer, and the importance of consistent product quality.”

People Make the Difference
Gellerson joined NWH nearly four decades ago, originally tasked with pulling lumber on the green chain, and like Dave Bosley, who hired him, he has never grown bored.

“Work is really fun,” Gellerson remarked. “I had a five-year plan, and now I’ve been here for 38 years!”

Both Bosley and Gellerson have been a part of the fabric of NWH for most of the company’s 50 years, and they each point to the people as being a primary reason for its success.
High employee retention has contributed greatly to NWH’s ability to work collaboratively within the company, and along with its customers. This collaborative approach is most evident between the sales and operations teams, in which an open dialogue allows questions to be answered and decisions to be made quickly. Salespeople routinely visit the mills, often bringing customers along with them.

“We feel that it is important for our customers to see our facilities, and for the people at our facilities to meet our customers and understand their needs,” added Bosley. “Listening to and engaging our customers has always been a top priority for Northwest Hardwoods.”

**Growth and Reach**

By 1980, when Weyerhaeuser Corporation bought NWH, the company’s foundation and innovative culture was firmly established and ready to enter a steady growth mode for much of the next 30 years. Among numerous acquisitions, key mills were purchased in Onalaska, WI (1984) and Titusville, PA (1987), marking NWH’s entrance into the Glacial and Appalachian growing regions, respectively. In 2006, the addition of hardwood plywood served as another major building block to the company’s breadth of product offerings.

In addition to product expansion during this period, NWH also significantly broadened its international market reach. With the benefit of Weyerhaeuser’s established presence in Japan, NWH became the first to export alder lumber into the Japanese market in the early 1980’s. NWH was also visionary in the Chinese market, identifying the opportunities in the region long before others in the industry became aware. In both Japan and China, local NWH offices were established, and staffed by highly skilled local employees, securing a leadership foothold that continues today.

Having become the clear leader in the hardwoods industry, NWH was eventually bought by American Industrial Partners in 2011 and then by its current owner, Littlejohn & Co, in 2014. Exotic hardwoods were added to its portfolio, and with the acquisition of ITL in 2015, NWH enjoys a significantly larger footprint in the Appalachian hardwoods market. Today, NWH offers 14 different domestic hardwoods, along with more than 20 species of exotics, as well as appearance and structural plywood.

**Reliability = Longevity**

A business can not last without cultivating healthy, long-standing customer relationships, and NWH recognized early on that serving as a reliable partner was essential.

Five Star Lumber Company, a family-owned pallet manufacturer since 1981, has been a loyal customer of NWH since the early 1980’s, buying Alder shook for its hardwood pallet production. It is one of many second-generation customers that have enabled NWH to thrive for 50 years.
“Our relationship with Northwest Hardwoods has allowed our business to grow, by giving us the confidence that we had a supplier that would always be there for us,” said Marco Beretta, managing member of Five Star Lumber, who’s father began the relationship with NWH. “Their forward-looking, consistent philosophy has meant long-term, stable pricing for us, and led to a predictable pallet program for our customers.”

Qingdao CX Joy Hardwoods Company, one of the largest panel producers in China, is a customer dating back to 1996, and another illustration of how NWH creates enduring relationships.

“Our business partnership with Northwest Hardwoods has never ceased to strengthen over the last 21 years,” said Heng-yi Lin, President of Qingdao CX Joy Hardwoods. “Ours is not simply a buy-and-sell relationship. Our sales team learns from and works with Northwest Hardwoods on new opportunities, and our production team gives regular feedback to refine products, or to just say ‘thanks’ for shipping us such well-manufactured lumber.”

These long-lasting relationships are emblematic of NWH’s commitment to its guiding vision for the last 50 years. By providing consistent, high-quality products through innovation and strong customer engagement, Northwest Hardwoods has grown from a modest, single sawmill, to become the resilient and reliable brand it is today, recognized across the globe.
The U.S. Forest Service has awarded a $250,000 grant to the Center for the Study of the Force Majeure, a research center based in the Arts Division at UC Santa Cruz.

Founded by Newton and Helen Mayer Harrison, research professors in UCSC’s Digital Arts and New Media Program (DANM), the Center for the Study of the Force Majeure brings together artists and scientists to design ecosystem-adaptation projects in critical regions around the world to respond to climate change.

The center will use the grant to study the economic feasibility of developing an innovative forest industry cluster near Reno, Nevada.

Titled the “Western Nevada and Central Sierra Nevada of California Regional Wood Utilization Team,” the project will estimate the supply of wood biomass in the area east of the central Sierra crest and in western Nevada, and assess the possibility of producing wood products from that supply.

The aim of the grant--part of $8.3 million in distributed funds just announced by the U.S. Forest Service--is to stimulate the removal of hazardous fuels from forests to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and promote forest health, while at the same time spurring the economic...
development of rural communities.

“Our first step is to get a much better estimate of the supply—the amount of timber by species along with brush and other biomass available in the WUT (Wood Utilization Team) region which covers a big chunk of the Eastern Central Sierra around Lake Tahoe and a matching section of Western Nevada,” said Harrison. “We need to understand better how much wood and woody biomass is available using an environmental analysis that protects endangered species habitat, wetlands and riparian areas, and prioritizes 10-inch and smaller diameter trees—in effect what we’re calling the ‘environmental cut.’

“Our next step is to take that supply information and work with some partners to identify a range of potential uses—from soil additives, to pallets, fence posts, pellets, wood chips, traditional timber and a range of manufactured woods, along with the economic potential of each use.”

“Finally, we will take our research and add market need and economic analysis to build a strategic economic overview which we will publish,” he added.

Upcoming Events

8/15/2017 - 8/17/2017 Unit Load Design and Performance Short Course, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.


Scott Group Celebrates 30 Years of Service

Founded in Scotland in July 1987 at a sawmill in Gargunnock, Stirlingshire, congratulations are in order to the Scott Group as it celebrates its 30th anniversary this summer. It will be marking the occasion with a number of special activities over the coming months.

The company’s 30th anniversary celebration will see it focus on its staff, customers and the environment and communities in which it operates through a range of initiatives:

– Recognize and reward 30 Rising Stars amongst its staff
– Initiate a tree planting project in partnership with Outward Bound Trust at Loch Eil
– Host an inter-site competition to manufacture a special item that commemorates our anniversary
– Raise money for charity through participation in The Big Fun Run https://www.bigfunrun.com/

“We are immensely grateful to all of our staff, customers, suppliers, and partners who have made the past 30 years possible, and look forward to what the next 30 years will bring,” stated Norman Scott, Group Operations Director.

Scott Group is also asking its customers to join the celebrations. Here’s what some of them had to say:

“Scott Pallets has been an excellent supplier to Peacock Salt over many years and that is vitally important to us as nearly one million bags of salt are delivered on their pallets each year.”
Wherever we need pallets in the UK, a supply source is near at hand with the product we require. Congratulations on your 30 year anniversary!“
Billy McKelvie, Operation Manager, Peacock Salt

“Congratulations to Scott Group on 30 years in business. We have worked with you for the past 16 years and you continue to do a great job in providing bespoke packaging solutions for our specialist products.”
Simon Bowles, Warehouse Manager, Zodiac Seats UK

“After reading about your upcoming 30th anniversary, I would like to express how very well we are served in Shetland by Alex and the gang. Scott Direct is a great asset to Shetland.”
Andrew Kemp, Stores Controller, Ness Engineering

Scott Group has grown considerably over the past 30 years through organic growth and more than 30 acquisitions across a range of sectors in the UK and into Europe. It has become the UK’s market leading and largest pallet supplier, and a leading supplier of bespoke packaging and essential trade supplies such as tools and branded work wear through Scott Direct. The company also operates a portfolio of commercial property throughout the UK. It employs over 1,000 people across 26 sites.

New Family of Fire Retardant Pallets

ORBIS® Corporation, a leading plastic pallet manufacturer, recently developed and launched Proliant™, a fire-retardant plastic material for use in select plastic pallets. It is approved by Factory Mutual Research Corporation (FM) in meeting fire rating requirements equivalent to wood pallets. These pallets are traditionally known to meet Factory Mutual Insurance standards for commodity classification of idle plastic pallets and NFPA 13/2000 requirements.

Along with FM approval, Proliant also is compliant with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), providing the necessary compliance for food and beverage processors that require a fire-retardant pallet solution for their plants. Regulatory compliance evaluation was conducted with Proliant in accordance with the USA FDA food contact regulations (21 CFR citations), food contact notifications, Threshold of Regulations (TOR), generally recognized as safe (GRAS) inventory and prior-sanctioned lists. Read more.
In case you missed them...
(Click on back issues to read or download)