Pallets West
Magazine for WPA Members
May 2015

Member News: Collins' Upper Columbia Mill

NWPCA Announces Fall Plant Tours

1/3 ISPM-15 Repair Update
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Load 1</th>
<th>Load 2</th>
<th>Load 3</th>
<th>Load 4</th>
<th>Load 5</th>
<th>Load 6</th>
<th>Load Average</th>
<th>Humidity</th>
<th>Temp</th>
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<td>50.20</td>
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<td>29.12</td>
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<td>29.19</td>
<td>24.96</td>
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<td>81</td>
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<td>Day 10</td>
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<td>24.70</td>
<td>24.70</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>78</td>
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<td>Day 11</td>
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North American Softwood Prices

Weekly softwood lumber prices to May 19, 2015 are shown below, sourced at http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/industry/13309.

Upcoming Events

9/28/2015 - 9/30/2015
PACK EXPO Las Vegas
Las Vegas, Nevada
www.packexpolasvegas.com

10/20/2015-10/22/2015
Lumber, Pallets & Recycling: NWPCA/AHMI Fall Plant Tours
Charlotte, North Carolina
www.palletcentral.com

10/28/2015-10/30/2015
FEFPEB 66th Congress
Cork, Ireland
www.fefpebcongress.com

Featured Meeting

1/15/2016 - 1/19/2016
WPA Annual Meeting
Rancho Mirage, California
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WPA Call to Action: Emphatic Member Support Needed

The WPA would like to give a big thanks to those companies which responded to last month’s Call to Action, as well as of course the others who previously got behind the initiative.

That being said, this effort would benefit greatly from broader participation by industry in this important project to provide greater visibility to pricing trends. Why not take the time to enlist your support?

Two Things You Can Do

Contact your mill representatives, lumber brokers, and manufacturers to ask if they would participate in regular input of prices.

Please send participant’s name, company, address, email, and phone number by email to chailleb@gmail.com by JUNE 1, 2015.
Members in the News

Collins' Upper Columbia Mill Featured in Pallet Enterprise

WPA-member Collins was recently featured in Pallet Enterprise Magazine (click here to read the feature) with respect to its state of the art Upper Columbia Mill.

The Boardman, Oregon operation is unique in many respects. For starters, it is located in the center of the 24,000 acre Boardman Tree Farm, initially planted with hybrid poplars by previous owners, Potlach and Boise Cascade. Potlach owned one parcel and Boise Cascade, the other. They sold their Boardman properties in the face of an unattractive pulpwood outlook. The parcels were purchased by GreenWood’s Tree Farm Fund in 2007, which turned its attention to timber opportunities for the plantation. Collins was brought in to oversee the milling and marketing of the hybrid poplar, branded as Pacific Albus. The $35 million sawmill was opened in September 2008, and a veneer mill was added in 2013.

The mill currently runs with approximately 90 employees, running an average of 70 hours per week. Production is around 60 million board feet per year, which is forecasted to go up to 80 million in the next few years. The material is a great fit for many industries, including a number of pallet applications. Pacific Albus has been accepted by one major retailer as material to produce a proprietary pallet, meeting a requirement that

Cont’d on P. 10
Members in the News

Pacific Albus (Cont’d from Page 9)

it be durable enough to last eight trips. Another “must-have” factor for the retailer was that Pacific Albus is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified.

Other materials that may be available soon include random width 4/4, 5/4 and 6/4 red alder. After a successful initial trial of 300,000 bf of red alder brought in from west of the Cascades, Collins is looking to running up to an additional 1 - 1.5 million bf per month of that material. Pacific maple is also being looked at as a candidate.

While the forest industry may indeed be mature, Collins is an example of how the industry continues to invent the future in terms of new products, sustainable practices and resource optimization.

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Rotochopper
Shippers Choice Global
Southwest Forest Products
Timber Products Inspection
Viking Engineering & Development

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WPA Membership Drive Competition

Just like the weather, this is the time of year when the competition for the membership drive really starts to heat up.

In addition to valuable cash prizes, the winner now also receives the membership trophy, presented at the Annual Meeting.

A regular influx of new members helps maintain the strength of the WPA, as well as to build on our reputation of being "the friendliest Association in pallets."

New members can join and pay on the website. Here is the link:: www.westernpallet.org
NWPCA and WPA have come together with over 70 organizations in Washington, DC and state trucking associations in the issue of a joint letter to Congress supporting Sec. 132 of the FY ‘16 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Bill.

The letter was sent to Members of Congress and their Chief-of-Staffs, Legislative Directors, and Appropriations Committee staff. As background, in 2013, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) altered the 34-hour restart rule that was in place from 2003 to 2013. The results of the change created a negative impact on truck driver productivity while delivering questionable safety gains.

As a result, Congressional House and Senate Appropriations Committee members suspended FMCSA action through Sec. 132 which “temporarily suspends the enforcement of the hours-of-service regulation related to the restart provision that went into effect on July 1, 2013 and directs the Secretary to conduct a study of the operational safety, health and fatigue aspects of the restart provision”.

Industry feels the FMCSA is not using complete data for its study. The coalition is asking Congress to ensure the agency is using data that is representative of all drivers who use the restart provision and to consider the impact of putting more drivers on the road during day-time hours when congestion and traffic is higher before releasing its study.

Questions with respect to this issue can be directed to Patrick Atagi, NWPCA VP-Advocacy & External Affairs, or call the NWPCA headquarters at 703-519-6104 Ext. 204.

Read the Hours-of-Service Letter

Source: NWPCA
ISPM-15 Compliant Pallet Repair Without Retreating Entire Pallet

A WPA member recently reached out with a question. A customer was repairing pallets using compliant components, but without removing the old markings and without sending the entire unit back to the chamber for total retreatment. The member was looking for clarification as to whether this was now permissable.

Pallets West reached out to WPA members Ben Haynes at Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB) and Matt McGowan of Timber Products Inspection for some clarification on the issue.

"Section 4.3.2 in ISPM 15 specifically addresses repaired wood packaging," Ben explained. "What changed more recently is last November the ALSC approved new language in its Enforcement Regulations that allows for repair without retreatment (up to 1/3) provided there is an approved QC procedure in place. Previously ALSC did not allow pallets to be repaired without being retreated, and even though the language is in there now, there are pretty strict controls over it"

"If a facility in the ISPM 15 program would like to repair up to approximately 1/3 of the components in a wood packaging item without retreatment, it is necessary for the facility to have in place an approved process that maintains traceability of the packaging as it moves through the supply chain. In a general sense, the process will identify all parties who will handle the packaging and provide a detailed outline of how the packaging’s ISPM 15 compliance will be maintained at each step.

"For example, it’s reasonable to assume a process could be developed for wood packaging moving within a closed loop system, where the packaging travels only between the same locations and never goes anywhere else. In this scenario you could identify all of the places the packaging could potentially move through and be certain that no unauthorized repairs were being made."

Matt McGowan reports that there has not been a great deal of interest in this option from customers. "It is a fairly specialized application," he noted. He concurs that in order for such repair to be compliant, strict controls are required.  

(Cont’d on P. 14)
Pallet Repair (Cont'd from P. 13)

In the case of a recycled pallet it acquired in the course of business, it may be difficult, if not impossible, to know what repairs have been made. In such a case, this pallet would not be eligible for repair without heat treating the entire unit.

Another challenge, Ben noted, is ensuring that only 1/3 of the components have been replaced, which can be extremely difficult unless the loop has strict controls. For example, if one shop repaired 1/4 of the pallet, and another shop repaired another 1/4, then the pallet would not be compliant.

Timber Products Inspection recommends that if pursuing this approach to repair, that every component replaced be marked with that facility's stamp, so that there is an assurance that no other unmonitored repairs are undertaken.

Matt stressed the importance of having a written process, approved by the inspection agency, which is being followed, monitored, and kept on file so it can be reviewed by ALSC and make sense.
Grey Fleet

What Are the Considerations if Your Employees Use Their Own Vehicles on the Job?

The term “Grey Fleet” is commonly used in the United Kingdom, and increasingly in Canada, to describe the use of employees' personal vehicles in the course of business, a practice equally common in the U.S. Employers sometimes believe that they have no risk exposure because these are not company vehicles. However this is not the case, and employers should consider taking similar precautions in either case.

Of course, The Hartford notes in a circular, it is the responsibility of the operator to drive responsibly and maintain the vehicle, and if there is an accident, the vehicle owner’s automobile coverage will respond. However, the circular continues, the “company may also be drawn into the situation under theories of negligence or vicarious liability. This could happen because of the following:
- The employee has let his/her insurance lapse.
- The employee only carries the minimum limits of coverage that the law requires.
- The employee’s vehicle is not properly maintained.
- The employee has a Motor Vehicle Record that is below standard.
- The company has no fleet controls in place that address any of these issues."

To find out more, we reached out to WPA-member HUB International.

“Companies having employees use their own cars pretty much are held to the same standards as if it was a company vehicle,” commented HUB’s Allen Offinitz CSP, ARM Senior Risk Control Consultant, speaking from his office in Los Angeles. “Insurance carriers expect that driving records are checked, there is criteria to determine what constitutes an acceptable driving record (moving violations/chargeable accidents etc.), valid driver’s license, proof of insurance with preferably higher than the state’s minimum limits and driver training is also a plus. Insurance carriers are also requesting that all drivers adhere to a No-Use cell phone policy, regardless of a state’s “hands-free” policy.”

He noted that employers may be under the mistaken assumption that if employees are driving their personal vehicles, that they have no fleet exposure, but he stressed that is not the case from a risk control standpoint.

Resources:
Company Use Liability
Non-Owned Vehicles
The Coaching Conversation

When it comes to shaping and maintaining the behaviors of other people, it is best to keep things mostly positive. Absolutely, some negative behaviors must be corrected immediately, but once the correction has been made, look for ways to keep the coaching session upbeat and forward facing.

In a recent article, Britta Ball PhD. discussed the role of interactions in changing culture. She was speaking in regards to a culture of food manufacturing safety, however, this approach applies to shaping organizational change in general:

A company-wide culture of food safety means everyone - executives, R&D, purchasing, maintenance, production and others - understands his or her role in producing safe food and acts accordingly. The various job roles of the diverse audience means developing different training content and delivery approaches.

Training is just the start. Follow-up is needed for training to stick.

Supervisors need to catch people doing things right; and give corrective feedback ideally in a positive and encouraging way to gain compliance. Training supervisors to give feedback effectively can support culture change without creating fear in employees.

It can take several years for a full food safety culture change initiative to take hold. The goal is for the positive shared beliefs and values about food safety to become ingrained as the way to do things. If there’s been a true change, the new culture would stick even if the people who drove the change left the company.

One way that culture is described is people doing the right things, even when no one is looking. It starts with having positive coaching dialogues and maintaining a positive thought process.
The NWPCA has announced its 2015 fall event, Lumber, Pallets & Recycling: NWPCA/AHMI Fall Plant Tours, to take place October 20-22, based in Charlotte, North Carolina. The tour will celebrate manufacturing operational excellence, and for the first time will be offered in cooperation with the Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. The two day tour will include visits to hardwood and softwood sawmills, as well as new and recycled pallet manufacturing facilities. Registration will open in June, 2015. The hotel for the event is the Crown Plaza Charlotte Executive Park, located minutes from Charlotte Douglas International Airport. For hotel reservations, please phone 1-866-380-0612 and mention group code NWP to receive the discounted rate of $149/night + tax. Or, reserve your room here.

Tour Highlights

Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc. (AHMI)
The AHMI is a 200-member trade association headquartered in High Point, N.C., the furniture capital of the world, with a goal to promote logs, lumber and products from Appalachian Mountain region. AHMI member sawmills are honored to welcome the NWPCA and its members.

Edwards Wood Products, Inc.
Founded in 1969, Edwards Wood Products is one of the largest manufacturers of pallets in the southeast, producing upwards of 120,000 per week. In addition to pallets, the company produces high grade and industrial grade hardwood lumber for domestic and overseas markets at a rate of 3,000,000 board feet per week.

PalletOne, Inc.
A major new pallet manufacturer, PalletOne processes over 200 million board feet annually. The company owns and operates 14 pallet manufacturing facilities and 4 sawmills throughout the eastern United States. All of its facilities utilize lean manufacturing principles, including 6S and kaizen events, that maximize production, reduce waste and deliver continual improvement.

Pallet Resource of NC, Inc.
Established in 1970, Pallet Resource of NC, Inc. is a full service provider for all wooden material handling needs, manufacturing custom pallets and specialty crating products. The company manufactures, remanufactures, repairs, retrieves, and recycles. PRNC employs more than 90 people on a 22-acre site in northern Davidson County.

Jordan Lumber and Supply, Inc.
Established in 1939, Jordan Lumber and Supply is one of the largest privately owned lumber companies in the country and has extensive forestry operations on their own lands. Since 1973, more than 15 million trees have been planted on company-owned land.

Source: www.palletcentral.com
Venue Set for FEFPEB 66th Congress

Europe’s leaders in the wood pallet and packaging sector will gather in Cork, Ireland.

This October 28 will mark the 66th Congress of the European Federation of Wooden Pallet & Packaging Manufacturers (FEFPEB). The group, first formed in 1946, represents the related industries of 14 European countries: Austria; Belgium; Denmark; France; Germany; Italy; Lithuania; the Netherlands; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; and the UK.

Top of mind issues impacting the timber pallet and packaging sector will be offered at the event, entitled “Wooden pallets and packaging: A sustainable business in a fast-changing world.” Attendees will additionally be afforded the opportunity to dialogue and network with colleagues from around the globe during the course of the three-day event.

Major emphasis will be placed on the environmental benefits of the wooden pallet and packaging industry, illuminating its role as an outlet for approximately 25 per cent of the output of home grown sawn timber; as a material that absorbs carbon from the atmosphere as it grows and stores it at the end of its useful life; and that plays a central part in sustainable forestry. Visits to local companies will include a pallet manufacturer which has developed its business recovering, repairing and recycling used pallets.

Additional highlights include visits to leading Irish companies in the sector, including a composite block manufacturer, state-of-the-art sawmill, and a pallet manufacturer.

Additional topics include: updates on topics including the European, American, Canadian and Chinese pallet and other packaging industries worldwide will be heard; ISPM 15 regulations; the lightweight packaging sector; and the Packaging from Nature campaign; social events, which include a cultural dinner and evening of dog racing at Cork’s Curraheen Park Greyhound Stadium; and networking opportunities throughout. There is also a full partners’ programme that takes in highlights of the region. The Congress is based at the Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork.

The event will be held alongside the second meeting of the international pallet and packaging industry’s World Forum. Delegates are expected to visit from the UK and Ireland, the USA and Canada, South Africa, South America, Australia and China.
“FEFPEB works on behalf of its members throughout the year, and our congress provides the vital opportunity to inform them about the latest developments and changes affecting their businesses,” stated Rob van Hoesel, FEFPEB president. “This event gives us them the opportunity to learn about and discuss these issues, network and socialise; with the objective of furthering the wooden pallet and packaging business for the benefit of all. We are expecting approximately 200 delegates and partners to attend this essential event.

“We have already signed up a significant number of sponsors. Following feedback from previous FEFPEB congresses, there will be a great emphasis on giving maximum exposure to sponsors at this event.”

For more information about the congress, to sign up, and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.fefpebcongress.com.

The Timber Packaging & Pallet Confederation (TIMCON) is hosting the event with the assistance of its membership in Ireland. TIMCON “It is a great honour to host the FEFPEB congress and we are planning a first class and exciting itinerary,” stated John Dye, TIMCON president. “It’s been 12 years since TIMCON last hosted the congress, and as well as providing a full and useful programme of events, we will be taking the opportunity to highlight to our international packaging and pallet colleagues how our industry has innovated, modernised and developed in line with our customers’ expectations.”

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