WPA Launches Social Media Campaign

EPAL's Battle Against Counterfeiters

Oakland Pallet Company Opens a Super Processing Plant
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Thanks for Visiting Expo Richmond 2016

Another successful Expo Richmond in the books! We hope you were able to stop by the arena and chat with us! In case you missed it, here’s the Viking Recap:

Launched - Express 403

Concluded - Build Your Legacy Series 1

Previewed - Mobile Customer Portal

Redesigned - Viking Website

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Softwood Lumber Prices

Our monthly softwood price graph, courtesy of NRCAN.

Membership Drive

This year's membership drive is already in motion.

WPA Welcomes New Members

WPA welcomes BPWood and The Union Lumber & Service

PDS Alert

NWPCA advises that when you transition to Windows 10, it may be necessary to reinstall PDS.

Oakland Pallet Opens Super Processing Plant

Oakland Pallet Company centralizes its operations in a new Stockton location.
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May 2016
WPA Launches New Social Media Campaign, Looks to Boost Industry Profile

Warehouse Space at a Premium Across the U.S.
In spite of pacesetting construction activity, there is a shortage. Growth is being driven by e-commerce.

Counterfeit EPAL Pallets
EPAL has collaborated with partners to disrupt counterfeiting activities in Ukraine.

Brambles Sells LeanLogistics
Brambles, parent of CHEP, has sold its LeanLogistics transportation optimization company after 8 years.

Other Features

19 OSHA Cites Packaging Company in Amputation Case

20 Can a New Technology Revive the Pacific Northwest Lumber Industry?

21 Further Reading, Upcoming Events, Advertising Sponsors
North American Softwood Prices

Weekly softwood lumber prices to May 24, 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
WPA Welcomes New Members

The WPA is pleased to introduce its newest members:

**Jorge Luis Osuna**  
The Union Lumber & Service Co.  
2475 Paseo de Las Americas  
San Diego, CA  92154  
ph: (619)990-6944  
fax: (619)710-2855  
web: www.unionpallets.com  
email: manuelacevedo555@yahoo.com  
sponsor: Greg Wine, Pallet Machinery

**Dan Bouchard**  
BPWood  
102-186 Nanaimo Avenue West  
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A Note to PDS Users

Transitioning to Windows 10

If you transition to Windows 10 you may experience an issue with your PDS installation., according to Brad Gething, PhD, Director of Science & Technology Integration for NWPCA. It requires a simple fix.

If you open PDS and do receive an error message, you will need to reinstall PDS. To reinstall PDS, you can either call or email Susan Cheney (703.519.6104 -- scheney@palletcentral.com) or Curtis Wilkes (cwilkes@palletcentral.com) to request a new installation. A download link with instructions will be promptly sent to you. Once you have upgraded to Windows 10, we do not expect this issue to continue.

For further information, contact Brad Gething (bgething@palletcentral.com).
Oakland Pallet Consolidates into a Super Processing Plant

WPA-member Oakland Pallet Company has consolidated its Oakland and Tracy locations into one super processing plant located in Stockton, CA. The SPP will focus on maximizing pallet efficiencies for customer return programs while maintaining readily available inventory for JIT loads.
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“A New Dimension for Lumber”
Scenes above and below from the new Stockton super processing plant of Oakland Pallet Company.
WPA Launches Social Media Campaign

Did you know that WPA is now on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter? Make sure you like our Facebook page and follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter so you won’t miss out! It is as easy as clicking on the logos below.

Getting started is as easy as clicking on the links above to like on Facebook or follow on LinkedIn and Twitter.

Here are some of the upcoming posts in production:

- Nature’s Packaging YouTube Video
- Pallets Inspire New Markets
- Mulch and Pallets
- Corrugated Bill Defeated in Oregon
- YouTube Pallets Move the World
- Pallet Palooza 16
- Wood: Nature’s Stroke of Genius

The WPA has had a social media presence for several years, but like for many organizations, a key challenge has been the ability to maintain consistent messaging. With the introduction of the Nature's Packaging collaboration with...
NWPCA and CWPCA, however, there will be access to much more quality content to share.

"WPA members will benefit from the social media initiative because it's helping to re-brand the pallet industry as green and sustainable," explains Annie Montey of American Pallet, one of the WPA board members actively involved in the project.

"At one of my first WPA conferences three or four years ago, I heard someone refer to the pallet industry as the Rodney Dangerfield of our industry, suggesting that people didn't take the pallet industry very seriously, which I didn't think was true at all!

"Sustainability brings with it a level of respect and professionalism that our industry members can use to grow their businesses and overcome previous
misconceptions. I think our involvement in Nature's Packaging and the public's growing interest in reclaimed pallet do-it-yourself projects have created the right conditions for this re-branding campaign to be a success."

Montey believes that the effort will be valuable for WPA members and their employees, as well as pallet users. "I think once pallet companies start seeing themselves as sustainable then that effect will trickle down to pallet users, suppliers to our industry, even our employees," she says.

A number of other topic ideas are being considered for social media sharing. If members have any interest in contributing content around these or other topic ideas, please contact the WPA office. Such participation not only helps promote the industry, but can also increase the exposure of your company in the marketplace. Here is a list of ideas that we are hoping to develop:

Innovations in wood waste - examples of how wood waste is being used
Life cycle of a pallet
How well-managed forests are good for the environment
SFI program & other sustainable sources of lumber
Cogeneration
Log availability on the west coast
The differences between hardwood and softwood on the west coast
Types of lumber species used in different western states - i.e. California v. Utah
Types of nails used on pallets
Ways to improve your pallet's design - strength, efficiency, etc.
Warehouse Space at a Premium

Warehouse availability is feeling the crunch, as companies look to increase capacity in order to meet the needs of e-commerce and growth. The growth of e-commerce has created the need to stock increased numbers of items. Additionally, driven by Amazon, customer expectations for speedy delivery have driven strategies to place warehouses closer to urban centers, rather than operating from a single, centrally located facility.

According to a recent report in Bloomberg, over the past year, prime warehouse rents are up 9.9 percent across the U.S. and up by double-digit amounts in some large urban areas. Speculative building has also taken off. In Chicago, for example, there were more speculative projects started than in any quarter over the last 20 years.

Due to the lack of available space, companies are increasingly interested in retrofitting automation into existing buildings to increase storage capacity and deal with the challenges of e-commerce, such as stocking more items, and shipping smaller quantities.

In terms of pallets, watch for a shift from a central distribution center to regional centers to result in a shift in empty pallet generation. Retrofitting of existing facilities to increase throughput may result in increased core generation at those locations.

CHEP to Centralize European Logistics Operations in Madrid

Chep has announced that it will centralize all its European logistics from its offices in Madrid, for which it will create a center of excellence as well as forty new jobs. The transition is anticipated to be completed for the first quarter of 2017, ending with the incorporation of other emerging European countries such as Poland, Greece and Turkey, between others.
EPAL Combats Counterfeit Pallets

The European Pallet Association has made a breakthrough in the battle against counterfeiters of EPAL Euro pallets. Counterfeiting of pallets is a practice that undermines the market for quality assured EPAL pallets and puts pallet users at risk.

Thanks to the extensive teamwork of the EPAL representation in Ukraine and the independent inspection company Bureau Veritas, the group has identified a producer of illegal EPAL pallets. In a joint campaign with the local police force, Bureau Veritas and Ukrainian lawyers, EPAL located and seized large quantities of fake EPAL Euro pallets, as well as counterfeit branding plates. The counterfeiter will face criminal prosecution for the commercial infringement of trademark laws.

Ukraine is the focus of the work currently being carried out by EPAL against professional counterfeiters. The aim is to track down the producers of counterfeit EPAL Euro pallets, seize the illegal pallets and destroy them. EPAL is simultaneously providing information within Ukraine about the advantages of producing and repairing EPAL Euro pallets under an EPAL licence while explaining to the retail and logistics industries the disadvantages of using counterfeit pallets.

If goods are exported into the EU from Ukraine on counterfeit EPAL pallets, the customs authorities can hold the complete load for up to ten days. If it is confirmed that the suspect pallets are counterfeits, the entire load must be repalletized at the expense of the trucker or exporter. There is also the risk that the delay in delivery could incur contractual penalties or the delivery being rejected. Counterfeit pallets are destroyed on behalf of the customs authorities. This also applies if the counterfeit pallets have been bought in Ukraine and shipped abroad. In such cases, there is the risk of losing the entire value of the goods.

"The use of illegally produced pallets for transportation and storage facilities conceals considerable risks for logistics and retail companies," stressed Martin Leibrandt, CEO of EPAL. "Investigation of the counterfeit pallets has revealed that the overwhelming majority are produced from low-grade materials and undersized boards. Counterfeit pallets therefore do not have the stability and safe working load of original EPAL Euro pallets. The use of counterfeit pallets can lead to extensive disruptions to transportation and warehouse logistics, which can create additional costs and claims for compensation."

Source: EPAL

May 2016
Brambles to Divest LeanLogistics to Kewill for US$115 Million

Brambles Limited, the parent company of CHEP, will divest LeanLogistics, the Group’s transport management software business to Kewill, a global leader in multimodal transportation software, for US$115 million. The transaction is subject to standard regulatory approvals and is expected to complete within 45 days.

“LeanLogistics is a leading provider of software-as-a-service (SaaS)-based transportation management systems that have grown strongly since its acquisition by Brambles in 2008, entering new geographies and adding key blue-chip customers,” stated Tom Gorman, Brambles CEO.

“Over the eight years that we have owned the business, LeanLogistics has generated significant value as a service provider to other parts of the Brambles Group, in particular, the CHEP pallet pooling operations. We are looking forward to continuing this relationship as a LeanLogistics’ customer for many years to come. “Given the specialized nature of LeanLogistics’ business, as well as its size relative to the broader Brambles Group, we believe we have maximized the value we can contribute as its owner. We believe that in Kewill, and its controlling shareholder Francisco Partners, LeanLogistics has found the appropriate ownership under which to continue to develop and grow as an industry leader.”

Exclusive Payment Services Is Now Preferred Payments

Corey Hall has advised that WPA-member Exclusive Payment Services is now Preferred payments. Reach Corey at Corey@PreferredPayments.com
OSHA Cites Packaging Company in Amputation Case

Industrial Packaging Corp. has been cited for one willful and eight serious violations, $118,000 in penalties proposed.

OSHA's enforcement action against Industrial Packaging Corporation, a corrugated packaging manufacturer, stems from an incident that led to the amputation of three fingertips of a 23-year-old worker -- a preventable injury if only the employer had trained workers at the Arcadia, Wis., facility in proper safety procedures to prevent the chopping blade from operating while clearing a jam, according to the agency.

OSHA has cited the company for one willful and eight serious safety violations, finding that energy sources to the chopping blade were not isolated, allowing it to cycle as the employee was attempting to clear a jam. The agency has proposed $118,000 in penalties in the case.

"Training workers and using blocking and locking devices, as required by OSHA standards, would have prevented this young man's hands from coming in contact with the operating parts of the machine," said Mark Hysell, OSHA's area director in Eau Claire. "Workers should never reach inside the danger zone of a machine without de-energizing it and using lockout/tag out procedures to prevent a sudden startup."

OSHA reported it also found Industrial Packing Corporation failed to train workers on the wear and use of cut resistant gloves; to place chopper and notcher blades in safe positions during set-up and maintenance; to review energy control procedures with employees at least annually; or to install adequate machine guarding on blades, sprocket wheels, chains, and horizontal shafts.

Amputation hazards are among the most frequently cited OSHA violations, according to the agency.
Can a new technology revive the Pacific Northwest’s lumber industry?

This question was posed recently on National Public Radio. A short report featured the emergence of CLT (cross-laminated timber) for building construction, a product said to be as strong as steel. Click here to listen.

According to D.R. Johnson, the Riddle, Oregon-based producer of CLT:

*Cross-laminated timber (CLT) is a mass timber product used as an alternative to commonly used building materials like steel, masonry or concrete. It is an engineered wood panel typically consisting of three, five, or seven layers of dimension lumber oriented at right angles to one another and then glued to form structural panels with exceptional strength, dimensional stability, and rigidity.*

D.R. Johnson received the first U.S. industry ANSI certification from the American Plywood Association (APA) - The Engineered Wood Association, to manufacture cross-laminated timbers (CLT). This even marked the culmination of a two-year development process made possible by numerous critical partnerships.

Click here to listen to the report from NPR.
Further Reading

Ingrid Faber - A forklift as a driver of innovation
Why supply chain transparency is more important than ever
Big data analytics and the evolution of the supply chain
Pallet concerns expand beyond sanitation, sustainability

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Upcoming Events
www.unitedfresh.org


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!