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Moving forward-AHEC

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Executive Director



Successfully “Promoting American Hardwoods” is our industry’s ongoing challenge. In his presentation at HMA’s recent National Conference and Expo, American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) Executive Director, Mike Snow, discussed several AHEC initiatives that have done much to improve how the world perceives American Hardwoods.

New Applications are Key

Research and testing continue regarding **Heat Treatment** of American Hardwoods for exterior applications. Cladding, windows, decking are all in the mix, and thus far, ash, tulipwood (yellow poplar), soft maple and even quarter sawn red oak produce good results. The long-term goal – the wide use of American Hardwoods in external joinery. See “**Infinity Bench**” at www.americanhardwood.org for more.

Because of its innovative use of tulipwood in **cross-laminated timber** technology and its highly publicized transparency in product design and building, the remarkable “**Endless Stair**” project continues to make waves with specifiers across Europe. The landmark application clearly demonstrates that hardwoods do have a role in construction and structural design- because of greater strength and performance - and that they can compete on cost.

Capitalize on “Green” credentials

A groundbreaking development for the U.S. hardwood industry is AHEC’s development of the **American Hardwood Environmental Profile** (AHEP). The AHEP brings together, in one shipping document, specific species data on legality, sustainability and environmental impact.

Without significant cost, and more importantly, in alignment with the requirements of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), this useful tool will provide our industry the ability to trade accurate LCA data for every American hardwood shipment, thus making it easier for European companies to develop Environmental Product Declarations (EPD’s) for hardwood products made from American Hardwoods.

With the AHEP, Snow said, “U.S. hardwood suppliers will be the first wood suppliers, perhaps the first suppliers of any mainstream commercial material, to provide comprehensive environmental impact data with every delivery.”

To view the complete presentation, HMA members should visit the **Members Only** section at www.HMAmembers.org.

Infinity Bench photo courtesy of the American Hardwood Export Council