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At the Crossroads of Today & Tomorrow

Will Mass Timber products play a role in the future of the hardwood industry? At HMA's recent National Conference and Expo in Greenville, that question, plus others related to it, was posed during Patrick Donahue's presentation, "**Hardwood Mass Timber – Overview on the Processes, the Products, the People, and the Potential.**"

Patrick Donahue is a wood scientist and Wood Products Program Director, University of Minnesota Duluth - Natural Resources Research Institute. As he sees it, hardwoods do indeed fit into the future of CLT. The U.S. Forest Service wants Mass Timber to succeed. Much HCLT (hardwood cross laminated timber) research has been, and continues to be conducted. And a vendor base is in place, producing machinery and systems for the woodworking industry.

For the hardwood producers in attendance, looking to position themselves for 'what's next' for the industry, Donahue reminded them that Mass Timber is more than grand scale CLT (Cross Laminated Timber) panels. And he encouraged them, as they consider business expansion potentials, to consider the hardwood CLT options - **Glulam, Nail Laminated Timber, Dowel Laminated Timber** - that require less oversight and that are less cost-prohibitive.

There are significant open issues, Donahue said. Fire resistance and dimensional stability performance issues need further research. And from an economic perspective, the question is, can the hardwood industry produce HCLT that is competitively priced?

Going forward, Donahue urged interested stakeholders to learn as much as possible about CLT, referring them to [The CLT Handbook](#), and the [ANSI/APA PRG 320: Standard for Performance-Rated Cross-Laminated Timber](#).

For the PowerPoint and audio recording of Donahue's presentation, visit the **Members Only** section of www.HMAmembers.org.