

The Link



The Newsletter of the Hardwood Manufacturers Association

January 2014

Last chance for NatCon Registration Discount

If you have yet to take advantage of the 'early bird' Registration discount, the question is, "what are you waiting for?" HMA members who register by **January 10** can attend the 2014 National Conference and Expo in Savannah, March 12-14, at the discounted rate of **\$395**. So why delay? Take advantage of this **\$50 members only** savings, today.

Online registration is easy. Simply log onto www.HMAmembers.org and follow the **Early Bird Registration** prompts. Or, if you have questions, do not hesitate to call the HMA office, 412.244.0440, for our assistance.

What other National Conference details are available at www.HMAmembers.org?

Glad you asked.

Room reservations for the Hyatt Regency Savannah can be made [online](#). Plus, check out which industry suppliers will be participating in the Expo.

And of course, the Program

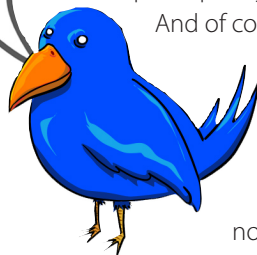
Schedule - dates, times and session topics - is also at your fingertips,

not to mention the ever growing list of generous National Conference

and Expo Sponsors!

The clock is ticking. Register to attend, today!

**Get the worm!
Early Bird Registration
ends January 10!**



JUNE

2014

Mark Your Calendar!

**Lake States Regional Meeting
Wausau, Wisconsin
June 11-12**

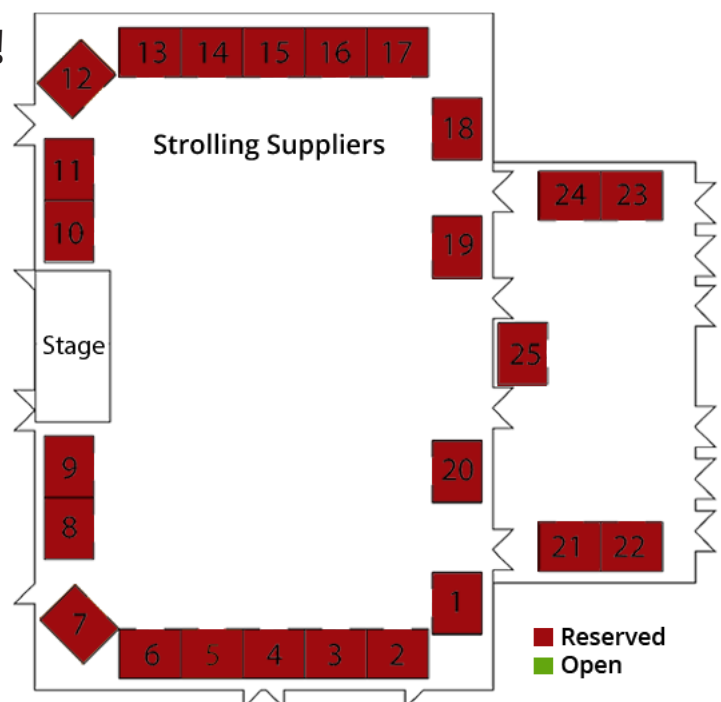


**Confirmed Tours:
Kretz Lumber Company, Inc.
Tigerton Lumber Co.
Menominee Tribal Enterprise (MTE)
McDonough Manufacturing Co.**

Exhibitors in Savannah-what a group!

To date, these companies will be exhibiting at the HMA National Conference & Expo, March 12-14:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 ISK Biocides, Inc. | 17 Pierce Construction & Maintenance |
| 2 BBandT Insurance Services | 18 Pennsylvania-Indiana Lumbermens Mutual |
| 3 Industrial Vision Systems, Inc. | 19 Progressive Industries |
| 4 Nicholson Manufacturing Ltd. | 20 C.S. Industries, LLC |
| 5 Brunner-Hildebrand | 21 Baxley Equipment Company |
| 6 Brewco, Inc. | 22 McDonough Manufacturing Co. |
| 7 Lonza Wood Protection | 23 Automation & Electronics USA, LLC |
| 8 SII Dry Kilns | 24 TS Manufacturing |
| 9 U*C Coatings Corporation | 25 Taylor Machine Works |
| 10 USNR | |
| 11 USNR | |
| 12 Cleereman Industries, Inc. | |
| 13 Equipements PHL | |
| 14 Wood-Mizer, LLC | |
| 15 Buckman | |
| 16 Kop-Coat | |



Even more National Conference sponsors!

Why all of the excitement about being a National Conference Sponsor? Consider asking one of these generous HMA member companies.



At the **Gold Sponsor** level is Buchanan Lumber Birmingham, Aliceville, Alabama! This show of support tells us that past HMA President, Bill Buchanan, continues to find value in HMA's programs and the extraordinary networking opportunities available through the association.

(www.buchananhardwoods.com)



At the **Gold Sponsor** level is Bill Hanks Lumber Company, Inc., Danbury, North Carolina! To past president, Jeff Hanks, and all of the fine folks at Bill Hanks Lumber, thank you for this show of confidence and support.



At the **Silver Sponsor** level is "repeat" sponsor Frank Miller Lumber Company, Inc., Union City, Indiana! Your sponsorship helps reduce conference overhead and also enables us to expand our American Hardwood Education/Promotion efforts. Thank you for stepping up to the plate, again.

(www.frankmiller.com)



And at the **Bronze Sponsor** level of support is "repeat" sponsor T & S Hardwoods, Inc., Milledgeville, Georgia! Thank you Larry and Trisha! We're heading to your home state. Hoping to see you, and Nathan, in Savannah. (www.tshardwoods.com)

If you would like to participate, simply call the HMA office, 412.244.0440, to lock in your preferred level.

Supporting the industry that we love

We'd like to thank and recognize all who have contributed to HMA's Education/Promotion campaign. Your support has aided us in our ongoing efforts to elevate American hardwoods as the building and remodeling material of choice. And as we begin this New Year, we look to all industry stakeholders to assist in the effort. Let's make 2014 an extraordinary year by working together to promote the product and industry that we love.

For the period December 15, 2012 through December 15, 2013, thank you to these generous contributors:

HMA Member Contributors

Anderson-Tully Co.
BWP Hardwoods, Inc.
Baillie Lumber Co.
Beal Lumber Co.
Bill Hanks Lumber Co.
Brenneman Lumber Co.
Cersosimo Lumber Co.
East Perry Lumber Co.
Frank Miller Lumber Co.
J.T. Shannon Lumber Co.
Jerry G. Williams & Sons, Inc.
RAM Forest Products
T & S Hardwoods
Turn Bull Lumber

Non Member Contributors

Champlain Hardwoods
Corley Mfg.
Cotton-Hanlon, Inc.
Good's Millwork, LLC
Hardwood Market Report
National Hardwood Magazine
Pennsylvania-Indiana Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company
Reel Lumber
SII Dry Kilns
Swaner Hardwood Co.
W.M. Cramer Lumber Co.
Woodus K. Humphrey & Co.

A message from HMA's President

I will always believe that a "forward thinking" mindset is the mechanism for getting and staying ahead. And those who know me well will confirm that "forward and fast" has always been my style. (There has been the occasional "crash and burn," but most of the time, it has proved me well.)

It's no surprise then that during my two years as HMA President, "forward thinking" has been my mantra. Yet now as my term winds to its close, I find myself "thinking back" and reflecting on what has transpired during my tenure. I ask that you "reflect" with me on what I feel were accomplishments for this, our "forward thinking" association.

- An overall successful shift in the **direction** of the HMA, its relationship with its membership and its position in the industry
- The successful restructuring of HMA **dues** to proportionately align with production rates of our membership
- A clear focus on the future with the establishment of the **Millennial Council** - our next generation of hardwood manufacturing leaders. Their role is to offer 'next generation' concerns and insights to the HMA Board, while we provide a learning/mentoring platform to develop them as the future leaders of our industry. Many thanks to Terry Brennan who serves as Council Coordinator to these bright and energetic young people.
- Enhanced **Member Services** – Equipment Information Center, Discussion Forum, Industry Calendar, and other online assists – via the redesigned and now interactive member website, www.HMAmembers.org
- Ongoing **promotion** of solid American Hardwood products via the American Hardwood Information Center as well as HMA's evolving **social media** activity on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest

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An online resource for OSHA's Forklift training?

What sawmill doesn't utilize a variety of powered industrial trucks? They're part and parcel to daily operations and a commonplace site at every facility. But there's nothing commonplace or 'run-of-the-mill' when forklift safety is at issue.

Most everyone knows the general rules of thumb when it comes to forklift operation and safety:

- Before using a forklift, **examine it** for hazardous conditions which would make it unsafe to operate.
- Wear a seatbelt and drive safely; never exceeding **5 mph**; slowdown and use caution in congested areas.
- Operators must be at least 18 years of age.
- **Covers and/or guardrails** must be provided to protect operators and all workers from open pits, tanks, vats, ditches and other workplace hazards.

And you also know that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), mandates that employers provide OSHA compliant training to employees, temporary or permanent, assigned to operating a forklift. But did you know there is an online resource, ForkliftCertification.com, that can assist with OSHA compliance efforts regarding forklift certification and training?

OSHA forklift training requires:

- **Formal instruction** – lecture, written material, interactive computer learning, discussion – conducted by a certified trainer.
- **Practical training** consisting of demos by the instructor and exercises practiced by the trainee. Training needs to be specific to the workplace and to the type of equip-

ment that the trainee will actually be using, in addition to being compliant with OSHA forklift certification requirements.

- **Evaluation** of the trainee's knowledge of and performance in two specific categories.
 - **The specific equipment:** The differences between the powered industrial vehicle and a car, the capacity and stability of the forklift, how to refuel and/or charge the batteries, operating the engine or motor, maneuvering the vehicle around the workplace, vehicle inspection and maintenance, location and operation of controls, limitations of the vehicle, etc.
 - **The workplace environment:** The characteristics of the surface/floor that the vehicle will be used on, the composition and stability of the types of loads that will be transported, stacking and unstacking of loads, the nature of the expected pedestrian traffic, the layout and widths of aisles, hazardous environmental conditions, etc.
- **Refresher training** conducted whenever an operator has been observed operating the vehicle in an unsafe manner or has been involved in an accident. Plus, each operator's performance should be re-evaluated, even if incident free, at least once every three years.

Bottom Line: It's the employers' responsibility to comply with OSHA's workplace and wellness standards. (www.osha.gov/SLTC/poweredinustrialtrucks/) And modern technology can assist in that effort. To learn more about online OSHA compliant forklift training, visit www.ForkliftCertification.com.



Daily Checklist

As part of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) "ongoing effort to assist employers and employees in ensuring that a safe and healthful workplace is provided," sample daily checklists for powered industrial trucks have been made available at www.osha.gov.

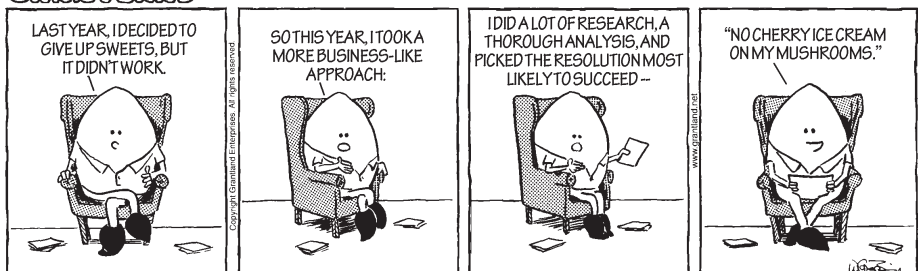
And while each type is unique and requires operator training, specific to the manufacturer's instructions regarding vehicle inspection, operation and maintenance, OSHA's 'generic' forklift checklist, intended to serve as a guide only and by no means totally inclusive, is a handy resource to have at your fingertips.

- Are there broken welds, missing bolts, cracked, bent, worn or damaged areas in the **Overhead Guard** or **Mast Assembly**?
- Is there leakage or damage to the lift, tilt, and attachment functions of the **Hydraulic Cylinders**? Or is there damage, kinks, rust or squeaking to the **Lift Chains** and **Rollers**?
- Are the **Tires** showing wear - large cuts around their circumference, missing pieces of rubber or missing lugs?
- Is there excessive free play in the **Steering**? Or if the **Brake** pedal goes all the way to the floor when brake service is applied – forward or reverse – that's indicator #1 that the brakes are bad!
- Is the **Propane Tank** guard bracket properly positioned and locked down? Is the hose frayed, kinked, pinched or damaged? Should any gas odor be detected, turn off the tank valve and alert the appropriate manager.
- Use caution when checking **Engine** fluid levels – oil, coolant, transmission fluid – using a glove or cloth for hand protection, standing to the side with your face turned away, and always when the engine is cool.
- Are gauges, lights, horn, windshield wipers, seat belts, tow hook, control lever, etc. working?

Download your checklist, today, and work safe!

JUST FOR LAUGHS

GRANTLAND®



Hardwood Federation Update

Happy New Year from the Hardwood Federation!!

by Dana Lee Cole

Hardwood Federation Executive Director

2014 promises to be a busy year and the Hardwood Federation (HF) is up to the challenge, eager to dive in and ready to make progress for the hardwood industry in the halls of Capitol Hill. But first, some comments regarding 2013.

While it often felt like we were playing more defense than offense, a high note of the year was the Department of Defense's (DOD) new guidance for their green building policy. The new policy accepts multiple green building certification programs, allowing for greater inclusion of wood and wood products in DOD building projects. This has been a long time initiative of the HF and our many industry association partners, and was indeed a bright note to end the year.

But 2013 also ended with a number of issues unresolved and the path forward



unclear. At the top of the list is the **Farm Bill**. Negotiations for a five-year bill will stretch into 2014. The good news is that many of the programs important to the industry - Market Access Program (MAP), Foreign Market Development Program (FMD), the fix to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's bio-preferred labeling and procurement program so that it doesn't arbitrarily disqualify traditional U.S. wood products - appear to be included in

the bill that will be taken up this month. On a less positive note, the provision that would codify forest roads as non-point sources of pollution

faced some opposition as Congress left for the year end break.

Ultimately, we'd like to see a five-year Farm Bill signed by the President. We're joined in that hope by many key members of Congress, on both sides of the aisle, as well as members of the Administration. During the recess, we were in constant contact with our allies in both the House and Senate, pushing for agreement. Time will tell. We'll stay on top of this issue and hope to report good news early in 2014.

Other 2013 efforts included:

- Supporting implementation of the **Lacey Act** and opposing Congressional efforts to weaken its illegal logging provisions
- Efforts to ensure that **bio-mass** emissions are treated fairly
- Supporting language in the proposed comprehensive **energy bill** that allows the Government more flexibility regarding green building systems to rate new federal construction projects
- Efforts to improve management of federal lands

All issues that will require careful attention in 2014!

I wish you a happy and successful 2014 and look forward to working with the HMA and its members to effectively represent the industry. For more about the HF and our efforts on behalf of the industry, visit us at www.hardwoodfederation.com.

A message from HMA's President

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■ Enhanced **industry presence**, promotion and support - across the U.S., on Capitol Hill, overseas - through the efforts of HMA officers and industry association affiliates

These significant strides forward are due, in large part, to the experience and hard work of HMA's Executive Vice President, Linda Jovanovich. She unites us, serves us, directs us, inspires us, educates us, and appreciates us. But above all, she cares deeply for us and our industry. She's an exceptional leader and a friend that I will cherish for life.

And she leads a second-to-none team. With Darleen as her "right arm" and Courtney adding to the staff, the level of professionalism, talent and service is extraordinary. I've never worked with a team that equals them. And should you have the opportunity to work closely with these "super women," you too will be very fortunate. This is your HMA and they make it something for which we should all be very proud.

MOVING FORWARD

Because HMA has always cultivated a professional and proactive atmosphere in which members were encouraged to offer ideas, openly discuss options, agree and respectfully disagree, the association has weathered many storms. But through them all, it was clear that we - the association - were in this boat together. And in order to sustain the association, we charted a course, set our compass, trimmed our sails and proceeded toward our goal(s), with "forward thinking" and fast actions.

As we head to our National Conference and Expo in Savannah, I look forward to seeing you all as we welcome the next HMA captain at the helm, Skipper Beal. - Forgive the nautical analogy. I couldn't resist. - And whatever storms may lie ahead, I encourage all members to assist the HMA in charting its course. Thank you all for your hard work and support.

... Jack Shannon, Jr.

HMA LINK is published each month exclusively for members of the Hardwood Manufacturers Association. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the HMA; *HMA Link* welcomes comments and questions.

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