

The Strand Board

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News for the OSB Industry - Published by the Structural Board Association.

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2005 Annual Spring Meeting

The SBA held its 2005 annual spring meeting at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, in Banff, Alberta, from April 19 to 21. About 40 SBA members and guests were in attendance. Speakers at the Research Forum included local motivational speaker Kevin Burns, Patricia Mohr of Scotiabank, Bernard Fuller of RISI, Rob Wellwood of the ARC, YH Chui of UNB, Guylaine Desmarais of Concordia University, and Sean Goldie of Vancouver.

A mini trade fair was held during the welcome reception, and we would like to thank again our associate members for co-sponsoring this event, namely BASF, Borden, Canadian Willamette, Eugene Forest Systems, Huntsman, NGM, Tembec Resins and Valspar. A special thank you goes to Michael Adams of Huntsman, who was actively involved in the planning of the meeting and the mini trade fair.

A major resolution made during the Board meeting was to start the planning and organization of OSB World Symposium III to be held in May 2006 in the Miami, Florida area. A first notice and call for papers has already been sent out.

The delegates all enjoyed the spectacular scenery (see below) and the Brewster's Pit barbecue with Alberta prime rib beef dinner and western style entertainment. Please contact the SBA if you want to receive some of the pictures taken in Banff. Alternatively, all the pictures together with the speakers' presentations will be posted soon on the members only section of our web site.



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Ron Baker Award Goes to Grant Forest Products

The Ron Baker Award ceremony took place during lunch at the 2005 Annual Spring Meeting in Banff. Bob Rosebrugh was on hand to accept the 2004 award on behalf of the Grant Forest Products Engelhart Mill, who won the award for a third time. Congratulations to all Englehart employees for their solid performance.



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CSA Standards Update

After two more meetings of the CSA Task Group on Panel Products, and input received from the Technical Committee, a draft (Draft G) of the proposed new version of CSA-O325 was submitted for a second time to CSA. This draft, as mentioned before in this newsletter, will contain a reference to and adoption of the US PS 2-04, with certain Canadian deviations, for plywood products and for panel grade marking to be consistent with Canadian

practice. It appears that consensus was reached in the task group, however some further editing will be required to follow CSA editing guidelines in the case of adoption of another national standard. The process will now require a committee ballot as well as a public review phase sometimes in the Fall before the standard can be adopted.

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Trade Show Update

Since the publication of our last newsletter, SBA staff participated in seven more trade shows: the Vancouver and Boston Wood Solutions Fairs, the JLC Live Construction Show in Anaheim, the Detroit Wood Solutions Fair and the AIA National Convention and Exhibition in Las Vegas, NV. Total pieces of literature distributed was 3225. About 500 pieces of literature were also distributed on our behalf at Interzum in Cologne, Germany and the Mountain States Building Products Expo in Denver, CO.

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EU Announces Requirements for Wood Packaging Material

The following article of interest was recently published in a Fedex newsletter. To read the article click on this [Link](#)

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Forest Product Society Presentation

Staff participated in the recent FPS Eastern Canadian Section annual meeting held in North Bay, ON, where we made a presentation on "OSB markets and new products". Anyone interested in a copy of the slides in PDF format is welcome to make a request by e-mail. The one-day workshop also included other topics of interest, including but not limited to OSB performance in I-Joists, and Biotechnology for Air Pollution Control. The meeting concluded with a tour of an LVL plant and RF Vacuum Kiln in the area.

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Virginia Tech Develops Tool for School Students

Elementary and middle school students can take advantage of an award-winning hi-tech way to learn about forestry using the 4-H Virtual Forest from Virginia Cooperative Extension.

The 4-H Virtual Forest is an interactive, web-based learning experience that introduces forest management concepts to youth ages 9 through 13. The 4-H Virtual Forest has seven learning modules: land-use management, renewable resources, photosynthesis, tree identification, succession, tree measurements, and timber harvesting. The modules complement 4-H project work in forestry and are consistent with the Standards of Learning for Virginia public schools. The 4-H Virtual Forest also includes user's guides, student activity sheets, teacher answer sheets, additional resources, and SOL links for each module.

The 4-H Virtual Forest can be found at the following [Link](#).

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University of Tennessee Course on Statistical Process Control

Below is a notice of the Continuous Improvement Statistical Process Control course that will be held at The University of Tennessee starting on November 15, 2005. This course introduces many key concepts that your company may be interested in such as control charts for measurement and attribute data, capability analysis, Components of Variance, etc.

This course has been rated as "excellent" by more than 90% of past participants and is tailored specifically for the wood products industry. All candidates will be required to do a "real-world" project at their respective

manufacturing facility. Companies that have participated in the course have included: ATCO Corp., Boise Corp., Borden Chemical Inc., Georgia-Pacific Corp., Georgia-Pacific Resins, Inc., J.M. Huber Corp., Louisiana Pacific Corp., PCA of America, Plum Creed MDF, Weyerhaeuser Corp., and Whitson Lumber Company.

This course is available two times per year. If this is something that is of interest, the best way to sign up is online at www.spcforwood.com.

Please feel free to contact Timothy Young at 865.946.1119 or tmyoung1@utk.edu if you have any questions or require any additional information.

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Industry News

According to a recent Random Lengths report, Ainsworth Lumber Co. has announced that it is ready to proceed with a \$C200 million expansion of its OSB mill near Grande Prairie, Alberta. The project will increase annual production capacity by about 600 million square feet (3/8-inch basis). When completed in early 2007, annual production capacity will be nearly 1.3 billion feet, according to the company.

OSB producers are forecasting mild production gains this year, and sharper increases over the next couple of years, according to a Random Lengths survey of OSB mills

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