WHO'S WHO - Norton

Continued from page 20

located in West Vancouver, B.C., he received a bachelor's degree of Business and Administration at Capilano University in North Vancouver, B.C., and an International Business Diploma from Sup de Co Amiens located in Amiens, France

Norton enjoys wakeboarding, hiking, skiing, and watching hockey games in his spare time

Skana Forest Products is a member of the North American Wholesale Lumber Assoc. (NAWLA), BC Wholesale Lumber Assoc., Western Red Cedar Lumber Assoc. (WRCLA), Florida Building Supply Assoc. and the Temperate Forest Foundation for Research and Education.

WHO'S WHO - Vigneux Continued from page 2

Inc. produces panel products that include MDO, sheathing, imported products, Softwood and hardwood lumber in assorted species and dimensions.

Services offered by the company include Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Forestry Stewardship Council, and Sustainable Forestry Initiative certified products. Weston also has an onsite milling facility that remanufactures lumber for 'just-in-time' customers.

Weston Forest Products Inc. is a member of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association, North American Wholesale Lumber Assoc. (NAWLA), CanadianWood Pallet and Container Assoc. and the Quebec Pallet Assoc. For more information visit www.westonforestproducts.com.

Of joining Weston, Vigneux commented, "There is a great atmosphere and a lot of positive energy here. The motto "We refuse to participate in a recession" inspires a positive attitude within the company."

A graduate of Don Bosco Secondary School in Etobicoke, Ontario, she acquired her bachelor's degree at Humber College, also in Etobicoke.

Vigneux and her husband Michael, who also works in the forest products industry, have been married for seven years and have three sons. She enjoys cooking, running, photography and entertaining friends and family in her spare time.

APA NEWS -

Continued from page 2

Florida, July 23, home builders and designers were invited to compete for the chance to design and build an award-winning raised wood floor home in a competition organized by APA's Gulf Coast promotion team. The event, which drew over 200 home builders and architects, included a full-size demonstration floor and exhibits by 14 manufacturers and local building material vendors. The event launched the first two phases of "Raise the Floor: 2009 Design Challenge," a three-part competition that involves builders, home designers, and homeowners in the Jacksonville area. It is part of the Raised Floor Living program, a cooperative effort between APA and the Southern Pine Council designed to increase the market for raised wood floor construction in the Southeast. The Southern Pine Council is planning the consumer phase, which they've named, "Design Your Dreamhome Sweepstakes."

Other sponsors of the competition include, the Northeast Florida Builders Association, and the Florida Wood Council. For more information, visit www.apawood.org/raisethefloor.

KOLBE & KOLBE -

Continued from page 4

the strict building codes in coastal regions. These products use glass that is designed to stay intact if broken. The K-Force $^{\text{TM}}$ Impact windows are available in wood, aluminum clad and vinyl.

Since 2005, the company has used Lean Management principles – popularized by Toyota Motor Co. – to identify and eliminate waste, improve efficiencies and add overall value. "In Lean, one of the basic tenets is having what you need when you need it," Premeau said. "We've saved over 100,000 square feet of space by condensing products and departments so that things are closer to the employees."

Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork also has implemented approximately 660 safety improvements, resulting in fewer worker injuries and, thus, fewer worker-compensation claims against the company. "That is pretty impressive," Premeau said.

Good equipment is important to the company, "but it must be part of a more comprehensive continuous improvement process to be successful," he said. Kolbe & Kolbe uses equipment manufactured by Ultimizers, Mereen-Johnson and COE Newnes/McGehee.

Kolbe & Kolbe does not use dry kilns. "However, we continuously monitor

moisture content to ensure that our lumber is always at the optimum percentage," Premeau said. "Most of our lumber comes in at the correct moisture content, but if any drying needs to be done, it is air dried."

Rising energy prices and concern about the possibility of global warming have prompted many manufacturers to adopt "green" practices. While Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork does not use a recovery system, it does sell sawdust and other wood scraps to American Wood Fibers, which turns them into various products.

The company belongs to the National Window and Door Manufacturers Association and the Fenestration Manufacturers Association. It introduces new products several times a year, exhibiting at the International Builders' Show, Pacific Coast Builders Conference, Southeast Builders Conference, Greenbuild International Conference and Expo and the American Institutes of Architects show.

To learn more about Kolbe's windows and doors, please call 800-955-8177 or visit www.kolbe-kolbe.com.

MARS HILL -Continued from page 6

oriented background in the forest prod-

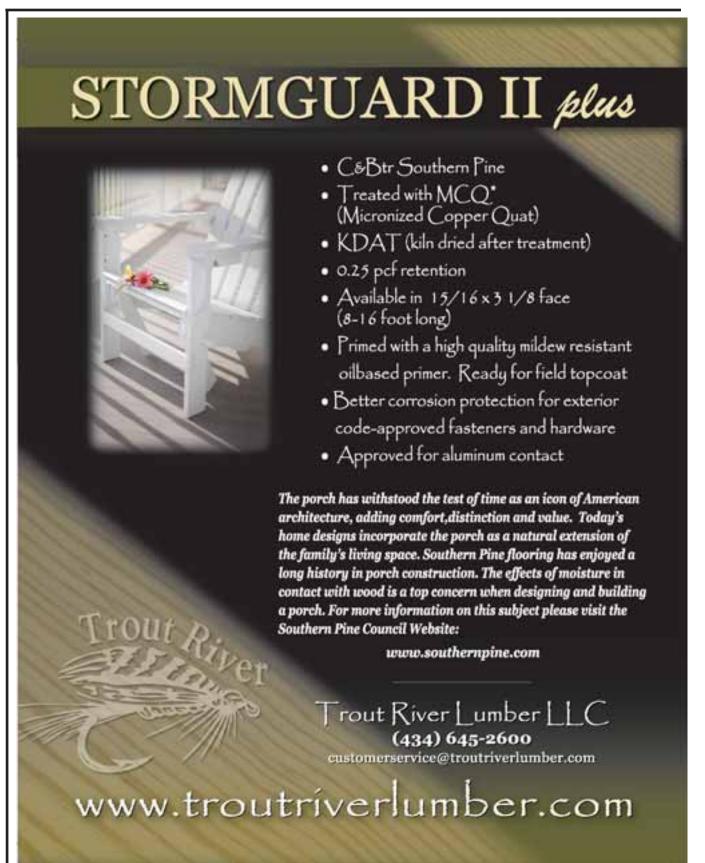
ucts industry. "I was raised selling logging equipment for the family business," he explained. After spending many summers working for his father's logging equipment company, Freeman began as a sales representative selling lumber out of his home. "As an independent agent I represented several hardwood sawmills," he said.

With 14 years experience Freeman currently markets pallet parts for Mars Hill, Inc. "Basically I work inventory, in that I buy hardwood dimension and have it delivered to a lumber remanufacturing plant our firm works with closely," said Freeman. "Then this factory cuts the dimensional lumber into pallet parts and I sell this material to pallet manufacturing customers sell their pallets to retail chain giants such as Sam's Club, Wal-Mart, Winn-Dixie and Kroger."

Freeman also purchases 2x8-2x12, S4S, and kiln-dried Southern Yellow Pine. Noting the present poor economic conditions that the U.S. is experiencing, Freeman said selling pallet parts into the pallet industry is a good market for him and his company. "In a slow economy business is often good in the pallet industry. Pallets move the world. Anything coming in or going from the United States is on a wooden pallet or

Some might consider Wayne Carlisle a

Continued on page 22



MARS HILL-Continued from page 21

"jack of all trades." He began in the forest products industry working alongside his father hauling logs, lumber, chips and other wood products. After 20 years he decided to build his own mechanic shop, which he ran for about six years. Later in his working career he purchased a restaurant, which he currently leases. While running his restaurant, Carlisle also began as a car salesman for a Ford dealer. An interesting side note, Carlisle said his employment with Mars Hill came about spontaneously. " sold Trent's father-in-law a new Ford truck and after multiple trips to Mars Hill trying to sell Trent a new truck, Ernie called me up and asked if I'd like to try my hand at selling lumber and I've been here ever since.3

Carlisle markets Eastern White Pine as well as Appalachian and Southern hardwoods to his customers located mostly in the northeastern region of the country. Also with a diverse background, Joel Gass first began in the industry as a lumberyard foreman for Meredith Lumber Co. in Pensacola, Fla. Later he would move to San Jose, Costa Rica where he was a Missionary and taught all subjects as a fourth grade elementary school teacher. Shortly after meeting his wife who was also a Missionary in Costa

Rica, the couple returned to the states. Gass began finishing his education at the University of Southern Mississippi, located in Hattiesburg, Miss. In the meantime he began working for Ernie Clark's family, running a retail lumberyard called M.S. Gatlin Building Supply located in Waynesboro, Miss. Returning to education after receiving his degree he taught tenth and eleventh grade History at Wayne County High School and Clark offered him a job.

Today, Gass buys and sells hardwood blocking, lower grade lumber, furniture frame stock, cants and upper grade lum-

Marshall Wood, a University of Southern Mississippi graduate and twoterm former mayor of the city of Waynesboro, has been a part of Mars Hill Hardwoods since the company's inception.

After working on his family farm raising cattle for many years, Wood became a certified public accountant (CPA). "It was during my tenure as Mayor that Mars Hill was established and I came onboard," he said. "I got started in 2000 and I didn't know a thing about lumber, but I have a love for people. I consider myself service oriented and when I got involved it gravitated toward the flooring industry.

"We are involved in everything we do from the ground up. We do our own invoicing and as Ernie often says, we pride ourselves on having excellent rela-

tionships with both our customers and lumber suppliers. They're both equally important and they've each got their own set of unique concerns. We protect everybody's interest thereby protecting and serving ours as well."

Wood buys and sells hardwoods in the Southeast region. He began working with Mars Hill while serving as Mayor. Comically he explained how during his term in office, citizens of Waynesboro would come into Mars Hill's office. "We had to lock the doors. People were trying to get in during the course of the day with complaints about their garbage not being collected or how a pothole in the road needed to be fixed. We eventually had to post a sign outside on the window at our wholesale lumber business that said, 'No City Business Conducted at Mars Hill'," he laughed. Looking ahead Ernie Clark said Mars

Hill Hardwoods is changing with the economy. "My best investment has always been in my own company. I don't put any money in the stock market. I put it into my own firm and that's why we're a well capitalized Softwood and hardwood lumber business.

In closing Clark said, "We're interested in getting into the export market. If the right person were to come along with expertise in that area I would hire him and we would pursue that market. In fact I'm always looking for good sales people whether they market forest products in the domestic market and/or the overThe Softwood Forest Products Buyer

seas market. I'm always looking to build good relationships with people and I'm open to innovative ideas from others to help my operation grow.

information For more about Hardwoods Mars Hill www.marshallwood.com or contact 866-629-9089.

RETAIL REVIEW -

Continued from page 9

value-added products and services including millwork, engineered wood products, truss manufacturing, windows and installed insulation.

"When the market started turning two when the market started turning two and a half years ago, we decided to do what was necessary to survive," Chief Operating Officer Tom Tolleson told Home Channel News. "Our operational restructuring is virtually complete. Our best alternative was to file for Chapter 1." Theory describes the survey of the control of the 11." Tolleson also said he expects Bison to exit Chapter 11 "no later than December.'

iLEVEL -

Continued from page 10

Weyerhaeuser visit www.iLevel.com or call 888-453-8358.

MIDWEST TRENDS -

Continued from page 11

just not busy enough," he explained. For the coming months he said he expected the downward trend to continue into the winter with hopes of a recovery by spring. "I believe things will start turning around by the spring but I also think a lot more people will fall off the table before then.

According to reports from the Joint Center for Housing Studies the housing market is showing signs of a recovery. The speed, depth and timing of the recovery hinges on the reversal of many variables that include rising unemployment, sinking home values and tightening mortgage credits, along with immigration trends and demand among younger home buyers.

'Although there are some signs of improvement or at least steadiness in new construction and sales, housing starts stand near 60-plus-year lows," the Joint Center's director, Nic Retsinas said. "Any life in home sales is coming from distressed foreclosure sales, temporary first-time buyer tax credits and low interest rates that moved higher in recent weeks.'

The Joint Center's executive director, Eric Belsky added, "The best that can be said of the market is that house price corrections and steep cuts in housing production are creating the conditions that will lead to an eventual recovery. For the present, though, "markets

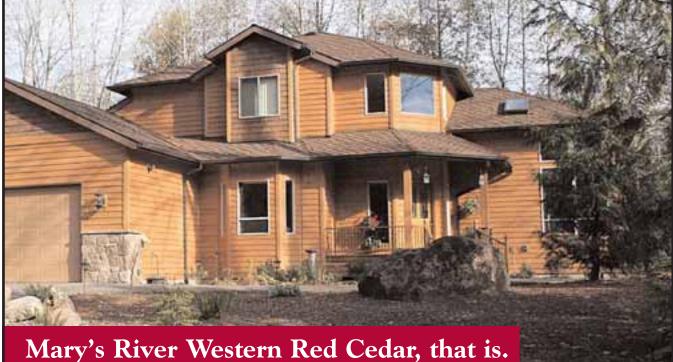
Providing a valuable perspective about a market where households cut their spending and net borrowing, the report showed that more than 14 million homeowners are left with houses worth less than their outstanding mortgages.

Starting in December of 2007 to date, the report showed eleven million people working part-time involuntary or stopped looking for work altogether. The unemployment rate currently stands at 9.5 percent.

Despite the negative factors cited in the Joint Center's report, there is still some optimism found in its content. "While it is too soon to tell whether housing markets will stabilize in 2009, conditions that could support a recovery are taking shape," it states. "Based on today's median home prices, conservative lending standards, and a conventional 30-

Continued on page 23

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MIDWEST TRENDS -

Continued from page 22

year fixed-rate mortgage, affordability for home buyers has returned at the national level and many metro areas.

The Joint Center bases its findings on housing demand on two projections of immigration into the United States. Providing that net annual immigration rises to 1.5 million people in 2020, household growth in America could total as much as 14.5 million between 2010 and 2020. If annual net immigration rises to only half of that pace, household growth during that decade would be closer to 12.5 million or about the same as the previous decade between 1995

PCBC -

Typically the PCBC sprawls over more than one hall at the Moscone Center. This year, however, one hall accommo-



David Crandall and Duane Engard, Cedar Valley Shingle, Hollister, Calif.



Butch and Roberta Bernhardt, Western Wood Products Association, Portland, Ore.

dated the entire event. Back in 2006, when the housing industry was peaking, PCBC attendance topped 35,000 attendees. About 19,000 traveled to the show last year, and latest figures available from PCBC reflect this year's attendance at approximately 14,000.

Among the many speakers at various informational sessions held during PCBC, perhaps analyst John Burns put the current situation in perspective by comparing the gathering of attendees to the finalists in a game of survival of the fittest.

Horace Hogan, chairman of the California Building Industry Association noted during a news conference at PCBC that "every builder I know has laid off most of their staff, and contractors and suppliers we've done business with for years have folded up shop.

It was against the backdrop of somber observations that PCBC celebrated its 50th anniversary. Yet despite the gloom of some, many of the educational/informational sessions dealt with moving forward to a new and prosperous future. which includes green building, social network marketing and collaborations among supplier, builders and architects. Also, a multitude of Gold Nuggest Awards were presented to home building winners, signaling a new era in housing designs. Beyond a doubt, the 2009 winners reflect a trend toward smaller homes, greener and more affordable houses for the future. Many winners even made creative use of existing building shells, transforming them into model homes of the future. Homes that were scheduled to be on tour during the PCBC included Modern by Design homes in Pacific Heights. For information about future PCBC Shows, contact either John Frith at jfrith@pcbc.com or Mike Castillo at mcastillo@pcbc.com.

IDAHO FOREST -



Cal and Doris Pulis, Teton West Lumber Inc., Cheyenne, Wyo.; and Penny and Dusty Hammar Arrowhead Lumber Sales, Inc., Oklahoma City, Okla

The evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres was an opportunity for representatives of Idaho Forest Group to extend their thanks to the continued support of their loyal customers.

The event was held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.

Idaho Forest Group LLC is the largest independent forest products company based in Idaho. The firm owns and operates lumber manufacturing facilities in Chilco, Grangeville, Laclede and Moyie Springs, Idaho. Its mills boast a combined capacity of over 800 million board

more information, visit the company's website at www.idahoforestgroup.com.

WASHINGTON SCENE -Continued from page 2

hazards:

3.) the proposed activities would result

in significant impacts
4.) a NEPA document analyzing this

project must be prepared
5.) they aren't convinced that all live trees will be left and

6.) cable removal of unmerchantable material will create significant impacts justifying the need for an EA or EIS.

They are asking for the following concessions as part of a resolution:

1.) do not re-plant burned areas that are recovering with serotinous species

seeds from local trees within a 500foot elevational band

of the plantation

3.) do not replant moderately burned

4.) plant in a pattern that incorporates gaps and stringers

5.) cable and tractor yarding activities should be avoided

6.) leave at least one-third of every site unplanted and

7.) commercial salvage logging of adjacent Caribou Project Units should not

occur. Over the years the groups have made it clear that they oppose responsible management of removal and utilization of dead trees from wildfires, but now the group also opposes wildfire restoration efforts aimed at ensuring the continuation of forested stands for future genera-



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Manufacturers of Eastern White Pine

Western Business Trends



By Terry Miller Associate Editor

With a surplus of houses still on the market and a limited cash flow, sources in the western region say the market for new construction

remains on the slower side. Demand is spotty, leaving most prices flat or down. Several retail lumberyards are in absorption mode, working off purchases made during a recent run-up of the market. Recent Western SPF sales resulted in double-digit discounts causing a wave effect in competing species in the West and in Eastern Canada. The Softwood Lumber Agreement dispute is also heating up again and as of press time the dates are near for further clarification to be made.

According to a Colorado building materials supplier, the number of houses on the market along with the depreciating value of homes is the largest factor in the slow economy. "People are having to either sell or abandon their homes and the truth is there is currently no room for new construction."

The contact, which markets to prefabricated building companies along with stair manufacturers added that his customers' business is down. "We talk to them regularly and business is way down for them." he explained

down for them," he explained.
Going into the next six months he doesn't anticipate much improvement.
"We are nearing the end of the building season and as things slow down naturally I would anticipate business to remain the same for the remainder for the year. I imagine business will pick up in the spring of 2010," he said. However, the source doesn't look for a significant improvement until 2011.

A stud mill owner in Montana recently closed his two stud mills but continues to supply Spruce and Pine boards. "From the board side of things business has been good for the summer months," he said. "We are beginning to see a little less European Spruce boards on the market, which opens it up for us to move a little further east with our products."

"I think inventories have been relatively low in the field and people are

Continued on page 31

Northeast Business Trends



By Sue Putnam Editorial Director

Northeastern lumber suppliers report more traffic and inquiries than in previous months. In certain areas weather has provided compli-

cations with some reporting rain for most days of the summer months making woodlands wet and logging difficult. Despite recent signs of a rebound in the economy, the Kiplinger Letter warns that prices have an additional 5 to 8 percent drop yet to go before bottoming out at about 40 percent below the 2006 high. According to the National Assoc. of Realtors (NAR) pending home sales are up for the fifth consecutive month for the first time in six years.

In Massachusetts a Spruce supplier said that conditions were improving slightly with more inquiries. "Sales

themselves are not quite as big ticket as when times were better but at least there is more of a traffic flow," he said. "We had a very wet June and July and that had a major impact on things for us. But now that the weather has improved it has helped. Overall the general state of the economy and consumer confidence is the largest concern."

The source noted his inventory levels were getting bigger and for the first time in months he was able to hold more than a "just-in-time" inventory. "With the increase in business we're able to bring a little more in and keep it on hand," he explained. "Prices have been relatively stable; there has been a little movement trending upward but it hasn't held for long."

With fall and winter approaching, the contact is optimistic but also apprehensive as to what those months will bring. "I'm optimistic for a turn around in the spring of 2010, but even in the best of times a hard winter can make for a difficult spring. My major concerns are what lies ahead with the state of business and what mother nature has in store for us. The combination is potentially dangerous but we try to remain optimistic."

In regards to the rising demand of certified products, he said it wasn't impacting his operation much. "We get the very occasional request for 'green' products but in times like these people are more concerned with moving forward. Green is important but it's more important when the economy is better. People may pay 10-15 percent more for it but at the prices they are currently seeking, people's eyes glaze over when you mention it."

An Eastern White Pine supplier in New Hampshire said business has been steady with a 40 to 50 percent increase from six months ago. "We have a large order file and all of our customers are ordering as they normally would. The time of year helped us get a boost in the summer months and enough mills have curtailed that we've seen supply shorten."

Keeping at least a million feet of dried inventory and a million feet of rough inventory on hand, the source said inventory levels have been kept at the normal level. "Log supply is very tight right now and most of that is due to the weather. We had a ton of rain in recently where we only had four days that it didn't rain so the woods are extremely wet," he explained.

As for the next six months the source, who markets to distribution centers, said he expects another downturn by the end of the year. "I think we'll be fine for the next three months but by November I think we're in for another year like 2008."

By the end of 2010, a record of one in six mortgages will be in foreclosure according to the Kiplinger Letter. By the end of 2009, 3.2 million combined with an equal amount next year is three times the typical annual rate. The Letter also states the end is in sight. With both home sales and housing starts turning the corner by 2011, sales of new and existing homes will hit 6 million again. While nothing like the record levels of 2005, they will at least be in normal range. "By 2012 or so, single family home starts may climb back to about 1.2 million a year," Kiplinger's noted.

The NAR reported pending home sales are up for the fifth consecutive month. For the western region the index rose 2.9 percent to 100.4 but is 0.2 percent below 2008.

NAR's chief economist said a combination of positive market factors is involved. "Historically low mortgage interest rates, affordable home prices and large selection are encouraging buyers who've been on the sidelines. Activity has been consistently much stronger for lower priced homes," he said. "Because it may take as long as

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11:15 - Played nine holes.

3:20 - Played nine more. HAIDA Skinl CALL IT THE FUN SIDE OF Who says siding has to be all about straight lines and uniform color? HAIDA SKIRL wavy edge cedar siding adds personality and individuality to your home. And that's something no cement or plastic siding can do. Western Red Cedar gives you natural West Coast Cedar Specialists durability, long lasting street appeal and surprisingly little www.haidaforest.com maintenance. Which leaves more time for the fun things in life. Contact us for the supplier closest to you: 604-437-3434 info@haidaforest.com

Continued on page 31

Ontario/Quebec Business Trends



By Michelle Keller Associate Editor

There seems to be a bit of a level-

ing off taking place across the Softwood lumber industry in Ontario and Quebec, with both mill owners and wholesalers saying that the difficult times of the past year may be hitting a plateau. Still, with the United States' economy not in quite in recovery and foreign markets remaining tentative, purveyors of Softwood lumber remain cautious about what the future may hold.

"I think there is some opportunity for a bit of an uptick, perhaps another 10 or 20 percent this fall," said the owner of one Ontario contractor yard. He said any positive movement is welcome after the past year. "Our marketplace, southern Ontario, has shrunk by 50 percent. Lower overall consumer demand and housing starts have translated into the lower revenue numbers we're seeing right now."

Although he said he sees hope in the fall, he said he is less certain about how long any improvement might last.

"We're moving products and quoting for fall and late fall starts, but I am hesitant to think builders will want to build over the winter because of increased costs," he said. "There are definitely fewer spec units, but I can't predict out more than six to eight months."

As far as what might prompt a turn around of the stagnant market, he cited an increase in consumer confidence, specifically consumers thinking about purchasing a home. Until that time, he said, his company will remain prudent when it comes to inventory.

"We're making sure it's not excessive," he said. "The market kept sliding for two years. We're keeping low inventories of items it would take some time to move."

In the interim, however, he said his company is looking toward adding extra value to the products it does work with, as well as better quality control, less waste, and quicker customer response cycles.

In Quebec, the representative of one mill that primarily cuts Spruce and Balsam Fir said that low inventories have become vital in terms of "prepared" lumber.

"I think the main issue, I would say, is that the prices are low, so my boss doesn't want to sell too much until when it starts getting better," she said. "The prepared lumber inventory is low, but we have some sawn lumber in inventory that has not been dry kilned and prepared. The market is not there, and the price is not there as

Still, she said, the current conditions come as no surprise to anyone who has been in the industry for any time. As her counterpart in Ontario suggested, however, things may be turning around a bit.

"Let's hope so," she said. "We don't really know, but some people in the States have been calling since we've been back from vacation, but it still seems to be kind of slow."

The wholesale end of the business, too, remains tentative. The owner of one Ontario operation said that while SPF remains quiet, white pine is doing better. He said his company sells primarily to retailers and wood specialty businesses, as well as to truss manufacturers in western Canada.

"Well, SPF is very much curtailed, and Pine is still moving at a pretty good pace, but the orders are not as big," he said. "There's not much difference from six months ago."

As far as causes of the slowdown are concerned, he cited a number of factors, including the ongoing recession in the United States. He said a slight rise in Canadian housing starts in early August was cause for some hope, but that he retains a wait-and-see approach.

"Like everything, it has its course," he said. "It will turn around. I have confidence in the everyday consumer."

To that end, he said, his company is not planning on changing its product mix or approach, but will rather ride out this current economic storm as best it can.

"We just leave it at the status quo and let the cycle take care of the business," he said.

One of his fellow wholesalers in Quebec was less sanguine about letting economic patterns dictate his direction, but added that he is confident his company would survive

dent his company would survive.

"It's terrible," he said of the state of Softwood lumber sales. "If you get any other answer, let me know. It's not good for the wholesaler or the producer. From a wholesale perspective,

Continued on page 31

South/Southeast Business Trends



By Gary Miller Managing Editor

Sources in the southeast report signs of a little

'light at the end of the tunnel'. Specialty lumbers are said to be moving better than Commons. Transportation costs are down but other costs, such as insurance and equipment, continue to rise. A new bill imposed by the American Clean Energy and Security Act has the National Assoc. of Home Builders (NAHB) on guard and a Florida economist forecasts an economic recovery by the second half of 2010.

In Alabama a Southern Yellow Pine and Spruce board supplier said market conditions were up by about 10 percent and things were looking up. "There is some demand for housing still out there especially in our section of the country," he said. "Our Cypress sales are growing and specialty lumbers are still moving better than Commons."

The contact, which sells mainly to retail lumberyards, noted that pricing was down by 10 percent compared to a year ago. "Lumber is cheap and I don't see any signs that it's going to move up anytime soon. Most sawmills still in existence and operating aren't able to cut production to create a demand so we see prices staying where they are for the most part," he explained. "Even with the shut downs that have occurred in the Softwood lumber industry there is still a lot of excess lumber on the market."

As for transportation costs, the source said they were down from a year ago but other costs continue to rise. "From a year ago our transportation costs are down considerably but everything else continues to rise. Insurance, tires and equipment costs keep going up and the only thing that is going down is fuel, which isn't offsetting it very well.

"We've seen a lot of closures and a lot of bankruptcies in the types of companies we sell our lumber to," he said. "I think everyone in the wood

Continued on page 31



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September/October 2009 Page 27

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softwood forest products' stock exchange

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softwood forest products' stock exchange

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WESTERN TRENDS -

Continued from page 24

gaining more confidence and are willing to build an inventory, which is helping the market," he noted.

Marketing to distributors, wholesalers and retailers, the source said his clients are cautiously optimistic towards the general outlook for the next six months. "We believe things are going to continue to improve. We'll probably see some dips out there but the trend will generally be up. I'm hoping that we'll see a significant change by the second half of 2010."

According to a recent Random Lengths Lumber Market Report demand has been spotty leaving prices down or flat. The report stated that order files acquired during a recent run-up were largely depleted, leaving some mills able to ship new orders quickly. The report also noted that the distribution system was well supplied overall, but traders noted that drawn-down production left some inventories short of key items. Western SPF traders noted a wavelike effect in competing species in the West and in Eastern Canada. The report noted that SPF 2x4's quotes in the cash market fell into the low \$180's, with transactions reported in the mid-\$170's.

Discussions between the U.S. and Canadian trade officials are beginning to rise again as the time nears for a decision regarding the Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA). During the first case to go before the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), the U.S. accused Canada of failing to properly calculate lumber quotas for exports from the four eastern provinces during the first six months of 2007. Ruling in favor of the U.S., the LCIA said that Canada must "cure its breach" of the SLA. The

adjustment proposed an additional 10 percent tax duty on top of the 5 percent the particular provinces were already rendering. This tax duty was to remain in place until \$US54.8 million (\$C68.26 million) had been collected.

Declining to impose the 10 percent tax duty, Canada countered with an offer to pay the U.S. government \$C.46.7 million which was rejected by U.S. officials who imposed the 10 percent tax that went into effect earlier this year.

Challenging the U.S.-imposed duty, Canada has asked the LCIA for further clarification on the case. A hearing was held in June with the final decision to come by October 2009.

NORTHEAST TRENDS -

Continued from page 24

two months to close on a home after signing a contract, first-time buyers must act fairly soon to take advantage of the \$8,000 tax credit because they must close on the sale by November 30."

ONTARIO/QUEBEC TRENDS -

Continued from page 29

demand is down and the margins are tighter; from the view of manufacturing, it's a disaster."

He pointed to the Canadian export tax as impacting sales to the United States. Domestically, he said there remains "too much wood chasing too few orders and the price just isn't there. We won't be killed by it, but it's

certainly not helping the bottom line," he added.

This sales representative cited some hope in the company's overseas market, a connection they have been nurturing for some time.

"We've been doing it for a number of years; and we've done it as a whole-sale distributor and from a manufacturing point of view," he said. "I wouldn't call it a saving grace, but it has helped. We originally started to do it in the 1970s, and we always continued to do some, even when export was bad and domestic was good. The percentage has gone up, with 60 to 70 percent going off shore, and down to under 5 percent going off shore in certain years. It is somewhere in the middle right now in terms of percentage, but a lot more volume."

At the same time, he said, his company knows that it cannot become complacent, even in the short term. So much depends on the geopolitical forces.

"There's no real way of projecting," he said. "If you're tied into the European markets, you're definitely not going to be doing a lot of volume short term. If you're tied into the eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East, or Iraq, there is a good possibility there will be a certain continuity."

Closer to home, he said the Canadian market remains stronger than the United States, and that a dramatic turnaround in the U.S. may be some time off.

"The U.S. market? Who knows? It's too much wood chasing too few orders," he said. "There's only a certain amount of wood that goes into renovation and outdoor products. Basically it's new home construction that drives the lumber markets, that's the way I see it. If somebody would tell us exactly when the U.S. housing market will come back, that person

could be very rich if he is right."

SOUTHEAST TRENDS -

Continued from page 25

products industry is just trying to hold on and see if they can survive. Not many firms will restart again this time around after closing. Those that do survive will be in pretty good shape next year. I think we will see a significant increase in the sales of our lumber by the beginning of 2010."

Recent gains in stock prices, consumer confidence and building permits are pushing the leading index higher with forecasts the economy will soon start to grow again. "The worst part of the economic decline is behind us," chief economist at Raymond James & Associates Inc. in St. Petersburg, Fla., said. "The economy is still contracting, but is likely to bottom out by the end of the fourth quarter."

Estimates from 55 economists in the Bloomburg survey ranged from a drop of 0.7 percent to a gain of 1.8 percent. A Southern Yellow Pine supplier in Virginia said market conditions were getting better gradually. "Right now people are replenishing inventories, but I don't think the building trade is ramped up enough to say it's turned around," he stated. "Our inventory is down because we stopped production and we're just selling lumber we have on hand. Lumber prices are depressed right now."

Concurrent with others in the region, he said transportation was gradually becoming an issue and added, "As fuel prices rise so do the surcharges. They are better than last year, but

Continued on page 32

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SOUTHEAST TRENDS -

ontinued from page 31

slowly rising again."

The source said he doesn't expect a significant turn around until the second quarter of 2010.

In other news the NAHB is taking exception to a recent bill by the American Clean Energy and Security Act. The bill requires that new homes be built 30 percent more energy efficient than mandated in the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code. The initial mandate plus further improvements in years to come will drive costs up, according to the NAHB.

The association noted that the duty on energy conservation should be on older housing stock, such as the 94 million homes built before 1991 when energy efficiency codes came into effect. "This bill's focus on new-home construction won't get us very far at all," said NAHB Chairman Joe Robson.

"The hard truth is that we can't build our way out of this problem," Robson continued. "We need to make our existing housing stock more energy efficient. We need to reduce our 'plug load'—home appliances, televisions and computers—and make these products more energy efficient."

products more energy efficient."

The U.S. Department of Energy states that homes are responsible for 21 percent of the energy consumed each year. "Forcing more regulation on a fraction of those homes just won't move the needle," Robson noted. "The NAHB National Green Building Program is educating our builders and their customers and providing stringent, third-party certification for all green homes. Our members are eager to go green because that's what their customers want, and building efficiently is a very important part of

sustainable construction.

According to NAHB, Robson has called on Congress to create a better balance in the final legislation, a more reasonable goal such as 30 percent increase in residential energy efficiency by 2012. "This isn't about making it easier on builders. It's about coming up with a solution that makes sense and takes a balanced approach-not one that looks only to new buildings for energy reductions," Robson pointed out. "We are at a particularly fragile point in our economic recovery, and saddling home buyers with additional costs makes it even more difficult to get a mortgage when credit is already tight."

TRADE TALK

Wynndel Lumber Hosts Open House

Wynndel, B.C.—Wynndel Lumber Sales, located here, is hosting an



Sales Manager Dirk Kunze And Sale Representative Chris Schofer

open house for the wholesale/wholesale distribution network on Friday, Sept. 25 and 26, 2009. The firm began producing moulded boards out of its state-of-the-art finishing line approximately one year ago. For the first time Wynndel Lumber Sales is showcasing North America's advanced board line, the LMC 2008 Super Thundermac planer/moulder.

Tours will be organized throughout the company's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified woodlands along with both the sawmill and the new finish lines. A Texas Pit Barbecue will be turning out smoked appetizers, brisket, ribs and chicken. On Saturday, tee times will be given and a small golf tournament will be held featuring prizes at the Creston Golf Club.

The company requests RSVP's by September 4, 2009 to be conducted through email. For more information visit www.wynndelllumber.com or contact 1-877-898-5266.

Anthony Forest Products Receives NAHB 'Green' Seal Of Approval

Eldorado, Ark.—The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center has granted its "Green Approved" product seal of

approval for Power Products to Anthony Forest Products based here.

The mark is intended to provide third-party evidence that building products meet specific scoring criteria for homes seeking certification to the ICC 700-2008



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National Green Building Standard™, a consensus developed standard that

The Softwood Forest Products Buyer

is approved by ANSI (American National Standards Institute.)

"Anthony Forest's commitment to the environment, forest sustainability, and land stewardship have long been part of our family of Power Products as evidenced by having all of our forest lands and manufacturing facilities being certified to the Sustainable Forestry initiative (SFI)," said Kerlin Drake, vice president of marketing. "By having "Green Approved" Power Products for our customers, we have a powerful tool from the NAHB Research Center allowing builders to build with certified building products." Anthony Forest Products Co. is an

Anthony Forest Products Co. is an integrated forest products business incorporated in 1965. The company owns approximately 91,000 acres of timberland in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. It operates Southern Pine lumber producing mills in Urbana, Arkansas and Atlanta, Texas, and wood chip mills in Plain Dealing, La. and Troup, Texas. The company also operates engineered wood laminating plants in El Dorado, Ark., and Washington, Ga. Anthony Forest Products Co. and Domtar Inc. of Montreal, Canada, jointly own and operate an I-Joist manufacturing plant in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

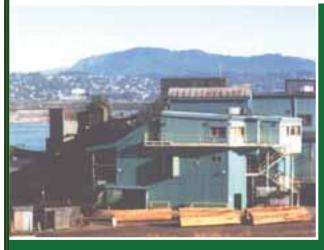
North Pacific To Be Acquired By Leading Private Firm

Portland, Ore.—North Pacific recently announced that it has signed a letter of intent to sell its stock to a nationally recognized private equity firm

"After a thorough review of our strategic alternatives, the company believes the proposed acquisition better positions North Pacific as a leading

Continued on page 33

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TRADE TALK

Continued from page 32



wholesale distributor within North America," said Jay Ross, chief executive officer and president of North Pacific. "The cur-rent market conditions present an exceptional opportunity to strengthen and grow our

company, benefiting our employers.

The transaction is subject to completion of definitive agreements and a number of consents. Closing is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2009.

Founded in 1948, North Pacific is an employee-owned, privately held wholesale distributor of building materials, industrial and hardwood products, wood poles, crane mats and

other specialty products.

North Pacific produces, acquires, imports and exports building products, wood, poles, and agricultural products throughout the 50 states and internationally. The company serves building products retailers, dealers and distributors, furniture and cabinet manufacturers, utility companies, food manufacturers, farm supply retailers and more. North pacific operates with over 30 sales offices and distribution locations nationally.

Boise Engineered Wood Products Achieves SFI Certification

Bolse, Idaho-As part of an ongoing long-term commitment to sustainability Boise Cascade LLC announced it has achieved full certification to the independent Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) chain-of-custody standard for all

Boise Engineered Wood Products plants across North America.

Boise "At Cascade, we've developed a comprehensive chainof-custody system which allows us to track our inventory from responsible fiber sources," said Huston. Denny general sales man-



ager of Boise Engineered Wood Products. "With chain-of-custody certification, Boise Cascade is strengthening our environmental commitment and helping our customers source engineered wood products from well-managed forests."

Boise Building Materials Distribution also recently announced that they have completed the transaction to purchase Total Structural Solutions (TSS), and certain assets of Wood Structures located in Biddeford and Saco, Maine.

According to Stan Bell, president of Boise BMD, the acquisition combines the strenath of Boise engineered wood products and Total Structural Solution's expertise in providing engineering and design for the total structure. Bell said, "We are privileged to have Frank Paul and his experienced, well respected group, join the Boise team."

The newly integrated truss and engineered wood technical sales team will now operate under the name of Boise Structural Solutions. This combined organization will offer a full service package of trusses and Boise manufactured engineered wood from Portsmouth, N.H., Westfield, Mass., and the former TSS (Wood Structures) locations in Biddeford and Saco, Maine.

For more information visit www.boisenortheast.com.

Pacific Western Lumber's Bill McGovern Catches 32 lb. Salmon

Vancouver, **B.C.**—Pacific Western Lumber's Bill McGovern recently caught a 32-pound Chinook



Bill McGovern

salmon fish in an area known as Cape Caution just north of Vancouver Island. McGovern said he was approximately 10 miles south of Rivers Inlet when he caught the enormous fish.

Pacific Western Lumber, also known as Pacwest, was formed in 1985 as a wholesale trading organization serving the needs of industrial and commercial users. The company's primary focus is in Western softwoods while they also have expertise in hardwoods and softwoods from other producing areas, as well as a variety of imported species. Pacwest has two offices located in Lakewood, Wash., and Lake Oswego, Ore.

SFPA Member Co. **Participating In Solar Home Project**

Kenner, La.-West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd., an active Southern Forest Products Assoc. (SFPA) member is among three other companies donating wood products to help build an advanced solar-powered house for an international competition.

The 800-square-foot prototype home called the "North House," will utilize materials and passive solar construction that absorbs heat during the day and releases it at night, which enables the house to produce more energy than it consumes.

"We are interested in performance and sustainability, so wood is a perfect choice for North House—it is a natural, renewable product that delivers the strength and flexibility we need," said Professor Geoffrey Thun of Team North. Team North is an expert team of researchers, academics, students, government and industry professionals from across Canada who are designing and building the

The North House will appear this fall at the 2009 U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. For more information visit www.sfpa.com.

DMSi Welcomes New Customers

Omaha, Neb.—Since the release of Distribution Management Systems, Inc.'s (DMSi) Agility software in 2001, numerous building material distributors and wood product manufacturers have chosen Agility as their software for growth and to help increase profits. Today, Agility is among a top choice for companies choosing software. The combination of a fresh design from the industry partner, advanced technologies, and leveraging the power of the graphical user interface offers a solution for the building material and forest products industry and continues

Continued on page 34



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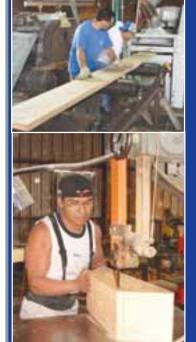


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TRADE TALK

Continued from page 33

to attract new clients.

DMSI recently welcomed the following members to its customer base: East Side Lumberyard Supply Co., Herrin, III.; Savage Wholesale Building Materials, Tacoma, Wash.; Northwest Building Material & Northwest Building Material & Supply, Prairie View, Ill.; Rose & Walker Siding Specialties Inc., Bloomington, Ind.; Banner Supply Co., Youngstown, Ohio; H&S building Material LP, Houston, Texas; BenBilt Building Systems LP, Mount Bloosent, Ban Bichards, Building Pleasant, Pa.; Richards Building Supply Co., Chicago, III.; Arling Lumber Co., Cincinnati, Ohio; Christensen Lumber Inc., Fremont, Neb.; Moehl Millwork, Ankeny, Iowa; and Trimco Millwork Inc., Meridian,

For more information about DMSi Agility Software visit www.dmsi.com.

LACN Annual Convention

Diego, Calif.-The Lumbermen's Assoc. of California and Nevada (LACN) will hold its annual convention here at the U.S. Grant Hotel, Oct. 22-23, 2009. On Thursday the convention will kick off with a game of golf at 12:30 p.m. at Coronado Municipal Golf Course. A board of directors meeting will follow at 3:30 p.m. and convention registration will begin at 4:30 p.m. The opening convention reception will close the day.

Get an early start at 7:15 a.m. on Friday with the Associates Council



meeting, which is open to all LACN associate and affiliate members. The opening session begins with the "State of the Association" at 8:30 a.m. At 9 a.m. education programs begin with "2009 Employment Law Legal Update for Employers." A second education program, "The Future is Your Decision-Making It Through the Great Recession" follows and the Convention Luncheon begins at 12:30 p.m.

The third and final education program, "Government Affairs Update" will be held at 1:45 p.m. and the Associates Reception/LACN PAC Silent Auction and Tabletop Displays will take place at 5:00 p.m. The convention will close with a President's Dinner and Awards Program. For more information contact LACN at 800-266-4344 or lacn@lumberassociation.org.

NRLA Annual Meeting

Castle, N.H.-The Northeastern Retail Lumber Assoc. will host its Annual Meeting here at the Wentworth by the Sea Hotel, Oct. 23 and 24, 2009. The association will introduce its new chairman, Brad Benson and acknowledge extraordinary volunteers on the executive committee and board of

For hotel reservations contact 866-240-6313 and for more information

The Softwood Forest Products Buyer visit www.nrla.org.

APA Safety And Health Award Winners Announced

Tacoma, Wash.-APA, The Engineered Wood Assoc., located here, recently announced the winners of its annual APA Safety and Health Awards.

RoyOMartin Lumber Alexandria, La., received the Innovation in Safety Award. Anthony



Forest Products of El Dorado, Ark., and LP of Nashville, Tenn., each earned Safest Company Awards in their respective categories.

"The inaugural year of the revamped APA Safety and Health Awards has by all measures been a tremendous success," said standing committee chairman Jeff Wagner. Some 90 APA member structural wood panel and engineered wood product facilities in the U.S., Canada and abroad participated in the program. Notably sixteen mills achieved a zero incident rate for the

Award plaques will be presented to the winning mills by APA president, Dennis Hardman and/or other APA management staff. The winning facilities and companies also will be recognized during the Chairman's Dinner at APA's annual meeting in November.

For more information www.apawood.org.

Stock Building Supply **Exits Chapter 11**

Raleigh, N.C.-Stock Building Supply recently exited Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, having gained approval for its financial restructuring from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware.

Reorganized, the company will be a much smaller version of the one that filed for bankruptcy protection. Several locations have been closed with the company pulling out of numerous states, such as Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The firm will now operate in 19 markets where officials believe it has the strongest opportunities to prosper and grow: Washington, D.C.; Paradise, Pa.; Richmond, Va.; Raleigh-Durham, Charlotte and Winston-Salem/Greensboro, N.C.; Greenville and Columbia, S.C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Austin, Amarillo, Houston, Lubbock and San Antonio, Texas; Albuquerque, N.M.; Salt Lake City and Southern Utah; Spokane, Wash.; Northern Idaho; and Los Angeles, Calif.

"This is a great day for Stock," president Joe Appelmann said. "We are emerging with the strongest balance sheet and financial foundation of any of our competitors. We are refocused on our core markets and well positioned for the upturn in the housing market.'

information For more www.stockbuildingsupply.com. September/October 2009 Page 35

WEST COAST TRENDS -

Continued from page 11

demand than it has been in a long time. Things are in balance. There are lots more smiles around our trading floor these days than we've seen in a while." Ron Enyeart, president of Enyeart Cedar, Tigard, Ore., said, "We are going to see more and more curtailments in the fourth quarter. The large Cedar mills indicate this will be tough sledding converting logs into lumber for a while, with more cutbacks between now and spring. Customers are acting like it is winter now, buying only as they need the product. We had a two week bubble in sales two months back, but it has leveled out again. No one wants to pile inventory and everyone wants to hang onto their cash. Purchasing is very specified and we are in a very managed inventory situation. However, we are getting business right now because we have the wood. Cedar prices are higher today than they were a few months ago.

Don Dye, sales manager for Mary's River, Corvallis, Ore., said, "Cedar sales have been a little slow lately on the wholesale side, but home center sales are about the same as last year. There is no urgency in the market and buying is as needed in mixed loads. There is no inventory in the field; everyone wants the mills to hold all the wood. I think that this year winter sales will be better than last year. Last year buyers had large and high priced inventories. They whittled all that down so now they will have to keep coming back to the trough to feed throughout the winter. It will be a more typical winter, I think. We are running our two mills and reman plant full time with no overtime. We will take a week off for Labor Day another week for hunting season and maybe a week at Thanksgiving. I still believe you will see more mills going out of business. Now it is getting down to the best run companies who are working hard; the survivors will be very strong. Because July took a dip in sales, I feel our decent sales levels will continue through September and maybe October, depending on the weather. Cedar prices have adjusted down and I feel we could see a good spring pickup in business. We are coming off two very good years in Cedar before this year. If you throw those two years out and compare 2009 to past years, this year looks pretty average for Cedar sales overall."

Bob Maurer of Swanson Group, Grants Pass, Ore., said, "We have cut overhead and costs significantly and we are moving ahead. We had a decent summer all things considered. Panels have been moving fairly well and still are in mid-August. Commercial and agricultural business has been fairly strong. Even through agricultural bins are made every year, once every three or four years there is a major replacement and this was the year. Some big orders for panels went into the agricultural business and that has helped. Our five sawmills are on one shift and we have cut production. Low grade lumber has been stronger

Billy Gunn, sales manager for Colville Indian Precision Pine, Omak, Wash., said, "We shut our plywood plant down earlier this summer and sold off all of our inventory. We had two or three people in sales and now it is down to me handling sales from our sawmill. Things are tough. We are not going to the NAWLA event this year. We are not spending any money unless we have to"

have to."
Chris Sallee of Pacific Western
Lumber's satellite office, Lake Oswego, Ore., said, "Overall our business is very spotty, though right now it is better than it was the first part of the year. We deal in mostly high end material for such things as log homes and other specialty products and we sell very little in commodity items. Buying is fill in and very mixed. Our sales to distribution yards are stronger than they are to Ace and True Value type customers. Business is not as good as it was this time last year, but we will end the year in the black. One problem we hear a lot about is banks. We are told they do not want to make loans and they are not freeing up dollars. One fact we will all have to deal with is that we have lost so many mills permanently, while it has helped prices strengthen somewhat, we don't know what the long term results of losing those mills will be.'

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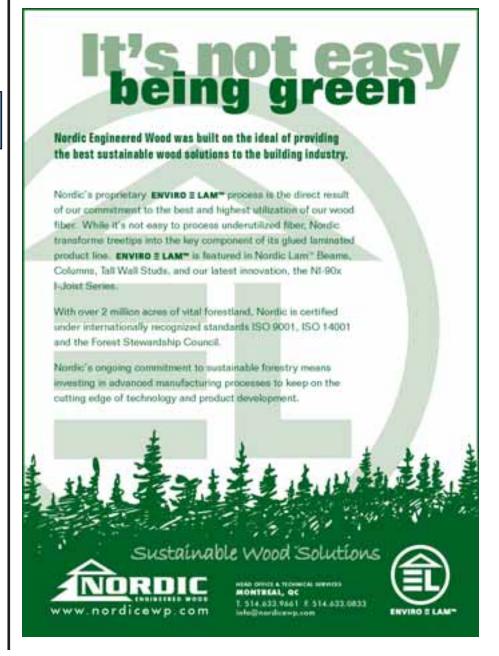


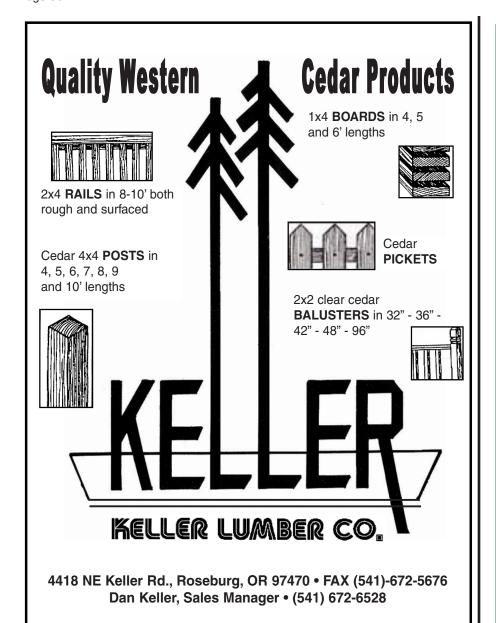
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SOFTWOOD CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

FMC China, Tradeshow, Shanghai. Contact: Softwood Export Council, 503-248-0406. Sept. 9-12.

Global Buyers Mission, presented jointly by BC Wood, the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association and the Cedar Shake & Shingle Bureau, Whistler, B.C. Contact: gbm@bcwood.com. Sept. 10-12.

NAWLA Wood Basics Course, Salbasgeon Suites & Conference Center. Corvallis, Ore. Contact: 800-527-8258. Sept. 12-15.

Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Assoc., Market Outlook & Board of Directors Meeting, Nonantum Resort, Kennebunkport, Maine. Contact: 207-829-6901. Sept. 17-18.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Annual Conference, Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, Nashville, Tenn. Contact: 202-596-3451. Sept. 22-24.

OCTOBER

Association of Millwork Distributors, Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: 727-372-3665. Oct. 7-12. Southern Forest Products Association, Annual Meeting, The Roosevelt, New Orleans, La. Contact: 504-443-4464. Oct. 10-13.

Interbuild 2009, Construction/ suppliers of building materials exhibition, Birmingham, NEC, United Kingdom. Visit <u>www.interbuild.com</u>. Oct. 18-21.

The Lumber Association of California and Nevada, Annual Convention, San Diego, Calif. Contact: 916-369-7501. Oct.

Northeastern Retail Lumber Association, Annual Meeting, New Castle, N.H. Contact: 518-880-6342. Oct. 23-25.

NOVEMBER

North American Wholesale Lumber Association, Traders Market, Hyatt Regency Chicago On the River walk, Chicago, III. Contact: 800-527-8258. Nov. 5-7.

APA, Annual Meeting, The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, Fla. Contact: 253-620-7429. Nov. 14-16.

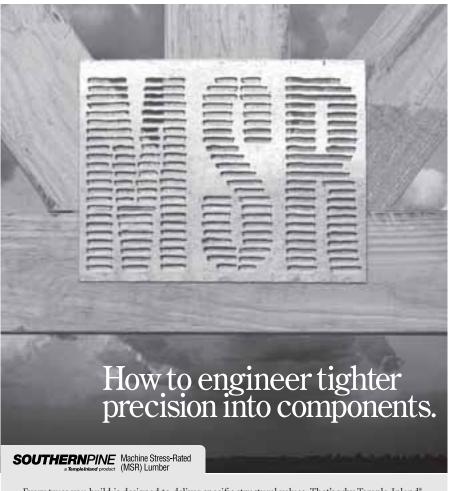


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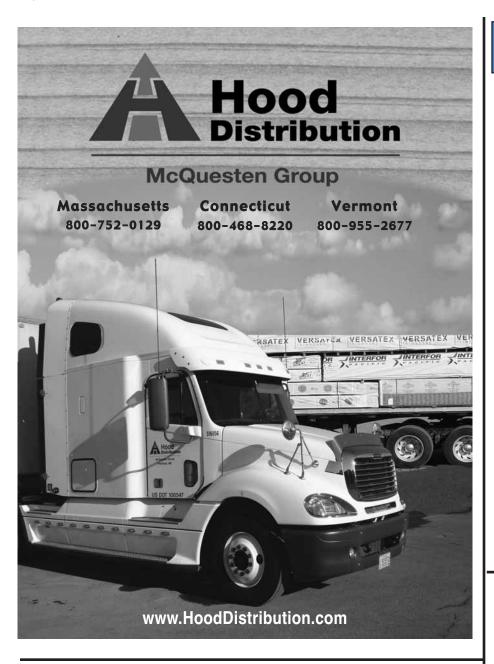
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If interested please send resume to **Delson Lumber LLC**, 2 South 56th Place, Suite 201-E, Ridgefield, WA. 98642 or email humanresources@delsonlumber.com

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