

New Video Available

A video on the wise use of our renewable forest resources as they are transformed from their forest environment to products we depend on daily has been produced by the Louisiana Forest Products Laboratory. This video, written by Dr. Niels de Hoop and JoAnn Doucet, was filmed by Sam Rollason and narrated by Dr. John Tarver of LSU Agricultural Center Communications. The video, *A Tree I See: A Story of Louisiana's Forest Industry*, highlights uses for the number one agricultural crop of Louisiana and the raw material base for the second largest industry in the state. In addition, examples of work at the Louisiana Forest Products Laboratory and in the School of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries are provided. These include activities to help assure the sustainability of this excellent resource and ways to extend its use through efficient processing techniques. The video is available on request from the School of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries. Thank you to all those who participated in the making of this video. ■



Pictured from left to right, a new publication *Woods of Louisiana*, the LFPL video *A Tree I See: A Story of Louisiana's Forest Industry*, and the LFPL brochure. (Ag Center photo by John Wozniak)

New Publication: Woods of Louisiana

Cooperative efforts between the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and Louisiana Forest Products Laboratory have produced a new publication on the various wood species grown in Louisiana. **Woods of Louisiana**, co-authored by Dr. O. Victor Harding and Dr. W. Ramsay Smith, is designed to be a guide for wood workers and other interested persons who want to know more about the characteristics of our native species. Included for each species are physical characteristics, working properties, machining properties, common uses, relative availability, relative cost, and common and scientific names. A color photo of both the unfinished and finished wood accompanies each species description.

A copy of **Woods of Louisiana** can be obtained by contacting Dr. Jim Fowler with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service at (504) 388-4087. ■

History, Current Status, and Future of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Wood Utilization at Louisiana Tech University

Prior to its approval for separate degree status by the Board of Regents in September, 1984, the Wood Utilization program was a long-standing option in Louisiana Tech University's Forestry Curriculum. The first degree was awarded in August, 1985. As with other programs of its kind in the U.S., enrollment declined steadily from more than 20 students in the early 1980s to an all-time low of three students in the fall of 1987. Consequently, the B.S. program was officially terminated by the Board of Regents on May 21, 1994, due to low enrollment and subsequent low completion rates. Students currently enrolled will be allowed to graduate. Fall enrollment figures between 1991 and 1994 increased from 4 in 1991 to 7 in 1994. Graduation numbers over the last five years averaged 1.4 per year. Enrollment and graduation numbers remained fairly stable despite an increase in recruitment activities.

The B.S. in Wood Utilization was the only program of its kind in Louisiana. No duplicate program existed. Termination of this degree has left Louisiana with no undergraduate degree program in this important area. Since Mississippi State University, our nearest competitor for undergraduates, terminated their program in 1993, no comparable program exists in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Texas.

The demand for qualified workers in the forest products industry currently exceeds the supply. This translates into unlimited career opportunities for college graduates in this field, not only today but well into the foreseeable future.

At the time of program termination, one hundred percent of the

program graduates were employed in the forest products industry within three to six months of graduation.

To realize its full potential, the Louisiana forest products industry will require personnel with highly developed skills in marketing, management, and technology of wood to constantly improve product quality, develop new and better products, and develop markets for and sell those products. The trend toward more technical, complex jobs is a reality. University-trained personnel will be needed to fill these jobs. An established program in Louisiana can help train Louisianians to help themselves, rather than depending upon programs in other states.

Unless an undergraduate degree program is maintained to train individuals in the efficient use of wood and those individuals are placed into responsible positions in primary and

secondary wood products manufacturing, it will be difficult for Louisiana to meet the challenges of the future.

In conclusion, we would like to request your input regarding the need for an undergraduate program in wood utilization or forest products. Should the degree program be reinstated, regardless of the number of graduates? Should the program carry separate degree status or should it be a concentration area under the Forestry degree? Should the degree be in the area of higher education where a statewide as well as nationwide shortage of graduates exist? Is the area vital to the economic development of the state of Louisiana? Please address your comments to: Dr. G.H. Weaver, Director, School of Forestry, Louisiana Tech University, P.O. Box 10138, Ruston, LA 71272-0045. ■

<http://www.lsu.edu/~wwwlfpl/>

The Louisiana Forest Products Laboratory has had its own home page on World Wide Web since March 29. World Wide Web is an innovative way of communicating on the Internet. All the information published by the Laboratory is now available electronically around the clock and around the world.

This includes:

- Laboratory mission
- Laboratory's objectives
- research briefs
- fact sheets
- LFPL newsletter
- Louisiana Collection furniture catalog
- coming events
- numerous miscellaneous items
- Louisiana primary and secondary wood industry profiles
- profiles of faculty, staff, students, and affiliates working at the Lab

During the first two months on-line, the home page has had about 1,400 "hits" from Web "surfers" on five continents. If you have access to the Internet, give it a try at <http://www.lsu.edu/~wwwlfpl/>. For more information call Rado Gazo at (504) 388-6432. ■

New Display Area Opened

One excellent way to market products is to provide exposure for these products. One effort of the LFPL is to show the visitors to the Laboratory the variety and quality of products available in Louisiana. A large furniture showroom such as that being established by the Louisiana Furnishings Industry Association in Ponchatoula (to be opened in September) we do not have, but a smaller display area we do. A laboratory on the first floor of the Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Building was therefore converted to an office/conference room/display area this summer. A request for furniture bids were sent out and received to provide a beginning. Allen Schexnaildre of Port Allen was awarded the bid for an executive desk, credenza, and entertainment center; Glen Armond of Alexandria was awarded the bid for a hutch, one executive chair, and two visitor chairs; and William Boesch of New Orleans was awarded the bid for a conference table and an occasional table. The furniture is made from tidewater cypress, and the chairs are cherry.

We are now collecting additional samples of products produced in the state for display, as well as company brochures and other literature. If you would like to provide a sample of your product for display and/or literature on your company, please let us know. Short term loans are certainly acceptable. As mentioned before, we do not have a large amount of space, so smaller items or portions of products, such as a cut-away sections, would be advantageous. If the requests exceed the space, we will rotate display items. All items will have the manufacturer's name and address for clear identification. Thank you for your help. ■



Furniture made by Boesch & Co. (occasional table), Glen's Furniture (chairs), and Woodwork's by Allen (desk & credenza) on display at LFPL. (Ag Center photo by John Wozniak)



Furniture made by Boesch & Co. (table), Glen's Furniture (chairs & hutch), and Woodwork's by Allen (entertainment center) on display at LFPL. (Ag Center photo by John Wozniak)

A Special Thanks to

Mr. Guy A. Parsons of Savannah, Georgia for the African wood sample set. This gift is on display at the Louisiana Forest Products Lab.

Personnel Additions and Changes

The LFPL is continuing to grow, and various changes are taking place. These include one new position for the LFPL and two new replacements in LSU Cooperative Extension Service. The LFPL position will be filled with a person in forest products processing. Responsibilities include conducting outreach and research activities related to the development of the wood-using industry in Louisiana. The smaller secondary manufacturing firms are emphasized. In addition, it is expected that this person will establish a close working relationship with the forest products industry and with other public and private agencies and professional organizations. We currently plan to have applications in by September 15 and fill the position as soon after that as feasible.

Dr. Victor Harding has moved to Starkville, Mississippi where he is now employed with Johnson Tom Bigbee Furniture. We will miss him and wish him well in his new position. His former position as a Forest Products Specialist in Cooperative Extension is currently open and a search is underway. This position is expected to develop an Extension educational program that will serve the needs of the primary and secondary forest products companies. Please let us know if you or anyone you know is interested in either of these positions, and we will send detailed information.

In addition to these positions, candidates for Dr. Alden Main's position in Cooperative Extension are being interviewed and this position should be filled shortly. The combination of filling these positions will provide three new people to work in forestry and forest products for LSU Agricultural Center. ■

Stormwater Project Gets Underway

When we think of water pollution, we tend to think of an old effluent pipe dripping openly into a waterway. This type of activity is now illegal, of course, and great strides have been made to clean up this type of pollution. Now, our nation's attention is turning to other sources of water pollution, such as non-point source and stormwater runoff. As rainwater moves in "sheets" across the ground, it picks up chemicals and particles that may be detrimental to the fish and their food chain in our waterways. Such pollution is especially likely to occur from urban areas, industrial areas, and areas where the ground has been disturbed.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) would like to know if log storage yards and log handling facilities are contributing to water pollution through stormwater runoff and, if so, whether some low-cost methods of preventing that pollution can be developed. Logs are generally clean, natural products, but the concentration of bark falling to the ground and being pulverized under the tires of machinery could cause chemicals to leach out of the bark until they cause problems. Although it seems unlikely that such chemicals will be concentrated enough to cause direct problems, they can "tie up" the oxygen in the water, leaving an inadequate amount of oxygen available for fish and other aquatic organisms.

Dr. Niels de Hoop (LFPL, LSU Ag Center), Dr. Shulin Chen (Civil Engineering, LSU), Dr. Mark Gibson (LFPL, LA Tech), and Dr. George Grozdits (LFPL, LA Tech) are initiating a research project sponsored by EPA/DEQ to monitor stormwater runoff from a few log yards and develop methods of minimizing any

pollutants found in the water. The data will also be used to set standards for DEQ log yard stormwater permits. Several forest products companies have indicated a keen interest in cooperating with the project.

The LFPL has purchased six automatic water sample collectors for this project. These machines can detect rain, start to collect water

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samples when the runoff first starts flowing, and fill up to 24 water-sample bottles according to any pattern that has been programmed into them.

Research Associate Susan Kleit (LFPL) and graduate student David Eisen (Civil Engineering) initiated actual work on the project by assimilating data on log yards obtained from questionnaires. These data give an idea about the size and distribution of log yards. On July 21, the Stormwater & Solid Waste Subcommittee of the Louisiana Forestry Association (LFA) met with the project investigators to gain a better understanding of the project and help locate stormwater discharge sites from log yards that would be appropriate candidates for this project. Dr. de Hoop is also chair of that subcommittee. Any LFA member interested in participating on that committee should contact him. Anyone interested in LFA membership can contact them in Alexandria, LA, at (318) 443-2558. ■



Calendar of Events And Workshops

- August 29-31** **Louisiana Forestry Association 48th Annual Meeting**, Royal Sonesta Hotel, New Orleans, LA. For more information call the Louisiana Forestry Association at (318) 443-2558.
- October 13-17** **1995 National Hardwood Lumber Association Annual Convention**, *Tall Stacks*, Omni Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati Hyatt Regency, Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information call the NHLA at (901) 377-1818.
- August-Dec.** **Louisiana Furnishings Industry Association (LFIA)** holds a monthly meeting at different locations around the state. If you are interested call LFIA at (504) 386-0471 for location and time.
- Sept.-Dec.** **Louisiana Furnishings Industry Association (LFIA)** holds a monthly meeting in Ragley, LA. For more information call Lynn Boddie at (318) 855-7825.



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Louisiana State University Agricultural Center provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.



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