

Machine Stress Rated Lumber Producers Council

MSR Update

Fall Issue

October 2000

MSRLPC ANNUAL WORKSHOP DEBUTS IN EASTERN CANADA

The MSR Lumber Producers Council's Sixth Annual Workshop was held in the historic and beautiful Quebec City, PQ at the Le Chateau Frontenac. The Workshop was held in conjunction with the annual rendezvous of the Quebec lumber industry, Wood Week 2000. Other events included 2nd Annual North American Softwood Conference, 47th QLMA Annual Convention, and 41st Canadian Wood Council Annual Convention.

The conversation was about MSR lumber, but the setting was the same where movie stars and historical notables past the time of day in former years. There's a seat at the bar commanding a view where Erroll Flynn would spend an afternoon sipping martinis and gazing on the deep, swift-running St. Lawrence River.

Britain's Andrew and Fergie, the Duke and Duchess of York, were guests. The hotel had been recommended by his mother, Queen Elizabeth.

Name a world-famous celebrity, star, tycoon or statesman and chances are he or she will have stayed at Le Chateau Frontenac over the span of its 100 years.

Now a select number of us MSR Lumber Producers can count ourselves as special as these folks, and we actually conducted business.

A year in review was presented, that outlined the activity of the Council during 1999, and equipment manufacturers, technical representatives, and others spoke to the general assembly during our very full day of meetings. Jim Logan was asked and accepted a speaking engagement at the North American Softwood Council meeting which was also being held in Quebec City.

The 2001 Workshop Chairs are Jim Kaake and Craig Stuart, with Reed Trull, Griffin Jones, Cathy Clay, Larry Reasoner, Mike George, Peter Lys, Stewart Garden and Kathy James assisting as members. I would like to thank Kathy James and all of the other board members for making this year's Workshop a success. (See page three for more Workshop information.)



Take Note:

We have a new
fax number
(888) 212-5110

**2000 Board
of Directors &
Committee Chairs**

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Jim Kaake

Georgia Pacific Corporation

1st Vice President:

Blair Buchanan

Weyerhaeuser Company

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Workshop:

Jim Kaake & Craig Stuart

Technical:

Walter Boyles

Membership:

Kathy James

Newsletter:

Griffin Jones

Web Site:

Kathy James

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – by Jim Kaake



I would like to begin by thanking **Mike George** for his outstanding year as President of the MSR Lumber Producers Council. Mike's leadership enabled us to accomplish many goals over the past year that were invaluable to our organization. As co-chairman of the Workshop Committee, Mike helped bring our Annual Workshop to Eastern Canada for the first time. Although attendance was a little low, the meeting was a great success. This was also the first year we solicited sponsorship for the Workshop. I would like to thank those companies who participated in this program for their valuable contributions. You will find a list of the sponsors in the Workshop section of this Newsletter.

Our Seventh Annual Workshop is headed back to the Northwest, and will be held in conjunction with the ILMA / CWC AGM and Conference. The dates are 25 & 26 April 2001. The place is Kelowna, BC. The Workshop committee is currently working on the agenda. Planning will be fast and furious this Fall and we welcome your input. Please contact Kathy James or me with topics you would like to see on the agenda for the next Workshop.

As a result of our efforts with Jaenicke Marketing Works, a number of ads and articles for trade magazines have been developed. We ran ads in the December 1999 issues of *Rural Builder* and *WOODWORDS*. The most recent article was published in the August 2000 edition of *Automated Builder*. The Board of Directors is in the process of developing a schedule for placing additional ads.

Our next planned Marketing activities lead us to Milwaukee and St. Louis for trade shows. On 11 - 13 October 2000 we will have a booth at the BCMC show in Milwaukee. Our booth number is 819. Please stop by and visit with us. On 8 November 2000 we will be headed for St. Louis for a Wood Solutions Fair. Any members interested in volunteering some time in the booth at these shows will be very welcome. Contact Kathy James with the dates and times you will be available.

Our web site is still in the developmental stage. Updates have recently been made to the membership roster and the Board of Directors list. The next stage of development will be adding industry and membership links. Any members who have not provided a web site address to Kathy James should do it soon. Once this stage is complete, additional information will begin to be added. This will include our brochures, trade magazine articles, etc. Our web page will then take a greatly needed turn and begin to be divided into sections based on the user visiting the page. Please stay tuned and keep watching for the updates.

Membership is the cornerstone of our organization and we want to stay in tune with your ideas, concerns and questions. Please contact any Board Member, Kathy James or myself with your input.

As we head into what may be a difficult year for the industry, I wish all of you the best and hope to see you at our Workshop in the Spring.

Jim Kaake

(404) 652-5750

jakaake@gapac.com

2000 WORKSHOP UPDATE

(Note: The majority of the workshop presentation outlines are available on CD-ROM—cost \$10. The majority of the presentations are available on video—cost \$15. Shipping for both is via the US Postal Service. Contact Kathy James for more information.)

Al Schuler of the USDA Forest Service gave an excellent Economic session, focusing on the U.S. Economy, a Canadian Outlook, and the current lumber outlook.

“Under our “Soft Landing” scenario, lumber markets should remain healthy; however, lower operating rates will mean some pullback in prices from 1999’s lofty levels. The degree of weakness will depend on how high (and fast) the FED raises interest rates and the resulting impact on housing demand.”

“Engineered wood products demand should continue to benefit from the need by builders to reduce costs (labor and materials) while maintaining the highest quality in the finished product. Such products should do better than pure commodities if the economy slows as expected.”

Guerry Doolittle of Champion International Corporation covered Sustainability and Certification. He talked about the recent history of forest environmental issues, emergence of “Sustainable Forestry,” drivers and momentum for sustainable forestry and alternative standards, as well as verification and certification.

Walter Boyles of Timber Products Inspection and **Richard Desjardins of Forintek Canada Corp.** talked about Finger Jointing and New Product Development.

Carl Grenier of the Free Trade Lumber Council gave the Keynote Address. He spoke on the Softwood Lumber Agreement, including the origins as well as the impacts on industries and consumers on both sides of the border. He outlined the most likely scenarios for the final year of the SLA as well as the consequences for producers of softwood lumber, including MSR lumber producers.”

“Canadian exports of softwood lumber into the U.S. are currently restricted under the Terms of the Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA), and agreement due to expire on March 31, 2001. These restrictions are only the latest in a series of trade actions over the last twenty years which have sought to limit the supply of Canadian lumber into the U.S.”

Metriguard and **CAE Newnes** gave a Production Equipment Update.

Ken Kellams of Fbi Buildings Inc. discussed Post Frame Buildings.

There was also a Lumber Sales Forum Panel, including:

- ✦ **Dennis Fahey**
North Star Forest Materials
- ✦ **John Makuvek**
Anthony Forest Products
- ✦ **Craig Steele**
Schuck Component Systems
- ✦ **Randy Graham**
Georgia Pacific Corporation

Sixth Annual Workshop Sponsors

Gold Sponsors

Tembec Forest Products

Silver Sponsors

Intertek Testing Services

Pope & Talbot Inc.

Tolko Industries Inc.

Lignum Ltd.

Donohue Inc.

Bronze Sponsors

American Bayridge Corporation

Weyerhaeuser Company

Honorary Sponsors

Forintek Canada Corporation

Maibec Industries Inc.

Seventh Annual Workshop

When: 25 - 26 April 2001

Where: Kelowna, BC

The Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort
and Conference Centre

What: In conjunction with the ILMA / CWC
AGM and Conference

WTCA UPDATE – by Ryan Dexter & Kirk Grundahl

At WTCA's May Open Quarterly Meetings, the Board authorized spending \$50,000 to undertake testing to determine the correlation between truss industry quality assurance procedures and how well the finished truss performs in carrying its designated loads. Since work was already underway in a separate and related project through **Professor Steve Cramer** in the **Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison**, WTCA decided to undertake this work there to gain the synergistic benefits of all the research work being done on behalf of the truss industry.

In July, **Trussway, Ltd.**, of Houston, Texas, hosted WTCA's Quality Control (**QC**) testing efforts. Thirty trusses were manufactured and **QC** was completed on all joints, front and back. After all the **QC** data were collected, the trusses were fully loaded in a test rack and tested to destruction.

The following is a summary of what we have learned through this testing, now that more data have been analyzed, and our next plans of action:

- ✦ It seems very promising that there is a relationship between data points that we did not expect to find. This relationship deals with plate Combined Stress Indexes (CSIs) and plate placement, and the possibility to use **WTCA QC** data to arrive at a simplified **QC** approach.
- ✦ Our TPI point people (**Dave Brakeman of Alpine Engineering** and **Steve Cabler of MiTek**) agreed that CSI information can easily be obtained from the truss design software and could be included in the truss design if it helps the **QC** process.
- ✦ We will develop a model using this test data and determine the most cost effective **QC** inspection parameters and approach to **QC** in a truss plant.
- ✦ Once we test and use the model to create the **QC** parameters that best assess truss quality, we will develop a testing program to evaluate the newly created inspection parameters to ensure we can define true quality performance of real trusses.

The goals of this testing program as it currently stands are:


- 1) Learn if it is possible to narrow the focus for **QC** based on the likely consequences of **QC** defects at a joint.
- 2) Develop a quick and simple **QC** evaluation that will be embraced by the typical component manufacturer in our industry.
- 3) Determine from the data the key **QC** evaluation that needs to be done on the critical joint(s) and the subjective evaluation that can be done on the remaining joints.
- 4) Determine incentives to enhance the use of good **QC** methods.
- 5) Discuss the feasibility of implementing a **QC** feedback loop for truss designers and implementation of **QC** requirements so that it is assured that the manufactured product meets the quality expectations of the design.


WTCA is committed to providing the industry with a standard that is both fair and attainable for all parties involved.





UPDATES & MISC. NEWS

Marketing Update


 The MSRLPC will have a booth at BCMC in Milwaukee on 11-13 October 2000. Our booth number is 819. Please stop and see the booth. Members should contact Kathy James if they are willing to volunteer their time in the booth.

 The MSRLPC will have a booth at the Wood Solutions Fair in St. Louis on 8 November 2000. Any members attending the show and interested in volunteering their time in the booth should contact Kathy James in the Business Office.


 The Board has decided to have a drawing at every trade show the MSRLPC attends. Visitors at the booth will have the opportunity to sign up to attend next year's Seventh Annual Workshop free of charge.

 The MSR Lumber Producers Council was recently featured in an article published in the August 2000 issue of Automated Builder. The article is entitled "Truss Specifiers Say MSR Lumber is More Reliable" and can be found on page 18. Check it out!!


Technical Update

 The Marketing Committee has asked the Technical Committee to develop one page "Tech Notes" to be distributed at trade shows and sent out in mailings. The first Tech Note will answer the question, "What is MSR lumber," and will be available at our booth at BCMC 2000.


Web Site Update

 Within the near future the web site will be updated with links to our member companies' web sites, and industry links. If there are links you would like to see included, please email the information to Kathy James at msrlpc@msrlumber.org.

Production Survey Available

 The 1999 MSR Lumber Producers Survey has been completed and is now available. Please contact Kathy James in the Business Office to obtain a copy.

Annual Award

 Watch for a mailing requesting nominations for the MSRLPC Annual Recognition Award.

Calendar of Events

Oct. 8-12: SBCCI Annual Conf., Nashville, TN.

Oct. 9-10: New Technology in Forest Products Industry, Midwest Section of Forest Products Society's 2000 Annual Fall Meeting, Holiday Inn O'Hare International, Rosemount, IL. For more information contact Poo Chow at 217/333-6670 or email p-chow2@uiuc.edu.

Oct. 10: "New Trends in Forestry Workshop," Alexandria, LA. LSU, 504/388-4141, 504/388-2478 (fax)

Oct. 11-13: "Building Component Manufacturers Conf.," Midwest Express Center, Milwaukee, WI. Visit www.bcmeshow.com.

Oct. 14: WTCA's Open Quarterly Meeting, Hilton, Milwaukee, WI.

Oct. 18-19: Wood Solutions Fair, Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, NY, NY. Call Audrey Mattila at 613/747-0466 for details.

Oct. 19-20: Canadian Wood Council's Semi-Annual General Meeting (SAGM) at the Hyatt Regency, Calgary, in Calgary.

Oct. 28-31: SFPA Annual Meeting, Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans, LA. Celebrate SFPA's 85th anniversary! For details, call 504/443-4464 or visit www.sfpa.org.

Oct. 31—Nov. 2: The Canadian Forest Research Source's Exploring New Paths: Branding Wood Products, Edmonton, Alberta. For details contact Jan Raulin at 604/224-3221 or email frs@van.forintek.ca.

Nov. 6-8: Durability & Disaster Mitigation in Wood Frame Housing Conference, Monona Terrace Convention Ctr., Madison, WI. For details, call 608/231-1361 or email conferences@forestprod.org.

Nov. 8-9: Wood Solutions Fair, Gateway Center, St. Louis, MO. Contact Audrey Mattila at 613/747-0466 for details.

2001

Feb. 9-12: NAHB's "2001 International Builders Show," Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta. Visit NAHB at www.nahb.org for more information.

Apr. 25-26: MSRPLC Seventh Annual Workshop, Kelowna, BC. The Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort and Conference Centre. In conjunction with the ILMA / CWC AGM and Conference.

**Welcome
New Members**

**Pacific Lumber
Inspection Bureau**
Bellevue, WA

Kruger Inc.
Montreal, PQ

Boisaco Inc.
Sacre-coeur, PQ

Nakina Forest Products
Nakina, ON

Mission Statement

The Machine Stress Rated Lumber Producers Council has been formed to promote the benefits of Machine Stress Rated lumber for the purpose of increasing the usage and acceptability of our product.

It is the intent and mission of the Council to improve, promote and advance the common interest and general welfare of all phases of the Machine Stress Rated lumber industry.

We intend to engage in market promotion, collection of information, product research, and aid our grading agencies in forming proper rules and standards which will further the business of the general membership of the Council.



To receive the MSR Update electronically (.pdf version) instead of through regular mail, please email Kathy James at: msrlpc@msrlumber.org



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