

Machine Stress Rated Lumber Producers Council MSR Update

Fall Issue

December 2003

A Message from the President

Stewart Garden, P.Eng. • Canfor Wood Products Marketing

Greetings from Vancouver –

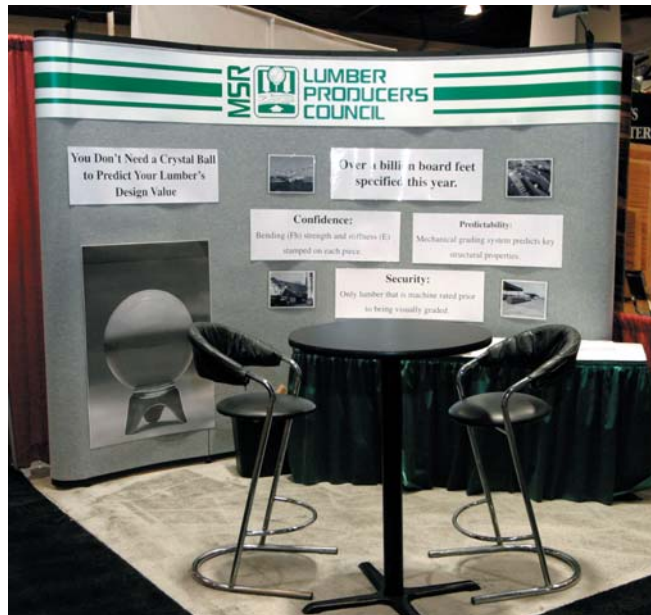
It was a pleasure to meet so many MSR Lumber Producers Council members at the BCMC in Phoenix! The Council booth was manned by members from all regions of the United States and Canada for the duration of the show. My thanks to Kim Runge (Tolleson), Jim Scharnhorst (Bennett), Craig Menhinick (Tolko), Joel Leclerc (Tembec) and Robin Archibald for their direct support at the show booth. Several show attendees indicated their intention to join the council and we have followed up with them.

In 2003 we have seen demand for MSR keep pace with increased production. The upbeat mood of component manufacturers at the show indicates continued growth and increased demand for MSR will likely continue into 2004.

Our marketing plan for 2004 will soon be posted on the MSR Council web site, and we welcome any feedback on promoting MSR lumber. We remain one of the few associations promoting lumber from both the United States and Canada.

Happy selling!!!

Stewart G.



Web Page Reconstruction Complete

Check out the new design of the web site at www.msrlumber.org!!

Inside this issue:

- 10th Annual Workshop Heads to Beautiful Vancouver
- Membership in the MSR Lumber Producers Council
- Metriguard Introduces New Wood Temperature Compensation Option for Machine Stress Rating Equipment
- BCMC 2003: New Frontiers a Success in the West
- Calendar of Events

10th Annual Workshop Heads to Beautiful Vancouver

Surrounded by the coastal mountains and blessed with a spectacular harbor, lush city parks and undeniable charm, Vancouver, BC, is the destination of choice for the 10th Annual MSR Lumber Producers Council Workshop, April 14-15, 2004. The workshop will take place at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in downtown Vancouver, which boasts a stunning view wherever there's a window.

Join your industry colleagues for two days of education, discussion and fun. The two day workshop will include educational seminars on topics of interest to

the industry, breakout sessions, an economic update, interpretive tours and a keynote address from a notable industry speaker (yet to be named, but one you won't want to miss!). The workshop will conclude with a dinner event on Thursday, that will also include a presentation from an industry speaker. Note that the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel will honor the special workshop hotel rate for Friday, April 16, to enable attendees to extend their stay in Vancouver.

For more details, visit www.msrlumber.org, email msrlpc@msrlumber.org or call 888/848-5539.■

Membership in the MSR Lumber Producers Council

Challenges have been received regarding the value of belonging to the MSR Lumber Producers Council. This is a healthy challenge for any organization and your Board of Directors is please to respond. We feel it is vitally important that our members are aware of the direction and successes of the council. Without such information, it is difficult to make a balanced decision on the value of membership.

As our 2002 MSR Lumber Production Survey indicates, MSR volume has doubled since 1996. We are currently at 2 billion FBM annually and growth continues. The premiums for the product have remained attractive over the years due to a steady increase in usage. We believe this has been achieved in part through the marketing and promotion programs of the Council. We must continue to promote it to the truss industry and the engineers and architects who will specify machine graded lumber. Along with magazine advertisements, we have invested in promotion at the Wood Solutions Fairs, Building Component Manufacturers Conference and our own MSR Workshops. It would be a challenge for any single producing company to attend these events.

We are active participants in the BCMC show each fall. Some producers and distribution members may choose not to attend, but can be confident that their interests are being strongly represented.

The MSR Lumber Producer's Council Workshop has brought the manufacturers, marketers and end users of MSR together for 10 years. This has proven to be a very successful event in linking the interests of all parties. The workshop will be held in Vancouver, Canada on April 14-15, 2004 and is shaping up to be our most successful ever.

Your membership dues have also been invested in the creation of our website. Here you will find industry news and links, design tables, technical information and a membership roster with your name on it. Please have a look at msrlumber.org.

As with any membership, one has to evaluate the cost versus benefit. To assist in this, it might be beneficial to put our dues in different terms. The cost for regular members is similar to contributing 2-3 units of MSR annually. This is a fraction of the cost of promoting the product by individual company.

The board appreciates your support and will continue to work hard for the good of the product. It should be noted that we do so on a volunteer basis. This is because we believe we are making a difference. We have an open door – please feel free to contact the listed board members at any time.

We are on track for another productive year and we look forward to your continued support.■

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.

Metriguard Introduces New Wood Temperature Compensation Option for Machine Stress Rating Equipment

Pullman, Washington, USA. — Metriguard Inc. has developed a new Temperature Compensation Option for their MSR machines. This new option allows mills to more accurately determine the MSR or MEL grade of their lumber, no matter what temperature that lumber is. E (modulus of elasticity) is the only design property that can be measured directly without destroying the lumber and is the best single predictor of wood performance in service.

Metriguard's new Temperature Compensation Option uses a high-speed infrared sensor to measure the temperature of each piece of lumber, and the PC Data System compensates the determined E using a known temperature/stiffness relationship. The temperature range for the new option is from -22° to +140° F [-30° to +60°C], and the equipment

can process lumber outside that range. Since the system works on a piece-by-piece basis, temperature fluctuations between boards or batches don't influence the results.

Whether frozen from the yard or hot from the kiln, lumber can be more accurately graded. Mill operators can stay 'in control' during spring and fall as lumber temperatures fluctuate, and 'winter thresholds' are unnecessary—because the Temperature Compensation Option takes the actual temperature of each lumber piece into account.

Metriguard's Temperature Compensation Option is available for both a Model 7200 HCLT and Model 7100 CLT fitted with a PC Data System 2 (PCDS2) upgrade. For further details, contact Dan Uskoski at 509/332-7526. ■

BCMC 2003: New Frontiers a Success in the West

The Building Component Manufacturers Conference (BCMC) traveled west in 2003 and struck gold in Phoenix, AZ, on October 8-10. The annual tradeshow, featuring exhibits from suppliers to the building component manufacturing industry, was a remarkable success, attributed in part to the show's western locale. Dubbed *New Frontiers*, BCMC 2003 proved to be a refreshing change of pace for both exhibitors and attendees alike.

The show's record-breaking exhibit space—70,750 square feet—was a welcome sign that the residential and commercial construction markets would continue to uphold the fickle U.S. economy in 2004. An enthusiastic 1450 attendees (2241 including exhibitors) from 504 companies flooded the Phoenix Convention Center show floor to visit with exhibitors and view the newest technology and equipment known to the industry.

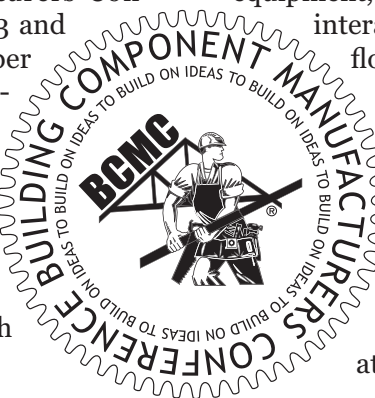
First-time attendee Eric Popma of Epic Truss Systems Ltd. in Abbotsford, BC, gave the show two thumbs up. "I quite enjoyed the show. I was impressed to see the capabilities of all the new

equipment, especially the new saw technology. The interaction with other suppliers on the show floor was very informative."

The exhibitors, who numbered 118 this year, noticed the diverse attendee constituency and credited the show's locale for drawing in component manufacturers who don't usually travel to the East and Midwest to attend the show. Many foreign visitors also attended the show this year.

In addition to the activity on the show floor, which featured software and equipment demonstrations, BCMC 2003 provided an educational forum for component manufacturers to exchange ideas. Topics covered in the seminars included personnel and human resources issues, safety and emergency protocol, as well as a series of presentations focused on wall panel manufacturing. The BCMC 2003 educational seminars are available for purchase at www.wtcatko.com.

The BCMC Committee has selected Charlotte, NC, as the show's next stop on October 6-8, 2004. For more information, visit www.bcmshow.com. ■





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2004

19-22: International Builders' Show (IBS), Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV. For details visit www.BuildersShow.com.

February

6: Wood Truss Council of America (WTCA) Regional Workshop & Conference, Las Vegas, NV. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.

18-20: Canadian Lumbermen's Association (CLA) Annual Convention, Fairmont: The Queen Elizabeth, Montreal, QC. For details visit www.cla-ca.ca.

25-27: WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting, Hilton San Diego Mission Valley, San Diego, CA. For more information, email wtca@woodtruss.com or phone 608/274-4849. Everyone is welcome to attend.

March

10: Wood Solutions Fair, Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina, Vancouver, BC. For details visit www.cwc.ca or email wsf@cwc.ca.

26: WTCA Regional Workshop & Conference, New Orleans, LA. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.

April

14-15: MSR Lumber Producers Council Workshop. The Fairmont Waterfront, Vancouver, BC. For details, visit www.msrlumber.org or email msrlpc@msrlumber.org.

22: Wood Solutions Fair, Washington State Conven-

tion Center, Seattle, WA. For details visit www.cwc.ca or email wsf@cwc.ca.

May

5-7: WTCA'S Legislative Conference & Board Meeting, Washington, DC. For more information, email wtca@woodtruss.com or phone 608/274-4849. Everyone is welcome to attend.

10-12: Quebec Forest Industry Council (QFIC) convention, Quebec City Congress Centre.

18: Wood Solutions Fair, Adams Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. For details visit www.cwc.ca or email wsf@cwc.ca.

August

11-13: WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting, Madison, WI. For more information, email wtca@woodtruss.com or phone 608/274-4849. Everyone is welcome to attend.

September

22: Wood Solutions Fair, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON. For details visit www.cwc.ca or email wsf@cwc.ca.

October

6-8: Building Component Manufacturers Conference, Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC. Visit www.bcmshow.com.

14: Wood Solutions Fair, Doubletree Resort (Scottsdale), Phoenix, AZ. For details visit www.cwc.ca or email wsf@cwc.ca.

November

9: Wood Solutions Fair, Nashville Convention Center, Nashville, TN. For details visit www.cwc.ca or email wsf@cwc.ca.

Officers:

President: Stewart Garden
Canadian Forest Products Ltd.
604/264-6227 • sgarden@mail.canfor.ca

1st Vice President & Treasurer: Peter Lys
Weyerhaeuser Canada
250/828-7371 • peter.lys@weyerhaeuser.com

2nd Vice President: Reed Trull
Pope & Talbot Inc
503/220-2750 • reed_trull@poptal.com

Secretary & Business Manager: Kathy James
888/848-5339 • msrlpc@msrlumber.org

Directors:

Jim Kaake • Georgia Pacific Corp • 404/652-8058 • jakaake@gapac.com

Craig Steele • Schuck Component Systems
623/931-3661 • csteele@schuckaz.com

Craig Stuart • Lignum Ltd • 604/687-2425 • cstuart@lignum.com

Bill Love • Tembec Forest Products • 819/627-4752 • bill.love@tembec.com

Lavoyd Hudson • Gulf Lumber Co. • 251/457-6872 • lhudson@gulflumber.com

Christian Gilbert • Kruger Inc • 514/788-2502 • cgilbert@kruger.com

Cathy Clay • Howard Lumber • 251/962-4766 • cathyclay@gulftel.com

Griffin Jones • Canadian Engineered Wood Products Ltd
250/655-8262 • griff@cewp.ca