

WoodLINKS, AWI, WCA team up for teacher in-service

Madison College hosts annual fall teacher training, plant tour event.

High school and post-secondary woodworking instructors, wood industry manufacturers, suppliers and others met Oct. 21 to hear the latest on sustainable forest management practices, new manufacturing technology, and industry trends at an all-day in-service held in Madison, Wisconsin and nearby Deerfield.

Sponsored by WoodLINKS USA/Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Architectural Woodwork Institute chapter, the training and education event is part of an ongoing series of seminars held in Wisconsin for educators and wood industry supporters in the Badger State and nearby states – all organized by WoodLINKS. This in-service was held at Madison Area Technical College and hosted by Patrick Molzahn, WoodLINKS USA president and director of the Millwork and Cabinetmaking program at MATC (now referred to as Madison College).

"I felt this was one of the best sessions we've held here in Wisconsin," Molzahn said of the in-service which attracted about 50 people, including 14 students from Fox Valley Technical College in Oshkosh, Wis. "Bringing together educators and people from the private wood industry manufacturing sector is one of the WoodLINKS program's major missions and we're always encouraged by the participation of everyone."

The in-service was divided into three open sections: a general opening session featuring a presentation by the Wisconsin LEAF K-12 Forestry Education Program that provides curricula and instructional aids for forest environment and management topics in Wisconsin; a Woodwork Career Alliance of North America evaluator training session at the MATC instructional lab; and a tour of Wisconsin-Built, a leading-edge Deerfield manufacturer of fixtures, casegoods and specialty products for the commercial and institutional markets.

The WCA program offers evaluator training through its Passport plan for its National Skills Standards effort to establish certified skill sets accreditation for the woodworking industry in both private industry and educational sectors. For more information contact Patrick Molzahn at pmolzahn@matcmadison.edu.

Says WoodLINKS USA national director Steve Ehle: "By providing a well-rounded program for educators, students and others we're offering a broad view of the wood industry in Wis-



Jeff Ball, co-owner of Wisconsin-Built Corp., a Deerfield, Wis., fixture and specialty products manufacturer, hosted a tour for Wisconsin and Illinois WoodLINKS USA teachers, wood manufacturers, AWI members, students and others Oct. 21 at his plant. More than 45 people attended the annual WoodLINKS Wisconsin teacher in-service, which has been held in the Badger State for more than eight years.

The training event is part of an ongoing series of seminars in Wisconsin.

consin – which, according to our Department of Natural Resources, incorporates the largest wood-related sector in the United State, including paper."

Representing LEAF, which is headquartered at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Sarah Gilbert outlined opportunities and options for teachers to introduce basic forest life, growth and management topics to students in the K-12 range. According to

Gilbert, LEAF provides lesson guides for teachers and utilizes a unit-based approach to education and addresses four basic themes: What is a forest?; Why are they important?; How do we sustain them? And what is the future?

"We provide a basic and detailed curriculum outline for teachers to introduce students to a wide range of forest topics, but teachers can pick and choose from what we offer, depending on the grade level," Gilbert said. "Part of our job is to introduce the program – even on a face-to-face basis – to school districts and teachers to provide a basis for how our trees are grown and managed." For more information on LEAF go to: leaf@uwsp.edu or uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf.

Also presenting at the in-service were:

➤ AWI Wisconsin representatives Steve Finnessy and John Halpin who provided an overview of what AWI can offer educators and the industry in general;



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Speaking to about 45 wood tech instructors and others at Madison Area Technical College in Madison, Wis., for the fall WoodLINKS Wisconsin teacher in-service was Sarah Gilbert who

represents the Wisconsin LEAF program, which provides curricula and other forestry-related educational services to K-12 teachers and students in Wisconsin.

- › Representatives of machinery distributor company John G. Weber Co., Sheboygan Wis., on trends in manufacturing;
- › Margaret Fisher of Lange Bros. Manufacturing, Milwaukee, and a representative of AWI, presenting on the significance of the overstated impact of the "carbon footprint" of wood fiber;
- › Josh Bartlett of National Casein on recent trends in adhesives; and,
- › Terry Mace and Steve Hubbard from the Wisconsin DNR who offered input on the impact of the forest industry in Wisconsin, economically and environmentally.

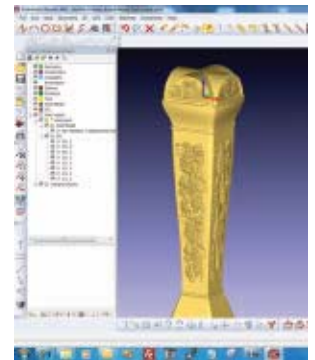
At Wisconsin-Built, co-owners Jeff Ball and Dan Peterson guided tours of their Deerfield plant which, according to Ball, has weathered the economic storm in the wood industry by being design and manufacturing "innovative and focused on specific custom product needs and new materials used in the fixture and related markets." Wisconsin-Built, established in 1998, employs 140 associates at two adjacent sites in a Deerfield industrial park, which is about 25 miles east of Madison. ◀



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