

Oregon Wood Innovation Center

Connecting people, ideas, resources

OWIC Newsletter

Big News for Western Juniper

Western juniper trees are a familiar sight in central and eastern Oregon. And while the species is native to the inter-mountain West, the area covered by juniper has expanded dramatically in the past century. Along with this expansion has come degradation of rangeland and loss of wildlife habitat in some areas. There is widespread agreement that juniper woodlands need to be treated/thinned. However, this is a costly endeavor in the absence of commercial markets for juniper products. At the same time, developing markets for juniper is challenging due in part to high harvest costs and low lumber yields. To further complicate market development efforts, there are no published data on lumber grades and engineering design values for the species. Therefore, engineers and architects wanting to specify juniper in a building project (e.g., beams or columns for a structure) often are forced to specify other wood species for which technical data are available. Well this limitation is soon to be removed. Thanks to the efforts of Sustainable Northwest, USDA Rural Business Development, Business Oregon, and the Oregon Department of Transportation, we are pursuing a project to develop engineering design values and lumber grades for western juniper. [More Info](#)

Renewable Materials Students Get Valuable Networking Opportunities

In addition to teaching students the technical information they need to be successful in industry, we strive to create opportunities to connect our students with industry professionals. During the Fall of 2014 we were extremely successful at providing our students key networking opportunities. We have a long-standing relationship with the Portland Wholesale Lumber Association (PWLA) and 2014 provided two excellent opportunities for our students; 1) The PWLA Innovation Summit and the PWLA Christmas Luncheon. More than 15 students participated in these two events. Additionally, in 2014 we took 7 students to the North American Wholesale Lumber Association (NAWLA) Traders Market in Chicago where students go to experience the excitement of the Traders Market first-hand. In addition to networking, 3 of our students led a

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Coming Events

- March 5-6: [OWIC Innovation Days](#)

panel discussion on how employers can connect with the next generation of employees. Finally, 2 students attended the Pacific Lumber Exporters Association (PLEA) dinner meeting. We would like to thank the PWLA, NAWLA, and PLEA for helping make these opportunities available to our students at no cost. It would not be possible for our students to attend without your generosity. Please let us know if you have any events planned that you would like to have students attend.

Annual Report Preview

OWIC has just concluded its 9th year of operations and continues to emphasize connecting university resources to industry as well as connecting our students to industry. Our main efforts continue to be focused on service (industry technical assistance and contract testing projects), education (workshops and publications), and fostering connections via our on-line [industry directory](#). We are working now on our Annual Report for 2014. Some highlights of the year include a major upgrade of our directory, the release of 3 new Executive [Innovation Briefs](#), 1 new publication in our Wood-Based Entrepreneurs Toolkit (with 2 others in-progress), and over 2 dozen contract testing projects for industry partners. We will let you know via this newsletter when the annual report is finished and ready for viewing.

OWIC Innovation Days

Given the increased enrollment in our [Renewable Materials](#) program, we continue to have a need for internships for our students as well as entry-level positions. In 2013, we developed an event called OWIC Innovation Days focused on helping connect our students with industry professionals and to share the state-of-the art in innovation in our industry. This March 5-6 is the third annual OWIC Innovation Days. [More Details](#).

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Questions or comments? Email us at owic@oregonstate.edu or call 541-737-4212