

Oregon Wood Innovation Center

Connecting people, ideas, resources

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

2006

COMING OWIC EVENTS:

- September 18-19: [Lumber Quality and Process Control, Corvallis, OR](#)
- September 20-21: [Lumber Quality Leadership, Corvallis, OR](#)
- October 24-25: [North-east Utility Pole Conference, Binghamton, NY](#)
- December 4-7: [How to Dry Lumber for Quality and Profit, Corvallis, OR](#)

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What is the Oregon Wood Innovation Center?

What and Who is OWIC?

The Oregon Wood Innovation Center (OWIC) was established in December 2005, with a mission to improve the competitiveness of Oregon's wood products industry by fostering innovation in products, processes, and business systems. OWIC will serve as a link between University research and the needs and opportunities of the forest industry. Scott Leavengood, a Wood Products Extension agent with OSU since 1994, began as the Director of OWIC in December of 2005. In August, 2006, Chris Knowles, a PhD candidate in Wood Science and Engineering at OSU, was hired as the OWIC Program Assistant. OWIC is housed in the Department of Wood Science and Engineering at Oregon State University.

Why an Innovation Center?

In recent years, the forest products industry has experienced dramatic changes including changes in raw material supply and increasingly global markets.



Scott Leavengood (left) OWIC Director and Chris Knowles (right) Program Assistant.

The industry has dealt with these changes through consolidation, retooling, and improving processing efficiency. It is clear that a focus on process innovation will not be adequate for Oregon firms to maintain long-term com-

petitive advantages. Research has shown that firms should also focus on product and business systems innovation. OWIC was developed to help firms foster all three types of innovations by serving as a "clearing house" to connect manufacturers to the research community, to other organizations that provide assistance to businesses, and to facilitate networking within the industry.

How do you contact us?

Please contact us with any questions:

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<http://owic.oregonstate.edu>

What can OWIC do for you?

With a mission of improving the competitiveness of the Oregon wood products industry, OWIC was developed to serve the industry. We have the well established resources in the areas of research, outreach and technology transfer that the Wood Science and Engineering Depart-

ment, is known for. OWIC has access to the following facilities:

Anatomy & Wood Quality: labs for wood fiber characterization and wood ID, equipment including microscopes and X-ray densitometer

Biodeterioration, Wood

Protection & Product Durability: pressure cylinder for wood preservation, equipment for assessing insect and decay resistance

Wood Chemistry: adhesives development, testing and trouble-

(continued on pg. 2)

What can OWIC do for you? (continued from pg. 1)

eshooting; research and testing of plant materials for value-added chemical products

Nanotechnology: research in nanocomposites for advanced textiles, barrier films, membranes, coatings and sensors

Composite Materials: development and testing of wood and wood/non-wood composites; equipment including presses (hot and cold), glue spreader, refiner, digester, blender and former

Computer-Aided Manufacturing: facilities for optical scanning, process modeling, simulation and optimization of wood processing enterprises

Wood Drying: a 100 BF kiln for

measuring volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and 2000 BF kiln for research in lumber drying



Research kiln for lumber drying.

Timber Engineering & Structural Design: equipment for assessing strength properties of wood-based materials; scale varies from small specimens to large members such as beams and full-scale wall systems

Forest Products Business & Marketing: research and outreach on innovation in the forest industry, branding, lean manufacturing, and assessment of market potential for new products

Environmental Impacts of Wood Products: research on the environmental impacts of wood-based materials from “cradle to grave” (life cycle inventory and analysis)

Other Facilities: environmental conditioning chambers, and state-of-the-art classrooms for on-site and distance education programs

For more information on facilities click [here](#).



Testing the effect of through-boring on the strength of wood telephone poles.



Wood biodeterioration laboratory.

Ask the Expert



Have questions about wood products, drying wood, termites and other wood infesting pests, mold control, wood anatomy, or anything related to wood? The faculty of the Wood Science and Engineering Department at Oregon State University have the expertise to handle almost any question about wood.

Simply submit your question using the [Ask the Expert form](#). Please be as specific as possible with your question so we can ensure we get you the answer you are looking for. You will be asked to give your name and contact information. This information will only be used to send you a response, or if neces-

sary, to clarify your question.

Previously asked questions and their answers will be featured in future issues of the newsletter and will be archived on the [Ask the Expert](#) section of the OWIC website. The name of the persons asking the questions will remain anonymous.

Oregon Forest Industry Directory

Having trouble finding raw material suppliers? Need help locating customers for your products or services? Need someone to do site preparation? Want to find someone to do custom sawing, machining, or drying?

The Oregon Forest Industry Directory, a comprehensive, searchable directory of primary and secondary mills, landowners, and service pro-

viders, can help. Simply visit www.orforestdirectory.com to begin. You can post your company along with the products and services you offer, post classified ads, and search for customers or suppliers. Please contact the OWIC staff if you need assistance with the directory.

Have suggestions for improving the directory? Do you have a success

story as a result of using the directory? We would like your [feedback](#) so we can serve you better.

The Oregon Forest Industry Directory is a joint effort of OWIC, the [Oregon Small Woodlands Association](#), and the Northwest Wood Products Association. Funding for its development was provided by the [Oregon Forest Resources Institute](#).

“I was skeptical that I'd get any sales from listing my product on a website. But last month ALL of my sales came from the web - and the buyers were all from the east coast.”

-testimonial from Oregon Forest Industry Directory user

Discussion Forums

Do you need a way to network with others in the forest products industry? OWIC has developed on-line [Discussion Forums](#) that allow industry professionals to carry on a dialogue about relevant topics.

The discussion forums allow you to post questions, comments, and concerns and receive answers from people with experience. You can also search the forums to follow discussion threads on specific topics of interest to you.

Current forum topics include sawmilling and a sub-forum on lumber

grading for small-scale sawmills, and statistical process control (SPC). Send suggestions for new discussion forum topics, or questions about the forums, to the [OWIC staff](#).

Simply [register](#) for the forum and begin your discussions by selecting New Topic or replying to an existing posting.

Note: You may choose your user name so that you remain anonymous.



Screenshot of OWIC Discussion Forum format.

Featured Researcher: Chris Knowles

Each month we will feature a researcher from the Wood Science and Engineering Department at OSU.

This month's featured researcher is Chris Knowles, the Program Assistant for OWIC. Chris is currently working on a PhD with a specialization in Forest Products Marketing. His current research focuses on measuring innovativeness in the North American softwood saw-

milling industry.

Chris' research shows that North American sawmills do not have a particularly strong focus on innovation, with the strongest focus on process innovation. The propensity of firms to create new manufacturing processes was shown to have a significant, positive effect on sawmill performance. With these sawmills having a primary focus on process innovation, there is plenty of room

for a focus on product and business systems innovations. Previous research has shown that firms benefit most from balancing their innovative focus. More information on Chris' research can be found by clicking on the following links:

- [Innovation Research Brief](#)
- [Innovation Poster](#)



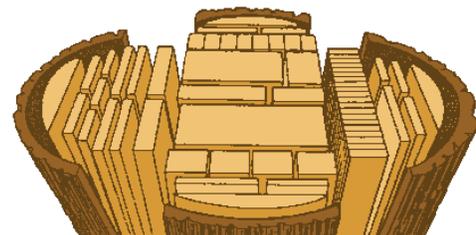
Future OWIC Newsletters

OWIC newsletters will be delivered via email on a monthly basis. Past issues of the newsletter will be archived on the [Current Activities](#) section of the OWIC website.

Future newsletters will contain the following regular features: coming OWIC events, a feature article relevant to the Oregon wood products industry, ask the expert, and a featured researcher from the

Wood Science and Engineering Department. The newsletter will also periodically feature articles on how OWIC has successfully helped Oregon forest products companies.

We would like your feedback. If you have any comments on or suggestions for the newsletter, please submit them to the [editor](#).



To subscribe to this newsletter visit
<http://owic.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/subscribe.php>
or send an email to [Chris Knowles](mailto:Chris.Knowles@oregonstate.edu) with “subscribe to
newsletter” in the subject line.

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