

Montana Forest Products Marketing News

MSU Extension Forestry

October 2004

Smallwood Week in Western Montana

Craig Rawlings, MCDC's smallwood enterprise agent, is hosting a tour of Western Montana businesses and public facilities to showcase new processes, new products, and new markets for wood from small diameter trees. The tour will visit each of the venues listed in the graphic to the right. Anyone is welcome to attend. Contact [Craig Rawlings](#) for more info: 406-728-9234.

| <u>Date*</u> | <u>Venue*</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 9/21/2004 | Tricon Timber St. Regis, MT | A new flooring production line |
| 9/21/2004 | Dance Studio Missoula, MT | Installed flooring that was produced from small wood |
| 9/22/2004 | Pyramid Lumber Seeley Lake, MT | Newly installed moisture meter technology |
| 9/22/2004 | Eagle Stud Co. Hall, MT | A newly installed cogeneration plant creates electricity |
| 9/23/2004 | Traveler's Rest Lolo, MT | View a structure made from small diameter roundwood |
| 9/23/2004 | Porterbill Hamilton, MT | Bridge parts and furniture made from small wood |
| 9/23/2004 | Darby High School Darby, MT | View Darby School, the first in the West to heat with wood |
| 9/23/2004 | Darby Library | An innovative truss system |

*Contact Craig Rawlings 406-728-9234, ext. 203 for specific times and locations.

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Montana Tree Farm Annual Meeting

On Saturday, October 2nd, the Montana Tree Farm organization will hold its annual meeting and field day tour in the Lolo Creek area southwest of Missoula.

The day's events will include a visit to the Jean and Charles Parker property, which was recognized as Montana's Tree Farm of the year in

2000. Visitors will be able to see how the Parkers practice low-impact sustainable forestry in their Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine forest.

Next the tour will stop at Paul Rosignol's 1,250 acre tree farm to view his efforts in converting dense Douglas-fir stands to more open forests of pine and larch.

Finally, Tree Farm will host a barbecue, silent auction, and annual awards banquet at the rustic Lumberjack Saloon.

The tour costs \$20 per person and is limited to 100 attendees. The group will start at 9:00 AM from the Lolo Shopping Center. Click [here](#) for more information.

Check it out:

- Judge tosses lawsuit over timber sale [click here](#)
- Canada scores victory in Softwood Lumber Dispute [click here](#)
- Drying wood with microwaves [click here](#)

Dance Floor Project Sparks New Montana Forest Products Business

A couple of years ago, Amy Ragsdale, a Dance Professor at the University of Montana, and her husband, outdoor writer Peter Stark, were involved in two projects – building a dance studio at their Missoula home and thinning 80 acres of larch and fir on property they own in Missoula’s Rattlesnake Valley.

The couple hired Matt Arno, a professional restoration forester, to do the thinning. Stark and Ragsdale soon learned that Arno planned on selling the thinned trees to the local paper mill.

Thinking there must be a higher value for the timber,



Amy Ragsdale’s Missoula dance studio with flooring made from small diameter larch

Stark began doing some research and learned that the small-diameter, tight-grain larch that had grown on his property’s north facing slope could be used as flooring. The couple quickly realized that their projects complimented each other – the trees from the thinning could be used to make the flooring needed for the dance studio.

After more research, Stark located Sandy James of Dillon, Montana, who agreed to custom saw, dry, and mill the larch logs into flooring. In exchange, James received several truckloads of fir logs from Stark’s property.

Next, Shannon O’Keefe, a professional flooring contractor, installed the flooring. Everyone agreed that the larch’s honey colored wood and small, dark pin knots gave the floor (and dance studio) beautiful character. In fact, everyone was so satisfied with the outcome of the dual projects that Stark, Arno, and O’Keefe persuaded Missoula area natural resources consultant and lawyer, Mike Wood, to join them in forming North Slope Sustainable Wood, LLC.

Today, the firm offers random length tongue and groove flooring in widths be-

tween 2” and 6”. All of the flooring is milled from larch logs produced on Arno’s thinning projects.

Admittedly, sales started slow for Northslope. Recently, however, things have picked up as the firm has made arrangements with Tricon Timber of St. Regis, MT to saw and dry Arno’s larch logs. Buckeye Hardwoods of Arlee, MT then mills the lumber into flooring. On the marketing side, many orders are expected this fall because Northslope will be featured in an *Outside* magazine story, a [website](#) was recently established, and Missoula architects Kate Sutherland and Jason Lonski, have begun specifying use of Northslope’s flooring in several Missoula area homes.

To learn more, contact [Mike Wood](#) at 406-327-1123.



Left to Right: Peter Stark, Matt Arno, Shannon O’Keefe, and Mike Wood—Partners in North Slope Sustainable Wood, LLC

Montana's only Paper Mill is an Important Forest Products Market

Frenchtown, Montana—Montana's only paper manufacturer, Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation, produces linerboard paper which is used to make corrugated boxes.

In 2003, the raw materials consumed by the mill included about 173,000 tons of recycled cardboard, 365,000 tons of hog fuel (chipped bark and logging slash, which is burned to generate some of the mill's electricity and process steam), about 290,000 tons of pulpwood logs, and 970,000 tons of sawmill residues (chips produced from a sawmill's slabs, edgings, and trimmings). To put these numbers in perspective, assume a log truck or chip van can carry 25 tons of wood. This means the mill used about 32 truckloads of pulp logs, 40 truckloads of hog fuel, and 106 truckloads of wood chips every day of the year in 2003.

Having a market for sawmill residues is important for Montana's sawmills because it allows them to generate revenue from material that was simply burned in the past. Similarly, landowners faced with costly forest management activities and the subsequent need to dispose

of logging slash, can sell hog fuel and pulpwood to the mill—thereby offsetting forest management costs and eliminating the need to burn logging slash.

The mill had a frustrating history of stop and start pulpwood procurement, but that has changed according to Smurfit-Stone area procurement manager, Rick Franke. "When Smurfit merged with Stone Container in 1998, the management philosophy changed," said Franke. "Instead of controlling paper production by idling mills or paper machines for short periods, Smurfit-Stone closed several

less profitable mills." As a result, the Montana mill has steadily bought pulpwood since the merger. The mill currently pays a base price of \$26 per ton for pulpwood logs delivered to the mill. An additional hauling cost allowance is sometimes paid as the haul distance from the mill increases. The mill buys pulpwood across the state.

For more information about hog fuel, sawmill residue, or pulpwood markets contact one of Smurfit-Stone's procurement foresters:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Jim Mountjoy | 406-626-5295 |
| Ed Lamb | 406-626-2489 |
| Chuck Seeley | 406-626-5294 |
| Jim Simpson | 406-626-5294 |



The Smurfit-Stone Paper Mill near Frenchtown, Montana



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We're on the Web:

<http://www.forestry.umt.edu/hosting/forestproducts/index.htm>

Montana State University Extension Forestry is a branch of the MSU Extension Service and is housed cooperatively with College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana.

The mission of Extension Forestry is to provide education and outreach to non-industrial private forest landowners, forestry industry, and other forestry-related organizations in Montana.

Extension Forestry carries out its mission by providing its clients with educational workshops, publications, news releases, brochures, and videos. Common topics include forest stewardship planning, forest insect and disease, windbreaks/living snow fences, alternative forest management practices, wildfire hazard reduction, forest products marketing, and tree pruning & care.

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If so, send them to [Roy Anderson](#), newsletter editor

Calendar of Upcoming MSU Extension Forestry Events

Montana Tree Farm Annual Conference

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
October 2
Lolo



For further information about any of these events contact:

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