

2022 Field Trip Gets Back On Track In Virginia

By Barbara Stacey

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the 2022 RTA Field Trip was held in June in and around Roanoke, Va., with stops at Stella-Jones' and Koppers' treating plants, the Greenbrier Hotel, Virginia Mountain

Vineyards, Virginia Tech, Allegheny Wood Products and Virginia Museum of Transportation. Participants were also treated to a visit to the Norfolk Southern Material Yard. Participants reported that

they enjoyed the varied activities and stops, especially being able to meet in person, hear reports from other associations, and see how things are working in this part of the tie industry. ■

DAY 1



SMP Committee Chairman Liz Russell of Stella-Jones and Will Cumberland of North American Tie and Timber enjoy the reception.



Reception Sponsor Mike Goldston (left) of Brewco and Executive Director Nate Irby



Corey Conners of the Virginia Forestry Association gives an overview of the issues Virginia forestry is currently facing and what his association is doing to address them.

DAY 2

The group enjoyed a hearty breakfast provided by Stella-Jones and toured the Goshen, W.V., plant. Next stop was the historic Greenbrier Hotel where Eric Carlson of the West Virginia Forestry Association

discussed efforts they are making in the industry. Afterward, the group arrived at Virginia Mountain Vineyards where we heard from Tom Inman of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers and toured the winery.



The group listens as plant manager Tim Reed explains the operation.



Plant Manager Tim Reed (left) discusses the treating process while Malcom Cockwell of Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve looks at freshly treated ties.



The group pauses for a photo at the Stella-Jones Goshen plant.



Frank Wawros of U.S. Borax and Claus Staalner of American Wood Technology watch the borate drill and fill process in bridge timbers.



Plant Manager Tim Reed poses in front of the safety award with Nate Irby.



At the famous Greenbrier Hotel, Eric Carlson presents a luncheon overview of the West Virginia Forestry Association's activities.



RTA President Rick Gibson (right) of Appalachian Timber Services chats with Eric Carlson.



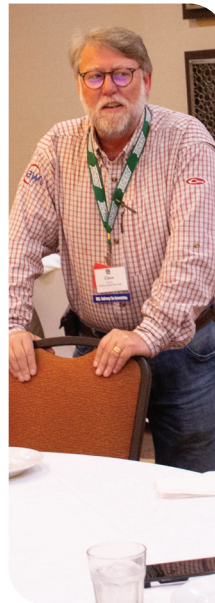
At Virginia Mountain Vineyards, Tom Inman (right) of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers lets attendees know what is going on in his organization as Nate Irby listens in the background.



Beryl Beagle (left) of Stella-Jones and Heath Huschak of Koppers listen as the tour guide discusses the finer points of wine making.



Our attendees found a connection to the industry in the vineyard with the poles that support the vines. They were made by Stella-Jones and probably purchased by Beryl Beagle who attended the Field Trip!



Reception Sponsor Claus Staalner of American Wood Technology speaks to the attendees.



Ronnie Huang of Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve and Bernard Rose of Clary Lumber chat at the reception.



Travis Yeoman (far left), plant manager for Koppers' Salem, Va., operation, guides the group through the plant.



Ties on a tram ready to head into the cylinder for treating.



The group enjoys a quick photo on the banks of the Roanoke River at the Koppers plant.



The group learned how the students at the Brooks Forest Products Center at Virginia Tech create a business selling wood products they conceive and produce themselves.



Daniel Hindman, associate professor in wood building design, tests yellow poplar and pine cross laminated timbers for strength.



The group in front of the Brooks Forest Products Center with department head Ching-Hsun Huang.



Jeff Thomas and Mark Manning of Nisus listen to the safety briefing at Allegheny Wood Products.



Freshly cut ties from the sawmill at Allegheny Wood Products.



Group photo at the Allegheny Wood Products Princeton, W.Va., facility.



The Virginia Museum of Transportation in Roanoke has several steam engines in its collection.



The group was able to spend time learning about the history of transportation in the Roanoke area while Norfolk Southern trains passed by adding train whistles to the atmosphere.



The final night's reception, sponsored by Stella-Jones, featured a short introduction by Liz Russell of Stella-Jones.



Special reception guests Jake Willis and Michael Hendrick of the Norfolk Southern Material Yard give an overview of what to expect on the tour in the morning.



Jake Willis (right) of Norfolk Southern shares his thoughts while Jerry Rose (left) of the University of Kentucky and Nate Irby (center) listen.



The group poses in front of the new Norfolk Southern Roadway Material Yard logo created by Scott Perfater.



The group listens as Jake and Scott explain how the turnout operation at the Norfolk Southern Material Yard works.



Bob Baeppler of Vance watches as workers load a completed turnout onto a rail car.

A special thank you to our sponsors: American Wood Technology, Appalachian Timber Services, Brewco, Gross & Janes, Missouri Tie, Nisus, Stella-Jones, and Wheeler Lumber.



The last group photo of the Field Trip at the NS Roadway Material Yard.

Attendees: Claus Staalner, American Wood Technology; Seth Britt, Amerities South; Tom Inman, Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers; Rick Gibson, Appalachian Timber Services; Mike Goldston, Brewco; Bernard Rose, Clary Lumber; Calvin Matthews, CSX; Matt Seinfeld, Genesee & Wyoming Inc.;

Malcom Cockwell and Ronnie Huang, Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve; Heath Huschak and Amber Leech, Koppers; Vuk Milicevic and Todd Snyder, MiTek; Mark Manning and Jeff Thomas, Nisus; Will Cumberland, North American Tie & Timber; Matt Seal, Missouri Tie; Leo Jaime and Frank Wawrzos, Rio Tinto;

Amanda Battisti, Beryl Beagle, Kenny Dailey, Jason Dallas, Hunter Dickson, Jason Eichelberger, Brad Crawford, Jim Raines, Liz Russell and Gary Young, Stella-Jones; Kenny Peden, Tank Fab; Jerry Rose and Emily Wong, University of Kentucky; and Bob Baeppler and Jonathan Whitehead, Viance

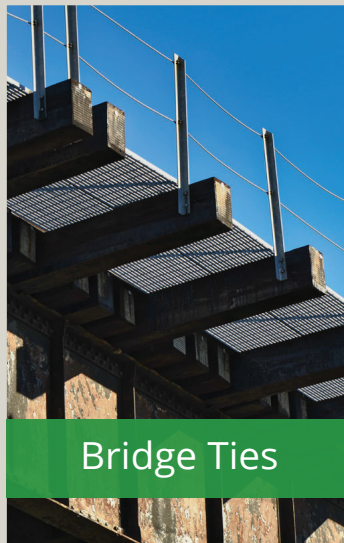


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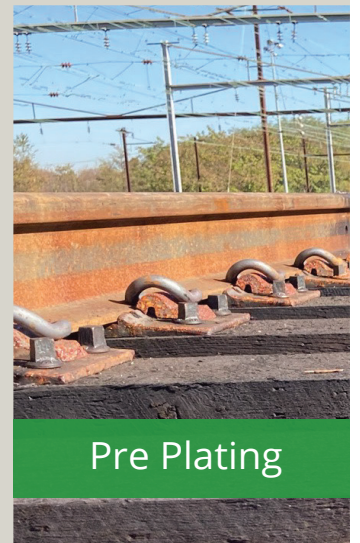
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