WMMA Members Named Winners of 5 of 7 Challenger Awards

Awards Recognize Innovation in Woodworking Industry

At the recent International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta, when the names of the Challenger Award winners were unveiled, the results were nothing short of outstanding for WMMA. Of seven award recipients named, five were WMMA members.

The awards program honors innovation in the woodworking industry. Finalists were named over the summer, and winners were announced at the meeting itself, which took place in Atlanta, Georgia, August 20-23.

WMMA members whose products won the prestigious awards program are as follows. The products are named as well:

- **Aiken Development LLC/Aiken Controls**
  - Won for its product, nDepth 3D Sensor

- **Castle, Inc.**
  - Won for its product, Pocket Cutter/Screw Inserter

- **Graco Inc.**
  - Won for its product, ProMix PD2K

- **Thermwood Corporation**
  - Won for its product, Cut Center

- **Timesavers, LLC**
  - Won for its product, Automatic Opposed Self Centering Knife Planer

The Challengers Awards program is internationally recognized as one of the industry’s highest honors in recognizing advancements in technology, process or significant contributions to environmental improvement in the woodworking industry. It challenges IWF exhibiting companies to develop forward-thinking technology in machinery, materials, supplies, manufacturing techniques, services and safety.

“WMMA is very proud to congratulate those members whose products were named winners of Challenger Awards this year,” noted Jamison Scott, WMMA’s president. “These products represent the best innovations in the industry - something for which WMMA has long been known. We are also very pleased to see that WMMA member companies comprised a majority of the winners.”
IWF: By the Numbers

*Attendance represents multiple companies, countries*

**IWF 2014: By the Numbers**

Exhibitors: 920 total
200-plus: New exhibiting companies
Internationally: 212 exhibitors representing 32 foreign countries
448,000 sq. ft.: Space in the GWCC occupied by exhibitors
$40 million-plus: Economic impact IWF had on the local economy as a result of the show
108,000-plus: Leads scanned by exhibitors
50 percent: Attendees who expected to make significant purchases in the next 6-12 months
August 24-27, 2016: Date of next IWF in Atlanta (for those who missed out on these numbers and want to record some of their own).

*Source: Post-IWF Statement from IWF 2014 Chairman Rick Hannigan*

According to information recently released by the 2014 IWF headquarters, “Both IWF 2012 and 2014 showed significant positive growth which bodes well for the International Woodworking Fair’s continued growth and expansion in the years to come.”

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**WMMA’s new video: A new era in membership recruitment**

Lights...camera...action! WMMA has created its first video, designed to help promote the benefits of association membership.

The video, created by Woodworking Network, was the brainchild of the Membership Development Committee, which wanted to take promotion of the association to a new level.

The video was made at the Networking Breakfast at IWF (see adjacent article in this newsletter) and features interviews with members discussing what they think are the most valuable aspects of their activity with WMMA. Not surprisingly, a wide range of comments were given; these included the ability to make valuable contacts, the chance to learn about the newest advances in the industry, the availability of economic reports and news about legislative matters, and more.
WMMA Breakfast: Great opportunities for networking and more

One of the highlights for WMMA members was the association’s first-ever networking breakfast, held during IWF.

The breakfast, which took place on Thursday, Aug. 21, provided an opportunity for attendees to learn more about WMMA's committee structure and to get insights into the many benefits active membership offers. The breakfast also allowed potential members to learn more about WMMA, and to meet officers, directors, members and other volunteers.

The success of this event, which was attended by 78 people, virtually guarantees an encore production at the 2016 IWF.

What’s next on the WMMA Calendar? A great fall!

You might think WMMA would hit a lull after IWF, but you’d be wrong. The association is going strong with a full calendar of activities.

The WMMA/WCMA Fall Conference & Plant Tour will take place September 14-16, 2014 in Lewisburg, PA. In this great event, WMMA is partnering with the Wood Component Manufacturers Association (WCMA) for this year’s Fall Conference & Plant Tour event. The event is WCMA’s most popular event as it gives members a unique opportunity to tour interesting plants and pick up many good ideas for implementation in their own operations. Everyone wants to see what others are doing and the camaraderie among WCMA membership is the best in the industry.

All members are welcome at this event. To learn more, click here.
Industry News

The World of Wood: A Report

With all the talk about exporting, wouldn’t it be useful to have an insight into the global wood market? How about a snapshot view, showing prices among specific countries for logs as well as sawn wood? Wonder no more. The Tropical Timber Market Report is published regularly, with the aim of improving transparency in the international tropical timber market. Some countries this report covers include Central and West Africa, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, India, Brazil, Peru, Guyana, Japan and more. A report is available by clicking here.

Catching up with Euroconstruct conference

The Euroconstruct conference, held in Oslo this past June, offers even more insights into the European wood market. According to a report on the conference, the construction market abroad is making a comeback. The Euroconstruct (EC-19) countries’ collective GDP (measured at exchange rates) grew by 0.2 percent in 2013, but growth is expected pick up to about 2 percent a year in 2014-2016. Inflation is low and the recovery will most likely be a protracted one, as high unemployment and debt, low investment, tight credit, and financial fragmentation in the Euro area continue to dampen domestic demand. Read the full report by clicking here. Want to keep up with the worldwide wood market? Make plans to attend LIGNA, to be held May 11-15, 2015 in Hannover, Germany. Information on that meeting is available by clicking here.

The Housing Market: Some Good News At Last

July was “grudgingly positive” according to the report, Housing Commentary. Many sectors of the market improved. The exceptions were new and existing house sales & new house sales

Read more here.
Industry Calendar of Events

Note: For a complete listing of all meetings, including those held internationally, go to WMMA’s website, www.wmma.org, and click on “Events.”

Have an event to add to the Industry Calendar in this newsletter? Send it to maryhelen@wmma.org

September 14-16, 2014
WMMA/WCMA Schedule Fall Conference & Plant Tour Lewisburg, PA www.woodcomponents.org

September 17, 2014
WMMA DC Fly-In (Note: See article on page 5 for information on related activities) Washington, DC www.wmma.org

October 8-9, 2014
Cabinetmaker - Wood Pro Expo Baltimore, MD - Maryland State Fairgrounds Click here for info

April 21-24, 2015
Woodworking Industry Conference (WIC) Grand Hyatt San Antonio San Antonio, TX

May 11-15, 2015
LIGNA Hannover, Germany www.ligna.de/home
For information on being in the special WMMA pavilion at LIGNA, please contact Fred Stringfellow at fred@wmma.org.

July 22-25, 2015
AWFS Fair Las Vegas, NV http://awfsfair.org

Nov. 5-7, 2015
Woodworking Machinery & Supply Expo (WMS 2015) International Centre, Toronto Exhibitor Info: rwidick@heiexpo.com Website: www.WoodworkingExpo.ca

August 24-27, 2016
International Woodworking Fair (IWF) Georgia World Congress Center Atlanta, GA Website: http://www.iwfatlanta.com/