For 115 years, WMMA has been representing the American woodworking machinery industry while the manufacturing world has ebbed and flowed for these years. Our association has been witness to everything from the great depression, to the greatest manufacturing boom, to the great recession, representing its members through good times and challenging times. Today I believe we are again bouncing back with an American manufacturing renaissance. Manufacturing is rebounding, reshoring, and reinvesting in America and we as the members of the WMMA must ensure we are positioned to profit from this resurgence.

Through the years the WMMA and its members have come a long way, especially in terms of innovation and technology, however in other ways, as referenced on the history page on our website, for generations we have been grappling with many of the same issues as we do today: membership growth and retention; selecting the right location and developing a strong program for the annual meeting; prudent investment of association funds; and fair and equitable dues rate for members.

We will continue to wrestle with these important issues. Membership growth will be impacted by our new MERs (membership eligibly requirements) allowing us to attract a more diverse base representing a broader selection of our industry. We have just returned from one of the best WICs in the last several years, the next step is making WIC 2015 even better. Just a few months from now, our members and the entire industry will be gathering for IWF 2014, the largest international woodworking fair in this hemisphere, which is also a critical financial resource for WMMA. With a competent team in Greg Larson, Jim Laster and Brian Donahue, representing the WMMA for IWF, we are poised to see favorable returns on our investment. It is with the investment in IWF that we can maintain a reasonable dues structure while providing many member benefits.

While our past and current situation is important, it really lays the groundwork for the future. We must look towards our growing membership and what needs they have. We must look at innovation and how disruptive technologies like 3D printing and additive manufacturing will impact our association and our members. We must keep a pulse on Washington and what impact their actions will have. While we have resurgence in manufacturing in America, many of our members are selling internationally and we must continue to find new markets as well as expand in current international markets. To these ends we have vital committees such as Membership Development Committee lead by Shawn Larkin, International Business Development Committee led by Darriel Miller, and the Public Policy Committee chaired by Rich Christianson, as well as the use of task forces such as Technology to keep an eye on many ever changing issues. This is ONLY possible with our dedicated volunteers. And we encourage all our members to become more actively involved. It is one of the most important ways to ensure we are meeting the needs of our members.

None of this would be possible without the past leadership of the many WMMA Presidents I have had the honor of working with since I first became actively involved in committee work in 1999. From Peter Perez, Jim Laster, Tom Onsrud, Mark Chappell, and others before, each of them left their mark on the WMMA, to our most recent past president, John Schultz for leading us over the last two years. I thank each of them for their leadership and camaraderie. However, it is not just the past presidents, it is the officers and I am proud to be able to work with VP Greg Larson and Treasurer Chris Hacker along with an experienced and capable Board of Directors. Finally, nothing would really happen without our management team lead by Fred Stringfellow and his staff at Stringfellow Management Group.

I look forward to the next two years together, working with our members to ensuring we are meeting your needs while embracing the ever changing manufacturing world around us.
WIC Brings Together Industry Members

The Woodworking Industry Conference (WIC), which took place in Puerto Rico, was a resounding success. In addition to having record-breaking registration numbers, the meeting had outstanding programming and strong volunteer involvement – all in a beautiful island setting.

The meeting was a true industry-wide effort, being co-sponsored by WMMA and WMIA members, with additional participating sponsorship by AWFS and NBMDA. Each organization was able to hold leadership meetings and to host sessions and other gatherings. Larger receptions and meals allowed for full participation by all attendees.

WIC’s schedule allowed for presentation of awards, changeover of volunteer leadership and more. (For information on these specific activities, see the adjacent articles in this newsletter). There was also time for competitive fun including the Beach Olympics that included lawn darts, coconut bowling and beach volleyball. Those who wanted to stretch their legs were able to participate in the run/walk event – and those who wanted more serious competition hit the links in the golf outing.

If you missed this year’s meeting, make sure to watch The Cutting Edge for information on the next meeting.
WMMA has announced the election of Jamison Scott as its new president. The official changeover of leadership came at the recent WIC.

Scott serves as executive vice president of Air Handling Systems, a third generation family-owned business in Woodbridge, Connecticut. He was instrumental in creating an online presence for his company as early as 1995, establishing Air Handling as one of the first companies in the industry to engage in e-commerce. He is also a fierce advocate for Connecticut industry, working on the MRA (Manufacturing Reinvestment Account), a federal bill he helped create, which resembles an IRA for manufacturers.

Jamison has presented several combustible dust seminars and regularly acts as a technical resource. He has authored several combustible dust articles for national and international trade publications including Air Pollution Control, Wood & Wood Products, CabinetMakerFDM, Wood Industry (Canada), Woodshop News, Chemical Engineering, and FDM Asia. Scott also serves on the Technical Advisory Board for Air Pollution Control, a technical trade publication, and chairs the Industrial Dust Task Force for WMMA. He also sits on the board of the New Haven Manufacturers Association (NHMA), and is a member of the Town of Woodbridge, CT Economic Development Commission.

He received an MBA from University of New Haven in 2004 and a BS in Management from Quinnipiac University in 1995. He also holds a Limited Sheet Metal Contractor license in the State of Connecticut and is a member of the National Fire Protection Association.

“Jamie Scott is going to make an excellent leader for this association,” stated John Schultz, WMMA’s outgoing president. “He has served WMMA and the industry at large on numerous levels, and is well prepared for the challenges of this position.”

John Schultz, of Super Thin Saws, was honored for his service to WMMA as well. In addition to recognizing his dedication and commitment to the industry and the organization, WMMA’s board presented him with a bottle of single malt scotch as well as a T-shirt that recognized his love of skiing.
Baldwin Award Presented to John Satagaj

One of the highlights of WIC was the presentation of WMMA's Ralph B. Baldwin Award. The award, the association’s highest honor, was presented to John S. Satagaj, Esq. WMMA’s longtime legal counsel.

Satagaj has worked with WMMA, not only serving as legal counsel but assisting with legislative matters pertaining to the woodworking and manufacturing industry. His regularly published “Washington Report” is e-mailed out regularly, keeping industry members updated on developments in Washington, D.C.

Satagaj serves as the Principal of John S. Satagaj, Attorney at Law, specializing in small business, trade association and tax matters. He also founded and was the longtime president of the Small Business Legislative Council (SBLC). The SBLC is an independent coalition of nearly 60 trade and professional associations that share the commitment to the future of small business. He earned his law degree from the University of Connecticut and a subsequent LL.M in Taxation from George Washington University.

The Baldwin Award is named for Ralph B. Baldwin, long-time member and past president of WMMA. During his career with Oliver Machinery Company and his involvement with the WMMA, Baldwin exemplified the commitment that makes an Association function at its peak potential. The award recognizes those who have contributed similar levels of involvement.

“We are honored to present John Satagaj with this year’s Baldwin Award,” stated John Schultz, WMMA’s president. “He has shown extraordinary commitment and dedication to our association and our industry over the years. I cannot think of an individual more deserving of this honor.”
How often can a technical session claim to have people standing in the aisles and shooting photos non-stop on their phones? It was the case at this year’s Technology Session at WIC. The session discussed 3-D printing technology and offered not only a discussion of how a 3-D printer works, but an actual show-and-tell featuring a working printer – and its results.

Not in the know yet? A three-dimensional printer (sometimes known as an industrial robotic device) is able to make a three-dimensional solid object of virtually any shape from a digital model. (Paper isn’t the only medium, either; the printer can work with materials such as liquid, powder, paper or sheet material).

A model of a 3-D object to be copied could be anything simple, such as a vase or a box – or it might be something highly technical such as an operational firearm (something mentioned during the session). It is anticipated that someday, 3-D printing will be used extensively for medical work such as the development of prosthetics.

At the WIC session, attendees were able to view a PBS show about 3-D printing, which illustrated the way the printer scanned and mapped an object, then generated a model of it, which it ultimately reproduced. (Copies of the objects, handed around to attendees, generated lively interest and were the subject of many smartphone photos and videos).

Missed this session, or simply want more information? Those planning to attend the IWF meeting should be aware of the fact that several 3-D printing sessions are planned.
Coming Soon: Fall Conference & Plant Tour

WMMA to Host Fall Fly-In at Same Time; Two Outstanding Meetings at Once!

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 WMMA members are invited to participate in this one-of-a-kind opportunity to see how industry professionals stay updated in areas such as woodworking machinery, equipment, tooling, supplies, software, and overall business solutions. The conference features tours of six different component and dimension manufacturing plants, as well as a half day of educational sessions with speakers from Penn State. There will also be two receptions and a dinner that will allow you plenty of opportunities to network with qualified buyers of your products and services.

The WCMA Fall Conference & Plant Tour event will be housed out of the Best Western/Country Cupboard in Lewisburg, PA. The tours include Tilo Industries in Lewisburg, Heister House in Pleasant Mills, two Conestoga plants in Beavertown and Beaver Springs, Wood Mode Industries in Kreamer, and Bingaman & Sons in Kreamer. The theme for this year’s conference is “Lean Manufacturing”.

To participate in the event, simply become a Technology Partner of the WCMA (click here or visit www.woodcomponents.org). By becoming a Technology Partner before June 1, your company will also be listed in the 2014-2015 Wood Components Buyer’s Guide, published by Wood Products magazine as a special pull-out section of the IWF Atlanta Fair edition. This is an excellent opportunity to promote your products and services to WCMA members and other manufacturers of wood products.

Please contact the WCMA office directly with any questions at 651-332-6332 or wcma@woodcomponents.org. We look forward to seeing you in Lewisburg!

Note: WMMA will be holding its Fall Board and Committee meetings and DC Fly-In in conjunction with this event. Transportation will be provided from Pennsylvania to the DC area for interested attendees who want to participate in both events. A bus will depart from the WCMA events on Tuesday afternoon following the plant tours; in order to participate in DC Fly-In activities for WMMA on Wednesday, and Board/Committee meetings on Thursday. Participants of the DC activities will want to depart Washington’s Reagan National Airport on Thursday afternoon. Details are coming soon.