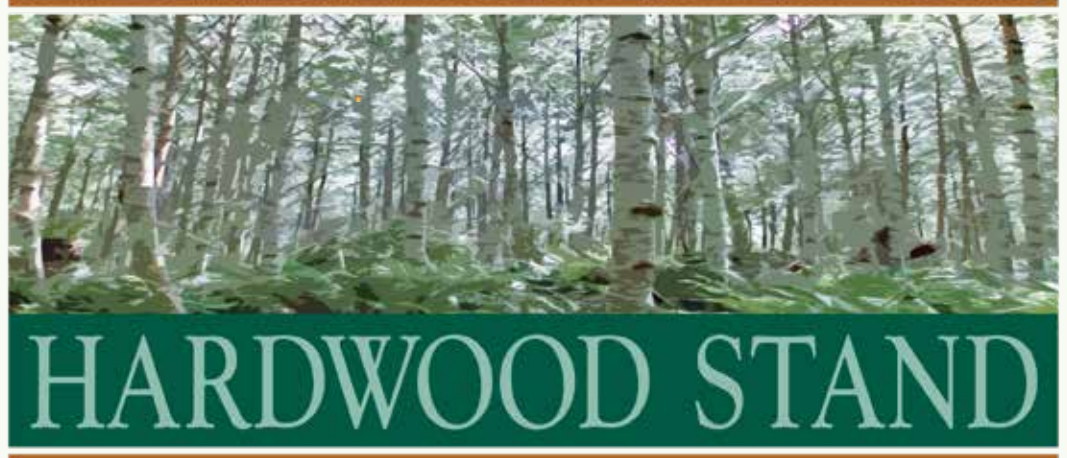


August 2024



SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED PAGE 6

## In this issue:

- \* Upcoming Events
- \* Quote for the Month
- \* Outlook
- \* Manager Update
- \* Hardwood Federation Update
- \* News
- \* Motivation

No. 665  
July 2024

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Ph: (360) 835-1600  
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Email: [wha@westernhardwood.org](mailto:wha@westernhardwood.org)



## Upcoming Events

### August 6-9, 2024

IWF Woodworking Fair  
<https://www.iwfatlanta.com/the-show/about/>

### August 14, 2024

WHA Board Meeting  
[wha@westernhardwood.org](mailto:wha@westernhardwood.org)

### August 28, 2024

WHA Board Meeting  
[wha@westernhardwood.org](mailto:wha@westernhardwood.org)

### September 23-25, 2024

WHA Annual Convention  
Email: [wha@westernhardwood.org](mailto:wha@westernhardwood.org)

### September 25-27, 2024

Timber Processing & Energy Expo  
<https://timberprocessingandenergyexpo.com/>

### October 2-4, 2024

NHLA Annual Convention  
<https://nhla.com/convention/schedule/>

### October 9-10, 2024

WPMA Annual Meeting  
<https://www.wpma.org/events/>

## Quote for the Month

**"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.."**

-Thomas Edison





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What's Happening in Washington DC?

Dana Lee Cole, Hardwood Federation

Real American Hardwood Coalition & NHLA

Dana Spessert

Hardwoods at PDX

Ryan Temple, Sustainable NW

Oregon HCP

Ben Deumling, Zena Forest Products

AI in the Wood Products Industry Panel

Joey Nelson, JoeScan and Norvin Laudon, MiCROTEC

## **Plus:**

Annual Golf Tournament - Tri-Mountain Golf Course

Annual Fishing Fun - Salmon fishing on the Columbia River

Annual Auction - Support the WHA Scholarship Fund

Raffle - You could win a beautiful, custom gaming table! Handcrafted by Trillium Pacific Millworks in Hubbard, OR from Oregon White Oak donated by Epilogue, LLC in Portland, OR. Drawing to be held on September 27th at the TP&EE convention in Portland. Need not be present to win. The table will be on display at the Annual Convention and at the TP&EE where you can visit us at booth #130 and where the lucky winner will be announced on Friday, September 27th.



## 2024 SPONSORS



**SEE PAGE 18 & 19 FOR SPONSOR & AUCTION FORMS**

## Outlook

West Coast region lumber providers shared similar views regarding the health of their sales.

Contacts in **California** aren't seeing much of a change over the last six months. They'd like to see the trend shift away from white oak as it has become more difficult to stock. Sales have been hurt by interest rates. Their customers are wanting to be sure they have a product sold before they commit to an order.



A **Washington** provider also says sales seem to be about the same as six months ago, maybe a little less. Housing starts are very slow and he doesn't see a lot of hardwood going into the houses being built. White oak is harder to get and he mentioned that he is surprised poplar isn't moving faster as it is less expensive.



## Manager's Message



*Dave Sweitzer*  
*Secretary/Manager, WHA*

As we approach the Annual Convention September 23-25, it provides all of us the opportunity to network, learn, enjoy each other, and participate in discussions pertinent to the future of our industry. I believe the future is bright, albeit loaded with challenges (opportunities in disguise). Together, as an association, we are stronger, with greater influence on decision makers, than alone. To expand our membership, we need your help. Talk to your vendors about joining the WHA, coming to the convention, and help the hardwood industry. Just think, if each of us invites one company to come to the convention and join the WHA, we can double our size and multiply our influence.

Here are some talking points. Add your personal testimony of the importance to being a member.

1. Unite for impact: Join forces, revolutionize timber harvest with softwood groups.
2. Powerhouse representation: Shape policies in DC, champion hardwood cause with Hardwood Federation.
3. Ignite domestic demand: Lead marketing crusade,



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spotlight American hardwoods with Real American Hardwood Coalition.

4. Conquer global markets: Showcase finest American hardwoods worldwide with American Hardwood Export Council.

5. Connect and thrive: Network at electrifying WHA events, spark innovation and success.

6. Inspire future leaders: Empower forestry students with captivating contests and scholarships.

7. Stay ahead with insights: Level up with ground breaking webinars, including AI revolution in business.

8. Unlock knowledge wealth: Revamped website offers hardwood educational resources at your fingertips.

9. Shape the future: Drive action with Strategic Plan, lead in action committees.

10. Stay informed, promote brand: Monthly Digital Magazine offers industry pulse, advertising opportunities

Next year we will celebrate 70 years as an association. Let's double our efforts to double our membership and Annual Convention attendance.

Be sure to join us at our Annual Convention coming September 23 – 25, 2024, at Ilani Casino and Resort in Ridgefield, WA. Registration is online! [www.westernhardwood.org/2024](http://www.westernhardwood.org/2024)

## Update from Hardwood Federation

Dana Cole, Executive Director

July 2024



Supreme Court Issues Landmark “Loper” Ruling, Evens Regulatory Landscape

On June 28, the Supreme Court made a significant decision in *\*Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo\**, challenging the “Chevron doctrine.” This principle had allowed federal courts to defer to federal agencies’ interpretations of ambiguous laws, benefiting regulators in 77% of cases. Supporters of the *\*Loper Bright\** decision believe it will require Congress to provide clearer regulatory guidelines, while opponents worry courts may make decisions on complex technical issues better left to experts. Deregulation activists see it as a step toward dismantling past court cases upholding federal agencies’ authority. However, legal experts caution that industries might not rush to relitigate settled cases due to financial investments made based on previous rulings.

The Court emphasized that long-settled cases using Chevron do not justify overturning past decisions, and the doctrine of *\*stare decisis\** (letting decisions stand) is expected to limit re-litigations of past

*Cont on pg 8*

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# 2024 Scholarship Awards

## Kelly Cantrell



Kelly Cantrell began attending Forestry Challenge events in high school, gaining experience in forest management and data collection. She is currently a Forestry major at the University of Montana and active in related clubs and organizations.

## David Reinhart



Growing up in a Sierra Nevada logging town, David Reinhart's love of forestry began early. Participating in the Forestry Challenge and working with the Forest Service built a strong foundation. Now, he is excelling in the private sector and pursuing a forestry education at Cal Poly Humboldt..

## Summer Mini-Tour

Several WHA members experienced an exciting tour of three facilities July 25th near Philomath, OR, organized by WHA board member Dennis Sanders, Patrick Lumber Manufacturing.



Dennis Sanders describes location of new specialty hardwood mill at Patrick Lumber Manufacturing. Scheduled to start operation in July 2025, the mill will specialize in most of the underutilized hardwoods of the Northwest. However, Alder, the most prominent Western hardwood, will be produced in 12-16 foot lengths.



Jake Thompson, left, describes the Thompson Tree Farm's sort yard where all specified sorts are correct all of the time without error.



Jeff Minter, Starker Forests, Inc., treated the attendees to an active logging site that featured saw logs and long logs for poles. Extensive mechanized equipment captured the attention of the attendees.



The finale was lunch on Thompson Tree Farm's private lake amid their forest.

## WHA Annual Convention aligns with TP&EE in Portland



The Western Hardwood Association (WHA) is excited to announce its Annual Convention, themed "ALL IN ON HARDWOOD: CRAFTING A WINNING STRATEGY IN TIMBER MARKETS." This year's convention will be held from September 23-25, 2024, at the Ilani Casino Hotel, located at 1 Cowlitz Way, Ridgefield, WA 98642.

The shift to September allows the WHA to align with the Timber Processing & Energy Expo (TP&EE) trade show in Portland, Oregon, enhancing synergy between the two events. This change provides attendees with a comprehensive experience, promoting networking opportunities and valuable industry insights. Main events will occur on Tuesday, September 24, the day before TP&EE opens, with a golf tournament on September 23 and a guided fishing trip on the Columbia River on September 25.



The WHA convention promises to explore the intricacies of the western hardwood lumber industry, featuring engaging discussions and informative sessions designed to help professionals navigate the evolving market landscape. Aaron Blumenkron, current President of WHA, expressed enthusiasm for bringing together industry leaders and stakeholders to empower collaboration within the hardwood community.



*Attendees from the 2023 and 2022 Annual Convention*

The Ilani Casino Hotel serves as an ideal venue, offering state-of-the-art facilities and amenities amidst the picturesque backdrop of Ridgefield, Washington, just 20 miles from the Portland Expo Center. Attendees can anticipate a seamless blend of education, networking, and entertainment throughout the convention.

Registration for the WHA Annual Convention is now open. Stay tuned for updates on speakers, sessions, and special events by visiting <https://westernhardwood.org/2024>.

For sponsorship opportunities, inquiries, or further information, please contact Dave Sweitzer at [wha@westernhardwood.org](mailto:wha@westernhardwood.org).



(Cont from pg 5) actions under environmental laws. However, regulations that have never been challenged remain open to scrutiny.

The immediate fallout includes a federal court in Texas suspending the Department of Labor's new overtime pay rule. In another example, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) filed a lawsuit against the EPA over a new standard for fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), arguing that the EPA ignored economic impacts. Without Chevron, the EPA cannot rely on courts to defer to its interpretation, potentially making it easier to overturn these rules.

The \*Loper\* decision shifts power from agencies to courts, often favoring industry but potentially cutting both ways. Environmental groups could challenge U.S. Forest Service plans that favor industry. The full consequences of the decision will unfold over the coming years.

*Bipartisan Senators Urge Administration to Adopt Red Oak for Military Vehicles* - In coordination with the Hardwood Federation, on July 12, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) led a bipartisan group of eight other senators in a letter to the Department of Defense (DOD) and General Services Administration (GSA) "to expedite transition to domestic Red Oak lumber for hardwood floorboards in U.S. military and other government vehicles, trailers and platforms." The senators point out that using Red Oak will replace "critically endangered Apitong hardwood from tropical forests with a readily available, sustainable domestic source of lumber," scoring a win/win for the U.S. economy and environment. Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), who co-led the effort, Bob

Casey (D-PA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Tom Cotton (R-AR), Angus King (I-ME) and JD Vance (R-OH) joined Sen. Shaheen in the letter.

*Rep. Westerman Readies Endangered Species Amendments* - In the near future, House Natural Resources Committee Chair Bruce Westerman (R-AR) is expected to offer a bill that would streamline the Endangered Species Act (ESA), creating more certainty within a federal statute that's subject to numerous agency rulemakings. The amendments will, among other things, include a definition of "habitat as it relates to critical habitat," thereby creating more certainty for forest management plans. It also rejects adoption of the so-called "blanket rule" which expands "endangered species" control measures, consistent with industry comments filed in August, 2023. The Federation will keep you posted on the bill's progress following formal introduction.

*House Lawmakers Advance Wood Products Research Per Industry Advocacy* - Consistent with advocacy from the Hardwood Federation and our wood products allies, House lawmakers acknowledge the importance of performing studies that will quantify the amount of carbon stored in wood products in a Committee Report that accompanies the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 spending bill to fund the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL). The report states that the Forest Service Research and Development section, for example, will "undertake a range of carbon research including" the impacts of forest management. The report also promotes FPL university partnerships to study biomass commercialization and mass timber construction. The Federation will keep you posted on pro-industry programs at the FPL as developments unfold.

*House Lawmakers Approve Spending Bill, Adopt Hardwood Priorities* - Consistent with robust advocacy from the Federation, the House passed a Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 funding bill that affirms classification of forest products biomass as "carbon neutral" and hinders implementation of two of the Administration's most ambitious regulations. Earlier this month when the bill was being considered by the Appropriations Committee, industry ally Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) offered an amendment adopted by the committee to block implementation of EPA's new air quality standard for fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) and the Forest Service's old growth amendment plans. The Federation advocated against both of these regulations and welcomes congressional intervention. Next steps include consideration in the Senate where the outcome remains uncertain.

*U.S. Chamber, Federation and Allies Push Permitting Reform* - On August 1, the Federation will join the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other industry groups to discuss ongoing advocacy related to permitting reform,



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including a focus on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) permitting process. The coalition supports a bipartisan Congressional Review Act (CRA) measure introduced by Sens. Manchin (D-WV) and Sullivan (R-AK) and Garret Graves (R-LA) to revoke more stringent NEPA rules. Rather than streamline the environmental permitting process, as advocated by the Federation in coalition comments filed in 2023, the new rule is poised to create new legal roadblocks that will cause delays and undermine regulatory certainty. Agenda items will also include discussion of the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and John Barrasso (R-WY).

Dana will be joining us in September at the WHA Annual Convention! Don't miss it!

## Update - Real American Hardwood Coalition

### Hardwood Industry Launches New Tool for Architecture and Design Professionals

The Real American Hardwood Coalition (RAHC) and the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA), in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, have launched a new website at [RealAmericanHardwood.pro](https://RealAmericanHardwood.pro). The website was developed to educate architects, interior designers, and construction professionals on the attributes of Real American Hardwood® products, as well as introduce new and innovative hardwood product technologies for the built environment.

Filled with information on the uses, value, and benefits of the most commonly specified domestic hardwood species, the website also explores new ways for design/build professionals to incorporate hardwood products—such as thermally modified hardwood and cross-laminated timber—into commercial and residential spaces. A sustainability section provides visitors with data—backed by science and research—on the environmental and climate friendly qualities of hardwood products, and how they compare to alternatives, such as vinyl and steel.

Linda Jovanovich, chair of the RAHC, says the new website plays an important role in educating current and future professionals. “As the RAHC works with and educates architects, designers, specifiers, and students, RealAmericanHardwood.pro is a valuable resource to serve those communities. I am looking forward to adding it to our education toolbox and putting it to work alongside our website at RealAmericanHardwood.com, which is designed to inform and inspire consumers and prosumers alike.”

“There are many different factors that are important to consider when designing a space for people to gather, while celebrating the Naturally Authentic® beauty and character

of Real American Hardwood products,” says Dallin Brooks, executive director of the NHLA. “From the visual aesthetics of lumber to the functionality of different species, this new platform will equip all involved in the design/build community with the information they need to create a positive impact on both people within design spaces and on the environment outside by specifying Real American Hardwood flooring, cabinetry, millwork, furniture, and more.”

The website also includes a featured projects section, where visitors can read case studies about unique projects and submit their own work for publication.

## Member News

On August 14th, as you walk through the new PDX Airport Terminal, you'll be stepping on 75,000 square feet of **Zena Forest Products'** Zena EdgeGrain™ flooring. Zena has worked on this project for over eight years, making it a significant milestone for the company. Developed with ZGF Architects, this innovative flooring addresses the technical challenges of a large, high-traffic area.

More importantly, Zena EdgeGrain™ flooring supports ecological sustainability in Oregon. Aligned with the Port of Portland's mission, the flooring is made from locally sourced materials, promotes good forest stewardship, and meets FSC® certification standards. This product utilizes more of the tree and a variety of smaller trees, which supports restoration efforts by using trees that would otherwise be discarded.

A big thank you goes to ZGF Architects, HSJV, the Port of Portland, Ed Mays from Endurawood, John Valachovic at OMEP, SEDCOR, Business Oregon, Pure Floors, and the entire Zena Crew for their dedication. The project involved creating 100,000 tiles and two million sticks, all produced in the Willamette Valley, just 75 miles from the airport.

Visitors to PDX can enjoy the new terminal space without a boarding pass and share photos of this beautiful, locally manufactured oak floor..

**JoeScan**, a leading innovator in sawmill scanning technology, announces the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has granted a patent (US11924530B2) for its revolutionary JS-50 line of Sawmill Scanners. The patent recognizes JoeScan's groundbreaking advancements in creating a robust scanning solution tailored specifically for the demanding environment of sawmills.

Each model of JS-50 laser scanner is designed for specific machine centers in the





sawmill. The newly patented technology addresses the inherent challenges faced by sawmill operators, including wide temperature ranges, moisture, vibration, and dust. By ensuring thermal stability, JoeScan's scanner offers precise and repeatable scanning capabilities, even in the harshest conditions. The patent also covers features such as single-cable power over ethernet (PoE) connectors and global encoder timings to reduce the number of cables in a system. These innovations allow sawmills to maintain uninterrupted production without the need for frequent servicing of scanner systems.

JS-50 Sawmill Scanners utilize advanced optical systems housed within a specially designed enclosure. This enclosure not only protects the delicate internal components from environmental factors, but also maintains the accuracy and reliability of the scanning process. By incorporating multiple laser line beam zones, the scanner provides comprehensive 3D log profiles, enabling sawmill operators to optimize the utilization of each log.

"Reliability and simplicity through innovation has always been at the core of JoeScan's mission. The issuance of this patent underscores our commitment to pushing the boundaries of sawmill scanning technology," said Joey Nelson, founder and president of JoeScan. "Scanning systems play a critical role in sawmill efficiency and productivity, and our JS-50 family of scanners delivers a significant leap forward in addressing those requirements."

The patent serves as a testament to JoeScan's dedication to research and development in the field of sawmill scanners. By integrating cutting-edge technology with practical solutions, JoeScan continues to empower sawmill operators with the tools they need to thrive in today's competitive market.

For more information about JoeScan and its range of scanning solutions, visit [joescan.com](https://joescan.com).

Following the launch of five new models in its 25th anniversary year in 2023, Irish materials handling specialist **Combilift** has already announced the premiere of yet another innovation. The Combi-CLL (Container Log-Loader) was recently exhibited at EXPO Richmond 2024, one of America's leading trade shows for the forest products industry.

The concept and operation of the Combi-CLL is based on that of the Combi-CSS (Container Slip Sheet), which has been successfully deployed across numerous industries for the mechanized loading of long products such as packs of timber or steel into containers. This not only reduces the risk of accidents to the workforce and product damage but

is incredibly fast compared to other methods – a 40' container can be fully loaded by one operator in under 6 minutes.

The 65,000 lbs capacity electro-hydraulically powered Combi-CLL offers the same benefits when it comes to speed, safety and product integrity. It was designed to address the requirements of exporters of softwood and hardwood logs, the nature and shape of which make them much trickier to handle than pelletized or packed products. Logs can be individually lifted and pre-loaded into a robust, high-sided metal "tub" before the patented push-pull mechanism powers the tub into the container. Once inside, the hydraulic dropdown hatch is closed and locked into position to hold the logs securely in place, and the tub is retracted to allow the logs to settle within the container.

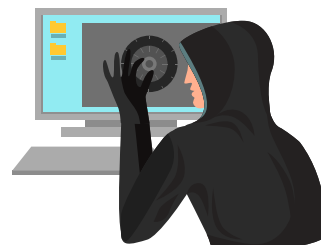
Once again, Combilift has come up with a customer-led solution that also has potential for applications beyond the forestry and timber industries.

Watch the video here: [https://youtu.be/1H\\_78Oqtlvs?si=26BQh095DnNQTHz](https://youtu.be/1H_78Oqtlvs?si=26BQh095DnNQTHz)

For more information, please visit: <https://combilift.com/combi-css-log-loader/>

## News

**Deepfake Dupes:** Cybercriminals are increasingly using AI technology to create sophisticated deepfakes, deceiving employees and executives by impersonating colleagues through voice spoofing, manipulated photos, and AI-generated videos. This has resulted in significant financial losses, such as a case where a finance leader transferred \$25 million to scammers after believing he was on a genuine video call with senior executives.



The rise of deepfake technology has made it difficult for people to distinguish between real and fake, leading to an increase in funds transfer fraud (FTF) and business email compromise (BEC). In 2023, these types of fraud comprised 56% of all cyber claims, with FTF incidents rising 15% and average claim severity increasing by 24% to \$275,000. Business email scams resulted in \$2.9 billion in losses, making them the second-costliest cybercrime after investment scams.

Employees at all levels are prime targets as they often respond quickly to requests from senior executives, unaware they might be falling for a scam. The consequences can be devastating, including financial losses, fines, and compromised data security. Deepfake scams also pose threats to personal reputation and safety, creating fake images, videos, and voices for various malicious



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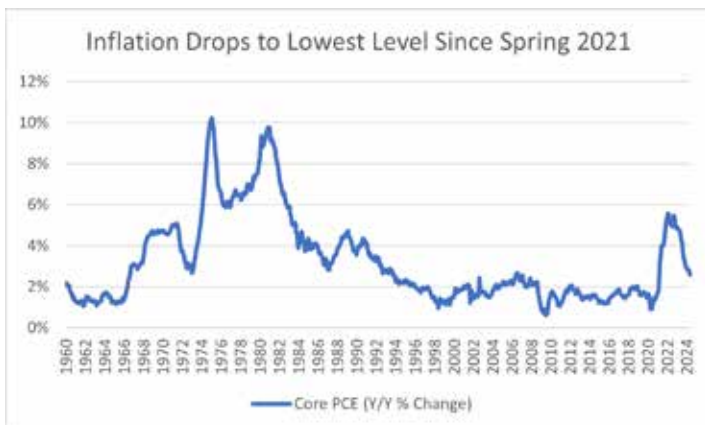


purposes.

To combat these scams, organizations must develop tailored risk management plans and educate employees to be skeptical of all requests involving sensitive data or funds. Simple verification methods, such as using code words and direct communication, are crucial. Implementing advanced security protocols, deepfake detection tools, and ongoing training can help prevent fraud. Additionally, employees should be vigilant for signs of deepfakes, such as unusual visual cues like strange shadows, inconsistent glare on glasses, and abnormal blinking patterns. - excerpted from *Deepfakes dupe businesses: How to protect yourself*. HUB International. (2024, July 9). <https://www.hubinternational.com/blog/2024/07/deepfakes-dupe-businesses-how-to-protect-yourself/>

**More signs that the economy is slowing:** Durable goods orders inched higher in May but have largely remained flat, increasing just 0.1% through the first five months of the year.

Yes, but inflation is also slowing: Inflation continues to trend in the right direction and confidence is growing that inflation will continue to decrease. Year-over-year, the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index for May increased 2.6%. Over the same period, goods prices decreased 0.1%, and services prices rose 3.9%. Food prices are up 1.2%, and energy prices are up 4.8%. Excluding food and energy, the core PCE price index is up 2.6% compared to the previous year. - excerpted from DuBravac, Shawn, Dr. "NAM-Weekly Economic Report - July 1, 2024" | NAM. National Association of Manufacturers.: n. pag.



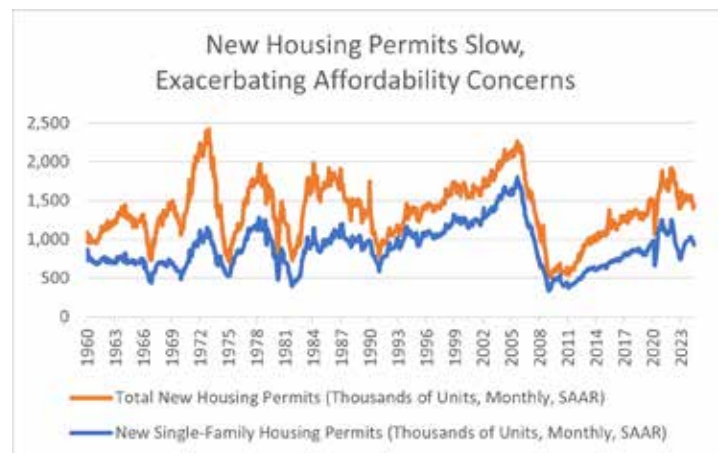
**Inflation is falling:** The Consumer Price Index declined 0.1% in June, the first decline in consumer prices since the pandemic. The decline was driven in part by a 3.8% fall in gasoline prices, which followed a 3.6% decline in May. Excluding food and energy, core CPI rose 0.1% in June after a 0.2% increase in May.

Yes, but: Looking further up the supply chain, inflation pressures remain prevalent. The Producer Price Index for final demand rose 0.2%, exceeding an anticipated 0.1% gain. The year-over-year trend accelerated from 2.4% in May to 2.6% in June, surpassing the expected 2.3% growth.

- excerpted from DuBravac, Shawn, Dr. "NAM-Weekly Economic Report - July 15, 2024" | NAM. National Association of Manufacturers.: n. pag.



**The housing market** remains subdued: Builder confidence declined in July likely due to high mortgage and construction loan rates, potentially affecting demand for construction-related manufacturing products, with sales conditions and buyer traffic remaining low. - excerpted from DuBravac, Shawn, Dr. "NAM-Weekly Economic Report - July 22, 2024" | NAM. National Association of Manufacturers.: n. pag.



**House Panel Approves Fix Our Forests Act:** The House Natural Resources Committee approved the bipartisan "Fix Our Forests Act" (FOFA) on Wednesday, June 26th on a voice vote. The measure, spearheaded by Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) includes relief from unnecessary Endangered Species reviews and improvements to the Good Neighbor Act program.

"It's no secret that I'm passionate about implementing scientific forest management solutions," Chairman Bruce Westerman said, kicking off the markup. "The Fix Our Forests Act is a pivotal step towards making America's wooded areas healthier, more abundant, and resilient." He praised Rep. Scott Peters, the bill's cosponsor, for working with him on a bipartisan basis to craft the bill. "America's forests are in desperate need of management, and it's

time to take immediate action. Onerous regulations and weaponization of environmental laws have turned our forests into ticking time bombs. Fortunately, the Fix Our Forests Act is a bipartisan solution that will apply the best possible science and empower America's land managers with the necessary tools to make our incredible forests healthier and more resilient for generations to come."

**Total housing inventory** at the end of June was 1.32 million units, up 3.1% from May and 23.4% from a year ago. Unsold inventory represented a 4.1-month supply at the current sales rate, up from 3.7 months in May and 3.1 months in June 2023, the highest since May 2020.

The median price for existing homes in June was \$426,900, an all-time high and a 4.1% increase from a year ago, with all four U.S. regions seeing price gains. Tight inventory levels constrained activity but also pushed prices higher, even in the face of high mortgage rates.. - *excerpted from DuBravac, Shawn, Dr. "NAM-Weekly Economic Report - July 29, 2024" | NAM. National Association of Manufacturers.: n. pag.*



**The Caldor Fire, which burned 221,835 acres** in California's El Dorado National Forest between August and October 2021, highlights the growing issue of wildfire management. The U.S. Forest Service has increasingly shifted resources toward wildfire suppression, with fire management funding rising from 16% to 57% of the budget since 1995, reducing funds for essential restoration activities.

Chris Dunn, a former Forest Service hotshot and now a forest scientist at Oregon State University, stresses the complexities of managed fires. While they can be beneficial, few areas in western forests are safe for



The Caldor Fire burns through trees on Mormon Emigrant Trail east of Sly Park, Calif., on Aug. 17, 2021. Ethan Swope / AP

such practices. The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) calls for clear guidelines on managed wildfires.

The Forest Service currently faces a shortage of specialists for effective forest management, worsened by high attrition rates due to low morale and pay. Frank Carroll describes the agency's approach as "blowtorch forestry," reflecting its reliance on managed fire to avoid conflicts with anti-forestry advocates. This strategy poses severe risks for rural communities. The Forest Service must prioritize proactive management to safeguard both the environment and the public. - condensed from Petersen, J. (2024, July 23). Our managed fire debate is now a political firestorm: Part 2:.. Evergreen Magazine. <https://evergreenmagazine.com/our-managed-fire-debate-is-now-a-political-firestorm-part-2/?ref=friends-of-evergreen-newsletter>

**The Southern United States has been a hub** for wood-based biofuel, biomass export, pulp, and paper production, with hardwood mills crucial to the rural economy. However, recent closures of biomass export terminals and paper plants due to economic challenges and regulatory hurdles have left these mills struggling to manage their residuals. This has led to increased operational costs and decreased profitability, pushing the industry towards local power generation.

Hardwood mills generate significant quantities of residues like sawdust, bark, pulpwood, and wood chips, but small biomass volumes, strict regulations, and high capital costs hinder power generation efforts. Addressing these issues requires concerted efforts from policy makers and stakeholders to develop supportive regulatory frameworks and financial incentives, foster cooperation, and invest in infrastructure. These measures can help mitigate the impacts of plant closures, promote sustainable energy production, and ensure the resilience of the hardwood industry. - condensed from Brooks, D. (2024, July 2). Why not advocate to solve our biomass crisis. Miller Wood Trade Publications. <https://millerwoodtradepub.com/why-not-advocate-to-solve-our-biomass-crisis/>



**Motivate**

**NEVER CONFUSE BUSYNESS  
WITH PROGRESS**

by Larry Dennis



Memorial Day:  
honestly, a few decades ago now,  
but I still remember it. I got up earlier  
than anyone else in the house.  
Everyone, all three boys and the



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dog, were still asleep. I walked downstairs and grabbed a book I had picked up at a store a few weeks earlier, a little book called *All Men See God*. It was a Hallmark book. Then I grabbed a chair and went down to the river, which ran through our property at that time in Beverly Hills Village, Michigan. The river not only ran through the backyard, but we also had a waterfall there. It was about three feet tall, maybe a little taller.

As I settled into reading, I read a page or two and then looked up. I noticed a little green apple coming over the waterfall. It crashed at the bottom and shot out about three or four feet, maybe a little further. Then it started to slow down, bobbing in an eddy. After a moment or two, it found its way back to the bottom of the waterfall and shot out again. I watched it as it slowed down once more and began to bob around again. The apple repeated this cycle several times.

I returned to my reading, and a few minutes later, the breakfast bell rang. The family was up by then, and I went back to the house for breakfast. I have to tell you, I moved a little faster than usual, maybe because I wanted to check

on my little green apple. When I got back down to the waterfall, it had gone on by that time. Over the years, as I thought about that little green apple, I realized how easy it can be to get in such a hurry. I don't know how many miles that little apple traveled that day, but it traveled a long way without making any progress—out and back, out and back.

I see people who are moving so fast and are so busy that they make no progress. Routine is a good thing; we need routines. Habits are a good thing; we need good habits. But to make progress, we need to check in on our routines and ask ourselves, "Are these routines serving me, or am I caught up in an eddy that's bringing me back?" We may go fast for a while, but then we get pulled back again and again. As you reflect over the year so far and the progress you've made as you endeavor to "Soar in '24," check in and see if there are any habits that may be pulling you back and not allowing you to soar in '24. Dennis, L. (2024, May 27). Never confuse busyness with progress. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRA5F5KuOsc>.



The 2024 edition of Green Book's Hardwood Marketing Directory is available for lease in both a printed version and ONLINE! This service gives Hardwood lumber sales representatives instant access to over 6,000 woodworking plants and distribution/concentration yards' Hardwood lumber purchasing needs throughout North America. Each listing includes species, grades, thicknesses and qualities of lumber purchased regularly. It also gives the lumber buyer's name, address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and website. The Online copy leases for \$2,100 and the printed copy leases for \$1,400 per year. A discounted rate is available with a qualifying Ad program in National Hardwood Magazine or Import/Export Wood Purchasing News.

The 2024 edition of Green Book's Softwood Marketing Directory is also available ONLINE! It is filled with over 4,500 woodworking and industrial plants' Softwood lumber purchasing needs. This directory contains the same type of information as the Hardwood directory. It is a free service with a qualifying Ad program in The Softwood Forest Products Buyer. Without an Ad program, it can be accessed for \$1,200 per year.

For more information on either Green Book, contact Jennifer Trentman at 901-372-8280 or email us at [greenbook@millerwoodtradepub.com](mailto:greenbook@millerwoodtradepub.com).

72nd Edition/2024

Green Book's

# HARDWOOD MARKETING DIRECTORY

*"The World's Leading Information Source on Hardwood Markets!"*

The HARDWOOD PRODUCTS SALES GUIDE that tells you the species, grades, thicknesses and quantities of HARDWOOD LUMBER, IMPORTED WOODS, PLYWOOD, DIMENSION, ETC. purchased by wood-working plants in the United States and Canada.

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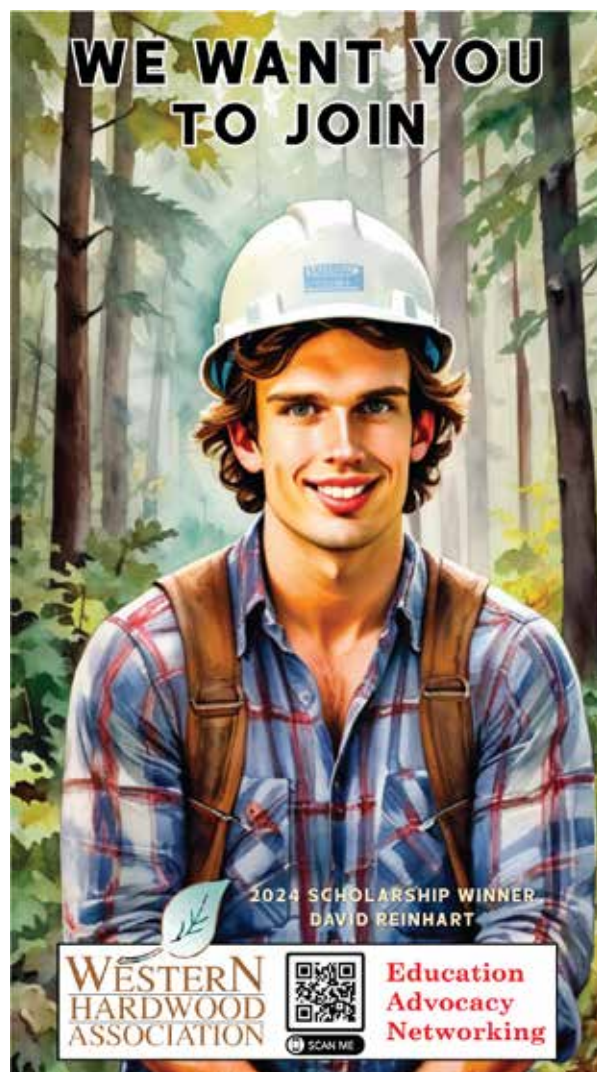


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With so much passion, innovation, and opportunity awaiting, joining our hardwood association isn't just a choice—it's an adventure you won't want to miss! Join us today and let's carve out a future of unparalleled success together!