



Woodpecker News

by Gene Wengert

NEW WOOD PLANT

LignaTerra Global (Charlotte, North Carolina) will build a \$30-million, 300,000-square-foot cross-laminated timber (CLT) production plant in Millinocket, Maine. They will use mainly spruce. With CLT, they can use low-grade wood to create high-grade (strong and straight) lumber. The plant will generate 10 million board feet of CLT lumber in 2019, and 50 million feet per year by 2024.

This operation is an important economic benefit (100 jobs), as well as an advantage for supporting the health of Maine forests by harvesting trees that might be overlooked due to its low quality (small diameter and knottiness, plus inherent weakness). In addition to jobs in the forest and the economic advantage to landowners, small sawmills will benefit, as this plant will create positive economic awareness for forest-product manufacturing in Maine.

CHINA'S FOREST EXPANSION

We know that China has 21% of its land in forests. Now they have taken steps to increase that acreage as an effort both to help control air pollution and also to help expand their forests for the future. China has assigned 60,000 soldiers to plant trees creating 32,400 acres of new forested area. Expectations are that further planting will occur in future years. It certainly is encouraging to see a large government appreciating the role of forests in controlling air pollution and in reducing carbon dioxide levels in the air by sequestering carbon in trees; trees use carbon dioxide to produce oxygen through photosynthesis and use the carbon to make woody material.

In the U.S., we often rely on haphazard natural reproduction for regenerating our hardwood forests. Softwood forests are typically replanted. Expansion of forest acreage is indeed a good practice but is hard to justify economically for the wood industry without government assistance—risks are high (insects, fire, and disease) and cash flow poor (nonexistent income) for 10 to 20 years or longer. Government assistance may indeed be a reasonable alternative for improving forestry—tree seedlings, manpower for tree planting, fire and disease control, tax deferral, technical assistance such as state forestry specialists, special grants such as timber stand improvement (TSI) programs, and so on.

SOUTHERN PINE LUMBER IS GROWING IN 2018

At least four new mills are planned. Hunt and Canadian Tolkien, each owning 50% of a newly formed LaSalle Lumber Company, are building a 200-million-BF-per-year southern pine sawmill in Louisiana. Rex Lumber (a Florida Company) is building a 240-million-BF-per-year southern pine sawmill in Alabama. Canadian giant Canfor is building a 275-million-BF-per-year southern pine sawmill in Georgia. It is close to their glu-lam plant in Georgia. Georgia Pacific giant is building a 350-million-BF-per-year southern pine sawmill in Georgia.

In 2017, new sawmills and expan-

sions for southern pine lumber occurred in South Carolina (West Fraser, the largest lumber producer in North America, at 7.2 billion BF; a western Canadian company that also purchased the Gillman Lumber Company that operates six sawmills in Georgia and

Florida); Mississippi (Biewer Lumber, 200 million BF); Alabama (Two Rivers Lumber Company, 200 million BF); Arkansas (Conifex Timber, western Canadian Company, 180 million BF); and Virginia (Slick Rock Lumber, mixed hardwood and southern pine).



Gene Wengert, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison, is President of The Wood Doctor's Rx, LLC, in Bishop, GA.

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Thick lumber slabs are a hot, new product category that is now being sawn by small sawmill businesses in increasing numbers. Thick lumber slabs are typically sawn over two inches thick and may include a live edge on one or both edges. These slabs are being used for table tops and shelving, as well as other furniture and cabinet products. Large diameter logs are used to create the slabs thus creating wide stock that may also be used as one-piece tops for tables and casegoods furniture. This workshop outlines a standard classification system that buyers and sellers can easily understand that would assist the valuation of slabs based on their condition and level of processing.

Join the Workshop! Morgantown, NC. Thursday, May 24, 2018

Registration forms, and information at: <http://outreach.cnr.ncsu.edu/ncwood>
• Call 1-704-880-3067.

More Valuable Up-coming Workshops:

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- **The National Firewood Workshop** in East Lansing, MI on June 20th & June 21st. at Michigan State University.

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