



TJ editorial board members review 2013 PEERS, IBBC and Research Forum on Recycling

The 2013 TAPPI PEERS Conference was held September 15-18 in Green Bay, WI. The conference was co-located two other popular gatherings, the 10th Research

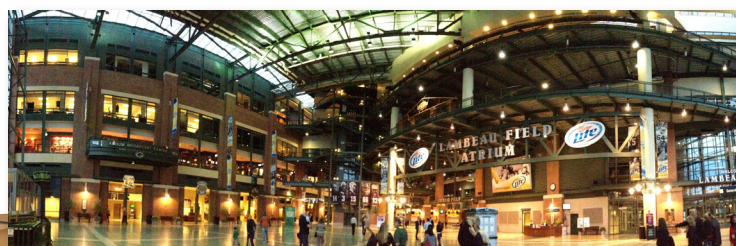
Forum on Recycling and the International Bioenergy & Bioproducts Conference

(IBBC). Several *TAPPI Journal* (TJ) editorial board members were in attendance—Terry Bliss, Brian Brogdon, Mahendra Doshi, Peter Hart, Carl Houtman, and JY Zhu. This column includes some of their observations regarding conference presentations and ongoing research.

Pulping & Bleaching, Engineering

Peter Hart served as this year's PEERS Conference Chair, as well as a Session Chair. From a research and development (R&D) standpoint, Peter observed that this year's conference content focused more on practical applications of R&D discoveries from the past decade, as well as unit operation optimization and alternative process control schemes. In addition, the content reflected the transfer of R&D activities from pulp and paper manufacturers to chemical, instrument, and equipment suppliers.

"The technical presentations at the 2013 PEERS Conference highlighted both the success and the challenges of this research funding strategy," said Peter. "Most of the technical R&D presentations were vendor driven and focused on new and improved equipment and sensors or improvements in chemical additives available to the industry. Mill derived R&D presentations related to pulping and bleaching were less common."



This year's attendees were treated to a memorable reception at Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers football team.



Brian Brogdon also served as a Session Chair and presented papers on models for ClO_2 brightening stages and for ECF bleaching.

Brian observed an overall trend in presentations that focused on equipment design as a way to improve pulp quality and optimize processes. Of particular interest to him was a presentation on chip column movement in a continuous digester from Peter Savelin of BillrudKorsnäs and Anders Hjort of Metso, which he said was a divergence from previous research on the topic in terms of practical application.

Another noteworthy presentation explored the contribution of pulp brightness and optical brightening agents to paper whiteness. By Daniel Connell and co-authors from AkzoNobel, the presentation showed the "balance between bleaching chemicals and addition of optical brighteners and fillers at the paper machine," according to Brian. There were also a number of interesting non-wood pulping papers presented, including one on co-cooking of hardwood and bamboo from Troy Runge of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and his co-author.