1993 Environmental Conference highlights

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Addressing environmental concerns is one of the most important aspects of doing business in the 1990s. The forest products industry is currently grappling with a wide and diverse array of environmental issues, many of which will have significant impacts on the industry's mill operations, fiber supply, and products. The 1993 TAPPI Environmental Conference, held in Boston, MA, from March 29–31, provided an opportunity for nearly 1200 representatives of industry, regulatory agencies, research institutions, consultants, and suppliers to hear and learn about a broad spectrum of subjects related to the industry's environmental protection efforts.

Attenders were also able to view and discuss the latest in environmental products and services at the trade fair. This year 100 companies exhibited at the show.

The conference theme, Total Quality Management and Pollution Prevention, was addressed during the opening session by three keynote speakers. Steven Correll, manager of environmental engineering for Georgia-Pacific's Chemical Division, spoke about the Chemical Manufacturers Association's responsible care programs, which encompass pollution prevention, process safety, employee protection, product stewardship, safe distribution, and community outreach. Corporate and facility participation in these programs requires strong management commitment, substantial time commitments, and effective, proactive communication efforts. Correll reported the responsible care programs were well worth the effort devoted to them at Georgia-Pacific Corp.

John Bell, CEO of Bell Packaging, provided his perspective on environmental management programs for the 1990s. In his view, the five keys for effective programs are positioning, learning, communicating, personal commitment, and "catalyzing" progress. He stressed proactive pollution-prevention programs and strategic planning to go beyond compliance will be required for business success in the 1990s. Bell provided two examples of how these concepts have recently been put into practice at Bell Packaging.

The last keynote speaker was F. Keith Hall, chief scientist and director of science and exploratory research at International Paper Co., and immediate past president of TAPPI. Hall addressed the topic of scientific facts and fiction, touching on a wide range of environmental issues of concern to the forest products industry such as forest productivity, chlorinated organics, greenhouse gases, recycling, endangered species, and cost-benefit analyses.

Division awards were presented to Kathleen Bennett and Paula Schenk. Bennett, vice president of corporate environmental affairs for James River Corp., received the Environmental Division Technical Award and Roy F. Weston honorarium of US$ 1000 for her many contributions to the industry's advocacy efforts in the regulatory and legislative arenas over the past 20 years. She is presently heavily involved in several industry committees dealing with emerging EPA regulations for effluent discharges and atmospheric emissions.

1. Environmental Conference Chairman **Anita Doepke**, left, stands with Environmental Division Award recipient **Kathleen M. Bennett**, Division Leadership and Service Award recipient **Paula Schenk**, and outgoing Division Chairman **Willard C. Warren**.

The Division's Leadership and Service Award was presented to Paula Schenk, an independent consultant. Schenk has been an active member of the Division since 1979, especially contributing to the planning and organization of the annual Environmental Conference and various Division committee activities.

The Division scholarship was awarded to William Josephson, a senior at Auburn University. Division service certificates were presented by Hall to W.C. Warren, outgoing division chairman; Vernon Adams, outgoing Air Quality Committee chairman; John Lee, outgoing Water Quality Committee chairman; and Robert Hanley, outgoing Solid Waste Committee chairman.

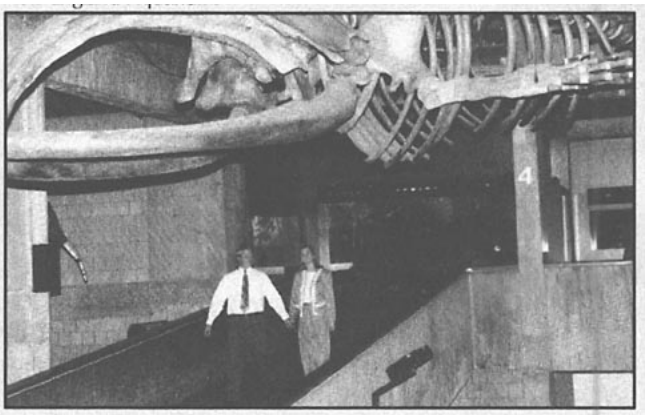
The Russell O. Blosser Memorial Best Paper Awards were given to the following authors for papers presented at the 1992 Environmental Conference: Virginia Holton, Hugh Putnam, and David Evans (Effects on the macroinvertebrate community in a north Florida river from the discharge of an unbleached kraft linerboard mill); Tom Burgess and Randy Young (The explosive nature of noncondensible gases); Cynthia Brown (International Paper's Androscoggin Mill waste minimization program); and

2. The poster session at the Environmental Conference

3. The "Breakfast Club" gave attenders a chance to discuss specific areas of concern.

4. About 100 companies had displays at the Environmental Conference in Boston.

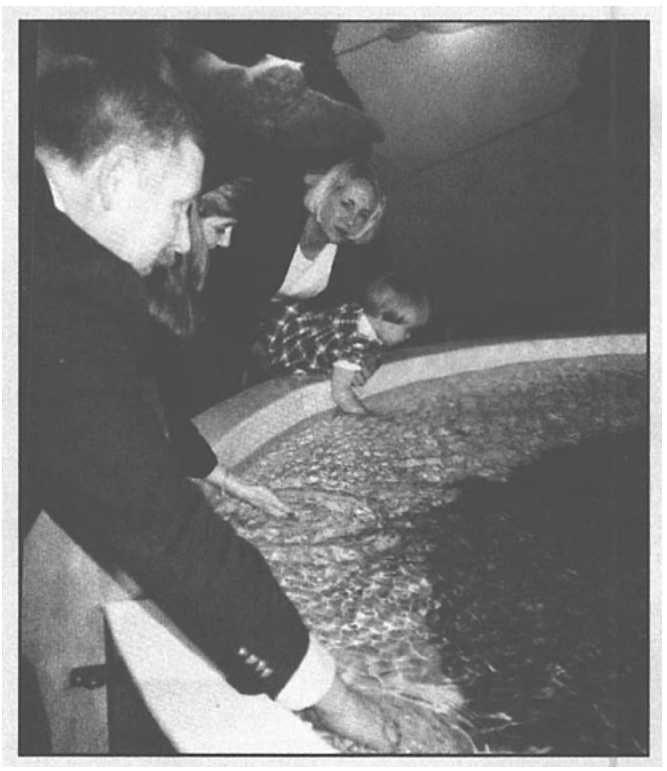
5A-B. Attenders and their families socialized and toured exhibits at the New England Aquarium.



Stella Swanson, Robert Shelast, Richard Schryer, Pamela Kloepper-Sams, J. William Owens, Tracy Marchant, Joan Bernstein, and Karl Krocker (Fish populations and biomarker responses at a Canadian bleached kraft mill site).

Following the opening session, 33 technical sessions were offered on a broad spectrum of environmental topics ranging from source minimization to analytical chemistry issues. Ample coverage was given to the more-traditional subjects of atmospheric emissions, effluent treatment and receiving water quality, and solid waste management. In addition, there were several sessions devoted to discussion of pollution prevention, communications, process safety considerations, bleaching, closed cycle technology, recycling, and risk assessment. The conference chairperson, Anita Doepke of Menominee Paper, and the technical program chairman, Dennis Sasseville of Environmental Engineering and Science, put in many long hours organizing the conference technical program.

At the joint Air Quality, Water Quality, and Solid Waste Committees meeting, two EPA and two industry representatives discussed two of the major regulatory activities now in progress. Don Anderson of EPA's Office of Water described the current Effluent Guidelines review for the pulp and paper industry and outlined the major decisions which EPA will be making over the



6. More than 30 runners participated in the Fun Run. The scholarship fund-raising event has been dubbed the "EnviroClassic." Top finishers were **Mayes Starkes** of CH_2M Hill and **Helene Bouchard** of Abitibi Price.

next few months. Alan Lindsey of International Paper, representing the American Forest and Paper Association, gave the industry's perspective of the Effluent Guidelines review and discussed the industry's concern about a number of regulatory issues such as the need for nationwide AO_x, COD, and color limits. Penny Lassiter of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards reviewed the development of maximum achievable control technology (MACT) emission standards for "air toxics" for chemical pulp mill pulping and bleaching operations. Representing the American Forest and Paper Association, Kathleen Bennett of James River Corp. discussed the industry's concerns about certain aspects of EPA's rulemaking and described industry data-collection activities designed to enhance the available emissions database for the MACT standards-setting process.

Overall, it is clear that the forest products industry will be facing additional environmental challenges during the coming years. Considering the large capital investments that will continue to be made at pulp and paper mills for environmental protection, the considerable operating costs for these investments, and ever-increasing regulatory and public demand for reduced environmental impact of industry operations, the high level of industry interest in environmental topics should not be surprising. The large attendance and successful trade fair at the 1993 Environmental Conference demonstrated the importance of information exchange on these topics. Already planning has begun for the 1994 conference, which will be held in mid-April in Portland, OR.