

Papermaking issues draw record crowd to 1995 TAPPI Conference and Trade Fair

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Papermakers, exhilarated from a booming industry, are juggling customers' expectations for quality products at reasonable prices with increasingly stringent environmental and safety regulations. Networking, technology updates, the trade fair, solutions to practical problems, committee meetings, professional development, and competition surveillance were the most frequently expressed reasons for attending the 1995 Papermakers Conference and Trade Fair.

Chicago welcomed the 1073 conventioners with balmy springtime weather— 959 participated in the technical program and 114 exhibited in 55 booths. Geographically, 823 registrants represented 37 U.S. states. Non-U.S. registrants—predominately from Canada, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, Germany, and Brazil—numbered 136. Attributing the large registration to an improving economy, strong division leadership, and a good technical program, attendance surpassed last year's count by 160.

The Newcomers Reception offered Conference first timers and new TAPPI members the opportunity to converse with TAPPI Vice President Dale Dill, Division leaders, and TAPPI staff. Combining the Papermakers Pub and Poster Session again this year received cheers from the attendees. It provided an upbeat opportunity to mix networking with technology. The Poster Session, chaired by George "Skip" D. Laubach of Nalco Chemical, presented 21 posters.

Awards

In the opening session, Paper and Board Manufacture Division Chairperson Ellen B. Warner of Eastman Kodak Co. greeted the attendees and introduced Conference Chairperson Diane Murdock of JWI Group, Technical Program Chairman Jonathan C. Kerr of Black Clawson Co., Technical Program Vice Chairman James A. Clay of Voith Sulzer Paper Technology, and Division Secretary Lynden J. Stryker of Specialty Minerals Inc. The conference agenda boasted a four-track technical program and events to keep the attendees busy from sunrise to sunset.

Derek Page heard his accomplishments recited as he prepared to receive the Division's Technical Award and Harris O. Ware Prize.



Scholarship Chairman William V. Stevens of Hill Engineers, Architects, Planners presented the JWI Group Scholarship for US\$ 1000 to Elaine Galt, Miami University. Division scholarships of US\$ 1000 each were awarded to Jeffrey Hargrave, Auburn University; Jennifer Arnold, University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point; Jennifer Hinson, North Carolina State University; Todd Fytczyk, Western Michigan University; Michael Wolfensperger, Georgia Institute of Technology; and Annette Smith, University of Maine.

Warner presented Certificates of Appreciation for service to the Division to Jerome M. Gess, Weyerhaeuser; Rex A. Robertson, Valmet Corp.; Michael A. Schuster, Betz PaperChem; and Kenneth E. Smith, Brown and Root.

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Division Chairperson Ellen Warner joined TAPPI Vice President Dale Dill in congratulating Jerome Gess (right), one of four Special Recognition Certificate recipients.



Dale Dill presented Derek H. Page—consultant, scientific editor of *Journal of Pulp and Paper Science*, and a distinguished professor of physics at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology (IPST), Atlanta, GA.—the 1995 Paper and Board Manufacture Division Technical Award for his outstanding contributions in the areas of fiber and paper physics and their applications to papermaking. Along with the award, Page received the Harris O. Ware Prize of US\$ 1000. Having received many awards from TAPPI's Research and Development Division, Page expressed his pride and appreciation for this prestigious recognition from another Division.

Terry L. Bliss, former director of R&D at Black Clawson Co. and now a doctoral candidate at IPST, is the recipient of this year's Leadership and Service Award.

Cluster Rule panics papermakers

Titled "The Cluster Rule—A Current Update—Effects on the Industry and the Operating Papermaker," the keynote panel included four industry delegates: Josephine Cooper, AF&PA; Alan Rooks, *PIMA Magazine*; Alan Stinchfield, James River Corp.; and William Nichols, Rust Engineering.

Cooper started off warning the delegates to "Please listen up—we need your help." The estimated US\$ 11.5 billion capital expenditures associated with the Cluster Rule make it the most costly rulemaking yet by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The impact is estimated to be 33 mill closures, 21,500 direct job losses, 107,900 total job losses, and US\$ 2.9 billion lost wages. The costs are twice the EPA estimates, and the estimated benefits are much less than EPA claims. The "cost/benefit" approach to rulemaking advocated in the present Congress may result in substantial changes in the rule. Serious dialogue with EPA is in progress.

The media representative Alan Rooks humorously suggested that the Cluster Rule could be part of an exciting movie and relayed his script. He felt that elemental chlorine-free (ECF) and totally chlorine-free (TCF) were both environmen-

The Keynote Panel: (L-R) Alan E. Stinchfield, James River; William E. Nichols, Rust Engineering; Josephine S. Cooper, AF&PA; and Alan Rooks, PIMA, field questions from the attendees about the impact of the impending Cluster Rule.



tally sound approaches, and that paper companies should be aggressively promoting ECF.

Alan Stinchfield pointed out that, while attention has been focused on the impact of the Cluster Rule on pulp mills, paper mills will experience a considerable effect as well. For instance, chemical oxygen demand (COD) limits may be difficult to meet for mills using coating. The Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) guidelines for paper mills, recycling operation, and mechanical pulping (MACT III) have not been promulgated yet, but can be expected to be troublesome. He took the stance that mills should be proactive in guiding the EPA toward a sensible rule by supplying data and advice.

William Nichols led Rust's efforts in assessing the impact of the Cluster Rule on nine bleached kraft and unbleached kraft mills. He calculated that from six to nine 500-person engineering firms would be necessary to do the engineering required to meet the standards already promulgated.

Technical program overview

Promising to place special emphasis on the practical aspect of papermaking without abandoning research, the technical program featured the impact of recycling on machine runnability, practical papermaking experiences, how to balance the wet-end while reducing effluent, environmental issues, and new technologies. The technical program included 15 sessions—sometimes with four running concurrently. Receiving high marks were the Cluster Rule Keynote Panel, the Kinetic Aspects—Wet-End Chemical Interactions Session, the Retention/Drainage Roundtable, the grade specific breakout groups of the Papermakers Roundtable, the End Use Requirements Roundtable, and the Poster Session.

Roundtables grapple with practical problems

Five highly popular roundtables provided a forum for sharing practical information and experiences dealing with the following topics: different paper grades; end-use requirements from

Bill Scott of Miami University orchestrated questions from the back of the room for the Retention, Drainage roundtable.



the customer's perspective; retention, drainage, and formation; stock preparation; and a "Meet the Experts" session that offered a roundtable format with experts focusing on problem areas in stock preparation and additives.

The Papermakers Roundtable Session, moderated by R. W. Welborn of ABB Industrial Drying Inc. and Thomas Rodencal of International Paper, drew 200-plus participants. It dealt with questions on a large variety of operating problems and opportunities, including excellent experience with granite roll substitutes. Following the general question-and-answer period, grade-specific discussions were held at five breakout roundtables: fine papers, board grade, newsprint, tissue, and coated paper. Newsprint and the coated paper discussions drew the largest crowds.

In a roundtable format, Michael Stoltz of Beloit Corp. and Charles Klass of Klass Associates Inc. cochaired the end-use requirements group. Panel members were Neil Johnson of The Perseco Co., Addis Hilliker of Banta Corp. Inc., Dan McKinley of World Color Press, Allan VanDenBerg of Lehigh Press Cadillac, Kevin Nuernberger of Moore Business Forms, and James Krause of Longview Fibre. Common needs expressed were for product uniformity and for closer working relationships and trust between supplier and customer. One of the companies represented has eliminated most paper testing because it now accepts the tests provided by the papermaker. The need for adoption of a universal roll numbering system was expressed by representatives of web printing houses. The Perseco Co.'s criteria for the McDonald's packaging products (which they supply) are cost, perceived quality, perceived environmental friendliness, and ease-of-store operation. Questions to this panel covered a wide range. Perseco believes that ECF/TCF is the future, but that TCF may not be necessary. There were mixed feelings about ISO-9000 standards, with some of the panel believing that it is sometimes a stumbling block to resolving problems.

The Retention, Drainage, and Formation Roundtable featured Richard R. Dunn, moderator, and Robert V. Gossage,

Four of the six 5K winners: (L-R) Jeffrey A. Kane, Armstrong, 1st place (men); Christopher A. Hayes, Mead, 3rd place; Teresa M. Burke, BTG Inc., 1st place (women); and Raymond G. Johnson, Hercules Inc., 2nd place.



both of Nalco Chemical Co.; Clarence A. King of Appleton Papers; James Winters, Weyerhaeuser; Robert J. Rudt of Champion International Corp.; and William E. Scott of Miami University, who fielded a variety of problems including drainage profiles and measurement, methods to improve predictions, the relationship of charge to pH factor, on-line charge titration, and flocculation in this trouble-shooting session.

Sharing a disastrous learning experience

Because of the critical importance to the industry, the paper "Catastrophic failure of cast-iron dryer roll caused by severe erosion resulting from spoiler bar failures" was scheduled before the Papermakers Roundtable Session on Monday. Jim Johnson of Union Camp and Susan Freeman of Thielsch Engineering described the investigation into the explosion of a dryer can at Union Camp's Savannah mill last August. The cause was extensive thinning of the dryer shell at mid-span caused by erosion by parts of the spoiler bar assembly, which had broken loose. Union Camp is to be commended for sharing this information with the industry even though they are—to quote Jim Johnson—"not especially proud" of the circumstances which led to the disaster.

New technologies

Papermakers had a field day with new technology offerings on Tuesday. Jack F. Brown of Boise Cascade, Marc F. Foulger of Black Clawson, and Jack E. Lukins of Rust Engineering cochaired both sessions, New Technology in Papermaking I and II. Topics ran the gamut on papermaking advances. These papers and abstracts of the Poster Session are available in the *1995 Papermakers Conference Proceedings*.

The trade fair

The Papermakers Trade Fair this year starts a new tradition. Exhibitors provided technical information about recycling, additives, stock preparation, alkaline papermaking, and new

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technologies. Customers and suppliers mingled at the receptions held in the Exhibit Hall Monday and Tuesday evenings. It set a relaxed atmosphere for mixing business with pleasure. There were 114 exhibitors in 55 booths.

Outside of the trade fair, the TAPPI PRESS Booth experienced brisk sales throughout the conference. The *Alkaline Papermaking Anthology 1993–1994* was the best seller.

Papermakers sprint for scholarships

Rex Robertson of Valmet Inc. organized the annual Papermakers' Runnability 5K again for the third year in a row, which makes this a tradition for the conference. Held Tuesday morning, 60-plus runners and walkers dashed through Grant Park and enjoyed the early morning fresh air and sunlight by the lake front. There were over 20 sponsoring corporations and the 5K brought in over US\$ 5000 for Division scholarships.

Future conferences

The 1996 Papermakers Conference will be held March 24–27, 1996, at the Philadelphia Marriott, Philadelphia, PA. Please plan to attend.

Anyone interested in presenting a paper at this meeting should contact James A. Clay, project manager at Voith Sulzer Paper Technology, telephone: 513–423–9281, fax: 513–423–3256. The preliminary deadline for abstracts is Aug. 11, 1995; draft papers for technical review are due Oct. 13, 1995; and the final paper is due to TAPPI on Nov. 22, 1995.

The Paper and Board Division and the Engineering Division are planning a joint conference scheduled for Oct. 6–9, 1997, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN. The theme is "Forming Bonds for Better Papermaking." 

The 1995 Papermakers Conference Proceedings may be ordered from TAPPI PRESS by calling the toll-free Service Line at 1–800–332–8686 (U.S.) or 1–800–446–9431 (Canada). From outside the U.S. or Canada, call US 770–446–1400. This 584-page soft-cover book is 8-1/2 in. by 11 in. perfect bound. It is priced at US\$ 82 for members and US\$ 122 for nonmembers. The order code number is 0105 0295.