

PULPING DIVISION HOLDS ITS 50TH CONFERENCE

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POSTER SESSIONS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS DEMONSTRATE BREADTH OF TOPICS COVERED BY THE DIVISION.

THE PULP MANUFACTURE DIVISION HAS GATHERED together for 50 years to share technical information, conduct its business and recognize the achievements of its members.

To recognize this milestone, Ian Clarke-Pounder, former Division chairman, researched the history of the Division and in his characteristic humor, presented a photo and narrative review of the past five decades (see related story, p. 247). Many members who were part of that history enjoyed seeing the progress unfold and how the Division has contributed to significant technological advances.

More than 1000 people attended the conference, held Oct. 27–31, 1996, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN. The Pulp Manufacture Division has grown in global membership, which was well-reflected in the countries represented in Nashville. The excellent attendance was attributed to not only signs of recovery in pulp and paper markets, but also to a balanced and strong technical program.

THE OPENING SESSION

At the opening session, Tom McDonough, professor of engineering and associate director of academic affairs at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology (IPST) in Atlanta, GA, was awarded the 1996 Pulp Manufacture Division Technical Award and Johan C. F. C. Richter Prize. McDonough has been a leading scientist in bleaching technology as it has faced the challenges of environmental compliance.

Richard J. Spangenberg, director of recycling research at Weyerhaeuser Technology Center in Tacoma, WA, and a *TAPPI JOURNAL* technical editor, received the 1996

Pulp Manufacture Division Leadership and Service Award and Joseph K. Perkins Prize. In addition to his outstanding term of office as a Division leader, Spangenberg has been the catalyst in organizing the Recycling Symposiums and Seminars that are now held internationally.

Outstanding papers are not unusual at Pulping Conferences. Dan Davies, Degussa Canada, received

the 1995 High Impact Paper Award for "Methods of controlling catalase in a de-ink pulp mill." Bruno S. Marcoccia, Ahlstrom Kamyr, authored the David Wetherhorn Award paper "Lo-solids pulping: principles and applications."

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Nonwood pulping sessions usually are dominated by overseas papers, but interest in nonwood fibers in North America was featured in papers on wheat straw, corn stalks, switchgrass, and steam explosion pulping. The consensus of panelists in roundtables on wheat straw and "Agricultural fibers in U.S. and Canadian mills—can it become a reality?" was optimistic, but balanced with the need for research in pulping and chemical recovery processes and focus on harvest, handling, and processing economics.

The Alkaline Pulping sessions are the backbone of the Pulping Conference. Polysulfide and anthraquinone use to optimize existing kraft mills were popular topics in several technical sessions and roundtables. Fiber and



The TAPPI Pulping Conference marked its 50th year at the 1996 meeting in Nashville.

CONFERENCE REPORT



Tom McDonough, left, was awarded the Division's Technical Award and Johan C. F. C. Richter Prize.



Jean-Claude Corbi, Pulp Manufacture Division Chairman, and Said M. Abubakr, Container and Boxboard Subcommittee Chairman, chat during the conference reception.

pulp quality improvements were reported from screening, kappa variability reduction, species selection, and feed systems. The turpentine recovery session featured improved recovery methods and an unusual continuous digester modernization at Weyerhaeuser Flint River.

Pressurized peroxide and other nonchlorine bleaching processes were emphasized in the standing-room-only pulp bleaching sessions. Ozone bleaching and elemental chlorine free (ECF) technology also got their fair share of attention as the Cluster Rule nears.

A joint session and roundtable sponsored by the Fiber Raw Materials Supply and the Forest Resource Committee of the Research and Development Division brought the new area of lignin modification through biotechnology to the conference. Is it possible that trees can be grown with less lignin content? The research indicates



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this is possible and already trees are growing for full-scale use.

Sulfite pulping is holding its own as a viable technology. Two technical sessions and a roundtable panel sessions focused on totally chlorine free (TCF) bleaching, mill closure, mill optimization, and chip quality.

Recycling continues to be a popular topic at the Pulping Conference. The challenges of processing more difficult waste paper streams was emphasized. Mixed office waste, stickies, contaminants, and bleaching of recycled fiber were the big topics.

The Mechanical Pulping Committee presented a well-balanced program covering pretreatment, refining, mill bleaching experience, and a demonstration on using the Internet to facilitate information exchange. The impact of chip quality on mechanical pulping was a popular session that has not received a lot of attention in the past.

The Operational Issues Roundtable Breakfasts have grown in popularity and are now scheduled on two mornings during the conference. A wide range of mill-process issues attracted a full house both days. The Supplier Advisory Committee sponsors this opportunity for participants to discuss real mill problems with some of the best and most experienced scientists in the industry.

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) again joined the Pulping Conference to sponsor four sessions on oxygen delignification, recycling, and high-impact sessions from the Forest Product Division at their 1995 AIChE Annual Meeting. By allowing attendees to participate in both AIChE and Pulping Conference ses-



Mary (left) and Walter Bublitz (center), with John Hatton (right), principal scientist at PAPRICAN, were among the 1000-plus Pulping Conference attendees.



TAPPI Executive Director Wayne Gross accepted a banner from the Indian Pulp and Paper Technical Association, presented during the conference by A. K. Ray, professor and head of the Institute of Paper Technology, Saharanpur, India.



Top finishers in the 8th annual TAPPI Pulping Conference Fun Run included (from left) George Tinti, Steve Legge, Janice Bennett, Melanie Galloway, Chris Mitchell, and Carol Babb. Fastest time was 20:08 (Legge). The event raised more than US\$ 1300 to support various college pulp and paper scholarship funds.

sions, a broader spectrum of technical exchange is possible.

The two-volume set of proceedings from the 1996 Pulping Conference are available from TAPPI PRESS (item no. 01050696) at a list price of US\$ 149 and member price of US\$ 100.

San Francisco, CA, will be the host city for the 1997 Pulping Conference, Oct. 19-22 at the San Francisco Marriott. Daniel S. Blevins, of Dow Chemical USA, Roswell, GA, is chairing the Technical Program Committee for the conference. The Minimum Effluent Mills Symposium will follow the conference on Oct. 23 and 24. Peter Gleadow, of H. A. Simons, Vancouver, BC, Canada, is technical program chairman for that symposium. **TJ**

Fuller is senior scientist at Weyerhaeuser Co., Tacoma, WA, and a TAPPI JOURNAL technical editor.