

“Implementing technology for sustainable growth” theme of 1995 Environmental Division conference

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John Hankinson (left), EPA Region IV administrator, and A.D. “Pete” Correll, CEO of Georgia-Pacific, gave the keynote addresses at the Environmental Conference.



Sergio F. Galeano received the 1995 Environmental Division Technical Award.



The forest product industry's level of interest in environmental topics has exhibited sustained growth over the last decade. That growth has been matched by continuously rising industry attendance at the Environmental Division's annual conference. The 1995 conference—held in Atlanta, GA, May 7–10—set records for total attendance (1000+) as well as number of exhibitors (141). These figures underscored the high priority environmental issues hold for the industry and its future well-being.

This year's conference was cosponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and EuCePa. The theme of the conference, implementing technology for sustainable growth, was particularly appropriate considering current worldwide interest in sustainable development and environmental stewardship. The first keynote speaker, A. D. “Pete” Correll, chairman and CEO of

Georgia-Pacific Corp., provided an outstanding overview of the industry's sustainable development issues. Correll observed there was a surging demand for forest products and environmental pressures on the industry were strong. Given the finite amount of capital available and the capital-intensive nature of the industry, a realistic balance between economic growth and environmental protection must be achieved. He challenged the conference attendees to strive for technology breakthroughs which would help the industry accomplish its goals of increased used fiber recovery, beneficial use of recycled fiber rejects, minimum impact manufacturing facilities, and sustainable forestry. Correll's perspectives were especially relevant since he serves on President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development which is charged with identifying principles to guide the United States into the 21st Century.

Conference Report

Artist Jim Potocki points out some of the details in a water color presented to Robert M. Stein (right), recipient of the 1995 Environmental Division Leadership and Service Award.



The second keynote speaker was John Hankinson, EPA Region IV administrator. He commended the forest products industry for its efforts in reducing water use, reducing dioxin discharges, and increasing use of recycled fibers. Hankinson noted several examples of mills in the Southeast which had made significant accomplishments.

Following the keynote addresses, the Environmental Division awards were presented. The US\$ 2500 Division scholarship was awarded to Nichole Goeden, a chemical engineering major at the University of Idaho. Robert M. Stein, president of AWARE Environmental and active participant in the Division for over 20 years, was given the Leadership and Service Award. The Division Technical Award and Roy F. Weston Prize were presented to Sergio F. Galeano, manager of environmental programs at Georgia-Pacific Corp. Galeano holds several patents and pioneered innovative technologies for minimizing kraft mill emissions of reduced sulfur compounds. He is currently very active in industry efforts related to product life-cycle analysis, environmental aspects of international trade policies, and eco-labeling.

The Russell O. Blosser Memorial Best Paper Awards were given to the following authors for papers presented at the 1994 Environmental Conference:

- Air Quality—John M. Wright and Grant Lund—“Key design features of the DNCG system at Howe Sound Pulp and Paper Ltd.”
- Water Quality—T. S. Prakash and Brij M. Moudgil—“Removal of sodium chloride from the recovery boiler salt cake using aqueous-aqueous separation technique”
- Solid Waste Management—Joseph W. Laubenstein and Stuart Field—“Utilization of short paper fiber in the manufacturing of synthetic soils used for capping landfills”
- General—Neil McCubbin and Jens Folke—“Is deinking environmentally desirable?”

From left, Dave Dillard presents the Russell O. Blosser Memorial Best Paper Awards for 1994 conference papers to (L-R) John Wright, Stuart Field, T. S. Prakash, Neil McCubbin, and Jens Folke.



Outgoing Division Chairman David Peakes of ABB Environmental was recognized for his exceptional service over many years. Certificates of Appreciation were given to outgoing committee chairmen Ashok Jain (Air Quality), L. Richard Lutz (Water Quality), and Michael Franklin (Solid Waste).

The technical sessions which followed the opening session represented the heart of the conference. Conference Chairman Jeff Hilleke of Champion International and Technical Program Chairman Bill Jernigan of Georgia-Pacific Corp. organized 45 sessions in which approximately 100 papers were presented over the three days. Two sessions organized by Alan Springer of Miami University featured papers on sustainability issues for the forest products industry. Another session had papers presented by representatives of the Environmental Defense Fund (Paper Task Force), National Audubon Society (composting projects), and Nature Conservancy (cooperative forest management demonstration projects). These papers described projects of mutual interest to the industry and environmental groups.

Other sessions featured presentations on a broad array of issues including atmospheric emissions, effluent treatment, sludge management, beneficial uses for mill solid wastes, emerging control technologies, analytical measurements, environmental impact studies, health effects, environmental communications, pollution prevention, auditing, and regulatory issues. New to the conference this year was a session devoted to topics of interest to panel plants and lumber mills. At the joint committee meeting, Douglas Reeve, director of the Pulp and Paper Centre at the University of Toronto, presented a well-received lively talk on “Chlorine mythology.” Reeve offered his comments on myths such as “chlorine is an agent of death,” “organochlorines are all the same,” and “banning the discharge of chlorinated organic compounds from pulp mills will improve the environment.”

In a further effort to combat environmental “myths,” TAPPI launched a public information initiative during the conference. “Operation Communication” is an effort to provide

Graduate students from the Institute of Paper Science and Technology discussed their research findings during a conference poster session.



factual information about the environment and other issues relevant to the pulp, paper, and related industries. A toll-free information hotline for questions has been established as part of the program. Some of the more common questions will be

answered through a series of *EarthAnswers* pamphlets available to members and the public. A network of environmental experts will also serve as a resource to answer less common or highly technical questions.

The 1995 Environmental Conference once again demonstrated the overwhelming industry interest in environmental issues. This high level of interest is not expected to diminish, and 1996 Conference Chairman Bill Jernigan and Technical Program Chairman John Lee have already begun planning the 1996 conference which will be held May 5-8 at the Sheraton Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, FL.

Those attending the 1995 Conference benefitted from the technical program, trade fair, and personal interactions. The knowledge gained will possibly provide a stimulus for development and implementation of the technologies needed for sustainable development of the forest products industry in the 21st century.

Conference proceedings are available from TAPPI PRESS for US\$ 119 to TAPPI members and US\$ 177 to nonmembers, plus shipping and handling. The 1217-page, two-volume set (No. 0105 0395) may be ordered through the TAPPI Service Line: 1-800-332-8686 (U.S.), 1-800-446-9431 (Canada), or 770-446-1400 (outside U.S. or Canada). 

Scholarship benefits from Envirochase funding

The third annual Envirochase 5K run, organized by SBE, garnered more than US\$ 5000 for the first TAPPI Environmental Division-endowed scholarship at North Carolina State University. Record participation included runners from Sweden, Norway, India, and New Zealand.

Top finishers were Douglas Barton (18:13) from NCASI in Medford, MA, and Brita Opheim (23:18) of Norske Skogind in Lysaker, Norway. Finishing second and third for the men were Dan Diehl (18:27) and Gary Scott (18:38). Placing second and third in the women's division were AnnMarie Wemmlinger (24:38) and Wendy Soucie (25:42).

Sponsors for this year's race included Ahlstrom Kamy Inc., Allwaste Inc., Andritz Ruthner Inc., BE&K Engineering and Construction, Brown & Root Forest Products, Fe3 Inc./FINI Enterprises Inc., Rust Environmental & Infrastructure, *Tappi Journal*, Tampella Power Corp., Tensar Environmental Systems Inc., Thompson Avant International, and Roy F. Weston Inc.

Some 60 runners took part in the 1995 Envirochase.

