

## CONFERENCE REPORT

# 1997 PULPING CONFERENCE MARKS DIVISION'S 50 YEARS OF MEETINGS

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### *SAN FRANCISCO MEETING COINCIDED WITH BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SYMPOSIUM*

**S**AN FRANCISCO AND THE PULPING CONFERENCE ALWAYS prove to be a good combination. But when combined with the Biological Sciences and Minimum Impact Mill Symposiums, the result was one of the best conferences of 1997.

More than 1000 attendees enjoyed the flexibility of being able to move freely between the concurrent programs of the 1997 Pulping Conference and the Biological Sciences Symposium. With the signing of the final Cluster Rule legislation, 250 attendees stayed an extra day to take in the Minimum Effluent Mill Symposium.

The Oct. 19-22 conference of the Pulp Manufacture Division marked 50 years that its members have gathered together to share technical information.

During the opening session, the Division awarded its highest honors to two outstanding members of TAPPI. Martin MacLeod of Paprican received the 1997 Pulp Manufacture Division Technical Award and Johan CFC Richter Prize. He is well-known globally for his technical leadership and education in kraft pulping, pulp strength development, pulp quality, and mill performance. MacLeod has authored 80 technical articles and 50 scientific publications in pulping and bleaching. He was named a TAPPI Fellow in 1993.

Walt Bublitz, retired professor at Oregon State University, received the 1997 Pulp Manufacture Division Leadership and Service Award and Joseph K. Perkins Prize. Bublitz is the first person to receive both the Division Technical Award (in 1991), and the Leadership and Service Award. In addition to establishing the Pulp and Paper program at OSU, Bublitz has contributed his energy and skills across a broad range of TAPPI Technical Committees that include Sulfite and Semichemical, Fiber Raw Material Supply, Non-wood Plant Fibers and Synthetic Fibers. He was named a TAPPI Fellow in 1980 and has been a TAPPI Member for over 50 years.

Vic C. Uloth of Paprican was recognized for his outstanding paper presented at the 1996 Pulping Conference. His paper entitled "In-situ production of polysulfide liquor in a kraft mill's causticizers" received both the Pulping Conference High Impact Paper Award and the David Wetherhorn Award from the Alkaline Pulping Committee.

Only a few members of TAPPI reach the milestone of 50 years of individual membership. The Pulp Manufacture Division had the opportunity to recognize William A. Kraske for his 50 years of very active membership. Kraske continues to work in the industry as a consultant and committee member.



San Francisco -- site of the 1997 Pulping Conference



*John Pelizza, top left, provided a lively start to the conference; Division Technical Award winner Martin MacLeod and his wife visited with Bill Fuller and Tom McDonough, right; Technical Program Chairman Dan Blevins welcomed attendees, bottom right; TAPPI President Dale Dill and Conference Chairman*

*Jean-Claude Corbi presented Vic Uloth with the High Impact Paper Award and David Wetherhorn Award from the Alkaline Pulping Committee, center; Walt Bublitz, bottom left, spoke to the audience after receiving the Division's Leadership and Service Award and Joseph K. Perkins Prize.*

Outgoing Division Chairman, Jean-Claude Corbi, presented Certificates of Appreciation to these outgoing committee chairmen that he has enjoyed working with during his term of office:

- Bene Canavan - Alkaline Pulping
- Billy Watson - Fiber Raw Material Supply
- Tom Conte - Mechanical Pulping
- Andrew Kaldor - Nonwood Plant Fibers
- Per Klykken - Pulp Bleaching
- Mahendra Doshi - Fiber Recycling
- Stan Brewer - Southeast Technical Management
- Walt Bublitz - Sulfite and Semichemical
- Jim Thompson - Supplier
- Tom Tucker - Southeast Pulp Mill Superintendents

To kick off the conference, John Pelizza spoke to the Opening Session on "Quest for personal balance and effectiveness." Pelizza prodded the audience to shout

positive exclamations about challenges we face daily in work and personal lives. He handed out posters that shouted the bottom-line of his presentation—"THOUGHTS ARE EVERYTHING!"

The program committee focused on balancing the program to present the latest technology and research developments and practical information to run mills better. The popular poster session was in the center of the break area and got lots of attention. A "Brown Stock Washing Tutorial" series kicked off the education program. This was followed by practical papers on pulp washing developments and problem solving presented by industry experts and Brown Stock Washing Short Course faculty. The "Operational Issues Roundtable" served breakfast and practical problem-solving ideas to mill operations attendees. This informal forum is one of the best ways to obtain practical information at the Pulping Conference.

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A solid pulping and bleaching program was the highlight of the conference. Sessions included lime kiln and causticizing operational issues; bleach sequence comparisons; recovery operations, bleaching optimization, sulfite pulping/bleaching, bleaching chemistry, and pulping fundamentals. The fiber supply scene was covered from chipping fundamentals and woodyard operations to new wood species. Reflecting the interest in the Cluster Rule, several sessions were devoted entirely to environmental issues in pulping and bleaching, mill closure, and a selection of papers from the Environmental Conference. Four well-prepared sessions on mechanical pulping covered a broad range of topics from groundwood improvements to in-refiner and peroxide bleaching.

Nonwood fibers projects around the world are getting attention as fiber supply in North America tightens. A session on new fiber supply from short rotation forests and another on use of eucalyptus further emphasized the ability to produce additional fiber with very specific product properties.

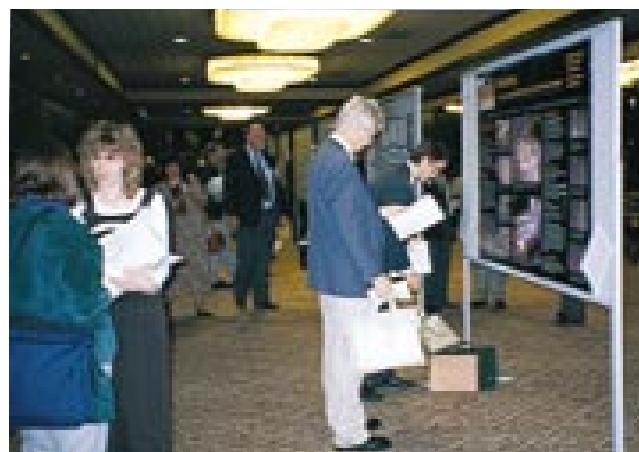
Recycled fiber growth is still strong as mills work to achieve the 50% recycle target. Sticky contaminants and deinking got most of the attention, but an excellent session on recycled fiber supply issues focused on the more difficult recovery issues.

The proceedings of the Pulping Conference were available for the first time on CD-ROM in addition to the normal conference preprint 2-volume set. Contact TAPPI Press at 800-322-8686 (U.S.) and 800-446-9431 (Canada) to order this new proceedings format.

The 1998 Pulping Conference will be held in Montreal, PQ, on Oct. 25-29, 1998. Lewis D. Shackford of Beloit is the conference program chairman. Submit titles and abstracts to him at fax +1 603-598-7830 or e-mail: [ldshackford@beloit.com](mailto:ldshackford@beloit.com). TJ

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*The ninth annual "Fun Run," sponsored by Industra, drew 52 participants and raised more than US\$ 1000 in scholarship money. Top finishers included Wilfred Eul (Masters), Chris Gilbert (open), Katrin Suess (open), and Carol Babb (Masters).*



*The conference offered many opportunities for discussion during roundtables, receptions, through posters, and at meals.*