

HFIA Association News

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HFIA Members Enjoy Humuula Field Trip

HFIA members and guests enjoyed a field trip to the Department of Hawaiian Home Land's (DHHL) Humuula site on Mauna Kea in January. HFIA President Mike Robinson hosted the tour, which entailed several stops including a gorse mitigation site, high elevation Koa forest demonstration projects, and the Kanakaleonui Bird Corridor. The DHHL has the potential to restore up to 14,000 acres of high elevation Koa forest in Humuula.

Gorse has become a noxious weed outside of its native habitat and is ideally suited for the high elevation temperatures and koa soils of Humuula. Gorse is very difficult to eradicate once it becomes established. Control programs require a long-term commitment, including yearly site inspections and follow-up treatment of all seedlings.

HFIA Director Aileen Yeh showed the group a successful demonstration site that was designed for native forest restoration and agroforestry.



HFIA President Mike Robinson discusses DHHL's efforts to restore high elevation Koa forests.



HFIA Director Aileen Yeh describes her Koa demonstration project as DHHL intern Cheyenne Perry looks on.

Welcome & Mahalo

Welcome New HFIA Members

Karen A. Bennett, US Forest Service

Mahalo Renewing HFIA Members

Stephen E. S. Smith, DBA Forestry Management Consultants-Hawaii.

James L. Brewbaker; Mrs. Joan Bruckner; Marty Fernandes, Horticulturist with Na Aina Kai Botanical Gardens/Kilohana Hardwood Plantation; Charles Gerdes, Owner of Kalaau Graphics; Fred Kozy; Lionel Kutner, President of Trees for Life Foundation; Christy Martin, Public Information Officer with Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; Scott Rolles, Kapua Koa Forest; Edward M. Winkler, General Manager of Winkler Woods, LLC; and William W. L. Yuen, Attorney with Ching, Yuen & Morikawa.

Hawaii's Wood brand tags represent fine items crafted here in Hawai'i. It guarantees your customer that your product is unique, made from wood grown here in Hawai'i. Order your tags today!



International Tropical Timber Association (ITTO) Market Report

REPORT FROM NORTH AMERICA

Slumping US Housing Market Subdues Lumber Demand

Demand for lumber is being affected by the rapid decline in the US housing market, according to Wood Markets. Total US housing starts are estimated to fall 13% to 1.8 million units in 2006 and forecast to decrease by at least another 11% to about 1.6 million units in 2007 before bottoming out about mid-year. Consequently, softwood lumber consumption in North America (USA and Canada) is now expected to slide 4% to 72.8 billion board feet (bf) in 2006 and forecast to drop another 4% to 69.5 billion bf in 2007. About 1.6 billion bf of the 6 billion bf decline would probably come from reduced imports mainly from Europe while the balance would be the result of lower North American production. Weak prices are expected to continue due to excess softwood lumber capacity unless a more aggressive rate of curtailments and/or closures occurs.

According to Russel Taylor, author of the report, the second half of 2007 should be much better than the first half after the bottom of the market cycle is reached. The price spread between Europe and the US has widened so much in the second half of 2006 that it is feasible for North Americans to re-enter the European market to achieve similar or even higher returns than are currently available in the US market.

REPORT FROM JAPAN

Log Exports to Japan Recover Spurred by Rising Prices

Import of tropical logs by Japan surged 33% to 165,800 m³ in September. Japanese imports of tropical logs have been growing since March 2006. However, total Japanese imports of tropical logs amounted to 1.02 million m³ in the year to September, 4% below last year's import volume. Accumulated log imports through September 2006 came from Malaysia (77%, two-thirds from Sarawak), PNG (14%), Solomon Isl. (8%) and Africa (0.5%). Tropical log exports to Japan were anticipated to decrease toward the end of 2006 and early 2007. This will likely drive prices further up.

REPORT FROM BRAZIL

Brazilian Furniture Exports Retreat in 2006

Brazilian furniture exports are estimated to decline 5% to \$950 million in 2006, after four years of consecutive growth, according to the Brazilian Association of Furniture Industry (Abimovel). This is slightly better than an earlier prediction of a 10% contraction. Four out of the top five importers of Brazilian furniture registered reductions in imports. Imports by the USA, Brazil's largest furniture market, dropped 25% to \$272.4 million in January to November 2006. Exports to the UK (up 14% to \$79.8 million in the same period) and Argentina

(up 55% to \$69.3) were notable exceptions to the declining trend.

FSC Certifies World's Largest tropical Forest Area in Brazil

A forest land of 1.5 million ha located in central Amazon received a FSC certificate in mid-December. The largest certified area of tropical forest in the world is owned and managed by a group of Kayapó tribesmen of the Baú Indigenous Land in south eastern Pará. The Kayapó also received organic certification from IBD for their Brazil nut oil production. A 570,000 ha forest in Guyana for timber production was until recently the largest FSC certified tropical forest area in the world.

Log Prices (domestic)

Brazilian logs, mill yard, domestic	US\$ per m ³
Ipê	110 ↑
Jatoba	77
Guariuba	53 ↑
Mescla (white virola)	58

Forest Plantations in Tropical Countries

In early 2006, ITTO commissioned a study on tropical forest plantations to STCP Engenharia de Projetos Ltda (Brazil). This article summarizes the study's main findings presented last November. The study is available at the ITTO's website. <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/index.jsp>.

Source: *Tropical Timber Market Report Volume 12 Number 1, 1-15 January 2007.*

Hawaii's Wood Posters

Attention members! Remember to pick up your complimentary Hawaii's Wood Poster at Fogelvik Furniture on Maui (ph: 575-7678); Martin & MacArthur in Honolulu (ph: 845-6688); or contact the HFIA office in Hilo (ph: 933-9411) or email us at hawaii.forest@hawaiiantel.net.

Place Your Classified Ad Today!

Only \$5 for 25 words! Send the wording of your ad along with a check payable to:
Hawaii Forest Industry Association
P. O. Box 10216
Hilo, HI 96721
by the 1st of each month

The Gorse Project: Forestry Options for the Sustainable Management Of Woody Legume Weeds

By Nick Dudley and Aileen Yeh

In June of 2003, a series of forestry trials and demonstrations were installed as a management strategy for gorse control. The major points of the forestry strategy for gorse control include:

- ◆ Native forest restoration, with a focus on *Acacia koa*;
- ◆ Exclusion or conservation forestry where long-term forest cover will aid in exhausting the gorse seed bank in the soil;
- ◆ Plantation forestry with fast growing species that out compete gorse;
- ◆ Ornamental forestry; and
- ◆ Agro-forestry.

Demonstration blocks were designed for native forest restoration and agroforestry. The agroforestry portion was left with grass cover and strips were sprayed with Roundup to kill the grass prior to planting. The Koa trial evaluated 22 different seed sources of *Acacia koa* as well as the following native species: Kawau (*Ilex anomala*), Koa (*Acacia koa*), Kolea (*Myrsine lessertiana*), Naio (*Myoporum sandwicense*), Mamane (*Sophora chrysophylla*), Pilo (*Coprosma montana*).



HFIA Airport Display!

HFIA has been managing display cases at the Honolulu Interisland Terminal for the last few years; one near Aloha Airlines and one near Hawaiian Airlines. With over 10,000 people walking through the terminal every day, the visibility of our Hawaiian grown hardwoods and woodworking craft are extremely high. Many of our members who have items on display have reported the display has brought them additional sales and has increased their overall marketing ability. Having these displays also increases the value of the Hawaii's Wood Brand and is an excellent venue to advertise our Annual Woodshow.

Heidi Wild is in the process of contacting all current product display owners to get our program back on track. Fees for displaying have been reconfirmed at \$85 per case for each four-month period - quite a deal! If you are interested in offering items for future displays, please contact Heidi at hwild728@aol.com or (808) 587-7048.



Over a decade of HFIA Executive Directors



HFIA's Executive Directors 1993-2007 (R to L) Mike Robinson, Andie Gill, Myria Ikeda, and Heather Gallo.

Announcement

The State of Hawaii released its Waiakea Timber Management Area request for proposals (RFP) for harvest of timber and other forest products. For more information, please contact:

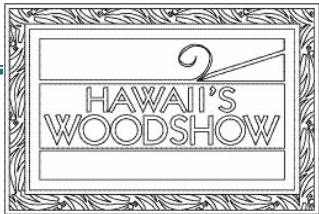
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Your news and announcements are welcome in this monthly newsletter! Please send items to hawaii.forest@hawaiiantel.net by the 1st of each month.

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NA LĀ'AU O HAWAI'I

HFIA's Fifteenth Annual Statewide Juried Furniture & Woodworking Show Saturday, September 8 through Sunday, September 16, 2007 Academy Art Center at Linekona – Honolulu Academy of Arts

Hawaii's Woodshow 2007, Na La`au o Hawai'i is the annual juried furniture and woodworking show of the HFIA. The Show is open to the public and designed to impart public appreciation for the participating artists and the materials they use, and to promote the positive role of forests in our economy and ecology. The Show calls for the use of wood from Hawaiian-grown tree species, especially those that have been planted and brought to maturity here. It is intended to serve as a reference point for the planting of native and non-native high-value hardwoods for coming generations.

A Best of Show Award is presented opening night as well as First Place in the divisions of Furniture, Woodturning, Sculpture, Musical Instrument, Open and Student. Honorable mention awards, conferred at the discretion of the judges, are also presented opening night. A People's Choice and an Artists' Choice award are determined at the close of the Show.

We are expecting 100 pieces to be entered this year, so mark your calendars now to see the beauty and variety in Hawaii's furniture and woodworking during this event. For more information on the Woodshow, please contact Marian Yasuda 221-5171, mnyasuda@hawaii.rr.com; or Heidi Wild 587-7048, hwild728@aol.com or visit our website at <http://hawaii-forest.org>.

At Woodshow 2006, the Best of Show Award was presented to Tai Lake for his Waiaha Trestle Table. People's Choice award winners were Frank Pullano for his Koa Credenza "The Doors Light My Fire" and Artist's Choice R. W. Rollo Scheurenbrand for his Acoustic Steel String Guitar.



Tai Lake's Waiaha Trestle Table. Photo by Hal Lum.



Frank Pullano's Koa Credenza. Photo by Heidi Wild



R. W. Rollo Scheurenbrand's Acoustic Steel String Guitar. Photo by Hal Lum.



**Hawaii Forest Industry Association
President's Message February 2007
By Mike Robinson**

It is with great pleasure and pride that I write this first "President's Message" of my term as your new HFIA President. My involvement with HFIA's newsletter dates back to the January 1993 edition when I wrote a column as your first executive director. There have been tremendous accomplishments since those early days of the Association and the legacy of my four presidential predecessors will be a difficult act to follow.

Peter Simmons, Lloyd Jones, Sally Rice and immediate past-president Steve Smith have led this organization to its current status as a well-recognized entity with a reputation for balance, foresight, and pro-activeness.

Peter Simmons' message in the January 1993 newsletter, for example, lists the passage of Senator Akaka's Tropical Forest Recovery Act, the first HFIA Wood Show, and a potential boycott of all koa products in the state - the latter promoted by a well-respected environmental organization.

Fourteen years later, we now know that the contributions of Senator Akaka's forestry legislation have been significant for Hawaii's native forests. The recent agreement to establish experimental forests on the Big Island via the US Forest Service's Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry and the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife is just one excellent example, as are the watershed partnerships now found throughout the State. This past year saw our 14th Wood Show, an annual labor of love that brings out some of the best in our woodworking and craftsman community. Perhaps most important was Peter's belief in 1993 that actions to boycott koa products would lead to "reducing the demand (and therefore the price) of koa" and diminish "the economic incentive for reforestation and management of koa and koa ohia plant communities". After HFIA publicized this belief via testimony and other venues, Hawaii's forest industry did not suffer a koa boycott, koa prices did not drop, and today there are tens of thousands of privately owned acres throughout the State being actively managed for koa forest restoration as land uses change back to native forest management.

Five years later, in the March 1998 newsletter, topics of interest to HFIA and then President Lloyd Jones included the Ka'upulehu, Kona Dryland Forest, and the "Harvest to Market" symposium. Today the Ka'upulehu Forest is a fine example of dryland forest restoration that has received international recognition. In partnership with many, HFIA has assisted in that forest's recovery via research, demonstration, and community participation and education. The Harvest to Market symposium exposed attendees to a variety of topics designed to "add value to Hawaii's woods", including certification, small scale forestry, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Last year, Kamehameha Schools had its Honaunau forest designated as the first internationally certified forest in Hawaii, small scale forestry operations are found throughout Hawaii, and BMP's are required on all State timber sales.

(Continued on next page)

In July 2001, President Sally Rice congratulated members for meeting “our forest goals, and then some!” as a result of our forest symposium legacy. She referred directly to the Kauai symposium “Growing Forests For Hawaii’s Future”, where goals dating from HFIA’s first symposium in 1990 and thereafter were reviewed. The vision of replacing former sugar lands with forests, the desire to reclaim koa forests and expand them, the need to improve deficient technology and teach landowners about forest issues ranging from tree nutrition to invasive species were all topics of HFIA symposia through the years. Hawaii now has about 30,000 plus acres planted to new forests, forest research is more extensive and intensive, than ever, and the details of planting diverse and valuable forests on many of Hawaii’s varied landscapes is pursued and documented by “hundreds of small timber farms”.

Five years later (August 2006), then President Steve Smith returned to his newsletter column from a pressing family matter to remind members about the upcoming Woodshow, and to compliment HFIA’s capable staff for taking care of business – legislation, the inaugural issue of the Hawaii Forest Journal, and plans to upgrade our website. What he didn’t state, however, was the five year legacy he had built during his tenure. This included a major change in DOFAW’s permit process for salvaging down and dead koa, truth in branding legislation to protect Hawaii’s koa from attempts to exploit its name in international markets, the inclusion of forest products as “ag theft” products, a very successful string of first class woodworking workshops featuring national talent, and a strengthening of partnerships for HFIA – both public and private. He also transitioned HFIA through the loss of two Executive Directors – Andie and Myra.

So what can I, as your incoming President, add to this wonderful story? For the first time in its history, HFIA is experiencing a change in the president and executive director positions simultaneously. My first request to the membership is for patience and kokua as Heather Gallo and I learn from those around us. I would not have taken this assignment, however, if I was not extremely optimistic and excited about the next decade for Hawaii’s forest and its forest industry.

For starters, you can expect HFIA to enter the high tech age with a vengeance. We will be closing the Hilo office and going virtual, thereby using our resources as efficiently as possible while still delivering quality service to our membership. If you are not techno literate, have no fear. Your Executive Director and myself will be a phone number away, as always. If you are computer literate (or your kids), however, expect an enhanced website that will help you with the services you need, no matter where in the State you reside.

Hawaii is now poised to fully realize the significant investments of time, money, and effort over the past 18 years to create and augment “healthy and productive forests” throughout Hawaii. When this realization occurs, we will see a diversified industry that represents a full range of forest products, from the eucalyptus chip to the koa table. We will see new processing facilities that are competitive in the international market, which export excess product. Landowners will see the results and join in the expansion of commercial forests, diversifying both the landscape and the array of potential products. With demand will come the supply of research, education, and job training necessary to support the industry. Perhaps, most importantly, many people will once more experience the land and what it can provide – aesthetics, recreation, income, wildlife habitat, clean and abundant water – the bounty of the forest.

Aloha Kakou, Mike Robinson



**Hawaii Forest Industry Association
Legislative Review
By Heidi Wild**

The Legislative Session this year has seen almost 4,000 bills introduced into the House of Representatives or the Senate. HFIA has been working with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), Department of Agriculture, Hawaii Science and Technology Council, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and other organizations to monitor those bills of interest to our mission. In particular, the following categories have been identified:

1. **Landowner Liability:** There are two bills that we are concerned about and have testified in opposition. One deals with landowner liability for damage to a lawful fence if a condition on your property attracts animals from adjoining property (HB633) and the other requires public and private game management areas to all be fenced in their entirety (HB1831). A third bill we have supported removes liability of public and private landowners of unimproved land if damages occurred because of any land failure caused by a natural condition such as landslides or rockslides (HB1843). All of these bills are very important to DLNR/DOFAW.

2. **Invasive Species:** We have also testified in support of a few bills dealing with improving the ability of the Department of Agriculture to inspect for invasive species at state ports of entry (HB1941), establishing the inspection, quarantine and eradication fund (SB1066), and appropriating funds for the revision and review of the lists of noxious weeds (SB639). These bills are very important to protect Hawaii's forest lands and natural areas. According to Mike Robinson, "These bills are very important to protect Hawaii's forest lands and natural areas. The threat of new invasives to important forest trees cannot be overlooked - imagine a koa gall wasp similar to that which is killing off the State's wiliwili trees and you get the picture."

3. **Other areas of interest:** We are watching bills move through the legislative process involving Bio-Fuel facility use in agricultural districts and growing of crops for fuel and production of energy; Use of Pesticides; Land Use, especially in the agricultural districts; Irrigation and Drought Mitigation efforts; and requests for funds in agricultural research and development (HFBF) or other Government Agency requests (DLNR issues).

As we approach the Cross Over of these bills from one house to the other, many bills will be deferred, held or not scheduled for hearings and therefore not be continued in the process. HFIA will continue to monitor a number of these bills, and submit testimony for those we feel are of importance to our mission to promote, foster and develop industry standards, initiate forestry research and development, and promote quality control and industry integrity in the State of Hawaii as a means of diversifying our economy and protecting our environment.

Any questions on these bills or others not mentioned can be sent to Heidi Wild at hwild728@aol.com.