HFIA Association News

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HFIA's Hawaii's Woodshow 2007, Na La`au o Hawai`i

By Tai Lake

The HFIA Hawai`i Woodshow began as an attempt to introduce people to the wide array of woods available here in Hawai`i. The market had always been driven by the demand for koa and that made it difficult to talk about a broader concept of what forestry could be here. You could sell anything if it was made from koa, and you couldn't give it away if it wasn't. Making things from other woods however, meant that the good design would have to provide the added value needed to compete with King Koa. If you were going to make things from other species, they would have to be valuable in their own right, and that meant bringing the design skills of our local craftsmen up to a standard that would stand up to a world market. To that end, HFIA has brought in top artists, craftsmen, and designers over the years to jury this show and also to present workshops and demonstrations intended to raise the awareness and design vocabulary of our Hawai`i craftsmen.

Tai Lake's Kona Bay Bed Platform made from Koa and dyed Mahogany

Woodworkers everywhere are always wondering how to make a living and involve more creativity in their work. Participating in a show like this is a great way to show people both what woods are available locally as well as a broad range of design possibilities. In a larger sense, showing the public a wide range of the wonderful things that come out of a healthy forest system goes a long way toward getting that public and their politicians to support long term forestry and conservation issues.

I've been participating in the Woodshow for 10 or 11 years now. I like to use shows like this to present new ideas. People usually order variations of what they have seen or versions of my previous work, so the shows are a way to introduce new concepts into the realm of possibilities. These new pieces are not always commercially successful on their first outing, but they start conversations that lead to even newer ideas. That 's what keeps the

Continued on page 2

HFIA Hawai`i Woodshow *continued from page 1*

work fresh and interesting for me. This year I will be showing a new chair design and a side table, both of which are breaking new ground for me.

David Marks will be here this year to present his gilding and patinization workshop. In years past we've had Michael Fortune, Michael Cullen, Garry Knox Bennet, Jere Osgood, just to name a few, and the effect has been incredible. Every year we see the bar raised a notch. The best work gets better, and the entry level work is coming in properly executed and well thought out. This show has brought forestry onto center stage for our state. It's hard to think of a better way to promote conservation, future planning, and the creative arts.

Tai Lake's Wenge, English Sycamore Desk

Tai Lake's Mango Bench

Go to www.tailake.net to see more of Tai's magnificent designs.

International Tropical Timber Association (ITTO) Tropical Forest Update

July 2007 Tropical Timber Market Report

Snapshot

Prices for Indonesian logs and sawnwood rose across the board. Higher prices cooled purchasing by European buyers, and it was not clear whether the price increases in Indonesia were part of a trend. Malaysian prices for logs were also up. Myanmar introduced six month average prices for teak, which some argued were too high. On the other hand, West African log and sawnwood prices remained unchanged.

Malaysia and Brazil are being impacted by the shortage of raw materials for their domestic timber industries. In both countries, experts suggest government action could help address the shortfall of supply. Brazil plans to review new forest management plans to provide access to forested areas. Experts in Malaysia call for federal and state governments to establish sustainable forest plantations.

Malaysia's trade surplus eases in May

Malaysia recorded a lower trade surplus of RM7.9 billion in May 2007, in comparison with RM8.0 billion in May 2006, according to the Malaysian Statistics Department. The Department attributed the decline to an influx of RM1.4 billion (3.5%) worth of imports against an increase in exports of RM1.3 billion (2.7%). Total exports were valued at RM49.6 billion compared with RM48.2 billion in May of last year. Exports of timber and timber-based products grew by 9.3% to RM9.7 billion.
http://www.itto.or.jp/live/Live_Server/3444/mis20070701_2.pdf

Indonesia Log Prices (domestic)

Indonesia logs, domestic prices	US$ per m³
Plywood logs	
Face logs	238-277 ↑
Core logs	170-202 ↑
Sawlogs (Meranti)	235-275 ↑
Falcata logs	171-190 ↑
Rubberwood	208-230 ↑
Pine	205-230 ↑
Mahoni (plantation mahogany)	629-674 ↑

Indonesia Sawnwood Prices

Construction material, domestic		US$ per m³
Kampar (Ex-mill)	AD 3x12-15x400cm	243-253 ↑
	KD	332-345 ↑
	AD 3x20x400cm	352-370 ↑
	KD	377-388 ↑
Keruing (Ex-mill)	AD 3x12-15x400cm	279-291 ↑
	AD 2x20x400cm	270-280 ↑
	AD 3x30x400cm	272-288 ↑

Indonesia Plywood Prices

Indonesia ply MR BB/CC, FOB	US$ per m³
2.7mm	490-516 ↑
3mm	427-488 ↑
6mm	397-422 ↑

MR Plywood (Jakarta), domestic	US$ per m³
9mm	329-343 ↑
12mm	304-326 ↑
15mm	298-330 ↑

Meet Our Directors

Featuring HFIA Director Aileen Yeh

I was born and raised in Hawai`i on the Big Island, in Hilo. My paternal grandparents were from Kohala, my grandmother a schoolteacher and my grandfather was a civil engineer for the County of Hawai`i. My grandfather started a cattle ranch in various parts of the Puna district before settling on one spot in Glenwood. This became the family ranch, which my father managed. Thus, my entry into the forests, on horseback at an early age.

While growing up, we lived across the street from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) office and arboretum, as well as Liebert Landgraf, and Charlie and Jimmy Tong, which exposed me to foresters and forestry. The foresters seemed to congregate at Charlie Tong's house after pau hana. They seemed like a nice bunch of fellows. One summer I was hired by the DOFAW to work in their office at the State Building. I really wanted to work out in the forest, but at the time, girls were not allowed. The following summer was different. They hired three of us girls and allowed us to have the privilege of chopping down banana poka vines at Hualalai and Laupahoehoe. The foresters and rangers taught us the names of the plants and birds. The views of the forests and the craters of Mauna Loa and Hualalai were awesome. I was hooked.

I attended college at the UH-Hilo and Manoa with a degree in Horticulture, and worked for Dole on Lana'i for two years as a crop logger, learning about drip irrigation systems, soil sampling, nematodes, and pineapple.

In 1979, I returned to Hilo to help on the ranch and was hired by Tommy Crabb to work at BioEnergy Development Corp, a C. Brewer subsidiary, which grew mostly Eucalyptus trees on a short rotation for biomass. I was a research technician and later a Nursery and Operations Supervisor. I was fortunate to be involved in the process of creating a forest from nursery to harvest. During that time, we worked cooperatively with the Hawai`i Agriculture Reseach Center (HARC) to install experimental plots. I was later hired by HARC where my education continues in work with Nick Dudley and others, involving *Acacia* koa, Ohia, gorse, conifers, and native species, as well as high value hardwoods, papaya propagation, and GIS.

My interests in the last 10 years have been propagating native plants, growing trees for forestry, reforestation, windbreaks, multi-use windbreaks, biofuels, and trying to get more people to plant species that we import into the islands from elsewhere (IF they are not invasive). My hopes are that we can be more self sufficient as a state and reduce the chances of bringing in more alien and invasive pests and diseases. I would like to see the "sharing of the wealth" of information by all the people involved in forestry, restoration, conservation, and forest health.

In my spare time(what spare time?), I work on the ranch or in the nursery and try to take the time to watch my kids and husband surf and photograph the fish they catch. I belong to the Puna Soil and Water Conservation District Board, the Hawai`i Farm Bureau, the Cattlemen's Association, Landscape Industry Council of Hawai`i (LICH), and of course the HFIA.

Article of Interest

Eucalyptus forests will provide power as well as veneer from factory

by Terrie Henderson, *Tribune-Herald Staff Writer* Friday, July 27, 2007

Hawaii Electric Light Co. announced Thursday it has signed an agreement to purchase renewable energy produced by a biomass powered generation facility. The energy will be produced by Tradewinds Forest Products LLC and Rockland Capital Energy Investments, according to a release from HELCO. "This is a great addition to our renewable energy portfolio," said Warren Lee, HELCO president. "Renewable energy on the Big Island will now exceed 35 percent." Lee said some examples of renewable energy already taking place on the island are geothermal production, wind power and hydroelectric power production. While 35 percent of HELCO's energy is renewable, he said the company's goal is to continue to find ways to increase that percentage. "It's a high number. Our goal is to increase that," he said. "We are trying as hard as we can to be renewable."

The veneer mill that Tradewinds plans to build in Ookala at the defunct Hamakua Sugar Mill would be the source of the energy. Scrap wood from the veneer operation will be used to power Tradewinds' generating unit. Don Bryan, president of Tradewinds, said construction on the mill is slated to begin late this year and is expected to take one year. He said the deal with HELCO is a 20-year agreement. Neither Bryan nor Lee would disclose how much money HELCO will pay the company for the energy. Lee said although the two parties have agreed and a contract has been signed, they are awaiting final approval and it is too early to disclose the specifics of the agreement. "This project offers us the opportunity to add more reliable, renewable energy, reducing both greenhouse gas emissions and our dependence on fossil fuels," said T. Michael May, Hawaiian Electric president and chief executive officer.

Bryan said the project will provide sustainable production of both forest products and energy. "The trees keep growing. That is a renewable product," Bryan said. "Trees on the Hamakua Coast grow faster than any tree anywhere on the planet that I have seen so far. They are astonishing. We don't have to buy power from the grid. We have two products to sell -- energy products and forest products." The mill will also create about 100 jobs, he said. "We think this is going to be an economic boost to the community there," he said. "I think it's pretty exciting."

Under the terms of the power purchase agreement, which requires approval by the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, HELCO will purchase between 2 megawatts and 3.6 megawatts of electricity from Tradewinds on a regular basis. "Our biomass-based energy source will utilize the portions of wood not suitable for veneer, providing a highly efficient source of power generation from which there is very little waste of material or energy," Bryan said.

The project will also generate additional electricity to power the veneer operation. That energy could be made available to HELCO if needed to cover a generation shortfall. Tradewinds designed the project to utilize 15,000 acres of the nearly 40,000 acres of existing eucalyptus plantations on the island in a sustainable fashion, according to the release. Harvested timber will be replanted and forests will be managed to optimize growth and conserve soil resources.

The operation is expected to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases released in the atmosphere, according to the release. As veneer is produced, carbon consumed by the trees will be trapped in the mill's finished products. Lee acknowledged that some oppose the mill, but said island residents need to think about sustainability and finding renewable energy. "I think everyone wants renewable energy. We all have to find a way to work together," he said.

Move Over, Gasoline:

If biofuels are done right, we could soon be filling our tanks with clean, renewable, homegrown energy.

Americans love automobiles. But today, it's beyond argument that our gasoline habit is a road to ruin. Voices from across the political spectrum say oil dependence is bad for America's national security, economy, and environment. But what if there was a viable alternative to petroleum? What if there was a renewable, cost-competitive, global-warming-busting fuel that could be produced from plants grown right here on American soil? It may sound too good to be true, but it's not. Scientists, farmers, and auto experts agree that, if they're grown and produced properly, biofuels can help free America from our oil dependence.

Simply put, biofuels are fuels made from plant materials. Right now, the main biofuel on the market is ethanol, made from corn kernels. But in order to maximize biofuels' carbon-cutting potential, we'll have to use more than just kernels. Cellulosic biofuels, made from the leaves, stems and stalks of a plant, promise even bigger global warming-busting benefits.

This is not hypothetical technology of the future. Biofuels are available now, ready to compete in the market with fossil fuels. The biofuels industry relies on real-world technologies that are improving by leaps and bounds every day. With technological advances that we could deploy over the next 10 years, biofuels could bring staggering economic and environmental benefits such as:

- Slash global warming pollution. By 2050, biofuels -- especially cellulosic biofuels -- could reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 billion tons per year.
- Be cost competitive with gasoline and diesel. Economists estimate that by 2015, we could produce biofuels for sale at prices equal to, or lower than, average gas and diesel prices.
- Provide a major new source of revenue for farmers. At $40 per dry ton, farmers growing 200 million tons of biomass in 2025 would make a profit of $5.1 billion per year. And that's just the beginning. Experts believe that farmers could produce six times that amount by 2050.
- Offer major land-use benefits. Certain biofuels crops could actually improve land that's no longer productive.

Source: http://www.nrdc.org/air/transportation/biofuels.asp

CTAHR Hawai`i Forestry Extension: Current Research Projects

- Develop Effective Silvicultural Guidelines for Productive Koa Forest Management
- Develop productivity models and silvicultural guidelines for growing and managing the native Hawaiian hard-wood *Acacia* koa
- Ecological Assessment and Economic Feasibility of a Practical Strategy for Regenerating Koa Forests in Hawai`i
- Biochemical Characterization of *Acacia* koa for Commercial Value and Ecological Attributes
- The Invasiveness of the Noxious Weed Gorse (Ulex Europaeus L.) Influenced by Symbiosis in Agricultural and Natural Habitats of Hawai`i
- An Innovative Approach to Measure Non-Market Benefits of Invasive Species Control Program
- Economics of Managing Invasive Species in Tropical and Subtropical Areas of the US-Hawai`i
- Identify Koa Pathogens in Forests and Plantations, Locate Disease Free Areas, Develop Disease Control Options for Plantation Establishment
- Large-Scale Assessment of Hawaiian Dry Forest Decline and Restoration Potential with Remote Sensing and GIS

For more information or to see a comprehensive list of research projects, go to:
http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/forestry/Data/researchProjects.asp

HAWAI`I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSCIATION

P. O. Box 10216
Hilo, HI 96721
Phone: 808-933-9411
Fax: 808-933-9140
Email: hawaii.forest@hawaiiantel.net
Website: www.hawaii-forest.org

Mahalo

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