

The

# Softwood

## Forest Products

# Buyer

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March/April 2013

## IBS Fills Convention Center: New Mega-Event With KBIS Announced

Photos By Terry Miller

**Las Vegas, Nev.**—The 2013 National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) International Builders' Show® (IBS) welcomed a full house of attendees and exhibitors (approximately 50,000 was the projected combined total) at the Las Vegas Convention Center recently.



Drew Kappus, Boise Cascade LLC-EWP, San Antonio, Texas; Ron Gurss, Boise Cascade LLC-EWP, San Jose, Calif.; Bill Reavely, Boise Cascade LLC-EWP, Southern California; and Vernon Banks, Boise Cascade LLC-EWP, Boise, Idaho

Builders, remodelers, developers, architects and other industry professionals from more than 100 countries attend IBS to see the latest products and services from nearly 1,000 exhibitors in more than 200 construction cate-

Additional photos on pages 12 & 14

Continued on page 10



Jean-Marc Dubois, Nordic Engineered Wood, Albany, N.Y.; and Albert Renaud and Tony Saad, Nordic Engineered Wood, Montreal, Que.

## NRLA Welcomes Hundreds Of Exhibitors To LBM Expo

Photos By Terry Miller

**Boston, Mass.**—Over 200 exhibiting companies gathered recently at the 119th Annual Lumber and Building Material (LBM) Expo, held at the John B. Hynes Memorial Convention Center and hosted by the Northeastern Retail



Curtis Walker, The Waldun Group, Maple Ridge, B.C.; John Brissette, The Waldun Group, Norwalk, Conn.; and Kirk Nagy, The Waldun Group, Maple Ridge, B.C.

Lumber Association (NRLA).

NRLA President Rita Ferris noted her excitement about the LBM Expo theme: "Branch Out: Reach New Heights", which, she said, encompasses

Additional photos on pages 14, 16 & 18

Continued on page 10



B Manning, Durgin & Crowell Lumber Co. Inc., New London, N.H.; Larry Huot, LaValley Building Supply/DiPrizio Pine Sales, Newport, N.H.; and Tom Jenkins, Fraser Wood Sidings, Edminston, N.B.

## Rebirth of Montreal Wood Convention Deemed Successful

Photos By Terry and Wayne Miller

**Montreal, Que.**—The Quebec Wood Export Bureau, in collaboration with the Quebec Forest Industry Council, the Maritime Lumber Bureau and the Ontario Forest Industries Association recently served as hosts to the

Additional photos on pages 18, 26 & 27

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Dale Chaffee, Plateau Forest Products, Bend, Ore.; Brian Hawrysh and Randi Walker, BC Wood Specialties Group, Vancouver, B.C.; and Sylvain Labbe, Quebec Wood Export Bureau, Quebec City, Que.

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# OAKBRIDGE TIMBER – Building Homes That Reflect Values

Photos courtesy of OakBridge Timber Framing

By Michelle Keller



With timber frame homes now in 22 states, Johnny Miller is still in contact with many of his previous customers.



Johnny Miller and his team of eight employees build an average of 15 homes or structures per year.



OakBridge Timber Framing's custom timber frame homes are constructed from Douglas Fir and white oak.



The entire building process is energy efficient and non-toxic to the environment.



Johnny Miller and Levi Hochstetler began OakBridge Timber Framing from their experience raising barns in their youth.

**Howard, Ohio** – OakBridge Timber Framing Ltd., based here, precuts and installs timber frame homes. Established in 1986 by Johnny Miller and Levi Hochstetler, the company is comprised of three generations of an Amish family.

Throughout history Amish and Mennonite people have been recognized for their hard work, attention to detail and true commitment to the craft of constructing barns and other buildings. Miller and Hochstetler began OakBridge Timber Framing from their experience raising barns in their youth. "Timber framing has always been part of our culture," owner and CEO Johnny Miller said. "My father built mortise and tenon structures with his father."

OakBridge Timber Framing's custom timber frame homes are constructed from Douglas Fir and white oak, of which the company purchases approximately 100,000 board feet annually. Much like their Amish ancestors, the skilled craftsmen at OakBridge take pride in their work as they craft each timber with hand tools. Utilizing a traditional draw bore technique with 1-inch pegs, the joiners achieve exact cuts and precision in the joinery of timbers. "We use a draw bore technique, which makes for much tighter joints," Miller explained. "We plane and finish our frames using a lot of techniques to keep our joints as tight as possible."

Johnny Miller and his team of eight employees build an average of 15 homes or structures per year. "Our projects are beautiful homes, banks and museums," he said. He added that he appreciates the size of his company as it is today, to ensure exceptional quality craftsmanship. "I have been to many old fashioned barn raisings where the frame is raised, enclosed and even the stalls are built in one day by a crowd of several hundred people. But those framers used

*Continued on page 22*

Much like their Amish ancestors, the skilled craftsmen at OakBridge Timber Framing of Howard, Ohio, take pride in their work as they craft each timber with hand tools.



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**WASHINGTON SCENE -**

Continued from page 20

landowners in Oregon that were directly affected, with property in or adjacent to the fire perimeter. Private economic losses included livestock, (including injury, death of animals and loss of animal body weight), timber, fences and corrals.

**Vilsack Stays and Salazar Goes**

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar let President Obama know their intentions for service to the President in his second term. Former Governor of Iowa from 1999 to 2007, Vilsack made a short run for presidency in 2007. He recently announced he would return as Secretary of Agriculture.

A Colorado native, Ken Salazar recently told the President that he plans to return home following eight years of work in Washington D.C., four years as Secretary of Interior and four years as a U.S. Senator from Colorado. Salazar also served as

Attorney General of Colorado prior to his election to the United States Senate.

Overseeing the Forest Service, Vilsack has been a supporter of getting more forested acres treated to avoid large catastrophic fires, and has encouraged the agency to accomplish more with flat or declining budgeted dollars by finding management efficiencies and streamlining processes. The Forest Service hopes to ramp harvest targets up from 2.4 billion board feet in 2010 to a projected 3.0 billion-harvest level by FY14.

Leaving the Department of Interior Salazar made minor progress addressing the paralysis affecting the management of the Bureau of Land Management forestlands in western Oregon. Salazar attempted to withdraw the Western Oregon Plan Revisions that took five years and millions of dollars to develop earlier in his tenure. The BLM has lacked any direction from Washington since then and has attempted to manage forests to prevent any and all controversy.

**Kitzhaber Urges Board of Forestry**

**To Take Aggressive Role**

Governor of Oregon John Kitzhaber recently urged the Board of Forestry to take a more aggressive role in managing Oregon's federal forests.

The governor feels strongly about the state having a role and has proposed putting \$4.5 million in lottery-backed bonds to help fund local and federal forest collaborative and on the ground projects. These dollars will be allocated to three elements: staffing, science and technical assistance and small grand programs for helping individual forests fund projects.

**APA -**

Continued from page 2

The Carbon Challenge Design Competition challenges architects to transform a vacant lot in Baltimore's Oliver neighborhood by designing a series of iconic row houses that consider the environmental footprint of the construction materials. A similar

The Softwood Forest Products Buyer competition was also launched in Providence, Rhode Island.

"The Carbon Challenge is part of the Forest Service's ongoing effort to help the City of Baltimore rebuild, restore, and revitalize its distressed neighborhoods using wood – an abundant, renewable resource," said USDA Under Secretary Sherman. "We're working with Baltimore and a number of local partners to showcase ways in which the city and its residents can use undervalued wood resources in building construction and in green infrastructure for stormwater management."

**Dave DeWitte Elected to APA Board of Trustees**

Dave DeWitte, president/CEO of Pacific Woodtech, has been elected by the APA Board of Trustees to fill the Board position previously held by Mike St. John of Pacific Woodtech. St. John died in November.

DeWitte holds an undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MBA from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He began his wood product industry career with Trus Joist in 1978, advancing to president, Trus Joist Division of TJ International. He joined Pacific Woodtech in 2002 as vice president, general manager and was appointed to his current role as president/CEO in 2007. He also currently serves on the Washington State Building Code Council.

**Market Outlook: Remodeling Rebound**

With consumer spending expected to pick up only slowly as the economy grows, particularly in early 2013, residential repair and remodeling could also be slow to develop this year. Higher taxes are the primary reason with the uncertainty of the U.S. fiscal policy in the background. In the second half of 2013 and for years to come, the outlook is brighter. Repair and remodeling is expected to outpace other types of spending because increasing home prices have finally made it worthwhile to fix-up what has been neglected since the recession.

One indicator of remodeling activity is the Leading Indicator for Remodeling Activity (LIRA) developed by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies. It forecasts rapidly increasing remodeling expenditures. By late 2013, expenditures are expected to reach the same levels as 2007 and this should stimulate increasing demand for wood products.

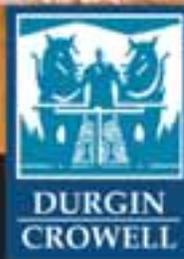
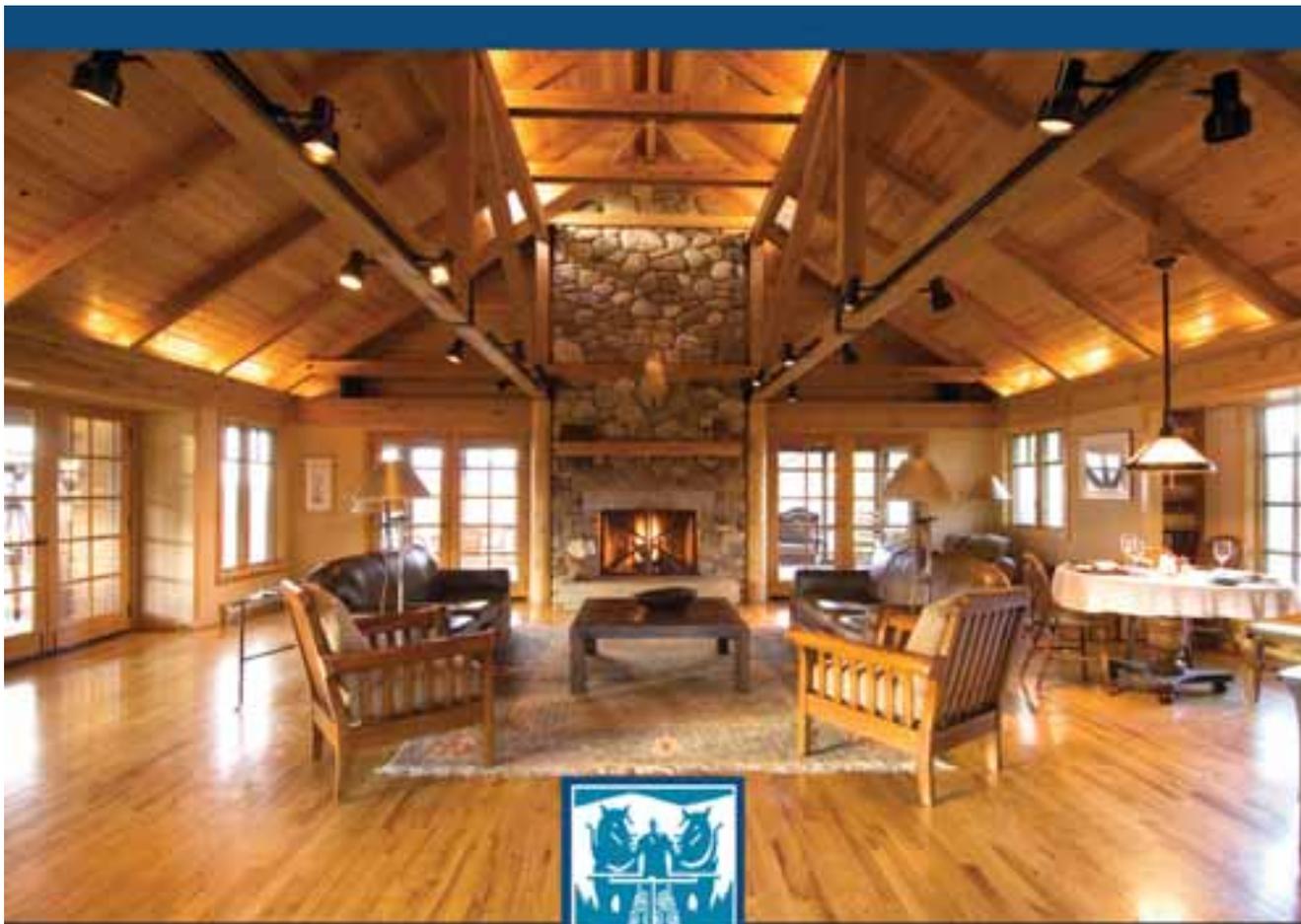
**OAKBRIDGE-**

Continued from page 4

rough sawn and unfinished timbers and the joints didn't fit very tight. Our plan is to grow in size slowly, but focus primarily on growing in quality and service."

A family owned and operated company, key employees include Johnny Miller's brother and co-owner, Aaron Miller, who is also the production manager. Neal Miller, also a brother, works in production. Their father, Andrew Miller, oversees quality control and production. Johnny's sons James and Andrew Miller are also in production.

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**OAKBRIDGE -**  
Continued from page 22

His daughter Leah Miller is secretary and the office manager is Joni Miller. The Millers prefer to use Douglas Fir Softwood lumber and red and white oak hardwood lumber. "Douglas Fir is a strong wood; it's softer and lighter," Miller commented.

With timber frame homes now in 22 states, Johnny Miller is still in contact with many of his previous customers. "Our mission is—To build dream homes that reflect our values," he said, referring to the company's mission statement, which is complimented by the company motto, "Where quality is first, quality lasts."

OakBridge's satisfied customers have remarkable comments about their homes. "Thank you for the quality of product and spirit of cooperation that we enjoyed while working with you. The finished product is truly magnificent, as attested to by the many superlatives we receive from friends and neighbors," R.T. Thompson, on Catawba Island in Port Clinton, Ohio, said. Another customer, Mike and Denise Bellcock of Watertown, Wis., said, "We are so excited, this is a dream come true!" Laura Eloë, who had a custom OakBridge timber frame home built in Chicago, Ill., said, "Thanks so much for our awesome frame. It is causing quite a stir around here. We have already had many comments on how beautiful and well constructed the frame is. You all do outstanding work. We would be happy to reference for you on your future

projects."

Committed to the environment, OakBridge Timber frame homes are constructed from the highest quality timbers. The entire building process is energy efficient and non-toxic to the environment. And in keeping with their Amish culture, the OakBridge facility is run by manpower, pneumatic and hydraulic power.

OakBridge Timber Framing Ltd. is a member of the Timber Framers Guild, Timber Frame Business Council, the Building Industry Association of North Central Ohio, and the Better Business Bureau (BBB).

All of OakBridge's homes are custom designed for each customer, either from an original design, or from one of 12 different floor plans from which an OakBridge customer can create their own dream home. Those plans include: the Bookwalter, Elo, Frederick, Freeman, Jenkins, Johnson, Joyce, Lemon, Lentz, Pistone, Price and the Thompsen. To view these floor plans and more information visit [www.oakbridgetimberframing.com](http://www.oakbridgetimberframing.com).

The OakBridge website is sponsored and maintained by Friends of OakBridge Timber Framing Ltd., out of appreciation and deep respect for their integrity, craftsman and values.

**ROSEBERG -**  
Continued from page 6

viding quality wood products to the market place.

On the solid-wood side of the busi-

ness Roseburg's manufacturing facilities include a large world-class short-lumber sawmill, three Softwood plywood mills, a hardwood plywood mill, a Softwood veneer plant, and a state-of-the-art engineered wood products mill all located in the western United States. On the composite side of the business their manufacturing facilities include three particleboard mills and four laminating facilities located in the western and southern regions of the United States.

As an integrated manufacturer of wood products Roseburg has always had a major commitment to sustainability and what is currently referred to as the "green movement." Back in the 1960s Roseburg was one of the first companies in the wood products industry to produce particleboard from residual wood waste generated during the lumber and plywood manufacturing processes. Historically this residual waste had either been incinerated or dumped into landfills. Today, any residual by-products that cannot be converted into other down-stream end-use products, such as composite panels or paper, is used to fuel one of the company's co-generation facilities that provides energy for an adjacent plant or, in some cases, is sold to a local energy provider for use in their power grid.

This long-standing commitment to sustainability coupled with their wide range of manufacturing capabilities allows Roseburg to offer the broadest portfolio of "green" products available from a single North American wood products manufacturer.

The company also has a history of

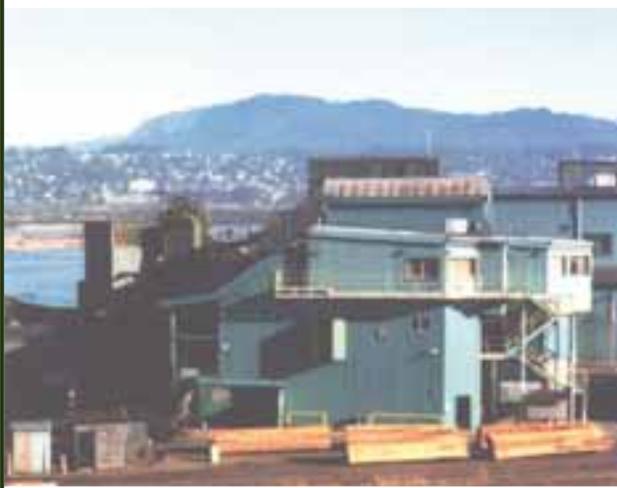
cooperatively working with government agencies and third-party certification organizations. They believe that cooperatively working with these outside entities further demonstrates their overall commitment to high standards and public awareness. From silviculture practices defined by the Oregon Department of Natural Resources or the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), to product integrity specifications defined by the Engineered Wood Association (APA) or the Composite Panel Association (CPA), the company is always striving to pursue continuous improvement and meet or exceed industry standards.

The management team at Roseburg continues to acknowledge the evolving business needs of its customers and the way people obtain and share information. In keeping with this evolving business environment, the company has recently launched a newly designed website at [Roseburg.com](http://Roseburg.com). Mark McLean, the company's marketing director, explained, "We are excited to introduce our new website and believe that our customers, and other interested parties throughout the wood products supply chain, will find the new website to be packed with information about our company and the products we offer. We hope it will prove to be a valuable resource that our business associates can use to make informed decisions about our portfolio of products and the markets we serve."

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