

RTA Discovers Oregon

During Annual Field Trip

Oregon is famous for its outdoor beauty, and attendees of the Railway Tie Association's Annual Summer Field Trip got to experience wood tie operations in and around the Portland area. The purpose of this annual trip is to provide attendees with insight on safety research and development, sawmills, preservation and more in other parts of the country.

The trip included visits to sawmills, a wood preserving company, a treating plant and much more around the forested lands

of Oregon.

Day 1 took attendees to Oregon State University's Department of Forestry, Hull Oakes Sawmill, McFarland Cascade and JH Baxter.

Day 2 included visits to the Amerities plant, the Mt. Hood Railroad for lunch and Conrad Forest Products in nearby Rainier, Ore.

On Day 3, attendees visited Pacific Wood Preserving in Sheridan, Ore., and the Evergreen Air & Space Museum for lunch.



Below is a recap of the trip as told in photographs. For more information on RTA's 2013 Field Trip, stay tuned to www.rta.org or e-mail ties@rta.org. ■

Day 1: Oregon State University, Hull Oakes Sawmill, McFarland Cascade & JH Baxter



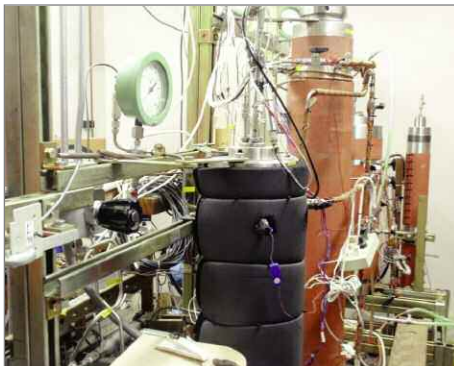
The entrance to OSU Peavy Arboretum and Research Forest. At almost 12,000 acres, the forest is both a working forest with regular commercial harvests and a research/teaching facility for OSU College of Forestry students.



The group gets an orientation from Dr. Jeff Morrell about species and preservative test materials at the TJ Starker Post Farm at the OSU Field test site.



Morrell talks with Wheeler Lumber's Jeff Parrett, RTA's first vice president.



Supercritical fluid (SCF) pilot treatment plant in OSU's Richardson Hall. This device uses carbon dioxide at high pressures to impregnate wood with preservatives. There is currently only one commercial SCF treatment plant in Denmark, but SCF has the potential for complete impregnation of difficult to treat woods.



Milo Clauson, senior faculty RA, expounds upon the "Reaction" wall and floor under test. The Richardson Hall Test facility is designed to test large structures, including full-sized manufactured homes.



Spike pull test from a tie exposed outdoors for two years at the OSU field test site near Corvallis.



Started in 1926 by Professor TJ Starker, this post farm is one of the oldest continuously operated field tests in the United States.



Tour participants dig into a delicious and nutritious lunch prior to the afternoon stops.



Don Wagner of the Hull Oakes Lumber Company explains that the mill may be the last steam-powered (45 hp) sawmill in the country.



Annually sawing 20MMBF of Doug fir timbers from its own 12,000 acres of timberland, Hull Oakes' specialty is timbers up to 85' in length.



Here, the bottom chord of this truss is one continuous 80' Douglas fir timber.



Incoming logs, a 56' and 60', are unloaded into the log holding pond before peeling.



The nine-foot band saw blades are sharpened regularly for the moving head rig carriage.



McFarland Cascade Plant Manager Nick Reniff, left, and Tony Helms of North American Tie & Timber.



Reniff and Tolko's Jamie MacMillan inspecting poles have been drilled to increase preservative penetration.



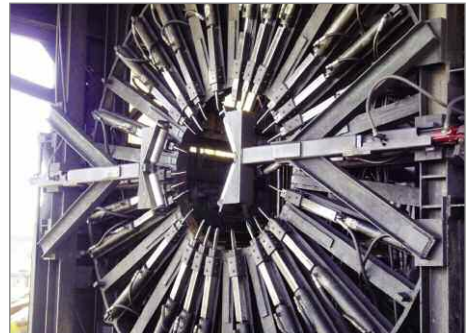
The Eugene Plant leg stretch and yard tour.



A bin of dry and framed ready-to-treat poles.



A charge of transmission poles staged for treating.



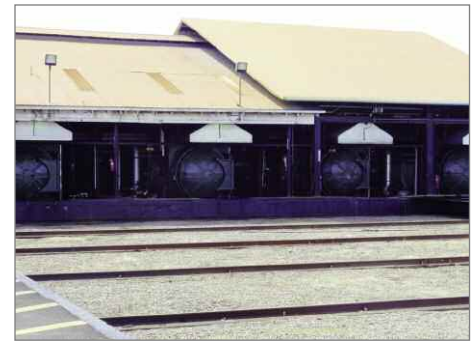
The Pole Deep Incisor incises to six inches for deep zone preservative treatment



McFarland Cascade Tech Services Director Les Lonning discusses the Boultonizing process, condensate collection and measurement.



Two 2-ton Penta blocks loaded onto trams for mixing in the retorts.



The four McFarland Cascade 7' x 145' Eugene retorts.



The tour of JH Baxter starts with a safety briefing by Plant Manager Paul Krotts.



Here the group poses at the JH Baxter plant, which produces ACZA, ACQ, CuNap, Penta and creosote-pressure-treated products.



...then we have a look at some ACZA-treated timbers. This plant treats with oilborne and waterborne systems.



Capabilities are diverse because of these five cylinders.



JH Baxter's specialty is custom work and large materials such as these penta-treated glu-laminated square utility transmission poles and bridge arches.



...JH Baxter also treats ties.



Jeff Parrett-RTA's first VP, left, RTA President Jeff Broadfoot, center, and Paul Krotts of JH Baxter.

Day 2: Amerities & Conrad Forest Products



First up on Day 2 was a tour of the Amerities plant in The Dalles, Ore.



Amerities stacks and treats over 700,000 hardwood and Douglas fir cross ties, switch ties, and bridge timbers annually for Union Pacific Railroad.





Five 7' x 132' creosote pressure treating retorts at this Amerities facility are used for both UPRR (90%+) and some commercial business.



Blaine Garmon at Conrad Forest Products' Rainier plant gets the tour started.



Green No. 1 Douglas fir cross-ties and switch-ties at one of Conrad's three treating facilities in Washington and Oregon. Rainier inventories 20,000+ ties.



ACZA-treated timbers for Marine Splash use with much higher retentions than the cross-ties.



ACZA-treated cross-ties and switch-ties along with some dimensional lumber. The material stays under cover until dry, before moving to storage.



CA-C treated lumber for retail lumber yards.



Rainier is one of three plants that can treat with ACZA in three retorts at a current capacity of 300,000+ Douglas fir ties annually. This plant is also responsible for producing several million feet of dimension lumber/timbers for retail.



No. 1. Grade WCLIB Douglas fir treated to AWPA standards. This particular piece was taken from a random unit of ties for the benefit of the group and cut before arrival.

Day 3: Pacific Wood Preserving



Alan Jackson, left, and Dan Winkle of Pacific Wood Preserving conduct a safety briefing prior to tour.



Doug fir poles are ready for drilling and framing.



Radial pattern drilled poles.



One of the loaders stacking finished poles.



Loading end of the retorts.



Inside a 6' x 160' double door retort.



One of the out feed carts at the pole peeler.

ATTENDEES

Jeff Thompson, AmeriTies West LLC; Robert Baeppler, Grady Brafford, Tim Carey and Paul Dandy, Arch Wood Protection, Inc - a Lonza company; Allen Bowman, Alan Jackson and Mychal Kintz, Arizona Pacific Wood Preserving; Robert Banister, Alicia Bitner, Thomas Brueske and Nicholas Dryer, BNSF Railway; Mike Goldston and Stan Spence, Brewco Inc.; Alan Cox, Bridgewell Resources; Phil Myers, Marc Stephens, Brandon Stephens and Justin Stephens, Cahaba Pressure Treated Forest Products; Darrell Smith, Conrad Forest Products; Tom Whatley, Eagle Metal Products; Ted Pollard, Gemini Forest Products; Mike Pourney, Gross & Janes Co.; Jerry Farley, JH Baxter & Company; Bill Moss and Jane Moss, MiTek Industries, Inc.; Jeffrey Broadfoot, National Salvage & Service Corp.; David Boehm, Cindy Boehm, Will Cumberland and Tony Helms, North American Tie & Timber LLC - Procurement; Jim Gauntt, Railway Tie Association; Wes Piatt and Matt Yost, Rocky Mountain Tie and Timber, Inc.; Mike Collins, Jamie Hillary, Wayne Kusmierczyk, Glen Ritchie and Jon Yonce, Stella-Jones Corporation - Plant; Jimmy Watt and Brenda Watt, The Crosstie Connection; Jamie MacMillan, Tolko; Ryan Lake, Tolko Ashcroft Treating; Mark Mankowski, U.S. Borax; Kevin Hicks, Union Pacific Railroad; Dave Koch and Jeffrey Parrett, Wheeler Lumber, LLC

SPECIAL THANKS TO SPONSORS OF RTA'S 2012 FIELD TRIP

Appalachian Timber Services
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