

# Ohio Valley Lumber Drying Association Fall Meeting

## Thursday, November 11, 2021

**7:30 AM** - Breakfast — Provided with hotel room

**8:10 AM** - Leave hotel for Freeman Corporation

**8:30 AM** - Tour Freeman Corporation

**9:45 AM** - Leave Freeman Corporation and travel to Powell Valley Millwork

**10:15 AM** - Tour Powell Valley Millwork

**11:45 AM** - Adjourn

## About the Speakers

### Dr. Matt Bumgardner

Matthew Bumgardner is a Forest Products Technologist with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station. He has been a scientist with the Forest Service for 22 years working in Princeton, WV and Delaware, OH. Prior to joining the Forest Service, Matt worked in the plywood industry in Texas. He holds a PhD in Forest Products Marketing from Virginia Tech, as well as degrees in Forestry and Policy from Ohio State. Matt conducts and publishes research addressing markets, trade, and economics for hardwood lumber and various secondary wood products.

### Mr. Bob Bauer

Bob's experience includes: 10 years with the Kentucky Division of Forestry as a Service Forester and Forest Products Utilization improving efficiency of the wood industry in eastern Kentucky; six years with Morehead State University working with the wood industry in eastern Kentucky to assist with economic development growth within the industry and recruitment of wood based industry into the area; and since 1995 has been the Executive Director of the Kentucky Forest Industries Association.

### Dr. Rado Gazo

Rado is a Professor of Wood Processing and Industrial Engineering at Purdue University Wood Research Laboratory at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

He teaches several classes including: Properties of Wood, and Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing and Furniture Design for CNC. When not in a classroom, he conducts research and technology transfer in value-added wood products manufacturing and industrial engineering areas. He often works as a consultant to furniture companies.

## Agenda Eastern Time Zone

### Wednesday, November 10, 2021

**12:00 — 1:00 PM** – Registration opens at Embassy Suites Lexington, Kentucky Coldstream rooms 4 & 5

**1:00 PM** - Presentations begin

**1:00 — 2:00 PM** – **Current Status and Market Directions for the Hardwood Industry**, Mr. Matt Bumgardner, Research Forest Product Technologist, US Forest Northern Research Station

**2:00 – 3:00 PM** - **The White Oak Initiative – Ensuring White Oak For The Future**, Mr. Darren Morris, Forestry Extension Associate Senior, University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

**3:00-3:15 PM** — Break

**3:15 – 3:25 PM** - **Hardwood industry training and education in Indiana**, Dr. Rado Gazo, Professor of Wood Processing and Industrial Engineering, Purdue University Forestry and Natural Resources

**3:25 – 3:50 PM** - **KFIA Young Leaders Program and Real American Hardwood Promotion**, Mr. Bob Bauer, Executive Director of the Kentucky Forest Industry Association

**3:50 – 4:45 PM** - **History of Their Family in the Wood Industry and Past Year, Current, and Future Forest Products Economics**, Mr. Michael Thornberry, Vice President and Mr. Bill Perry, Lumber Procurement Manager of Powell Valley Millwork

**4:45 PM** - **Stress Relief**

**6:00 PM** - **Dinner & Business Meeting of the OVLDA**, in the meeting room (provided)

**8:00 PM** - Refreshments in Hospitality Suite

Registration Form: Fall 2021 Meeting, November 10 –11, 2021  
Embassy Suites - Lexington, KY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please type or print clearly. If more than one person plans to attend, please copy this form and provide the above information for each person attending. Registration includes handouts, break refreshments, and dinner on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.*

**Registration Deadline: November 4, 2021 (Late registration add \$20.00)**

Registration Fee: \$125 per person

Please make checks payable to: Ohio Valley Lumber Drying Association

Send To: Bobby Ammerman  
University of Kentucky  
Department of Forestry  
130 Robinson Road  
Jackson, KY 41339

## About the Tours:

### The Freeman Corporation

415 Magnolia Street  
Winchester, KY 40392

The Freeman Corporation is a growing, multi-faceted wood veneer manufacturer and importer. Founded in 1914 by George E. Tomlinson and originally named Tomlinson Company, The Freeman Corporation began as a manufacturer of hardwood lumber, tobacco hogsheads (a type of tobacco storage barrel) and Tomlinson takedown tables, the first banquet tables capable of being instantly disassembled for storage. The sawmill steadily expanded and became a leading walnut lumber manufacturer. Following Mr. Tomlinson's death in 1953, Gene Freeman, Mr. Tomlinson's grandson, took over the company and expanded the walnut lumber production and log exporting business.

The main production facility is situated adjacent to Interstate 64 in Winchester, Kentucky. In 1968, the first veneer slicer was installed on an expanded 32-acre site. In 1978, a second machine was installed. In 1982, Mr. Freeman's two sons, Reid and George, joined the business and two years later a third veneer manufacturing line went into production. In 1988 the plant site was enlarged to 44 acres. In 1990 a high-speed rotary veneer line was added and saw milling operations were discontinued. In 1999 and 2000 the plant under went another major expansion. A fourth slicing line, the most modern ever constructed, and approximately 50,000 square feet of production area were added. The

Freeman Corporation now has about six acres (approximately 260,000 square feet) under roof. Currently it produces about eight hundred thousand square feet per day of sliced and rotary veneers with 250 employees. Much of its dedicated processing machinery is unique and has been designed and built on site.

Gene Freeman retired in 1991. Reid and George Freeman now lead a strong and experienced team. Major customers include furniture manufacturers, furniture components manufacturers, veneer splicing plants, plywood factories, architectural millwork companies, veneer resellers, and flooring manufacturers in over 20 countries. Freeman normally inventories around 50 million square feet of veneer.

A new 22,000 square foot office and showroom was completed in late 1998. Many examples of wood veneer are exhibited throughout the new office, including over one hundred architectural doors and panels of different wood species from around the world. A remarkable stained glass window in the shape of a tree, and incorporating the office's front door as the tree's trunk, highlights the two story stone building constructed of hand split Kentucky limestone.

In addition to its own production, The Freeman Corporation purchases from around the planet some of the worlds most exotic and valuable veneers. It is recognized as the world leader in producing, sourcing, and marketing veneers manufactured from sustainable, well managed forests.

## About the Tours:

### Powell Valley Millwork

588 Lofty Heights Road  
Clay City, Kentucky 40312

Powell Valley Millwork is a family owned and operated secondary manufacturer of poplar products including primed interior, door and window components, trim boards, and picture frames supplying a diverse customer base across North America in truckload quantities. With two production facilities located east of Lexington, Powell Valley employs 200 folks working in 320,000 square feet of manufacturing and warehouse space including 600,000 board feet of kiln drying capacity. Annual lumber consumption of green Poplar lumber (4/4, 5/4, and 6/4) is approximately 20,000,000 board feet from a variety of sawmill vendors located in east Kentucky, southeast Ohio, and West Virginia. Founded in 1994, the company prides itself in reinvestment with new buildings, equipment, and capabilities to increase volume and gain market share.

## About the Speakers

### Mr. Bill Perry

With a BA in English Literature from the University of KY, Perry completed the 119th class of the National Hardwood Lumber Association's Inspection School in 1996. Employed by some of the largest lumber companies in KY, VA and NC. Taught lumber inspection at fifteen German sawmills, was their North American Sales representative and Importer of Record. Also served as the NHLA's International Consultant for the European Union. Lumber buyer with Powell Valley Millwork. Currently on the Board of Directors with the Kentucky Forest Industries Association and Ohio Valley Lumber Drying Association.

### Mr. Darren Morris

After graduating from the University of Kentucky with a B.S. degree in forestry, Darren worked for the Kentucky Division of Forestry for 23 years helping landowners achieve their forest management goals. Darren is now an Extension Forester for the UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources and Southern Region Coordinator of the White Oak Initiative.

### Mr. Michael Thornberry

Michael is the third generation involved in the business and began working with his father, Jimmy Thornberry, when they acquired the Clay City location in 2014. A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Michael spent seven years working in Washington, DC before returning home to join his family in business. His primary responsibility for the company includes business development focused on the major distributor accounts across the country. When not at work, Michael's hobbies include any activities his three children (all under six years old) are involved in on a given day. He is involved within the millwork community working within the World Millwork Alliance (WMA) and actively participating in KFIA, IHLA, and WCMA. Like any Lexington native, Michael is an avid basketball fan and a perennial optimist when it comes to SEC football.



# OHIO VALLEY LUMBER DRYING ASSOCIATION



**2021 Fall Meeting**  
November 10-11, 2021

**Embassy Suites**  
1801 Newtown Pike  
Lexington, KY 40511  
859.455.5000

## Tours:

The Freeman Corporation  
Powell Valley Millwork

## Sponsors:

University of Kentucky Forestry and Natural  
Resources Extension  
Purdue University Forest and Natural Resources  
University of Tennessee Department of Forestry,  
Wildlife and Fisheries

## Hotel Reservations

A small block of rooms have been reserved on a first come basis at Embassy Suites in Lexington, Ky.

The room block will be released on October 10 (reduced rate of \$135). Reservations can be made by calling the Embassy Suites at 859.455.5000. Use the group code Ohio Valley Lumber Drying Association when making reservation.