

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! **SAVE THE DATE** !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Specialized Innovation Workshop

**Lean Manufacturing for Small and Medium Sized Wood Products Companies**

The *Regional Wood Products Consortium* – a collaboration between Sustainable Forest Futures (SFF) and the wood products manufacturing industry in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and northern New York – will conduct a series of one-day Lean Manufacturing workshops for leaders of small and medium sized wood products manufacturers.

The workshops will be held in five locations throughout the region as follows:

- October 19, 2010 – Augusta, ME
- October 20, 2010 – Concord, NH
- October 21, 2010 – Montpelier, VT
- November 3, 2010 – Glens Falls, NY
- November 4, 2010 – Utica, NY

All workshops will feature presentations from top experts on Lean Manufacturing for the wood products manufacturing industry and provide opportunities for interaction with participants. Featured presenters include wood manufacturing experts **Dr. Earl Kline** and **Dr. Urs Buehlmann** of the **Virginia Tech Department of Wood Science and Forest Products**. With several decades of industry experience including specific work with manufacturers to implement Lean principles, Kline and Buehlmann will focus on the substantial benefits - citing specific examples - that wood products manufacturers can gain from pursuing Lean. They will also address the commitments required in order to realize the full potential of a Lean production system. In addition, the Consortium is bringing back **Dr. Jeff Howe** as a featured presenter. In his former role as President of a specialty wood products manufacturer in the mid-west, Jeff led the company through a highly successful and recognized Lean transformation. Jeff will talk about the culture of change that is important to create in a company to maximize the benefits of Lean. Jeff was a popular presenter at the Consortium's marketing workshops in May 2010. Each site will also give attendees an opportunity to hear from their peers in the wood products industry and share their ideas and experiences with Lean.

**All Workshops are Co-Sponsored by:**

- Wood Products Manufacturers Association*
- Maine Wood Products Association*
- New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association*
- Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association*
- Empire State Forest Products Association*

**Any wood products manufacturing company in the region may participate in any of the workshop sites, as may be convenient.**

A full agenda including speaker biographies, registration information, site specifics and other details is available at:

<http://www.foresteconomy.org/programs/wood-products/workshops/lean-manufacturing-workshops/>