

**10th International IUFRO Division-5
Wood Drying Conference
August 26-31, 2007**

Summary

The IUFRO Wood Drying Working Group 5.04.06 held the 10th International Wood Drying Symposium in Orno, Maine on August 24 to September 1, 2007. This marked the 20-year milestone for the group since the original meeting in 1987. The meeting was attended by 46 individuals from 17 countries. There were three days technical sessions during which 26 papers were presented and 12 posters were displayed. A business meeting was held.



One day was spent touring Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor, Maine. Aside from spectacular scenery, activities included seashore and mountain hikes followed by a lobster dinner.



The meeting concluded with an industry tour to three companies. The first was Pleasant River Lumber Company, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, a producer of softwood lumber. The group toured the sawmill, kilns, and planer. The second company was the Vic Firth Company in Newport, Maine. This company makes approximately half of the drumsticks used world wide. The group was able to see hickory lumber dried on a schedule designed to prevent a pink stain. In the factory, the group saw the drumstick blanks machined to a circular shape, inspected for grain direction and quality, machined to the shape of the drumstick, finished, and then sorted. It was a two-way sort, first based on the weight of the drumsticks so that they feel the same and the drummer's hands, then based on the tonal quality of the drumsticks so the same sound is made by each when the drum is struck. The drumsticks are then sold in matched pairs. The third company was Robbins Lumber Company, Searsmont Maine, another producer of softwood lumber. In addition to the sawmill, kilns, and planer, the group saw a cogeneration facility, a planer shaving facility, and a fingerjoint line as well as other products being produced.



The next meeting of the group is proposed for 2009 or early 2010 in Sweden. Watch the IUFRO calendar for an exact date.