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USDA FOREST SERVICE • FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
One Gifford Pinchot Drive • Madison, WI 53726-2398 • Web site: www.fpl.fs.fed.us

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Contact: George Couch, (608) 231-9295
E-mail: gcouch@fs.fed.us

USDA Forest Products Laboratory Researcher Presented Wood Engineering Achievement Award

Madison, Wis.— Douglas R. Rammer, a research engineer at the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), has been awarded the Wood Engineering Achievement Award by the Forest Products Society, an international technical organization. Rammer received the award recently (June 20) at the Madison-based society's annual convention in Quebec City, Canada.

The award recognizes Rammer's contributions to building codes, standards and rehabilitation efforts for wood construction. Among Rammer's accomplishments since joining the research staff at the FPL in 1991 are studies of the strength and engineering properties of single and multiple fasteners, studies related to the strength and stability of old timbers, studies of how metal fasteners corrode in the presence of wood preservatives, and advanced inspection methods for bridges and homes.

The prestigious award—only one is awarded per year—recognizes “measurable and significant impact” on the field of wood engineering. The award alternates each year among three categories: Lifetime Achievement, Young Engineer, and Engineering Innovation. The 2005 Award to Rammer is in the Young Engineer category.

Rammer, who lives in Janesville, Wis., with his wife and children, grew up in Appleton, Wis., and was graduated from Appleton High School West. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil and structural engineering at the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

The Wood Engineering Achievement Award was established in 1996 by the Wood Engineering division of the Forest Products Society and is cosponsored by the American Forest & Paper Association's American Wood Council.

The Forest Products Society is an international not-for-profit technical association founded in 1947 to provide an information network for the forest products industry. The society also

distributes American Wood Council's technical publications, which provide engineering data and other information on wood construction for engineers, architects, builders and building-code regulators.

The USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory was established in 1910 in Madison, Wis., with the mission to conserve and extend the country's wood resources. Today, FPL's research scientists work with academic and industrial researchers and other government agencies in exploring ways to promote healthy forests and clean water, and improve papermaking and recycling processes. Information is available at FPL's Web site: www.fpl.fs.fed.us. Through FPL's Advanced Housing Research Center, researchers also work to improve homebuilding technologies and materials.

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