



NEWS RELEASE

USDA FOREST SERVICE • FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
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“Wisconsin’s Flying Trees” takes off from Forest Products Laboratory Exhibit’s nationwide tour opens with reception

MADISON, Wis.—The nationwide tour of a traveling exhibit, “Wisconsin’s Flying Trees: Wisconsin Plywood Industry’s Contribution to WWII,” will kick off with a reception at the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) on Wednesday, January 31 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The reception will be hosted by FPL in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin Department of Forestry and Ecology Management and the Hamilton Roddis Memorial Lecture Series. Sara Witter Connor, granddaughter of Hamilton Roddis and president of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin, will lecture and Les Schwarm, veteran of WWII’s Operation Market Garden, will present at the reception.

The 23-foot exhibit uses historical photos and information as well as first-hand accounts to educate visitors on the critical role the state’s forest products industry played during WWII. For example, with help from FPL, Wisconsin plywood manufacturers, such as Roddis Plywood and Veneer Company in Marshfield, turned yellow birch from the state’s northern forests into the thin veneer and plywood needed to produce the fastest airplane of WWII, the DeHavilland Mosquito, also known as the Wooden Wonder and the Timber Terror.

In addition to the interpretive exhibit, items from FPL’s work with the U.S. military will be on display. FPL researchers studied wood aircraft frames during WWI, developed lightweight packaging for transporting materials during WWII, assisted with the design and repair of motor mounts for minesweepers used in Desert Storm, and solved problems with wooden propellers during the current conflict in Iraq. These and many other FPL wartime contributions will be chronicled in the Forest Products Journal’s cover story in February 2007.

“Wisconsin’s Flying Trees” will be on display at FPL until March 23, 2007. The exhibit is sponsored by the Hamilton Roddis Foundation through the Camp 5 Logging Museum in Laona, Wis.

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. Through FPL’s Advanced Housing Research Center, researchers also work to improve homebuilding technologies and materials. Information is available at FPL’s Web site: www.fpl.fs.fed.us.

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