



CHANGING THE WAY AMERICA BUILDS – Mass Timber and CLT are Happening!

More than 500 attendees from 14 countries attended the United States’ first Mass Timber Conference, organized by [Forest Business Network](#), March 22-24 in Portland, Oregon. Speakers, workshops and exhibits focused on cross-laminated timber (CLT), along with other mass timber products, and their use in mid-rise and tall buildings in North America. Professionals from the entire wood and building supply chain attended the conference representing architects, engineers, sawmills, building constructors, and mass timber manufacturers. Several universities and non-government organizations attended, as well as local, state, tribal and federal government employees. As part of the conference, a building tour through Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington showcased a variety of mass timber buildings under construction in the area. [Click here to see tour details.](#)

Following a video welcome from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack, Patrick Holmes, Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment of the USDA, presented an update on key department and USDA Forest Service activities supporting the development of this emerging industry, and the important connection between healthy, resilient forests and forest products. The highlighted activities include [U.S. Tall Wood Building Competition](#), construction project support from WoodWorks, research at the Forest Products Laboratory and their partners, and FPMU technical assistance with logging, lumber producers and CLT manufacturers.

The conference also welcomed leading architect Michael Green as a keynote speaker. Green presented an exciting update on the current and future of building mid- and tall-timber buildings from wood, highlighting the positive environmental and economic impacts they create. His takeaway message was, “Mass Timber is happening! It is happening quickly. We need to work together to ensure success!” For more information on the conference see “[Talking Timber](#)” [article in the Portland Tribune.](#)

FPMU participated on the conference planning committee, and moderated workshop sessions on CLT manufacturing supply and supply chain challenges and opportunities. The Forest Service is playing a critical role in providing assistance to state, tribal, and private entities on how to incorporate wood as a green building material, in support of the forest to market supply chain.



Conference participants tour Framework building, Portland

KEY Mass Timber Partner:

[WoodWorks](#) is an important partner in the USFS’s efforts to promote CLT and other mass timber products as sustainable building materials. The organization offers training and consultation for architects and engineers in the use of wood in building design and construction. WoodWorks collaborates with the Forest Service in the delivery of technical information to building professionals. For additional information about CLT and mass timber, see upcoming classes WoodWorks is offering on page 2. (Photo right- U.S. Tall Wood Building West Coast Prize Competition Winner: Framework, Portland, Oregon. The East Coast winner was 475 West 18th, New York, New York. Credit: LEVER Architecture)



UPDATE APRIL 2016

CONTACT US

[Brian Brashaw](#)

Program Manager
218-626-4344

[Delton Alderman](#)

Research Forest Products Technologist
301-431-2734

[Rusty Dramm](#)

Forest Products Specialist
608-231-9326

[Melody Jones](#)

IT Specialist
304-431-2706

[Mark Knaebe](#)

Natural Resource Specialist
608-231-9504

[Iris Montague](#)

Research Forester
662-338-3129

[Ann Sarnecki](#)

Partnership Coordinator
608-231-9506

[Doug Tucker](#)

Program Support Assistant
608-231-9504



First All-CLT Hotel Grand Opening

The first hotel in the United States to be completely constructed using CLT recently opened on the [Redstone Arsenal](#), near Huntsville, Alabama.



The structure includes 1,200 CLT wall panels. Learn more about this US Department of Defense project at [PRNewswire](#).

What is Mass Timber and CLT?

Mass timber products (CLT, nail-laminated, glulam, laminated veneer lumber and longitudinal strand lumber) are innovative new technologies and building systems that have enabled longer wood spans, taller walls, and higher buildings, and expand the possibilities for wood use in construction. CLT is a solid panel made of bonded layers of lumber intended for applications in houses, mid-rise, and tall buildings. These products offer advantages in construction, sequester carbon, support forest management and strengthen rural economies. Forest products supports more than one million direct jobs, many in rural America. As these markets expand, so will the economic opportunities. For more information, check out the [CLT handbook!](#)

Upcoming Classes, Events, Workshops

Dates	Title	Link
April 11-14	International Biomass Conference Charlotte, NC	biomassconference.com
April 21	Innovations in Wood Design: Trends for a Sustainable Future St. Paul, MN	woodworks.org
April 21	National Firewood Workshop Keedysville, MD	ncsu.edu
April 21-22	SE Dry Kiln Club Conover, MC	cnr.ncsu.edu
Apr 8,15,22,29 & May 6, 13	Back to Basics Training Series: Engineered Wood Products	apawood.org

Monthly UPDATE Links

HOUSING STATS: Virginia Tech, Forest Service Housing Commentary [January 2016 Main Report](#) and January [2016 Part B, Economics](#)

In the NEWS:

[Timber Report: Log, wood products prices remain lackluster](#)

[Innovators share \\$100K prize by creating new markets for small-diameter logs produced by forest restoration](#)

[Diverse Audience Unites at Urban Wood Event](#)

[Duluth News Tribune article on EAB, urban logging and utilization.](#)

REPORTS:

[Proceedings: Mass Timber Research Workshop 2015](#) (This report summarizes the proceedings, including key points and identified research needs, that evolved from the Mass Timber Research Workshop, which was held at the USDA Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), November 3–4, 2015.)

[Wooden High-Rises and Timber Towers Changing Construction Map](#)

Forest Products Marketing Unit, Forest Products Laboratory
One Gifford Pinchot Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53726
www.fpl.fs.fed.us

Contact: Ann Sarnecki, asarnecki@fs.fed.us