



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2011

Production, education and marketing of quality roundwood products

President's Message

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, with family and friends. 2010 has come and gone, I know it had its share of challenges, but I am confident the year also had some rewards for everyone. As an organization we helped deal with some of those challenges, and some of them will carry over to 2011. We will continue to monitor issues that affect our membership and hopefully help secure a positive outcome for the members affected by these issues.

One of the rewards of belonging to the IRA is the annual meeting coming up in March. This event has always been well attended. It is an informative day and an enjoyable social event. I'm sure you will find this year's presenters very informative. There will also be a host of businesses displaying their products and services in the lobby for everyone to check out during breaks. If you have

never been to the annual meeting I would like to personally invite you to attend and if you are a regular attendee I look forward to seeing you again in March.

—Bill Baker, President

Board Position Open

IRA members are encouraged to contact Directors Darrell Miller or Kal Kovatch who are the nominating committee for the Board of Director vacancy.

One Board position needs to be filled at the March 2011 annual meeting and one director will be up for reelection. Directors are eligible to serve two terms. Each term is three years long.



“One of the rewards of belonging to the IRA is the annual meeting coming up in March.”



IRA Directors Meeting December 2, 2010 Conference Call

Attendees- Directors Bill Baker, Jody Parker, Kal Kovatch, Craig Rawlings, Scott Corwin, Darrell Miller. Administrator Karen Kovatch.

Open Meeting- President Bill Baker called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Previous Minutes- A motion was made by Jody Parker, second by Scott Corwin to accept the minutes of the October 8, 2010 board meeting in Pinedale, WY, the motion was approved.

Treasurers Report- Treasurer Kal Kovatch reported: Balance First Interstate Bank checking account \$2,058.59 and the balance Vanguard account is \$7,075.07 for a total of \$9,304.46.

Old Business

IRA Quality Post brochure- The new brochure is ready to go to the printer. A motion was made by Darrell Miller, second by Kal Kovatch to accept the bid from the printer of \$2,395 for 10,000 brochures on 100# gloss paper, the motion was approved.

When the IRA dues notices are sent out in January, at least one brochure will be sent out to each member with a note stating they will be able to pick-up larger quantities at the annual meeting in March or request more to be mailed to them ASAP.

Annual Meeting- Program & Agenda
The annual meeting dates and place have been set. The Social will be the 17th of March 2011 and the meeting on the 18th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula. The meeting will be titled *"Diversifying for the Future."* There will be 4 speakers yet to be identified that will present topics consistent with the theme of the meeting. Multiple topic possibilities were discussed and it was agreed to pursue the following.

Potential New Markets for IRA producers by-products:

- Composting- Kal Kovatch & Kathy O'Hern
- Biochar- Craig Rawlings will look for potential speakers

Grant Writing:

- Darrell Miller & Craig Rawlings will look for potential speakers

How to get your business found on the internet and the social media (Facebook, Twitter):

- Craig Rawlings & other board members will look for potential speakers

Annual Meeting- Election of Officers

Directors Craig Rawlings and Darrell Miller will be up for re-election in 2011 and Rich Lane will be termed out according to the By-Laws. Kal Kovatch and Darrell Miller were appointed as the nominating committee and will put a slate of candidates together for these positions that will be presented at the annual meeting. A request for candidates will be posted in the fall newsletter.

Darrell Miller reported that the following four people have expressed their interest in being candidates:

Kelly Gebhardt – Gebhardt Post Plant & Sawmill, Roundup, MT

Steve Tyser – Lodgepole Products Co., Laramie, WY

Darrell Miller – Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Clancy, MT

Craig Rawlings – MT Community Development Corp., Missoula, MT

Audit- After the annual meeting in March, Jody Parker will oversee the financial audit that will be performed by Norm Tyser and Leo Pfendler.

New Business

Kal Kovatch reported that the conference service the IRA's telephone board meetings seems fairly

high, one bill was just under \$200. Bill Baker has found a service that is much less in price (in the \$50 range) the board will use that service and reimburse Bill.

Board President, Bill Baker incorporated the comments received by IRA members in to a letter to the EPA concerning EPA-HQ-QPP-2010-0455 (Copper Naphthenate Salts Registration Review), [please see attached letter.](#) (*Editors Note: Please see page 6.*)

Next Meeting-

The next meeting will follow immediately after the annual meeting March 18, 2011.

Adjourn-

Jody Parker moved and Kal Kovatch seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Newsletter-

Articles for the winter newsletter need to be submitted to Karen no later than Jan 31, 2011.

-Craig Rawlings, Director

23rd Annual IRA Meeting and 7th Annual Social

The 2011 IRA Annual Meeting will be on **Friday, March 18th**, 2011 in Missoula, Montana. Registration begins at 8:00AM and the meeting starts promptly at 9:00AM.

Location: The meeting will be held at The Hilton Garden Inn, 3720 North Reserve Street. Exit 101 off I-90. (406) 532-5300
www.missoula.gardeninn.com

Lodging: Reserve your room at the Hilton by March 7th 2011 and receive the IRA rate of \$99 plus tax. Call toll free: 1 (877) 782-9444. You may make your reservation online at www.missoula.HGI.com using Group/Convention Code "ROUND"

Lunch: The noon meal will be available on the 18th for \$10.

Meeting Registration Fee: IRA members do not pay a registration fee. Cost for non-members is \$10.

IRA Social: Plan to attend the 7th Annual IRA Social which we dedicate every year in memory of Joanna Dixon. The social begins the evening before the meeting at 6PM on **Thursday, March 17th** at The Hilton Garden Inn. No host cocktails will be available and there will be a pasta dinner served at 6:30PM.

Visit our Vendors

Vendor tables will be located in the 3200 square foot rotunda adjacent to the meeting room.

Committed to exhibiting already are:

❖ Missoula Saws, Inc.

❖ Woodlandia

To reserve a table contact Karen Kovatch at (406) 677-2932 or email info@roundwoodassociation.org

Hinge Door Prizes

Hamilton Hinge has donated two 5/8" all thread hinges with a double ring latch (for walk through gates) and two 3/4" all tread hinges with a load bearing latch to be given away at the Annual meeting. Contact Loyd at (406) 961-4086 to order hinges for pickup at meeting and save on freight.

New IRA Members

❖ Hanson Log Products

❖ Northwest Management, Inc.

Visit www.intermountainroundwood.org to check out our newest IRA members.

23rd Annual IRA Meeting Tentative Agenda

Friday, March 18th 2011 ❖ Hilton Garden Inn ❖ Missoula, Montana

DIVERSIFYING FOR THE FUTURE

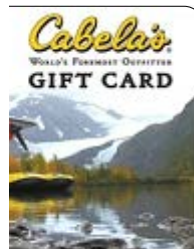
8:00AM	Registration- North Rotunda	Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer
9:00	Welcome & Introductions-Salons A & B	Bill Baker, President
9:15	Composting Hogfuel	Kalvin Kovatch, Roundwood West Corporation
9:45	Break	
10:00	Introduction of Board Nominees	Bill Baker, President
10:15	Utilization of Wood Processing By-Products	John Murdock, Algae Aqua-Culture Technology, Inc.
10:45	Break	
11:00	Biochar Research Project	Greg Jones, Rocky Mountain Research Station
12:00PM	Lunch- Salon C	Signature Roasted Meat Buffet
1:00	Where Can I Find "Free" Money? Tips and Tricks to Finding and Writing Grants	Christine Johnson, Johnson Brothers Companies
2:00	Election of Officers & Adjournment	Bill Baker, President

Diversifying Gift Cards

Register today and attend the annual meeting where **THREE** lucky winners will be drawn to receive:

- ☒ \$200 Cabela's Gift Card
- ☒ \$200 Lowe's Gift Card or a
- ☒ \$100 Outback Steakhouse Gift Card! Now that's a bloomin' onion...

Remember to pick up your FREE IRA Guide to Quality Treated Wood Products Brochures at the Annual Meeting!



Outback Gift Card good at all the following:



Annual Meeting Presentations

Grant Research & Writing

If you have heard about all the free money available through grants, but don't know where to start, come listen to Christine Johnson. She will show you where to look and how to apply for grants.

Christine started Clover Creative Consulting in the summer of 2009 to help businesses with grant writing and marketing. She assists companies and non-profits with technical grant and proposal writing, as well as marketing consulting, including marketing plans and graphic design. She has more than ten years of marketing and grant writing experience in many different industries, including timber, financial, retail, and construction industries. Christine is a contracted presenter and consultant for Montana's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, based out of Helena.

Christine is also the Business Development Director for the Johnson Brothers Corporations based in Missoula. Johnson Brothers consists of 10 timber-industry related companies across Northwestern United States.

Composting Hogfuel

As markets dwindle for hogfuel, Calvin and Karen Kovatch of Roundwood West Corporation spent quite a bit of time researching compost as a way to utilize their wood residue by-product from their roundwood yard in Seeley Lake MT.

They worked with MT DEQ personal, toured several composting sites including West Yellowstone, MT and Pigeon Forge, TN, applied for a grant, researched equipment and started looking at garbage in a whole new way. Calvin will present their composting story in a slide show with photos and videos.

Utilization of Wood Processing By-Products

John Murdock has over 30 years of industrial marketing, process control/process engineering and manufacturing systems experience. He is the Vice President of Engineering and Marketing for Algae Aqua-Culture Technology and the project manager for the company's first commercial scale up facility located at the F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company mill in Columbia Falls, MT.

John has degrees from the University of Idaho in Metallurgical Engineering and an MBA from Pepperdine University. He served in the US Navy for over 20 years in operational intelligence.

John will present an overview of the process of converting wood processing byproducts into organic carbon, combustible gases and other valuable commodities, and how these integrate into the AACT weed-free organic fertilizer production process creating high-value, weed-free organic fertilizers.

Biochar

Greg Jones will give an overview of ongoing biochar research at the Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula Lab. He has a Ph.D. in Forest Economics from Iowa State University. He was the Assistant, and then Associate Professor, Department of Forestry, OSU, Stillwater, OK, 1976 - 1981.

Since 1981 Greg has held a number of positions with the former Intermountain Station Research Station and now the Rocky Mountain Research Station. Currently he is a Supervisory Research Forester with the Human Dimensions Program, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula.

Letter to EPA Regarding Copper Nap

November 8, 2010

Office of Pesticide Programs
Regulatory Public Docket (7502P)
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

RE Comments for EPA-HQ-QPP-2010-0455 (Copper Naphthenate Salts Registration Review)

EPA,

The Intermountain Roundwood Association (IRA) is a group of roundwood producers that are located in the mountain states of MT, ID, CO, WY, SD, etc. Many of our producers produce long lasting fence post and other treated wood products that have been treated with Copper Naphthenate wood preservative. Many of our producers have expressed a concern that Copper Naphthenate may lose its EPA label and registration because of the expense of producing the un-necessary tests that are required in the **Copper Naphthenate Salts Registration Review**. We ask that you consider the hardship that would be created should Copper Naphthenate no longer be available to our members.

Nearly 25 years ago, one of the reasons the IRA was created was to defend producers, who at that time, were producing fence posts that were treated with Pentachlorophenol and Creosote. When those preservatives became restricted use and lost many of their approved label uses, the dip treating market, for the most part, converted to Copper Naphthenate. Copper Naphthenate was considered a "savoir" as a less toxic alternative to the much more toxic formulas of Pentachlorophenol and Creosote that had been in use for decades. Since this conversion, Copper Naphthenate has proven to be a reliable and safe preservative.

No other "ground contact" oil based preservative that can be applied by dip treating is registered. Loss of Copper Naphthenate will put some of our members out of the treating business.

In summary, the IRA is requesting that you please consider the economic impact that the loss of Copper Naphthenate would create for the members of our association. It is the only ground contact wood preservative that can be applied using non-pressure methods. No other alternative exists. If Copper Naphthenate had a documented history of health and safety problems then we could endorse the need for additional testing. Fortunately, documented health and safety problems do not exist. These tests are simply an un-necessary regulatory burden.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bill Baker, President
Intermountain Roundwood Association

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Contact Gary Marks at
(406) 933-5981

or email
gary@marks-miller.com



IRA 23rd Annual Meeting
"Diversifying for the Future"

March 18th 2011
Green Inn, Missoula, MT

Membership Information

Meetings

Members are encouraged to participate in the quarterly director meetings throughout the year as well as our annual meeting , March 18th 2011. The board conducts four meetings, usually two teleconference meetings and two physical meetings each year. Members are welcome to raise concerns and contact directors with specific issues and any questions.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on **Friday, March 18th 2011** following the Annual Meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact IRA President, Bill Baker for more information.

Advertising

Business Directory Ads:
Contact Gary Marks (406) 933-5981 or gary@marks-miller.com

IRA Website

Log on at:
www.intermountainroundwood.org
Email: info@roundwoodassocaion.org



New Members

Thank you for inquiring about the Intermountain Roundwood Association.

Our organization is a nonprofit corporation representing the economic, educational, and social interests of roundwood producers. Anyone engaged in or interested in the harvesting, manufacturing, or marketing of small roundwood and associated products is eligible for membership in our organization.

Our association has been working for a consistent and stable supply of raw materials; presenting a united voice to government agencies and congressional delegations on those issues facing our association; working with government agencies on hazardous waste disposal alternatives; working to find State and Federal loan opportunities for small businesses; locating new out of region markets for members products; providing information on State and Federal Regulations; distributing a quarterly newsletter with pertinent information; providing advice to members in their dealings with governmental regulatory and land management agencies; and educating the public on the need to thin timber stands to provide a healthy environment and prevent stand-destroying fires.

IRA Board of Directors

Bill Baker, President	(605) 348-8338	btpsawdust@gmail.com
Jody Parker, Vice President	(605) 269-2233	jodyp@hillspg.com
Rich Lane, Secretary	(406) 721-2573	rlane@naturalresourcesolutions.com
Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer	(406) 677-2300	roundwoodwest@blackfoot.net
Darrell Miller	(406) 933-5981	darrell@marks-miller.com
Craig Rawlings	(406) 728-9234	crawlings@mtcdc.org
Scott Corwin	(307) 367-6267	pickarootimber@centurytel.net

Newsletter, Classified Ads & IRA Website

Karen Kovatch, Editor (406) 677-2932 info@roundwoodassociation.org

2011 IRA Membership Application Form

Business or Organization: _____ Contact person: _____

✔ This is how your membership will be listed on the back of the newsletter and on the IRA website.

Annual Meeting & Social Registration

Yes, I (we) will be attending the IRA Annual Meeting on Friday, March, 18th.

No, I (we) will not be attending this year.

Please mail me a receipt.

Yes, I (we) will be attending the IRA Social on Thursday, March 17th. Please plan on _____ (number of individuals to attend Social).

Yes, I (we) will be having lunch at the Annual Meeting on March 18th. Please reserve _____ meals at \$10 per person.

Lunch(s) x \$10 _____

IRA Dues for 2011 \$100 _____

Vendor Table Top Display \$50 _____

Non-member meeting registration fee: \$10 per person _____

(Reserve your room by March 7th 2011!)

TOTAL _____

Please return form and payment to:

Intermountain Roundwood Association
Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer
P.O. Box 1275, Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Contact information for my IRA web page and newsletter mailing labels:

No changes this year. Stop here, do not check any more boxes! ☺

Please make changes as noted.

New member: Complete the remainder of this form.

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: _____

Toll Free: [Optional] (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

Limited to 150 words. Attach separate page or email **info@roundwoodassociation.org** Remember to include one photo or image to accompany your business or organization description. You may email photo also.

PRODUCT LOCATOR CATEGORIES

Please choose all products you sell and processes which apply to your operation. This information will be used in the **Product/Member Locator** feature on the website. Call (406) 677-2300 or log on to the website www.roundwoodassociation.org/printable/Products.jsp for product description definitions:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural & Structures | <input type="checkbox"/> Jump Rails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse Jump Rails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineered Structures | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Products |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Biomass | <input type="checkbox"/> Poles & Stakes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biomass | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Poles |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Corral Rails or Panels | <input type="checkbox"/> Consulting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doweled Rail Fencing | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence Posts | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence Rails | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing Material | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Leg Fencing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gates | <input type="checkbox"/> Treating & Milling Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archways | <input type="checkbox"/> Custom Sawing & Machining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gates | <input type="checkbox"/> Treating Facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government & Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Protection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Barrier Wrap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Preservatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware & Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood, Lumber & Barkies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handling Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Doweled Products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware | <input type="checkbox"/> Doweled Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-peeled Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shipping & Packaging Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Machine-peeled Wood |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Treated Wood |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Unpeeled Wood |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> White Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highway Products | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Poles | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guardrail Posts | |

Official Use Only: Web List

INTERMOUNTAIN ROUNDWOOD ASSOCIATION

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Hanson Log Products
Hills Products Group
Hunt's Timbers, Inc.
Lemhi Economic Development Association
Lodgepole Products Company
Luck-E-G of Montana, Inc.

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Myrstol Post & Pole Company
Northwest Management, Inc.
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