



NEW ENGLAND KILN DRYING ASSOCIATION

11-12 November 2025 | Brattleboro, VT

William B. Smith, *Executive Director*
SUNY College of Environmental Science
and Forestry
218 Baker Lab
Syracuse, NY 13210

Robert W. Pope, *2025 President*
SII Dry Kilns
13 George St.
Montpelier, VT 05062

2025 Fall Meeting New England Kiln Drying Association

Where: The Holiday Inn Express, 100 Chickering Drive Battleboro, Vermont 05301 | 1-800-257-2400

When: 11 – 12 November 2025

Your Board of Director's have put together an outstanding meeting program featuring significant and informative topics and opportunities for kiln operators and managers. The program will begin with a special tour of nearby [Cersosimo Lumber](#).

Accommodation:

Directions: The [Holiday Inn Express & Suites Brattleboro](#), 100 Chickering Drive Battleboro, VT 05301 is conveniently located just west off of RTE 9 (Putney Rd) about 4 miles north of Cersosimo Lumber. Please call the hotel directly on 1-800-257-2400 for our special NEKDA rate for overnight rooms of **\$149/night** (includes hot breakfast). Be sure to note specifically that you are with the **NEKDA group**.

Registration

Please mail your pre-registration form and check directly to Bill Smith, wbsmith@esf.edu (by November 3). *There is \$20 per person surcharge for late registration.*

If you have any questions or concerns, email wbsmith@esf.edu or call 315-470-6832. You can also Fax to 315-470-6879.

Plant Tour

Tuesday | November 11

Cersosimo Lumber Company

10:30 am – Plant Tour (*Preregistration required*)

Address: 1103 Vernon Street, Brattleboro, VT

Cersosimo Lumber Company saws and kiln dries high quality eastern white pine and northeastern hardwood lumber. Our tour of their operation will include the pine and hardwood sawmills, cross-flow

Visit the website: <https://www.esf.edu/nekda/>

predryer, pine planer mill, state-of-the-art grading line, kilns, and wood-fired boiler system.

From I-91 take exit 1; coming from the south bear to the right, from the north bear to the left - then drive ~ 2.5 miles on rte 5 north (Canal St) to the bottom of the hill, then turning to the right on Route 142 south (Vernon St) for ~ 2 miles. Look for the main office and mill on the west side of the road.

Tour participants should bring their own hard hats, safety glasses and wear close-toe shoes.

At the Holiday Inn Express

1:15 pm – 1:45 pm – Registration and Lunch (In the meeting room)

Welcome and Introductions, Bob Pope, NEKDA, President (SII Dry Kilns, Montpelier, VT)

1:45 pm - 2:15 pm – Dry Kiln Set up – Preparation, Loading, Beginning Schedule

2:15 pm - 5:00 pm

The NEKDA Kiln Operator's Clinic – Basic and Advanced Drying

Led by Bill Smith, Bob Pope and Tom Graber. Informal and practical instruction and discussion on such things as the basics of kiln operation, maintenance, stacking, DH, conventional, and high-temperature drying, stain and discoloration, scheduling, changing species, wood-moisture fundamentals, kiln loading and baffling, moisture meters, restarting kilns, drying degrade, etc. Bring your individual problems, questions, and solutions! Please note any particular interests for discussion at the clinic on your registration form.

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm – Refreshment Break

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm – Stress Relief

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm – Banquet

At Holiday Inn Express

Wednesday | November 12

7:00 am - 7:45 pm – Board of Directors Meeting

7:45 am - 8:00 pm – Registration and Coffee

7:55 am - 8:05 pm – Welcome and Introductions

Bob Pope, NEKDA President (*SII Dry Kilns*, Montpelier, VT)

Technical Session Topics

The Lumber Drying Rate Index

- Ian Griffin, [NYLE Dry Kilns](#)

Boiler and Feed Water Maintenance,

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- Matt Colburn, [Messersmith Manufacturing](#)

TrimExpert auto-grader

- Patrick Lepage, [Comac](#)

Morning Break

Automation and Optimization systems, robotics, stick laying

- Patrick Lepage, [Comac](#)

Boiler Water Treatment

Business Mix Opportunities – panel discussion

Fundamentals of Quality Lumber Drying

- Bill Smith, SUNY ESF

12:00 – Elections, NEKDA Business Meeting, and *Lunch at the Holiday Inn*

We are looking for several people interested in helping to lead the NEKDA by joining and serving on our Board of Directors. Please contact Bill Smith or Bob Pope if you can assist in this rewarding activity.

☺ → ***In these challenging economic times it is important to remember that –***

Wood is the premier material for manufacturing, building and construction. It is renewable and produced from a sustainable natural resource. It is strong, lightweight, economical, long-lasting and attractive, and is made into countless products desired by society. It is also best used when it has been properly and effectively kiln dried. Because sustained profitability and competitive advantage in the marketplace is most assured by quality kiln drying, we encourage you to participate in NEKDA meetings. The NEKDA Officers and Board of Directors look forward to seeing you in Brattleboro! For updates or questions, check [our website](#), email wbsmith@esf.edu or call 315-470-6832.