



NEW ENGLAND KILN DRYING ASSOCIATION

17-18 November 2026 | Sayre, PA

William B. Smith, *Executive Secretary*
SUNY College of Environmental Science
and Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210

Tom Graber, *2026 President*
Weedsport, NY

2026 Fall Meeting – 75th Anniversary New England Kiln Drying Association

Where: Best Western Grand Victorian Inn, 255 Spring Street, Sayre, PA | 18840

When: 17 – 18 November 2026

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 [Wagner Hardwoods/Baillie Group](#) and [Cabinetworks](#).

Accommodation:

Directions: [Best Western Grand Victorian Inn](#), 255 Spring Street, Sayre, PA, 18840. From NY-17/I-86/Southern Tier Expressway take exit #61 (toward Waverly/Sayre), then turn right onto Cayuta Ave. which changes to Spring St. after crossing into Pennsylvania. The hotel is about 3/8 mile on the right (west side).

Please call the hotel directly on 570-888-7711 for our special NEKDA rate for overnight rooms of **\$85/night** (including hot breakfast buffet). Our special rate is held till November 2. Be sure to note specifically that you are with the **NEKDA group**. The hotel has great facilities for our meeting, and after our technical sessions you might want to enjoy their indoor pool and health club facility.

Registration

Please mail your pre-registration form and check directly to Bill Smith, wbsmith@esf.edu (by November 5). *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.

Plant Tour

Tuesday | November 17

Wagner Hardwoods/Baillie Group

8:30 am – Plant Tour (*Preregistration required*)

Address: 4060 Gaskill Road, Owego, NY 13827

[Wagner Hardwoods/Baillie Group](#) saws and kiln dries high quality northeastern hardwoods. The sawmill is quite new, having recently been completely rebuilt after a devastating fire in 2014.

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

From Rte. 17/I-86, exit #65, at the end of the ramp go right over the bridge and then bear right onto Rte. 17C east. Take 2nd left on to Day Hollow Road for about 1 ½ mi. Go to stop and turn right, staying on Day Hollow Road for about ½ mile, then take first left onto Gaskill Road. The mill is about ½ mile on left.

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

Cabinetworks

11:00 am – Plant Tour (*Preregistration required*)

Address: 217 Lamoka Rd, Sayre, PA, 18840

[Cabinetworks](#) in Sayre kiln dries high quality hardwood lumber, which is used in their modern manufacturing, rough mill and glue up operations to make kitchen and related cabinet door and panels for several well-known and highly regarded brands.

Driving from the Wagner Lumber visit take Rte. 17/I-86 to exit #60, turning left onto W. Bradford St, and then quickly left again onto US 220 south and after about ½ mile take Sayre/S Waverly exit, and head west for about 1 ½ mile on Wilawana and then Mile Lane Rd. Turn right onto Lamoka Rd about ¼ mile to Cabinetworks.

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

At the Best Western Grand Victorian Inn

12:45 pm – 1:15 pm – Registration and Lunch (In the meeting room)

Welcome and Introductions, Tom Graber, NEKDA, President (Weedsport, NY)

1:15 pm - 2:00 pm – *AI in Kiln Drying – Panel Discussion led by*
Tom Martin, Cersosimo Lumber, Brattleboro, VT
Ian Griffin, NYLE Dry Kilns, Brewer, ME

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The NEKDA Kiln Operator's Clinic

Led by Bill Smith, informal and practical instruction and discussion on such things as the basics of kiln operation, maintenance, advanced techniques, stacking, 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 - 7:00 pm – Banquet

At Best Western Grand Victorian Inn

Wednesday | November 18

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

7:45 am - 8:10 am – Registration and Coffee

8:10 am - 8:15 am – Welcome and Introductions
Tom Graber, NEKDA President (Weedsport, NY)

Moderator: **Jon St. Jean**, NEKDA 2nd Vice President (**Hull Forest Products**, Pomfret Center, CT)

8:15 am - 9:00 am – *Modern Kiln Control: Understanding and Interaction*
Josh Goin, Lignomat, Portland, OR

9:00 am - 9:45 am – *Thermal Modification: from a Producer's Perspective*
Tyler Shields, Bingaman & Son Lumber, Kreamer, PA

9:45 am - 10:30 am – *Wood Moisture Meters – Evolution and Best Use*
Tom Laurenzi, Delmhorst/Nielsen-Kellerman, Towaco, NJ

10:30 am - 10:45 am – *Questions and Coffee Break*
Moderator: **Ian Griffin**, NEKDA 2nd Vice President (**NYLE Dry Kilns**, Brewer, ME)

10:45 am - 11:30 am – *Small-Scale Sawing and Drying*
Ian Griffin, NYLE Dry Kilns, Brewer, ME

11:30 am - 12:15 pm – *Sampling for Quality Kiln Drying*
Tom Graber, Weedsport, NY

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm – *Annual Business Meeting*
Luncheon Buffet