



NEW ENGLAND KILN DRYING ASSOCIATION 29-30 October 2024 | Best Western Plus Hotel, Waterville, Maine

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Charles Sacket, *2024 President*
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53 East Side Road
Wentworth, NH 03282

2024 Fall Meeting

Where: Best Western Plus Hotel, 375 Main St, Waterville ME, 04901 | 207-873-0111

When: 29 – 30 October 2024

Your Board of Director's have put together an excellent meeting program with important and informative topics and opportunities for kiln operators and managers, along with several interesting nearby tours of:

- [Robbins Lumber](#), Searsmont, ME
- [Kennebec Lumber](#), Solon, ME
- Pride Manufacturing, Burnham, ME

Accommodation:

Directions: The [Best Western Plus Hotel](#), 375 Main St, Waterville ME, 04901 is conveniently located just off Route I-95, exit 130. Please call the hotel directly at 207-873-0111 for our special NEKDA rate for overnight rooms of **\$119/night**. Be sure to note specifically that you are with the **NEKDA group**. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

Registration

Please mail your pre-registration form and check directly to Bill Smith, wbsmith@esf.edu (by October 21). *There is \$15 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 | October 29

We start with several interesting nearby tours of:

Robbins Lumber

9:00 am – [Robbins Lumber](#) saws and kiln dries high quality NELMA grade white pine boards. The tour will include their sawmill, track and package kilns, planer mills, cut-up shop and cogeneration boiler system. Box lunches available.

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

Address: 506 Main St. South, Searsmont, ME

Kennebec Lumber

12:30 pm - [Kennebec Lumber](#) manufactures high quality hardwood lumber and flooring in one of the most modern and technologically advanced mills.

Address: 105 S. Main St, Solon, ME

Pride Manufacturing

3:00 pm – Pride Manufacturing saws and kiln dries lumber for specialized wood products production. They are world’s largest manufacturer of wooded golf tees, as well as making cigar tips and the iconic American toy Lincoln logs.

Address: 10 N. Main St, Burnham, ME

Tour participants should bring their own hardhats and safety glasses and wear appropriate footwear.

5:00 pm – Stress Relief

6:00 pm – Banquet Dinner

Technical Programs

Wednesday | October 30

They’re Doing What with Wood?

- Ben Herzog, University of Main Composites Center

Optimizing Venting – Conventional, Powered, Heat Recovery

- Ian Griffin, NYLE Dry Kilns

Into the Kiln Drying Process – Green, Air Drying, or Predrying – Pros and Cons

- Jason Ayer, Hardwick Kilns
- Arthur Routhier, Maine Woods
- John Delancy, Wagner Hardwoods

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

NEKDA Annual Business Meeting, Elections

Luncheon Buffet

NEKDA Elections

Elections will be held at our fall membership meeting for open positions on the NEKDA Board of Directors. We encourage any who are interested in this most stimulating and rewarding activity, and in becoming more active in the NEKDA, to consider serving as an Officer. Contact Bill Smith (wbsmith@esf.edu or 315-470-6832) with nominations or questions.

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