



NEW ENGLAND KILN DRYING ASSOCIATION

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Tom Graber, *2026 President*
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Our **2026 Spring Meeting** of the **NEKDA** is being held at the

DoubleTree Hotel in **Concord, New Hampshire** on
on ***Tuesday and Wednesday, May 12-13.***

Your Board of Director's has put together an excellent meeting program with important and informative topics and opportunities for kiln operators and managers. The Concord, NH ***DoubleTree Hotel*** (formerly a Holiday Inn, where we have met several times) is conveniently located at 172 North Main Street, phone 603-857-7800 <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/conundt-doubletree-concord-downtown/hotel-info/> . Mark your calendars and let them know when you call that you are with the NEKDA for our special \$149 rate!

We start on **May 12, Tuesday** with interesting nearby tours of:

Durgin and Crowell, 231 Fisher Corner Rd., Springfield, NH. <https://www.durginandcrowell.com>

10:00 am - Durgin and Crowell saws and kiln dries high quality NELMA grade white pine boards. The tour will include their sawmill, dry kilns, planer mill facilities, grader, and boiler system. [Durgin and Crowell Today](#). To get to the mill take exit 12A off of I-89, ~ 38 miles north on Concord and 25 miles east of West Lebanon. Take a left turn onto Georges Mills Rd, and drive ~ ½ mile, then turn right onto Fisher Corner Road and go up hill to lumber yard.

Box lunches distributed after Durgin and Crowell tour.

HHP, 14 Buxton Industrial Dr., Henniker, NH. <https://www.hhp-inc.com/hardwood-lumber-mill/> .

12:30 pm – HHP, Inc. is a multi-faceted forest-products company that includes a state-of-the-art hardwood sawmill, dry kilns, paper-quality chip producer and manufacturer of pallets and skids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppnSs62VWZw> .

Take exit 5 off of I-89, and drive ~ 4 miles west on Routes 202 & 9. At Old Concord Road turn left (south) and head ~1 mile; 14 Buxton Industrial Drive and the mill is on the right.

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

at the DoubleTree Hotel, Concord, NH

2:30 **REGISTRATION** (in the meeting room)

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS, **Tom Graber**, NEKDA President

3:00 - 5:00

“The NEKDA KILN OPERATOR'S CLINIC – basic and advanced drying” - led by Bill Smith, and others. 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.

5:00 - 6:00 *Stress Relief*
6:00 - 7:00 **BANQUET, Industrial Awards**

NEKDA, always the Best Kiln Drying
Wednesday May 13

at the DoubleTree Hotel

7:00 - 7:45 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

7:45 - 8:00 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

8:00 - 8:05 Welcome and Introductions

Tom Graber, NEKDA President

Moderator: **Jon St.Jean, NEKDA 1st Vice President** (*Hull Forest Products*, Pomfret Center, CT)

8:05 - ***Wood-Fired Boilers 101***

Cliff Hurst and Clyde Hudson, Hurst Boiler, Coolidge, GA

9:15 - ***Air Flow Principles – Baffling and Sticker Placement***

Ian Griffin, NYLE Dry Kilns, Brewer, ME

10:00 COFFEE BREAK

Moderator: **Ian Griffin, NEKDA 2nd Vice President** (*NYLE Dry Kilns*, Brewer, ME)

10:15 - ***Water Quality – Implementing Best Practices of Boiler Operation***

Mike Weiland, Clarity Water Technologies

11:15 - ***Lumber Processing, Kiln Drying, and Culture in China and Viet Nam***

Jason Ayer, Cersosimo Hardwick Kilns, Hardwick, MA

11:45 – ***The Role of AI in Kiln Drying***

Expert panel discussion

12:30 – 1:00 ***LUNCHEON BUFFET***