ESF Outreach E-news
November Edition

A regular update on ESF’s outreach programs, projects, partnerships and people.

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Our E-newsletter now includes an “E-Query”, a current fact related to our mission and our programs.

E-Query: How much water is in wood?

Answer: Lots! When they are fresh cut, some species of wood are more than 50% water (by weight). For example, fresh cut oak trees have a moisture content of 68% (www.nyle.com/downloads/KilnDrying.pdf). So, if you are including a tree as a part of your holiday decorations, whether it is a balsam fir or Scots pine, remember that part of that weight is due to the water inside the tree. (www.esf.edu/pubprog/brochure/xmastree/xmastree.htm)

For lumber species, this water has to be removed in order to produce a high quality finished product. Drying strengthens the lumber, preserves color, and makes the wood easier to machine and finish. To learn more about kiln drying wood and our workshop, please visit: www.esf.edu/outreach/kiln.

Upcoming Programs Include

For your convenience, learn more about these and other programs at: www.esf.edu/outreach/calendar.asp

Kiln Drying Workshop
January 9 – 12, 2012 / Syracuse, NY
This workshop provides practical knowledge about how to effectively kiln dry wood and focuses on the science behind related wood properties and drying processes. The instruction and topics covered are of interest and value to novice and experienced kiln operators as well as yard, purchasing, sales, marketing, and manufacturing managers. University professors and various industry experts instruct in the classroom and through hands-on lab exercises using our modern kiln. Learn more about this workshop and register at: www.esf.edu/outreach/kiln.

10th Annual NYS Green Building Conference: Register Now!
March 29 – 30, 2012 / Syracuse, NY
Help us celebrate the 10th anniversary of the New York State Green Building Conference at the Oncenter in Syracuse, NY on March 29-30, 2012. The conference serves as a forum for current green building research and development, best practices, discussions on green building science and operation and maintenance, as well as an opportunity to network with other green building experts, professionals, and researchers. Learn more about this conference and register as a sponsor, exhibitor, or participant at: www.esf.edu/greenbuilding.
NYS Geographic Information Systems Conference
May 15 – 16, 2012 / Syracuse, NY
The NYS GIS conference has a long standing tradition of providing attendees with an opportunity to meet fellow New Yorkers active in the GIS field, exchange information and real experience, and seek solutions to your geographic data management needs. For information about becoming a sponsor or an exhibitor, contact Emily Gillis at elgillis@esf.edu and for more information about the conference, visit: www.esf.edu/nysgisconf.

12th Annual American Ecological Engineering Society Meeting: Coupling Natural and Human Systems
June 7 - 9, 2012 / Syracuse, NY
We are excited to host the 12th Annual American Ecological Engineering Society Meeting in Syracuse. Our goal is to provide a forum for sharing ideas, information, and experiences among engineers, landscape architects, environmental scientists, natural resource managers, planners, and other professionals and students working to improve ecosystem health and global sustainability. For more information visit www.esf.edu/outreach/pd/2012/aees

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Items of Interest for our Outreach Friends & Colleagues

ESF in the High School Visits: Students Designing Their Future
This Fall, 300 ESF in the High School students visited the ESF campus and participated in an activity called “Designing Your Future”. The goal of this activity is for students to gain an appreciation of the interconnectedness of environmental problems and the role of humans in their creation, as well as in finding and implementing potential solutions. Students first take part in a discussion about earlier societies that have collapsed due to the choices they collectively made with their resources (e.g., Easter Island and Norse Greenland). In addition, students analyze the results from the 1972 study on the future of world sustainability, Limits to Growth. Students then work in small groups to create systems diagrams (a kind of a flow chart) of major environmental problems, potential solutions, and their interactions with the environment and human society. Through this process, students discover the true complexity of environmental problems and that identifying their root causes is critical for achieving sustainability.

ESF’S Green E-ship Program
ESF’s Sustainability And Green Entrepreneurship (SAGE) project was featured in the latest edition of the CNY Business Exchange Magazine (October-November Issue). Michelle Meyer, an ESF undergraduate student, was described in the article as a student whose college trajectory was changed by taking the weeklong summer Introduction to Green Entrepreneurship course while in high school. Gary Lim, a visiting professor of entrepreneurship at ESF and an entrepreneur himself, teaches the course and guides students on to how to grow an innovative concept beyond the initial idea and planning stages. Throughout the course, he gives students a glimpse of what to expect in the real world of entrepreneurship. For more information about the SAGE project and Introduction to Green Entrepreneurship, visit www.esf.edu/outreach/sage.

e200 Emerging Leaders Initiative Graduation
On Wednesday, November 2, SUNY-ESF hosted the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) e200 USA (The Emerging 200 Initiative) graduation on the ESF campus. As one of the community partners, we congratulate the e200 program graduates, comprised of 11 participating companies, including Bluepoint Environmental, EDR Companies, Empire Interpreting Service, Erate Exchange, LLC., H.P. Mile, Inc., Kondra & Jaquin Enterprises, Inc., Liehs & Steigerwald. The e200 graduation featured a presentation by Michael Chodos, Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, U.S. Small Business Administration. Mr. Chodos is responsible for overseeing the agency’s counseling and training resources and programs for America’s entrepreneurs. e200 is an intensive training initiative to accelerate high-potential small business growth in America’s inner cities. Developed by the U.S. SBA, the e200 training program is supported by a coalition of local economic champions and by business advisors and mentors who lend invaluable insight and expertise.
Dr. Rick Beal hosts STANYS Environmental Science workshop
Dr. Rick Beal, assistant dean for educational outreach and non-credit programs, in his role as director-at-large and as subject area representative for Environmental Science for the Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS), hosted a workshop on nuclear power featuring Brice Smith, Chair of the physics department at SUNY Cortland. This workshop was a part of their 116th annual conference held in Rochester, NY on November 8th.

For a complete calendar of ESF Outreach events, go to: www.esf.edu/outreach/calendar.asp