

NTA's Spring Technical Program Showcased Variety of Textile Solutions

Historic Plymouth Setting Hosts Industry Conference Focused on the Future

Over 150 men and women in the textile industry attended the *NTA/AATCC New England Regional Technical Conference*, May 13-16, 1999 in **Plymouth, MA**. Attendees represented nearly 100 companies engaged in every aspect of the textile industry, and came from 18 States and Canadian provinces, as well as Australia and Germany.

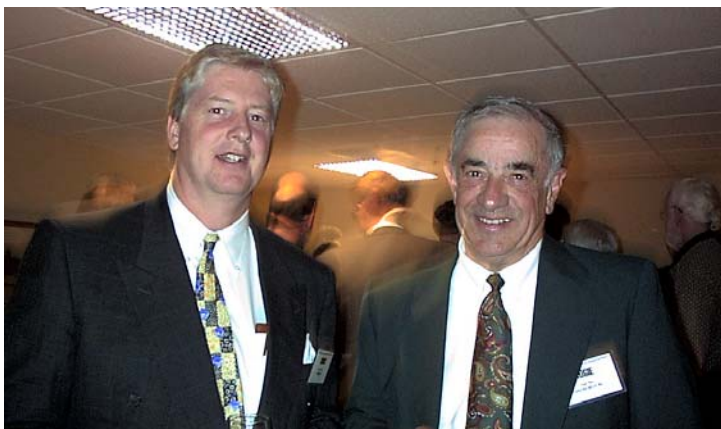


Goodwife Eleanor Gillington, a colonist at Plimoth Plantation speaks with **Betsy Harker**, Bishop and Co. Inc. at the Thursday reception

The program commenced with a cocktail reception and dinner on Thursday, for which we were joined by visitors--historical re-enactors--from nearby Plimoth Plantation.

Informal Time Together with Industry Colleagues at Social Events

Conference attendees enjoyed dinner together on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Social activities included a walking tour of historic Plymouth, MA, a fabric swap, a golf outing, and a "Duck" tour in a WW II era amphibious vehicle.



Chuck Kenney, Kennco Inc. and **Augie Reis**, Carolina Mills, Inc.

Engineering your company's success through applications of Technical Textiles

Gerald Mauretti, Engineered Yarns Co., moderated this panel that looked at some of the innovative textiles being developed and produced in the U.S. The panelists were: **Maurice Larrivee**, U.S. Army Soldier & Biological Chemical Command; **Nabil Lawandy**, Spectra Science Corp.; and **Brian Doyle**, North Cloth.



Gerald Mauretti, Engineered Yarns Co.; **Nabil Lawandy**, Spectra Science Corporation; **Brian Doyle**, North Cloth; and **Maurice Larrivee**, U.S. Army

New Technologies and New Ways of Thinking Featured

Paul Paydos of Guilford of Maine got attendees thinking about a whole new approach to environmental management--the "sustainable company." According to Ray Anderson, the CEO of Guilford's parent company, sustainability will be the next industrial revolution. Guilford of Maine is dramatically reducing the amount of water and energy consumed in their manufacturing processes. They also are recovering worn-out fabric from their customers to use as raw material for new products. The ultimate goal for sustainability is a manufacturing operation that extracts practically no new resources from the earth.

New developments in weaving were discussed at a panel moderated by **Merritt Loring**, Dorr Woolen Company. Presenters included **Luca Taramelli**, Somet of America; **Hans Reiser**, Symtech Incorporated; and **Paul Buckingham** and **Brad Carr**, Luwa Bahnsen, Inc.



Merritt Loring, Dorr Woolen Company; **Luca Taramelli**, Somet of America, Inc.; **Hans Reiser**, Symtech Inc.

Wool Fiber Supply Issues

Jim Robinson, Forstmann & Company, moderated a panel that featured **Pete Peter**, The Woolmark Company, **Rita Kourlis-Samuelson**, American Wool Council; and **Ross Wheatley**, Dewavrin Australia.

Other sessions looked at innovations in printing, dyeing/finishing, instrumentation, and coating/laminating.

Wool Manufacturers Look to Innovation, New Markets for Growth

The Wool Manufacturers Council of NTA met in conjunction with the Spring Conference and elected **Merritt Loring** as Chairman.

Among the topics of discussion at the Wool Council meeting was OSHA's draft proposal for an *Ergonomics Standard*. **Sue Francesco**, L.W. Packard & Co., Inc., will head up an NTA committee to work on the Ergonomics Standard.

International trade issues continue to be of great interest to American wool fabric producers. Trade issues that NTA is currently working on include: a *Caribbean Basin* trade bill, the *Sub-Saharan Africa* bill, the *Berry Amendment* "Buy American" requirement for Dept. of Defense contracting, legislation to stop abuses of trade concessions granted to the *Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands*, and *China's WTO accession*.

The Wool Manufacturers Council has formed a committee to look at product innovation and development. This group will explore new uses and promotion of wool in the home furnishing, institutional furnishing, automotive, and industrial markets.



Richard Forté, Forté, Dupee, Sawyer Co.; **Sue Francesco**, L.W. Packard & Co., Inc.; and **Bill Ball**, Acheron Engineering Services

Textile Education Key to Future of Industry

Dr. Thomas Curry, Dean of the School of Engineering at UMass Dartmouth was the featured luncheon speaker on Friday. NTA and our member companies continue to support the textile sciences program at UMass. Our industry partnership with academia is vital as we seek to innovate and stay competitive.



Dr. Thomas Curry, Dean, School of Engineering, UMass Dartmouth

The Saturday breakfast program featured **Dr. Linda M. Welters**, Chairperson, Dept of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design, University of Rhode Island

Thank You to All Participants

We thank the speakers and moderators who made this such a strong technical program. NTA also thanks the following corporate sponsors of the Thursday and Friday evening cocktail receptions:

- Bradford Sales Associates
- Dawson Textile Machinery, Inc.
- Luwa Bahnson, Inc.
- Sulzer Canada Inc.
- Eastern Color & Chemical/Lenox Chemical Co.

See You at the Fall Meeting!

Be sure to make your plans now to attend the **NTA Annual Meeting, October 17-19, 1999** at **Wild Dunes in Charleston, SC.**