



**Contact Information:**

Renee Hornsby  
901-399-7560  
[r.hornsby@nhla.com](mailto:r.hornsby@nhla.com)

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**NHHLA Advanced Lumber Grading Course to be Held in Dongguan Xingye Market, China**

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – The National Hardwood Lumber Association completed its first Three-Day Advanced Lumber Grading Course in May of this year at the Shanghai FuRen Wood Product Wholesale Market in Shanghai, China. The sold out seminar attracted attendees from China, Hong Kong, Germany and Vietnam despite the global economic slowdown. Due to the overwhelming success of this course, a second Advanced NHHLA Lumber Grading Course will be held at the Dongguan Houjie Xingye Timber & Plywood Market in the Guangdong Province, December 3-5, 2009.

Taught by former NHHLA Chief Inspector and Inspector Training School Director, Bob Sabistina, the three-day event will give attendees the opportunity to advance their working knowledge of the NHHLA grading rules, receive hands-on practice time, network with fellow industry peers and deepen international alliances.

As pointed out by Mr. Wan Youqing, General Manager of the Shanghai FuRen Wood Product Wholesale Market, “All participants in this course had some kind of working experience in the hardwood industry and they still found it important to take three days to learn the rules at a time of financial crisis which was an extremely wise choice.”

The advanced course allows manufacturers to gain insight on purchasing, regional differences of the same species, and the right grade to select for finished goods. Suppliers can better serve their customers with a working knowledge of the grades and species, as the cheapest price is rarely the best value. In-house support team members can also benefit from the course because knowing the working language of the grades and species from North America is a valuable tool to help increase sales.

Cost of the course is RMB 2500 per person (\$367 US) for NHHLA members and RMB 3000 per person (\$441 US) for non-members. Fees include registration, all breaks, lunches, course materials, graduation dinner and Certificate of Completion.

In order to ensure the quality of education, class size is limited to 25 students. If your company is interested in attending the Dongguan event please contact NHHLA as registration for the first course filled quickly. To register online, please visit [www.nhla.com](http://www.nhla.com). The registration is located on the NHHLA Education Calendar.

For additional information please contact: Bob Sabistina at 86-15202159175 (China Mobile) or 614-376-3394 (U.S. Mobile) or email at: [bshardwoods1@yahoo.com](mailto:bshardwoods1@yahoo.com). Interested parties may also contact NHHLA Director of Education, Crystal Oldham at (901)-507-0312 or email at [c.oldham@nhla.com](mailto:c.oldham@nhla.com).

The world's largest and oldest hardwood industry association, NHHLA represents 1400 companies and individuals that produce, use and sell North American hardwood lumber, or provide equipment, supplies or services to the hardwood industry. It was founded in 1898 to establish a uniform system of grading rules for the measurement and inspection of hardwood lumber. Since 1980, its headquarters have been in Memphis, Tenn. To learn more about NHHLA, please visit [www.nhla.com](http://www.nhla.com).

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