



# NEW ENGLAND KILN DRYING ASSOCIATION

9-10 May 2023 | Oneonta Quality Inn, Oneonta, New York

**William B. Smith**, *Executive Secretary*  
SUNY College of Environmental Science &  
Forestry  
218 Baker Lab  
Syracuse, NY 13210

**Charles Sacket**, *2022 President*  
Kennebec Lumber Company  
53 East Side Road  
Wentworth, NH 03282

## 2023 Spring Meeting

**Where:** Oneonta Quality Inn, 5206 State Highway 23, Oneonta, New York  
Phone: 607-433-2250

**When:** 9 – 10 May 2023

Your NEKDA (New England Kiln Drying Association) Board of Directors have put together an excellent meeting program with important and informative topics and opportunities for kiln operators and managers, including an interesting tour of [Wightman Lumber Specialty Woods](#) in Portlandville, NY. [Watch the Aerial view](#) of Wightman facilities.

### Accommodation:

**Directions:** The Oneonta Quality Inn in Oneonta is located off I-88, Exit 15 (about half way between Albany and Binghamton, NY). From Exit 15 go south on Lettis Highway a short distance to Route 23, turn left and head east on Route 23 about 1 ½ miles to the hotel at 5206 HWY 23.

Please contact them promptly at 607-433-2250 for overnight reservations. Our special NEKDA rate for overnight rooms is just \$89 which includes breakfast. We are looking forward to seeing everyone next month!

Oneonta is in the scenic foothills of the Catskill Mountains close to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Farmers Museum in Cooperstown. For further information please visit [Quality Inn Oneonta Cooperstown Area](#).

### Registration

Please mail your pre-registration form and check directly to Bill Smith, [wbsmith@esf.edu](mailto:wbsmith@esf.edu) (by May 2). *There is \$15 per person surcharge for late registration.*

Please visit [NEKDA website](#) for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, email [wbsmith@esf.edu](mailto:wbsmith@esf.edu) or call 315-470-6832. You can also Fax to 315-470-6879.

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



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Monday | May 8

## Dry Kiln Basics Course

9:30 AM – 4:30 PM ET | Quality Inn, Oneonta, NY

One day seminar of Lumber Drying and Dry Kiln fundamentals, with introductory focus, led by Bill Smith and Bob Pope. Topics include – Wood Moisture Relations, Lumber Handling and Preparation, Schedule Development and Implementation, Drying Defect Prevention, Dry Kiln Equipment, Dry Kiln Control and Management.

**“Optimize your Kiln Drying and Operational Efficiency”**

Tuesday | May 9

## Plant Tour

9:30 AM ET | Plant Tour (*Preregistration required*)

### Wightman Lumber

[Wightman Lumber and Building Supply](#) manufactures high quality hardwood and softwood lumber. On the tour we will see their sawmill, dry kilns, planning, mill and retail lumber operations.

**Address:** 146 Co Hwy 35A, Portlandville, NY 13834

**Directions:** From exit 17 off of I-88, take Rte.28 north ~ 5 miles. In Portlandville turn right (east) onto county Rte.35 and cross the bridge. Mill is ~ ¼ mile on right.

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

## At the Quality Inn

Welcome and Introductions

12:15 – 1:00 PM ET

**Registration and Lunch**  
Meeting Room

1:15 – 2:00 PM ET

**Kiln Drying for Retail Customers**  
Dave Wightman, Wightman Lumber,  
Portlandville, NY

2:00 – 5:00 PM ET

**Kiln Operator’s Clinic** *Led by Bill Smith, others.*  
Informal and practical instructions and discussion on the basics of kiln operations, maintenance, stacking, DH, conventional, and high-temperature drying, stain and discoloration, scheduling, changing species, wood-moisture fundamentals, kiln loading and baffling,

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moisture meters, restarting kilns, drying degrade, and more. Bring your individual problems, questions, and solutions!

*Please note any interests for discussion at the clinic on your registration form.*

3:15 – 3:30 PM ET

**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

5:00 – 6:00 PM ET

**STRESS RELIEF**

6:00 – 7:00 PM ET

**BANQUET Dinner**

**Wednesday | May 10**

## **At the Quality Inn**

7:00 – 7:45 AM ET

**Board of Directors Meeting**

7:45 – 8:10 AM ET

**Registration and Coffee**

8:10 – 8:15 AM ET

**Welcome and Introductions**

8:15 – 9:00 AM ET

**Protect your Lumber**

*Mark Metzger, U\*C Coatings, Buffalo, NY*

9:00 – 9:45 AM ET

**Boiler and Feed Water System Maintenance**

*Matt Colburn, Messersmith Manufacturing, Mark River, MI*

9:45 – 10:30 AM ET

**Steam Production, Utilization - Fundamentals**

*Jim Davis, F.W. Webb Co., Cazenovia, NY*

10:30 – 10:45 AM ET

COFFEE BREAK and questions.

10:45 – 11:30 AM ET

**Steam Technology and Utilization - Applications**

*Jim Davis, F.W. Webb Co., Cazenovia, NY*

11:30 – 12:15 AM ET

**Safety Issues with Kiln Drying and Lumber Handling**

*Peter Sformo, W.J. Cox Assoc., Clarence, NY*

12:00 – 12:15 AM ET

LUNCHEON BUFFET