

SPEAKERS



Tina Lawton

NORTH AMERICAN DIRECTOR OF STOCK
PREPARATION AND RECYCLED FIBER,
VALMET

Tina Lawton was born in Austria, grew up in Canada, but have lived in the US her adult life. She earned a B.A.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from University of Toronto and an M.B.A. from Heriot-Watt University. Tina has over 30 years of experience in the paper industry, starting as a customer of J&L/Sunds/Beloit/Valmet at Abitibi-Price / Augusta Newsprint (environmental engineer, process engineer, DIP plant assistant superintendent, TMP plant superintendent) before joining J&L Fiber Services in 1998, which was acquired by Valmet in 2019. After a career largely in refining roles, she took on her current role in Dec. 2023 as Valmet's North American Director of Stock Preparation and Recycled Fiber



Matthew Job

PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER,
MOTUS

Matt Job is a founding member of Motus LLC and has played a pivotal role in establishing the company as one of the foremost suppliers of Type 3 Fiber Molded Thermoforming Machines in North America. With over twenty years of experience in strategic planning, business development, project execution, and machine manufacturing, Matt and his team have created a leading organization dedicated to simplifying and modernizing molded fiber processes for industrial scale up.

Possessing a background in engineering and more than ten years of experience in business development, he has concentrated on collaborating with key clients to deliver innovative solutions that significantly contribute to the global initiative aimed at reducing plastic consumption in daily life.

Over the last six years, Matt has channeled his passion for machine design and manufacturing into the introduction of leading-edge equipment to the market. Throughout this period, it has become increasingly evident that achieving our global sustainability objectives necessitates further innovation to provide effective alternative subtracts. These gaps continue to motivate the Motus team to develop new world-class solutions for the market.

SPEAKERS



Nicholas Palumbo

NORTH AMERICAN TECHNICAL SALES
MANAGER,
BRUECKNER GROUP (KIEFEL FIBER DIVISION)

Nicholas Palumbo is the North American Technical Sales Manager of the Fiber Division at Kiefel Technologies, a market leader in the design and manufacturing of thermoforming equipment.

Previously, Nicholas worked in the pulp and paper industry holding the titles of process engineer, production engineer, and licensed wastewater treatment operator. He graduated with honors from SUNY-ESF with a degree in paper engineering and a minor in mathematics.



Karl Palmer

FIBER PROCESS ENGINEER,
BRUECKNER GROUP (KIEFEL FIBER DIVISION)

Karl Palmer graduated from SUNY ESF in 2016 with B.S. degrees in Paper Engineering and Environmental Science. He worked in Production and Maintenance at Greif's Fitchburg Containerboard for 6 years before joining Brueckner Group USA as a Fiber Process Engineer in 2022.



Jim Fogg

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER,
SOLENIS

Jim graduated from ESF in Paper Engineering in 1984. He has held positions in Sales, Manufacturing, R&D, Product management and Business development.

For the last 10 years, Jim has been working on sustainable barrier solutions. He has been with Solenis since 2019.

SPEAKERS



Matt Griswold

VICE PRESIDENT OF INNOVATION,
GENERA

Matt Griswold serves as Vice President of Innovation at Genera, where he leads efforts to advance thermoformed fiber products and production. Based at the Genera Innovation Center (GIC) in Houston, Texas, Matt and his team focus on prototyping, tool design, tool manufacturing, barriers, additives, and other critical components of fiber thermoforming.

Matt's passion for innovation stems from his role as a founding partner of Aloterra, where he and his team planted 18,000 acres of Miscanthus and built three manufacturing facilities. One of these facilities was the world's first commercial Miscanthus pulp mill and fiber thermoforming operation.

In 2019, Matt co-founded MxG Fiber to build on Aloterra's achievements, focusing on expanding the production of thermoformed fiber from Miscanthus. In 2022, Matt joined Genera following Ara Partners' acquisition of MxG Fiber and Genera. Matt and the team at the GIC have filed multiple design and utility patents as they continue to push the boundaries of what sustainable packaging can do.



Johnathan Roy

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER AND
MECHANICAL ENGINEER,
UMAINE ASCC

Mr. Roy is a Senior Project Manager and Mechanical Engineer with the University of Maine's (UMaine) Advanced Structures and Composites Center (ASCC). He obtained his degree at the University of Maine and has worked for the ASCC for over 8 years. Mr. Roy manages the ASCC's Alford Advanced Manufacturing Lab for Structural Thermoplastics under the Process Development and Sensors functional team with a focus on Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM) Additively Manufactured (AM) tooling, Automated Tape Layup (ATL), and thermoplastic composite stamp-forming. He is the Program Manager for the U.S. Army's Ground Vehicle Systems Center (GVSC) funded research, focusing on composite process design, vehicle lightweighting, and low-cost additively manufactured tooling. He has been the principal investigator for over 25 projects (both industrial and federal), primarily focused on rapid prototyping. Mr. Roy has designed and fabricated several additively manufactured molds for compression-forming, focusing on high-temperature thermoplastic polymers in both standard FDM resolutions and Large Format Additive Manufacturing (LFAM) resolutions, where materials can be printed at up to 500 lbs/hour. A couple of key research accomplishments include: 1) The development of a low-cost, rapidly produced LFAM mold and manufacturing of lightweight structural thermoplastic cargo shell prototypes for High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMWV), which reduced the overall weight of the previously metallic cargo shells by 36%. 2) The development and durability evaluation of LFAM tooling for high-temperature thermoset prepreg composite manufacturing that completed 200 cure cycles. In addition to his role with the University of Maine, Mr. Roy also serves part-time in the U.S. Army Reserve, having over 17 years of service. He serves as a First Sergeant to a Company of Drill Sergeants in Saco, ME, and was recently deemed promotable to Sergeant Major upon completion of the required schooling.

SPEAKERS



Chauntao Zhu
GLOBAL MOLDED FIBER
APPLICATION EXPERT,
SOLENIS

Chauntao Zhu holds a PhD in Materials Chemistry from Stockholm University and has worked in the Molded Fiber (MF) industry since 2020. His previous roles include Research scientist, Research specialist, Project manager, leading lab, pilot and mill trials for wet forming in the StoraEnso Formed Fiber business unit. His other work focus is to develop surface application technology for 3D MF products. Chauntao has been leading coating projects e.g., dip coating, pad printing, spin spray coating, robotic arm spray coating. He is also a consortium member in 'Barrier for molded fiber' led by RISE research institute in Sweden.

Chauntao is happy to share his experience on this area and support others in developing high barrier level and sustainable fiber-based packaging.



Carol Patterson
VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS,
FOODSERVICE PACKAGING INSTITUTE

Carol Patterson is the vice president of government relations for the Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI), the trade association for the North American foodservice packaging industry. At FPI, she works on policy and advocacy for the association at the federal, state, provincial and local levels in the United States and Canada.

Prior to joining FPI, Carol was the interim national vice president of government relations for Restaurants Canada where she led the development and execution of the organization's government relations strategy, advocacy initiatives and policy development to deliver meaningful results for the restaurant industry. She also headed various corporate sustainability and government affairs departments, including Tim Hortons and Restaurant Brands International. Additionally, Carol spent significant time in municipal waste management services, with a focus on diversion through recycling and composting.

SPEAKERS



Emily Parsons
PRODUCT LAUNCH ENGINEER,
SOLENIS

Emily Parsons is a graduate of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University (B.S.) with a degree in Paper & Chemical Engineering. After graduating in Spring of 2020, Emily has spent the past four years in product launch for Solenis in the barriers and molded fiber space.

In her current role, she is leading Solenis' technical launch of new internal and surface applied innovations in efforts to replace PFAS, Styrofoam and single use plastics. Her work in molded fiber and barriers brings together a life-long love of problem-solving and a passion for finding sustainable solutions for consumer products.



Colleen Walker
DIRECTOR,
PROCESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

As the Director of the Process Development Center (PDC) at the University of Maine, Colleen Walker collaborates directly with businesses, offering comprehensive technical services and resources spanning traditional pulp and paper techniques to emerging process technologies in materials science. UMaine's Process Development Center is one of the top suppliers of nanocellulose in the world, supplying product to researchers and technology developers.

Dr. Walker joined the University of Maine in June 2018, bringing a wealth of experience from her previous role as Technical Director at TAPPI, where she served for ten years. During her tenure at TAPPI, she cultivated an extensive global network of senior leaders within the pulp and paper industry, emphasizing R&D and technology expertise. With over 25 years of dedicated experience in R&D, new product innovation, and business development within the paper industry, Colleen's career includes notable positions at ABB, Tenneco Packaging, and Westvaco. She also worked for a Sloan Foundation Center for Industry Studies at Georgia Tech. Colleen holds a B.ChE. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware and an M.S. and Ph.D. in pulp and paper science and engineering from the Institute of Paper Science and Technology (now the Renewable Bioproducts Institute at the Georgia Institute of Technology).

SPEAKERS



Chelsea Cross

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER,
SOLENIS

Chelsea has a strong technical background in molded fiber. She supports Solenis' key molded fiber customers with her extensive knowledge of sustainable products, forming equipment, fiber, and chemistry. When selecting solutions or optimizing wet end chemistry systems, she takes a simple, "less is more" approach. Chelsea started with Solenis in 2018 as Process Engineer, focusing solely on molded fiber. After gaining critical hands-on experience, she advanced to Account Management and now Business Development. Chelsea holds a BS degree in Biological Sciences from Florida Atlantic University.



Melissa LaCasse

CEO AND CO-FOUNDER,
TANBARK MOLDED FIBER PRODUCTS

Melissa LaCasse is the CEO and co-founder of Tanbark Molded Fiber Products, an early stage manufacturing company dedicated to sustainable bio-based solutions that replace single-use plastics. She is committed to driving innovation and creating new opportunities for Maine's heritage industries; Timber and Manufacturing.

Melissa co-founded Tanbark in 2021 to challenge conventional manufacturing material practices and address the global plastic crisis. Her leadership is guided by a vision of shared prosperity and sustainability. With expertise in B2B sales, business development, fundraising, and content syndication—gained through a successful career in public radio—Melissa brings a strategic approach to advancing Tanbark's mission.

She serves as Chair of the Board for the Maine Technology Institute, representing the Advanced Technologies for Forestry and Agriculture sector, and is a Trustee on the Board of Maine Public.

SPEAKERS



Scott Lilley

PRESIDENT,
REV 1

Almost 30 years in the packaging industry, serving as an executive leader in plastic blow molding, extrusion and thermoforming and injection molding in companies who experienced high growth as a result of innovation in technology and material science such as Consolidated Container (Altium), Packaging Plus, PolyCycle Solutions. In 2012, led a group of plastic packaging professionals in a move to thermoformed molded fiber packaging as a result of the shifting winds to more sustainable packaging solutions. Over the last 12 years, Scott served as the operating CFO. for Be Green Packaging until 2016. After leaving Be Green, he was the founding member of Pivot Packaging which was the foundation for Rev 1 Packaging which was founded in 2021. Scott is the founder of Rev 1 and serves as the President and CCO for Rev 1.



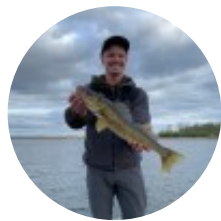
Asem Mokaddem

PRESIDENT,
TELLUS PRODUCTS

Asem Mokaddem is the President of Tellus Products. He joined Tellus in early 2021 as the Chief Financial Officer. He has more than 20 years of in-depth experience in the Packaging, Pulp & Paper sectors.

Prior to joining Tellus, he served as a Managing Director in Rabobank's Mergers and Acquisitions group in New York, leading the Global Packaging, Pulp & Paper advisory practice. In that role, he advised clients on strategic transactions and capital structure alternatives. Prior to Rabobank, Asem served as Director of Corporate Development and Strategic Planning at Sonoco Products Company, a leading global consumer packaging and industrial products company, where he completed multiple transactions. Prior to Sonoco, Asem was a Managing Director at Macquarie Capital, and previously at Barclays/Lehman Brothers. His professional career began as an engineer at International Paper's Natchez pulp mill. Asem holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a master's degree in Computational Engineering from the University of Mississippi as well as an MBA from the University of Virginia – Darden Graduate School of Business Administration.

SPEAKERS



Dustin Ziegelman

PROCESS & ENGINEERING MANAGER,
SABERT

Dustin Ziegelman holds Bachelor of Science Degrees in Paper Science & Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Chemistry, he has worked in the pulp and paper industry for more than 13 years. Dustin was born and raised in Minnesota. He attended school at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. He has travelled the country for work, living in Wisconsin, California, South Carolina, and Arizona before moving to Texas. He has experience in: Printing & Writing, Recycle/Paperboard, Tissue & Towel, and Molded Fiber manufacturing. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, traveling and cooking. He also enjoys making beer and wine in his free time.



Teal Edelen

DIRECTOR OF FORESTS,
U.S. ENDOWMENT FOR
FORESTRY AND COMMUNITIES

Teal Edelen serves as Director of Forests for the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. Before joining the team on staff, she served as an Endowment consultant for five years focused on federal reporting. Prior to that, she spent a decade in conservation grant-making at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, managing public-private partnerships focused on working lands and Farm Bill policy, monarch butterfly conservation, invasive weed management, and National Wildlife Refuges.

Teal grew up in rural MD, where her childhood was spent raising beef cattle and sheep as a member of 4-H.

Teal holds a master's degree in natural resources management from Virginia Tech and an undergraduate degree in English Language and Literature with a minor in International Studies from the University of Maryland. Outside the office, she enjoys swimming, gardening, outdoor recreation, and spending time with family and friends.