

“French taking part in six-day tour of state’s wood industries”

Rockefeller scheduled to join
group, participate in panel session

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Fifteen executives representing nine French companies and organizations were scheduled to arrive in Charleston today for a six-day tour of the state's wood products industries.

The companies are mainly involved in residential construction. They specifically requested opportunities to meet the state's wood industry executives in hopes of finding new business ventures and partnerships, said Mark Ferrell, Sen. Jay Rockefeller's press secretary.

Yuki Tsuneda, a Charleston-based sales representative of Ando Sangyo, also will participate in the visit. Ando Sangyo is a Japanese company that produces environmentally friendly housing construction materials.

The visitors' itinerary includes a tour of Columbia Flooring in Mingo County, Trus-Joist in Buckhannon, the MeadWestvaco Natural Resource Center at West Virginia University, Bruce Hardwood Flooring in Beverly, Allegheny Wood Products in Norton and Mountain State Log Homes in Ireland.

Rockefeller is scheduled to join the group Monday at the Wood Technology Center in Elkins. He will participate in a morning panel session, tour the center and share a casual lunch with the visitors.

Rockefeller's Discover the Real West Virginia Foundation, the West Virginia Development Office, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the state Hardwood Alliance Zone are sponsoring the visit. French companies and organizations participating are: Scierie Mathieu, a firm that specializes in forestry operations and the fabrication of wood pallets; Scierie Oriel, a sawmill operator; BRD, a firm that makes wood packing, decking and cladding products; Cribois, a research center; Charpentres Houot, a company that specializes in timberwork and joinery.

In addition, Couval, a joinery company; Chalet Gico, which specializes in wood frame construction; Espace Chalets, which builds wood-frame houses; Capev, the economic development organization for France's Vosges region. Washington Trade & Investment Group, an investment banking and consulting organization, also will participate in the visit.

Dominique Barbier, a professional interpreter with Direct French Translation, will stay with the group throughout the visit.

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