

SHOW PREVIEW

Attending AWFS Fair 2017 is no gamble

Woodworking's most innovative and exciting trade event of 2017 brings the future of woodworking into focus, and the picture is better than ever.

Alicia Tyznik *Editor*



This summer, woodworking professionals and suppliers will convene in Sin City to learn more about the latest and greatest industry technologies at AWFS Fair 2017. This year's show will be held July 19-22 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, right off the Vegas Strip. Presented by the Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers (AWFS), the show is being held in conjunction with the College of Woodworking Knowledge and is expected to draw in more than 15,000 woodworking professionals from around the globe.

Every 2 years, woodworking professionals gather at the AWFS Fair to learn how to keep their businesses productive, competitive, and on the cutting edge. If you need to stay informed, connected, and on top of new developments, then you've found the right place. Woodworking manufacturing professionals representing every sector will join industry leaders, peers, col-

leagues, business experts, and top manufacturers to build their businesses and explore new opportunities.

Show highlights

Boasting work-smart solutions around every corner, AWFS Fair 2017 will provide an innovative and exciting event for products, equipment, tools, and ideas that will help woodworking professionals work smarter, faster, and better. During the 4-day show, professionals can find the answers they need for the challenges they face. The show will spotlight new developments and advances driving the industry, provide attendees with relevant strategies and solutions, and help participants compete as the market regains momentum.

The Stage. The Stage is an educational and entertaining destination located on the show floor where you'll be able to see a series of mini-presentations on various subjects. Take the opportunity to explore

a broad range of topics and have your questions answered by the experts. Other events being held on the Stage include the CMA Wood Diamond Awards, the Education Town Hall, and more.

AWFS Visionary Awards. These awards honor the best new products for 2017, which are judged on a combination of creativity, quality, and innovation. Entrants compete in 10 categories, including Industry 4.0, power tools, hardware, components, and tooling.

Plastics program. A special emphasis will be placed on plastics and plastics fabrication. Compare all the latest technology and supplies for plastics fabrication, with cutting, polishing, and edge finishing machinery in action right on the show floor. Companies displaying plastic-related products will have designated markers within their booths in order to make it easy for attendees that are specifically looking for these products to locate them on the show floor.

Show information

Location. AWFS Fair 2017 will be held July 19-22 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, 3150 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.lvcva.com. The center is located adjacent to the Las Vegas Strip. A free shuttle service will run in the mornings and afternoons between the convention center and official show hotels. Taxis are also available, which run throughout the city as well as to and from the McCarron International Airport.

Hotels. Discounted hotel accommodations are available for AWFS Fair 2017 attendees at numerous hotels along the Las Vegas Strip and near the convention center. You can book your room on the show website through the official housing partner, onPeak. You can also contact onPeak at 866/889-9647 or awfs@onpeak.com.

Exhibit hours. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Registration. Registration is available on the show website. Early bird pricing of \$25 is available if you register by June 30 and changes to \$50 after June 30 and at the event. CWWK seminar prices vary; go online for complete details.

Contact info. For more information, contact Adria Torrez at 323/215-0311 or adria@awfs.org. The official show website is www.awfsfair.org.



Keynote presentation. On Thursday, July 20, from 11:00 a.m. to noon, join film and television industry legend John Ratzenberger for a live podcast recording as he discusses his passion for woodworking and his efforts to support skilled trades in manufacturing.

Interactive Mini-Build. Take a break from walking the show floor and build yourself something fun. Machinery will be set up and “builds” will take place Wednesday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Get some sawdust on your hands while you network with other attendees in a fun and casual experience.

Exhibition

More than 600 exhibitors are already registered for AWFS Fair 2017, making it the perfect opportunity to see the latest in woodworking and finishing technology. Products exhibited will include abrasives, material handling equipment, adhesives, design services, automation, dust extraction, construction materials, furniture components, glass, industry services, machinery, packing, filling ma-

terials, fabrics, and tooling. Special designations will be given to new products and to first-time exhibitors.

Education

In addition to the exhibition, AWFS Fair 2017 will feature a variety of educational opportunities for attendees, including the College of Woodworking Knowledge (CWWK) and various skills seminars.

CWWK. CWWK’s educational program is spread over 4 days with 10 tracks, 54 diverse sessions, and more than 60 speakers. From all-day training workshops and open forums on hot topics to skill demos and up-close technology sessions, the program will offer a wide array of classes for attendees to choose from. Focused topical coursework will include business and manufacturing challenges, emerging technology, lean manufacturing strategies, eco-friendly developments, safety courses, and more. **PC**