

2018 NPIRI/NAPIM Fall Technical Conference

Review 12-5-18

This year's technical conference was held October 9-11, 2018 at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois. Our theme this year was "Developing for a Dynamic, Global Environment".

There were 191 attendees from six different countries for this year's conference.

Monday, prior to the technical conference, the NPIRI Board and Food Packaging/EHS Committee Meetings were held. For the second year, the pre-conference Tuesday morning short course, "Introduction to Ink Formulation and Manufacturing" was held to a sellout crowd with instructors Les Watkins, Lisa Fine, Jerry Napiecek, James Ford and Joe Cichon!

The technical conference kicked off with Ron Osborn of Mars/Wrigley Confectionary as our keynote speaker. Ron made a great presentation that was informative with a very personal touch. Following Ron, Jeff Shaw from Sun Chemical spoke on "Critical Supply Chain Issues". Jeff kept the ball rolling and had everyone's attention. The remaining speakers and program for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday included information on Global Import/Export issues, The State of the Industry presentation, The NPIRI Lawter Lecture Series winner presentation, Supplier Showcases, Trends in the Graphic Communications, Benefits of Pure Pigments and Azo Based Solutions, FDA MS-DART Analytical Technique Update, Compostability and Printed Substrates, California Proposition 65 Update, The Toxic Substances Control ACT and The Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, The Cost of OSHA Compliance, International Life Sciences Institute Committee Overview and Activities, Food Safety Alliance for Packaging and Health & Safety Management System.

This year, a new conference called "2018 Electronic and Conductive Ink Conference", sponsored by Ink World Magazine, NAPIM and Printed Electronics Now, was held immediately after the NPIRI Technical Conference. The program was very informative, and the speakers were not from the traditional printing and ink industry. Next year's "Electronic and Conductive Ink Conference" is already in the planning stages and looks to be a stellar event!

One of the highlights of the NPIRI technical conference is the awards night reception and dinner and the awards presentations. This year's "Technical Achievement Award" winner for printing inks was Mark Hill from INX International Ink Co., and the winner of the "Technical Associate Member Service Award" was Kay Sanborn from Indulor America, LP. The "Lawter Lecture Series Winner" this year was Natasha Hausler Banker from INX International Ink Co. Congratulations to all the award winners.

The 2019 Fall Technical Conference will be held at "The Drake Oak Brook", Autograph Collection. The hotel is going through a total remodel of all the rooms and property and will be fully completed, like new in time for our conference.



**John Copeland
Executive Director**