



The Collins Companies pledges \$150,000 to new Forest Resources Building

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University Park, Pa. -- Penn State and the Collins Companies, a family-owned forest products business, have something in common: both are celebrating 150th anniversaries this year. They now have another bond: the Collins Companies, nationally known for its commitment to sustainable forestry, has pledged \$150,000 to Penn State's new Forest Resources Building. The wood products teaching lab in the new building will be named in honor of the donor.

"We are proud to have Collins Companies formally identified within our new building," said Charles H. Strauss, director of the School of Forest Resources. "They are a hallmark corporation within the U.S., providing leadership in the sustained yield management of forestlands, innovative development of new wood products, and the marketing of their products and ideas throughout the world. They lead by example in all phases of their business -- both here in the Pennsylvania hardwood region and in terms of their softwood operations in Oregon and California."

The new, four-story Forest Resources Building, under construction on the University Park campus, will house all three professional programs -- forest science, wildlife and fisheries science, and wood products -- under one roof for the first time in the school's century-long history. It is scheduled for occupancy in February 2006. The \$30.5 million building is being financed by a combination of state, University and philanthropic funds.

The Collins Companies was founded in 1855, when T.D. Collins began timber operations on 1,500 acres in Pennsylvania. By the turn of the century, the company had expanded to California. Today, in addition to the Kane Hardwood Division, located in Pennsylvania near the Allegheny National Forest, the company also has holdings in southern Oregon and northern California, with timberlands totaling more than 300,000 acres. Additionally, Collins Products LLC manufactures standard and certified exterior siding and particleboard.

The company aims to maintain the health of the total forest ecosystem; support the production of wood on a sustained, renewable basis; and provide social and economic benefits to the surrounding areas and communities.

In 1993, the Collins Companies was the first privately owned forest product company in North America to be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an independent, nonprofit, non-governmental organization that accredits certification bodies and promotes voluntary, third-party certification, with the goal of providing consumers with an assurance that the wood they use comes from forests managed in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Every Collins product line available today has gone through evaluation to become FSC-certified.

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