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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 13, 2009

NHLA Inspector Training School to Hold Graduation Ceremony for the 159th Class

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – The National Hardwood Lumber Association will hold a graduation ceremony at the Venango Technology Center in Oil City, Pennsylvania on Friday, August 14, 2009. The ceremony honors the 159th graduating class of the NHLA Inspector Training School and the second class to complete the program offsite in the school's history. Seven students completed the 10-week Lumber Inspection Summer Program which was led by veteran School Instructor Rich Hascher.

Graduates are:

- Dillon Brocius
- Jared Cable - Cable Hardwoods, Inc.
- David Lewis
- Leland Black
- Jacob Hickman - Hickman Lumber Co.
- Cody Reynolds - Todd Wyatt Logging Co.
- Rick Reiff - Farmland Lumber Co.

In an effort to reach a larger audience with an alternative approach, NHLA took the program on the road to Oil City last summer. The 159th Class is only the second class to complete the Inspector Training Program away from NHLA headquarters located in Memphis, Tenn.

"NHLA is pleased take the Inspector Training School back to Oil City for the 2009 summer program, as numerous hardwood industry related companies call this region of the country home. In addition, placing the School in Oil City provides Pennsylvanians and others in the surrounding area with an opportunity that they would otherwise only receive in Memphis," said Crystal Oldham, NHLA Director of Education.

The program is a group effort between NHLA, Clarion University–Venango Campus, Keystone Community Education Council, Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG) and with the contribution of Ron Jones Hardwood Sales, Inc.

"The collaboration of the many organizations that put the Inspector Training School on the road shows the focus is ultimately lumber grading education. Education is, after all one of the core services NHLA provides to the lumber industry and we are doing whatever it takes to make sure that service is the best it can be," stated Mark Barford, NHLA Executive Director.

Enrollment is now open for the fall program which begins September 9 in Memphis, Tenn. Full tuition scholarships are available. To enroll or learn more please contact Cassie Gibbons, Education Program Manager at c.gibbons@nhla.com or 901-399-7555 or visit www.nhla.com.

The world's largest and oldest hardwood industry association, NHLA represents more than 1,300 companies and individuals that produce, use and sell North American hardwood lumber, or provide equipment, supplies or services to the hardwood industry. It was founded in 1898 to establish a uniform system of grading rules for the measurement and inspection of hardwood lumber. Since 1979, its headquarters have been in Memphis. To learn more about NHLA, please visit www.nhla.com.

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