

MDA E-News November 23, 2009**2010 Events Will Attract Visitors and Tourists from Around the World, MDA Awards Funding to City of Forest, Valley Tool Named One of Top Ten Best Machine Shops, MDA's Global Business Division Hosts Delegations to Help Create Global Opportunities****In this Issue:**

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Events Scheduled in 2010 Will Attract Visitors and Tourists from Around the World

Mississippi has been chosen to host a number of international events in 2010 which are expected to attract visitors and tourists from all over the world. These include the 2010 Southeast U.S. - Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) Annual Conference, the 2010 U.S. Open Sporting Clays Championship and the USA International Ballet Competition.

Mississippi will host the Third SEUS-CP Annual Conference which will be held April 11-13 at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi. The conference alternates between host sites in Canada and the Southeast U.S. each year. Established in November 2007, the alliance promotes continued trade and investment between member states of the Southeast U.S. and member provinces from Canada. It is designed to present opportunities for businesses to enhance commercial exchanges, promote two-way investment and encourage technological and scientific exchanges between and among the states and provinces. Manufacturers and service sector businesses, business leaders, economic developers, chambers of commerce, representatives from universities and research facilities, bankers and others with interests in opportunities in Canadian and southeastern U.S. markets are encouraged to mark their calendars and

make plans to attend this informative event. For more information, please [click here](#).

For outdoor sporting clays enthusiasts, the 2010 U.S. Open Sporting Clays Championship will be held from June 1-6, at the Willows Sporting Clays and Hunting Center located on the property of Harrah's Casino in Tunica. The event is one of only two national sporting clays tournaments sanctioned by the National Sporting Clays Association; this is the first time the event has been held in Mississippi. The championship, which is being presented by clay pigeon trap manufacturer Promatic, is open to the public, so make plans now to attend! To learn more, please visit www.willowsusopen.com.

Additionally, the USA International Ballet Competition (USA IBC), one of the oldest and most respected ballet competitions in the world, will return to Jackson in June. The USA IBC is officially sanctioned by the International Theater Institute (ITI) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The ITI has sanctioned four international ballet competitions, which rotate each year among Varna, Bulgaria; Moscow, Russia; Tokyo, Japan; and Jackson, Mississippi.

In 1982, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution designating Jackson as the official home of the USA IBC, and the competition, which has become known as a "Festival of Dance," has subsequently been held in Jackson every four years. The USA IBC attracts dance aficionados from around the world to the Jackson area. The 2010 event will be held June 12-27 at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson. To learn more about this exciting event, please visit www.usaibc.com.

MDA Awards CDBG Emergency Public Facilities Funding to City of Forest

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding in the amount of \$100,000 to the City of Forest. The funds will be used for infrastructure improvements within the city.

To receive CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding, a project must prove a particular urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community Services Division, please visit www.mississippi.org, and click on the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

Water Valley's Valley Tool Named One of Top Ten Best Machine Shops for 2009 by *American Machinist*

American Machinist, a globally-distributed magazine for contract manufacturers and job shop leaders, has named Valley Tool as one of the country's Best Machine Shops for 2009. Located in Water Valley, Valley

Tool was chosen out of more than 350 applicants for performing at consistently high levels relative to the key indicators derived from the magazine's proprietary Machine Shop Benchmarking Study. The company, along with the nine other winners, will be honored at *American Machinist's* Machine Shop Workshop in April 2010 in Cleveland, Ohio. MDA provided a guaranteed loan to Valley Tool through Mechanics Bank in Water Valley when the company was started in 1997.

Valley Tool was started by Cayce Washington as a five-man precision machine job shop that produced quality-built tools for a competitive price. The company has since grown to 60 employees and has added parts certification/sub-assembly work and dunnage washing to its areas of service. Valley Tool has a 7,500-square-foot facility in Water Valley's W.C. Gardiner Industrial Park that houses its Precision Machine Job Shop and Parts Certification/Sub-Assembly Work Departments, and it also has a 10,000-square-foot facility that houses its Dunnage/Reusable Containers Washing Department.

To learn more about Valley Tool, please visit www.valleytoolinc.com. To view this month's issue of *American Machinist*, which includes a feature article on Valley Tool, please visit www.americanmachinist.com.

MDA's Global Business Division Hosts Chinese, Mexican and Ecuadorian Delegations to Help Create Global Opportunities for Mississippi Businesses

To advance Mississippi's international outreach, staff from MDA's Global Business Division recently hosted a delegation from the China International Auto Parts Expo following its participation in the Automotive Aftermarket Parts Exhibition in Las Vegas, Nev. To become more familiar with Mississippi's automotive industry and its opportunities for manufacturing and distribution in the state, the 16-member delegation visited Lee, DeSoto and Tunica Counties, where they met with local economic developers and visited automotive distribution centers. The group also visited industrial sites throughout north Mississippi and attended a presentation by Mississippi State University's Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems. The automotive executives' visit was organized by Paul Swenson, MDA's representative in China.

With the goal of promoting Mississippi's wood products industry, MDA also recently hosted representatives from eight Mexican-based companies interested in identifying Mississippi suppliers of wood products to add to their current inventories. MDA staff arranged for the delegation to tour 13 of Mississippi's lumber companies and meet with company officials during their six-day visit to the state. According to Rose Boxx, MDA Latin America trade specialist, the visits were a win-win strategy for everyone involved, as the Mississippi lumber companies were given the opportunity to take part in this promotional event without having to travel, and the

Mexican buyers were able to see first-hand the quality wood products produced in Mississippi.

Six officials with the Ecuador Rail Road Agency, a federal agency in Ecuador, also traveled to the state recently to visit with officials from Thomasson Company, producer of crossties and utility poles located in Philadelphia, Miss. Thomasson Company will be providing the agency with crossties for a new rail construction project in Ecuador. During the trip, the Ecuadorian delegation was also able to make other key contacts in Mississippi's wood products industry and visit two crossties treatment facilities in the state.

To learn more about MDA's international marketing services and events or to request a consultation with an international trade specialist, please visit www.mississippi.org.

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