



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AWFS® Fair Recycling Program Turns Scrap from Show into Wood Chips for Nature Sanctuary; Reduces Waste Once Sent to Landfill by 6:1 Ratio**

**LAS VEGAS** – (July 25, 2011) – AWFS® Fair’s recycling program, a cooperative effort involving WEIMA, the Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC) and Freeman, the association’s show general contractor, reduced bulk waste from trade show exhibitors once sent to landfill by a 6:1 ratio and shredded wood scrap into ground cover for Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, a Las Vegas-based non profit organization that provides a safe haven for animals that live in the wild.

AWFS®Fair exhibitor WEIMA America, a company that manufactures shredding, grinding and briquetting equipment, provided the show with a WL13 shredding system, which was in constant operation during show hours, grinding all of the demonstration wood scrap as well as discarded shipping or packing materials used by exhibitors.

“Everyone really got behind the program this year,” said Angelo Gangone, EVP, AWFS. “As an industry, we are committed to reducing waste, and the recycling program at the show gives us a way to help deserving non profits as well.”

The program, in cooperation with Repurpose America, a non profit organization that partners with associations, show management, and exhibitors to introduce recycling processes that turn show refuse into products that can be donated to other non profit organizations, virtually eliminated all wood waste from this year’s AWFS®Fair.

“It’s really exciting to see an industry that is working toward zero waste,” Zach Delbex, CEO, Repurpose America. “And wood scrap is just the beginning. We’re looking at ways to repurpose the signs, banners and other remnants of the show for other deserving groups.”

"Destroy Responsibly" bill boards were located throughout the convention center during the show. Attendees could view the shredder in action outside the freight doors in the Central Machinery Hall.

"WEIMA was pleased to participate in a program where our equipment could have a positive impact on the environment," Madison Burt, VP Sales, WEIMA America said.

In addition to its recycling activities, AWFS supports numerous environmentally-friendly programs:

- Environmental experts host a Green Desk, an on-the-spot resource for exhibitors/attendees to ask questions on sustainability, green certifications, state and federal regulations
- The organization's College of Woodworking Knowledge (CWWK), the largest education program in the industry, offers "green" building courses and sessions on Lean Manufacturing.

The bi-annual AWFS® Fair has become a critical hub for international commerce in the woodworking industry. The expo and educational conference brings together the entire home and commercial furnishings industry, including manufacturers and distributors of machinery, hardware, lumber, construction materials and other suppliers to the furniture, cabinet manufacturers and custom woodworkers.

**For more information:**

AWFS® Fair, please visit: [www.awfsfair.org](http://www.awfsfair.org)

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