

# Inspection School Graduates 148th Class

Twenty-seven students completed the 14-week NHLA Lumber Inspection School in Memphis, TN on Dec. 9. Long hours of flipping boards and studying the rules finally paid off when Rich Hascher presented certificates to these new lumber inspectors.

Each student is now qualified to grade hardwood lumber with confidence.

David Williams, president of Champlain Hardwoods, Inc. in Essex Junction, VT, presented an address full of anecdotes and personal observations. Williams himself graduated from the school, finishing first in the 54th class, and worked his way to the top of a multi-million dollar company.

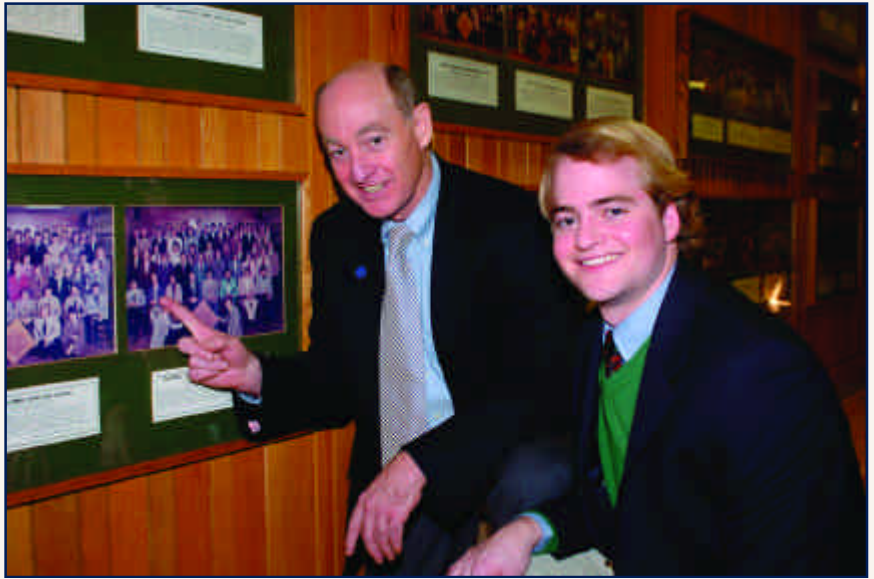
In his speech, Williams said, "If you have the right attitude, this school can really make a difference in your life."

He said that graduates would enjoy "a common ground and mutual respect when they ran into other graduates," and advised them: "Follow the grain of your own wood."

Apparently, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. David's son, Mark, graduated first in the 148th class! This proud family tradition is part of what makes the Inspection School what it is today.

Jeff Wirkkala, president of Hardwood Industries in Tualatin, OR, presented awards. (See picture on facing page.)

While not all graduates of the NHLA Inspection School will go on to run a company, many will assume leadership roles within the



*David Williams, president of Champlain Hardwoods, Inc. in Essex Junction, VT, graduated first in the NHLA Inspection School's 54th class. His son Mark graduated first in the 148th class!*

*"If you have the right attitude, this school can really make a difference in your life."*



*David Williams, president of Champlain Hardwoods, Inc., in Essex Junction, VT, addressed the 148th class of the NHLA Inspection School, which graduated Dec. 9.*

industry. The next class has already begun and offers a number of up-and-coming lumber inspectors available for employment.

Perseverance and determination drive these students to success in classroom as well as the workplace. The students give credit to Inspection School Director Rich Hascher's skills of teaching and motivation in the classroom.

For more information, call 901-377-1818 or e-mail: [g.lowery@nhla.com](mailto:g.lowery@nhla.com).

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# Memphis Graduates Win Awards

*Top row, from left:*  
*Howard Hanlon Award, Second Highest Overall Average* – Justin Holberton, GB Wood Products

*Westside Hardwood Club Award, Highest Board Run Average* – William Anthony Secco, Hardwood Industries, Inc.

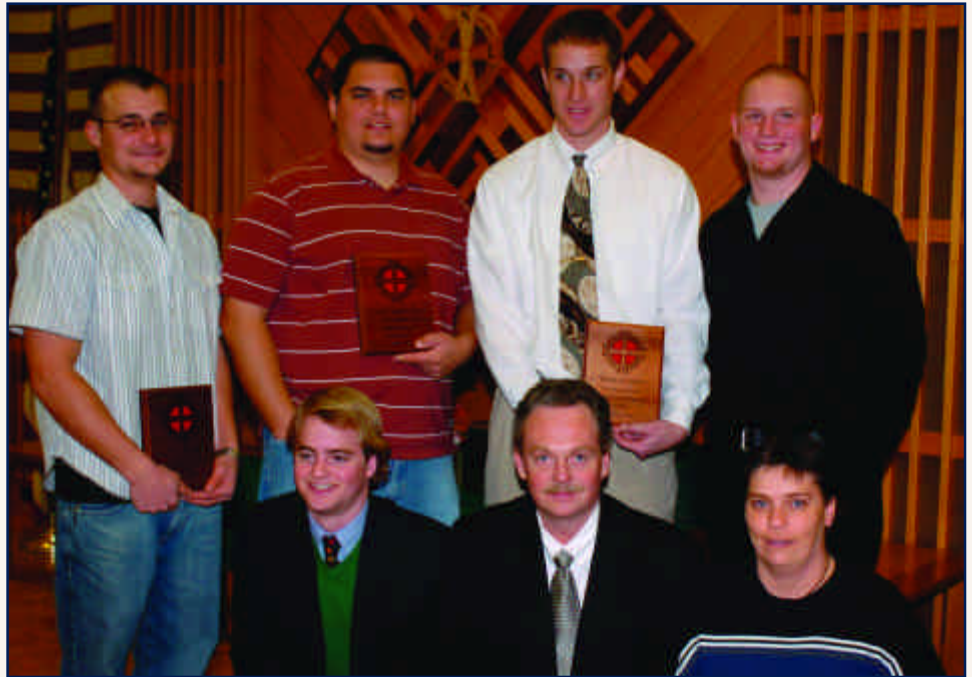
*South Central Lumbermen's Award, Best Attitude/Citizenship* – Bruce J. Daniels, Forder Timber

*Willard Scholarship Award* – Michael Anderson, Penn York Lumberman

*Kneeling, from left:*  
*John Thompson Award, Highest Overall Average* – Mark Williams, Champlain Hardwoods, Inc.

*Lumbermen's Club of Memphis Leadership Award* – Lloyd W. Turner, Webster Industries

*J.P. Hamer Award, Most Improved Student* – Michelle A. Fain, Stuart Flooring Corp.



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## 13 Students Complete NHLA Program in West Virginia

The eighth class of the NHLA Inspection Training Program at the West Virginia Wood Technology Center completed its term in November 2005.

The program provides local students an opportunity to learn lumber grading during a 14-week course taught by Jamie Barnett, an NHLA Inspection School graduate.

Top award winners for this class are:

- *Highest Overall Average* – Zack Rickman from Atlanta Hardwoods
- *Second Highest Average* – Whitney Donithan from Atlanta Hardwoods for second-highest average, and Gary Moats from Braxton Lumber
- *Highest Overall Board Run Average* –

NHLA maintains an affiliation agreement with the Wood Technology Center to conduct the course which is targeted at West Virginia residents.

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