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## Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>



### This Week:

Larry Winter  
GRSP Student

### Upcoming Meetings:

September 6  
Ginger Mathis  
*Off-site meeting at  
Georgia Northwestern  
Technical College Dalton  
Campus*

September 13  
No Meeting  
Amanda Burt - United  
Way Kickoff on  
September 12

September 20  
Director Program

September 27  
Henry Tharpe  
*Sonny Seals - Rural  
Churches of Georgia*

October 4  
Don Adcock

## The Unseen Hazard To Your Health

By John Hutcheson



Don Finkell

Rotarian Janice Kiker introduced Zachary Taylor, M.D., a Rotarian and Director of the North Georgia Health District, and Don Finkell, formerly a staff architect with TVA who subsequently spent more than thirty years in the hardwood flooring industry at Anderson Hardwood Floors, where he became CEO, and at Shaw Industries following its acquisition of Anderson in 2007. After retiring from Shaw in 2013 Don founded American OEM, a U.S. producer of engineered hardwood floors which offers a competitive alternative to imported private label products. Janice proudly noted that Don also happens to be her son-in-law.

Dr. Taylor began the program with general remarks on hazards associated with formaldehyde, one of the most common chemicals in our everyday environment. Popularly known for its preservative qualities and pungent odor, formaldehyde is almost universally present in small amounts, even being produced in minute quantities by the human body. Breaking down in air and easily dissolved in water, it does not build up in humans, but extended exposure to large amounts can cause disorders ranging from respiratory system irritations to several kinds of cancer. Fortunately, such dangers can be readily avoided or minimized. By way of presenting a special case, Don Finkell surveyed formaldehyde's use in the manufacture of hardwood floor coverings, along with some of the challenges arising from its regulation in domestic production, particularly in the light of competition with products imported from countries with less stringent standards or maybe none at all.

Don noted that floor coverings can strongly affect indoor air quality, and manufacturers thus have a responsibility to their customers to reduce hazards as much as possible. Formaldehyde is an important component in the glues used in plywood and in laminate and engineered floors, and its regulation may be applied either to separate stages of the manufacturing process or to the finished products—the approach will vary from place to place in the U.S. Moreover, laminated wood floors and engineered floors each have their own sets of regulations because of different amounts of glue used in them. Since 2008 the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has imposed notably rigorous regulations, based on certifications by independent third parties, and these have been mimicked by the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the Federal government.

Although domestic producers of hardwood flooring are subject to extensive regulation, foreign producers are not, and by using cheaper glues foreign products gain a competitive advantage in the retail market. However, their higher formaldehyde emissions do not meet standards such as those used by CARB, and consequently their distributors have sometimes fallen into grave legal jeopardy. An example is Lumber Liquidators, a business which sold much flooring produced in China and was prosecuted following an exposé by CBS on 60 Minutes of the dangerous formaldehyde levels in Chinese flooring products.

Once a billion-dollar company, Lumber Liquidators is now in danger of failure. Further difficulties have emerged from a modification of the Lacey Act, a U.S. law passed in 1900 to restrict imports of stolen animal products. In 2008 it was amended to include certain trees and wood products, with

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the intent of preventing illegal logging and deforestation. This created more problems for Lumber Liquidators, for the amendment's environmental implications engaged the interest of animal rights activists who have now become leading watchers for compliance with the measure.

## August 30th Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays and Anniversaries for 08/30/16 to 09/05/16

**Member Birthdays**

Cope, Don (DON)  
Satterfield, Bruce A. (BRUCE)

**Birthday**

1-Sep  
5-Sep

**Partner Birthdays**

Hutcheson, Marilyn

**Member Name**

Hutcheson, John A. Jr.

**Birthday**

2-Sep

**Member Anniversaries**

Goodroe, Robert S. (ROBERT)  
Sanders, Drayton M II(DRAYTON)

**Start Date**

9/1/1964  
9/1/1979

**Years**

51  
36

**Total**

51  
36

**Wedding Anniversaries**

Howard, Gary L. (GARY)

**Partner's Name**

Janie

**Anniversary**

5-Sep

**Years**

45

