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INSIDE WOOD

Reminder...

Remember to submit department news items by Friday 3 p.m. of each week to Will Pfeil at wpfeil@vt.edu for inclusion in Inside VT WOOD each Monday morning. All past issues of Inside VT Wood reside on our department website under the publications link.

News From Paul Winistorfer

- Please join us on Tuesday at 11:30 am for lunch to recognize and appreciate our great department staff. Angie, Debbie, David, Kenny, Rick and Will are the best of the best. Help me show our appreciation for all they do for us as individuals, for our department, and for our students. Watch for information today on location.
- We mailed department materials to 122 WoodLINKS USA teachers in 22 states last week. A copy of our [cover letter](#) is included [herein](#). We mailed multiple copies of department folders packed with our great print media designed by Will Pfeil. We can use our new web analytic tools to assess interest in our program via web hits.
- May 15-17 I am traveling with a large delegation from Virginia to the greater Grand Rapids Michigan area to visit WoodLINKS sites, Stiles Machinery Educational Center and more. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in our trip with partners from several Southside institutions including the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, Danville Community College, Halifax County Public Schools, Danville City Schools, Southside Virginia Community College, and other regional public school systems. We will be moving forward over the coming months in establishing an innovative educational partnership model in Southside. Together we can accomplish what none of us could do alone!
- We heard from a number of our alums last week in the wake of the tragedy on our campus. Thank you for your expression of sympathy for our entire VT and Blacksburg communities. And we have added many alumni to our distribution list for Inside VT Wood! Welcome to our weekly communication.

Wood Science Goes South of the Border: Dr. Hindman visits the University of Michoacan

By Dan Hindman

On April 17th and 18th, Daniel Hindman, assistant professor in the department of Wood Science and Forest Products visited the University of Michoacan San Nicholas Hidalgo in Morelia, Mexico. The purpose of the visit was to establish a relationship between the Wood Science and Forest Products department at Virginia Tech and the FITCEMA (Facultad de Ingenieria en Tecnologia de la Madera) [Faculty of Wood Engineering and Technology]. This visit was partially funded by the College of Natural Resources and an international travel supplemental grant (ITSG) from the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Morelia is the capital of the State of Michoacan and has a population of about 600,000 people. The University of Michoacan has about 55,000 students and is the largest university in the state. The Wood Engineering

and Technology department has about 15 faculty. The trip was hosted by Professor Javier Ramon Sotomayor Castellanos, professor of wood mechanics.

For the first day, Dr. Hindman traveled to the Empresa Forestal de la Comunidad de San Juan Nuevo, an indigenous forest community. This was a cooperative where the indigenous workers cut timber, processed it with a sawmill,

dried the wood using dry kilns and manufactured furniture. Other processing operations included resawing facilities where small scraps were turned into broom handles, an assembly line of short stock used to make fruit crates and concrete formwork, and a chemical facility where turpentine and resin were extracted from the pitch collected in the forest. All profits of the operation go towards paying the workers or investing in further community development. This facility employs approximately 900 community members.

The second day of the tour included a conference at the University of Michoacan.

Professor Lourdes Guerrero Magana presented recent research in creating a database and interactive software tool for wood drying, allowing the user to input species, current wood moisture content and expected moisture content. The program output was a kiln schedule for drying. Future work in this area is to integrate the program with the kiln operation using an input/output device.

Jose Maria Villaseñor Aguilar, a graduate student of Dr. Sotomayor, presented his thesis project on the measurement of hygroelasticity (variation of elasticity with variation of moisture content). Elastic modulus measurements utilized static loading, vibration, and stress wave equipment. The variations in test method became very apparent at higher moisture contents.

Dr. Hindman then presented a slideshow on Virginia Tech, followed by an overview of current research topics being explored in the wood mechanics area.

Professor Marco Antonio Herrera Farreyra provided an overview of the FITCEMA graduate program, which is a two year M.S. degree. Director Francisco Javier Casto Sanchez then outlined the undergraduate program including some of the challenges the wood science community in Mexico faces. Mexico is a fast growing country that must continue to manage its resources in a



Visiting the Forest Community: Dr. Sotomayor, Professor Donaciano Gonzalez Garcia, Jose Maria Villaseñor Aguilar, Ramon, our guide, and Dr. Hindman.

sustainable way. Balancing these concerns with increased global competition in imports and exports is a difficult task.

The director of FITCEMA presented Dr. Hindman with a letter of condolence for the shootings at Virginia Tech. In this honor, everyone stood for a moment of silence and the playing of John Lennon's "Imagine." "I was very touched and honored by their concern for us" says Dr. Hindman.



Presentation of Certificates at the End of the Conference: Dr. Sotomayor, Dr. Hindman and Director

At the conclusion of the conference, a discussion was held between Dr. Hindman and the research faculty on ways that the Wood Science department at Virginia Tech can collaborate. Many professors at FITCEMA were interested in collaborating with Virginia Tech and Dr. Hindman volunteered to act as a conduit to facilitate communication. Several professors were interested in polymer chemistry and wood preservation. The decision was made to forgo larger agreements and focus on the one-to-one collaborations between individual faculty members. As a first stage of collaboration, Jose' Maria Aguillar has applied to the Ph.D. program in Wood Science to work with Dr. Hindman.

"The University of Michoacan was a great experience. The faculty and students were very welcoming. I hope that Wood Science can form some lasting relationships with them" Dr. Hindman said.

Letter to WoodLINKS Schools



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E-mail: pstorfer@vt.edu
www.woodscience.vt.edu

Paul M. Winistorfer, PhD Department Head

April 25, 2007

Dear WoodLINKS USA Teacher,

We believe there are opportunities for post-secondary study in our university program for many WoodLINKS students. Last year WoodLINKS student Dan Roethle from Hartford Union High School, Hartford, Wisconsin discovered career opportunities through study at Virginia Tech and is succeeding in his freshman year with us. Dan received both local and VT scholarship support coming to us as an out-of-state student.

Please find enclosed five sets of materials describing opportunity for study in our department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech. We are the North American leader in the academic discipline of wood science and forest products.

I ask that you bring these materials to the attention of your students and help them discover an academic pathway that they have not previously considered. You might want to retain a copy for your use and reference; please post or display the poster on a prominent bulletin board for the students to see.

I also encourage you to make an appointment with your career and guidance counselors at your school. Talk to them about options for further study for students interested in wood as a career. Point out to them that programs like ours also offer opportunities for students interested in math, science, business, marketing, engineering and other disciplines. Use this opportunity to broaden their perspective on our industry. The four-year course of study is shown on the back of every degree option sheet. Students completing the Bachelor of Science degree in Wood Science are in high demand by all segments of the industry, in all areas of the country, and with strong starting salaries. There are many international career opportunities as well.

I can provide more of these materials if you need them. If you have students that are keenly interested I would be glad to talk with them, send them other information about Virginia Tech, talk with their parents or assist in any way in helping them learn about further opportunities for study in wood science and forest products. We have scholarship support available on both a competitive and non-competitive basis in our program.

Thanks for the great work you are doing in your classroom in delivering WoodLINKS programming. Together we are making a difference in the lives of many students and for the wood industry at large.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments or would like additional copies of these materials.

Regards,

Paul M. Winistorfer
Professor and Department Head
and
President, WoodLINKS USA

Enc. Department of Wood Science and Forest Products Program Materials

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General Announcements

Statement of R. Max Peterson, F. Dale Robertson, Jack Ward Thomas, Michael P. Dombeck, and Dale N. Bosworth Retired Chiefs of the Forest Service On the FY2008 Appropriation for the U.S. Forest Service

As Chiefs of the US Forest Service from 1979 to 2007, we wish to express in the strongest way that the Forest Service has been put into an untenable financial situation due to the way fire suppression funding is being handled in the Federal Budget.

The current procedure of funding fire suppression is based on the 10-year average cost. That assumes that fire fighting costs are reasonably predictable and reasonable constant. Examination of historical data reveals that both assumptions are wrong – sometimes dramatically wrong. Recent years have seen increasing fire costs as the result of accumulating drought effects in the West coupled with a series of years that are the warmest on record. Many reputable climatologists and fire behavior specialists predict those trends to continue. These drought and temperature conditions have compounded insect and disease damage in areas affected and the severity of damage is resulting in rapid accumulation in fuels. As a result, and particularly in the West, the fire season is beginning earlier, lasting longer, with increasing intensity. These fires are increasingly difficult and expensive to control. These factors, coupled with inflation, have driven up the costs of fire suppression. Those trends seem likely to continue.

The Forest Service is faced with difficult decisions of how to pay for fire suppression activities that exceed the 10-year average. 1) The historic process of “borrowing” from trust funds is no longer feasible, and 2) the requirement that the FS must ask for the 10-year average fire suppression cost in its budget requests, leads to sudden and unpredictable reductions in funds for non-fire related programs usually in the middle of the summer when all Forest Service programs need funding.

Historically, the FS borrowed money from Trust Funds deposited by timber sale purchasers for reforestation (Knutson-Vandenburg or KV funds) and brush disposal (BD). Congress, then, routinely reimbursed those trust funds through supplemental appropriations well after the end of fire season when actual firefighting costs were known. Generally, this approach worked well enough, as the totals available in such Trust Funds were more than sufficient to cover firefighting costs. This was assured by the 2-3 year lag-time between the time those funds were collected (when timber was harvested) and when associated reforestation and brush disposal projects were scheduled after the timber sale was closed. Since the timber sale program was reduced by over 80 percent over the decade of the 1990's, these Trust Funds are no longer even close to adequate to assure ability to cover fire suppression costs.

Now, the FS must rely primarily on “borrowing” from appropriated funds for congressionally approved programs in Research, State & Private Forestry, and the management of the National Forests. Since the height of the fire season in the West occurs in the latter 3 months of the Fiscal year, this creates an impossible and ever more routinely occurring situation in financial management. The FS has no way of knowing how much money to hold back from other programs to ensure that they can cover firefighting cost. This not only disrupts the ability of FS to plan their work overall, but severely impacts their accomplishments in Research, S&PF, and National Forest Programs. Even though Congress has financed these programs, the FS is no longer in a position to implement non-fire suppression operations on anything resembling a logical and plan wise basis.

This problem has been magnified by the decision of the Administration to, simultaneously; reduce the funds requested for non-fire related programs. From FY 2000 through the President's budget for 2008, the proportion of the FS budget devoted to fire (both preparedness and suppression) increased steadily from 25% to 44%. These increases in funding for fire, coming at a time of ever more constrained FS budgets, has resulted in a 35% reduction in funding for non-fire programs when adjusted for inflation. FS staffing has been reduced by 5900 positions. With the 10-year average cost of fire suppression increasing by about \$80 million per year (with more increases likely in the future) the overall ability of the FS to do its assigned job is more and more limited.

If you want an efficient and effective FS that Congress and the Administration can count on to carry out its statutory mission and congressionally approved and financed programs, this problem must be fixed by providing the flexibility to finance emergency firefighting outside the FS discretionary budget.

R. Max Peterson
Chief, Forest Service
1979 – 1987

F. Dale Robertson
Chief, Forest Service
1987 – 1993

Jack Ward Thomas
Chief Forest Service
1993 – 1996

Michael P. Dombeck
Chief, Forest Service
1997 – 2001

Dale N. Bosworth
Chief, Forest Service
2001 - 2007



15th International Symposium on Nondestructive Testing of Wood

15th Symposium on NDT of Wood

Conference Agenda

Historic Inspection Workshop

Visit Duluth!

We are proud to announce the [15th International Nondestructive Testing of Wood Symposium](#) to be held in Duluth, Minnesota, USA, September 10th-12th, 2007. The conference will be held at the Radisson Duluth Harborview Conference Center, a short walk to the historic downtown and waterfront, where excellent shopping, dining and recreation activities abound. The hotel and conference center have outstanding views of the Duluth harbor, located on Lake Superior, the world's largest freshwater lake and the greatest of the Great Lakes. Please visit the [Symposium Website](#) for all the details you will need to attend!

Sincerely,

Brian Brashaw, Bob Ross and Xiping Wang
Symposium Co-Chairs

Conference Agenda

The International Symposium on Nondestructive Testing of Wood is a world-wide technical forum aimed to promote effective communication and information dissemination for recent research advancements and refinements of NDT/NDE technologies. It represents the full spectrum of interests, from basic and applied science to final acceptance of methods in the field. The Symposium particularly focuses on bridging the gap between research and industrial applications.

First Announcement



Processing and Marketing of Teak Wood Products of Planted Forests



Peechi, India
25-28 September 2007

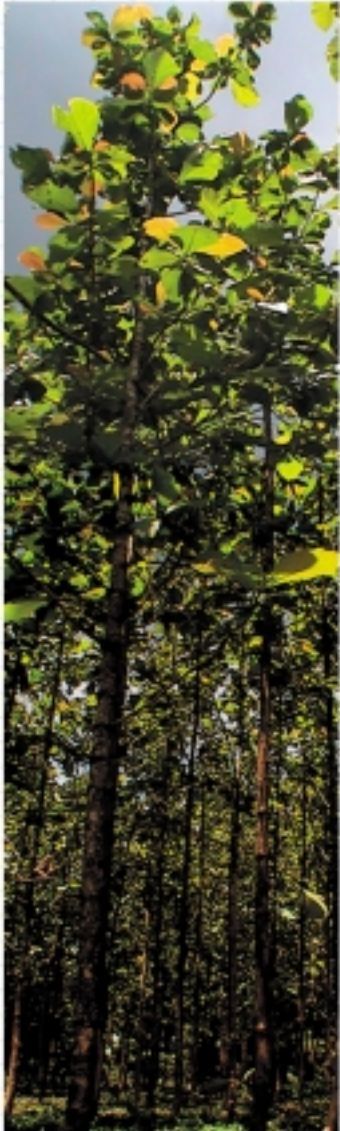


Organised by

Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)
(an institution of KSCSTE, Government of Kerala)
and
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

In collaboration with
International Union of Forest Research Organizations
(IUFRO 5.06.02: Working Party on Teak)
and
Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India





BACKGROUND

Teak (*Tectona grandis* L.f.) is being grown in plantations in more than 36 tropical countries across the globe although its natural occurrence is limited to India, Laos Myanmar and Thailand. Of the estimated 187.1 million hectares of global forest plantations in 2000, about 5.7 million hectares (3%) were teak, representing about 75% of the world's high-quality tropical hardwood plantations, the major producers being India, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand in the Asia Pacific region. It is little wonder that teak excites more interest among the general public than any other tropical hardwood for its versatile wood with sterling properties. The rapid expansion of the teak plantations, however, poses a risk of undermining its reputation in global market place because of wide variations in wood quality with the net effect of reducing the prices and therefore the financial viability of teak planting programmes. To avoid this, teak growers, at the community and industrial levels, must ensure that the wood they produce is of the highest possible quality, which will mean choosing the right sites carefully, using good genetic stock, employing optimal rotation cycles and appropriate silvicultural techniques.

Over the past decade, at least four international seminars/workshops were held in the Asia Pacific Region to address the issues relating to teak resource management and utilisation. However, knowledge of performance and behaviour of teak wood products of planted forests/clonal trees of shorter rotation including agroforestry and home garden forestry sectors is still inadequate in the context of sustainable tropical forest management (SFM). Timber trade and SFM are the two key components of globalization and sustainable development of teakwood sector. The Workshop will address the major challenges of 'new age eco-products' of teak that use innovative technologies for quicker production of quality timber and value addition to the products together with reducing wood waste for overcoming the limitations of small dimensional new resources as summarized below:

Slow progress towards SFM in the Tropics

Limited contributions from utilisation of plantation teak wood sector

Insufficient technical data on wood properties of planted teak of various forest sectors and seed sources/clones

Insufficient knowledge / training/capacity for value addition for marketing products

Lack of effective regional networking / dissemination / material exchange mechanism



OBJECTIVES

In pursuance of sustainable development of teak wood sector in the Asia Pacific Region, the Workshop intends to provide an international forum for developing a regional project on *processing and marketing of quality products of planted teak from sustainable tropical forest management*. It is envisaged that participation of major Asian teak producer countries, viz. India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand together with the importing countries will accomplish the task as project partners.

The major outputs anticipated from the Regional Workshop are:

1. Clear understanding of national policies and programmes of the producer countries as project partners particularly in promoting the trade from further processing and marketing of teak products
2. Identification of the lead countries in relevant areas of research and training as well as networking to cater to the needs of the international stakeholders
3. Establishment of working relationships with necessary commitments from among the project partners for developing a regional project on teak.

VENUE AND DATE:



The venue of the workshop will be Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi – located in central part of Kerala in the midst of tropical forests. The nearest city is Thrissur (18 km), the cultural capital of Kerala, which is well connected by road and rail ways. The Cochin (Kochi) International Airport at Nedumbassery is 60 km away while another

accessible domestic airport is at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (100 km).

For more information about Kerala visit the websites:

<http://www.keralatourism.com>

<http://www.keralam.com>

The Workshop will be held during 25-28 September 2007. Weather in Kerala will normally be fine and pleasant soon after monsoon with an average temperature of 25-27 °C.

ORGANISERS

The Workshop will be organized by Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) under the auspices of International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The Teak Wood Working Party of The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO 5.06.02) will also provide technical support in organising the workshop.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

The Workshop participants include: special invitees, key note speakers/ plenary speakers, policy makers, panelists and voluntary speakers whose papers have been accepted by the Organizers to meet the objectives of the Workshop and to facilitate the process of developing an international project on teak from the Asia Pacific region.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Language of the Workshop will be English. The scientific programme includes presentations of invited and voluntary papers/posters in the following technical sessions in addition to the panel discussion on formulation of a new regional research project.

- ▶ Country Reports of Project partners
- ▶ Plantation, productivity, investment, economics, SFM and Policy issues
- ▶ Yield and quality of planted teak
- ▶ Wood processing & industry
- ▶ Timber price and marketing of planted teak
- ▶ Teak networking

Researchers are encouraged to submit voluntary papers or posters for sharing new and up-to-date scientific information. Both oral papers and posters will be treated equally for publication in the proceedings based on the originality and technical contents.

FIELD VISITS

In-workshop field visits are planned to the world's oldest teak plantation (1942) in Nilambur, Malappuram district, Kerala (about 140 km from Peechi) as well as harvesting and teak timber auction sites/ selling depots, wood processing units, Teak Defoliator Biological Control Laboratory, TEAK Museum and Bioresources Nature Park. The Workshop will coincide with organization of a National Teak Festivals including entrepreneurs/craftsmen, to display their teak products such as furniture, handicrafts, plywood, etc. High quality/certified teak seeds, teak stumps and seedlings will be also available for sale.

Important Deadlines:

Receipt of pre-registration with expressions of interest / title of voluntary paper/poster proposed:
30 March 2007

Receipt of Abstract of voluntary paper/poster:
30 April 2007

Receipt of Full paper :
15 July 2007

Final Announcement/registration pack:
20 July 2007

Contact Address:

Send all your communications to:

Dr. K. M. Bhat
Convener, Regional Teak Workshop 2007
Kerala Forest Research Institute
Peechi 680 653, Thrissur District,
Kerala State, India
Tel: +91-487-699037, 699061-64, 699365
Fax: +91-487-2699249 Cell: +919447878838
Email: kmbhat@kfri.org URL: www.kfri.org

Teak Workshop Websites:

<http://www.kfri.org/teakworkshop2007>

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAC)

Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho

Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization, (ITTO)
Yokohama, Japan

Mr. G. K. Prasad, IFS

Director General, Ministry of Environment and Forests (Govt. of India),
New Delhi, India

Dr. Bipin Behari, IFS

Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and
Forests (Govt. of India), New Delhi, India

Mr. R. P. Sharma

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Kerala Forest Department,
Trivandrum, India

Dr. E.P. Yasodharan

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Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi, India

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Forest Tree Breeding Centre, Japan

Dr. Hwan Ok Ma

Projects Manager, Forest Industry, ITTO, Japan

Dr. Henri Bailleres

(Coordinator, IUFRO 5.06.02), CIRAD, France

Dr. K. M. Bhat

Deputy Coordinator, IUFRO Division 5: Forest Products
KFRI, India

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Survey & Utilisation Division),
Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India



REGIONAL WORKSHOP:

Processing and Marketing of Teak Wood Products of Planted Forests

25-28 September 2007

Peechi, Kerala, India

Title.....Surname.....

First Name.....

Organization.....

Postal Address.....

.....

.....

City.....

Country.....

Tel.....

Fax.....

Email.....

Tick (") the appropriate boxes:

- ☐ I am interested to attend the Workshop: Single / With spouse/companion
- ☐ I wish to receive the Second Announcement/Registration Pack in June 2007 (for detailed information on Scientific Programme, field tour, accommodation, etc.)
- ☐ I wish to submit a poster/paper abstract
- ☐ I wish to receive a copy of author Guidelines for papers/posters by email.
- ☐ I am interested in accompanying persons programme
- ☐ I wish to seek partial financial support for my participation (Limited funds will be available for the participants of developing countries who will make significant contributions towards the success of the Workshop).
- ☐ Special / dietary requirements:

Submit this filled in pre-registration form by **30 March 2007**
either online or by email/snail mail/fax

Mail to:

Dr. K. M. Bhat

Convener, Regional Teak Workshop 2007

Kerala Forest Research Institute

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