

### 1.01.07 – Ecology and Silviculture of Beech

The unit held the conference “**Beech silviculture in Europe’s largest beech country**” in Poiana Brasov, Romania, 4-8 September 2006. More than 40 participants from 13 countries presented eight keynotes and 21 volunteer papers in five sessions. Additionally the poster session included seven posters. Emphasis was on regeneration and young stand treatment of beech. However, selected presentations brought the audience broader perspectives of beech ecology, silviculture and conservation including e.g.:

- processes and patterns in virgin or unmanaged beech forests
- management history of European beech forests
- challenges for future beech silviculture under changing climate such as drought
- beeches in the US and Japan.

We had scheduled two informative and exciting field trips. At the first fieldtrip (6. Sept.) we visited Kronstadt and Brasov Forest Districts and were generously hosted by dir. Dan Olteanu and dir. Adrian Apostu. The second field trip (7-8. Sept.) gave us a very unique experience: the 5,000 ha virgin beech forest protected by the Izvoarele Nerei Reserve in the Banat Region, SW Romania. We had our first glimpse of the forest at midnight enlightened by an almost full moon. Part of the moon was just being eclipsed, which printed this event from a Transylvanian forest even more in the memory of the participants. Our colleague and host was Daniel-Ond Turcu who lead us through and shared their extensive knowledge with us about this very special European forest type.

The IUFRO beech unit is greatly thankful to Professor Dr. Norocel-Valeriu Nicolescu, University Transylvania of Brasov, who had energetically and perfectly organized the conference with the help of his student team. The beech unit is also thankful to Simion Maftai (General Director of National Forest Administration, ROMSILVA), Istvan Toke (State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural development), and Victor Giurgiu (President of Forestry Sections, Romanian Academy and Romanian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences) for their welcoming addresses and for the sponsorship provided by their organisations. Finally, the beech unit is grateful to the University of Brasov and for the financial support provided by the Swedish Broadleaf Programme.

Conference proceedings will be available as a PDF-file from our unit’s webpage and a mini-special issue of *Forestry* (Oxford University Press) is in progress and hopefully released by the autumn 2007.

Finally, we want to express our sympathy with and support to our Iranian colleagues. We had looked forward to share this event with them, too, but very late in the conference preparations we realized that this for various reasons was not possible.

#### *Next meeting!*

We are happy to announce that the **8<sup>th</sup> IUFRO International Beech Symposium** is now scheduled for September 8-12, 2008 to be held at the Onuma International Seminar House, Nanae-town, Hokkaido, Japan). Field excursions will take us to natural beech forests and we have the opportunity to study regeneration practice around the northernmost range of *Fagus crenata* in Hokkaido. We will also visit natural beech forests in the Shiragami Mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. More comprehensive information will follow at our IUFRO-webpage.

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