The recent sequencing of the poplar tree genome is creating immense possibilities for forest tree research. Scientific tools are now available to unravel the genetic mechanisms underlying important traits in commercial forestry such as wood quality, disease resistance, abiotic stress and reproductive biology. Such knowledge will form the basis of modern tree breeding that will produce the trees of the future. Genomic sequencing of forest trees will, however, not only pave the road for a new era in practical forestry, but it also puts basic research on forest trees in the frontline of plant science.

The IUFRO Working Party 2.04.06 organizes biennial international meetings on the genomics, molecular biology and biotechnology of forest trees. The most recent IUFRO Tree Biotechnology meeting held in Pretoria, South Africa was the first in the post-genomic era of forest trees. Presentations on the poplar genome and research enabled by this tremendous new resource were obvious highlights of the meeting.

With the genome data in hand, it is now possible to investigate the detailed evolution of a forest tree genome and its relationship to other plant genomes. Such comparisons allow us to ask “What genes make a tree?” and will greatly accelerate our journey towards a more complete understanding of the genes that underlie important traits in forest trees. One outcome of the post-genomic era is large-scale biology and the creation of huge databases of genes, proteins and metabolites. The organization, bioinformatics and sharing of such data were a central discussion theme of the meeting. The sequencing of other tree genomes such as that of Eucalyptus species was also discussed.

The heart of the meeting remained, however, presentations on experimental research providing knowledge about the general principles behind tree growth and development, and their biotechnological applications. Many excellent presentations provided information on genes involved in central developmental processes such as seasonality, shoot and wood development, insect and disease resistance, wood production and lignin, cellulose and hemicellulose biosynthesis. The scientific excellence of the meeting was also demonstrated by the fact that many leading non-tree scientists came to present their research in other model systems. The industrial importance of the field was devoted a specific session where leading forest biotech companies presented their views on the impact of economic, scientific and societal value chains on the future application of forest biotechnology. The participation of several major pulp and paper companies in the meeting reinforced the great economic potential of this research.

(1) Umeå Plant Science Centre, 901 83 Umeå Sweden. (Chair of Working Party 2.04.06.)
(2) Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa. (Meeting Organizer and Deputy of Working Party 2.04.06.)
(3) Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa. (Meeting Organizer.)

The IUFRO Tree Biotechnology 2005 meeting was hosted by the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) at the University of Pretoria in Pretoria, South Africa. Major sponsors of the meeting included Sappi, Mondi Business Paper South Africa and SweTree Technologies. The meeting attracted more than 200 delegates representing 26 countries, 45 universities and 44 forest research institutions or biotech companies. More information and abstracts from the meeting can be found at www.iufro.up.ac.za.
Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy
Guidance for Scientists and Research Organizations

By Richard W. Guldin, John A. Parrotta, and Eeva Hellström
IUFRO Task Force on the Forest Science-Policy Interface
IUFRO Occasional Paper 17, ISSN 1024-414X, Vienna 2005

Purpose of the Guidelines
Society is the ultimate beneficiary of forestry research. But to generate value for society, research results must be used by someone — policy-makers, forestry practitioners, landowners, educators, other researchers. The science-policy interface is all about utilizing scientific knowledge more effectively. Often, research is planned and conducted before giving adequate thought to exactly how the results will be transformed into usable information. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide advice to researchers and research leaders on how to plan, conduct, and organize research activities so that results can more quickly and easily be transformed into usable information for problem-solving and policy-making. Although not all research is focused on policy-relevant questions, the advice in this report can increase the impact of research on forest policy and improve the practice of forestry, thereby creating more value more quickly for society from forestry research.

The publication is available on the IUFRO Web site at: www.iufro.org/publications/series/occasional-papers/. Free printed copies can be ordered from IUFRO Headquarters at <office@iufro.org> (Mailing costs will be charged for larger quantities only.)

International Bamboo Inventory Training Workshop

24 October - 4 November 2005,
Beijing and Zhejiang Province, China

The Workshop was held by the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), the International Center of Bamboo and Rattan (ICBR), FAO and IUFRO.

There are only few countries with national bamboo inventories, and the bamboo inventory methodology is often very poor. Consequently, the major objectives of the workshop were to train participants from INBAR member countries in on-the-ground and remote sensing methods for the bamboo resources assessment. 40 invited participants from 18 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America took part in the training workshop.

The main outcome of the training workshop was the launching of two task forces for on-the-ground and remote bamboo resources assessment. Both task forces are led by INBAR specialists: Dr. Fu, Jinhe (on-the-ground) and Mr. Shyam Paudel (remote sensing). Manuals are to be completed in two years. Contact Dr. Fu <jfu@inbar.int> for more details.

Walter Liese - 80 Years Old Congratulations!

Professor (emer.) Dr. forest. Dr. h.c. (mult.) Walter Liese, IUFRO President from 1977 to 1981 and Honorary Member of IUFRO since 1982, was born on January 31, 1926, in Berlin and grew up in his nearby hometown Eberswalde, the birthplace of IUFRO. From 1963 to 1993 he was Head of the Institute for Wood Biology at the University of Hamburg and, at the same time, Director of the Institute for Wood Biology and Wood Protection at the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products, Hamburg (BFH). For 5 years during this period he was also Executive Director of BFH. He has always been very supportive of IUFRO, also as the German representative in the IUFRO International Council.

After his retirement, his scientific activities focused almost entirely on bamboo, the ”poor people’s timber”, and on the dissemination of his knowledge and experience to those who could make best use of it, the rural population in East and Southeast Asia, Central Africa and Central America. During the last 15 years, Walter Liese travelled many times into these regions, gave lectures and provided advice. In the same period, he published about 70 papers on bamboo and rattan, among them two books on bamboo anatomy and bamboo preservation.

We would like to congratulate him on the occasion of his birthday and on his extraordinary career and achievements.
Meetings

IUFRO Co-sponsored Meetings

For a full list of IUFRO events, please visit our online calendar. Find more details on the homepages of IUFRO Units involved.

May 17-20, 2006
Managerial Economics and Accounting in an Evolving Paradigm of Forest Management
Rottenburg, Germany
IUFRO RG 4.05.00
Contact: Wolfgang Tzschupke<br>tzschupke@hs-rottenburg.de<br>http://www.has-rottenburg.de/IUFRO-conference/

May 20-21, 2006
3rd Workshop on Genetics of Bark Beetles and Associated Microorganisms
Asheville, NC, USA
IUFRO WP 7.03.05
Deadline for reservations: 1 April 2006
Contact: Barbara Bentz, <bbentz@fs.fed.us>

May 25–26, 2006
Segundo Seminario Interuniversitario de Estudiantes de Postgrado en Ciencias Forestales
Valdivia, Chile
Co-sponsored by IUFRO Division 6
Contact: María Dolores Aguilera, Secretaría, Escuela de Graduados, <graduadosforestal@uach.cl>

June 8-10, 2006
Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Forest Management: The Role of Traditional Knowledge
Florence, Italy
Italian Academy of Forestry Science
Organized by: IUFRO RG 6.07.00; IUFRO Task Force on Traditional Forest Knowledge
Contact: Valentina Mariani, <info.forest@unifi.it>
Department of Environmental Forestry Science and Technology; University of Florence, Via San Bonaventura 13; 50145 Firenze, Italy. Tel +fax: 00 39 055 30231282
http://www.associations.unifi.it/chi_fsm_2006.asp

June 18-23, 2006
Small-scale Forestry and Rural Development: The Intersection of Ecosystems, Economics and Society
Galway, Ireland
IUFRO RG 3.08.00 Small-scale Forestry
Contact: Sarah Wall, <sarah.wall@qmit.ie>
Tel: +353 91 742394, Fax: +353 91 751107
http://ns2.qmit.ie/information/conferences/Forestry/

July 3-7, 2006
Alien Invasive Species and International Trade
Radom, Poland
Inaugural Meeting of IUFRO WP 7.03.12
At The Regional Directorate of State Forests
Contact: Hugh F. Evans, Forestry Commission, Forestry Authority, Forest Research Station, Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham Farnham, Surrey GU10 4LH, United Kingdom. Email (pers): <hugh.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>

July 9-13, 2006
Beyond Borders - Forest Tree Rusts from a Global Perspective
California, USA
2006 Conference of the IUFRO Working Party 7.02.05 Rusts of Forest Trees
Contact: Jim Walla, <j.walla@ndsu.nodak.edu>
http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/instruct/walla/2006Announcement.html

August 8-10, 2006
International Conference on Forest and Water in a Changing Environment
Beijing, China
Co-sponsored by IUFRO. Sponsored and organized by the Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing Forestry University and USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station.
Contact: John A. Stanturf, <jstanturf@fs.fed.us>
Shirong Liu, <liusr@forestry.ac.cn>
http://www.caf.ac.cn/fwce/Second_circular_E.doc

September 4-8, 2006
Beech Silviculture in Europe’s Largest Beech Country
Poiana Brasov, Romania
An international conference and field trip of IUFRO WP 1.01.07 Ecology and Silviculture of Beech
Organizer: Norocel-Valeriu Nicolescu, University of Brasov

Call for Applications

The international master’s program “Sustainable Resource Management” at the School of Forest Science and Resource Management, Technische Universität München, invites graduates (Bachelor/Diploma) from all over the world to apply for admission until March 31st 2006. In the 2-year program, international and German students will be prepared for professional work in the various fields of resource management. They will learn important concepts and techniques for sustainable management and acquire special management skills. More information.
September 11-14, 2006
Methodology of Forest Insect and Disease Survey in Central Europe
Ort/Gmunden – Austria
IUFRO Working Party 7.03.10
Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape, Forest Training Centre (BFW)
Contact: Hannes Krehan, <Hannes.Krehan@bfw.gv.at>
Tel.: +43-1-87838 1128; Fax: +43 -1 87838 1250

September 18-22, 2006
Networks in Forestry Extension - Achievements, Emerging Issues and Future Action
Riga, Latvia
8th Extension Working Party Symposium, IUFRO WP 6.06.02
Contact: Juris Oslejs, Riga str. 111, Salaspils, LV-2169, Latvia; Tel: +371-7942555 or +371-9421692 (mobile), Fax: +371-7901359, E-mail: <info@silava.lv>
http://iufro8extensymp.silava.lv

September 19-23, 2006
Breeding and Genetic Resources of Five-needle Pines
Valiug (of Resita), Romania
Organized by IUFRO WP 2.02.15 and the Forest Research and Management Institute of Bucharest, Romania
Contact: Ioan Blada, Sos. Stefanesti 128, Post Office 11, P.O. Box 11.04, Sector 2, Tel. / Fax: +4 021 350 32 45
E-mail: <ioan_blada@yahoo.com>
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hre/iufro06/index.htm

September 24-27, 2006
OAK 2006: Advances in The Principles And Practices of Oak Silviculture And Genetics
Stevens Point, Wisconsin, USA
Joint meeting of IUFRO WP 1.01.06 Ecology and Silviculture of Oaks, and WP 2.08.05 Genetics of Quercus
Contact: Robert Rogers <oak2006@uwsp.edu>
College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin
http://www.uwsp.edu/forestry/oak2006

October 4-7, 2006
Ecosystem Goods and Services from Planted Forests
Bilbao, Spain
Co-sponsored and supported by IUFRO Division 4, CIFOR and IUCN.
Organized by the NETFOP project through the Institute of Silviculture at Freiburg University and the European Institute of Cultivated Forests (IEFC - project centre of the European Forest Institute).
Contact: Joachim Schmerbeck, E-mail: <joachim.schmerbeck@waldbau.uni-freiburg.de>
http://www.waldbau.uni-freiburg.de/bilbao.html

October 9-13, 2006
Low Input Breeding and Genetic Conservation of Forest Tree Species
Maritim Pine Beach Resort, Antalya, Turkey
IUFRO Division 2 Joint Meeting
Contact: Fikret Isik <fikret_isik@ncsu.edu>
http://www.akdeniz.edu.tr/english/iufro/theme.htm

October 22-28, 2006
Forest Health in Managed Forests
La Serena, Chile
Two-day session in the course of the II Latin American IUFRO Congress. Joint meeting of IUFRO RG 7.02.00 Forest Pathology and 7.03.00 Entomology
Contact: Andrew Liebhold, <aliebhold@fs.fed.us>

October 23-27, 2006
II Congreso Latinoamericano IUFRO
La Serena, Chile
Contact: Santiago Barros, INFOR
<seminarios@infor.gob.cl>
IUFRO 6.03.04 Web site

October 25-27, 2006
ForestXchange – International Conference on Knowledge Management and Transfer
Freiburg, Germany
Co-sponsored by IUFRO Div. VI, Task Force Public Relations in Forest Science; WP 6.06.02; WP 6.06.03; WP6.15.00
Contact: Roderich von Detten <info@forestxchange.org>
Phone: +49 (0)761 / 4018-214
http://www.forestxchange.org

December 3-6, 2006
1st Iberoamerican Wood Protection Congress
Mérida, Venezuela
Organized by RIPMA (Red Iberoamericano de Protección de la Madera)
Co-sponsored by IUFRO 5.03.00 Wood Protection
Contact: Congress Secretariat, GICOM, Laboratorio Nacional de Productos Forestales Conjunto Forestal, Vía Chorros de Milla, Mérida 5101-A, Venezuela;
Tel. int.: +58 274 240 1684; Fax int.: +58 274 240 1691
<osenbla@gmail.com>, <ripmamerida@hotmail.com>

Other Meetings
April 19-21, 2006
International Conference on the Roles of Forests in Rural Development and Environmental Sustainability
Beijing, China
Sponsored by the Chinese Society of Forestry, Korean Forest Society, J a n e s e F o r e s t S o c i e t y
Contact: Ms. Guan Xiuling, Ms. Feng Caiyun, E-mail: <csf_org@forestry.ac.cn>, Fax: 0086-10-62889819

September 26-29, 2006
INTERPRAEVENT 2006
Niigata University, Japan
International Symposium on Disaster Mitigation of Debris Flow, Slop Failures and Landslides
Contact: <ip2006@gs.niigata-u.ac.jp>
http://www.agr.niigata-u.ac.jp/interpraevent/