WOOD ANATOMY NEWS

Curator Wood Collection INPA

Mr. Francisco José de Vasconcellos has been appointed the new curator of the wood collection of INPA, Caixa Postal 478, 69.0011 Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil.

Computer-assisted wood identification in Argentina

Ms. Silvia Monteoliva and Mr. L. Hernán Olivera, both from the Area Dendrología, Dept Tecnol. Industr. de la Madera, Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias y Forestales, Universidad Nacional de la Plata, Av. 60 y 119 (1900) La Plata, Argentina (fax: +52-021-252346), are developing an identification system and database of Argentinian woods, based on the IAWA List of microscopic features (1989). It is hoped that this will result in easier communication between colleagues at home and abroad. Several wood anatomists in Argentina will provide actualised descriptions of native and exotic species.

Plant Biomechanics Meeting in Montpellier

The second circular for this meeting to be held in the Institut de Botanique, Montpellier, France, from 5–9 September 1994, has been distributed. The symposium will address the general themes of 1) adaptive mechanical design of plants, 2) biomechanics of growth, and 3) short term biomechanical responses. Apart from invited and contributed papers and posters, the programme will feature roundtable discussions on a) habit and strength of cultivated plants, b) plant materials and other non-alimentary uses, and c) quality of fruits and vegetables. For further information and registration forms, please contact Dr. Bernard Thibaut, LMGC 'Bois' CP 81, Université Montpellier II, Place Eugène Bataillon, 34095 Montpellier Cedex 5, France (fax: +33-67-544852).

VI Congresso Latinoamericano de Botânica

The organisers of the sixth Latin-American botanical congress have distributed the second circular. The meeting will be held in Mar de la Plata, Argentina, from 2–8 October 1994. The IAWA is associated with the congress organisation, and will host a number of symposia convened by our members Vera Coradin (Brazil) and Marilyn Castro (Argentina). Further details will follow in the next IAWA Journal. For registration and submission of papers please write at your earliest convenience to: Secretaría Ejecutiva, VI Congreso Latinoamericano de Botánica, Instituto de Recursos Biológicos, INTA, Castelar, 1712 Buenos Aires, Argentina (Fax: +54-1-481-2360).

Symposium on fast-growing trees in Nanjing

An international symposium on the utilisation of fast-growing trees will be held in Nanjing Forestry University, China from 15–18 October, 1994. Further information can be obtained from the vice-chairman of the symposium organisation, Dr. Hikaru Sasaki, Wood Research Institute, Kyoto University, Uji, Kyoto 611, Japan.

Third Pacific Regional Wood Anatomy Conference – a reminder

The third Pacific regional wood anatomy conference organised by the New Zealand Forest Research Institute, and co-sponsored by IAWA and IUFRO S 5.01, will be held from November 20–24, 1994 in Rotorua, New Zealand. Please register with IAWA member Mr. Lloyd Donaldson, NZ Forest Research Institute, PB 3020, Rotorua, New Zealand.

Workshop on modelling effects of silviculture on wood quality

The IUFRO working party S 5.01.4 'Biological improvement of wood properties' will hold an international workshop on the 'connection between silviculture and wood quality through modelling approaches and simulation softwares' from June 13 through 17, 1994 in Hook, Sweden. For further information please contact Dr. Gérard Nepveu, Wood Quality Research Team, Centre de Recherches, INRA de Nancy, 54280 Champenhoux, France (Fax: +33-83-394069).
Development of Wood Science / Technology and Forestry

The Wood Technology Research Centre of the Buckinghamshire College, Brunel University, UK, in partnership with the University of Forestry and Wood Science in Sopron, Hungary, is organising the first international conference on the development of wood science / technology and forestry from 6–8 July, 1994, at Missenden Abbey Management Centre. This venue is a combination of historic and new buildings set in the heart of the Chiltern Hills, Buckinghamshire. Conference topics include wood anatomy, environmental forestry, biodegradation of wood, and many others. For further information and registration, please contact Lorna Davis, Buckinghamshire College, Queen Alexandra Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 2JZ, England (fax: +44-494-438123)

Meeting on Periodicity of Growth in Tropical Trees

IUFRO working party P 5.05 (Tree-ring analysis), together with the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) and the Institute of Wood Biology, Hamburg, are organising a meeting on the periodicity of growth in tropical trees from 16–18 November, 1994, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Please note that these dates enable an ideal combination to attend both the meetings in New Zealand and Malaysia. For further information please contact Mr. Lim Seng Choon, Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Fax: +03-6367753)

Eighty Years of Wood Anatomy at the Forest Products Laboratory

Congratulations on 80 years of service to The Center for Wood Anatomy Research (CWAR) at the USDA Forest Products Research Laboratory, Madison Wisconsin that is celebrating the 80th anniversary of wood anatomy at the FPL with an open house on April 6, 1994. The CWAR, headed by IAWA Deputy Executive Secretary, Regis Miller, maintains the world’s largest research collection, with over 100,000 specimens, and includes the Madison (MADw), the Samuel J. Record (SJRw) collection acquired from Yale University, and the Chicago Field Museum collection received in 1970. Since 1914, personnel of CWAR have identified more than 227,545 wood samples, including samples of archaeological significance from the La Brea Tar Pits, Chaco Canyon, and the tombs of King Tut, King Midas and King Herod. Studies on tropical wood anatomy are ongoing at the CWAR, with current research projects on the wood anatomy of the Bignoniaceae, Swartzia (Leguminosae), and Zanthoxylum (Rutaceae), and developing a comprehensive database of common names of woods of the world, and improving systems and databases for computerised wood identification.

Report from Wood Conference in Sopron, Hungary

An international conference on ‘Wood as a new material of the future’ was held from August 31 through September 1, 1993 at the University of Forestry and Wood Sciences in Sopron, Hungary. The conference was sponsored by the University and the Hungarian Forest Products Society, and attended by close to 100 people from eleven different countries including Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, the United States of America, and Hungary.

In the Plenary Session, members of the University administration emphasised the history and traditions of wood science education in Hungary. Education at the Department of Wood Science at the Sopron University spans over 70 years. Dr. S. Kurijatko summarised the research programme in wood science and forest products conducted at the Technical University in Zvolen, Slovakia. This session included a major address by Dr. Geza Ifju, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA. He discussed how the USA wood industry deals with the various pressures of producing more wood-based commodities from diminishing forest resources. Dr. Ladislav Kučera, ETH Zentrum, Zürich, Switzerland talked about the colour of wood as a fundamental characteristic useful in utilisation. Dr. Sandor Molnár briefly discussed the wood quality of species grown on the Hungarian Great Plain.
Following the Plenary Session, a total of 35 papers and seven posters were presented covering a wide range of topics in three separate sections: Biology, Physics, and Chemistry. Many of the presentations, including those on wood quality, genetics, physics, chemistry and processing made references to the importance of wood anatomy in wood and fibre science. A general conclusion was formulated that wood anatomists should be active in the societies and their meetings in both forestry and wood sciences, and vice versa. They can, and they should contribute to the knowledge in biology, wood quality, genetics, wood properties and industrial processing.

Ilona Peszlen,
Sopron University, Hungary.

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(continued from page 2)

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