Wood Anatomy and Tree Rings

Wood Anatomy Workshop in Tucson Arizona

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From May 16 through 21st 2005, Fritz Schweingruber, Holger Gärtner, and Alex Wiedenhoeft led a workshop on wood anatomy for 20 participants that were interested in the wood structure of tree rings. This workshop was held at the University of Arizona in association with the Laboratory of Tree Ring Research. The instructors came from the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL and the USDA Forest Service Center for Wood Anatomy Research.

The participants were mainly graduate students with a few professionals, faculty, and post-doctoral student. They ranged in age from 20 to 60 years of age with the majority of ages between 20 and 35 years in age. Most of the participants were from the

Dr. Fritz Schweingruber using a sledge microtome to make thin sections as participants of the summer 2005 wood anatomy workshop observe.
United States with one participant each from Russia, Japan, The Netherlands, Spain, China, and Germany. Most participants have had some previous experience with wood identification and were seeking to increase their skills in wood identification.

The workshop used a series of 200 previously prepared slides that demonstrate the cross sectional, transverse, and radial views of a variety of arboreal and shrub species that have ring structure in their xylem (Xylem-Database by F.H. Schweingruber: http://www.wsl.ch/dendro/xylemdb/). The morning half of the day was spent in lectures from the workshop leaders on wood anatomy and wood structure. The second half of each day was dedicated to preparation of microscopic slides using a sledge microtome so that the participants could prepare their own specimens. In the evenings, the participants presented their own research to the group while we relaxed on the patio around the pool. On the last day of the workshop, each participant presented one or two slides that they had prepared during the week and the ecological question as well as the preparation skill of the slides were discussed. The participants rated all aspects of the workshop from good to excellent with the overall experience and the quality of the education being rated as excellent.

The next workshop in Tucson is scheduled to be held from June 4–8, 2007. I can personally recommend that any person interested in the ecological applications of wood anatomy and preparing anatomical specimens attend this workshop.

WOOD ANATOMY NEWS

**Pan American IAWA Meeting moves from Oaxaca to San Luis Potosi**

The Pan-American IAWA meeting, originally planned to be held in Oaxaca, has been moved to the beautiful old town of San Luis Potosi in Northern Mexico to avoid the political unrest that has plagued Oaxaca for the last few months. The dates remain unchanged: 16–20 July 2007. IAWA members and others interested will be warmly welcomed by the Mexican organisers, coordinated by Teresa Terrazas (iawa@ibiologia.unam.mx). Please check the IAWA or conference web sites (resp. www.iawa-website.org and www.ibiologia.unam.mx/barra/congresos/iawa/) for details on registration (cheap until March 30!), programme and abstract submission. Outside the conference venue Hotel Panorama (www.hotelpanorama.com.mx) the city of San Luis Potosi has much to offer in cultural and natural beauties. See you all in Mexico this summer!

**PROTA Handbook to include detailed anatomies of African Timbers**

From 15–26 May 2007 a group of IAWA Members (Oteng Amoaka, Pieter Baas, Hans Beeckman, Pierre Détienne, Peter Gasson and Elisabeth Wheeler), together with a group of nine young wood scientists and plant anatomists from various African countries, will come together at CIRAD, Montpellier in France to critically review and describe the microscopic anatomy of the 200 most important commercial timber species from tropical Africa using the codes drafted by the Committee responsible for the IAWA Hardwood List of 1989. A full text version of these coded descriptions will