

Evergreen

AN UPDATE FOR FRIENDS OF THE WORLD FORESTRY CENTER



DECEMBER 2016

IN MEMORIAM

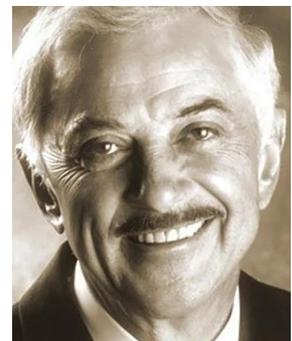
The Legacy of Harry Merlo

Harry A. Merlo, long-time WFC Board Director and past Chair of the Executive Board, passed away October 24, 2016, at his home in Portland, Oregon.

Born and raised in poverty in a high Sierra lumber camp, he was the son of Italian immigrants. His mother, a profound influence on Harry's life and achievements, taught him *"Che non lavaro, non deve mangiare"*... *"If you don't work, you don't eat."* From his roots, Harry would go on to become a legendary wood products man, a Fortune 500 CEO, award winning tree farmer, well-known philanthropist, the "Father of OSB," and lifelong tree planter. Harry's boundless energy was transformative, not just organizationally, but also individually, with the many people he mentored.

As an avid proponent of forestry and wood products, Harry Merlo's contributions to the forestry community were many, but to the World Forestry Center he brought the "world" to what was then the "Western Forestry Center." In a pivotal moment for our organization, he urged our members to look outward, broaden our perspective globally, and to recruit international directors. The hall that bears his name provides an architectural testimony to his generosity and his vision for global forestry.

The International Fellowship Program at the World Forestry Center particularly captured Harry's heart and provoked a connection that went far beyond funding. He hosted the Fellows at his eastern Oregon ranch for intensive study tours



*Harry A. Merlo
1925-2016*

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*The Legacy of
Harry Merlo,
continued*

each year, held special dinners at his home, played harmonica around campfires with them, and often just stopped by for a cup of coffee to check on how everyone was doing. He was a constant cheerleader for the program and was one of the most recognizable faces to our staff, from the front desk to the Executive office.

Harry saw the globalization trend in forestry long before most, and he understood that the challenges facing foresters here were not dissimilar from the challenges facing foresters elsewhere. His efforts to bring people together to solve common problems in natural resources made a real impact on lives throughout the world.

On behalf of those of us impacted by Harry's generosity, we thank him for inviting us to be a part of the endearing legacy that he worked so hard to create. To his wife Flo Newton Merlo; his son, Harry Merlo, Jr; daughter-in-law, Billie Merlo; his brothers, Pete Merlo and Frank Merlo; grandsons, Dominic and Anthony Merlo; nieces and nephews; and two stepchildren from a previous marriage, we extend, from around the globe, our deepest sympathies, and our sincere thanks for sharing him with us. ❖



History of the World Forest Institute

The World Forest Institute International Fellowship Program advances the global exchange of knowledge and expertise in forest management by hosting current and future leaders in forestry from 40 countries on six continents to date.



In 1997, Harry A. Merlo gifted \$1 million to the International Fellowship Program through his foundation. The Merlo Foundation renewed its \$1 million matching gift for a second decade culminating in 2016. The Merlo Foundation grant allowed the World Forestry Center to leverage additional funding from over 30 domestic and overseas individuals and organizations. In 2016, the Merlo Foundation committed to another 10-year, \$1.25 million matching grant for the Fellowship Program.



World Forest Institute

Program Mission

The International Fellowship Program seeks to advance forest policy and management, professional networking, and knowledge exchange by showcasing Northwest forests and forestry practices.

The program advances the WFC's mission of connecting people to the importance of sustainable forest management. In addition to cultivating a global network of forestry leaders, the program showcases the cutting-edge practices and sustainability ethics in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest thereby promoting the state and region's reputation around the globe.

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History of the World Forest Institute, continued

The program hosts natural resource professionals from around the world for six months at the WFC's campus in Portland, Oregon. Applicants propose an applied research topic as their focus during their Fellowship, and WFI uses its extensive network of public and private forestry and natural resource professionals to assist Fellows in gaining the knowledge and exposure they need to achieve their goals. In addition, Fellows are invited to speak at local universities and organizations to share their findings about forestry in Oregon through their global lenses.

Worldwide Impact

By championing these International Fellows, we are championing working forests both here in Oregon and abroad. The ongoing professional accomplishments of the alumni after they leave the program are an important part of the legacy that the World Forestry Center has built. ❖

WORLDWIDE IMPACT OF THE WORLD FOREST INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- › Over 130 International Fellows from more than 40 countries on six continents have travelled to Portland, Oregon, to participate in the International Fellowship Program.
- › Oregon's forestry and natural resource leaders benefit from the program as they gain knowledge and a real-time perspective on global forestry trends, practices, and opportunities.
- › WFI Alumni have spoken at conferences in Oregon, including *Who Will Own the Forest?*, *Changing Dynamics of the Asia-Pacific Wood Trade*, *International Perspectives on Forests*, *China's Forestry Sector*, *The Forest Industry of Brazil*, and more recently, *The Hagenstein Lectures*.
- › The International Fellowship Program continues to elevate both the WFC and Oregon on the world stage. In 2012, the Fellowship Program was the recipient of an award by the City of Portland and the Oregon Consular Corps in recognition of its significant contribution to Portland's standing as a leader in international trade, education, and investment.