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## WFI Welcomes Three New Fellows

WFI welcomes Gabriel Salako from Gashau, Nigeria. Gabriel is a principal lecturer at Umar Suleiman College of Education and holds BS and MS degrees in geography and natural resource management. For the past six years Gabriel has also been a consultant and facilitator on environmental resource management issues to Yobe State government in Nigeria.

Gabriel joins WFI to learn about the prospects of developing softwood plantations in a unique part of NE Nigeria called the Mambilla Plateau. Gabriel will look into growth parameters of PNW conifer species and determine the suitability of these or similar species for plantation development back home.



*WFI welcomes its first Nigerian Fellow into the program, Gabriel Salako.*

Another new Fellow joining the WFI family is Australian Tim Sanders. Tim comes from Melbourne, Australia where he is a senior silviculture forester for VicForests.

Tim comes to WFI on a six-month Fellowship jointly sponsored by Forest & Wood Products Australia and The Gottstein Trust. Tim will investigate the types of silvicultural techniques employed in the US to help ensure the continued survival of merchantable tree species in the face of climate change. Tim hopes to learn from North American experiences in this field in order to apply successful principals back in Australia. Tim also brought his wife and two young children with him here to enjoy all that the Pacific Northwest has to offer – just in time for the great summer weather.



*Tim Sanders from Melbourne, Australia will stay at WFI for a six month fellowship.*

Most recently, we welcome a new Fellow from Beijing, China, Dr. Ning Hou. Ning is a lecturer in forest economics and management at Beijing Forestry University. Ning was awarded a scholarship as an outstanding educator through China's Ministry of Education

and the China Scholarship Council to study abroad for one year.

While at WFI, Ning will focus on learning about market systems and mechanisms of payment for forestry carbon services. She is interested in the development of voluntary carbon markets and hopes to understand how these systems work in the U.S and also what the motivations are for entering into these markets. She hopes to provide a reference for forestry carbon markets in China in the future.



*Dr. Ning Hou from Beijing Forestry University is visiting the US for the first time.*

In addition to welcoming all our new Fellows, we inevitably had to say goodbye to others. Nepalese Fellow Jagdish Poudel returned home to Kathmandu in early April. While he was excited to return home, he promised to visit us all again in the near future. We look forward to hearing from him!

## Fellows Visit H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest

### Alumni Updates

We are happy to report that all of our Japanese alumni are fine after the devastating earthquake in March. Immediately following the quake, WFI contacted its Japanese alumni to verify their safety. Below are some of the replies we received.

Kenji Kariya in Tsukuba, Japan reported that he and his wife are doing well. "Tsukuba area was not damaged seriously in comparison with more north areas, though food and gasoline shortage is the problem. After five days, we still have a lot of aftershocks. However, we should say thank you from the bottom of our heart for our safety."

Tateki Hata in Osaka, Japan reported that he is okay because his house is 1,000 km away from the area that the earthquake occurred in.

Daisuke Tajima in Tokyo, Japan reported that he is fine, although the earthquake was really terrible. Spring is usually a time when companies recruit from college campuses, but Daisuke reports that few companies have participated this year, leaving many college graduates without employment.

WFI Director Sara Wu also visited Japan in early April. She notes that "If you had never been to Tokyo you could easily think that nothing major had occurred." But there are small signs everywhere that life has changed. The streets are darker as light displays remain turned off at night. Some escalators do not run, and shopping centers open late to conserve electricity. Traffic is much lighter, with more people riding bikes. Some folks get off work early in the afternoon so they can catch a train home. Narita airport is like a ghost town, and where once foreign tourists were seen everywhere on the streets of Tokyo, they are now conspicuously absent. And then there are the constant aftershocks—including the 6.6 aftershock just hours after Sara's arrival. "In spite of everything,

the Japanese remain incredibly calm and resolute, and they are focused on moving forward."

Fellows spent a sunny winter day in early March exploring H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest in Blue River, OR. The experimental forest was established in 1948 with the intention of generating information on federal land management. Today, HJA continues with the same goal, but has broadened its scope to include the study of a wide range of forest ecological processes.

There are currently about 100 different ongoing research projects at HJA, ranging from watershed and riparian ecological studies to stand structure and carbon dynamics research. The forest supervisor for HJA, Mark Schulze, showed Fellows a small sample of some of these projects – those that could be reached in the snowy conditions of early March. The first stop was to an undisturbed old growth forest where some of the Douglas fir trees were over

500 years old. HJA was one of the first places to study old growth forest and subsequently also become the first place where the spotted owl was studied.

Two other watersheds were visited throughout the day. Monitoring equipment used for various research projects was showcased, including the water gauging station, fiber optic cables for measuring airflow, and the weather station which measures everything from rain and snow volumes to wind and solar radiation.



Fellows explore the Douglas fir old-growth forest.



Meijuan (China) stands under special cables that collect wind and airflow data in the watershed.

Even with only being able to access the low elevation sites at this time of year, Fellows came away with a sense of the important research that occurs at HJA. "I'm so glad I got the chance to see this place before I left" said Nepalese Fellow Jagdish, who concluded by remarking "...this place is amazing, the research they do here has importance around the world."

## Lessons in Wetland Banking from City of Eugene

A visit to the city offices in Eugene, Oregon, provided WFI Fellows an exciting day of learning about wetlands and wetland mitigation banking. Wetland prairie covers approximately 3,000 acres in the west part of the city and is managed through the West Eugene Wetland Programs. One component of this broad-based program is the West Eugene Wetland Mitigation Bank (WEW Bank) which was developed in the early 1990's as a measure to protect and restore the wetlands while benefiting the community.

Ecologists Diane Steek and Paul Gordon gave a presentation about the banking system and toured the group around some wetland areas that act as part of the 'bank'. Working on a slightly different model than private wetland banks in the state, WEW restores approximately two or more acres of wetland habitat for every credit that is purchased through the bank. The WEW Bank services the needs of the greater Eugene community and through this, provides recreation opportunities like bird watching and bike trails, which the group was able to enjoy during their visit.



Fellows gather on the levee road of Amazon Creek in the Long Tom Watershed. Top: Chia-Chen (Taiwan) finds a small snake in the grass. Bottom: Fellows look out over wetland prairie that is being restored.



## Recent Events

WFI recently joined a field tour of the Willamette Valley water systems to learn about water resource management throughout the region. As part of an NSF funded project, OSU, PSU, and UO began a project to study alternative futures in water scarcity throughout the region. Using an approach designed to include scientists, policy makers, and local land and water managers, the field trip was a huge success in communicating the state of our water resources and issues that we need to be thinking about for the future.



*Fellows exchanged ideas and information with participants throughout the field tour.*

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Pakistani Fellow Ghazala Yasmeen presented her research at Oregon State University in April. Making connections between warming temperatures and wildfire incidence and severity within the US, Ghazala argues that climate change has a clear impact on wildfires.



*Ghazala presented in the College of Forestry at OSU.*

## WFI Participates in Tree School 2011

Tree School this year was a huge success! Fellows attended the Clackamas County Tree School program in mid-March where they enjoyed many informative classes along with interaction with forest landowners.

Each of the Fellows signed on for various classes, including a chainsaw operation class and others that discussed pertinent forest health issues. Overall, Fellows were very impressed with the forum used to educate the public about their natural resources. "We don't have anything like this in Taiwan," said Fellow Chia-Chen Wu. "It's a really good idea to bring local forestland owners together and teach

them about the latest science and technology used in forestry." Chia-Chen was so impressed with Tree School that he has begun writing an article about it for the newsletter published by his em-

ployer, Taiwan Forest Research Institute. In fact, all the Fellows were impressed by Tree School and had a thoroughly fulfilling, informative, and fun day.



*Some of the Fellows learned about the ecology of local tree species like the Douglas fir in the background.*



*The group enjoyed lunch at Clackamas County Community College while mingling with other Tree School participants.*

## Fellows Tour Largest Nursery in Oregon

The J. Frank Schmidt & Son nursery in Boring, Oregon started out as a small 10-acre patch of land some 60 years ago, but has since grown into the sprawling 3,000 acres that WFI visited in April.

The wholesale-only nursery grows trees from seed, cuttings, and tissue culture and maintains specialty lines of species that they have developed and trademarked over the years. The nursery grows roughly 20% of their trees from tissue culture and 80% are

Nancy Buley and San Doane took Fellows around the entire facility including the pruning station, cold storages, greenhouses and the orchard. The group was interested to learn that trees can stay in cold storage for

up to 6-8 months before they are shipped out. This keeps the trees dormant, so they don't bloom before they get to their destination.

Most importantly, Fellows got a sense of the scale of operation of this nursery and understood all the components that makes it a successful business. "They do a very good job here," says Canadian Fellow Khurram Sheikh who was impressed by the quality and quantity of production.



*Gabriel (Nigeria) investigates the container trees that are getting ready to be shipped out.*



## Fellows Dine with Harry Merlo

### Recent Events

WFC premiered the newly released documentary about the life and work of naturalist Aldo Leopold, called *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*. Fellows were inspired by the reverence given to the American naturalist and truly enjoyed the unique story and well-made film.



A large group attended the premier.

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Two new exhibits opened in the WFC Discovery Museum: one showcasing the WFI Fellowship program and another called *Earth From Space*. The WFI exhibit highlights the history of the Fellowship program, select Fellows and their research projects, and there is also a streaming video to view.



Top: Introductory panel of new WFI exhibit. Bottom: Kwangho and Gabriel previewed the Earth from Space exhibit.

Harry Merlo hosted WFI Fellows for dinner and discussion in early March. The group talked about current trends in global forestry markets and the role that biomass in particular was playing in these. Interest in biomass has certainly been growing and Harry was able to share some of his experiences about his involvement in Oregon's biomass industry. Discussion centered around the logistics and costs involved for a private landowner to collect and transport woody forest biomass. Harry gave a realistic picture of the local industry and talked of some of the complexities of the industry such as current regulations and policies, and the lack of incentives for landowners at the moment.

Fellows also shared their knowledge about forestry around the world and everyone left a little wiser than when they walked in. All in all, Fellows had a lovely

evening of fine food and laughter and were extremely grateful for the opportunity to engage with such a successful entrepreneur and supporter of world forestry.



Harry Merlo served wonderful food and his delicious wine at a formal dinner for the WFI international researchers.

### More WFI Happenings...

Fellows toured Georgia-Pacific's Wauna paper mill near Clatskanie, Oregon. Fellows were taken through the entire production of the paper products produced at this plant, which include

paper towels and toilet paper. From the wood chip piles through to the packaging of the products, Fellows learned not only of the process, but also about the connection this industry has to the forest and the environment.

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The Wauna paper mill was an extensive complex that the Fellows spent a day at learning about how our forest resources become our everyday paper products.

A few of the Fellows visited Oregon Department of Forestry headquarters in the capitol city to celebrate ODF's centennial anniversary. The festivities included a tree



Meijuan (China) and Chia-Chen (Taiwan) met up with Oregon's new state forester, Doug Decker.

planting ceremony, a recitation of some of ODF's history, and talking with ODF staff and other attendees. All had a great time!