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New Feature Article Coming Soon!

Look for our new feature articles from WFI Fellows sharing some of their home country with you, starting in the February 2012 edition of *Update*

Harry Merlo recognized for his service as Chairman of WFC Board of Directors

Serving as the Chairman for the World Forestry Center Board of Directors take a special dedication, commitment, and passion for the organization, its mission and its people. Harry Merlo has served in this role for the past five years, stepping down near the end of 2011. Harry was recently given an award in honor of his service.

Harry has been a member of WFC's Board since 1976. Among his many achievements as a board member, most notable was his founding of the World Forest Institute in 1989. During Harry's service as Chairman from 2006 - 2011, his passion for forestry and for the work of the World Forestry Center has never flagged. He has always been a dedicated member of the Board and is always consistent in his drive to improve and challenge how we think about and engage in forestry. We thank him for his service.

WFC welcomes new Chairman John Warjone. John has been a member of the Board since 2002 and is recently retired from his position as President of Port Blakely Tree Farms. We are honored to have him serve as Chairman and look forward to his guidance and leadership.



Current Chairman John Warjone (left) with honoree Harry Merlo (right) as the recognition plaque was presented in honor of Harry's service.



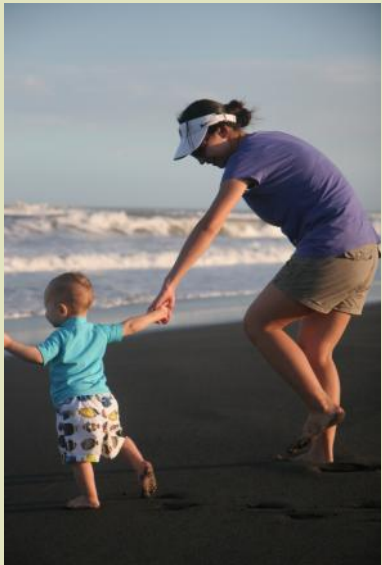
WFC staff and WFI Fellows were present along with other members of the Board to congratulate Harry during his awards luncheon.

Alumni Updates

WFI Director Sara Wu recently visited Taiwan where she met up with a few WFI alumni. She stopped at Taiwan Forestry Research Institute to visit with alumni and she also met with a future WFI Fellow, Hua Guang San, who will arrive in the summer of 2012.



From left: Yu-Jen Lin (2010 Taiwanese Fellow), Sara Wu, and Hua Guang San, future 2012 Taiwanese Fellow.



Taiwanese alumnus I-Chun Lu shares a summer photo of playing on the beach with her toddler Nolan.

Port Blakely Tree Farms tour highlights sustainability

Port Blakely Tree Farms hosted WFI for a day tour of their forestry operations throughout southern Washington in early November. The tour allowed the group to learn, see, and experience the operational side of this family-owned business.

Starting at their headquarters in Tumwater, WA, WFI met with PB staff and got a formal introduction to the history of the business and the mission and philosophy of the company. Mike Mosman, Senior Vice President of Lands and Resources, talked about the growth and change in the company since its inception in 1864. Starting with just a sawmill operation at that time, they now own and operate on 200,000 acres.

tion take place. The stand was a 25-year old Douglas fir stand and their goal was to increase growth and quality of the stems. Some Fellows got the opportunity to ride in the harvester-forwarder and actively participate in the thinning operation, which was really exciting for everyone! A demonstration of all the equipment involved was a treat and exemplified PB's commitment to best forest management practices.



Chia-Chen Wu (Taiwan) inspects one of the largest culverts he has ever seen.

Another stop of the day included a visit to a recently installed culvert to talk about road maintenance and fish habitat. The culvert was a 22 inch bottomless arch that

provides an easy crossing for the fish-bearing stream and accommodation of the upper road.

Fellows also got to see some areas where snags were created to boost wildlife habitat as well as a newly planted cedar stand that was fenced in to prevent the browsing that is so often a problem with young cedar seedlings.

Along with learning about forest management and seeing some examples of key activities on the landscape, Fellows had a chance to talk to and get to know the PB staff that actually do this work. "It was so important for me to learn about how they manage for wildlife and to know about the safe-harbor agreement," said Chinese Fellow Ma after some conversion at a mature stand that is a model for the type of wildlife habitat they try to achieve.

Each person took home a little something different from the visit, but all gained something new and valuable they will no doubt use in the future.



Elvis Tata (Cameroon) see some logging equipment up close for the first time.

We saw only a small portion of their land base during the day, but it was a great representation of their operations. The first stop was to a thinning operation where the group got to see an active commercial thinning opera-



Port Blakely staff were welcoming and knowledgeable as they guided WFI across their forests for the day.

Recent Events

Fellows visited the Tillamook Forest Center in late November, just before they closed for the winter season. After a short hike along the Wilson River, Fellows met with TFC Director Jim Quiring and discussed education and the role the forest plays in the local community.



Chia-Chen Wu (Left) and Huancheng Ma (right) enjoy the hiking trails around the Tillamook Forest Center.

Phyllis Reynolds, author of the book *Trees of Greater Portland*, joined the Fellows at WFI for an informal morning discussion about her love of trees, the writing of her book, and her role in the heritage tree program and the natural resource community of Portland.



WFI staff and Fellows met with local author Phyllis Reynolds (3rd from right).

Trust for Public Lands showcase recent projects

The Trust for Public Lands is a national non-profit organization dedicated to land conservation. They assist in the purchase and transfer of lands into public ownership. Ultimately they try to protect land from being developed or protect land that has some special landscape features by working with all types of landowners. Project Manager Don Goldberg, who spent the day with WFI, explained, "TPL looks to find a balanced approach, somewhere right in the middle to protect lifestyles and the resources of people."

Don and colleague Owen Wozniak took WFI out to the Stimson lumber sawmill in Forest Grove. This sawmill is one of the most productive and modern mills in the country. Stimson is an 8th generation family business and owns about 200,000 acres of forestland in Oregon.

Don also led the group out to Portland's south side to see a recent acquisition by the City of Portland called Riverview Natural Area. We met up with some city employees who led a hike through the 147-acre property, explaining the history and restoration goals for the area. The impetus for purchasing this property was really about water quality and preventing development in a sensitive area close to the Willamette River.

A master plan is in the process of being developed for the area. One of the long-term goals is to manage for natural succession. One piece of the work they are doing to achieve that goal is

battling invasive species. At present, the English ivy and garlic mustard are the big ecosystem disrupters and they are being aggressively treated.

One of the best comments of the day which summed up the whole purpose of this project and really emphasized the City's land ethics - "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

TPL works with all types of organizations and people to make projects like this happen and to increase and build upon land that gets into conservation.

WFI was grateful for the opportunity to see some of their on work on the ground and to meet with some of the people they work with.



Stimson's sawmill in Forest Grove hosted WFI for a morning, touring them around the different facilities where they saw fiberboard being produced and the hardboard facility, among others.



Riverview Natural Area had a thick mat of fall leaves for Fellows to tramp through on their visit with TPL's Don Goldberg and City of Portland's Kendra Morgan-Peterson.

Three Fellows Complete Their Programs

Recent Events



Fellows visited Nisqually Wildlife Refuge in Washington. There they learned about the national wildlife refuge system in the US and also saw a few waterfowl and other birds during their walk.



Chinese Fellow Huancheng Ma (center) gave a presentation on his WFI research in early December.



WFI gathered in their holiday best to attend the annual work Christmas party.

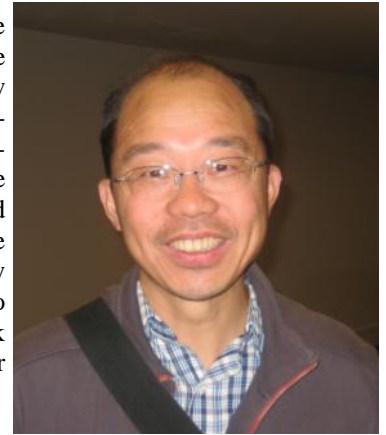
In the past few months WFI has bid farewell to three Fellows: Gabriel Salako from Nigeria, Chia-Chen Wu from Taiwan, and Huancheng Ma from China.

Gabriel finished his program in November. He was at WFI for seven months and accomplished much in this short time. His project focused on identifying conifer species that might be suitable for development of softwood plantations in NE Nigeria. The Mambilla Plateau, a region of Nigeria that has similar climatic characteristics as the Pacific Northwest, was his target region. He ultimately identified some key species that he could start some experiments with back home. Gabriel returned home to his teaching position at the Umar Sulieman College of Education.

Chia-Chen was at WFI for a 10-month fellowship. He is a molecular biologist with the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute and came to WFI to look into modern methods of tree breeding. Visiting dozens of tree breeding operations

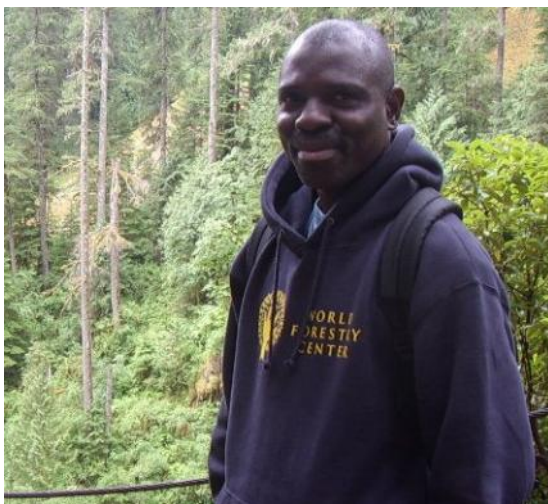
and interviewing multiple laboratories, Chia-Chen came away with knowledge of how U.S. forestry and forestry-related organizations use molecular biology in their tree breeding programs. Armed with this new information, he returned to Taipei with many new ideas to incorporate into his work. He hopes to embark on a PhD in the US to further his studies.

Ma spent only four short months in the program. He is a professor at SW Forestry University in China and was given this short leave of absence to study ecosystem management in the US. Ma learned much about old-growth forests while here. He learned how the Northwest Forest Plan was developed and how it has shaped forest management in the Northwest. Ma returns to China with some new ideas about habitat conservation and some practical tools for implementation.



Huancheng Ma, who was simply called Ma by everyone, will return to China just in time to celebrate Chinese New Year back home in Kunming.

The work of all these Fellows, plus that of all other alumni can be found on our website. Please look at their posters and their PowerPoint presentations to learn more about their work at WFI.



Gabriel Salako was our first Fellow from Nigeria and returned home to his teaching post in early November.



Chia-Chen Wu returned to Taipei, Taiwan to resume his work at Taiwan Forestry Research Institute.