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World Forest Institute

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## Happy Holidays from WFI

The end of the year always marks a time of celebration and renewal at WFI. While we say farewell to some Fellows, we look forward to welcoming others in the new year.

It's been an amazing year at WFI. Nine Fellows from nine different countries matriculated through the program this year. Research topics ranged from forest ecology and sustainability issues to business topics of woody biomass and sawmill technology, among others. This year was also distinct in that we marked our 100<sup>th</sup> Fellow in the pro-

gram since WFI's inception in 1989.

Most recently, Mr. Hwa-guang Shang from Taipei, Taiwan finished up his 6-month program.

Hwa-guang is an assistant researcher at Taiwan Forestry Research Institute. While here, he focused his research on understanding how agencies and organizations in the US educate the public about climate change and forest degradation. Learning about public cooperatives with research organizations was a key finding of his research

and he will propose many specific examples to his government at home. Results of his study can be found on our [Presentations](#) and [Posters](#) webpages.

In the new year we look forward to welcoming Fellows from China, Cameroon, Nigeria, Taiwan, and other places around the globe.

Wherever you are in the world, WFI wishes you a very happy holiday season and best wishes for you and your families in the New Year. Happy Holidays!



*The snow started falling in Portland just in time for the Christmas holiday. It was just a light dusting, but enough to cover the trees and buildings with a white glow to mark the holiday season.*



*Hwa-guang Shang from the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute finished his program in December, just before the snow, and returned to Taiwan with fresh and innovative ideas for his organization.*

# Poplar Tree Farm in Boardman

## Alumni Updates

Upon returning home from his 6-month Fellowship earlier this year, Irish alumnus Richard O’Hanlon started a new position with Irish Research body Teagasc, in collaboration with the Irish Department of Agriculture, as a plant pathologist. He is studying the epidemiology and distribution of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Irish forests. This is the same pathogen that causes sudden oak death in the PNW and will be important to understand in Ireland.



Irish alumnus Richard O’Hanlon shifted from macrofungi research, i.e., mushrooms, to investigating an important plant pathogen attacking trees in Ireland.

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Taiwanese alumnus I-Chun Lu returned to Portland for a short visit over the holidays. I-Chun is an environmental educator with Taiwan Forestry Research Institute.



WFI staff visited with I-Chun Lu and her little boy Nolan during her holiday visit to Portland. They were in time for a farewell party for her colleague Hwa-guang Shang.

In early November the Oregon Small Woodland Association hosted a field trip to GreenWood Resources (GWR) poplar tree farm in Boardman, Oregon. WFI joined in the tour, which included stops at the sawmill, plantation sites, and lumber yard. Additionally, the group participants were treated to a tour of the nearby Port of Morrow with port Director Gary Neil.

Showcasing their plantation management, GWR staff took the group through several stands of various age classes and planting designs. Discussion of their management focused on clone selection and maintenance as well as innovative topics like biofuel production, which they are now integrating into their plantations.

One of the take-away messages from the trip was a comment by Farm Operations Manager Mike Berk who said, “I don’t want you to leave here thinking we do everything perfect here, it’s not true.” But, after the tour of the facilities and farm, it is quite clear they are doing many things right and they are dedicated to continued improvements and sustainable forestry operations.

Many thanks to the Oregon Small Woodlands Association for providing this opportunity to the community!



WFI Fellows gathered with small woodlands owners and forestry professionals from around Oregon during the tour around GreenWood Resources mill and lumber yard.



A stand of pure poplar in full fall color.



The Upper Columbia Mill was constructed in 2008 and produces one MBF of lumber per year. Other products they produce on site are veneer, chips and hogfuel.



## Recent Events

Fellows Hwa-guang Shang (Taiwan) and Ali Malekghasemi (Iran) attended the recent Oregon Invasive Species Council Meeting. Organizations and agencies came together to gather ideas to inform policy makers about invasive species issues they want addressed in the legislature.



*A creative display by high school students warning of the dangers of invasive species on display at the council meeting.*

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*In November, Senior Fellow Rick Zenn was a delegate at the National Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Sacramento, California hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation. Rick recently completed his third term as president of the Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Council and is pictured here with Patricia Farrell and Brian French of Oregon. The "blue tree" is part of an international arts and environment project created by Konstantin Dimopoulos.*

## Smith Rock and Central Oregon

Central Oregon yields some of the most picturesque scenery in the whole state. WFI took a trip in November to explore some of the forests and natural resources in the region.

The first stop of the day was Smith Rock State Park near Redmond. The group met with Park Manager Scott Brown who gave a bit of park history, focusing on the unique geologic features of this location. A global destination for mountain climbers, Smith Rock State Park is a river canyon that has high side walls perfect for adventurous climbers. Fellows took in the views and spent some time on the trails exploring and enjoying the landscape.

From Smith Rock, WFI travelled south to Sis-

ters, Oregon and the Deschutes National Forest Ranger Station. There we met with District Ranger Kristie Miller and District Ecologist Maret Pajutee. Maret gave a presentation about the collaborative projects on the district and how partnerships with organizations across all types of disciplines have helped the Forest Service accomplish more work on federal lands than they would be able to otherwise.

There was also some discussion of fires, as Central Oregon has seen a significant amount of them this summer. According to Maret, over 40% of USFS land in the district has been burned by wildfires since 2002-

this heavily influences their management decisions for the forest and the region.

Quite different than our 'westside' forests, WFI got a small taste of forestry in the dry 'eastside' landscape of beautiful Central Oregon.



*Smith Rock State Park in central Oregon has stunning views anytime of the year, but the early winter light really captured the beauty of the place.*



*From left: Hwa-guang (Taiwan), Chandalin (WFI), Kristie Miller (USFS), Maret Pajutee (USFS), Brian Tandy (USFS), and Ali (Iran).*

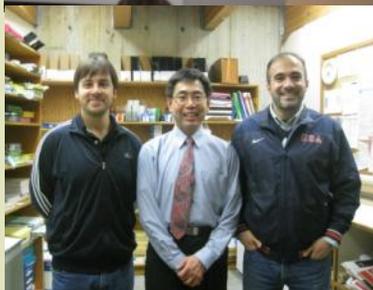


*WFI spent time at the ranger station talking with the USFS professionals about their work, the region and its forests.*

## Tree Farmer of the Year Awards Luncheon

### Recent Events

Taiwanese Fellow Hwa-guang Shang spent his fellowship researching extension education platforms for forestry issues. He presented his research findings to captive audiences at Oregon State University and WFI in early December.



Above: Hwa-guang at OSU.  
Below: Hwa-guang with his fellow colleagues (Andres from Chile, left, and Ali from Iran, right) before his presentation at WFI.

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Harry Merlo visited WFI to celebrate the holiday season with panetone cake - a sweet Italian cake that has been a tradition for him at the holidays and that he now shares with his extended family at WFI.



Harry Merlo with Iranian Fellow Ali Malekghasemi.

Each year the Oregon Tree Farm System recognizes tree farm owners throughout the state for their excellence in forest management and dedication to being good stewards of their lands. This year marks the 46<sup>th</sup> annual recognition ceremony of outstanding tree farmers from various counties and also the statewide tree farmer of the year.

Held at the World Forestry Center, woodland owners and forestry professionals gathered for the ceremony. Key partners Meg Mitchell from the USFS, Doug Decker from ODF, and Dr. Thomas Maness from OSU gave their recognition and congratulations during short speeches.

A video was shown which showcased the county winners and candidates for the statewide award. The video included interviews with the landowners and candid clips of their tree farms.

The award for the state-wide Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year went to Bill and Joan Arsenault of Douglas County for their Paradise Creek Ranch. Congratulations Bill and Joan!



Jamie Knight of ODF received the Inspector of the Year award for her excellence in communication with the tree farmers around the state and inspection of their farms.

This program is sponsored by partners USFS, Oregon Small Woodlands Assoc., Oregon Dept. of Forestry, and OFRI. Thanks for making it another successful year!



Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year received their awards from the leaders of the Oregon Tree Farm System and also received a chainsaw that was donated by Stihl.

### Christmas Lights at the Grotto



Hwa-guang (Taiwan) and Ali (Iran) enjoy the splendor of lights in the garden walk at the Grotto's Christmas Festival of Lights.

Christmas lights are a hallmark of the holiday season and are a joy to experience, especially at the Grotto - a catholic sanctuary located in NE Portland.

Every year the Grotto puts on a lights display to rival any other - over 500,000 lights on display! Along with the lights, a lovely choral concert and a petting zoo were highlights of an evening visit there for Fellows who have never experienced anything like that before. It was a very enjoyable holiday display for everyone!