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World Forest Institute

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## Fellows Travel to Nevada for SAF Annual Convention

Wild horses, cowboys, and yes, forestry, called Fellows to Reno, Nevada, for the 2008 Society of American Foresters annual meeting. The gathering, whose theme was "Forestry in a Climate of Change" provided diverse offerings that appealed to all Fellows, whose projects vary widely. "I was happy to have been able to join eminent forest practitioners and enthusiasts," said Victor Kawanga. "Each provided valuable lessons on aspects of fire ecology, silviculture, and economics in forest restoration projects."

Climate change, carbon trading, and biofuels headlined the conference, which was attended by over 1600 foresters. The current economic downturn was also a big topic, as US wood production is down nearly 35% from three years ago. The



*The Nevada governor and local Native American leaders opened the SAF convention in a ceremony that encouraged participants to collaborate.*

conference opened the day after election day, and there was much speculation about changes in energy and forest policy that will come with a new administration.

Driving 1200 miles obviously necessitated a few stops, and gave Fellows an impressive view of forest types crossing over the Cascade mountains. In Klamath Falls, Fellows visited with managers at Collins Products and toured their particleboard plant. Ponderosa pine shav-

ings are obtained locally, and they are used to manufacture an FSC-certified product.

Crater Lake was a "must see" attraction on the return, but heavy snowfall left Fellows to appreciate the park's forests, as the lake was nowhere to be seen. Everyone returned safe and sound with a greater appreciation for the diversity of forestry work in the US, as well as with a sense of camaraderie after finding that foresters share similar values, no matter where they are from.



*Lanhui Wang poses at a tug used for hauling logs at the Collier State Memorial Park and Logging Museum near Klamath Falls. Milan Mataruga shows off the impressive view at snow covered, but still beautiful, Crater Lake.*



## Recent Events



Fellows learned about environmental education and interpretation activities at



Collins Products managers explained the particleboard manufacturing process, before touring the Klamath plant.



Pamela Peterson (left) explored the Columbia Gorge with Min Zhao. Pamela recently completed a two-month internship with the Fellowship Program.



Fellows learned about fish management at Bonneville Hatchery, where workers extracted eggs for fall spawning.

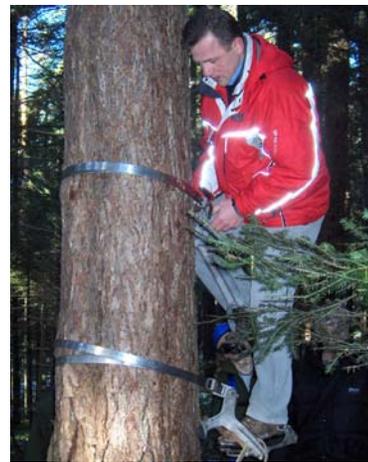
## Bosnia and Herzegovina to Learn From PNW Nurseries

Milan Maturuga arrived at WFI with the goal of experiencing as many nursery related projects as possible. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, he teaches students how to grow and plant seedlings, and hopes to write a new textbook for his students. The last war in Bosnia had a major impact on forests in the country, including destroying seed orchards and nursery equipment. Now there is a great need for restoring degraded forestland, but quality seedlings are needed first.

In his first months, Milan visited several nurseries in Oregon and Washington and attended the Nursery Technology Cooperative annual meeting. He was amazed by the size of J. Frank Schmidt & Son nursery, which produces over 500 species of shade and ornamental trees on 3,000 acres. Granted, it is one of the largest in the US, but “this nursery is bigger than all nurseries in Bosnia and Herzegovina together,” stated Milan. Sales manager Jodi Patterson explained methods for propagating seedlings and Schmidt’s capacity and production capabilities. A proud accomplish-



In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Milan collects seeds from natural stands chosen for quality characteristics. Collection by hand can be challenging.



ment of the company was the creation of more than 50 deciduous tree cultivars in the last 50 years.

At the Nursery Technology Cooperative annual meeting, Milan met over 40 local nursery professionals. Much discussion on technical experiments and results occurred, focusing on new production methods. Three nursery tours followed the sessions. In Washington, IFA’s Toledo nursery showcased production and estimating seedling quality. Milan was impressed with their new freezing room, which has capacity for over one million seedlings. Webster Nursery, run by Washington

Department of Natural Resources, toured participants through their new fully automatic greenhouse. Managers explained their current experiments with compost alternatives and replacements for fumigation. Fumigation is coming under tighter regulation in the US, and in Bosnia it is not permitted under EU regulations. A second IFA nursery in Nisqually highlighted their testing of full-sib progeny seedlings from seed orchards.

“These first months were a great chance to speak with nurserymen and compare production methods,” he said. “I look forward to more opportunities such as these.”

## Forest Modeling Conference Offered Insight into Trends

Chinese Fellow Lanhui Wang attended the IUFRO Forest Sector Modeling Conference in Seattle, Washington. The conference featured sessions, panel discussions, and input from key modeling users in forestry, industry, and policy planning from Europe, North America, Asia, and Oceania. There are not many forest sector model-

ers, and this event brought them together to discuss trends. Lanhui found that the current hot topics for modeling center around climate change impacts, biomass, and carbon sequestration.

Lanhui, who is creating a model to forecast Chinese and US timber consumption, gained an overview of mod-

eling’s history. “To my surprise,” she said, “forest sector modeling has a long history and very good dataset foundation for nearly 50 years.” In regards to China, Lanhui believes that “the data foundation and methodology for the forest product modeling sector lags behind. The conference gave me many ideas on the direction we need to work towards.”

## Interpretation Workshops Bring New Ideas for Communication

Communicating with diverse stakeholders is vital for Zambian Fellow Victor Kawanga, and he participated in the National Association for Interpretation National Workshop, to learn new techniques. The workshop slogan, "Sustaining the Circle," referred not only to the role of interpretation in promoting a positive conservation ethic, but alluded to Enos Mills' charge to "increase the tribe" by widening the circle of interpreters.

"My practice of interpretation has long been from common sense rather than structured forms," explained Victor. "Why? Because I deal with both the learned and unlearned...and use people's cultural norms and protocols as entry points of communication." The workshop introduced new concepts for reaching all members of an audience, regardless of literacy or education levels.

During his Fellowship Victor will meet with many museums, visitor centers, and environmental education resources to learn ways to better connects visitors with natural and cultural environments.



Victor leads a class that takes students in to the field in Zambia. He is always impressed with young people's creativity and curiosity, and says that young students are often found to be the best taxonomists after a short amount of time in the field.

## Educator Sought for World Forest Institute Fellowship

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) and the World Forestry Center have worked together for many years to develop activities for educators with an environmental focus. Most recently, Project Learning Tree, an AFF program, and WFC joined forces to create *Global Connections: Forests of the World*, a guide and activity set for educators to help students gain an increased understanding and appreciation of world forest environments, with an emphasis on human dependence on forests. The activities provide students opportunities to apply scientific processes and higher order thinking skills

while investigating world forestry issues and conducting service learning action projects.

In an exciting collaboration, AFF will fund a WFI Fellow to continue researching and supplementing the curriculum. This special Fellowship is open to applicants with education experience and some background in natural resources. Strong communication skills, including excellent English, and computer skills are also required. For more information on the application process visit the WFI website at: <http://wfi.worldforestrycenter.org>. The closing date is February 15, 2009, and the Fellow will begin at WFI in May, 2009.



Teachers learned to use the *Global Connections: Forests of the World* at a recent workshop in Portland. The new fellowship will help create a network of environmental educators from around the world in order to encourage use of the newly developed activities and promote learning about international forestry issues.

## Confessions of a First Timer at a Heartwarming Thanksgiving

by Victor Kawanga, Zambia

All of the Fellows had the opportunity to be invited by WFC President Gary Hartshorn and his wife Lynne's home for a Thanksgiving meal. Considering that we made our way to Gary and Lynne's place during a drizzle, it was obvious a cup of tea would help upon arrival. We all looked forward to the Thanksgiving meal.

I felt nostalgic when we were asked to hold one another's hands. Inside me, I was thinking Gary is an excellent prayer warrior considering the way he poured out the blessings upon each one of us. The table was set and a big turkey was as conspicuous as an overall in a discotheque.

We feasted on pumpkin, gravy, and traditional rice (I

must admit I saw dark colored rice for the first time) and even went back a second time to gather more food. Laughter and technical discussions characterized the treat.

I have never been to a Thanksgiving before as we do not celebrate this in Zambia, but I think we all should look back at the rare privilege we have of meeting people who make a difference in our lives.



WFI Fellows gathered with friends at the Hartshorn's home in Portland for a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

### Updates from our Alumni Around the Globe



**Xiaoli Wang** (China 2005-2006) sent in this photo from a trip to Tianchi lake at Changbai Mountain, China.



**Jaakko Rantanen** (Finland 1997) sent in this photo of his wife Minna, who is expecting their first child. Jaakko and Minna visited the US this past summer and stayed with WFI Director Sara Wu. Sara suspects that this upcoming child was certainly "made in Oregon."



**Mario Angel** (Chile) resides in Portland and works for The Beck Group as a consultant. He attended WFC's "Doggie Palooza" along with his wife, daughters, and of course, family dog.

**Send us your updates and photos for the next issue!**

## Alums Share Tasty Chinese Dinners Around the World



Three of WFI's current fellows and one alumna (**Runar Gareyev**, Russia) joined director Sara Wu for a delicious Chinese lunch on Thanksgiving weekend. Left: Sara Wu and Runar Gareyev. Right: Lanhui Wang (China), Runar Gareyev, Sara Wu, Milan Mataruga (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and Min Zhao (China). They enjoyed meeting each other and eating dim sum and steamed sea bass, a new experience for Milan.



In October, WFC President Gary Hartshorn visited Xi'an and Beijing, China to present at an ecosystem services conference. In Beijing he met with WFI alumni for a reunion dinner. Gary's visit gave the Chinese alums a reason to gather in Beijing, and several traveled by plane and car meet each other for the first time and to share a spicy hot pot. Top photo from left: Gary Hartshorn, **Yanping Zhang**, **Jialu Xie**, **Xiaoli Wang**, and **Zengwang Ma**. Bottom left: Xiaoli Wang and Zengwang Ma. Bottom right: Yanping Zhang and Jialu Xie.