

WOOD ANATOMY NEWS

I.W. Bailey Award 2016 – call for manuscripts and nominations

Early career wood anatomists (PhD candidates or researchers who completed their PhDs in 2010 or later) are invited to compete for the I.W. Bailey Award for best paper submitted to the IAWA Journal volume 37 (2016). This prestigious award consists of a certificate and 1000 USD and is sponsored by Brill Publisher.

Candidates may nominate their own submissions directly to the editors of the IAWA Journal (c/o pieter.baas@naturalis.nl) together with a one-page cv, and one supporting statement from a senior IAWA Member before September 1st, 2016. Submissions will undergo the normal peer review process. The Award Committee will be formed by the Editors and Associate Editors of the IAWA Journal.

The first I.W. Bailey Award for the year 2014 has gone to Alexander Scholz from Ulm University, Germany. In 2015 the prize will, alas, not be awarded, because of the very critical reviews of the two submissions received.

2016 Calendars for Wood Anatomists and Dendrophiles

Elisabeth Wheeler has produced two new and very attractive calendars for 2016:

Plants With A Past. Inside Fossil Woods features selected fossil wood localities and plant families, multiple photographs of both fossil and modern plants, most in color.

Inside U.S. Woods. Microscopic Views with black and white photomicrographs of diagnostic features of the families and genera featured each month.

Both calendars provide you with the dates of Arbor Days worldwide and some whimsical days to celebrate – Wombat Day, Bugs Bunny's birthday, Procrastination Day. Decorate the walls of your office or lab with these informative calendars.

Available from Lulu Press – lulu.com. They have e-stores in the US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Canada, Spain, Australia, Ireland, Switzerland. Chose store convenient for you at menu at circular flag icon at top of page. Search for InsideWood to see preview and ordering information for these calendars. Direct link to previews:

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/elisabeth-wheeler/2016-plants-with-a-past-inside-fossil-wood/calendar/product-22356017.html>

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/elisabeth-wheeler/inside-us-woods-microscopic-views/calendar/product-22403801.html>

Special issue on Functional Traits in Wood Anatomy

Next year the IAWA Journal will feature a special issue with papers on Functional Traits in Wood Anatomy and how these traits help trees and shrubs to deal with stress and extreme events in nature or plantations. The authors have been recruited from the COST Action STReSS network, which has also cohosted the successful Naples meeting on Ecological and Functional Wood Anatomy in 2013, and of which part of the proceedings were also published in a special IAWA Journal issue. Hans Beeckman, Katarina Cufar and Veronica De Micco will act as guest editors of the Functional Traits issue.

IAWA initiative on Wood Research against Illegal Timber Harvest (WRAITH) takes shape

IAWA Members active in multidisciplinary approaches to identify species and provenances of illegally logged or traded timber have adopted the WRAITH Charter below. Interested members can contact Alex Wiedenhoef (acwieden@wisc.edu)

WRAITH Charter

Problem statement: Illegal logging occurs in many forms and happens for a variety of reasons, from land-conversion logging to intentional timber theft. One method to reduce or prevent illegal logging is to monitor and control the international trade of timber, in part by verifying wood product claims such as wood species and region of origin. To some extent these questions can be addressed by wood science in general, and wood anatomy specifically, and there is a critical need to inform policymakers and law enforcement about the ability of wood anatomists to assist in combating illegal logging.

Goal of the group: Serve as a focal point and task force within IAWA on topics related to illegal logging and forensic wood science, and liaise with the broader scientific community and governments around the world to ensure that wood science, and specifically wood anatomy, makes the proper contribution to the global forensic efforts.

Composition of the group: Membership is restricted to a targeted set of IAWA member wood anatomist volunteers representing the major regions of the world, with special emphasis on researchers or scientists with active interest in forensic aspects of wood anatomy specifically, and wood science more broadly, and who are or could be involved in their nation's law enforcement efforts. At this point, the following experts are included in WRAITH: Peter Gasson (UK), Sri Nugroho Marsoem (Indonesia), Emmanuel Ebanyenle (Ghana), Jugo Ilic (Australia), Alex Wiedenhoef (USA), Elisabeth Wheeler (USA), Yafang Yin (China), Vera Coradin (Brazil), Sandra Florsheim (Brazil), Gerald Koch (Germany), and Hisashi Abe (Japan).

Specific objectives:

1) Contribute botanical and wood anatomical knowledge to forensic wood research around the world to ensure the rigor and accuracy of such work for forensic purposes.

2) Develop suggested standards for periodic competency verification for wood identification labs, including proficiency testing schemes for wood identification of solid wood and a variety of commonly traded wood-based products and provide a list of labs that demonstrate this competency (e.g. to CITES Secretariat).

3) Draft an IAWA statement on the role of the Association in promulgating research and science of use in combating illegal trade in wood.

4) Re-invigorate the STEALTH initiative (Science, Technology, and Education Assuring Legal Timber Harvest) that began at the 2010 IAWA-IAWS-IUFRO meeting and actively recruit participants into the group to form a robust international cooperative network. Explore the possibility to link STEALTH to other networking vehicles such as LinkedIn, ResearchGate, and Facebook. In other words, STEALTH can be a platform how to manage the IAWA-WRAITH interactions with other disciplines.

5) Commit to periodic electronic synopses of ongoing research and recent accomplishments within the field of wood anatomy *sensu lato* and wood science more broadly, so that IAWA members are apprised of developments in these areas and can serve as liaisons to their governments and institutions on these topics. Publish such synopses on the IAWA website, IAWA Journal and IAWA newsletters, and conduct outreach to FLA (Forest Legality Alliance), Chatham House, UNODC (UN Office on Drugs and Crime), CITES, and other groups actively interested in preventing illegal logging.



Group photo of the delegates at the Research Institute of Wood Industry, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China.

Report on the 2nd meeting of the IAWA China Group in Beijing

On November 1st and 2nd, 2015, the second meeting of the IAWA China Group was held at the Research Institute of Wood Industry, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China. This meeting focused on cell wall structure and formation, modern techniques in wood identification, nano-materials derived from wood, forest ecology, phylogenetic wood anatomy, and dendrochronology. A total of 106 participants joined the meeting from universities, research institutes, the customs and quarantine departments of different provinces, and also from product quality supervision departments. Prof. Pieter Baas had been invited by Madam Jiang Zehui from the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan to attend the meeting and give a lecture on the history of IAWA and wood collections. Long-time friends of IAWA, Prof. Yoon-Soo Kim (Korea) and Prof. Takao Itoh (Japan) also joined the meeting. Prof. Yafang Yin hosted the opening ceremony, with welcome speeches by Prof. Jianxiong Lü, director of the Research Institute of Wood Industry, Prof. Biao Pan, chairman of the IAWA China Group and Pieter Baas. There were 28 diverse and interesting presentations during the meeting. Participants also had a chance to visit the renewed xylarium in the Research Institute of Wood Industry and enjoy lively lunch and dinner parties. The IAWA China Group has been set up for connecting most wood anatomists in China for co-operative research and exchange of ideas on wood and bamboo/rattan anatomy. This group also wants to invite more IAWA members other than members in China to join the public discussion on illegal logging and timber trade.

At the end of the meeting, Prof. Jian Qiu announced that the third annual meeting of the IAWA China Group will take place in November 2016 in the Southwest Forestry University, Kunming, China. Zhai Shengcheng & Liu Bo

Wood anatomy features strongly at the UNODC Expert Group Meeting on Timber Guidelines in Vienna

After a successful first meeting in December 2014, a draft version of the 'guidelines on methods and procedures for timber identification and laboratory analysis' was discussed in Vienna at the second Expert Group Meeting in the grounds of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) from 7 to 9 October 2015. While Peter Kitin, Alex Wiedenhoef and Vera Coradin passionately described the benefits of wood anatomy last year, Frederic Lens now added the point of view and possible role IAWA could play when it comes to identifying (il)legally logged timber, e.g., the relevance of the *Index Xylariorum* and the *InsideWood*

web-database maintained by Elisabeth Wheeler and supported by IAWA. In addition, Gerald Koch gave an overview of the impressive work the Hamburg team has done so far regarding the development of identification keys (*MicroHOLZdata*, *MacroHOLZdata*, *CITESwoodID*) and the associated training program.

This meeting was not our standard type of 'scientific meeting' but that should not be interpreted as a disadvantage. It was really inspiring to work with experts from national governments, forensic labs, prosecutors, customs and CITES officers. We all needed to think 'outside our own little discipline box' to ensure that the guidelines will be comprehensive to all stakeholders, complete and useful for those being confronted with wood identification of (il)legal timbers: frontline officers, customs, and police officers. So this time no sessions filled with thematic talks but discussions on the used terminology, type of evidence material, reliability of expert witnesses, proficiency testing and many more. We learned that all countries have (or do not yet have) a national framework for timber controls with huge differences in experience, budget and skilled staff. Remarkably (and luckily for us as wood scientists), all participants agreed on one important issue: wood anatomy must be considered as the reference method and starting point for wood identification, if necessary followed by, e.g., isotope analyses, genetics, and chemical fingerprints. Our skilled wood anatomists are also treasured, as Guy Clarke (Higher CITES Officer Heathrow Airport) mentioned that he trusts Peter Gasson a lot more than his own identifications based on basic knowledge of wood anatomy. But as wood anatomical experts become rarer (and therefore more wanted), the wood anatomists present strongly supported trainings for customs and CITES officers. Or in other words: if you are a skilled wood anatomist and in search of a permanent position, you could try and contact your national customs office to check which option has their preference. In the meantime, final remarks on the draft document and annexes (decision tree, list of specialized laboratories, specific literature, etc.) are accepted until mid-November in order to publish the official document next year in spring. Next to a printed version, an online version will be available incorporating new technologies or methods from the moment they are fully operational on a larger number of species (e.g., machine vision). I would say, stay tuned because as an active partner, IAWA will report on the progress and count on all of you for spreading the word on these guidelines (see IAWA-WRAITH charter above). *Maaike De Ridder*

FUTURE MEETINGS

Third American Dendrochronology Conference

In order to gather the Tree-Ring Research community in a series of exciting activities, we will host in Mendoza, Argentina, from March 29 to April 04, 2016, the third edition of the Ameridendro Conference. This event intends to join the American experts, who from the basic anatomical recognition of tree rings, provide tree-ring derived series to many disciplines in the fields of the environmental and social sciences. The basic structure of this conference is composed of three main components: the Dendroecological Fieldweek, the Central Conference, and the Post-Conference field trips. The main activities will include key conferences, poster presentations and additional Symposia and Workshops. Special registration fees are considered for undergraduate and graduate students.

For more details on the Conference schedule, please contact our Secretariat (ameridendro2016@mendoza-conicet.gob.ar) or visit the web page of the event (<http://ameridendro2016.mendoza-conicet.gob.ar>). You are welcome to the land of the great American mountains and the most highly reputed wines in the World. *Fidel Roig*

IAWA Symposium on Hydraulic Architecture of Plants Through Time

The next World Congress of IPC and IOPC will be held in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil from 23 to 28 October, 2016. Following successful participation of IAWA in previous Palaeobotanical Conferences in Bonn, Tokyo, Prague, Budapest and Padua we have proposed to contribute a substantial symposium on the hydraulic architecture of plants through time, paying full attention to the evolution of functional anatomy of vascular tissues in land plants from Silurian to the present. This symposium should stimulate cooperation between xylem physiologists of modern plants with actuo- and palaeo-xylotomists, and will hopefully generate interesting manuscripts for the IAWA Journal. The symposium will be organized for IAWA by Jonathan Wilson, Anne-Laure Decombeix and Lisa D. Boucher.

IAWS Jubilee Meeting in Paris

The International Academy of Wood Science (IAWS) will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a festive conference "Wood Science for the Future" in Paris from June 1–3, 2016, followed by an interesting post conference trip. The conference covers "all aspects of wood science. i.e., biology, chemistry and physics of lignified natural materials and products derived therefrom". Registration closes on January 31, 2016. Visit www.iaws-web.org for further information.

IUFRO All-Division 5 Meeting 2016

The All-Division 5 (Forest Products) of IUFRO will be held in Vancouver, Canada from 12 to 16 June 2016. Cooperation with IAWA for one or more of the wood quality sessions is still being explored.

World Wood Day 2016

World Wood Day – every year coinciding with World Forestry Day will be celebrated next year in Kathmandu, Nepal on 21 March with a host of activities, including a scientific multi-disciplinary symposium by the International Wood Culture Society (<http://www.worldwoodday.org>).

PRWAC 9 2017 in Indonesia

The ninth Pacific Regional Wood Anatomy Conference of IAWA is scheduled for 2017 in Indonesia. Further details will be announced as they become available.

IAWA AFFAIRS

Membership dues

Cees Lut, financial officer of IAWA, will send out dues notices early in December. Thanks to the strong position of the US dollar relative to the Euro, members paying in dollars can look forward to a modest decrease in the annual dues rates.

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