

Sunday Annual Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2006
Newport Beach Hotel
Newport Beach, California

8:30 – 11:30 am **Session I:** The effect of decay on the performance of wood buildings under earthquake loading and how we might improve performance (Newport Coast Ballroom-Salon 4)

Session II: The Role of Utilization Research in Hazardous Fuels Reduction (Newport Coast Ballroom-Salon 5)

11:30 – 1:00 pm Awards, Business Meeting, Luncheon (Grand Pacific Ballroom, Salons ABC)

About 80 people attended the Annual Business Meeting. Awards presented:

George Marra Awards

1st Place: Sigurdur Ormarsson and Dave Cown, “Moisture-related distortion of timber boards of radiate pine: Comparison with Norway spruce”, in 37(3).

2nd Place: Kathy L. Woo, Paul Watson, and Shawn D. Mansfield, “The effects of mountain pine beetle attack on lodgepole pine wood morphology and chemistry: Implications for wood and fiber quality”, in 37(1).

Honorable Mention: Mohammed Jahangir A. Chowdhury and Philip Humphrey, “A sealed pressing system and its use to explore the ammonia plasticization of natural fiber mats” 37(1).

Honorable Mention: Mohssine Moutee, Mario Fafard, Yves Fortin, Aziz Laghdir, “Modeling the creep behavior of wood cantilever loaded at free end during drying”, 37(3).

2005-2006 Committee - Chair Elemer Lang, Steve Verrill, Chuck Ray, Tony Zhang, Ex-officio: Geza Ifju and Jim Armstrong

Fellow Award - Thomas E. McLain

Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Duane E. Lyon, Professor Emeritus

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Starkville, MS 39759

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PERSONAL

Born in Muskegon Michigan
Married to Diana
Have two children and three grandchildren

EDUCATION

- A.S., Grand Rapids Junior College
- B.S., University of Michigan, Wood Technology
- M.S., University of Michigan, Wood Science
- Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley, Wood Science and Technology with a minor in Civil Engineering

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1980-2005: Wood Science and Technology Consultant
- 1985-1998: Professor, Mississippi State University
- 1988: Visiting Professor, MOI University, Kenya
- 1980: Visiting Scientist, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory
- 1978-1985: Associate Professor, Mississippi State University
- 1973-1978: Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University
- 1966-1973: Assistant Specialist, University of California Forest Products Laboratory
- 1963-1966: Junior Wood Technologist, Washington State University
- 1962: Quality Control, Herman Miller Furniture Company
- 1961: Quality Control, Stow & Davis Furniture Company

SELECTED AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Over 250 Technical Assistance Reports for Industry
- 58 technical publications
- Chaired 19 Conferences
- Consulted for many companies and government organizations including producers and users of forest products
- International Activities have been conducted in South Korea, Taiwan, Croatia, England, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Guatemala, Kenya, and Canada

MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- SWST: Director from 1989-1991; From 1994-1998 served as Vice President, President-elect, President, and Past President; Worked on the Past Presidents' Council and Nomination Committee; Many hours of work on Accreditation, Education, Membership and Book Review Committees
- FPS: Past Chairman of several Technical Committees and held many positions in Mid-South Section

Duane's comments will be printed in Wood and Fiber Science, Volume 38(4).

Minutes of 2005 Meeting

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the 2005 Annual Business Meeting minutes.

President's Remarks – Paul Smith

Thanks to the folks who really make this volunteer society run:

- First, my thanks to Vicki and the board.
- Thanks to Committee chairs and members.
- Thanks to W&FS editor (Geza Ifju), assoc. editor (Audrey Zink-Sharp), and editorial assistant (Carol Ovens) – fantastic journal!
- Thanks to SWST Newsletter editor (Rado Gazo – outgoing; Adam Taylor – incoming).

In addition to the reworked annual meeting venue and the ongoing committee work, notable activities during the past year include the following:

An ad hoc futures committee (Paul Smith, Art Brauner, Vicki Herian, and Ramsay Smith) examined the relationship/roles of SWST/FPS and the challenges facing our profession. In summary, the committee defined SWST's key roles as accrediting undergraduate programs and promoting a wood research agenda (with funding).

The accreditation committee (Bob Bush – Chair) continues its key role within the society and is currently engaging our wood science & technology programs as they endeavor to provide relevant education in today's ever-changing, highly competitive workplace.

A major thrust of the society over the past year has addressed the research agenda through the following activities:

1. ***Research Initiatives Committee*** (and BLOG) – Mike Wolcott - Chair - established to:
 - a. Liaison for the wood research community to relevant Federal funding agencies
 - b. Communicate funding issues/opportunities (RIC BLOG)
 - c. Examine more effective lobbying mechanisms for a wood research agenda
 - d. Explore wood research funding beyond USDA/NRI
 - e. Provide leadership to develop research priorities
2. ***AF&PA's Chief Technology Officer (CTO)*** membership/participation and work on relevant platforms:
 - a. Nanotechnology – Ted Wegner and Tim Rials
 - b. Technologically Advanced Workforce – Earl Kline
 - c. Wood & Wood Composites – Tim Rials and Mike Wolcott

3. ***National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP)***
 – National summit to define the future of forest research – January, 2006 – Tom McLain, Doug Gardner, Paul Smith. Outcome = 5 major emergent themes + 2 additional themes – incl. “New Applications for Forests and Products” – green business models, and new technologies (alternative fibers, bio-energy/bioremediation) to transform the wood products industry.

Other noteworthy SWST activities over the past year:

1. CORRIM – Special (additional) dedicated issue of W&FS – Dec. 2005. And, the Policy & Critical Issues Committee (Bill Boehner – Chair) is working with Bruce Lippke on an SWST Position Paper.
2. “Outline of Major Funding Programs for Wood Research in Canada” by Tony Zhang.
3. Revamped SWST webpage (Vicki Herian and Beth Smith)

Thank you all for making this an enjoyable and memorable year. I look forward to this coming year as past president and to handing over the reigns to Doug Gardner.

Executive Director’s Report – Vicki Herian

Current Members as of June 1, 2006

Full members	281
Student members	56
Retired members	46
Affiliate Member	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	387

USA members	293
Canada members	50
Mexico members	3
Overseas members	41

Members as of June 1, 2005

Full Members	292
Student members	56
Retired members	45
Affiliate Member	<u>4</u>
	397

Subscribers as of June 1, 2006

Subscribers	210
USA	95
Canada	13
Overseas	102

Subscribers as of June 1, 2005

Subscribers	224
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Delinquent Members

Delinquent members as of 6/1/06 for 2006 dues – 57 total (31 full, 24 student, 2 retired)
Delinquent subscribers for 2006 as of 6/1/06 –38 total (14 US, 24 foreign)
Compared to delinquent members as of June 1, 2005 – 42 total (22 full, 17 student, 3 retired)
Compared to delinquent subscribers as of June 1, 2005 - 33 (12 US, 21 foreign)

Vanguard Accounts

The Vanguard accounts were opened on February 3, 1998. The balance is \$56,524.05 on March 31, 2006 (the date of the last statement). The Student poster money was invested in November 1998 with an initial balance of \$4,750.00. The current balance (as of 3/31/06) in that account is \$13,873.34.

Checking Account

The balance in the checking account as of June 1, 2006 is \$162,531.50.

Student Poster Competition Fund

Contributors are: APA-The Engineered Wood Association, Asian Woods Inc., Balazs Zombori, California Cedar Products, Forintek Canada Corporation, Iowa State University, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, Pennsylvania State University, Virginia Tech, University of British Columbia, University of Idaho, Washington State University, and Willamette Industries, Inc.

There are 15 participants in the 2006 Competition.

Miscellaneous

The CORRIM issue of the journal has been published as December 2005 issue. CORRIM has paid all the printing and mailing costs. I have received several requests for additional copies of this valuable report.

All web pages have been updated as of June 2006.

The Committee Handbook for 2005-2006 has been amended with new charges and other additions/corrections. This was emailed to all committee chairs and the board. It is also available on the web.

We have now been with our publisher, The Sheridan Press, for a year now. The service and quality are outstanding. We have saved over \$2000 in printing, mailing, and storage costs from our previous publisher already.

The following page charges are still due: 36(1) Chonbuk National University \$1080; 36(2) Universitat fur Bodenkultur, \$921; 37(3) Institute fur Werkstoffe in Bauwesen,

\$1660; 37(4) Paprican \$1902; 38(1) STFI \$2509; 38(2) Forest Service Southern Station \$1669, University of Milwaukee \$1489, Mississippi State University \$1239.

You will notice a new cover for Wood and Fiber Science starting with the 38(1) issue in January 2006.

Paul Smith and/or I have attended several meetings of the Agenda 2020 Chief Technical Officers Committee

Tim Rials will be attending the June meeting this year. We continue to stay aware of the activities of this group and input where we can.

I had Past President nametags made up for all of our Past Presidents, based on suggestions from some of them at last year's meeting, after they saw our nametags.

We have our SWST promotional merchandise for sale – Polo shirt, Long-sleeve denim shirt, Short-sleeve denim shirt, Portfolio, Deluxe Briefcase, and Lapel pin. An order form is included in your packets.

I have sold 5 copies of the book “Characterization of the Cellulosic Cell Wall” at \$100 each. This is clear profit for us. Please contact me if you would like to purchase one.

Auditor's Report – Cherilyn Hatfield

At your request, I reviewed the SWST bank statements for the period June 1, 2005 through May 31, 2006. Checks, deposits, VISA and Master Card charges, interest charges and bank charges were verified against the corresponding statements. No discrepancies were found between the statements and the books in any area.

The May 31, 2006 checkbook balance of \$162,531.50 corresponds with the checking balance on the May 31, 2006 balance sheet.

The \$56,524.05 total investment in the Vanguard accounts on the balance sheet also matches the totals on the most recent Vanguard statements (3/31/06).

Budget

**FISCAL STATUS DECEMBER 31, 2005
BALANCE SHEET**

Total Assets	\$203,200.85
Total Liabilities	\$ 708.19
Total Equity	\$202,492.66
Total Equity & Liabilities	\$203,200.85

INCOME STATEMENT

	<u>2005 Budget</u>	<u>Actual 2005</u>
Total Income	\$141,335.00	\$170,905.36
Total Expenses	<u>\$139,873.00</u>	<u>\$135,999.25</u>

2007 SWST Budget

<u>Category</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net</u>
W&FS	\$122,500	\$ 84,475	\$38,025
Dues	\$ 23,350		\$23,350
Interest	\$ 600		\$ 600
Member Services	\$ 17,000	\$ 33,450	\$(16,450)
Admin Services		\$ 17,750	\$(17,750)
Salary & Taxes		\$ 12,452	\$(12,452)
TOTAL	\$163,450	\$148,127	\$ 15,323

Wood and Fiber Science – Geza Ifju

Manuscripts in the Process

Volume 38

	No. of Tech. papers	Total pages	Technical pages
January, 2006	18	188	182
April, 2006	17	188	187
July, 2006 (in press)	17	188	186
Grand Total:	52	564	555

Under Review	34	
With authors (revision)	23	
Accepted (in press)	18	
Withdrawn	5	
Rejected	2	
New in Editor's office	7	
Total:	89	(beyond the July issue)

It appears that Volume 38 will be one of the largest in terms of both total number of pages and page charge paying technical articles. Although the October issue will have the index, the awards, the Distinguished Serviced Award recipient's comments, and other non-paying pages, I expect at least 150 pages of technical articles in the last issue of Volume 38, or a total of about 700 paying pages (about \$77,000 revenue). As the Board might recall, the goal for this year has been to publish 600+ pages of technical articles and the Society's budget was based on that expectation.

In general, W&FS receives very good and high-quality manuscripts. We have a very healthy mixture of topics including those in engineering, mechanics, chemistry, processing, theoretical modeling, wood quality, marketing, manufacturing and even in the area of psychological effects of wood products. There are a few topics that do not appear to fit in the area of "wood science" but they do contribute to the overall versatility of interest of the readership. However, some are so far out of the general interest that we have to reject them. We still have some problems with papers submitted by non-English speaking authors; some so bad I have to reject them for their writing style and grammar. So far during my tenure as Editor, the journal has had an Editorial in every issue. My question to the Board is: do we have to have an Editorial in every issue?

I understand, the Board discussed the possibility of making W&FS a bi-monthly journal, and publish 6 instead of 4 issues per year. You must realize that on the basis of the number of manuscripts processed in recent years, we might be able to add about 100-150 pages per year but, at the same time, the mailing costs would go up. In addition, the logistics of sending to the printer manuscripts and other material every other month appears to be beyond the capacity of the present staffing and editorial setup. Although we have a very good flow of new manuscripts at this time, we must also remember that in the past we have had periods with some problems of being able to fill even the four issues per volume. If that happens again for one reason or another, should we then scale back to 4 issues per year again?

The Board should also realize that we publish W&FS on a shoestring. The Forest Products Journal publishing 10 issues per year has a full-time editorial staff; we publish W&FS partly on a voluntary basis and with part-time staff including Carol and part of Vicki's time. Yes, there is some backlog at this time, but looking at the above table, and at similar tables I submitted to the Board, we usually have just about enough papers accepted at the time one issue is printed for filling the next issue. In my judgment, there is no real reason why we could not add some more pages to each issue beyond the 188/issue we have published so far this year. We will have to discuss this with Carol and the printing company.

The Board at its Spring meeting also discussed the possibility of regular, perhaps automated, reminders sent to reviewers who do not send their reviews back in time, and if they still do not do the reviews, send the manuscript to others. Dr. Zink-Sharp and I are working on installing an automatic reminder system to the data base which should make my job easier, and would accomplish at least part of the recommendation. While the suggestion to take procrastinators off particular manuscripts looks efficient, it will also get those procrastinators off the hook encouraging them not to do the job in the future. "If I don't do it somebody else will". I have roughly 300 potential reviewers on in my data bank. Of those less than 100 are prompt in their responses to my requests. Another 100 will do the job if we bug them repeatedly. The rest are hopeless. If we end up sending all manuscripts to the "good" ones, they will be overloaded. And I do not want to send more than one manuscript per year to anybody.

Another topic discussed by the Board during its Spring meeting was whether or not we should move to all electronic publishing. This should be entirely in the hands of the Publication Policy Committee and the decision should be made by the Board. It would not affect significantly the role and work of the Editor. The question was also raised whether or not there should be a page charge reduction. I see no reason for that. We receive plenty of good manuscripts with the current page charges. I agree with the notion that subscription fees for our journal are low. The Board might wish to discuss the possibility of raising the subscription charges. The issue of a double-blind review process was also brought up during the last Board meeting. I had been instructed not to send out editable electronic forms of the manuscripts to reviewers. At the present time, manuscripts are sent to reviewers in the PDF form and right now I have no skills of how to edit PDF files which would be needed if I wanted to remove the names of the authors. The question also came up during the last Board meeting regarding the creation of a review board. With the already limited number of good reviewers, creation such a board, or perhaps boards each in specific areas, would further reduce the number of available regular reviewers.

As of June 30, 2006, I will have completed my 5-th year as editor of Wood and Fiber Science. I am certainly planning to complete the second 3-year appointment ending June 30, 2007 and perhaps longer on an annual reappointment basis if Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp, the Associate Editor, cannot succeed me as Editor by July 1, 2007. She already has access to the W&FS database maintained at Virginia Tech and when I am out of town she handles the regular routine work efficiently. Publication of her e-mail address in the inside front cover of the journal since the 2005 October issue has worked well when I have an "out of office" message on my e-mail which occurs regularly these days due to my extensive travels. Occasionally, I am out of town for as long as 3 weeks and more than 12 weeks a year.

Committee Reports

a. **Accreditation** – printed in May-June Newsletter

We currently do not have a 2006 Committee report because we are wrestling with several issues related to how SWST accreditation should be enhanced over the next few years. SWST needs to consider the following:

(1) Should SWST offer accreditation to Canadian undergraduate wood science programs?

(2) Should SWST accredit minors in wood science? If so, what should be the standards?

(3) How should SWST respond to the changing/expanding scope of previously accredited programs? A good example of this expanding scope (and one with which we will soon need to deal) is the Department of Bio-based Products at the University of Minnesota. As described in the accompanying document, this program has widened its scope from wood to bio-based products. Other programs are implementing or planning similar changes in scope.

(4) How should we accredit wood product marketing and management (“business”) curricula. Several programs are responding to market pressure to include more business courses in these curricula. Given capped and even decreasing maximums for total credit hours, additional courses in business areas necessarily come at the expense of previously required courses.

The SWST Accreditation Committee will meet to discuss these issues at its June 24-25th meetings in Newport Beach CA.

b. **Education** – No report

c. **Membership** – printed in May-June Newsletter

A draft Membership Survey was prepared by Susan Anagnost and sent to the Executive Board for review at the April meeting. The survey addresses the services SWST provides for its members and the possibilities for new services to be offered. At the direction of the Executive Board it will be sent to all members in 2006. A draft student conversion letter was prepared for review and action by the Executive Board.

New membership applications were processed by the Vice Chair, Crystal Pilon. The status of the new members will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

New applications processed this year:

Count of Membership type	
Membership type	Total
Affiliate	1
Formal education	14
Specialized experience	6
Student	24
Grand Total	45

d. **Newsletter** – Adam Taylor is the new Newsletter Editor. Send him info at adamtaylor@utk.edu Paul Smith presented a plaque to Rado Gazo for his work the past 3 years as Newsletter Editor.

e. **Policy and Critical Issues** – printed in May-June Newsletter

The committee members are: Bill Boehner (Chair), Chip Frazier (Vice Chair), Tom McLain, Howard Rosen, Quinglin Wu, Mike Wolcott, Paul McFarlane, Steve Shaler (Past Chair), Don Bender (SWST Board Liaison)

The committee received two tasks for 2005-2006:

1. Prepare an advocacy policy position paper on the CORRIM Report and the need to conserve energy by using wood.
2. Work with the Research Initiatives Committee to formulate a strategy and represent the Society at the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs in early January 2006.

Progress

The CORRIM position paper was written by Bruce Lippke and presented to the SWST Board at the spring meeting on April 1st. The position statement has been reviewed by two SWST members closely associated with CORRIM – Jim Wilson and Jim Bowyer. The Board requested a few changes and the document is being revised by Bruce.

The NAUFRP meeting addressed the subject of a forest-based research agenda for the 21st century: Defining Strategic Directions and Rebuilding Capacity Summit. This organization consists mostly of people concerned with land and resource management and expected outcomes were stated as:

1. Define new forest-based knowledge and science needed to advance the health of forests and the competitive position of the nation;
2. Define the new knowledge, skills, and qualities needed in the next generation of natural resource research scientists to address emerging new issues and to rebuild and sustain excellent forest research capacity;
3. Recommend an effective and progressive funding allocation model to ensure support for high priority research, and the development of the needed intellectual capacity and infrastructure.

Although 100 people were invited to attend this summit, representatives from wood science and technology programs or the forest products industry were not included. Mike Wolcott, Chair of the Research Initiatives Committee communicated the SWST position on each of the three items above to potential SWST attendees to the NAUFRP summit. The forest resources program leads were informed in order to get further support at the summit. Mike continued discussions with the NAUFRP leaders to ensure utilization topics were included in the summit. SWST members Tom McLain, Doug Gardner, and Paul Smith attended the NAUFRP meeting and presented our message. They had a small impact on the outcome which can be seen in the NAUFRP summary document at www.napfsc.org (follow the link to forest research for the 21st century).

f. Publication Policy – Robert Beauregard

Committee Members Tor Schultz (Chair), Azzeddine Oudjehane, Paul Cooper, John Phelps, Geza Ifju (WFS Editor), Rado Gazo and Adam Taylor (Newsletter Editors), Robert Beauregard (Board liaison)

The first duty of the committee was to investigate ways to raise the scientific impact of the W&FS. Some members mentioned that several university administrations were using impact indices, including ISI-Web of Knowledge, as a criterion for academic promotion. It has been noticed that the W&FS was on the radar screen of the ISI, Web of Knowledge but that it rated rather low. Audrey Zink-Sharp investigated further into how ISI was made up. She found out that ISI is a ratio made up of “the sum of cites in a given year to articles published over the two previous years” as a nominator and of “the number of articles published in the evaluated journal over the two previous years” as the denominator. In conclusion we think that bringing the W&FS journal on-line might be the best way to having more university library subscription and more ready access through searchable databases which should in turn help raising the number of citations and citation index values.

The issue of bringing the W&FS on line was the second duty of the Committee. It appeared in the course of the year, that this duty was too complex to be taken on by the Publication Committee itself. The SWST Board realized at the spring meeting that this was no minor issue; it touches the whole business model of the journal and of the Society. It was then agreed that at the June 2006 Board Meeting an Ad hoc Committee should be formed on the issue, led by the incoming Vice-President (Jerry Winandy) and the Executive Director (Vicki Herian).

The Executive Director was informed by a librarian interested in subscribing to the W&FS that they no longer take subscriptions if there is no electronic copy available. The comment stresses the urgency to make progress on this issue. This librarian advised us that many smaller scientific organizations were using a hosting service called MetaPress to work with. Robert Beauregard got in touch with MetaPress and he asked for a proposal for Electronic content management, Hosting and Delivery of the W&FS. He was sent a proposal back. The proposal was followed to the Board members and will be discussed further. In summary, the proposal is to the effect that there would be a **one off cost of \$12,900** including: \$3500 for establishing the SWST-W&FS web shell (framework); and \$9400 to upload once all back issues. The **ongoing yearly cost would be a total of \$4140**, including: \$2880 for ongoing article management; \$300 for hosting; and \$960 for Upgrade and Maintenance of licencing. The Board decided that another proposal should be sought from another provider. The Sheridan press, the actual editor of the W&FS works with one such organization and we will seek a proposal from them for the same services.

The tasks of the Ad-Hoc Committee for On-line W&FS for the following years should be:

1. To get a second proposal from Sheridan partner providing web hosting and publication diffusion services;
2. Analyse the two proposals and make a recommendation to the Board as to which one organization should be selected to pursue any further;

3. Pursue further discussions with the chosen organization to get finer information such as “what is the cost and revenue to them and to us when a single paper is downloaded from the web?” “How is security and access managed for individual subscribers and for librarians?” etc.
4. A trial should be performed.
5. Members should be surveyed.
6. In the beginning, the electronic version of the journal should be provided in addition to the paper version as an additional service to members.
7. The Society should present the W&FS subscribers with the possibility to get only the electronic version, only the paper version or both.
8. Over a period of two to three years of offering these options, the Committee should assess the trends in subscriber’s behaviour and the effect on the financial structure of publishing the journal.

The move towards e-publishing has the potential to decrease significantly the financial cost of publishing the journal and as well as increasing dramatically its scientific impact. For these reasons, the Society should not delay any further its action in bringing the W&FS journal on-line.

Beyond this very important task, the Board should decide new tasks to be assigned to the Publication Committee. Based on these new tasks, the actual chairman and members should all be contacted to verify their interest in pursuing their involvement in the Committee.

g. Research Initiatives

--The Research Initiatives Blog is ongoing and active. It can be accessed from the SWST website.

--Agenda 2020 – Tim Rials attended the June 7 CTO meeting and will get a report to the board. Earl Kline attended the meeting on May 3 of the Technologically Advanced Workforce (TAW) Platform group.

h. Visiting Scientist Program – printed in May-June Newsletter

- In January 2005, all the potential scientists on the visiting scientist committee list were contacted by the e-mail, and asked to update their information on the list and nominating persons who might be interested but not on the current potential list. Then it was updated according to the response. The e-mail was also sent to the SWST full-members list to solicit more participation within the society.
- In March 2005, the contact list for department heads/deans/directors from schools, institutes or organizations who are interested in participating in the program was updated.
- In March 2005, an e-mail to invite the participation of the interested schools, institutes and government was sent to the heads of these organizations.
- The deadline for submitting the visiting scientist travel grant is postponed to April 15th.

- In May, we received a request from Dr. Eva Haviarova (Purdue University) for travel funding to Costa Rica on 04/27—05/04, 2005. The committee approved her proposal and funded her \$950 for travel expenses.
- In July, a letter was prepared by past VSP Chair Dr. Hongmei Gu and Board Liaison Dr. Jerry Winandy, and then sent out by President Paul Smith to all SWST members to encourage them participating in SWST VSP activities through submitting applications.
- In October, the committee approved and funded the travel request from Dr. Jerry Winandy (FPL/USDA Forest Service) visiting FPL/MSU on 10/10 – 10/12, 2005. The final total claimed expense is \$478.45.
- In September, Jilei Zhang (Miss. State) starts to serve as VSP Chair, and Nicole Brown (Penn State) as VSP Vice Chair. Past Chair is Hong-Mei Gu (FPL/USDA). Other members are Siqun Wang (U. Tenn.), Barb Gartner (Oregon State), Slobodan Bradic (UBC), and Ben Dawson-Andoh (WVU). Board Liaison is Jerry Winandy (FPL/USDA).
- In October 20, President Paul Smith’s letter was sent out to all SWST members, and encourages members to submit applications to VSP to advantage of the opportunity for international and national visits to exchange research and teaching ideas with colleagues.
- In December, per SWST Exec. Board request to update the Visiting Scientist eligibility list, VSP committee completed the task with updating current member information and also adding new members to the list. There are 50 members on the updated list.

Old Business

People were encouraged to utilize the Visiting Scientist Program. More people could sign up to be a visiting scientist, and more institutions can apply for a scientist to come to their establishment. There is money set aside in the budget that is not being used. Contact Vicki Herian at the Executive Office to take advantage of this.

An announcement was made about the availability of the Cellulosic Cell Wall book. It can be ordered from the Executive Office for \$100.

Teller’s Report – Vicki Herian

Vice President: Jerrold Winandy
 Directors: Susan Anagnost and Tony Zhang

Total Ballots received – 126

New Business

Jim Armstrong made a “Call for Technical Session Topics” for next year’s meeting in Knoxville on June 10. People should contact him with ideas.

The Society is going to a double blind review process for the journal, and are moving ahead to publishing an electronic version of the journal as well as the printed one.

1:00 – 4:00 pm **Session III:** The Aftermath of Katrina: The Wood Products Industry Response (Newport Coast Ballroom-Salon 4)
 Session IV: Moisture in Wood: Problem for Housing and Wood Construction (Newport Coast Ballroom-Salon 5)
2:00 – 5:30 pm **Student Poster Competition** (Grand Pacific Ballroom, Salons DEF)
4:00 – 5:30 pm **SWST/FPS Technical Forum** (Grand Pacific Ballroom, Salons DEF)
6:30 – 8:00 pm **Joint SWST/FPS Host Reception** (Grand Pacific Ballroom, Salons ABCDEF)

Respectfully submitted

VICTORIA L. HERIAN
Executive Director