

# SWST Newsletter

March-April 2001

SOCIETY OF WOOD  
SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY

**SWST**

## *Inside this issue:*

<i>News Items.....</i>	2
<i>Conferences and Events .....</i>	5
<i>Positions Available.....</i>	5
<i>Humour.....</i>	7

## Editor's Note

Dear Readers:

Spring is slowly creeping back into the picture after a record setting winter. It is mid April as I write, and the snow still lingers in the shady areas. It reminds me of winters in the U.P.!

I have had an eventful spring with the most important news being that I was tenured and promoted to Full Professor. I'm particularly proud of the fact that I have been granted tenure at 3 separate institutions of higher learning. My late father would most likely have commented, "There may be hope for you yet." Another item of interest, is the installation of our new wood plastic composite extrusion system the Woodtruder™ here at U Maine. I'm am looking forward to playing (I mean working) on this new toy (sophisticated piece of processing equipment). For me, it begins a new chapter in my research career. It will also keep a postdoc, research scientist, and a plethora of graduate and undergraduate students busy over the next decade or so. Folks around here have resorted to calling me Dr. Extruder or Dr. Melt.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Gardner



## News Items

### News Flash—NEW SWST OFFICERS

Vice President - Doug Stokke  
Directors - Rado Gazo and Cindi West

### Proposed SWST Vision and Mission Statements

Proposed SWST Vision Statement: Be internationally recognized as the leading source for scientific information on wood and wood products and educational programs in wood science and technology.

Proposed SWST Mission Statement: To enhance and assure the wise use of wood by developing knowledge distinctive to wood science and technology through quality research and disseminate this knowledge actively and broadly.

### Neste Resin now known as Dynea

The businesses of Nordkemi, Neste Chemicals and the chemicals division of Dyno ASA have been united under one name, Dynea. The new identity includes panel board resins, industrial resins, wood and specialty adhesives, paper overlays and oil field chemicals businesses.

### *The Anselme Payen Award, Honoring Wolfgang Glasser*

During the ACS meeting in April 2001, the Anselme Payen Award was presented to Wolfgang Glasser, from Virginia Polytechnic and State University. Dr. Glasser holds the positions of Professor of Wood Chemistry in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Natural Resources. Dr. Glasser was awarded the Dipl.-Horzwirt, from the University of Hamburg in 1966 and the Ph.D. from the University of Hamburg 1969. In addi-



tion, Dr. Glasser has received the George Olmsted Award in 1974, the IUFRO Scientific Achievement Award in 1986 and serves on the editorial advisory boards for *Holzforschung*, *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology*, *The Journal of Applied Polymer Science*, and has recently been named as editor of the journal *Cellulose*. At Virginia Tech, Wolfgang Glasser is the Director of the Biobased Materials/Recycling Center, and participates in the work of the Wood-Based Composites Center, as a researcher as a member of the Steering Committee. He has mentored more than 40 graduate students and post doctoral associates. These former students



work in academic, research and manufacturing organizations around the world. Dr. Glasser serves as a consultant to numerous domestic and foreign companies. He has also served as an External Examiner for dissertations and graduate committees in Europe, Scandinavia and Japan. He and his wife, Heidi, are the proud parents of two independent, grown children, and the very proud grandparents of one new grandchild.

### **CELLULOSE, PAPER AND TEXTILES GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD**

The divisional graduate student award, sponsored in part by Eastman Chemical Company, with individual contributions from Steve Kelley, Wolfgang Glasser and Helena Chum, and an anonymous donor, was presented to Fadi Chakar, from the Institute of Paper Science and Technology. Fadi received his BS degree in Manufacturing Engineering from Boston University in 1990, and MS from IPST in 1995. After graduation, he worked for Appleton Papers from 1995-1997. Fadi has recently completed requirements for the Ph.D. Fadi is currently employed as a Staff Chemist with Appleton Papers, where he is responsible for designing thermal paper products. Dr. Chakar has authored five peer reviewed papers, presented eight papers at professional meetings, and has applied for a patent. Fadi received the Outstanding Ph.D. Student of the Year

Award at IPST in 1999, the Best Poster Award at the International Pulp Bleaching Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2000, was the student PIMA leader of the month in March 2000, and received the Road Runner Award from Appleton Papers in 1996. Professionally, Dr. Chakar has memberships in TAPPI, PIMA and ACS, and has been active in safety committees at IPST.

### **Dr. Elvin T. Choong (1932-2001)**

The Louisiana State University School of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries has announced the death of Professor Elvin T. Choong in Honduras on February 18, 2001 at the age of 68. Choong was climbing rugged terrain in La Tigre National Forest at the time of his death. He had a history of heart problems, but the actual cause of death is unknown. He is survived by his wife Freida, son Michael Choong of Chapel Hill, NC, daughter Junita Meier of Baton Rouge, LA, and step-son Francis Natiwidjajc of New York City.

Choong was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, and became a naturalized US citizen of in 1963. He earned a B.S.F degree in forestry from University of Montana in 1956, M.S. degree in wood science from Yale University in 1958 where he studied under Dr. Fred Wangaard. In 1962 he received his Ph.D. in Wood Products Engineering from the State University of New York College of Forestry studying under Dr. Christen Skaar. He received special training in nuclear science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1962 and in computer science from Texas A&M in 1963. After a brief stint at Humbolt State, he joined the faculty at LSU in 1965 and became a full professor in 1973. He taught classes on topics from wood science to research problems in forestry.

During the past three years, Choong worked on six major projects, including recycling of utility poles to make wood products and producing wood/plastic composites from waste materials. Choong was involved in forestry issues worldwide. He worked with the Forest Products Research and Development Center in Indonesia and with the Chinese Academy of Forestry. He was technical advisor to the special assistant to the president of the Republic of Indonesia and to the Indonesian Minister of For-

estry, a member of the LSU team to China with the Chinese Academy of forestry, and served as an external assessor for the Agricultural University of Malaysia. He was in Honduras as a member of the Forestry Development Task Force-USAID/Honduras Project sponsored by LSU Agricultural Center International Programs. He assisted in preparing the initial proposal for USAID funding.

Choong published more than 150 technical papers on wood science, forest products, and tropical forests. He was a member of the Society of Wood Science & Technology, the Forest Products Society, Louisiana Forestry Association, International Society of Tropical Foresters and a Fellow of the Institute of Wood Science. Choong was a visiting scholar to universities worldwide and was an advisor to several visiting scholars at LSU. In the past year he delivered lectures as Tanjung Pandan, South Sumatra, Indonesia and Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa. Between 1971 and 1998 he spoke on forestry in Beijing, Surinam, Indonesia and New Zealand. In the United States, Choong conducted cooperative research at the USDA Forest Service Southern Station, Virginia Tech, Mississippi Forest Products Laboratory, Louisiana Tech University, and North Carolina University.

He served on the board of directors of the Society of Wood Science & Technology, as a trustee for the Mid-South section of the Forest Products Research Society, as a technical reviewer for USDA competitive grand small businesses proposals, as a technical reviewer for journals, as faculty advisor to Indonesian and Surinam students at LSU since 1966, as a member of the visiting scientist program for the Society of Wood Science and Technology for the past 15 years, as senior co-author in the proposal for the establishment of the Louisiana Forest Products Laboratory, and on the promotion committee for the LSU College of Agriculture.

Choong was an elected member of several honor societies, including Phi Kappa Phi for scholastics, Phi Sigma for biology, Gamma Sigma Delta for agriculture, Sigma Xi for research, and Xi Sigma Pi for forestry. He was the recipient of the Wood Award from the Forest Products Research Society, NSF Summer Fellowship Award from the University of California--Berkeley, CSIRO Fellowship

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

Award from the Commonwealth of Australia, the George Marra Award of Excellence from the Society of Wood Science & Technology, the Golden Service Award from the NDSU Alumni Association, a certificate of recognition from the International Student Association at LSU in 1989 and 1991, and a foreign travel award to China from the Society of Wood Science and Technology. During his spare time, he was an avid swimmer and held several senior masters records.

Elvin was adored and respected throughout the LSU community and the world because of his scholarship, courtesy, and youthful enthusiasm. His middle name translated from the Chinese meant "sent from heaven". The over 50 of us who were fortunate enough to have studied under him can only echo that translation. The common sentiment at LSU is that they can replace the position but not the person.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Shupe (LSU '96) and Mike Barnes (LSU '65)

## In Memorium George Stern

George E. Stern, Professor Emeritus of Wood Construction at Virginia Tech's department of wood science and forest products, died in his sleep March 19.

Inventor of a special type of extruded particleboard for the furniture industry, Stern was the initiator of the Stern Fastener and Pallet Research Laboratory and pioneered the wood sciences program at Virginia Tech. He standardized industry definitions of nails, staples, and pallets. Stern spent 10 years developing national standards for railings and staircases; he was in the process of internationalizing those. He received a patent for an improved metal plate for end-plating railroad ties.

Stern was instrumental in the establishment of the William H. Sardo Jr. Pallet and Container Research Laboratory at Virginia Tech in 1976. He was the director of the laboratory until his retirement in 1979.

"Dr. George Stern was a remarkable man," said William Sardo, founder of the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association. "He was renowned on every continent as the most knowledgeable scientist in the field of material fastenings. George contributed so much knowledge to the pallet industry that our members could not possibly repay him. Most of all, George was on a very short list of the five 'Pallet Im-

mortals' noted by the NWPCA Board of Directors many years ago."

"George was especially known throughout the world for designing fasteners, or nails and screws, and as the pioneer in pallet design and construction," said recently retired department head Geza Ifju.

Although officially "retired," the 88-year-old professor continued to come into his office almost daily to work on his latest research projects and continued to give presentations around the world about his findings.

"NWPCA will miss him in the years ahead," said Sardo.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marianne S. Stern, and two sons and a daughter who live out of town. He had nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## Huaguang Decoration Board Company

It is a great honor to introduce our company *Huaguang Decoration Board Co., Ltd.*, and our main products. Huaguang Decoration Board Co., Ltd. is located in Guangdong province mainland China. We are a manufacturer of decorative boards (wood). Examples of products include: 1. Plywood, 2. High Grade Finish Surface Board, 3. Big Core Board, 4. Medium Density Fiberboard, 5. High Density Compound Floor Board.

We are the largest decorative board producing enterprise in Southeast Asia Region with 10,000 workers and a factory area of more than 1,050,000 square meters. Wood sources include nearly 100,000 hectares of forests purchased in Malaysia, 100,000 hectares of plantation forests in New Zealand. The company has its own wharf with a handling capacity of 5 million tons a year, and a fleet of ships with a freight capacity totaling 150,000 tons a year. We have been exporting our products to Southeast Asia, the Middle East, America etc. We have ISO 9002 certification.

If you are interested in our products, please contact us without hesitation.

Contact person: Pang Li  
Tel: £986-757-6236612  
Fax: 86-757-6336141  
E-mail: wood@cngoldline.com

## Spreadsheet for calculating dimensional change

Scott Leavengood at OSU has developed a free Excel spreadsheet for quickly estimating the amount of dimensional change in wood. It also calculates density given specific gravity and

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

moisture content. For shrink/swell, the spreadsheet simply uses the coefficients and formulas from the Wood Handbook. The advantage is that it's easy-to-use for math-phobic or non wood-tech types. It also allows for comparisons of 3 species at a time. Coefficients are entered for 104 North American species. The user can easily enter data for 10 additional species. It is available on-line at <http://wood.orst.edu> under "Publications and Software."

For more information contact Scott at OSU

Scott Leavengood  
Oregon State University Extension Service  
Wood Products Extension Agent  
CAPITAL Center  
18640 NW Walker Road #1400  
Beaverton, OR 97006-8927  
Phone: 503-725-2123  
Fax: 503-725-2100

\*\*\*\*\*

**H. Michael Barnes, President-elect**

**8:15-8:45 How Do Different Age Groups Learn—  
An Educator's View  
Susan G. Magliaro, VPI**

**8:45-9:15 Educating Teachers  
Kathy McGlaufflin, Project Learning Tree**

**9:15-9:45 Woods Walk, Woods Talk  
Allan Houston, University of Tennessee**

**9:45-10:15 Educating Kids (& Teachers)-The Wood  
Magic Science Fair™ Concept  
R. Daniel Seale, Mississippi State University**

**10:15-10:45 Measuring Educational Impacts of a  
Wood Magic Program  
Patricia Morrell, University of Portland**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Conferences and Events

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES FROM FPS

- FPS 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting; June 24-27, 2001; Omni Inner Harbor Hotel; Baltimore, Maryland, USA
- FPS-Sponsored Technical Seminars at the Forest Products Machinery & Equipment Exposition; July 19-21, 2001; Georgia World Congress Center; Atlanta, Georgia, USA
- FPS 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting; June 23-26, 2002; Monona Terrace Convention Center; Madison, Wisconsin, USA
- FPS 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting; June 22-25, 2003; DoubleTree Hotel; Bellevue, Washington, USA
- FPS 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting; June 27-30, 2004; Amway Grand Plaza Hotel; Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE SOCIETY OF WOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PRESENTS "EDUCATION: KIDS & TEACHERS"

**Sunday, June 24, 2001  
Omni Inner Harbor Hotel  
Baltimore, MD**

**8:00-8:15 Introduction & Welcome**

## Positions Available

**Staff Research Associate II  
Job Number 1040-01S  
Department Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Forest Products Laboratory Service to Industry Program**

Salary \$32,700 to \$45,800 (mid-range) yearly

Closing Date Open until filled

**Responsibilities:** Under supervision, the candidate will organize and lead investigations with design professionals and other construction or building science consultants. Evaluate and analyze design product quality and installation, and their effect on performance of materials used in wood structures, generally in the context of field investigations. Included is the development of sampling methods, laboratory analysis or testing, providing oral and written information to cooperators, and writing technical reports.

**Qualifications:** Must be able to visit various inspection sites all over the state of California. BS in Wood Science and Technology or related field or equivalent education and experience preferred. Requires working knowledge in broad area of wood as a material (anatomy, physical and mechanical properties) and detailed knowledge on specific areas (biodeterioration, preservative treatments).

**To Apply:** You may mail your application/resume to: UCOP - DANR; 300 Lakeside Dr., 6th Floor; Oakland, CA 94607-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

5200 [www.ucfpl.ucop.edu](http://www.ucfpl.ucop.edu)

You may conveniently send an e-mail to [apply-anr@ucop.edu](mailto:apply-anr@ucop.edu) with an attached resume. (An application form is not necessary.) Your resume should be in text-only format. Be sure to include the job number and title.

Date Entered last updated: 3/26/2001

In conformance with applicable law and University policy, the University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer

### **Faculty Position Department of Wood and Paper Science North Carolina State University**

A tenure track position in the Department of Wood and Paper Science is available starting in August 2001. Ph.D. in Wood Science or related field is required. Duties include teaching wood anatomy and other courses in Wood Science, developing active research program and supporting extension faculty activities. Salary and academic rank will be commensurate with experience and professional achievement.

The Department of Wood and Paper Science at North Carolina State University consists of 23 faculty, 13 staff, and 20 graduate students. The department administers 2 undergraduate curricula, Wood Science and Pulp and Paper, with undergraduate enrollments of approximately 200. The Wood Science program is accredited by SWST and is supported by the Hodges Wood Products Laboratory, which contains traditional and state-of-the-art technology and research equipment. The Wood Science program includes an active extension team and a broadening research effort which, with a strong undergraduate curriculum, continues to serve the industry. For more information see [www.ncsu.edu/wood](http://www.ncsu.edu/wood).

NC State University is a Research I land grant institution and is located in the heart of the Research Triangle, a high tech industry/research center, anchored by North Carolina State University, Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. With excellent educational facilities, mild winters, and high tech/research oriented economy, the Research Triangle Area has been voted as one of the top locations to live and work in the US.

NC State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should contact Dr. Michael Kocurek, Head, Department of Wood and Paper Science, [mike\\_kocurek@ncsu.edu](mailto:mike_kocurek@ncsu.edu), phone: (919) 515-5812, FAX: (919) 515-6302.

Letters of application should be submitted by May 1, 2001. Search will be continued until a suitable candidate is found. Applicants should submit a cover letter stating their

professional goals (teaching and research) and a resume with the names and addresses of three references to:

Dr. Bo Kasal  
Chair, Search Committee  
North Carolina State University  
Department of Wood and Paper Science  
Box 8005  
Raleigh, NC 27695-8005  
Telephone (919) 515-5726  
Fax (919) 513 3496  
E-mail: [bo\\_kasal@ncsu.edu](mailto:bo_kasal@ncsu.edu)

### **Renewable Natural Resources Foundation Director of Programs**

Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) is searching for a Director of Programs to work with its staff and volunteer committees to develop and implement interdisciplinary programs in renewable natural resources. The position is an exciting opportunity for a qualified, resourceful person.

The Director of Programs:

Serves as principal staff professional for developing, planning, and implementing approved programs;  
Serves as staff liaison and support to volunteer committees;  
Serves as an editor of the Renewable Resources Journal, and prepares and solicits public-policy oriented materials for same; and  
Prepares and submits grant proposals as appropriate and necessary to accomplish program goals (with guidance from the executive director).

Interested candidates must possess a bachelor's degree. An advanced degree, and experience in addressing renewable resources management and public policy issues, a definite plus. Also helpful is experience with nonprofit organizations, volunteer committees, federal and state government entities, publications, fund raising, and computers. Excellent communication skills are a must. Some travel is involved. The Director of Programs reports to the Executive Director, and works out of the Renewable Natural Resources Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Position opens March 15, 2001.

To apply, send cover letter, résumé with salary history and requirements, in confidence, to: Robert D. Day, Executive Director, Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814-2193, OR by email to [rdday@aol.com](mailto:rdday@aol.com)

Information about RNRF and its programs can be found at [www.mrf.org](http://www.mrf.org)

(Continued on page 7)

## Humor

IN THE BEGINNING God created the heavens and the Earth. And the Earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And Satan said, "It doesn't get any better than this." And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit," and God saw that it was good. And Satan said, "There goes the neighborhood." And God said, "Let us make Man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle, and over all the Earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the Earth." And so God created Man in his own image; male and female created he them. And God looked upon Man and Woman and saw that they were lean and fit. And God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives. And Satan said, "I know how I can get back in this game." And Satan created McDonald's. And McDonald's brought forth the 99-cent double cheeseburger. And Satan said to Man, "You want fries with that?" And Man said, "Super-size them." And Man gained 5 pounds. And God created the healthful yogurt, that woman might keep her figure that man found so fair. And Satan brought forth chocolate. And Woman gained 5 pounds. And God said, "Try my crispy fresh salad." And Satan brought forth Ben and Jerry's. And Woman gained 10 pounds. And God said, "I have sent thee heart-healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them." And Satan brought forth chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained 10 pounds and his bad cholesterol went through the roof. And God brought forth running shoes and Man resolved to lose those extra pounds. And Satan brought forth cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil to change channels between ESPN and ESPN2. And Man gained another 20 pounds. And God said, "You're running up the score, Devil." And God brought forth the potato, a vegetable naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fat fried them. And he created sour cream dip also. And Man clutched his remote control and ate the potato chips swaddled in cholesterol. And Satan saw and said, "It is good." And Man went into cardiac arrest. And God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery. And Satan created HMO's.

The **SWST Newsletter** is published six times a year by the Society of Wood Science and Technology, One Gifford Pinchot Drive, Madison, WI 53705, USA.

Phone: (608) 231-9347

Web site: <http://www.swst.org>

Fax: (608) 231-9592

E-mail: [Doug\\_Gardner@apollo.umenfa.maine.edu](mailto:Doug_Gardner@apollo.umenfa.maine.edu) or [vicki@swst.org](mailto:vicki@swst.org)

**SWST** is a technical and professional organization for scientists and engineers working in academia, government, consulting and the forest-products industries and is dedicated to providing education and expertise regarding better ways to use and produce wood products

Items for the newsletter may be sent to Doug Gardner, at the above Society address.

### Society of Wood Science and Technology

President:	Ramsay Smith
Past President:	Thomas E. McLain
President Elect:	H. Michael Barnes
Vice President:	Robert W. Rice
Executive Director:	Vicki L. Herian
Directors:	Steve Smulski (2002)
	James W. Funck (2002)
	Les Groom (2001)
	Philip H. Steele (2001)
Editor, <i>Wood and Fiber Science</i> :	Robert L. Youngs
Editorial Assistant:	Carol B. Ovens
Newsletter Editor:	Douglas J. Gardner



The logo consists of the letters 'SWST' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid black rectangular background.

