

capacity for many island endemics. A final talk was given by M. Devore to honour Carlquist's contributions to systematics of Asteraceae, a family which he paid special attention to. His work on the radiation of the silverswords alliance resulted in his 2003 book "*Tarweeds & silverswords: evolution of the Maddinae (Asteraceae)*".

Symposia "in honour of" are probably all too often viewed as a sign that the scientific career of a colleague is finished, or at least in its fading stages. However, this does not hold true for Sherwin Carlquist as he is actively continuing his research on various wood anatomical projects and his commitment to plant biology remains as strong today as in his early days. Some IAWA members may probably remember his talk at the symposium in Chico on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of IAWA, where he presented new data on bordered pits in ray cells. At the Chicago meeting, Carlquist presented a talk entitled "*Plant Conservation; a reality check*", in which he discussed examples of strategies and actions for protecting plant diversity, the dangers, and the importance of the historical background of floras as predictors of endemic species survivorship.

Steven Jansen
Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
s.jansen@kew.org

Wood Anatomy Symposium in Brazil, September 2007

The first Brazilian Symposium of Wood Anatomy (I SIMBRAMAD = Simpósio Brasileiro de Anatomia da Madeira) will be held in Mairiporã, São Paulo State, Brazil, from September 2 through 6, 2007. This meeting will serve as a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in a wide variety of fields of Wood Anatomy. The 110 participants who have already registered will have the opportunity to discuss their recent research progresses, exchange information and develop cooperation. The official language is Portuguese, but abstracts, presentations of posters and papers in English or Spanish are also accepted and foreigners are all very welcome.

Info: gregorio@usp.br

Wood Anatomy meeting in London, 2008

Together with the International Academy of Wood Science (IAWS), and IAWA, the Linnean Society of London will be organising a two-day wood anatomy symposium on 29 and 30 May 2008 under the appealing title "*Wood matters – a celebration of the work of John Barnett*". John Barnett, past President of IAWS, has been and still is a very active IAWA member, and our Association is proud to be co-organiser of this meeting, an initiative of Honorary IAWA Member David Cutler, currently President of the Linnean Society. More information on this meeting will be given in future IAWA issues and on the IAWA website.

Report on the Workshop on Quantitative Wood Anatomy

The second European workshop on "Quantitative Wood Anatomy" was held on 29 to 31 May 2007 at the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL in Birmensdorf, Switzerland. The workshop was organized by Patrick Fonti, Britta Eilmann and Paolo Cherubini and co-sponsored by the Dendro Sciences Unit and a manufacturer of imaging devices, Olympus. More than 25 participants from nine different European countries attended the workshop.

Quantitative wood anatomy (QWA) is a methodological approach based on the measurement of wood cell anatomical characteristics (*e.g.*, conduit size and density, cell wall thickness, tissue percentage), analyzed through time (at intra- and/or inter-annual level), and used to characterize the relationships between tree growth and various environmental factors.

QWA is currently becoming increasingly attractive for scientists from various research fields. Ongoing developments in imaging analysis systems (*e.g.* powerful digital cameras and software) and new techniques for wood surface preparation are making the survey of intra-annual wood anatomical characteristics more effective and efficient. The increase in the numbers of dendrochronologists, ecologists, and physiologists that are both applying and improving QWA methods made it timely to hold an enlarged meeting in order to promote discussion and exchange of experiences. The primary aims of the workshop were to bring together researchers working on QWA, 1) for a mutual update of ongoing research and developing methods and 2) for discussion about common needs, challenges, and future perspectives.

Presentations on the current research revealed a multitude of applications of QWA ranging from the identification and understanding of environmental signals, such as different aspects of climate and geomorphic events, to the identification of growth periodicity in tropical trees. For the mechanistic understanding of cambial activity additional methods such as pinning and micro-sampling are being utilized to monitor cambial growth. During a tour through the wood anatomy laboratories of the WSL Dendro Science Unit, new preparation methods and equipment, such as the core-microtome, and specialized image analysis procedures for semi-automatic cell and tissue measurements across long tree-ring series were presented. The discussion about further perspectives underlined the unique potential of QWA methods to help answer ecological and environmental questions in temperate and tropical ecosystems. Exchanging experience and keeping updated on the last advances and applications is, however, essential to further promote the application of QWA. Therefore the necessity of similar working meetings for the growing "community" was highlighted and a third workshop is envisaged.

Patrick Fonti, Britta Eilmann, Paolo Cherubini
Organizers of the workshop