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TWO MOONS IN HIS MOCCASINS

There is an old Native American saying that goes something like this: “*Don’t judge a man until you have walked two moons in his moccasins.*” Talk about some hard moccasins to fill; I did not know that Frank Beall had such big feet. Like a young kid in a candy store, it is hard to know where to start, but I will try. Thanks to Frank, our Journal is in excellent shape. Frank started his association with the Journal from the very beginning, as Chair of the Journal Abstract Committee. We all owe him heartfelt thanks for his service to our Society and I know you will express your gratitude to him for his hard work. The move to a double-blind review system and electronic submission has the potential to improve the quality of the Journal and, I have to concede, makes it a lot easier for me as the new editor. Electronic submission has shortened the lag time between submission and publication. I encourage members and nonmembers to submit manuscripts to *Wood and Fiber Science*.

As to Journal quality, discussion of many topics has been conducted at your Board’s level. The question of going to an all-electronic journal is one of these topics. I would encourage all members to weigh in on this issue by sharing your opinions and approaches with the Board. Full access to all of the Journal articles starting with 1(1) is now available to members through Metapress. The Board is looking for ways to communicate to potential subscribers and authors. Your input is greatly appreciated. An appeal to a broader audience should improve our visibility. Accordingly, we are encouraging

submission of manuscripts dealing with any area of lignocellulosics. Please note the new subtitle on this issue, “The Sustainable Natural Materials Journal,” which should convey a broader scope. I would ask that, as members, you pass this broadened scope to colleagues in allied fields involving biomaterials. With the help of the Publication and Policy Committee and the Editorial Advisory Board, we will be updating the SWST web pages to indicate the broader scope.

We are encouraging submission of review papers that discuss the evolution and current technology in subject matter areas in sustainable natural materials—the old State-of-the-Art papers (see 2010-2011 Committee Handbook). Analysis shows that these review papers are widely read and cited (if they are of high quality and focused). Increased citing will improve our impact factor, which has been going up in recent years. Authors are encouraged to include appropriate articles from *WFS* in their submissions to any journal. I will be asking reviewers of *WFS* articles to make recommendations to authors for inclusion of appropriate *WFS* articles in their manuscripts.

One last point and I will get off my soapbox. This is your Journal—not my Journal, not the Board’s Journal, but **YOURS**—and you control the stature and quality of this Journal not only by submitting quality manuscripts, but also by serving in a review capacity. I encourage members to sign up as *WFS* reviewers (online at <http://www.swst.org/wfs/journal.html>) and to communicate ideas and concerns to the editor and Board to help us build a better avenue

for communication. As President B.A. Jayne said in the very first issue (Wood Fiber 1[1]:1-2):

"I sincerely hope that you will assist your Executive Board and the Editorial Board in their efforts to make the journal a reflection of your professional aims."

My thanks go to you for your support and understanding as we transition to a new editor.

H. MICHAEL BARNES

*Editor
Wood and Fiber Science
The Sustainable Natural Materials Journal*