

INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL ISSUE

2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION SPECIAL ISSUE

This issue of *Wood and Fiber Science* represents highlights from our 58th Annual Convention held in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming in June 2015. Beyond the obvious connection to our largest convention in recent history, the issue is also special because it represents a key element of the long-term strategy of the SWST Board of Directors to increase the exposure of *W&FS* and further build its already strong image within the research community and, ultimately, to increase its impact factor. All articles in this special issue are fully open access and can be downloaded for free from the *W&FS* web site. We encourage you to share these articles as widely as possible within your peer network. Your efforts to distribute these articles will complement the efforts of the Board and staff at SWST.

As a reminder, a variety of other changes have been made with *Wood and Fiber Science* in the last several years.

- Page charges have been reduced for members
- We moved to an online manuscript management system, PKP, to decrease costs
- All articles older than 5 years are now open access
- You will see a modernized cover for the Journal accompanied by a new SWST logo in the near future.

The articles contained in this Special Issue represent a sample of the many wonderful presentations at the 58th Annual Convention. The articles represent a broad array of topics:

- An examination of wood floor vibrations and methods for vibration analysis
- Three papers that explore new techniques for evaluating wood properties, such as using micro X-ray computed tomography, 3D visualization using polarized light and fluorescence, and the first reported data of electrical resistance at the subcellular level using a 1- μ M diameter probe
- The use of thermal modification to impart decay resistance
- Life-cycle impacts of the North American Wood Panel Manufacturing
- Pretreatment for fungal decay and
- The use of biofibers as precursors for activated carbon.

Overall, these articles provide cutting-edge insights that we hope will receive extensive attention in the academy. As always, your comments to the board regarding this or future special issues are appreciated.

ERIC HANSEN

President

SWST