

# WOOD AND FIBER SCIENCE

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

It has been a stressful year for all of us with COVID-19 running rampant, but I hope this editor's note finds all *Wood and Fiber Science* readers are healthy. We do see a glimmer of hope to return to normalcy in the horizon. We had a very successful volume 52 with more than 40 articles in our quarterly issues. Open access has been accepted very well among our readership. Since implementing open access in January 2019, we have had 17 articles that have been open access. Open access allows the authors to retain the copyright, and anyone can review the article on the SWST website without being a member.

I would like to thank our Associate Editor, Arijit Sinha, from Oregon State University for all his assistance with publishing. We also implemented a reviewer award this year. The criteria for the reviewer of the year award are as follows:

## CRITERIA FOR REVIEWER AWARD

The following criteria will be used to judge the reviewer of the year award, which will be announced at the annual Society of Wood Science and Technology meeting.

1. The number of manuscripts reviewed in the previous year. For example, the editorial board members are expected to do two reviews a year. This is sometimes a burden, but many editorial board members do so. Two manuscripts would be considered highly desirable, although anything above two per year would be considered outstanding.
  - a. Two reviews: two points.
  - b. One review: one point.
  - c. More than two reviews: three points.
2. The quality of the review as judged by the editors. Some reviewers provide specific recommendations and questions that aid the authors in improving their manuscripts, although other reviewers provide general recommendations. Specific recommendations and questions aid the authors in their revisions. The editors see all the review comments, and the editor and associate editor would assign points based on the quality of the review.
  - a. Not much help: one point.
  - b. Suggestions mostly editorial in nature: two points.
  - c. Suggestions helpful to authors for clarification: three points.
  - d. Suggestions not only provided clarification but also provided substantial feedback: four points.
  - e. Comments were extremely helpful to authors for enhancing manuscript: five points.
3. Nomination by an author. The authors know which reviewers are most helpful in their revisions of the manuscript. We would provide an opportunity for the authors to nominate a reviewer by the nomenclature (reviewers A, B, etc) for those reviews which they deemed most helpful.
  - a. Comments not helpful: one point.
  - b. Comments marginally helpful: two points.
  - c. Comments and suggestions enhanced the manuscript: three points.
  - d. Comments, suggestions, and edits were extremely helpful in providing clarity and helped authors explore alternative theories: four points.

All reviewers will be ranked according to these criteria, and the highest number of points would be deemed the reviewer of the year.

We are in the process of evaluating the reviewers for volume 52, and the winner will be announced at the SWST Meeting in Flagstaff in 2021 (hopefully in-person meeting). However, I would also like to thank all the reviewers for volume 52 in 2020. My apologies to anyone I may miss mentioning. Your dedication insures the quality of our journal.

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Jones, P. David  
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