# IAWA Newsletter – August 2026

## Future Meetings

### ISCHP26 - International Scientific Conference on Hardwood Products 2026, South Africa, on September 8th-11th, 2026

The 9th International Scientific Conference on Hardwood Products (ISCHP 2026) will be hosted by Stellenbosch University in South Africa. It will be a joint conference with the Wood Quality Modelling Working Party (IUFRO 5.01.04), where parallel sessions related to wood quality modelling will also be held.

The conference will take place from 8 to 11 September 2026, with a pre-conference tour from 5 to 7 September 2026. Previous ISCHP conferences were held in Canada (2007), France (2009), the USA (2011), Italy (2013), Canada (2015), Finland (2017), the Netherlands (2019), and Portugal (2024).

The main objective of the conference is to bring together the scientific and research communities working on hardwood products as well as wood quality modelling. ISCHP 2026 will address the following main topics: hardwood species, properties and quality; hardwood processing and products; structural and non-structural applications, including connections, heritage structures, architecture, and markets; and wood quality modelling.

The submission of abstracts is open until 20 January 2026. Registration is also open, and early bird conference rates will apply until 31 March 2026. Researchers, industry professionals, and all interested parties are warmly invited to attend this important international event in Stellenbosch.

For more detailed information, please visit https://ischp26.co.za/.

*Brand Wessels, South Africa*

### Afro-European Wood and Bark Anatomy Conference 2026, South Africa, on November 17th-21st, 2026

In 2026, the Afro-European Wood and Bark Anatomy Conference (AFEWBA), hosted by the University of Johannesburg, will go back to the tradition of the Afro-European Regional group of IAWA and continue to provide this important academic platform for the wood anatomy community. The deadline for abstract submission is September 1st, 2026. Please visit https://conferences.uj.ac.za/AFEWBA2026/ for details.

*Alexei A. Oskolski and Kamil Frankiewicz, South Africa*

### The 13th IAWA-China Group Annual Conference in Chengdu, China, on November 13th-15th, 2026

The 13th Annual Conference of the IAWA-China Group will be held on November 13-15, 2026, in Chengdu, Sichuan, China. The conference is organized by the International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA) and jointly hosted by the IAWA-China Group, Sichuan Agricultural University, and Chengdu Institute of Product Quality Inspection Co., Ltd. (National Furniture Product Quality Inspection and Testing Center (Chengdu)). The theme of the conference is "Investigating Wood to Gain Insights: Decoding the Scientific Genes of Chinese Wood and Bamboo Civilization through Anatomy."

The scientific program will cover seven sessions, including: (1) Xylem functional anatomy and wood formation; (2) Artificial intelligence in wood anatomy; (3) Dendrochronology; (4) Identification and conservation of archaeological wood remains; (5) Identification and protection of rare and endangered woody plants; (6) Bio-based material innovation driven by wood anatomy, and (7) Wood anatomy

education and talent cultivation. In addition, an Outstanding Graduate Student Oral Presentation competition and the 4th Wood Microscopy Skills Competition will be held as part of the conference.

The call for abstracts for the 13th IAWA-China Group Annual Meeting and the submission deadline will remain open until Oct 25th, 2026. For the microscopy skills competition, submissions (Powerpoint files or videos) are also due by October 25, 2026, and selected works will be featured on the Eyewood website http://woodlab.swfu.edu.cn/ewood-home-cn.

For detailed information, please contact Dr. Jingqiu Qi 1092477321@qq.com.

*Jingqiu Qi and Jie Liu, China*

## Inaugural Sherwin Carlquist Charitable Trust Field Course in Functional Xylem Biology, Jalisco, Mexico, on November 25th-December 4th, 2026

This course has been a long time in the making. Over many years, Sherwin Carlquist and Mark Olson often discussed how few opportunities existed for wood anatomists to receive formal training in the broader scientific study of biological function, and how comparative anatomy might be more fully integrated into functional xylem biology. Sherwin envisioned a new generation of wood anatomists trained not only to describe xylem structure, but also to use anatomical evidence to address fundamental questions in plant function, adaptation, and evolution.

Sherwin established the Sherwin Carlquist Charitable Trust to help make that vision a reality. We are therefore especially pleased to be able to offer this course, which brings together comparative anatomy, physiology, evolutionary biology, optimality modelling, developmental biology, and field-based investigation in one of the most anatomically diverse forests in the world.

For more detailed information, please visit here.

*Mark Olson, Mexico*

## IUFRO All-Division 5 (Forest Products) Conference at Estonian National Museum, on May 30th- June 3rd, 2027

The next IUFRO (The International Union of Forest Research Organizations) All-Division 5 (Forest Products) conference, 2027, "Future Forest Use: Advancing Wood Science and Forest Products for a Circular Bioeconomy," will be jointly organised in cooperation with SWST (The Society of Wood Science & Technology) and the Estonian University of Life Sciences. The conference will be held in Tartu, Estonia, at the Estonian National Museum from May 30th to June 3rd, 2027.

The conference will address the numerous aspects of forest products as represented in 11 active research groups of Division 5, which can be summarised into key topics as follows: Future Wood, Wood Science, Wood Valorization, and Non-Wood Products. It goes beyond wood, emphasizing the efficient, science-based use of forest resources for the good of mankind. To date, more than 25 sessions have been accepted for organisation.

Some important dates include 1) abstract submission deadline: October 26th, 2026, 2) feedback to abstract submitters: November 27th, 2026; 3) early bird closes (also deadline for authors' registration): January 25th, 2027; 4) regular registration closes: March 27th, 2027; 5) late registration closes (after this date, on-site registration is also possible): May 3rd, 2027.

Please follow the link to the conference website https://www.iufro-div5-2027.ee/ for registration and browse updated information.

*Yafang Yin*

# Meeting Reports

## The Workshop on Wood Fossil Preparation and Identification in Archaeological and Geological Contexts , Indonesia, May 8th, 2026

The Wood Fossil Workshop, held on 8 May 2026 at the BRIN Bumiayu Field Station, featured Dr Ratih Damayanti as instructor. The workshop aims to strengthen scientific capacity in wood fossil preparation methods and identification in both archaeological and geological contexts. The skills gained through this activity will support and enhance research activities under the RIIM (Research and Innovation for Advanced Indonesia) Civilization Exploration Program in the Bumiayu Region and the Northern Serayu Mountains. This program is led by BRIN's Research Organization for Archaeology, Language, and Literature, particularly the Research Center for Archaeometry. With improved expertise in wood fossil analysis, researchers can contribute more effectively to reconstructing past environments, vegetation history, and human–environment interactions, thereby providing valuable insights into the development of ancient landscapes and civilizations in the region.

The workshop involved researchers from the Research Center for Archaeometry and other research centers within BRIN's Research Organization for Archaeology, Language, and Literature, as well as Degree by Research (DbR) students under the RIIM Bumiayu platform and participants of the 2026 RIIM Bumiayu Research Internship Program. The workshop combined classroom-based instruction with hands-on laboratory exercises, enabling participants to develop both a conceptual understanding and practical skills in wood fossil preparation and identification. The training focused on two main components:

1. Micro-Structural Preparation, where participants learn about fossil wood sample preparation techniques to produce precise axial (transverse), radial, and tangential sections. This procedure is carried out in accordance with SNI 13 4175 1996, which contains methods for preparing rocks and minerals. Determining the section planes (axial, radial, and tangential) is a factor that differentiates the preparation of fossil wood from rocks and minerals.

2. Taxonomic Identification Based on Tissue Morphology: Understanding the characteristics of plant tissue structure—such as vascular patterns, parenchyma, and pith rays—is a fundamental foundation in the process of plant taxonomic identification. Workshop participants were equipped with initial knowledge of diagnostic characteristics that were used to determine the taxonomic identity of wood fossils.

Wood fossils are important ecofacts that provide evidence for reconstructing past vegetation, environmental conditions, and climate dynamics, as well as identifying anthropogenic activities such as the use of fire in ancient times. Surveys conducted by the RIIM Civilization Exploration Team in the Bumiayu Region and the Northern Serayu Mountains have documented the presence of wood fossils along the Aur, Jurang, Glagah, and Cisaat Rivers. In addition, local conservation communities have reported numerous fossil wood discoveries across various river basins throughout the Bumiayu area. This workshop provided participants with fundamental knowledge and practical skills for the preliminary identification of wood fossils, as an essential foundation for future archaeological, geological, and paleoenvironmental investigations. The knowledge gained can support ongoing research within the RIIM Civilization Exploration Program by facilitating more accurate identification and interpretation of fossil wood remains. Ultimately, the interpretation of wood fossil remains will contribute to the reconstruction of past vegetation, environmental conditions, and ecosystem dynamics in the Bumiayu region, supporting broader efforts within the RIIM Civilization Exploration Program to understand the environmental setting and human–environment relationships that shaped past civilizations in Bumiayu and the Northern Serayu Mountains. These data will enhance our understanding of landscape evolution and human–environment interactions, providing a stronger scientific basis for exploring the environmental context of past civilizations in the Bumiayu Region and the Northern Serayu.

*Ratih Damayanti, Indonesia*

## The 60th Anniversary of IAWS in Zurich, Switzerland, on June 1st-4th, 2026

The 60th Anniversary of the International Academy of Wood Science (IAWS) was held from June 1st to 4th, 2026, in Zurich, Switzerland, hosted by ETH Zurich and EMPA. The conference brought 113 participants (including IAWS fellows and Non-fellows) together from 20 countries. Overall, the conference organized seven sessions on wood anatomy and structure, novel materials derived from wood, timber engineering, wood processing, wood protection and mycology, material properties, wood AI and sustainable utilisation. In total, 66 oral presentations and 29 posters were presented. IAWA and IAWS have maintained a strong collaborative relationship over the years. More than 26 IAWA members attended this conference, and 14 of them reported their research across sessions. Wood anatomy was framed as an important bridge between cultural heritage conservation, materials science and timber structure, and how quantitative wood anatomy (QWA) and advanced imaging methods can provide important support for the development of wood science. The IAWS fellows held their general meeting on June 3rd at main building of ETH. For 2026 to 2029, Ingo Burgert plays the role of IAWS President. To date, the academy has 630 fellows ever elected and 421 known to be alive, across 47 countries. Herein, 14 fellows were elected in 2025.

Further details on the conference are available at https://www.iaws-web.org/.

Group photo of the 60th Anniversary of IAWS, 2026 (contributed by Rupert Wimmer)

IAWS general meeting on June 3rd at ETH Zurich

*Yafang Yin*

## The 9th Chinese Conference on Dendrochronology in Lanzhou, China, on August 21st-23rd, 2026

The Chinese Conference on Dendrochronology is a major biennial academic event organized by the Geographical Society of China. The 2026 conference, themed "Tree Rings—Western Environment and Sustainable Development," will be hosted by Lanzhou University. This conference brought together over 300 scholars

The conference aims to showcase major achievements and recent advances in dendrochronological research in China. The conference featured six thematic sessions, systematically covering dendrochronological dating, climatology, ecology, stable isotopes, multi-proxy methods and hydro-glaciological geomorphology, as well as the integration of tree-ring data with remote sensing, AI large models, stalagmites, ice cores, lake sediments, historical documents, and other multi-archive records. Through academic exchange and discussion, it will promote two important transitions in the discipline: from climate reconstruction to ecological forecasting, and from natural interpretation to strategic application. These efforts are expected to enable dendrochronology to play a greater role in addressing national priorities, including ecological civilization construction and the dual-carbon strategy.

For more information, please visit https://www.gsc.org.cn/gsc/xueshuDetail.html?id=54&contentId=2364.

Group photo of the 9th Chinese Conference on Dendrochronology

*Ruhong Xue, China*

## The 5th Academic Conference on Wood Science and Technology, Beijing, China, on August 21st-24th, 2026

The 5$^{th}$ Academic Conference on Wood Science and Technology was held in Beijing, China on August 21$^{st}$-24$^{th}$, 2026. The conference was attended by over 820 participants, representing government agencies, research institutions, universities, and leading enterprises throughout China. Under the theme "Integration and Innovation in Wood and Bamboo Science & Technology and Industrial Development " the conference was divided into eight sub-forums: wood properties and functionalization (including wood archaeology), wood drying and thermal processing, wood adhesives and coatings, wood mechanics and timber structures, wood-based panels and surface decoration, biomass-based advanced materials, wood products and green intelligent manufacturing, and bamboo-to-plastic substitution industrial technologies. A total of 369 participants delivered oral presentations. During the conference, significant progress achieved in China since 2020 in the areas of new technologies, products, materials, and equipment for wood and its derived products was also released.

Group photo of the 5th Academic Conference on Wood Science and Technology

*Jiangtao Shi, China*

## Miscellaneous News

### The 2025 impact factor of IAWA Journal is released

Recently, Clarivate released the 2025 Journal Impact Factors. The IAWA Journal, sponsored by the International Association of Wood Anatomists, achieved an impact factor of 2.9 in 2025. In the Forestry discipline of SCIE edition, the journal is now ranked in Quartile 2. The past impact factors were 3.5 (2024), 1.4 (2023), 1.9 (2022), 2.987 (2021), 2.308 (2020), 1.627 (2019), 3.182 (2018), 1.903 (2017), 0.403 (2016) and 1.043 (2015).

### Changes to editors of IAWA Journal

Hans Beeckman from Tervuren Belgium is the new guest editor of IAWA Journal, and Shengcheng Zhai from Nanjing University of Forestry, China is the new associate editor of IAWA Journal.

As Keiko Kuroda has retired, and Georg vonArx as guest editor has completed editing duties, both of them no longer serve as the editors of IAWA Journal. We acknowledge their long-term support of IAWA Journal.

### The IAWA Council agrees to accept two candidates as the Afro-European Regional group

As a member of the Afro-European regional group, I (or we) would like to announce that we have been able to win two additional candidates for the working group: Mr Sami Dawood Madundo from the Department of Forest Engineering and Wood Sciences, Morogoro, Tanzania, and Mr Tim Lehne, Thünen Institute of Wood Research, Hamburg, Germany.

The background is that Mr Madundo has just completed a three-month (IUFRO-funded) visiting researcher stay in our lab at the Thünen Institute in Hamburg. The focus was on structural studies of mangroves from coastal areas of Tanzania. The two young scientists, Mr. Madundo and Mr. Lehne, worked together in an exemplary manner, and I see this as a great opportunity to strengthen international long-term scientific collaborations. During Mr Madundo's stay, further connections with ongoing projects at our institute have already been established. For example, a Charcoal Atlas focusing on important wood species (in particular mangroves) along the east coast of Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique) and

a collaborative project to differentiate species of the genus *Entandrophragma* is planned for the near future.

In this spirit, on behalf of the IAWA, we welcome our two new colleagues!

Tim Lehne

Sami Dawood Madundo

*Volker Haag, Germany*

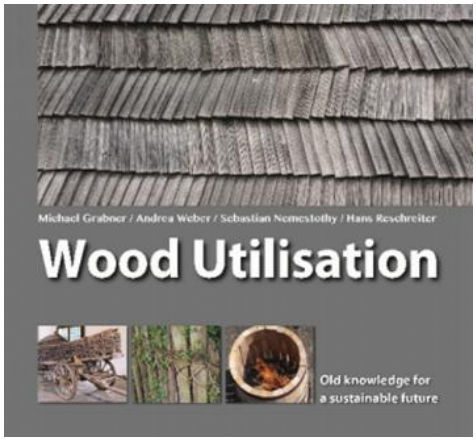
## The BMO bank account in the USA was closed on 1 August 2026

Having initially served as Executive Secretary of the IAWA from 1997 to 2011, our honorary member Regis MILLER has, after more than 40 years of managing the IAWA bank account in the United States, Regis has, in consultation with Cees LUT, decided that the time has come to step down from this role.

The IAWA should be happy and grateful that he was willing to do this for so long. Regis Miller does, however, remain active as an IAWA member and, where necessary, acts as a source of information on matters relating to the IAWA's history.

*Cees Lut*

## Wood uilisation. Old knowledge for a sustainable future



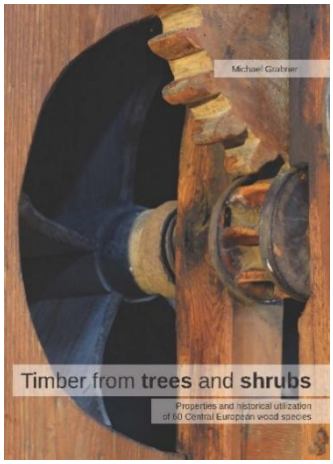

Knowledge about the uses and properties of wood has been accumulated, tested and refined over many centuries, even millennia, and passed down through the generations. In the past, wood was an integral part of daily life. People used it for firewood and timber, and knew how to make the most of it. In this book, the authors present their research findings from the past 25 years. This knowledge is highly relevant to the modern use of wood. Consequently, there is an urgent need to rediscover these skills and knowledge.

This book offers insights into the past, broadening the knowledge of interested woodworkers and inspiring them to explore modern, innovative techniques.

Details can be found at https://www.forstbuch.de/produkt/wood-utilisation-old-knowledge-for-a-sustainable-future-grabner-m-weber-a-nemestothy-s-reschreiter-h.

*Michael Grabner, Austria*

## Timber from trees and shrubs. Properties and utilization of 60 Central European wood species

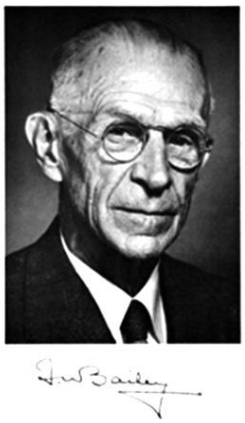



Timber from trees and shrubs combines historical facts with modern descriptions and is intended to arouse curiosity about wood species that are no longer used today. Knowledge about the properties and possible uses of the very valuable wood from our shrubs and small trees creates a desire for new products and ideas for use and can thus make a significant contribution to increasing the sustainability of our forests.

Details can be found at https://www.forstbuch.de/produkt/timber-from-trees-and-shrubs-m-grabner.

*Michael Grabner, Austria*

## I.W. Bailey Award - Call for nominations (Before 1st September 2026)



Irving Widmore Bailey (1884—1967) was one of the greatest wood anatomists of all time. His publications on xylem evolution, cambium and wood formation, cell wall ultrastructure, fossil woods, tree pathology, vestured pits, wood identification, and wood properties remain seminal to this day. His broad insights into the biological and practical significance of pattern and process in plant structure are still inspirational. IAWA honours his memory by naming the award for early career researchers who publish their work in the IAWA Journal after him.

The I.W. The Bailey Award is presented annually for the best original or review paper published in the IAWA Journal by an undergraduate, graduate student, or postdoc up to five years after their PhD defense. All subject matters published in the IAWA Journal are eligible: wood, bark, palm, bamboo, and rattan anatomy and ultrastructure, preferably linked to other fields such as, for instance, plant physiology, ecology, tree biology, pathology and decay, plant systematics and phylogeny, palaeobotany, climatology, archaeobotany, wood properties, biomechanics and wood culture. The Award consists of a certificate and 1000 Euro, sponsored by De Gruyter-Brill Publishers.

Candidates may nominate their own submissions directly to the editors Lloyd Donaldson (lloyd.donaldson@scionresearch.com) and Veronica De Micco (demicco@unina.it) together with a one-page CV, and one supporting statement from a senior IAWA member before September 1st of the current year. The Award Committee will be formed by the Editors and Associate Editors of the IAWA Journal.

*Veronica De Micco & Lloyd Donaldson, Editors in Chief – IAWA Journal*

## Call for Newsletter Items

The IAWA Newsletter keeps the IAWA community actively informed and stimulates members to visit the IAWA website for the latest and detailed news. Please send any news items you wish to share with the whole IAWA community to the newsletter editors, Dr. Shan Li (lishan.ecology@hotmail.com) and Dr. Yang Lu (yang.lu@caf.ac.cn) of the IAWA Office, Beijing.

## Call for Manuscripts for IAWA Journal 2027

The editors of the IAWA Journal would like to encourage new manuscript submissions for volume 48 2027, volume 47 is already full based on advanced articles. A reminder that subscribers/IAWA members can register for ‘table of contents’ alerts on the IAWA Journal homepage.

*Veronica De Micco & Lloyd Donaldson*
*Editors in Chief – IAWA Journal*