

# WOOD AND FIBER SCIENCE

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## STATE OF THE ART PAPERS

When browsing through a scientific journal, I always enjoy reading an article summarizing the advance of a particular field or a technology from its infancy to the present day. I share these articles with my students and colleagues. Part of the attraction these articles have for me is that I know that they were written by someone very knowledgeable in his/her respective field. The other part is that I can learn about interesting subjects outside my own field without investing too much time.

In light of this, the Society of Wood Science and Technology and *Wood and Fiber Science* are giving new emphasis to State of the Art papers. There have been numerous developments in many fields of wood science, and several new fields have appeared in the last few years. State of the Art papers will help *Wood and Fiber Science* readers catch up with these new developments.

A State of the Art paper is:

1. A stand-alone concise paper on a subject of broad basic interest to wood science, but narrow enough to be dealt with in depth; or in a broader topic area that is new and innovative to the field of wood science and technology.
2. Not simply a literature review, but a description of the cutting edge of research in the topic selected, a critical review of research progress and methods, and observations on where the field is headed.

The SWST Publication Policy Committee is currently soliciting State of the Art papers for possible publication in *Wood and Fiber Science*. To bring order and objectivity to the pro-

cess of writing and reviewing State of the Art papers, the SWST Publication Policy Committee has established the following policy and procedures for the preparation, review, and publication of these papers.

1. State of the Art papers may be either invited or volunteered. Any SWST member in good standing may suggest a topic and author to the *Wood and Fiber Science* editor. The Publication Policy Committee will then decide whether to approve the topic, and the editor will extend the formal invitation.
2. An outline for the proposed paper and a curriculum vitae of the author should be sent to the *Wood and Fiber Science* editor.
3. The Publication Policy Committee will review or assign reviewers for the outline and author's credentials.
4. Outlines for invited papers will be judged solely on their merits. For volunteered papers, weight will be given both to the merits of a proposed paper and to the author's credibility and expertise within his/her field.
5. The *Wood and Fiber Science* editor will, based on the recommendation of the reviewers, accept or reject the outline. If the outline is accepted, the author will be asked to prepare a full paper.
6. Three reviewers from within the respective field who are members of the Society of Wood Science and Technology and two reviewers in related fields who may not necessarily be Society members will review a State of the Art paper.
7. Author(s) of a published State of the Art

paper will receive an honorarium in the amount of US\$500, and the Society of Wood Science and Technology will pay the page charges for publication in *Wood and Fiber Science*.

Many readers ask for State of the Art papers. A few authors have volunteered and a

few have been invited to outline State of the Art papers. The outlined policy should assure readers that each such paper is a concise authoritative review of a significant topic in wood and fiber science.

RADO GAZO  
*For Publication Policy Committee*