

# WOOD AND FIBER

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME 14

APRIL 1982

NUMBER 2

## PROPOSED MERGER OF *WOOD SCIENCE* AND *WOOD AND FIBER*

The quarterly journals of the Forest Products Research Society (*Wood Science*) and the Society of Wood Science and Technology (*Wood and Fiber*) have over the years provided the same type of scientific information, namely basic research and research techniques, fundamental to forest products. *Wood and Fiber* has also served as the vehicle for publishing professional matters for SWST. Because the two journals publish the same type of scientific information, a committee representing FPRS and SWST was appointed to study the feasibility of a merger, and to provide a suggested plan if a merger seemed beneficial to both societies. All of the deliberations cannot be covered here, but they were extensive and resulted in a proposal for merging the journals.

The committee found that a merged journal would serve more individuals in each society at a lower cost because of economies of scale. We all know cost savings are becoming more important in all nonprofit organizations. In addition, there did not appear to be any significant problems with the two societies working cooperatively in publishing a merged journal.

A comprehensive document covering the publication policies of the merged journal was developed and published in the SWST newsletter. Basically the document indicates that the *Forest Products Journal* will publish applied research, industrial application, general interest, and review papers, while *Wood and Fiber Science* will publish basic research papers that do not normally have specific commercial objectives or applications, but instead contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge.

Both present journals are in good financial shape, have a significant backlog of papers, and are being published on schedule. The merged journal can be phased into production next year and since it will be larger than either of the present journals, economies of scale will be provided. Three obvious advantages of merger are:

1. to hold publishing costs at present level or perhaps even reduce them;
2. to increase the number of articles per journal issue;
3. to reduce subscription costs to libraries and individuals as the number of journals publishing basic research papers will be reduced by one.

The FPRS Executive Board has approved the agreement, and merger will occur if approval is received from the SWST membership. We believe the merger is in the best interest of both societies and we urge the members of SWST to vote yes in the upcoming referendum.

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