

## *Editor's Note*

We have now completed a full year with the Forest Products Society serving as the publisher of the *International Journal of Forest Engineering (IJFE)*. I am pleased to announce that subscriptions to the *IJFE* have nearly doubled in the past year, and along with that, the Forest Products Society has gained a number of new members. I encourage all individuals and organizations who are subscribers to seriously consider membership in the Forest Products Society. Professional organizations are the lifeblood of the profession, and we in Forest Engineering share so many common values and objectives with the Forest Products Society that it is a natural fit.

The process of receiving manuscripts, obtaining reviews using the double-blind review protocol, and production of the *IJFE* are now moving along quite smoothly. To be sure, there are delays when reviewers are not timely in completing reviews. We should probably all resolve to make sure that we as individuals are not the reason for delays in the review and publication process. We don't like it when our papers are delayed, hence we should insure that we are not the reason for delay in publication of the work of others.

Prospective authors should note a number of changes in the guidelines for authors (available at [www.forestprod.org/ijfe-instruct.html](http://www.forestprod.org/ijfe-instruct.html)). Strict adherence to these guidelines will make final acceptance and production of papers proceed more smoothly. Of particular note is the quality of figures. A review of *IJFE* issues from the early 1990s to today will show that graphics quality is quite varied. As authors, it is apparent that we have at times allowed ourselves to accept the quality of easily developed graphics from popular software packages rather than designing figures to clearly convey the maximum amount of information to the reader. There are notable exceptions. In this issue, the very clear graphic images in the paper by Lindroos et al. illustrates a standard to which all authors should aspire. The *IJFE* does not publish in color, hence data plots including color markers and lines will have to be revised before publication. Similarly, photographs will be published in black and white, and it is up to the authors to provide clear images that convey the intended meaning. It just makes good sense to consider the best approach for communicating with *IJFE* readers during the manuscript writing process rather than having to adjust later on during the review process. In this effort, we all need to remember that the *IJFE* is first for the benefit of the readers, not the benefit of the authors.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Dr. Robert Douglas who served over the past six months as a guest associate editor to manage the review of a paper for which I am a co-author, and therefore had a conflict of interest. We take the double-blind review process very seriously for all manuscripts, hence any member of the Editorial Board (including the technical editor) who submits a manuscript to the *IJFE* will not know who the reviewers are, nor will that board member (again including the technical editor) participate in the decision to accept or reject the paper.

Marvin R. Pyles, PE, PhD  
Technical Editor