

Editor's Note

Welcome, Ola Lindroos

Although there are only four articles in this issue, they cover a wide variety of topics and landscapes under the realm of forest engineering. The size of landings (sets, decks, loading ramps) in logging have long been an issue, so we have an article that looks at changes over time (as equipment evolved) of landings in New Zealand.

With the current interest in utilizing woody biomass for energy, we need to know more about productivity of biomass harvesting operations. This time, we have an evaluation of such an operation in the southern pine region of the USA.

I personally get an average of one or two new contacts per month from folks looking to site a biomass-utilizing plant. Our counterparts in West Virginia, USA, have developed a GIS model to assist in siting biomass plants in a state that is known for its mountains and high-quality hardwood timber.

Finally, some of our counterparts in Germany have raised serious questions about the influence of the operators when we measure machine productivity. We often fail to fully account for this factor in our research.

One last thing – because of changes in my work responsibilities (budget cuts – when a colleague retires, we have to share his workload), I will be unable to dedicate adequate time to the IJFE. This is the last issue in which I will serve as Technical Editor. Dr. Ola Lindroos of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences will serve as the new Editor. His email address is Ola.Lindroos@slu.se. Future manuscript submissions should be sent to Ola. Ola and I will coordinate the transfer of existing manuscripts under review. Stefan Bergman of the Forest Products Society will continue to serve as Manager of the IJFE.

I regret not being able to serve more. Yet, I am excited for IJFE. Ola already has some novel ideas, so I think he will lead the IJFE through an exciting time. Welcome, Ola, to the IJFE!

Cornelis F. “Niels” de Hoop
Technical Editor