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FOREST PRODUCTS SOCIETY

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1993 was another busy year for the Iowa State Chapter of the Forest Products Society. The officers that lead us through the 1993-1994 school year were: President - David Leibold; Vice President - Dave Moore; Treasurer - Chris Birch.

The new officers elected for the 1994-1995 school year are: President - Brian Brown; Vice President - Kevin Sharkness; Treasurer - Mark Mangrich

Chapter advisor is Monlin Kuo.

In the 1993-1994 school year several pizza parties were held to elect new officers and to discuss fund raising ideas. They were also held to welcome new members and to plan future tours.

In April 1993, Iowa State had the privilege of hosting the Midwest Section’s annual spring meeting. The conference was held in Centerville, Iowa. The highlight of this trip was an examination of a road bridge constructed of cottonwood lumber.

In October, we made our annual trek to the Midwest Section’s fall meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. The theme of this year’s meeting was “Fire and Water: Fire Resistance of Wood Construction and Control of Moisture in Wood Buildings.” The first day concluded with an informative tour of the Forest Products laboratory’s Valley View Wood Products Outdoor Exposure Site.

At Valley View, the tour began with several FP: scientists showing us the moisture interactions on cold climate housing. Next, we were given an opportunity to view the performance of several wood different preservative treatment methods. Also, the weathering effects of fire-retardant treated plywood in structural applications.

Finally, we were shown weathering tests of several different wood finishing products. The second day concluded with a tour of the Forest Products Laboratory’s Fire Research facility. The fascinating world of wood combustion was explored. Several different types of testing equipment were examined.

Another fall semester tour took us to Bacon Veneer near Grundy Center. The mill was in the process of peeling a walnut burl log when we arrived. It was interesting to learn that this veneer was destined to be inlaid on the dash boards of Mercedes Benz and Porsche automobiles.

A spring semester tour is currently in the planning stages. Our roving band of forest products students is headed to Pella, Iowa to tour the Pella Window Company.

Fund raising has been successful and is continuing. Walnut bookends manufactured by FPS members are selling well. The walnut for these was donated, dried, and machined by FPS student members.

The Iowa State Chapter of the Forest Products Society has been well represented at these meetings and tours. Many of the scientists and industrial leaders we encounter in our travels are past Iowa State graduates. By maintaining the high level of group involvement and our strong team effort, this society will continue to help mold the leaders of tomorrow.

Dave Leibold