

## Preface

The IUFRO Working Party (WP) 7.02.02 on Foliage, Shoot and Stem Diseases organizes a meeting once every three to five years. The 2007 meeting was held in Sopron, Hungary. Our local organizer was Dr. Ilona Szabó from the Faculty of Forestry, University of West Hungary, assisted by several collaborators. We had the privilege of meeting the dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Dr. András Náhlik, who welcomed the participants at the opening. Being Canadian, Gaston Laflamme, the coordinator of the WG, took the opportunity at the opening of the meeting to underline the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sopron Forestry School exodus, in 1957, to the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. This unique migration was composed of 14 faculty members and 200 students. What was supposed to be a short stay ended up being the final destination. In June 2007, several of these people met in Vancouver to celebrate this special anniversary.

Based on comments from the participants, our 2007 meeting was a very successful one. The fact that presenters each had 30 minutes for their talks left enough time for animated discussion after each presentation. We thank the attendees for their active participation; they made this scientific meeting, including the poster session, very lively. We thank the local organizers and also the Faculty of Forestry of the University of West Hungary for their help with the smooth running of the conference. The conference was held in the downtown area, so we had the opportunity to visit this historic city with our hosts, and we also had the chance to taste local food and wine. We thank the forestry management units of Balatonfüred, Devecser and Sikkvidék for hosting the field demonstrations. The scientific excursions covered different subjects such as needle diseases of conifers, including *Dothistroma* needle cast, Swiss needle cast, *Rhabdocline* needle cast, and *Sphaeropsis* shoot blights. We also visited experimental sites dealing with chestnut blight and its biological control.

One of our objectives in holding the meeting in Sopron was to attract more scientists from Eastern Europe. Our strategy did work in part; we had participants from the Czech Republic, Croatia, Serbia and Estonia. In short, we had close to 60 participants from 16 countries, with 32 oral presentations and 24 posters. All the information shared during the meeting is now available through these proceedings. This includes full papers as well as extended and short abstracts. In addition, a few papers were added from members who were not able to attend the meeting. The responsibility for the published papers lies with the authors.

The business meeting of the IUFRO Working Party 7.02.02 was held after the poster session near the end of the meeting. The coordinator presented a brief history of the WP. After four years as deputy and ten years as coordinator of this WP, he has resigned from his position as coordinator. This will give him more time to work as the coordinator of the IUFRO Pathology section 7.02, which includes 11 WPs. The participants elected Dr. Antti Uotila, from Finland, as the new coordinator of the WP. Dr. Mike Ostry, from the United States, will remain deputy, and the second deputy elected to replace Dr. Uotila was Dr. H. Tugba Dogmus-Lehtijärvi, from Turkey. The participants have also agreed to meet in the Isparta region of Turkey in May 2009; Dr. H. Tugba Dogmus-Lehtijärvi will be the local organizer.

Finally, we welcome research scientists dealing with foliage, shoot and stem diseases from all over the world to join us at the next meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with many specialists working on diseases affecting these various tree parts; a critical mass of such scientists can be found only at these IUFRO meetings.

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