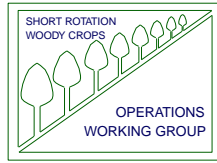

Short-Rotation Woody Crops

2013 Administrative Sponsors

*Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Southeastern Sungrant Center
National Council of the Paper
Industry for Air & Stream
Improvement
WrightLink Consulting*



2013 Industry Sustaining Sponsors

*ArborGen
GreenWood Resources*

Newsletter Editor

Lynn Wright

Operations Working Group NEWSLETTER

Number Seventeen

January 2013

Due to the untimely death of Jake Eaton on January 15, 2013, this entire newsletter will be a tribute to Jake. Newsletter number eighteen to be published shortly will summarize the November 5-8 Short-Rotation Woody Crops meeting held in Oak Ridge, TN.

In Memory of Jake Eaton.

The Woody Crops Community lost a great individual and leader on January 15, 2013. We are honoring the memory of Jake Eaton on the www.woodycrops.org website because he very effectively served the Short-Rotation Woody Crops Working Group as its chair for four years (2002 – 2006). We honor him also because of the high regard in which he was held as evidenced by the kind and loving words shared with us by his collaborators and co-workers.

“It is with great sadness I report that yesterday the Poplar Community lost one of its stalwarts. For those of you who haven’t heard, Jake Eaton died after a long struggle against cancer. As I am sure you know, Jake worked tirelessly for a cause he believed in fervently. Jake was also a kind, gentle, caring, thoughtful, and loyal friend. His love for life and his work was infectious. I will miss him more than words can express. Mournfully yours, Rick Meilan.”

In response to this message, Reini Stettler wrote: “Jake was an exceptional professional with a tremendous commitment to his work. A man with vision and at the same time rooted in the practical world--a rare combination! He left a large legacy in the poplar community worldwide. We’ll treasure his memory.”

Jeff Nuss, the President and Chief Executive of GreenWood Resources (GWR) shared with us that Jake fought his battle with cancer “with inspiring courage and faith, while never losing his commitment and focus on the importance of family, friends, and colleagues. A central theme of Jake’s life was the extraordinary value he placed



upon all of the people with whom he worked with. I think you all would agree that he was an amazing person and someone that we will greatly miss in this community”.

Jeff Nuss also said, “How do you give tribute to such a man as Jake Eaton..... there are no words that can be written or spoken that can capture his essence and his individual significance to this company (GWR) and to each of you. He was a loving man, great friend, and who truly enjoyed life to its fullest”. Though an adequate tribute may be impossible, I feel compelled to try by sharing a little of his professional history and photos contributed by myself and other friends.



Jake was in the right place at the right time with the right training to contribute strongly to the commercial implementation of short-rotation woody crops on a large scale. Jake obtained a B.S. in forest management and forest harvesting from Oregon State University and had graduated in 1985 from the University of Montana M.S. with a degree in silviculture and genetics before being hired in 1986 by Potlatch Corporation. In 1991, Jake initiated field research on short-rotation poplar tree farming on traditional agricultural sites using irrigation. As a direct result of this

effort, Potlatch established a poplar program in 1993 and began planting trees in 1994. Jake was part of the senior management team that initiated the project, eventually growing the farm to over 17,000 acres. During his 21 years at Potlatch, Jake was responsible for poplar clone improvement and operational research, farm operations, operational inventory, growth and yield modeling, and leading the FSC and ISO certification programs.



It was during this very demanding time in his professional career that Jake began participating in the Short-Rotation Operations Working Group meetings. The SRWCOWG Steering Committee quickly recognized that Jake combined authoritative knowledge with a great personality and effective communication skills, thus he was very quickly elected to take on the Chairmanship role. Bryce Stokes, who first initiated the Working Group, offers the

following statement: “Jake made extraordinary contributions to the Working Group because he was an extraordinary person.”

The 2006 SRWCOWG meeting in Pasco, Washington, was hosted by Jake and others in the Potlatch group located in Boardman, Oregon. The meeting was memorable both for the excellent organization and the great opportunity to see the very successful tree production operation that had been established at Boardman. Photos from field tours associated with that meeting perhaps give a hint of Jakes’ love for life and for his work.

Jake became a member of the staff of GreenWood Resources in 2007, where he initially became the managing director of global acquisitions and resource planning. In this role, he lead global investment due-diligence activities for tree farm acquisition and development in the United States, China, Europe, and Chile, developing extensive global experience in short-rotation tree farm silviculture and productivity enhancement. His activities included global inventory of tree farm resources, growth and yield analysis, silvicultural optimization and harvest planning, and environmental certification activities for the tree farms. After successfully helping the company organize and execute this global responsibility, Jake was asked to focus on building GWR’s business in Europe, becoming Managing Director of European Operations.



A photo offered by Jim Rakestraw “In loving memory of my friend, Jake Eaton” shows Jake and other GWR staff taken in Poland during planting season in 2011.

Jim Rakestraw, of International Paper Company, and Jake (and others) from GreenWood Resources were working together on a project to establish dedicated poplar plantations to support a paper mill and biomass energy facility in Poland. “Jake was a nice guy and a good friend who will definitely be missed” remembers Jim.

Rick Meilan shared additional photos from a road trip he took with Jake and Jon Johnson in Europe in 2002 prior to the International Poplar Commission III meeting. Rick noted that “Jake’s influence was truly global in nature. Everywhere Jake went, poplar researchers welcomed him into their homes, shared their work, and wanted to spend time with him.”

Those photos, following on the next page, show Jake and another dedicated contributor to hybrid poplar research that is no longer with us. Jon Johnson’s contributions to poplar silviculture were ended much too soon on June 9, 2009 as a result of a fast-growing cancerous brain tumor.



Jon Johnson, Jake Eaton, and Rick Meilan on the patio behind the house of Claude Hibo in Gembloux, Belgium.



Jon Johnson and Jake Eaton with the Steenackers family in Geraardsberg, Belgium.



Jake looking at a rust-resistance screening trial with Vic Steenackers, Jon Johnson, and Marijke Steenackers in Geraardsbergen, Belgium.

In the past couple of years, GreenWood Resources assisted in developing the Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance (NARA) project which aims to create a sustainable industry to produce aviation biofuels and important co-products. The project includes a broad alliance of private industry and educational institutions from throughout the Northwest. Jake was assisting the project with sustainable feedstock production and feedstock logistics and was one of several members of the Outreach Team which titled the NARA project “From Wood to Wing”. I am sure that Jake has taken on his wings, and I want to end with a final quote from Jeff Nuss.

“I know I speak for everyone at GreenWood Resources that we will hold him dear and remember Jake for the spirit he brought to our company and all of his incredible contributions to our operations globally and specifically his work he had started, and was so committed to in Poland, Italy, and Europe as our Managing Director of European Operations. I also am mindful of his impact outside this company in all of your relationships with him. We will miss him greatly!”

If anyone wished to send condolences to Jake’s family, Jeff Nuss provided the name and address.

Doug and Candy Clark
1 Meetinghouse Circle
E. Sandwich, MA
02537

Memorial written by Lynn Wright, Historian and Current Chair of the Short-Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group with contributions and assistance from Rick Meilan, Jeff Nuss, Jim Rakestraw and Bryce Stokes.