



WORLD
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World Forest Institute

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Mexican Fellow Follows Monarchs to Cerro Prieto

The Monarch butterfly is the best known of all migratory butterflies, traveling across the Americas to overwinter in Mexico. In 2000, Mexico established a reserve called the Biosphere of the Monarch Butterfly, a 56 hectare protected area. Despite its protected status, conservation is complex because so many people live within the reserve.

Mexican Fellow Cristopher Lopez Paniagua, sponsored by the US Forest Service, is designing an ecotourism plan for one of the ejidos, a community owned forestland called Cerro Prieto, in the municipality of Angangueo in Michoacan State. In January Cristopher spent several weeks meeting with ejido members and conducting visitor surveys and was joined for one week by WFC Education Director Rick Zenn.

Angangueo is the second most popular Monarch site to visit. Most Cerro Prieto ejido members were loggers until the creation of the reserve in 1996. Now they must struggle to find enough ecotourism dollars to make ends meet. They are hampered by national versus local politics, low skill levels (they have limited training in tourism or English), and lack of funding.

In the most popular sanctuary as many as 4000 tourists visit per day, putting enormous pressure on the monarch's habitat. There is therefore need to create alternative sources of employment and productive projects for these communities so that they will not deplete the monarch's natural habitat.

Cristopher's trip gave him first-hand experience with the needs of ejido members, as well as visitor wants and needs. He will spend the remainder of his project developing training sessions for ejido members on topics of interpretation, customer service skills, and basic English lessons. He will also design trail signs and interpretive flip-guides to help tourists better understand the reserve. Cristopher was well received by ejido members, who lamented that so many foreign aid groups and



Cristopher surveyed visitors about their spending habits and preferred activities in the reserve.



Showing his official WFC name badge, Rick Zenn assisted Cristopher in collecting surveys.

national government programs are initiated but the benefits never reach down to their level.



Cristopher with the municipality president and his family. The President visited WFI in 2006 and offered assistance and security during Cristopher's trip.

Recent Events



Rick Zenn toured Fellows around WFC's demonstration tree farm in Wilsonville, Magness Memorial Tree Farm.



Nerijus Miskinis and Zengwang Ma explored a Metro regional park, Oxbow, along the Sandy river.



Fellows toured Cannon Beach before an invitation to speak at the Tillamook Society of American Foresters meeting.



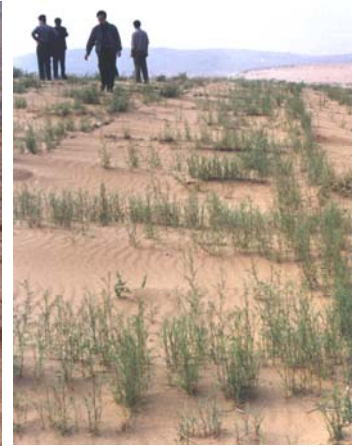
Cristopher Lopez Paniagua examines interpretive signage at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, a newly created sanctuary for birds and wildlife.

Fellows Share Their Work with the Public

The World Forest Institute Fellows are highlighting forest issues in their home countries in a series of talks at the World Forestry Center.

In January, Fellow Zengwang Ma of China spoke to an audience about the struggle to reforest his home province, Hebei. Located adjacent to Beijing, Hebei has suffered low forest cover since 1949. Desertification, construction pollution, and severe drought in the north have led to images of Beijing covered in sand, grounding air traffic, causing accidents and many health problems. The Hebei Forestry Department has launched an ambitious program to combat the encroaching desert, through replanting, logging bans and the development of non-extractive forest activities, such as ecotourism.

On February 21 Nerijus Miskinis, Lithuania, will be the next Fellow to present. His talk is titled "Making Forests Work in Lithuania." Lithuania is the largest of the Baltic countries, and is one-third covered by forests. Nerijus will discuss



Much work in Hebei is being done to afforest areas affected by desertification and soil degradation. In these photos workers are preparing for tree planting (left) and surveying shrub plantings in sandy areas (right).

how this small country (just 1/4 the size of Oregon) has adjusted to post-Soviet rule in the past fifteen years, and how economic development is impacting the country's forests and forest industry.

On March 21 Cristopher Lopez Paniagua will present "Monarch and Man in Mexico: Developing Ecotourism Businesses." The Monarch is the best known of all migratory butterflies, traveling across North and South America to overwinter in Mexico. In 2000, Mexico established a 56 hectare protected area for the butterfly, but despite its protected status, conservation

is complex because many people live within the reserve. In the most popular sanctuary as many as 4000 tourists visit per day, creating enormous habitat pressure. Cristopher will discuss the need to create alternative sources of employment and productive projects for these communities to prevent degradation of the monarch's natural habitat, as well as results from his project research.

All presentations are held at 4:00 pm in the Mount Hood Room at the WFC Forest Discovery Museum. RSVPs are appreciated to Program Manager Angie DiSalvo at adisalvo@worldforestry.org.



The Taihang Mountain Afforestation Project is part of the Chinese government's efforts to convert some farmland areas back into forestland. Marginal terraced farmlands (left) have been planted with a variety of tree species to provide ecological benefits and economic benefits, such as fruit and nut production (right).

“International Timberland Investing” Planned for September 2007

The World Forestry Center has organized a “Who Will Own the Forest?” Summit for the last few years, on an alternate year rotation. The program focuses on shifting forest ownership in the US. One area worth exploring further is the arena of international timberland investment. However, with such a packed program at the WWOTF summits, it has been difficult to give this area the focus it deserves. Thus, WFI is planning an event in September to focus on this issue.

The International Timberland Investing conference will cover both in-bound investments into the US from overseas, as well as out-bound investments to non-US timberlands. Wood markets, ideal growing areas and rates, competitive investment and regulatory environments, ownership, tax and title issues, and forest valuation will be covered.

A recent report by Ernst & Young suggests that the rest of the globe is poised to surpass the United States by 2008 in terms of total real estate capitalization. Nearly two-thirds of real estate professionals surveyed last year by the international law firm Bryan Cave said they planned to invest abroad within the next 12 months. And institutional investors — which sank dizzying amounts of money into domestic REITs last year — are also increasing their exposure to international real estate (New York Times).

In addition to the US, South America, Australia/New Zealand, China, India, South Africa, Eastern Europe and Russia are likely to be covered. Those interested in speaking, sponsoring or attending, should contact Sara Wu at swu@worldforestry.org.

Tillamook Forest Center Offers Lesson in Planning

With an advertising slogan of “find yourself in the forest,” the new Tillamook Forest Center tells the story of the Tillamook, an area once devastated by a series of fires in the 1930s and 1940s. Over 800 square miles of forest was destroyed and it took twenty years to replant in Oregon’s first major reforestation effort.

As the new forest grew, it took many years for recreation interest to develop, but as people began using the forest an obvious need to manage visitors emerged. The Tillamook is now heavily used by off-highway vehicles, campers, hikers, mountain bike riders, and others. The Tilla-

mook Center took over ten years to plan and was envisioned as part of a larger recreation planning process for this state-owned forest area.

Doug Decker, the project manager for the center, spent a day teaching Fellows about the planning process to develop this new attraction, which opened less than a year ago. Doug shared his experiences in recreation planning using the “three E’s”: engineering, education, and enforcement. He discussed how vital each component is for successful management of recreation sites.

Developing interpretive themes and education cen-



Nerijus Miskinis, Zengwang Ma, Cristopher Lopez Paniagua, and Doug Decker pose with Smokey the Bear at the Tillamook Forest Center.

ters is of particular interest to Zengwang Ma (China) and Cristopher Lopez Paniagua (Mexico), as their projects address minimizing visitor impacts in fragile ecological areas. The Tillamook story sparked much discussion and gave Ma and Cris some excellent ideas for application in their projects.

Deadline Approaching for 2007 International Educators Institute

The World Forestry Center’s International Educators Institute (IEI) is a unique week-long professional development program and Pacific Northwest field study tour. The tour is a joint effort between the WFC Education Department and the World Forest Institute and will be held July 22-28, 2007. Since 1996, IEI participants have traveled to Portland from 20 countries and 26 states. Participants are international forest researchers and successful master educa-

lated environmental, social, and economic topics. Behind-the-scenes tours, field interviews, and hands-on projects are organized thematically and complimented by a wide diversity of guest presenters and viewpoints. The week-long tour is an opportunity to exchange “best practices” in education, gain new perspectives, and meet new professional colleagues.

To qualify for selection, applicants must have profes-

sional or personal experience in natural resource fields, have teaching responsibilities, demonstrate leadership in their field, and be proficient in English language skills. There is a cost for the course of \$2,500 and some scholarships are available. To apply, an application is required and must be returned by the deadline of February 28, 2007. For more information and to request an application, please contact Program Manager Angie DiSalvo at adisalvo@worldforestry.org.



Many IEI participants describe the event as a highlight of their professional careers, as it is a unique way to create networks and learn new practices.

Updates from our Alumni Around the Globe

Jasjit Singh Walia (India), who researched ecotourism projects in Oregon, has been appointed to head his state of Himachal's ecotourism development. Jasjit reports that he is "liking [his] work and can see it taking roots. The index—favorable reviews by the local press and calls to present [his] initiatives in different forums."

Phil Lacy (Australia) and his wife Jan, two kids and a dog, are moving to Canberra as Phil completes his PhD thesis. Jan reports that she "is looking forward to a cruisy year in Canberra, avoiding teaching if possible and looking for a soccer team to sign up with."

Jaakko Rantanen (Finland), still with UPM-Kymmene, will be moving with his girlfriend from Tampere, Finland, to the west coast town of Pori.

Guangyu Wang (China), currently completing a PhD at the University of British Columbia, Canada, led a forestry delegation from the Chinese Society of Forestry to Vancouver, and then down to Portland, where they toured the World Forestry Center.

Kenji Kariya (Japan) of Sumitomo Forestry is still designing prototype homes for his company, and working on completing his PhD.

Blair Freeman (Australia) remains with ITC Forestry but reports that he and Danielle, plus their two daughters, have relocated back to Melbourne. The move was the result of "a promotion with ITC, to take on the role of managing business development across the group (forestry and sawmill processing operations), and with family in Melbourne it became a compelling opportunity."

Send us your updates and photos for the next issue!



During their trip to Mexico, Fellow **Cristopher Lopez Paniagua** (left) and Education Director Rick Zenn had a chance meeting with WFI alumnus **Marco Bernal** (right) on the street in the small town of Anganguero. Marco came to WFI in 2000-2001 to also work on a Monarch Butterfly project.



Russian alumnus **Igor Danilin** sent in this snowy photo of Siberia in winter.



Taiwanese alumnus **Galy Yang** and girlfriend Jennifer took a trip to Hong Kong for Christmas and New Years—here they are at "Christmas Town."



Norwegian International Educators Institute alumnus **Jørn Kjerseim** enjoying Norway's winter snow.



On October 5, Taiwan alumnus **Pei-jung Wang** welcomed her first child, a healthy baby boy.

