

Member Survey Comments – July 2009

78 respondents added comments, of which 11 were “happy with the status quo”. These 11 were not included below.

1. After biomass what is next, should not we be concerned as a research & technology society?
2. There is overlap with SWST? How should this further develop? Raise the impact of the FPJ.
3. Since I'm a new member, I'm not familiar with all membership categories, but are there incentives for members to become long-term members (eg, recognition, extra benefits, or reduced prices for certain things)?
4. It would also be great if there was a publication outlet for the international conference (ie proceedings). To encourage student involvement, maybe poster presenters could also submit papers.
5. Being the member from Latvia it is problematic to attend the meetings
6. Let us hold the annual conference in other friendly country where we have more members, we may through this have more scientists becoming members and also disseminate our products through our presence. Seeing is believing.
7. The FPS Journal should give an overview what is published in other journals (e.g. RILEM) concerning wood as a material and what is going on in other organizations regarding standardization outside the US.
8. Keep the organization going.
9. I see the FPS as being far too American focused; many of the FPJ papers for example ignore published literature from other parts of the world
10. Develop a strategic plan that will provide members with top quality ForProd information and networking opportunities. Figure out how to run FPS with less \$\$\$.
Invigorate industrial membership base by developing FPJ and a trade journal, at the cost of other periodicals.
11. Don't be afraid of change!
12. As a student, I just feel having access to all of the information related to the wood products industry is critical, even though because of our financial situation, it is hard for us to attend conventions.
13. The registration fee of a conference is quite expensive. The researchers from distant areas must pay a lot on transportation. This is why some researchers fail to attend the meeting.
14. There are so many wood related associations and I'm not sure they provide value at such a small minority. Why doesn't one society like FPS take the lead role in having the other associations under the FPS umbrella for the good of the wood and forest products.
15. This organization in its present form is dying if not dead. It needs to be revamped from the ground up to bring in younger professionals and to give the industry as a whole a chance at survival. In my opinion we need to start over as a bio materials based organization.
16. Need to find a way to provide more value and relevance to industry.
17. International Convention was more important to me when I worked in industry, as I had ready funding to attend. In academia funding for meeting attendance is much harder to attain/justify. I

have always been an advocate of making the meetings more industry relevant, but Industry Day format/program did not offer industry researchers/managers enough variety in programming to draw much of a crowd. I believe that the academic crowd is now so small (and budget-constrained) that it is unreasonable to base the meeting format on academic programming alone.

18. The International Conference is the glory (and the energy) of the Society. But in its current format, the glory is practically gone.
19. Has anyone thought about reducing fees/rates/page charges so as to include more members? Seems that the higher the rates go, a proportionate drop in membership occurs. What if we did the opposite to halt the hemorrhaging? Also, what about finding cheaper venues for the IC? Try Omaha instead of Chicago? The big cities seem like killers?
20. The on-line access to the publications of Forest Products Journal would be better if this journal can be searched and downloaded up to 15 to 20 years ago for all members. I think FPS did not do enough job in this aspect for our members.
21. You have charged way too much for the couple of webinars that you have had. If I remember one was \$175. The price kept me from participating. Web based programs should be cheap since your costs are much less (no refreshments, no travel for speaker, no room rental fees, etc).
22. International relationships to be
23. Some FPS events in Europe area.
24. Consider more education/articles/books on professional skills, such was workplace communications (public speaking, giving feedback, negotiations). These are critical to getting our message out, yet they are undervalued/underappreciated by our FPS colleagues.
25. reduce registration cost for annual meeting; 300 for one day is too steep
26. Increase the number of articles in the FPJ. Increase advertising by industry in the FPJ. I know this is tough, but it would help significantly to show relevance of the Society to manufacturers and users of Forest Products. Reduce registration fee for annual meeting. Change the name of the "International Convention" back to "Annual Meeting". Broaden and expand membership. I know this is tough. Consider lowering full membership fee; membership might increase. Go back to previous categories of organizational sponsorship. The current titles appear tacky, and do not appear to have helped increase sponsor contributions.
27. Look into partnership opportunities with other professional forest products and building material based organizations.
28. The information of international wood products standards, including the testing method , relating to the building code would be highly appreciated.
29. Student activities are very important to keep their interest in the profession. E.g., the National Timber Bridge Design Competition needs to be supported.
30. I think that FPS has substantial expertise in developing conferences but needs to understand market potential before moving ahead. The publications are top notch and should continue. It is one of the few places were good quality information, well edited, can be found.
31. Resume having operations tours after or before IC.
32. Again, refereed conference proceedings


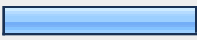
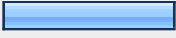
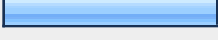
33. Get rid of the necrology report at the business meeting. 2) In fact, get rid of the business meeting altogether. Let the Board make decisions. Use electronic ballots if you need membership input. 3) There's a lot of pomp-and-circumstance around incoming and outgoing officers that should just stop. I know there's a lot of tradition, but it's past its prime. 4) How about inviting some industry folks or designers to share some real-world needs that could be solved with research and get the academicians thinking about applied research.
34. Organization currently has very little industry participation - in the past there was a great deal of industry participation at meetings, technical forms, technical articles, etc. At present time the primary focus of the organization appears to be toward academia and gov't researchers who have to publish. If organization is going to maintain / expand membership it will have to attract industry members / participation. Academia and gov't researchers will not fund the organization.
35. Has a joint meeting with the society of american foresters been considered? They are big - our meeting could be a set of tracks within their meeting. Would other joint meetings work?
36. These are very trying times, web presence might improve some things due to travel cost, however, I find it not as valuable for webinars as actual sit-down meetings.
37. FPS should stick to being a technology transfer organization and stop trying to be a professional society. That's SWST's role.
38. It strikes me that a decision must be made to either be good at the technical basis -OR- to serve as an integrator and disseminator of soft information (including trade press, updates on important government developments, and other soft bits of information).
39. Give students more of a discount to come to annual meetings, current rates are too high.
40. Increased cooperation with material science and engineering
41. The importance of FPS to forest products is not at question. We may need to take a hard look at if the society structure (technical areas for example, ie TIGs) and our general direction reflects where we want to be in the future. With changes in the traditional forest products industry, are there new areas (industries) we can target? (just one example). Are technical conferences diluting the value of the national convention (I do not have any data to evaluate the validity of this argument, just thinking out loud based on intuition).
42. Encourage Sections to visit with associations (AIA, PE, AGC...) to increase outreach. Knowledge about wood products needs to be actively shared with potential users.
43. How can we strengthen the "European branch" of FPS? For Europeans this would be interesting. America often is far away and quite different to European technology. Therefore also no answers to some questions above.
44. The Boise Doubletree was a poor venue for the FPS conference. Very little around it, old, bad food etc. For next time.
45. Just try to push for keeping the operation solvent and active through the hard times- "lean and green"
46. FPS seems too academic sometimes and not industry focused.
47. The Annual International meeting has become prohibitively expensive.
48. FPS Career site is needed for both employers and job seekers
49. We need to continue to poll the members on a regular basis, using this and other methods.

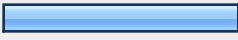

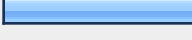



50. Living in Europe, distance is prohibitive for frequent participation in person; printed and networking abilities most important
51. The FPJ needs to catch up with the times and go to electronic submission and review and use an editorial system that consists of several volunteer topical editors who serve as facilitators, gatekeepers and referees of the review process.
52. Need some type of proceedings from annual meeting!
53. In the rush to "change", don't lose our strengths (FPJ, special publications, and timely conferences).
54. Please see above for working with SAF; especially with today's new "Green" concerns including in particular, of course, green energy and carbon sequestration.
55. Honestly I perceive very little value in the FPS. The FPJ has a low impact factor and high page charges. This is prohibitive to junior faculty member's to publish their best work in the journal.
56. Wood needs to be recognized on the national scale, government and schools. There seems to be little push in developing human capital in our field and the developing recognition in the federal government. What can the FPS do to build awareness in our field? How can they highlight cutting edge research in the media? How can FPS advocate for our timber resources on a grand scale?
57. I think that FPS needs to consider more partnering with other professional societies including SAF
58. We must expand beyond our traditional academic base to survive.
59. We must become relevant to the industry.
60. We must look beyond our traditional membership and functions.
61. merge swst & fps - get rid of FPBJ (what a waste)
62. Glad you did a member survey. Very important to understand FPS members. Maybe think about doing it annually.
63. The Society MUST get over the petty competition with the Society of Wood Science and Technology and cease its efforts to absorb SWST. This is NOT the answer to the problems that FPS has. Needed is development of a new vision. In my view a key part of what needs to happen (see earlier comments) is re-positioning so as to be a key provider of up-to-date, timely, focused information on contemporary and emerging topics. It could be argued that this is what FPS does today, but it is all too clear that much work is needed to get away from overly academic, painstakingly slow, haphazard publication on various topics. Further, it appears obvious that aggressive action is needed to bring down costs of operation and to create a more nimble organization. FPS should not be running a deficit and must immediately do whatever is needed to align costs and income.
64. Do the annual conference in places more attractive to the people, remember, the annual conference has two components, networking and update as well as business for the FPS. People want to go to the conference, but after 5 pm there is nothing to do, so it is important to hold the conference in attractive places.
65. Please rethink structure of annual meeting. There are more cost-effective options available (such as "renting" space at a small college for concurrent sessions, etc.).

66. You must shift the paradigm if you are to be successful in reinventing the Society. It has lost relevance, value and credibility in past years. Shift, and don't be too careful about moving too far....

67. Rework the website; make searching the online easier

Forest Products Society Member Survey

1. How long have you been a member of the Forest Products Society?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
less than 2 years		11.8%	46
2 - 10 years		29.5%	115
11 - 20 years		26.2%	102
over 20 years		32.6%	127
		<i>answered question</i>	390
		<i>skipped question</i>	1

2. Which of the following best describes your employment area?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
University		36.2%	141
Government		9.7%	38
Industry		29.0%	113
Retired		8.2%	32
Student		6.4%	25
Other (please specify)		10.5%	41
		<i>answered question</i>	390
		<i>skipped question</i>	1

3. How important are the following FPS products and services to you?							
	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	No Opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
FPS International Convention (Annual Meeting)	14.3% (55)	30.7% (118)	32.6% (125)	17.2% (66)	5.2% (20)	2.45	38
Technical Conferences and Workshops	11.5% (44)	37.2% (142)	36.1% (138)	10.7% (41)	4.5% (17)	2.52	38
Section Meetings	5.9% (22)	18.4% (69)	30.6% (115)	35.4% (133)	9.8% (37)	1.94	37
Forest Products Journal	48.7% (188)	34.2% (132)	14.5% (56)	2.1% (8)	0.5% (2)	3.30	38
International Journal of Forest Engineering	5.1% (19)	14.3% (53)	24.9% (92)	36.8% (136)	18.9% (70)	1.85	37
Journal of Forest Products Business Research	8.6% (32)	15.5% (58)	24.1% (90)	32.2% (120)	19.6% (73)	2.01	37
Wood Design Focus	10.4% (39)	17.9% (67)	29.6% (111)	26.1% (98)	16.0% (60)	2.15	37
Conference Proceedings	17.9% (68)	36.7% (139)	31.9% (121)	10.3% (39)	3.2% (12)	2.64	37
Other Publications	9.7% (36)	35.6% (132)	31.8% (118)	9.7% (36)	13.2% (49)	2.52	37
Interactive Library Databases	33.2% (126)	34.5% (131)	18.7% (71)	7.6% (29)	6.1% (23)	2.99	38
FPS Website	23.9% (91)	38.9% (148)	27.6% (105)	7.1% (27)	2.4% (9)	2.82	38
Member Newsletter	13.3% (50)	43.4% (163)	37.8% (142)	5.1% (19)	0.5% (2)	2.65	37
	answered question						39
	skipped question						

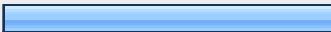



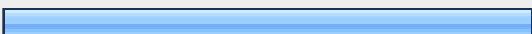
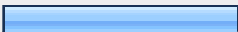
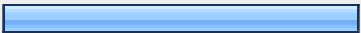

4. Rank how important the following benefits of your membership in the Forest Products Society are to you. (Please choose only ONE level of importance for each category)









	5 - Most Important	4	3	2	1 - Least Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Networking opportunities	23.0% (74)	18.9% (61)	19.9% (64)	26.4% (85)	11.8% (38)	3.15	322
Professional development	9.0% (28)	15.8% (49)	29.9% (93)	27.7% (86)	17.7% (55)	2.71	311
Access to technical information	33.2% (104)	27.5% (86)	20.4% (64)	9.3% (29)	9.6% (30)	3.65	313
Finding current research	22.7% (79)	34.8% (121)	20.4% (71)	16.4% (57)	5.7% (20)	3.52	348
Publishing opportunities	16.3% (60)	14.2% (52)	13.6% (50)	16.3% (60)	39.5% (145)	2.51	367
	<i>answered question</i>						389
	<i>skipped question</i>						2

5. Do you have any suggestions for improving existing products, services, or benefits that would add value to your membership?

	Response Count
	101
	<i>answered question</i> 101
	<i>skipped question</i> 290

**6. As we look to the future, which THREE web-based products or services would you like the Society to provide?
 (Please choose only THREE)**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Webinars		50.3%	191
Podcasts		6.8%	26
Blogs		7.6%	29
Online continuing education		38.7%	147
Online publications		81.6%	310
Online professional networking		36.1%	137
Online technical forums		54.5%	207
Other (please specify)		3.7%	14
		<i>answered question</i>	380
		<i>skipped question</i>	11

7. To which additional professional associations do you belong?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Society of Wood Science & Technology		69.0%	167
Society of American Foresters		24.8%	60
American Wood Council		10.7%	26
International Wood Collectors Society		2.5%	6
International Academy of Wood Science		13.2%	32
American Society of Agriculture & Biological Engineers		2.5%	6
American Society of Mechanical Engineers		2.1%	5
American Society of Civil Engineers		12.8%	31
		Other (please specify)	139
		<i>answered question</i>	242
		<i>skipped question</i>	149

8. Do you have any additional suggestions or comments?		Response Count
		93
		<i>answered question</i>
		93
		<i>skipped question</i>
		298