



## Newsletter of the Association for Tree-Ring Research

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Table of contents	Page
Report on TRACE 2010 in Freiburg	2
Report on the 10th annual ATR Meeting in Freiburg	3
Winners of the ATR Best poster and oral presentation awards 2010	4
Welcome address by Ute Sass-Klassen	4
WorldDendro 2010 in Finland and the LUSTIA project	5
Presidential note	5
Editorial	6

**TRACE 2010 in Freiburg i.Brsg.  
(Germany)**

By Marieke van der Maaten-Theunissen

From April 22 till April 25 2010 the TRACE 2010 conference (Tree Rings in Archaeology, Climatology and Ecology) was held in Freiburg, Germany. Over 100 dendro-researchers participated in the conference with 28 oral and 33 poster presentations.

Besides presentations, a laboratory visit was scheduled on Friday to the Dendro-Lab of the Institute for Forest Growth where tree-ring measurements, cell structure analyses and high-frequency densitometry were discussed. Further, there was a panel discussion titled "The influence of data collection and data treatment on climate reconstruction with tree rings" moderated by the ATR-president Achim Bräuning. The panel, consisting of Jan Esper, Gerd Helle, Ulf Büntgen, Holger Gärtner and Ingo Heinrich, discussed about, e.g., possible trends in isotope data and removal autocorrelation from tree-ring chronologies.

Invited speakers at TRACE 2010 were Philippe Rozenberg from INRA Orleans, who presented a concept called "dendroplasticity",

and Wolfgang Beck from the Johann-Heinrich-von-Tünnen Institute Eberswalde, who showed results of a study on drought responses of different tree species in Germany.

ATR-Awards for the best poster and presentation were rewarded by a jury consisting of Niels Bleicher, Alexander Kirilyanov and Pascale Weber. Because of the high quality of both poster and oral contributions this year, the decision showed to be very difficult. Finally, Ewa Zin from the Forest Research Institute in Białowieża (Poland) was rewarded with the ATR-Presentation Award for her contribution about a multi-site tree ring fire record from the Białowieża Forest. Daniele Castagneri from the University of Turin (Italy) was granted with the ATR-Poster prize for his poster about age-related growth trends of ancient Norway spruce trees and a possible bias of index chronologies when using Regional Curve Standardization (RCS).

The observed trend by Achim Bräuning that dendro-researchers are increasingly trying to interpret their results using tree physiology is promising, and therefore I am looking forward to the TRACE 2011 Meeting!



A large group of enthusiastic dendro-researchers

**Report on the 10<sup>th</sup> annual ATR Meeting in Freiburg i.Brsg. (Germany)**

By Pascale Weber and Irek Malik

On the first day of the TRACE conference in Freiburg i.Brsg. (Germany), ATR celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. 82 members and 6 non-members were present. Achim Bräuning, the ATR president, welcomed the attendees and introduced the agenda. He reported on the activities of ATR over the past year since the annual meeting in Otočec (SI). Among other things, the new webpage has been finalised and will be online soon. The vice-president Holger Gärtner talked about the planned new ATR Flyer, including one page about the research fields that are covered by our members. He invited all members to contribute 5-6 sentences about their field of expertise or a certain topic, so he can collect ideas from all members. The ATR Newsletter has been reactivated and will now be published in regular intervals.

Afterwards, the ATR treasurer Ingo Heinrich presented the newest financial numbers. The current account balance is € 8'405.50. In 2009, members paid fees of € 2'753.57. This is less than in the previous year. One reason for this could be that there was no reminder sent out. From other resources the income was € 135.00, adding up to a total income of € 3'308.57. On the other side are total expenses of € 3'726.23 (*corrected numbers*) for the following: Admin (account) € 1'826.23, Awards € 450.00, Funding € 1'450.00. The administration costs were somewhat higher than in previous years due to more frequent board meetings as a consequence of the high workload of the board. The membership number has risen again from 201 (2009) to 233 (inclusive 15 new members at TRACE 2010). The usual remark was made: Please indicate your name and membership year when paying for your membership via direct bank transfer or Paypal. Later, the two cash

auditors Isabel Dorado and Karina Hennig presented the cash auditors report. The report was accepted without any objection.

Next, Achim Bräuning informed the members that TRACE Volume 9 will be printed again at the Potsdam Research Center for Geosciences. For the last volume (TRACE Volume 8) the full printing costs were covered (approx. € 1'250). However, the next volume will probably be printed with reduced cover. But ATR will be able to partly contribute to the costs.

ATR is involved in the scientific advisory board of Worlddendro 2010 - 8<sup>th</sup> Conference on Dendrochronology in Finland. This also opens the opportunity to introduce ATR to Scandinavia.

Due to the fact that just one PhD and master thesis were entered in the run for the best theses award, the ATR Award 2010 was cancelled for this year and the two submitted theses will participate in the contest for the best thesis in 2011. Achim Bräuning encouraged PhD and master students to talk to their supervisors to submit their thesis (one submission per supervisor per year in each category is possible).

On the basis of the above-mentioned activities and information, the board was exonerated unanimously.

Due to the ATR constitution, the ATR executive board is elected every second year (even-numbered years, so in 2010). This year, the members first decided about the extension of the board by two chairpersons and at the same time the modification of the co-secretary back into a single person secretary. This new board formation was fully approved by 81 members, one neutral. One chairperson will be mainly responsible for the resort ATR Newsletter, the other chairperson for the resort ATR Awards. The following candidates were available and elected for the open positions:

- President: Achim Bräuning (81 votes, unanimously)
- Vice-president: Holger Gärtner (81 v.)
- Secretary: Ireneusz Malik (81 v.)

- Treasurer: Ingo Heinrich (81 v.)
- Chairperson for Awards: Ute Sass-Klassen (81 v.)
- Chairperson for Newsletter: Pascale Weber (81 v.)

Finally, a place for the next TRACE meeting in 2011 has been searched for. The ATR board welcomed particularly ideas for a meeting venue in a Mediterranean country. Later into the TRACE meeting, the French participants from INRA agreed to organise TRACE 2011 in France! The place has to be decided yet.

There was only one "other topic": Please in case of address change, change your address on the membership list (online on the ATR Webpage), so we can provide you with information, e.g. the Newsletter.

Thank you all for attending the Meeting!

**ATR Best Poster and Oral Presentation Awards 2010**

The winner of the Best Poster Award 2010 is **Daniele Castagneri**. He presented a well-structured poster with an adequate amount of text on an interesting subject for many of us involved in tree-ring research: "Age-related growth trend of ancient Norway spruce trees – Possible effects on long-term growth patterns". Further mentioned were the posters of **Bettina Wagner** and **Patrick Pyttel**.

The winner of the Best Oral Presentation Award 2010 is **Ewa Zin**. She gave an interesting and well-presented talk on an interdisciplinary application of Dendrochronology, entitled "A multi-site tree-ring fire record from the Białowieża Forest, Poland". Further mentioned were the talks of **Johannes Schultz** and **Alice Michelot**.

**Welcome to the ATR Board**

By Ute Sass-Klassen



**I am...**  
Ute Sass-Klassen,  
Assistant Professor at the Forest Ecology and Management Group at Wageningen University, Netherlands.

**First contact with Dendrochronology...** in 1985 when I won the lottery!

Dieter Eckstein had two available positions for student assistants at Hamburg University. Many students were interested - Dieter, fair as always, did a lottery. He prayed for getting two tough guys for coring historic buildings and he got two enthusiastic girls - Cornelia Krause and me.

**My expertise is...** on quantitative wood anatomy and tree biology. With this background I work together with my colleagues in Wageningen on applications of dendrochronology in geomorphology, climate research and forest ecology in temperate, boreal and tropical ecosystems.

**My motivation to join the ATR board is ...** to promote Dendro sciences among (young) people from different scientific disciplines, encourage international and interdisciplinary cooperation and stimulate workshops and training schools on well-established and new dendrochronological techniques and actual topics.

**I am looking forward to ...** meeting many (future) ATR members at the WorldDendro in Rovaniemi, Finland.

**8<sup>th</sup> ICD in Rovaniemi (Finland) and the LUSTIA project**

By Mauri Timonen and Pascale Weber

From June 13-18 2010 the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Dendrochronology will take place in Finland. The WorldDendro 2010 conference focuses on dendrochronology and the applications of tree rings as environmental sensors. The specific theme of the conference is climate change. About 330 researchers from 40 countries are awaited to participate in the conference. The conference is hosted by the Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA) and organised in the premises of University of Lapland in Rovaniemi.

The Finnish tree-ring labs are presented in the worldwide web on <http://lustia.pp.fi>. **LUSTIA** is the acronym for **LUS**to **Tieto**Arkisto (in English: Tree-ring Data Archives) and is the joint effort of a Finnish tree-ring researcher team from METLA and the Universities of Helsinki and Joensuu. In 1998, the project team of Professor Matti Eronen's ADVANCE-10K-project decided to set up a website for promoting the use of the Finnish supra-long chronology of timberline pine. With the aid of this webpage, the chronology has been extended to 7'644 years dating back to 5'634 BC.

At the beginning, the webpage was known under the name FinTRLabs, but renamed in 2006. Although still arranging and archiving the ADVANCE-10K information, the LUSTIA website has grown to the leading Finnish information source of Dendrochronology. Tree-ring people in more than 100 countries know the site and visit there for different reasons. On the webpage you will find information about the pine chronology, but also other tree-ring projects. For reading purposes on your flight to Finland, you might be interested in the slide series "What's new" on <http://lustia.pp.fi/climate2050.pdf>.

**Presidential note**

By Achim Bräuning

Dear ATR members,

As reported above, during the TRACE-meeting 2010 in Freiburg I was re-elected for another campaign as President of ATR. I feel very indebted to our members for the credit and it strongly motivates me to cope with the challenges lying ahead of us. ATR has constantly expanded since its foundation in September 2001 and we may welcome the 250<sup>th</sup> member before our forthcoming 10-year anniversary. This is a great success story.

However, it also faces us with increasing administrative complexity of an expanding society. To cope with the tasks going parallel with the accompanying internationalization and increasing communication demand, we decided to enlarge the board for two chair persons which will fortify the existing executive board. Pascale Weber took over the task to edit the newsletter and Ute Sass-Klaassen will engage in other communication activities (e. g. contacts with other scientific organisations). We appreciate the engagement of both to take the assignments and wish them the best of luck for their work.

Of central importance as a platform for future communication will be the ATR Homepage. Presently, we are intensively working on making the technique, structure and design of the Homepage fit for the increasing demands. The next newsletter envisaged for summer will introduce the new Homepage and its functionality in detail. We will present the new Homepage during the forthcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Conference on Dendrochronology in Finland, where the organizers provided a time slot to present ATR and its activities. We strongly hope for an additional success not only in membership numbers but also in the ongoing process of introducing ATR to more European countries.



I am looking forward for the next two years which will again be an exciting period in the further development of our tree-ring community.

Sincerely,  
Achim Bräuning

### **Editorial**

At TRACE 2010 in Freiburg, I was appointed to the resort "ATR Newsletter" in the ATR board and it's a pleasure to herewith present you with my first Newsletter of a hopefully interesting series of Newsletters. It is intended to publish a Newsletter at regular intervals twice a year. As noted by Achim Bräuning in the last Newsletter, we are very much interested in your contributions, whether for the tree-ring lab series, on fascinating tree-ring people, or any other matters, which might be of interest to the ATR community. Please contact me if you would like to contribute an article or if you had an interesting subject anyone should write about in this forum.

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