

International Black Forest Meeting 2012

The International Forestry Students Association's Local Committee (IFSA LC) Freiburg hosted IFSA members from Italy, France, Slovenia, Turkey, Great Britain and Canada. The two day program focused on international perspectives in Freiburg and the local forest management.

IFSA Intention: The intension of the meeting was to enrich and support the education of future forestry professionals and to develop multicultural friendships and understanding.

IFSA Mission Statement: is to provide a platform for students of forest sciences to enrich their formal education, promote cultural understanding by encouraging collaboration with international partner organizations and to gain practical experiences with a wider and more global perspective.

BFM 2012 Success: The meeting was a success based on the objectives: to support active communication, self-confidence and expression, motivate people to engage in activities outside the classroom, revisit and engage in important environmental issues, compare and critically analyze aspects of forestry education to define its value and limitations, motivate people to participate in IFSA and provide new IFSA members with the opportunity to meet the IFSA community.



Events and Education: The three day meeting included a city tour, traditional "Forester Fest" and many more memorable events and educational experiences.

International Evening: Representative students brought typical and traditional food and beverages to share their culture with the group.



Music and camembert from France, "Schwarzwälder Schinken" Weißwurst from Bavaria, Ferrero Roche from Italy, sweets from Turkey and ajdovi žganci from Slovenia

International Presentations: The presentations were a collaborative effort between IFSA and the University of Freiburg's Forest Ecology and Management program. The presentations covered ecological, social and economic issues in forestry and land management.



<u>Guest Speakers</u> Professor Spiecker: Germany Miriam Issac-Renton: Canada Yuki Nakamura: Japan Soni Lama: Nepal Mariah Vargas: Brazil Torben Flörkemeier: Germany

Black Forest Walk: Starting at the central mountain, Schlossberg, students were guided by Professor Huss (Institute of Silviculture) to a historical place of pilgrimage, St. Ottilien, where he gave an introduction to Freiburg history including: geology, topography, land use conversion, sensitive native species, forest growth, silviculture, wildlife and of recreation.



During the walk the students asked many questions and were interested to learn more about the forestry in the Black Forest.



This meeting provided professional and social opportunities for the participating students. The accommodations, including meals, for the guests were provided by volunteers from the LC Freiburg.

Within one week LC Freiburg received two invitations from other European LC's to join a hosted meeting!

The meeting was successful for the participating students and the aims of IFSA. Thank you to all participants, volunteers and the University of Freiburg!