Two longstanding contributors to the Cooperative Forest Genetics Research Program have retired in 1988: Frank Vande Linde, after 37 years with the Brunswick Pulp Land Company, and Harm Kok, after 30 years of tree improvement work in the State of Florida, 10 with the Division of Forestry and 20 with the CPGRP. These two individuals have contributed immensely to the successes of our program, and have laid solid foundations upon which future progress will be made. We will miss their knowledge, advice and friendship, and wish them much happiness in the coming years.

The 1988 Contact Meeting will be held Jan. 11-12, 1989 (only 11 days into the new year), and will be hosted by the Proctor and Gamble Cellulose Corporation (formerly Buckeye Cellulose Corporation). The meeting will focus mainly on preparation for the 1989 Scion Collection (Jan. 25-26), Scion Exchange (Jan. 27), and subsequent clone bank grafting. Information on location, hotel reservations etc., will be forthcoming.

New BLP breeding values have been calculated. Test measurements from 1987 and 1988 have been included, and a total of 2245 individuals now have breeding value predictions. A total of 573 new selections have been included, coming from a variety of sources: 41 previously untested CPGRP selections, 146 from the Georgia Forestry Commission, 55 from the Alabama Forestry Commission, 25 originally selected by Westvaco, Weyerhaeuser, and Federal Paperboard, which were progeny tested by Brunswick, and 306 from Champion International's Blakeslee Seed Production Area, a rust-resistant source similar to Brunswick's C-Lots.

Last year 180 forward selections were made and grafted into clone banks. This year approximately 130 new forward selections will be made, with the bulk of those coming from two new cooperators, the Georgia and Alabama Forestry Commissions. Selection sheets for forward
selection which were in tests too young to select in last year have been sent out to some cooperators, and these selections should have been completed by Sept. 31, 1988. A few new forward selections may be made as a result of changes in breeding values from 1986 to 1988. Selection sheets for these additional selections will be generated, and those cooperators who will need to make these additional forward selections will be contacted individually.

REQUESTS FOR DATA FROM COOPERATORS

The following three items all request certain information which is necessary in order for us to coordinate the 1989 Scion Collection and Exchange. Please have all information returned to Gainesville by December 1, 1988.

Clone Bank Measurements: Enclosed are instructions and the data format for the 1988 measurements of the portions of the clone banks which were grafted last spring. Please return the data to UF Staff in machine readable form and in the correct format.

Roostock Status: To generate randomization schemes and maps for portions of the clone banks to be grafted this spring, we need to know the status of rootstock currently being grown. Please fill out the enclosed form.

Scion requests: We would like to accomplish scion collection for 1989 clone bank establishment and orchard establishment simultaneously. If you are planning to establish an orchard and want to graft the orchard this spring, please send to UF Staff a list of the UFNUMs of the selections and the number of scion pieces from each selection that you want. Please limit requests to backward selections (parents) only, and we will make every effort to meet your needs. If you need assistance in choosing selections for your orchard, please call.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank the companies that contributed to Harm's retirement gift, and especially thank the many individuals who traveled long distances to join Harm at his banquet. While cooperatives are nominally made up of organizations, in reality their success depends on people in those organizations. With the retirement of two special people this year, we are reminded of and thankful for the many enthusiastic, energetic and caring people who make our cooperative work.