

**The Center for BioEnergy Sustainability (CBES)
At Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)
is pleased to announce that we are holding our next Forum on November 8th, 2012
in the Ocoee Room (Room 189) in Building 1505 at 3:30pm**

The forum will be followed by a casual gathering at Virginia Dale's home where light refreshments will be enjoyed as the discussions continue.

***Please note* Forum will be held on November 8th instead of the 15th.**

**This month's forum topic is:
"Energy Crop Resource and Technology Development:
A Historical Perspective 1978-2012"**

Guest Speaker:

*Lynn Wright,
WrightLink Consulting*

Former ORNL Biofuels Feedstock Program Development Manager, current consultant to ORNL
Bioenergy Resource and Engineering Systems Group

Abstract:

The Environmental Sciences Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory managed the Biofuels Feedstock Development Program (BFDP) for the Department of Energy between approximately 1978 and 2002. During that time, considerable progress was made in developing energy crop technologies and estimating resource potential. More than 100 woody species were screened for biomass production potential, 25 were identified as high potential, 7 were selected for development of production technology and genetic improvement, poplars and willows have been adopted commercially. Thirty-five herbaceous species were screened, 4 identified as high potential, switchgrass selected for genetic improvement. Testing locations existed at many locations in the US. Management requirements were well established for model crops by late 1980's. The focus of research in the 1990's was the genetic improvement of a few model species. The BFDP research was cutting edge with respect to advancing the use of biotechnology with trees and perennial grasses. Environmental research and economic analysis at ORNL progressed enough to demonstrate that under specific conditions, energy crops could be grown under economically viable and sustainable conditions. The Billion Ton Vision analyses lead by ORNL helped in convincing the nation that biomass energy could make a valuable contribution toward reducing oil imports. Lynn will share her 30 + year perspective on the progress made by ORNL and collaborators in the development of biomass energy.

Bio:

Lynn Wright is an Adjunct Faculty member of the Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science Department at the University of Tennessee, and sole proprietor of WrightLink Consulting. Previous work included nearly 30 years at Oak Ridge National Laboratory where she managed Woody Crops research for the U.S. Department of Energy's Biomass Program. She served as a U.S. representative to several International Energy Agency Bioenergy task groups between 1987 and 2003. Lynn is lead or co-author on more than 85 articles on the topic of bioenergy feedstocks, both woody and herbaceous, has contributed to a Biomass Energy Data Book available online, and maintains the website for the SRWCOWG (www.woodycrops.org). Current work includes supporting Energy Performance Systems in testing new equipment for hybrid poplar production in Minnesota and working with Oak Ridge National Laboratory staff to produce publications. The latest overview paper is: Wright LL, Eaton LM, Perlack RD and Stokes BJ (2012) Woody Biomass. In Sayigh A, (ed.) Comprehensive Renewable Energy, Vol 5, pp. 263-291. Oxford:Elsevier.

Please mark your calendar for every third Thursday for 2012 so that you can join in the collaboration and camaraderie that is being built by your participation in the CBES forums.