



## ***THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP TO MY PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS***

**JOÃO PAULO FIDALGO CARVALHO  
UNIVERSITY TRÁS-OS-MONTES ALTO DOURO**

**A** Fulbright Grant for Lecture and Research was awarded to me in 2003 and it was very gratifying, both professionally and personally. It took place at the USDA Forest Service – Southern Research Station (Asheville NC) and the North Carolina State University (Raleigh NC). It was a highly rewarding experience and very helpful to develop my future career.

Among many positive aspects, as a Professor of Silviculture (Natural Sciences), it provided rich experiences in several unique American forest ecosystems areas. It has also provided an interesting cultural involvement.

### *Career (Research)*

The research project was related with *Forest Ecosystem Management and Yield*, where studies about ecology, silviculture and forest growth were developed, namely with broadleaved species and oaks. The research has involved data analysis and modelling to achieve different environmental and socio-economic goals. In addition, my colleagues provided me other projects and study visits, namely:

- . SOUTHERN RESEARCH STATION, ASHEVILLE, experimental treatments with different forest species; ecological succession in oaks; regeneration methods in even and uneven-aged stands. Joined the research team in the program 'Accuracy testing for predicting change in hardwood forests – Fort Campbell Forest (Kentucky)'.
- . OZARK NATIONAL FOREST, LITTLE ROCK AR, about ecology and forest stand dynamics. Development of an inventory and management for oak decline forests. Joined the research team (USDA FS, Russellville AR)



in a program for the evaluation and management of oak ecosystems of the Ozark National Forest.

- . **SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK** about management of broadleaved forests.
- . **USDA FS NATIONAL SEED LABORATORY, GA**, about seed quality and processing techniques.
- . **PROGRAM OF ADVANCED STUDIES IN SILVICULTURE, BENT CREEK, USDA FOREST SERVICE (80 h)**.
- . **STUDY VISIT TO THE PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST AND CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST**, about ecology, regeneration and managing operations in forest stands.
- . Study visit to the 'Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest', Robbinsville, about dendrology.

#### *Career (Lecturing)*

Lecturing was done in the College of Natural Resources, North Carolina State University, and was related with Silviculture.

My stay as a Fulbrighter was very beneficial to my career, contributing to future academic activities, and cultural exchange, that I still maintain.

I also profited from a better understanding about the USDA Forest Service work and North-American forest ecosystems. The scientific knowledge and collaboration in studies and the exchange of ideas about the technical aspects of silviculture has opened new perspectives for future work and collaboration. Main specific achievements are listed below:

- . Publication of some scientific articles, books and book-chapters. Book '*Oaks: Ecology, Types and Management*', Nova Science Publishers, New York (2012). Papers on the *Canadian Journal Forest Research, Forest Ecology and Management, and Seed Science and Technology*. Book '*Silvicultura Próxima da Natureza*', EB, Porto (2018).
- . Delegate member of *Pro Silva Europe* (European Association of Silviculture).
- . Integration of the Workgroup '*Forests' Adaptation of the Forest to the Climate Change*', National Strategy (ENAAC), invited by the National Forest Authority.
- . Participated in the development of the '*Competence Centre on Oaks*'.



- . Participation in the 'Cultura Prize 2012' with the project 'Valuation and Sustainable Management of Mediterranean Oak Forests' - Research, valuation and education.
- . Project 'Common Forest' (Floresta Comum).

### *Personal Experience*

The experience living in the United States afforded me a better understanding and appreciation of American culture. My interest in American history was stimulated. Today, colleagues and friends send me books about history. I was also interested to learn more about the Native American culture. I had the chance to join Civic centres, to attend Gospel services, among many other aspects of the American life and culture.

I also had the opportunity to participate as a volunteer in the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI), as one of my hobbies. To visit some national parks with stunning scenery and magnificent natural features, as well an Indian Reservation. I visited big cities, such as New York, Washington DC, and Atlanta, and went to interesting museums (e.g., MoMA, Guggenheim, Empire State Building, Smithsonian Museums including the Air and Space Museum).

A few years later, I returned to the United States to visit colleagues and friends, as well other states and forests. I'm very grateful to the Fulbright Program for all that has provided, a life changing experience, in enhancing my professional and personal relationships.