

# In Memoriam

## Juan Pajares Alonso

*Chair Professor at the University of Valladolid (Spain)*

*PhD in Forestry Engineering (ETSIM, UPM)*

*Two-year postdoc at the University of Syracuse*



Our colleague and friend Juan has passed away a few months ago, after several years of suffering with a long illness. With him we lost an excellent professional, partner and friend. Juan's legacy will last for a long time. The College of Forest Engineering (ETSIIAA) of Palencia, and the University of Valladolid, benefited for a long time from Juan's worth. Since 1994, upon joining the School, he has worked tirelessly and intelligently to put a modest school, like ours, on the map. Through his life he was fully dedicated to forest science, and especially to Forest Entomology. He was always focused on research tasks applied to pest control, with very clear objectives, which he always reached. Juan was a breath of fresh air for the College of Palencia, in a revolutionary way. He knew how to apply the experience he gained in other universities, and abroad, in an effective and very valuable way to increase the teachings and research capacities of the city where he was born, Palencia, the birthplace of the first Spanish university. Juan's arrival at College marked a point of inflexion, and his commitment was decisive for the creation and participation of the first PhD programs, the Recognized Research Group (GIR) in Sustainable Forest Management or finally the Sustainable Forest Research Management Research Institute (IUFOR). He has made an imprint in and outside the university, for example, his influence on the creation of the Calabazanos Forest Health Center, dependent on the Castilla y León Regional Government. His commitment to the university was also reflected in the positions he held: deputy director of the ETSIIAA, coordinator of the GIR, Member of the UVA Doctoral Commission among others.

All of us who were lucky enough to work with Juan have benefited from his presence during all these years. His valuable knowledge in forest entomology and forest pests, especially in bark beetles, where he was always the greatest national expert, his organization for teaching, his great ability to design experiments, his experience in field work, the search for excellence, and especially his altruistic behavior towards science and the university. Thus today, the work carried out by Juan continues to generate benefits for the University of Valladolid, which continues to receive royalties from its patents, by way and as a measure of its commitment to science, he always refused to charge anything.

Juan, has left a deep hole in Spanish and international Forest Entomology, which will take many years to fill. But those of us who have had the privilege of working with him will always remember Juan, as he will always be present in our daily research work. Thank you so much for everything!!!

Julio J. Diez  
*Colleague and friend of Juan*