IN MEMORIAM

A full and rich life is over. An extremely comprehensive book is completed, the book full of good and noble actions. On Friday, 12 August 2011, one big heart stopped beating. Professor Midhat Usčuplić passed away.

A respectable scientist, a prominent University Professor, gentleman, and above all a large human left us. As French novelist and politician Andre Malraux stated once “When they cut the oaks, the forests cry”. So, the death of Professor Usčuplić shook all those who knew him.

Academician, Prof. Dr. Midhat Usčuplić completed the Secondary School for Forestry in 1951. He graduated at the Forestry Department of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Sarajevo in 1958. He took his post graduate studies from the Forest Protection – Forest Pathology at the Faculty of forestry in Belgrade in 1960-1961. He took his PhD at the University of Belgrade in 1965. He attended the Postdoctoral studies from Forest Pathology at the Department of Forestry of the Oxford University and Cambridge University in 1968-1969.

Before and during the studies, he worked at the Forest management unit in Tuzla, Forest administration management in Kladanj, and the Company for the arrangement of forests in Sarajevo. On two occasions, he was in Sweden attending the professional development course, in 1953 and in 1955. He started his professional career at the Faculty of Forestry in Sarajevo in 1960 as an Assistant. He was promoted to the position of Associate Professor at the subject of Forest pathology in 1965. He was elected as Senior Professor for the same subject in 1970. He was appointed a Professor for the subjects Forest pathology, Integral Forest Protection and Special products of forests – mushrooms in 1976. As a teacher, he participated in the implementation of educational programs for the undergraduate and graduate programs of the Faculty of Forestry and other members of the University of Sarajevo. He established the Laboratory for the Forest Protection with a collection of herbal material and he supervised it successfully over a long period of time.

In addition to his remarkable scientific and education work, he was a holder of a series of responsible offices: on two occasions Dean at the Faculty (1974-1976; 1986-1988), Vice Dean for Scientific and Scholar activities (1976-1978), Head of Chair for the Forest Protection, and Editor in chief of the scientific journal “Works of the Faculty of Forestry University of Sarajevo” (1998-2004).

He published 14 books, lecture books, and monographs, 3 of which individually and 11 as a co-author with his closest associates. He authored more than 150 scientific and scholarly papers from the field of Integral protection of forests.
The scientific contribution by Prof. Dr. Midhat Usčuplić exceeds the development of one discipline – Forest pathology, and it extends to the entire area of Integral forest protection, to which he gave a remarkable contribution. Prof. Dr. Midhat Usčuplić is one of most quoted authors from the area of forestry here.

By his comprehensive scientific opus, Prof. Dr. M. Usčuplić provided a permanent mark for the concept of Integral forest protection, and we can therefore call him a classic of the Integral forest protection, not only here but far wider.

His educational background bears no smaller significance.

One of the founders of the Chair for Forest Protection, known today as Chair for the Forest Protection, Protection of urban green areas, and wildlife management.

Academician Usčuplić gave his unselfish contribution to the scientific and professional development of young colleagues. He rose numerous, current professors at the Faculty of forestry in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, and Macedonia. At 11 occasions, he was a Mentor or Board member for the drafting and designing the doctoral dissertations: three (3) at the Faculty of Forestry in Sarajevo; two (2) at the Faculty of Forestry in Zagreb, three (3) at the Faculty of Forestry in Belgrade, and three (3) at the Faculty of Forestry in Skopje.

He was a Visiting Professor in Zurich and Lleida (Spain).

Academician Usčuplić took part in numerous scientific and research projects in the field of forestry, as an associate or principle researcher, implemented at the Faculty of Forestry in Sarajevo, Forestry Institute in Sarajevo, or in cooperation with other scientific institutions worldwide.

For the European Journal of Forest Pathology, he prepared a Summary for two books written in English language.

Professor Usčuplić achieved a fruitful cooperation with Forest enterprises and governmental organizations:

- Development and the organization of Diagnostic and prognostic service for forest protection
- Professional assistance to the forest enterprises in the production of seeds, breeds, protection of forest plantations and natural forests, controlled use of chemical resources for the protection of herbs, etc;
- Professional assistance for the use of secondary (special) products of forests, and the development of technology of artificial breeding of edible mushrooms growing on the residues of herb material: oyster mushroom, shiitake, and the laboratory production of relevant seeds;
- Assessment of dying of woods in BiH based on a unique European method;
- Protection and conservation of valuable decorative trees (author of the project for protection of green areas in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Travnik, Trebinje, and other places);
- Organization of professional counselling on the protection of forests for the purpose of forestry as industry;
- Preparation and printing of professional publications on the most relevant diseases among plants relevant for the forestry;
- He took part in conferences and other meetings, electronic medias, and journals where he presented papers, relevant for the protection of forests and environment in general.

Academician Usčuplić participated in numerous international and national conferences on these topics and his narrow subject of interest.

He worked with a number of professional organizations: a member of the Society for the protection of plants in former Yugoslavia, British Mycological Society, and member and the president of the Executive Committee of the Self-management community for science in BiH, a member of the Commission of the Fulbright Program for BiH, Council for youth in BiH, Council of the University of Sarajevo, and others. He was a member of the Commission for poisons and resources for the protection of plants in BiH, Presidential Council of FONDEKO, and Commission for the protection and categorization of natural heritage, Council for science of the Canton Sarajevo, and the Society for protection of plants in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He was an active member and a holder of responsible offices in the amateur organizations, and we should mention his work in the University Cultural and Artistic Society ‘Slobodan Princip – Seljo’ in Sarajevo and the University Sport Society ‘Bosna’.

Professor Usčuplić, being a remarkable person, received also numerous awards and recognitions.

For his work, Academician Usčuplić received numerous awards and recognitions: Medal for work with a golden wreath (Presidency of the SFR Yugoslavia), Golden Plaque of the City of Sarajevo, Plaque of the University of Sarajevo, Charter of the Faculty of Forestry in Sarajevo in reference to the 50th anniversary of its work, Charter of the Association of societies for the protection of plants in Yugoslavia, Recognition of the diagnostic and prognostic service for the protection of forests in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gold Medal of the Association of Cultural and Artistic Societies in BiH.

The personality of Prof. Dr. M. Usčuplić will remain, by his scientific contribution, educational work, noble activities, care for students, colleagues and associates, permanently engraved in the history of the Faculty of Forestry in Sarajevo. Prof. Usčuplić was a remarkable person, for which reason he enjoyed a reputation and respect of everyone he has ever been in contact with.

May he rest in peace in this Bosnian land!