

Preface

I have envisioned writing this book since I was an undergraduate student at the University of Arizona in the Laboratory of Tree Ring Research. In my introductory dendrochronology class, taught by Tom Swetnam, we used a photocopy of a book written by Hal Fritts that was no longer in print. That book was the famous *Tree Rings and Climate*, but during the 1990s the only way to acquire the text was from a photocopy directly from the author. Thankfully, Blackburn Press reprinted the book in its entirety in 2001, and it is once again available to new students of dendrochronology. Another book that was often suggested for the novice dendrochronologist was *An Introduction to Tree-Ring Dating* by Marvin Stokes and Terah Smiley. Fritts' book was written at a high level with the explicit focus of dendroclimatology, whereas Stokes' and Smiley's book was a basic introduction that specifically used a dendroarchaeological project to explain the techniques of dendrochronology. I have written this book as a basic introduction to the breadth of dendrochronology, including some of the principles and physiological background that one needs to conduct dendrochronological research. The second half of the book has chapters dedicated to each of the subdisciplines of dendrochronology, providing a basic bibliography for one to start dendrochronological research in any of the applications within the field.

I further saw a need for this book while teaching and organizing the North American Dendroecological Fieldweek since 1997, along with teaching my own dendrochronology class at the university level since 1999. The students consistently asked the same questions about the field, and I hope that this book answers those questions. In teaching at the North American Dendroecological Fieldweek, I realized that every laboratory has its own perspective on the field, although the Tucson Lab has wide-reaching influence because so many people spend some time at that laboratory for aspects of their training in the field. My own training in dendrochronology came from four years at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research in Tucson at the University of Arizona, and therefore my perspective is from that institution. I have contacted researchers in other countries to try to ensure the inclusion of the best literature from around the world, but admittedly my perspective is based on my own research in North America.

I hope that readers find this book useful as a reference and as a primary starting point for work in dendrochronology. It is the result of five years of dedicated reading and writing along with the input from 22 other dendrochronologists through reviews of different stages of the book.