

# NezPerce News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees



Volume 1, Issue 1, February, 2003

## Retirements

By Laura Smith



Randy Doman and Jon Foland are all smiles as they receive their "Airward."

### Doman

Randy Doman started his career with the US Forest Service as a seasonal employee on the Sawtooth Interregional Fire crew in June of 1968. He worked on the crew for 3 seasons while attending college. He became the assistant foreman

of the crew in 1971 and foreman in 1974.

Randy transferred to the Clearwater National Forest in 1981 as the Fire Management Officer on the Canyon Ranger District. When the Canyon and Kelly Creek Districts combined, he became the Fire Management Officer for the new North Fork Ranger District. Randy moved to the Clearwater Supervisor's Office in 1989 where he worked in wilderness fire planning, wildlife burning and prevention. He became the Forest Fuels Specialist in 1990.

Consolidation caught up with Randy again as the Nez Perce and Clearwater Fire Management programs consolidated in April 1996. This resulted in a move to Grangeville where he was the Fire Use/Fire Planning Specialist for the Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone. A promotion to Deputy Fire Staff Officer occurred in 1998.

Up to his retirement, Randy was the Acting Fire Staff Officer for the Clear/Nez Fire Zone. Randy has served on Incident Management Teams since 1980 in a variety of positions. He was involved in the Fire Use Program since 1979 when he helped write the Fire Management Plan for the Sawtooth Wilderness. He served as Incident Commander for the Northern Rockies FUMT for the past two seasons. Randy has a wife, Laurie, 3 daughters, 2 dogs, 4 horses and a mule, which seem to keep his life full. He enjoys sports, hunting, hiking, skiing, baking reading, woodworking and lying in the sun.

Foland's fondest memory: "Meeting my future wife while on a smokejumper detail in Silver City, New Mexico."

### Foland

Jon Foland started as a seasonal Fire Control Aide (Smokechaser) on the Kootenai NF in 1967. He attended Cornell University in biological sciences.

Jon was a smokejumper from 1968 to 1988 - at Missoula, West Yellowstone (Gallatin NF), La Grande (Wallowa-Whitman NF) and Redmond (Deschutes NF).

He transferred to Grangeville Air Center, Nez Perce NF as Smokejumper Foreman in 1980. He became the Forest Aviation Officer 1986 to present.

Jon and his wife Annabelle have a daughter, Jil, who is married and living in Lewiston,

ID. and a son, Jed, who is a student at U of I in Moscow, ID.

The only hobbies that Jon would claim were "huntin' and fishin'," with plans for the future being, "more huntin' and fishin'."



### Geouge

By Erica Wilsey

After attending the military from 1958-1962, Dean Geouge worked for the telephone company in Burnsville, NC for 24 years, before starting his career with the Forest Service. Having family out west, Dean moved and made a new start. He started working in Grangeville as a Civil Engineer Technician until retiring in 2002.

Dean, who lives in Kooskia, ID, has a wife, Verlyn and two kids, Rick, who lives in Nampa and Eric in Lewiston. He has six wonderful grandchildren, five girls and one boy. He enjoys gardening, fishing, hunting and takes some awesome photos that I have personally seen.

Now retired, Dean and Verlyn would like to travel the United States, tour Canada and enjoy their family.

Continued on Page 2...



Nez Perce N.F.  
Route 2, Box 475  
Highway 13 East  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
Tel: 208-983-1950  
Fax: 208-983-4099

*Retirements continued...*

The photo to the right was taken by Susan Graves, Civil Engineer, Nez Perce Forest. The interesting thing about this photo is it was taken September 11, 2002, (911), the day the towers went down in New York City. Dean said they heard the very sad news on the radio from Burnt Knob Lookout.



*Dean Geouge at  
Burnt Knob  
Lookout*

## Career Experience Program helps work release students get a grip on real life

*By Laura Smith*

What do Halyna Mereszczak, Kelly Hogg and Ann Stephenson all have in common? They are Seniors, have great smiles and are the Nez Perce Forest's 2002/2003 Grangeville High School work release students employed under the Career Experience Program. They are also trustworthy, hardworking, and dependable young people.

Halyna works for Patty Clark in Aquatics, Kelly works for Violet Rose in Office Services and Ann works for Cynthia Onthank in Office Services at the Clearwater Ranger District.

The Career Experience Program has been in place on the Nez Perce Forest for over 13 years. The students each receive a credit for working the program just like they

would a regular high school class. In order for students to be successful, a good attendance record is crucial.

"This work opportunity will help students gain the needed real life experiences to become better employees," shared Mrs. Darl Torgerson, Grangeville High School coordinator for the program.

They are hired as GS-1's through the school year and work an average of 20 hours a pay period. After graduation from high school, they earn a GS-2 through the summer months and work

full-time. Almost all of the students attend college after the summer. There's always several applications from the next year's Seniors to choose from and the new students are ready to work on the first day of school.

Halyna, Kelly and Ann have all worked for various resources, tackling a multitude of jobs. "Whatever there is to do, we try to help out where we can," the three of them agreed. Duties include: data entry, switchboard, front desk, supply orders, operating various office machines, copying, filing, processing ingoing and outgoing mail and ordering supplies.

Their work saves regular employees time and money as they can focus on priority projects while the students assist them.

It's been a very positive program for everyone involved and we feel fortunate that even with recent budget cuts, we are allowed to keep the program funded.

Other businesses throughout the town of Grangeville employ Seniors under the Career Experience Program.



*Kelly Hogg, Ann  
Stephenson and  
Halyna Mereszczak*

# Meet Jennifer Armetta

By Erica Wilsey

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests welcome Jennifer Armetta. Jennifer is a zone employee for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forest Law Enforcement team. She is stationed at the Powell Ranger Station located on the Clearwater Forest.

Armetta began her career with the Forest Service in 1992 working as a Student Conser-



vation Association (SCA) volunteer working four seasons in fire management and two seasons in recreation. She started working in Region 3 on the Prescott National Forest and moved to the Conconino National Forest.

Jennifer has also worked for the Park Service as a seasonal ranger. Attending Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ, in 2001, she has a B.A. in Liberal Studies.

Since starting on the Nez Perce/Clearwater Forest, Jennifer has attended some very intense law enforcement training. She mastered training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia for three months followed by three more months of field training in New Mexico, Utah and Montana.

With the increased presence of visitors interested in the upcoming Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, starting 2003, Jennifer anticipates being very busy with law enforcement issues.

Jennifer lives at Powell with her dog Molly, enjoys skiing and intends to take up whitewater canoeing next summer. She is in the perfect area for both recreational sports.

As for future plans, she would like to get to know and enjoy the Powell area, have fun and work hard. Good luck Jennifer!

*Richard Graves S.O. Engineering*



The engineering shop at the Nez Perce, Supervisor's Office recently hired Richard Graves. Richard moved to Grangeville from Dallas, Texas and is our new Engineer Technician.

He attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN in 1993, and has a Bachelor degree of Science in Civil Engineering. In 1995 he received his Masters degree in Civil Engineering.

Richard's past work experience consists of five years as a structural engineer in Minneapolis, MN.

He is currently residing at the Super 8 motel in Grangeville but hopes to have a more permanent residence soon. At present, he is not married and has no children, but once he is settled he intends to get a dog.

Richard enjoys most outdoor activities; among them, camping, hiking, skiing, rafting and fishing. Sure looks like he came to the right area!!



# Engineers Receive Leadership Award

*By Diane Harlow-Moose Creek Ranger District*

The 2001 "Traditional Skills and Minimum Tool Leadership Award" was presented to John Kattell of the Regional Office and Bill Fowler on the Nez Perce National Forest by the Regional Forester, Brad Powell. John and Bill received this award for their designing of "packable bridges". The annual Wilderness Meeting was held January 13<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> in Missoula. The project was initiated in 1999 for replacing Goat, Ditch and Pettibone Bridges located in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.

During the public scoping process, a public field trip was conducted to look at each of the three bridge sites. The group included Wilderness Watch representatives, hiking interests, Back Country Horsemen Clubs along with several concerned and interested public. From this trip along with scoping letters, it was decided to design "packable bridges." This is where John and Bill began their work with the help of David Scovell, Structural Engineer at the Regional Office.

In keeping the integrity of our "wilderness," the new bridge designed used stringers that could be packed with stock. This would minimize the use of aircraft. The stringers could not weigh too much and could not be too long for stock to pack. John and Bill designed the packable bridges to come fully assembled from the fabricator so the crew on the ground would be assured that all the parts fit and the bridges could be assembled. These bridge sites are located many miles within the wilderness, which makes it impossible to run to the hardware store when you discover you are missing a part or piece of equipment.

The materials for the new bridges arrived on Forest in September 2001 already assembled. The ground crew designed a marking system where each piece of these stringers could easily be re-assembled exactly the way they came apart. Approximately 46,000 pounds of bridge materials were flown to Shearer using a fixed-Wing aircraft. It took a total of 134 mule loads to get the bridge materials to each respective bridge site.

There is still a little work to be performed on each bridge during the field season of 2003.

Because of John and Bill's dedication and hard work, completions of the bridge projects were completed in a timely and safe manner while keeping to the wilderness values and solitude. Packable bridges will be considered more in our wilderness with the success of this project.



# Changing & Rearranging

As most of you have probably noticed, there's been some changing & rearranging going on in Office Services. For one, the big bulky printing press is gone! It has a happy new home at the Missoula Public School System.

Secondly, Debbie Farris has moved into the copyroom. And did you check out the new linoleum in Deb's office/copyroom - pretty snazzy - and a fresh paint job to boot! The Audio/Visual room is now just that - an AV supply room.

Another change is the Forest recently purchased a new Canon C2058 color copier. The Image Runner C2058 can be programmed with job codes to keep track of project costs and can copy 21 color pages per minute. Debbie Farris is assigned sole operation of the Image Runner. Employees are asked to fill out the green copy request sheet with job code and all other specifications of the project.

There are specific rules and regulations when dealing with a color copier, Debbie will coordinate with Laura Smith for specific instructions to keep within government printing regulations.

Along with special forest project copying (color maps for EAs, EISs), Debbie will continue to do forest copying jobs for resources and contracting, etc.



## Health & Safety - Winter Tips...

Avoid sniffles this cold and flu season by doing the following:

- Eating nutritiously
- Drink plenty of water
- Get adequate rest
- Exercise regularly
- Minimize stress
- Flu vaccine

Avoid spreading colds and flu by doing the following:

- Wash hands
- Clean work surfaces
- Avoid shaking hands when you have a cold or the flu



By Carolyn Wren

The Nez Perce National Forest has a new addition to its 1<sup>st</sup> aid equipment list ñ an automatic external defibrillator (AED). Carolyn Wren, Forest 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Coordinator, has implemented the new program for the Forest and will oversee the installation and maintenance of the unit. The new unit was purchased and installed in the break room at the Supervisor's Office. This will help the Forest to maintain its high safety standards for personnel. AEDs have evolved to the point where staff and public can be trained to use them and give care to a cardiac victim before EMTs arrive at the scene. Sudden cardiac arrest kills approximately 225,000 people in the U. S. alone each year, and can strike anyone.

According to the American Heart Association, the only definitive treatment for sudden cardiac arrest is a defibrillation shock: an electrical pulse through the heart, which restores a normal heart rhythm. The chance of a sudden cardiac arrest victim's survival decreases by up to 10 percent for every minute that passes. Thus the sooner the defibrillation occurs the higher the chance of survival.

These AEDs are portable and user friendly. Essentially once turned on, they will talk the trained and certified caregiver through the necessary steps providing defibrillation to the cardiac victim. In addition to the use of the AED on cardiac victims, early CPR is still an integral part of providing lifesaving aid. Nez Perce Forest personnel are currently receiving training in the use of the AED.



*Clearwater Ranger District Fire Apprentice David Carr demonstrates the use of the AED on the 1st aid mannikin.*

## Personnel Changes

BLINN, MIKE Forestry Technician, GAC,  
Career conditional

BURRIS, BARRY, Forestry Technician,  
GAC, Career conditional

CLARK, PATTY, Biological Technician, SO,  
Career conditional appointment

CRAUSSER, DAVID, Forestry Technician,  
Clearwater RD, Promotion

GERFEN, DEBRA, Purchasing Agent, SO,  
Reassignment

HINDS, LINDA, Financial Management  
Officer, SO, Promotion

LEVER, ROBERT, Supervisory Forestry  
Technician, Salmon River RD, Promotion

KEHLER, MIKE, Clearwater RD, Cash  
Award

MARTIN, KEVIN, Deputy Forest Supervisory,  
Deschutes, NF, promotion

PHILLIPS, SUE, Office Automation Clerk,  
Red River RD

SNODGRASS, DAVE, Supervisory Forester,  
Red River RD, promotion

WARD, MICHAEL, Forestry Technician,  
GAC, career conditional appointment

WREN CAROLYN, Fish Biologist, Clearwater  
RD, career conditional appointment

KECK, PENNY, retirement

PETERSON, VICKIE, Nez Perce SO, Cash  
Award



*Our Name: Ni Mii Pu ( The People)*



**Nez Perce  
National  
Forest**

This is the first issue of Nez Perce News. We plan to publish this newsletter quarterly. It is designed to provide employees and retirees with information about their fellow co-workers and current events on the forest.

Would you like to hear more information about forest issues or updates?

How would you like to receive this information, electronically or at monthly employee meetings hosted by various staff members?

Did you know that the Nez Perce National Forest website has a great deal of forest information?

Sign onto [www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce)