

# SOUTHERN ASPECT



Southern Research Station

Asheville, North Carolina

Summer/Fall 1998

• Vol. 4, No. 3



## Blue Valley Experimental Forest Revitalized

by Rod Kindlund

Journey to a place in western North Carolina that evokes the feeling of pioneer America. An expanse of forest lies before you as you top the rise. You peer across the landscape known today as Blue Valley, unchanged for many years since it became part of the Pisgah National Forest.



*Surrounded by eastern white pine and buckberry, Blue Valley was aptly named for the same reason as the Blue Ridge Mountains. Gazing at this pristine landscape, the mountains (or in this case the valley) appear to take on a bluish cast.*

The trip takes about 90 minutes, traveling 60 miles southwest of Asheville near Highlands. After leaving the main highway (US-23), the road winds through eight miles of forest before the view opens into Blue Valley. The many recreational opportunities make it a desirable destination offering trout fishing, camping, hunting, hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding.

The Bent Creek Experimental Forest (Research Work Unit 4101) recently embarked on a cooperative venture with the Highlands Ranger District on the Pisgah National Forest. Blue Valley has granitic acid soils that are low in nutrients. Abundance of rainfall—80 inches a year—and eastern white pine has prompted cooperation between the National Forest and Southern Research

## Conservation Education Outreach (CEO) Program In 7th Successful Season

by Rod Kindlund

What began in 1992 with Elaine McKinney and six college interns at the Northeastern Area & Station Headquarters in Radnor, PA has set into motion an experiment in human relations.

The idea: provide basic conservation education to youth in the inner city, children who might never have been exposed to the concept of conservation, recycling, or forest management. Pam Godsey, the Natural Resource Conservation Education Coordinator in the Washington Office, assisted in finding funds and coordinating projects.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Blue Valley...

Station scientists. The scientists need a site to conduct fundamental and applied research on eastern white pine and the District wants to demonstrate the 34-year-old Blue Valley Experimental Forest as a working forest with ongoing silvicultural projects.

The first studies were installed in 1995. One is a long-term experiment consisting of two single-tree selections, one of which is being logged using horses. Residual densities in these trials are 45 and 70 square feet of basal area. The second study combines shelterwood harvesting with an underburn, conducted in April 1996, in mixed stands of pine and hardwoods. The shelterwood study areas are being logged with rubber-tired skidders.

An important goal of the cooperative venture is to help the visiting public learn about natural resource management and research. If you want to see research in action, some beautiful scenery and maybe do a little trout fishing, check out Blue Valley. 🌲



## From the Director's Desk...



*Editor's note: This is the fourth in a five-part series on how the quickening pace of social change is affecting the everyday work we do and how we can adapt to make the most of it.*

## Adaptive Strategies for Our Work Environment



Last issue we looked at adaptive strategies for our research program. Before we move on to the final installment (adaptive strategies for our personal lives), we need to examine the changes we face daily in our work environment.

Many of you are seeing incredible changes in the work place. The force behind many of those changes is global. We have become a society driven by and in need of immediate information.

We are responding with new technology, enabling us to access and deliver information instantly. The transition from DG to IBM is both a source of change as well as a response to change! The Forest Service IBM system, with internet access, provides employees and clients with all kinds of information that, in the past, was provided through much more labor-intensive means. We will adapt to this change in time as we learn, stretch ourselves, try to be patient with what can seem like chaos, and keep doing our jobs. The Station is committed to delivering the resources needed to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Another force of change is people wanting to be involved in the decision-making processes that affect them. The more involvement, the more acceptance they have for the solutions. This is often accomplished through teams. We have seen time and time again the value of using teams to catalyze the creativity of employees. We have encouraged this by providing support to improve team effectiveness, by modeling effective teamwork at the top level of the organization, and by choosing leaders who value involving others in making decisions. I can think of no better way to reap the benefits of employees' creative and innovative ideas than to invite their participation as decisions are made at the Station.

One more force of change stems from the intense complexity of each of our lives. We each strive to balance the needs of our families, communities, selves, and careers. This calls for greater flexibility, tolerance of differing needs and styles, and mechanisms for dealing with the stress created by the complexities of life. The Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) is a very

## Letter from the Editor

It's been a hectic summer, fall is in the air, *Southern Aspect* is in your hands, and another fiscal year has passed. Much has happened since the last issue.

I welcome Trish Woods to the editorial staff of the *Aspect*. Trish comes to the Communications Department from the IS&T group at Headquarters.

I would also like to thank the many contributors to the success of the newsletter. Without readers supplying articles for print, *Southern Aspect* would not exist. If you have a special project or research area, please let us know by submitting an article to Trish at Asheville. Concurrently, think of someone in your unit for the "People Profile" column. We want to provide a diversity of employees to interview for these articles.

We will continue to send out a reminder prior to each deadline, but don't hesitate to send news at any time. When submitting, please send the hard copy print-out *and* the file on a diskette in Word Perfect or generic text format (no Applix Word docs, please). Include photos, if possible, preferably black and white prints.

Continue to let us know what is going on out there.

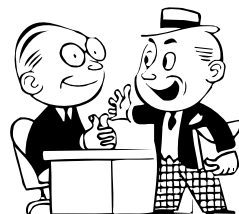
—Rod Kindlund, Editor

important mechanism for providing this adaptive improvement. It allows employees to express their needs and initiate discussions that will lead to solutions.

I also see the Station's new perspective on Civil Rights as "Human Rights" as a key response—where the emphasis is on solving conflicts at the point they occur and with the people most affected. The Forest Service has also responded over the years with policies allowing for flexible work hours, opportunity for flexiplace, and a wellness program that supports personal health and well-being.

As I mentioned in the Station Civil Rights video recently sent to each location, I believe that the work we do at the Station deserves the best workforce to carry it out. You are this workforce and you deserve a work environment of the highest quality to support you in that work. I encourage you to take the initiative to ask for

what you need to cope with and adapt to changes. Take the CIP seriously. Use the process, and open doors that will reveal ideas to make our work environment one that brings out the best in all of us.



## CEO Program (from page 1)

The program expanded in 1993 to include the Southern Research Station, and both the Southern Region and the Eastern Region in 1994. At each center, a team of four interns provided a fun learning experience through environmental games designed to teach conservation concepts to children visiting the site.



*Isaac Mills, Atlanta Team, with children at Perkerson Park in Atlanta on Anti-Litter Day*

The CEO Program expanded in 1998 to four teams: Region 9 (Milwaukee), Region 8 (Atlanta), Southern Research Station (Asheville), and Southern Station's Initiative Office at Alabama A&M University (Huntsville). The teams contacted over 8,000 youth this year in the Eastern United States.



*Children at Western North Carolina Nature Center in Asheville participating in one of the most popular games, "predator/prey"*

"One of the most exciting elements to this year's program is the growth over previous years," said Southern Research Station Director Pete Roussoupoulos. "We were able to try an experiment of

our own in successfully placing four students from Alabama A&M and Florida A&M within the program this year. It is an excellent partnership with the National Initiative Program for a first-time placement of students who may someday become promising Forest Service employees."

Another exciting experiment occurred in the Eastern Region this summer as supervisor Barb Forderhase partnered three college interns with two high school interns from the Vincent High School Agribusiness & Natural Resources Emphasis Program, funded through a partnership agreement with the City of Milwaukee. This project provided the students with experience prior to enrolling in college courses this fall.



*Children at the Hmong Association site in Milwaukee were enthusiastic about conservation or was it Woodsy?*

Where will the program go from here? With the continued leadership and cooperating partners it is hoped that the Eastern Region will support two full teams in FY'99. The Southern Research Station plans to add a third team of four high school interns with the college interns, through a cooperative agreement with the Buncombe county Board of Education and the City Of Asheville. The Southern Region is concentrating on the urban forest area around the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest in Gainesville and urban Atlanta. The Northeastern Area & Station also plans to participate in 1999.

The CEO Program is designed to provide an impetus to research and national forests to interact with schools and civic organizations during the entire year. The purpose is to introduce children to the concept of caring for the land on which they live and play. As future stewards of our planet, it is imperative they learn these lessons well.



## People Profile

by Trish Woods



Jim Holbrook, SRS Headquarters Civil Engineering Technician, was born and raised in Enka, North Carolina. After 31 years with the Forest Service, he says, "I love my job! My wife can't understand how anyone could jump out of bed every morning and want to go to work!"

Jim says he's the luckiest person in this building because, "I can see physical accomplishments from my work, such as bridges, new roofs, and buildings." That gives him a real sense of satisfaction.

Jim started his career with the National Forests of North Carolina as a GS-5 Civil Engineering Technician in 1967. He transferred to the Station Headquarters in 1980 when the current SRS building was being funded.

Jim's wife of 13 years, Pat, works as a Project Secretary for a group of engineers at Cutler-Hammer. He has three children: Karen, a CPA and Controller for the Duke Endowment Fund in Charlotte, NC; Cole, a Marketing Manager for Steel Master Buildings in Boone, NC; and Tonya, a Budget Analyst for Mission-St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville. Jim has one granddaughter, three-year-old Hunter, who (he said with a straight face) is not spoiled!

Jim's many interests include rebuilding antique tractors and "hit-and-miss" engines. He loves fixing them up, even if only to park them in the barn. He is active in the local antique tractor club and often helps sponsor tractor pulls.

Another of Jim's interests is genealogy. He is currently tracing his relatives who were involved in the Civil War and has discovered that three of his (great) grandfathers participated.

The halls of the Station often reverberate with Jim's booming laughter. Anyone who knows Jim is well aware of his wonderful sense of humor. When asked for any words of wisdom, Jim was uncharacteristically speechless. After a moment of reflection, he stated, "The bottom line is you gotta have fun in life! That's what it's all about!" 🌲



## More Information Sharing Opportunities

by Melissa Carlson

In addition to ***Southern Aspect***, we have other opportunities to inform our colleagues in Forest Service units about the work we do here in the South.

***FS Today***, a new internal newsletter available to all Forest Service employees, is a good place to share success stories and accomplishments in research. Go to FS Intranet site: [//fswb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/](http://fswb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/) or to the Station's Intranet site (less download time): [//fswb.srs.fs.fed.us/pao](http://fswb.srs.fs.fed.us/pao). Send articles, with credit byline, and 1 or 2 photos to mcarlson/srs, or hard copy to Melissa Carlson, SRS HQ, 200 Weaver Blvd., P.O. Box 2680, Asheville, NC, 28802.

Guidelines for submission are:

- national audience appeal
- consistency with the Forest Service mission—supporting the Natural Resource Agenda
- readability—technical articles must be easily understood.

The goal of *FS Today* is to consolidate news, features, recognition, good news, and editorial articles and photos from all Regions, Stations, Labs, and National Forests into a fresh, easy to navigate publication.



***The Weekly Report to the Secretary of Agriculture*** is a formal report from the Chief to the Secretary on current issues and events. Send brief write-ups for this report electronically to [mcarlson/srs](mailto:mcarlson/srs).

Reports only need to be a paragraph or two to alert the Chief and Secretary to significant issues, from good news to potential controversy. Include major congressional and media contacts and topics as they occur—preferably before they occur.

*The Weekly Report* goes through a review process at the W.O., making it an excellent vehicle for keeping our work visible to Chief and Staff.

The communications group also wants news releases and feature stories for the news media and inclusion in *Southern Aspect* and the Annual Report.

Call Melissa Carlson at (828) 257-4849 or Rod Kindlund at (828) 259-0560 in Asheville. 🌲



Can you identify Jim Holbrook from this August, 1973 photo? Recognize anyone else? Answers in the next issue of *Southern Aspect!*

## CFC Drive Begins

by Rod Kindlund

October is Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) month, a time for helping the less fortunate in our community. By



setting aside a small amount from our paychecks each period, we can make a difference. Do the right thing—make a pledge to CFC. Your pledge takes effect the first pay period of the calendar year. What a great way to wish

someone a happy new year! This year's coordinator for the National Forests in North Carolina and Southern Research Station is J.C. Smith. He will be contacting SRS HQ building employees soon. At the field units—there is a coordinator in your area. CFC is a part of the United Way. 🌲

## Filler is Good Comedic Relief



The following filler quotes, thinly disguised as something relevant, are provided for entertainment purposes only.

“Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get 8 cats to pull a sled through snow.” —Jeff Valdez

“There are 350 varieties of shark, not counting loan and pool.” —L.M. Boyd

“The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.” —Mark Russell

“Astrology is Taurus.” —F.W. Dederig



## Conservation Education and the National Initiative

by Lonnelle Edwards

If the Conservation Education interns stationed at the campus of Alabama A&M this summer are an indication of the leaders of tomorrow, then we have reason to be optimistic about our future.

Under the supervision of Lonnelle Edwards, Special Projects Coordinator, and Louise Wyche, National Program Manager, the interns were selected to represent the National Initiative in the Conservation Education Outreach (CEO) Program. The goal was to provide National Initiative students first-year intern experience with the Forest Service.

Team members for Alabama A&M's *Panthers* (as they so named themselves during orientation) included:

**Antoinette Davis**, a junior from Jacksonville, FL, majoring in forestry and natural resources conservation at Florida A&M;

**Thaddious Foster**, a senior from Luverne, AL, majoring in agribusiness management at Alabama A&M;

**JaTanisha Mapps**, a junior and National Initiative student from Quincy, FL, majoring in forestry and natural resource conservation at Florida A&M;

**LaTrice Swain**, a sophomore and National Initiative student from Augusta, GA, majoring in environmental science and engineering at Alabama A&M.



1998 CEOP Interns (l to r) JaTanisha Mapps, Antoinette Davis, Thaddious Foster, and LaTrice Swain

The theme was "Branching Out to the Youth of America." The team traveled the western half of the Southern Station's boundaries, bringing educational experiences to more than 1000 children. They traveled over 2000 miles in eight weeks, visiting 8 research work units.

Collectively, the team felt this summer was a wonderful learning experience. They enjoyed promoting as a team the message of responsibility for our natural environment. 🌲

## Coweeta Hydrologic Lab Hosts Summer Students

by Wayne Swank

Coweeta Lab enjoyed the services of six students this summer who contributed energy and hard work with much enthusiasm, humor, and fresh perspectives.

**Lauren Alexander** is a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University from Rochester, NY. She volunteered her services for a month this summer while conducting preliminary research on diversity of riparian vegetation across first through fourth order streams under the tutelage of Professor Richard Forman, Harvard, and Dr. Wayne Swank, Project Leader at the Lab. We look forward to Lauren's return and the energy and organizational skills she brings to continue her field research.

**Curtis Holmes** is a senior at NC State University. He was a Forest Service intern working with Dr. Jim Vose on our riparian restoration project and hydrologic modeling. Having served five years in the US Navy, he brings unique skills and experience to his internship.

**Lakeisha Hill** is a junior at Alabama A&M. Keisha is a student under the 1890s National Honors Program, who worked on the Wine Spring Creek Ecosystem Management Project with Dr. Lloyd Swift to quantify stream sedimentation. Last summer found Keisha in northern California—quite a switch for this remarkable 20-year-old from Cuba, Alabama. The unit that hosts her next summer will benefit from her personality as well as her scientific contributions.

**Melissa Roberts** is a junior at Furman University. Her research this summer was on vegetation diversity studies with Dr. Katherine Elliot, who is extremely appreciative of all Melissa's hard work and positive approach.

**Nils Hayden** is a senior at UGA, majoring in Geology. He worked with Dr. Brian Kloeppe to develop biomass, leaf area, and nutrient allometric equations for rhododendron and mountain laurel. Last summer, Nils worked at the Sevilleta LTER site in New Mexico as an intern with Dr. Robert Parmenter. His plans include graduate school.

**Chandra Huscusson** is a sophomore at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC. The same drive and commitment that Chandra brings to her cross-country running and soccer successes were evident during her internship at Coweeta, where she assisted Sharon Taylor in a variety of studies on the LTER gradient plots. We look forward to following Chandra's progress as she pursues her educational and athletic goals.

This cadre of interns was truly outstanding and all are good candidates for future employment in the agency. 🌲

## Hurricane Georges Visits Mississippi

by Rob Doudrick

Hurricane Georges caused significant damage to the administrative site and research plots on the Harrison Experimental Forest 25 miles north of Gulfport, MS.

The hurricane damage is widespread; nearly all roads are blocked by fallen trees. Three buildings (a dorm cabin, and two labs) have roof damage from fallen trees; minor water damage inside was caused by leakage around fume hoods. A fourth building, the "headhouse"—the structure that houses the operating equipment for greenhouses—is a total loss.



*Many buildings are blocked by trees and debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Georges*

While it is too soon to completely evaluate the losses to research studies, Project Leader Rob Doudrick says that several early studies and ongoing research projects have been lost, while others were severely damaged. A 20-person fire crew began clean-up work on Saturday, Oct. 3.

The administrative site houses the Southern Institute of Forest Genetics unit of the Southern Research Station in buildings that date back to the mid-1930s, constructed by the CWA, WPA, and CCC. Four new laboratories for molecular genetic analyses on southern pines were recently added to the site. The Harrison Experimental Forest covers 3,850 acres that represent about 31 million acres of land with similar soils and topography in the South.

A facility in Gulfport, MS,

## SRS Web Site [www.srs.fs.fed.us](http://www.srs.fs.fed.us)

by Randy McCracken

Many changes have taken place on the SRS Internet Web site over the past six months. We've moved to a new server located in the Asheville office, added more content, and increased our on-line communication and outreach with customer comment forms and email. Our elevated visibility in the cyberworld has been most noticeable in the number of visitors to our Web server. Currently we are receiving 500 to 1000 hits per day from all over the world. Besides the basic Web pages and publication in PDF (Portable Document Format) we also serve up streaming audio/video and slide show presentations.

The Communications group is using the Web site to distribute station publications; so far over 5,000 publications have been downloaded from our server. We have more than 200 publications on-line and we are making all publications from the September catalog (Recent Publications of the Southern Research Station) available for downloading as soon as the catalog is sent to the printer.

In addition to the main SRS Web site, there are more than a dozen Research Work Units on-line. It is the goal of the Southern Research Station to have a homepage for all RWUs in the very near future so they may better serve and inform their customers about the research they are conducting.

You may contact the Station Webmaster, Randy McCracken, at [rdm/srs@fs.fed.us](mailto:rdm/srs@fs.fed.us) or (828) 259-0518 if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.



*Fallen trees cover the Harrison Experimental Forest sign*

that previously housed research laboratory, was also damaged. This site was in the process for disposal and had recently been appraised. The main building has roof damage which allowed leaking to damage some of the floor coverings; the building also has quite a bit of broken glass. Outbuildings suffered leakage when turbine exhaust fans were destroyed.





## Southern Sweden Sojourns Southern Station

by Rod Kindlund

On Friday, October 2, a group of 17 foresters from southern Sweden visited the Southern Station. Erik Berg and I led discussions about the Forest Service and its programs relating to research after which the group was taken on a tour of the upland hardwood research at Bent Creek Experimental Forest.

Erik explained some of the research being conducted on upland hardwoods, especially the oaks, pointing out the complexities of regenerating oaks in an ecosystem where other species are so prolific, i.e. yellow poplar. Although the regeneration concepts seen at Bent Creek did not correlate with problems in southern Sweden, Södra foresters could identify with many of the ecological principles presented.

In the discussions with Södra's visiting board of directors, similarities in forestry practices surfaces. Environmental quality and policy is one of the foremost factors in forestry ecocyclical principle: it should be possible to use, re-use, recycle, or finally take care of what is extracted from nature on a sustainable basis with the least possible consumption without causing damage to nature. The forestry practices and industry constitute a sustainable system within the natural cycle. Environmental audits

of operations and facilities are being conducted to insure that discharges into air and water systems are below target values and that the environmental systems are complete and efficient.

Another area of concern to the Södra foresters is that of public opinion. While many Swedes aren't as outspoken and activist as we may find in the United States, they reported that public outcry is gaining a foothold. Södra is continually in contact with its members and the public to advertise its environmental policies.

Södra is a forestry products cooperative in southern Sweden and is one of the largest coops of its kind in the world. The cooperative is jointly owned by its 31,000 members who work together to attain the best possible terms for private forest farming in southern Sweden. The forest is the foundation in Södra operations. Through forest conservation the supply of



Erik Berg (center) explains hardwood ecosystems and site disturbance to Södra visitors

timber and the growth of members' forest have tripled in the last century. Members can obtain forest conservation practices, forestry planning, advice, information, and training through Södra Skog.

To learn more about Södra, you can find them on the Internet at: [www.sodra.se](http://www.sodra.se) 🌲

## Weird Nature



**How do wasps sleep?**

If you guessed "on Martha Stewart crisp clean sheets," you would not be alone, but you would not be right, either. Actually, every night,

wasps bite into the stem of a plant, lock their mandibles into position, and stretch out at right angles to the stem. Then, with legs dangling, they fall asleep.

**What were they thinking?** A cockroach can live for several weeks with its head cut off. In contrast, most office workers can live only several hours in the same condition.

**That's heavy!** Each seed of the palm tree *Lodoicea seychellarum* weighs 30 pounds.

**Ants keep slaves!** Certain species of ants (particularly the sanguinary ants) raid the nests of other ant tribes, kill the queen, and kidnap many workers. The workers are brought back to their captors' hive, where they are coerced into performing menial tasks.

**People** are the only creatures who enjoy reading strange facts about nature. If you've got a weird nature item you'd like to share, send it to us at *Southern Aspect!* 🌲



## Management Team Meeting Notes

by Melissa Carlson

Station Director Pete Roussopoulos opened the meeting with a dedication to Paul Murphy. Pete introduced Robert Lewis, Deputy Chief for Research and Development and currently Acting Associate Chief who discussed the Chief's Overview reporting that the National Leadership is extremely impressed by the collaboration between R-8, S&PF, and SRS. He said Chief Dombeck is very focused on clarifying the mission of the agency and sustainability is the foundation of the Natural Resource Agenda. Robert briefly discussed the reorganization taking place in the W.O., the status of the 1999 and year 2000 budgets, and civil rights.

The main topic for the afternoon was the progress in our Cross-Cutting Themes. The Director focused on CCT accomplishments stating "the Station needs a conceptual framework as the CCTs should be programmatically tight and defensible, yet organizationally loose and flexible."

Sam Foster moderated a session that addressed the expansion of Forest Research to "Research and Development." What is the American public expecting us to do? Now that our name has been changed, how have things changed? How should things change? He expressed hope that the session would get people excited about product development and how to get products in customers' hands.

Bob Szaconyi of Northwestern University gave a presentation about new product development, using examples from industry. The key issue is providing something of value to the customer. An important step is developing a product strategy. It is essential in building new markets and helps find emerging technologies. It is critical to have a vision: How well does SRS evaluate the economic impact of its R&D? Does SRS take into account the great variety of its R&D in figuring its economic value? Does SRS have a product platform strategy or utilize strategic concepts? Does SRS utilize a product-line strategy? How structured are the new product developments in SRS?

Said AbuBakr of the Forest Products Lab described the accomplishments of his project, including the PSA (Pressure Sensitive Adhesive) postage stamp. He stated that development is not a separate activity, but that it needs to be an integral part of research from the beginning—not added on later. He said, "We can't follow all of industry's recommendations and I challenge everyone that there are products in each of our areas."

In addition, Jim Barnett, Ted Leininger, and Mike Rauscher gave specific examples of recent SRS products: the booklet on containerized longleaf pine seedlings; CD-Roms produced in-house that are image

## Special Initiative Program at Alabama A&M

by Lonnette Edwards

The awards banquet at Alabama A&M took everyone by storm, literally and figuratively. Before presentations could be made on April 16 in Normal, Alabama, the attendees were forced to take shelter from an approaching tornado. Several of the students slated to be honored in the National Initiative Program received their awards at a later date.



- Ms. LaTrice Swain was the "outstanding freshman."
- Among the graduating class receiving honors were former initiative students Joseph Boykin, Gregory Dortch, and Robert Pope who received BS degrees; and Donivilla Williams who received her MS degree in plant and soil sciences.
- Students achieving a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 or better (honor roll) were Raphael Halliburton and Thomas McCoy.
- The Dean's list included Tony Benson, Julian Burgin, Marvin Burns, Michael Conner, John Crockett, Rhonda Dennis, Gregory Dortch, Thomas Easley, Sherry Fitch-Gaston, Travis Jackson, Stephanie Love, Danya Myers, Shadie Nimer, KaTonya Sledge, and LaSonya Sledge.
- LaTrice Swain, Sherry Fitch-Gaston, Christopher Locke and Robert Pope distinguished themselves by earning a place on the honor role and the Dean's list.

Although the storm never appeared, it was obvious that the Forest Service students had been hitting the books. It was an occasion that had the students and faculty reaping the rewards for their efforts during the year. Congratulations to all the students for their accomplishments. 🌲

libraries about oak pests, cottonwood pests, ash pests and oak wilt; and Decision Support Systems/NED.

"The Growing Focus on Criteria and Indicators" (C&I) dealt with questions as: How are we going to know when our Southern Forests are sustainable? How can we report to Congress under GPRa that FS funds are being used to further sustainability? What research needs to be done within the context of CCTs to develop, interpret, and apply the C&I? Monitoring may need additional emphasis.

For additional information about the meeting, contact your Project or Group Leader. 🌲

# Personnel News and Notes



## 1998 Forest Service Secretary's Honor Award Recipients

### Environmental Protection

**Chung Y. Hse**, Southern Research Station, Pineville, LA, for innovative research into value-added recycling of preservation treated wood waste.

### Personal and Professional Excellence

**William D. Boyer**, Southern Research Station, Auburn, AL, for excellence of long-term research on the ecology and management of longleaf pine ecosystems.

### Public Service

**James A. Richmond**, Retired, Southern Research Station, Durham, NC, for outstanding public service by fostering a multicultural Forest Service workforce and involving minorities in natural resources.

### Support Personnel

**Cynthia J. Arnette**, Southern Research Station, Asheville, NC, for exceptional customer service attitude and consistently high standards of performance.

### Special Recognition

**Dr. Peter Koch**, 1920-1998, Forest Service Researcher. Twenty-five years of distinguished USDA service as a Forest Service Ph.D scientist specializing in wood utilization; a full life as a combat pilot, university professor, forestry consultant, and eminent Forest Service scientist. Dr. Koch's wife, Doris, of Missoula, MT, received the award.

## Headquarters:

### New Hire

**Cindy Fry**, Budget Analyst, reported June 21; transferred from the Department of Air Force, Aviano Air Force Base, Italy.

### Reassignments

**Trish Woods**, Public Affairs Assistant, reported July 20; transferred from Headquarters Information Resources, Computer Assistant.

**Yvette Ayala**, Computer Assistant, reported October 11; transferred from Headquarters, Human Resources, Personnel Assistant.

### Promotion

**Janice Lowe**, Secretary, AD-Administration, reported August 16; transferred from Headquarters, Directors Staff, Office Automation Assistant.

### Retirement

**Jean Gay**, Secretary, AD-Administration, effective August 1.

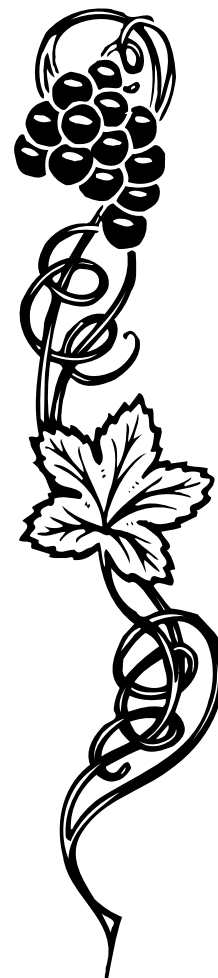
### Resignation

**Michael Holland**, effective August 7.

### Monticello New Hires

**Jennifer Hestir**, Biological Science Technician (term), reported January 20, 1998.

**Bike Begier**, Biological Science Technician (term), reported January 20, 1998.



## Competitive Research Grant

from *Hardwood Research Bulletin*, No. 495



*NHLA First Vice President Robert Owens (left), Owens Forest Products, with Dr. Dan Schmoldt*

Dr. Dan Schmoldt, USDA Forest Service, Blacksburg, VA and Dr. Luis Occeña, University of Missouri-Columbia received a \$60,000 grant for the development of a PC-based training program for hardwood sawyers. This program will enable sawyers to examine different log orientations and sawing patterns on logs in a nondestructive way, with immediate feedback on the lumber value recovery.

This was the first competitive research grant awarded by NHLA, Owens Forest Products of Duluth, MN. 🌲

## In Memory Paul A. Murphy, 1942-1998

Paul Murphy, Project Leader for the Monticello-Crossett Research Work Unit in Monticello, Arkansas, died on August 11, 1998, after a long illness. Paul worked for the Station for 27 years beginning in 1971 with Forest Inventory and



Analysis in New Orleans. During his seven years there he prepared state forest survey reports for Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Since 1978 he was assigned to the Monticello/Crossett unit, where he became nationally known as an expert in stand dynamics of uneven-aged stands. Paul leaves behind a wife, Judy, and three children: Jeffrey Murphy of Urbana, IL; Mathew Murphy of Conway, AR, and Paula Murphy Wright of Star City, AR. 🌲

## First Annual Customer Service Award

The Southern Research Station received the Chief's first annual Customer Service Award this past July. This award recognizes



efforts made by Station employees to reach customers through

the customer service comment card, achievement in completing customer service training for all employees, and implementation of the goals in the Forest Service Framework for Becoming a



*Carmen Everton receives the Chief's first annual Customer Service Award on behalf of the Southern Research Station*

Customer-Service Driven Organization. The award was presented to Carmen Everton, Customer Service Coordinator, who accepted it on behalf of the employees of the Southern Research Station. Carmen wishes to thank all employees for their valuable contributions to our initiative. 🌲





## New Videos from the Communications Office

The videoconference, "A Vision in Common: Public Involvement and the Government Performance and Results Act," which aired on June 30, is available on videotape. It outlines the process of listening to the public and employees for the purpose of revising the Agency's strategic plan under the Results Act.

"Communities Connecting with the Land" highlights five communities and their relationship to natural resources: an archaeological dig site in Nebraska, Native American basket weavers in the Sierra Nevada, a rural Wyoming town, an interpretive program developed by children in Southern California, and urban partnership programs in large Eastern cities.


Please call Rod Kindlund or Trish Woods to request either of these tapes.

## Lloyd Swift Serves 40 Years at Coweeta

Coweeta employees recently celebrated Lloyd Swift's 40+ years of FS service. Wayne Swank, Project Leader, presented Lloyd with two landscape paintings by a local artist. Lloyd came to Coweeta in 1957 as a Research Forester and has contributed to many areas of the research program.



*Project Leader, Wayne Swank (right) congratulates Lloyd Swift on four decades of service at Coweeta*

Printed on recycled paper 

*Southern Aspect* represents events and employee news from the research laboratories and administrative staffs in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia—the States that make up the Station's territory. This newsletter is published quarterly by the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 2680, 200 Weaver Boulevard, Asheville, NC 28802; Editor: Rod Kindlund, Associate Editor: Trish Woods. To submit newsworthy stories for future issues, please send complete articles by hard copy or on a diskette (Word Perfect) to Trish Woods at the above address, call (828) 259-0509, or e-mail pwoods/srs@fs.fed.us. Photos are encouraged; send black and white prints. The USDA Policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, political affiliation, and familial status. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA-related activity should immediately contact the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250 or call (202) 720-7327 (voice), or (202) 720-1127(TDD)...*Editor*

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Southern Research Station  
P.O. Box 2680  
200 Weaver Boulevard  
Asheville, NC 28802