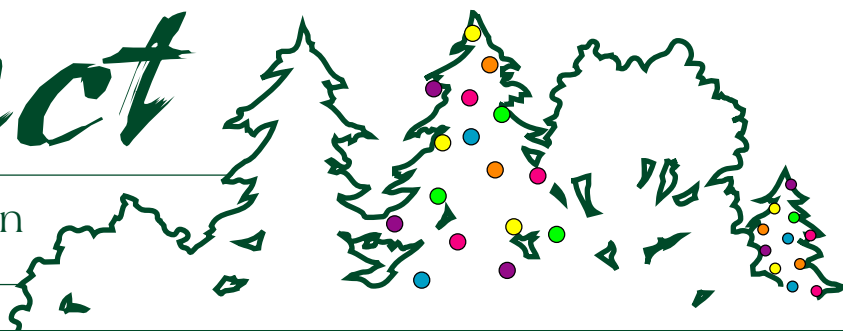


Southern Aspect



Southern Research Station
Asheville, North Carolina

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Happy Holidays!

As we look at the passing of a milestone in the beginning of the new millennium, we can also look forward as the new century unfolds. This will be a new century of service for the Southern Research Station and the Forest Service as a Federal agency. We are quickly approaching our centennial year as America's premiere natural resources agency—something in which we all can take pride. The Forest Service will soon be kicking off a campaign to exhibit to the American people what "caring for the land and serving people" really means by launching "A New Century of Service." This is an exciting time in the history of the Forest Service as an agency.

The holidays are here. This is also the time of year to look at our recent past in retrospect. As our friends and families gather to celebrate the holiday season, we can look back on the gifts we have given this past year. We give of our time as members of an organization for the betterment of our society and the environment. We give of our time and money for charitable causes; many of us gave to the Combined Federal Campaign so that others in the community would have a better holiday season and a better life overall. We give time and energy to raising our children and seeing that they get the education they deserve so they will someday take our places as responsible citizens.

In some parts of the South we are experiencing a relatively early winter that promises to be colder and harsher than we've seen recently. In western North Carolina, we've already had two snowfalls and accumulated nearly as much snow already as all last season. With the snow and ice comes danger, so please take it a little slower on the highways as you go "over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house." You know the bridges may have "black ice."

We have accomplished much during 2000. The Southern Research Station continues to shine in its scientific work. Here are a few highlights:

- Our research units and collaborators published nearly 600 publications, including 271 articles in refereed journals;
- We have increased the SRS Web site presence and fulfilled 207,400 electronic publication requests online;
- Additionally, the distribution library mailed out 22,000 hardcopy publications;
- The Station received the Chief's Customer Service Award for the second year;
- Two of our employees received Presidential Awards recognition;
- Three USDA Secretary's Honor Awards were given to two groups and an individual from the Southern Research Station; and
- Three individuals received Chief's Awards.

We have all had a busy and fruitful year. We can be proud of our accomplishments as we contemplate the upcoming achievements for the New Year. My mother used to ask me what I did each day to make a difference, and who did it make a difference to. I'm very proud of all of you for the positive differences each of you make every day and I thank you all for your hard work and caring. It is my wish that you all take extra care of yourself and those you love during this holiday season. Have an extraordinarily Happy Holiday season.

Due to the Holidays, the deadline for submissions for the Winter Issue of the *Southern Aspect* has been extended until January 16. Season's Greetings!.....Ed.

Southern Aspect

includes events and employee news from the research laboratories and administrative staffs of the Southern Research Station, which serves Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. 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.

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To submit newsworthy stories for future issues, please send complete articles hard copy or on diskette (MS Word or RTF) to Shane Coates at the above address, call (828) 259-0509, or e-mail to rcoates@fs.fed.us. Photographs are encouraged, preferably black and white.



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