

2001: AN ACE ODYSSEY

“What a great event!” was the statement offered by Forest Supervisor, **John Ramey**; the first of many compliments given to the All Cultures Event Committee since the May 8th event. Speaking for the Committee, **Bill Carothers** said, “We thought we had a good variety of presentations, activities, cultures, and food and drink for employees to sample, but until an event is over, you never really know. Most of all, we wanted employees to be exposed to a variety of cultures in an educational and fun way. Based on the number of smiles we saw the day of the event and the comments we’ve received, I think we succeeded”. If attendance is any indication of success, the All Cultures Event was a smash.

More than 200 employees from the National Forests in North Carolina, Southern Research Station, and Forest Health Protection attended and participated throughout the day. Employees had the opportunity to hear two of seven different presentations offered during concurrent sessions in the morning, including Jewish Culture in the South, Cherokee Story Telling, the Origins of Weaving in western North Carolina, the History of Clogging, Women of These Hills, the History of Appalachian Mountain Music, and Hispanic Culture: Commonalities and Differences. All sessions were well attended with standing-room-only in most sessions. A very popular “International Break”, provided between the morning sessions, consisted of beverages and snacks from around the world. A video presentation, the History of Southern Barbecue, whetted the appetites of attendees for the barbecue-style lunch that followed. Fortunately, despite the threatening skies, rainy weather held-off and the afternoon cultural demonstrations were held outdoors. The beautiful grounds of the North Carolina Arboretum provided a scenic backdrop. Everyone was free to

roam between demonstrations of weaving, mountain toy making, clogging, Cherokee storytelling, and Appalachian mountain music. Many employees stopped by the All-American Booth for ice water, a sample of ice cream sodas, and to listen to the ‘oldies-but-goodies’. **Cowboy Mike** gave the final presentation in the auditorium. He was a wealth of information about cowboys, especially black cowboys in the American West. Before **Nancy Herbert** gave her concluding remarks **Bill Carothers**, the committee chair, presented certificates of appreciation to the committee members: **Laura Lipe, Nelida Rodriguez, Alice Cohen, Linda Cortes, Gary Greer, Juan Diaz, and Charles Miller**, as he thanked them for their hard work.

photo by Ron Coates



Fred Bradley, Cherokee storyteller, captivates his audience at the 2001 All-Cultures Festival held at the North Carolina Arboretum in May.

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From the Director's Desk:

The Best Just Gets Better: The Eleventh Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference

The 11th Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference, one of the most respected Southern forestry meetings, was held March 20-22, 2001, in Knoxville, TN. I attended the conference and was extremely proud of our Station's leadership and participation. Congratulations to conference chair **Ken Outcalt** and his planning committee for a job well done!

This year's conference was co-hosted with the University of Tennessee School of Forestry, and sponsored by many other national and regional professional organizations. More than 300 attendees participated in four concurrent sessions over a 2-day period. The program included about 90 papers in silviculture and related topic areas, 61 posters, and two field tours.

This successful biennial conference, initiated in 1980, was designed to be more than a typical scientific conference. The initial idea for the conference was to provide a way to coordinate research between the former Southern and Southeastern Forest Experiment Stations. **Jim Barnett**, chair of the 1st Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference, said the meeting's purpose was "to provide a forum for exchange among silviculturists, research coordination, continuing education for researchers, review of research in progress, and presentation of new approaches or techniques of interest." Over the 21-year history of this event, each conference seems to exceed the last in meeting those objectives. Jim stated, "over the years we have seen attendance increase from about 125 to over 300, and where originally the conference drew mostly researchers we now see lots of interest from practitioners." This conference attracts specialists from a wide collection of forest ecosystem disciplines and offers graduate students an opportunity to meet senior scientists and share their breadth of perspective. The conference continues to be led by the Southern Research Station, but with ever-increasing leadership from southern universities and other research partners. It is

recognized as an excellent example of successful collaboration within the Southern forestry community. Kudos to all of our people who made this year's conference the smashing success that it was, and I look forward to the 12th Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference in 2003 in Mississippi.



Southern Research Station Scientist Invents Greenhouse Lighting Device

Dr. Richard Tinus, located at a Southern Research Station office in Flagstaff, AZ, invented the "Beamflicker" greenhouse illuminating device to provide cost-efficient lighting for an entire greenhouse using a single stationary light fixture.

The device is an oscillating parabolic mirror behind a sodium arc lamp that flicks beams of light from one end of a greenhouse to the other, providing intermittent light. Plants need light at night to maintain vegetative growth, prevent bud dormancy, induce flowering in long-day plants, and to prevent flowering in short-day plants. The Beamflicker meets those needs with one easily installed fixture at a lower cost than other systems. The patent for the Beamflicker has been licensed to Hydrofarm, Inc.

Dr. Tinus, a plant physiologist, has over 34 years of experience researching greenhouse container systems for growing tree and shrub seedlings. In 2000, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his many contributions to nursery science from the Western Forest and Conservation Nursery Association.

4th Annual Multicultural Event held in Texas

In January, the National Forests and Grasslands of Texas and Southern Research Station's Wildlife Research Lab held their fourth annual multicultural event at the Crockett Civic Center in Crockett, Texas.

The keynote speaker was **Beth King**, a Technical Information Specialist from the Regional Office in Ogden, Utah. Ms. King shared her experiences with "job-burnout" and offered ways Forest Service employees can renew enthusiasm for their jobs especially as they approach retirement. Seven units, including the Supervisor's Office and the Nacogdoches lab, gave presentations related to multicultural or special emphasis topics.

Information booths representing special emphasis programs provided visual and educational handouts.

Representing the Wildlife Research Lab, students from Stephen F. Austin State University's "Braille and Cane Club" gave a hands-on demonstration in working with persons with visual disabilities.

The National Forest and Wildlife Lab leadership prepared a menu of Louisiana Cajun-Style recipes while field units provided desserts.

Prototype Clod-crusher Developed at Bent Creek

"Necessity is the mother of invention" or so the saying goes. That was the situation recently at Bent Creek Experimental Forest when **Henry McNab** had to prepare 400 soil samples for particle-size analysis, meaning that gravel had to be separated from the dirt by sieving. However, Bent Creek soils have enough clay content to form hard lumps when dry, which resemble pieces of gravel. Before sieving, the clods had to be broken into components of sand, silt, clay, and gravel by pounding with a rubber-headed mallet.

Not only was the job laborious, but the repetitive use of his arm to hammer clods

(continued next column)



Frank Robison (right) and Henry McNab show their prototype clod crusher. (Photo by Betty Pittman and Christine Joiner, SCSEP staff)

(continued from previous column)

threatened to result in a case of tennis-elbow. Being lazy, Henry figured there must be an easier way to bust the clods. An Internet search revealed no such gizmo, but he learned that commercial soil analysis labs use proprietary machines for preparing their samples.

Henry consulted **Frank Robison**, a member of Bent Creek's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) staff, who was a mechanical engineer with a long career of solving problems for industry giants including GE, IBM, Singer, and Remington-Rand. Frank suggested a machine involving two "spring-tensioned, self-adjusting, variable-torque, counter-rotating" wheels that would break clods by compression.

Henry bought a lawnmower wheel, springs, nuts, and bolts at a local lumberyard, turned a wooden wheel on his home lathe, and built the prototype for \$41. After testing the machine with 300 pounds of soil samples, Henry found that his clod crusher saved about 3 minutes per sample in processing time and was much easier on his arm. Frank says the hand crank can be replaced with a motor for even easier operation.

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.

Editor: Rod Kindlund
Associate Editor: Ron Coates.

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



Pictured at the Pisgah Ranger Station, left to right, are: Kathleen Gause; Laura Lipe; Lori Tapia-Piozet, CR Director for R5; Mary Owen and Carolyn Mackey, WO CR Staff; and John Ramey, NFsNC Forest Supervisor.

SRS Hosts National Civil Rights Meeting

by Laura Lipe

In April the Southern Research Station hosted the National Civil Rights Directors' meeting in Asheville. Civil Rights Directors from the Regions and Stations, as well as Washington Office staff members, were present for the 3-day meeting. The group recently formed the National Civil Rights Leadership Team. The purpose of this meeting was to develop a National strategy including designing a "Mission, Vision and Core Values" for the team and to discuss issues and concerns in civil rights.

During the meeting, SRS Civil Rights Director, **Laura Lipe**, and National Forests in North Carolina's Forest Supervisor, **John Ramey**, took the new National Civil Rights Director, **Kathleen Gause**, on a field trip to Bent Creek Experimental Forest, Schenck Job Corp Center, the Pisgah Ranger District office, and the Cradle of Forestry in America.

Project Leader **David Loftis** hosted the group at Bent Creek and explained the research conducted at the site. It was Ms. Gause's first visit to a Research Work Unit and she reported that she found it very informative.

Donald Downs Retires After 32 Years of Federal Service

Headquarters personnel said goodbye to **Don Downs** on July 25 at a get-together hosted by the Human Resources Group. Don retired after 31 years of service on July 28. Don worked in Asheville as Senior Staffing Specialist in 1985. His other Government duty included a tour in Vietnam, NFs in Mississippi, Chattahoochee-Oconee NF, NFs in North Carolina, and the Ouachita NF, where his career began as a Group Head with the YCC in 1970.

He and his wife, Pat, will be retiring to Holden Beach, North Carolina to spend their sunset years.

Good luck, Don, with your retirement; or is that good luck, Pat, with Don's retirement?

Athens Lab Hosts Celebration

The Athens Lab recently held its own celebration to honor **Ken Cordell**, who received the Chief's Distinguished Research Scientist Award for 2001 (*see story on page 9*). We are proud of all the hard work that Ken and his colleagues devote to developing methods for conducting national-scale studies of the American public. It is important to our agency to understand long term trends in recreation, wilderness, and American demographics. These assessments are extensively used in planning, policy, research, and education.

During the last 35 years, Dr. Cordell has published over 200 papers, 3 books, and 8 book chapters. Dr. Cordell's research has fostered an overwhelming awareness of how our diverse society values recreation, public lands, wilderness, and other natural treasures. He has conclusively shown that our society wants its public servants to carefully manage our shared natural resources, not only for the benefit of the current generation, but also to benefit generations to come.

Asheville Runners Participate in YMCA's 150-year Anniversary Run



And—their off! Wilma Fant can be seen in the midst of the pack. That's her with the arrow pointing at her feet.

The year 2001 marks the 150th anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). In celebration of the auspicious event, YMCAs across the United States sponsored a synchronized 5k run, making it the World's largest run. There were more than 700 cities that participated in this celebration.

Running in the event to help celebrate the YMCA's accomplishment were two SRS employees, **Wilma Fant** and **Tan Johnson**. The highlight of the day was when Wilma won 2nd place in her age category. We don't know her age category, but Wilma said, "I was very surprised when I won because I stopped a few times along the way."

Tan said she was just happy to finish. The newly-transplanted Atlantan is still getting used to the mountains of western North Carolina.

Keep an eye out and you may see them running around the River Ridge area and local neighborhoods in Asheville. And, of course, there will be other races.

Congratulations on your achievement, Wilma and Tan!



Tan Johnson (left) and an unidentified Asheville runner (right) pose at the end of the race for a photo-op.

Deadline for next issue: August 24, 2001

American Eels Airing on “Earth and Sky”

by Shireen Gonzaga and Eleanor Imster, with permission of “Earth & Sky”

The Conservation Connection: Getting Information to Market

by Doug Donner, WO -
Radio Production Manager

The accompanying article, ‘Wintering Eels’ is only one of many public radio segments compiled by Doug Donner, Radio Production Manager for the “Conservation Connection” series.

A segment about Kudzu aired last spring on Earth & Sky, and Kerry Britton, SRS-4505 (Insects and Diseases of Southern Forests) contributed to compiling the article.

Earth & Sky co-hosts, Deborah Byrd and Joel Block, discuss popular science subjects that affect our everyday lives. Each show is 90 seconds in length. Since the spring of 2000, the USDA Forest Service has sponsored 6 shows per month on a range of topics including Canadian lynx, mapping dinosaur footprints, battling forest fires, the recovery of Mount St. Helens, and the interconnectedness of forest ecosystems.

If you have an interesting topic that you think would make a good segment for the “Conservation Connection” series, please submit it to the Public Affairs & Marketing staff in Asheville by contacting Rod Kindlund at <rkindlund@fs.fed.us> or Melissa Carlson at <mcarlson01@fs.fed.us>.

Recently, **Andy Dolloff**, Project Leader for SRS-4202 (Coldwater Streams and Trout Habitat in the Southern Appalachians) worked with Earth and Sky’s researcher, Shireen Gonzaga, providing information about eels. The information will be compiled into a segment for Earth and Sky airing on National Public Radio stations in fall 2001.

The subject of the segment is ‘Wintering Eels.’ In the fall of the year some eels head out to sea for a long journey, while other eels burrow-in for months of inactivity.

As the eels head out to sea their destination is the Sargasso Sea, a patch of ocean southeast of Bermuda. This is their birthplace, and after spawning, where they will die. The young eels born here then migrate to the rivers and streams where their parents once lived.

Eels that don’t make the long ocean trip spend the winter months buried—burrowed into the muddy substrate in rivers. Researchers have even discovered eels wintering into spaces under rocks in the cobbly bed and banks of small streams. During this time, the eels’ body temperature plummets, staying close to the

temperature of the water. Since eels are cold-blooded, they stay inactive until the water warms up and food is more abundant.

The farther upstream you go, the more likely you are to find female eels. It seems that most eels that head very far inland are females. The males stay closer to the bays, estuaries, or the ocean.

Earth and Sky is an award-winning daily science radio series heard by over 4 million listeners on over 700 commercial and public stations throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, the South Pacific and on a variety of international networks, including Armed Forces Radio, World Radio Network, WorldSpace networks, and Voice of America. Earth and Sky began airing in September of 1991.

Earth and Sky is produced in Austin, Texas. The show was created in 1991 by the show’s producer/host team, Deborah Byrd and Joel Block. The program is currently funded by grants from a variety of contributors including the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Research Corporation, and USDA Forest Service.

Reception for Dr. Richard Tinus Hosted at the Flagstaff Lab

On Friday, March 16, Director **Pete Roussopoulos** and Project Leader **Jim Barnett** from SRS-4111 (Ecology and Management of Southern Pines), in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Research Station, hosted a reception for **Dr. Richard (Dick) Tinus** honoring him for his significant contributions to forest tree nursery science over his 35-year career.

Dick was a Project Leader and Research Scientist for the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station before transferring to the Southern Research Station (SRS-4111) in 1996. In his current position, Dick has served as a national consultant for public and private forest tree

nurseries. Dick is widely recognized (both nationally and internationally) for his expertise in nursery science and reforestation.

In addition to the 35-year Length-of-Service Award that was presented by the Director, presentations were made by many colleagues from FS nurseries, the Flagstaff Lab, Northern Arizona University. Presenters included **Karen Burr** and **Joe Myers** from the Coeur d’Alene Nursery (R-1), **Tom Landis** (National Nursery Specialist) from R-6, **Ben Lowman** of the Missoula Technology and Development Center, and RMRS Acting Director **John Toliver**.

Pineville Personnel Teach Louisiana Science Teachers About Forestry

Since 1998, RWU-4111 (Ecology & Management of Even-Aged Southern Pine Forests) has participated in Louisiana's annual science teacher tour hosted by the USDA Forest Service, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Society of American Foresters, Louisiana Forestry Association, and local forest industries.

On June 13-16, 2001 the tour was held at Alexandria, Louisiana with 35 teachers attending. The teachers observed hardwood and pine forest management, as well as wood processing operations at several private timber and pulp companies.

Industry foresters discussed regeneration, intermediate stand management, and harvest activities and the coordination necessary to meet the mill's demand for wood while sustaining the productivity of intensively-managed forests.

Multiple-use forest management, the application of prescribed fire in Southern forests, and longleaf pine ecology were discussed at Longleaf Vista on the Kisatchie National Forest. At RWU-4111's long-term pine ecophysiology study on the Palustris Experimental Forest, **Mary Anne Sword**, research plant physiologist, and **Eric Kuehler**, plant physiologist, presented the teachers with information about how foresters control the quantity, size, and quality of trees in intensively-managed forests with silvicultural practices that affect tree physiology and the availability of essential resources. The scientists gave an overview of the equipment used in ecophysiology research and discussed how light, leaf area, root growth, and carbon allocation respond to thinning and fertilization to affect tree growth.

Louisiana teachers frequently use the American Forest Foundation's Project Learning Tree (PLT) Environmental Education Activity Guide to develop forestry curricula. The scientists linked the key points of their presentation to PLT lessons, and offered new ideas on how to present basic principles of forestry in the classroom.

The science teacher tour was initiated in 1998 by the Temperate Forest Foundation, a nonprofit, public organization based in Beaverton, Oregon. Their mission is to empower the public with a better understanding of the issues and options involved in the conservation and development of natural resources. One way the Foundation meets this challenge is to organize several National teacher tours annually. Every two years, four forested locations in different regions of the United States and Canada are chosen as host sites for the tour. At each site, the Foundation works with local, state, and Federal forestry agencies, as well as forest industries to design a three-day tour that demonstrates the ecological, economic and social aspects of the region's forestry. Teachers learn about regional forestry issues, and how professional foresters meet society's forest product needs while protecting the health, diversity and productivity of forests.

Temperate Forest Foundation tours held in Louisiana, Maine and South Carolina have prompted 14 state forestry teacher tours using the Foundation model. Further information about the Temperate Forest Foundation can be found at <www.forestinfo.org>.

Oak: America's National Tree

The National Arbor Day Foundation reports that a choice has been made for America's National Tree. The nationwide vote was hosted by the foundation on its Web site. From the first day of voting, oak was the most popular choice of the American people. Another magnificent tree, the redwood, was the second place finisher.

The National Arbor Day Foundation thanks everyone who voted or encouraged others to take part in this historic process. This event marked the first time that the American public has been able to vote for their choice of a national emblem.

Visit <www.arborday.org> for vote totals and comparisons of all the candidate trees.



We are saddened to report that **Dr. Richard W. Tinus** passed away July 3 at his home in Flagstaff. He was 65 years old.

Dr. Tinus was a career scientist with the USDA Forest Service. He received a B.A. in Chemistry in 1958 from Wesleyan University, a Master of Forestry degree in 1960 from Duke University, and a Ph.D. in Plant Physiology in 1965 from UC Berkeley.

He began his career as a plant physiologist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Cheyenne, WY. He joined the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Bottineau, ND in 1968, where he established himself as a research scientist in Great Plains forestry and an international expert in greenhouse container production of forest tree seedlings. He was senior author of the book, "How to Grow Tree Seedlings in Containers in Greenhouses" that became the standard guidance for forest container seedling production throughout the world. He was awarded the Department of Agriculture's Superior Service Award in 1975. In 1982, he transferred to the Rocky Mountain Station's Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Flagstaff, AZ as Project Leader of a new research work unit investigating heat, cold, and insect stress physiology of southwestern tree species. During his 11-year tenure as Project Leader he was instrumental in designing and developing greenhouse research facilities and equipment at the Fort Valley Experimental Forest and the Greenhouse Complex on Lone Tree Road.

From 1993 to 1996, he pursued tree physiology and seedling production research for the Forest Service in cooperation with researchers in New Zealand and Israel. Since 1996, he served as a detached unit of the Southern Research Station, publishing his work from Flagstaff, consulting and conducting research at US forest nurseries from New York to Samoa, and speaking at professional meetings both nationally and internationally.

During his 36 years in public service, he held leadership roles as Chairman of the Nursery

Operations and Cold and Drought Hardiness Working Parties of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations and Chairman of the Great Plains Agricultural Council's Forestry Council. He served on various Washington Office Task Forces to evaluate Forest Service nurseries. He was invited to share his expertise in numerous countries around the world, from Inner Mongolia and Finland to Haiti. He published more than 140 research articles, proceedings, and general technical reports during his distinguished career. In 2000, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western Forest and Conservation Nursery Association. Until his health declined precipitously in recent weeks, he continued to complete manuscripts and consult with colleagues and nurseries by telephone.

Dr. Richard Tinus is survived by his wife, Arline, and two sons, Craig of Carolina, RI and Eric of Corbett, OR.

Southern Aspect Editor Gains Membership into Craft Guild

On April 1, 2001 **Rodney Kindlund** became one of the newest juried members to the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild (SHCG), headquartered at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Asheville, NC. The SHCG is the second oldest craft guild in existence in the United States with over 800 members in nine Southern States within the Appalachian Mountains. Rodney juried in Leather-Art and specializes in making leather jewelry boxes, leather picture frames, and specialty leather cases. Many of the designs feature natural motifs, including leaves hand-tooled into the surface of the leather. A picture frame, entitled "Appalachian Leaves" and a 7-sided jewelry box hand-tooled with the SHCG logo are currently on display in Washington, DC at the Appalachian Regional Commission offices until April 2002.

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Hermann Gucinski Receives USDA Secretary's Honor Award

Hermann Gucinski, is one of the recipients of a group honor award from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, presented at a ceremony in Washington, DC on June 4. Dr. Gucinski is the Assistant Director for Research-Global Change at the Station. The award recognizes the intra-agency Climate Change Negotiations Analytic Support Team for "significant contributions to improving the Kyoto Protocol through the consideration of forest, crop, and grazing land management." In addition to being responsible for the Southern Global Change Research Work Unit in Raleigh, NC and its contributions to the USDA Forest Service Global Change Program, Dr. Gucinski oversees the Forested Wetlands and Bottomland Hardwoods Research Work Units in South Carolina and Mississippi and other related SRS work. He previously was the Program Manager for Ecosystems Processes Research with the Forest Service in Corvallis, OR.

Dr. Gucinski holds a Ph.D. in Biophysics from SUNY, following an M.S. in Environmental Systems Management from The American University, and a B.S. in Physics from SUNY.

Outstanding Young Forester Award Goes to SRS Scientist

Recently, Emile Gardiner received an award in Oxford from the Mississippi Society of American Foresters for being the "outstanding young forester for the year 2000". Congratulations, Emile, on receiving the award.

Ken Cordell Receives Distinguished Scientist Honor Award

H. Ken Cordell, Ph.D., project leader for SRS-4901 (Recreation, Wilderness, Urban Forest, and Demographic Trends Research Work Unit) in Athens, GA received the Chief's Honor Award for Distinguished and Superior Science at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on June 4. Dr. Cordell was recognized for his national and international science leadership in developing methods for conducting broad-scale assessments of long-term trends in outdoor recreation, wilderness, and American demographics. These assessments are extensively used in planning, policy, research, and education by government agencies and private organizations.

Dr. Cordell, a native of Asheville, NC, is best known for designing and conducting national-scale studies of the American public and recreation uses and benefits on public lands. He is the principal scientist in the Federal National Recreation Survey, which began in 1960 under the Federal Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission.

Among many other previous awards, Dr. Cordell received the "Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt Outstanding Scientist of the Year Award for Excellence in Recreation and Park Research" from the National Recreation and Park Association in October 1989.

He has been project leader of the Research Work Unit, located on the University of Georgia campus, since 1977. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics and Business at North Carolina State University in Raleigh in 1975. The Southern Research Station is responsible for research and development related to forested ecosystems throughout the 13 Southern States.

James Miller Receives USDA Secretary's Honor Award

James H. Miller, Ph.D., received the USDA Secretary's Honor Award for Maintaining and Enhancing the Nation's Natural Resources and Environment at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on June 4. Dr. Miller was recognized for "leading research and outreach to further plant conservation and nonnative plant management for sustaining regional biodiversity and productivity in the forests of the Southeastern United States." He is a Research Ecologist with the Vegetation Management Research and Longleaf Pine Research for Southern Forest Ecosystems work unit (SRS-4105) in Auburn, AL.

Dr. Miller was recognized as Weed Scientist of the Year in 1999 by the Southern Weed Society for his outstanding achievements in research and technology transfer related to forest vegetation management science. He is the senior author of "Southeast Forest Plants and Wildlife Uses," a full-color field manual published in 1999.

Dr. Miller is a native of Oklahoma City, OK. He has worked for the Southern Research Station since 1977 at the G.W. Andrews Forestry Sciences Laboratory on the campus of Auburn University. He is also an affiliate associate professor with the Auburn University School of Forestry.

photo by Ron Coates



Wanda Carambot (left) and Linda Cortes (right) hard at work selling multicultural event t-shirts at the All-Cultures Event.

Personnel Notes

Jill Gallie and Jeff Witcosky say farewell to western North Carolina...

Jill Gallie was recently selected as the Budget Analyst for Region 2, CFO Budget Staff, located in Golden, Colorado. Jill joins the Rocky Mtn. Region with experience gained through serving at the WO, Station, and Forest levels.

Jeff Witcosky was selected as Supervisory Entomologist with Forest Health Management in Region 2 located in Lakewood, Colorado. Jeff has served as an Entomologist in Pineville, LA and Forest Health Protection in Harrisonburg, VA; at both the Forest and Station levels.

Medieval Knights, Scottish Highlanders, and Vikings Abound in Asheville



Travel back to medieval times...the days of yore...the era of knights and chivalry...of dragons and Robin Hood.

For two days in May, the Mountain Renaissance Adventure Faire in

Asheville, sponsored by The Janirve Foundation, City of Asheville Parks and Recreation Dept., Royal Crown Cola, Carolina Power and Light, WLOS-TV 13, and the Southern Research Station, brought the Medieval Era back to life in the mountains at the Asheville School. Rod Kindlund provided graphics, schematic maps, and temporary signage for the event and served on the board of directors.

The Renaissance faire was the first of its kind in western North Carolina. The board

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Medieval Knights

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of directors for the faire worked long and hard to provide wholesome entertainment for children and adults of all ages. Proceeds from ticket, soft drink, and food sales went to support local charities such as the Eliada Home and the Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM).

The event was advertised as a multicultural faire for young and old alike, including Camelot, a medieval marketplace, Sherwood Forest, Viking Village, Scottish Highlands, an Olde World Bazaar, and Storyteller's Grove.

On the Dreamweaver Stage pageantry was at its finest when Merlin and his heroes met Ninian and her minions to decide the fate of the fantasy world. Once again, good triumphed over evil. A second stage, World Journey's Stage, provided entertainment by cloggers, belly-dancers, singers, jesters, and bagpipers. The Olde World Bazaar included vendors selling their wares from Celtic/Scottish books, to handmade craft items. The Viking Village presented a medieval reenactment play, "Golden Moon", complete with pillaging, swordplay, and pugilsticks.

As faire-goers walked down the Fantasy Fairway, they were greeted by jesters, jugglers, and face-painters found among the woodland niches and large metal wildflowers made from 55-gallon drum lids and rebar by one of the local artisans.

In the Storytellers Grove, one could hear the recitations from poets and storytellers.

The marketplace offered the finest of feasting and fare for travelers and nobles, including the staple of the medieval diet, the smoked turkey leg. All vendor proceeds from the food and drink sales went to community charity groups that staffed the booths.

The Southern Station cosponsored the Sherwood Forest area and provided conservation education activities for children. Participants from Station headquarters included **Ron Coates**, **Louise Wilde**, and **Pearley Simmons** from the Communications Office, and **Donna Burnett** from Forest Inventory and Analysis. A big thank you to all who helped with the event.

After the dust had cleared late Sunday afternoon, an estimated 3,000 western North Carolinians had sampled a taste of medieval multi-culture.

When interviewed, **Jan Love**, the executive director for the faire stated, "This is the most successful first-year Renaissance faire that I have ever been privileged in directing. All the work accomplished was volunteerism at its finest and committed to a very worthy cause...charity. Next year's faire can only be bigger and better."

Reminder:

When submitting photos for the Southern Aspect, please send black-and-white photographs, if possible. A second choice is to send in good quality 35mm slides.

While new technology exists and many people now have digital cameras, most of the digital photos supplied to go with your newsworthy articles have not been usable, due to poor image quality. If you must submit digital photos, your digital camera

must have an image quality of 1.3 megapixels or better. Images of less quality cannot be used. The editorial staff will contact those who submit articles with digital photos that do not meet the minimum quality level, so that you may have time to re-submit either black-and-white photos or 35mm slides.

...Editor

Craft Guild *(continued from page 9)*

All the leatherwork is completely hand-tooled, hand-assembled, and hand-stitched using a stitch-horse for saddle-stitching. After construction of an item, the pieces are hand-edged and hand-finished, making it truly a labor of love of the craft. Rodney has been practicing his craft since the early 1970's. His work will be included in the New-Members Exhibit at the Folk Art Center in August 2001.

Rodney also hopes to learn more about the leather tanning process and the research being conducted by Richard Hemingway at the Pineville Lab in Louisiana (SRS-4701 –

Utilization of Southern Forest Resources). This research involves the recovery of tanning liquors after they have been used in the processes to "oak-tan" leather, the same type of leather that Rodney uses to tool his designs upon. The information could lead to a Station display at the Folk Art Festival in Washington, DC during the "New Century of Service" celebration in 2005 on the Mall when the Forest Service celebrates its 100th anniversary as an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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