

## Harold and Betty Pittman “retire” after more than 20 years with the SCSEP program!

by Julia Murphy

Harold (George Lee) and Betty Pittman “retired” after more than 20 years with the SCSEP program at Bent Creek Experimental Forest (RWU-4101). Harold and Betty’s last day with the SCSEP program was December 11, 2002. Coworkers and friends had a



Retired SCSEP employees Harold and Betty Pittman at Bent Creek Experimental Forest.

potluck dinner on January 7, 2003 and presented awards and gifts to show their great appreciation for the huge contributions Harold and Betty made to the project.

Bent Creek staff, retired technicians, scientists, past SCSEP enrollees, family members and Assistant Director, **Nancy Herbert** came out to offer best wishes to these two dynamic individuals.

Betty started with Forest Health Protection (RWU-4803) at the Resistance Screening Center working in the greenhouses at Bent Creek. A few years later she moved “down the hill” to work with the Bent Creek Experimental Forest (RWU-4101).

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### Calling All Retirees!

We need YOU to send in stories, anecdotes, and historical articles to publish in the *Southern Aspect* newsletter. During the next two years, the editorial staff would like to publish as many stories and articles as possible to highlight the research and activities accomplished by past employees of the Appalachian Experiment Station, the Southeastern Experiment Station, the Southern Experiment Station, and/or the Southern Research Station. Photos are encouraged and can be scanned by staff members and returned to you unharmed. We look forward to working with you in learning more about the past to provide for the New Century of Service. . . . editor



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## From the Director's Desk . . .



*Columbia crew from left to right: Mission Specialist David Brown, Commander Rick Husband, Mission Specialist Laurel Clark, Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla, Payload Commander Michael Anderson, Pilot Willie McCool, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon.*

United we stood. It took a great deal of teamwork to accomplish, but we (collectively) did it. The space shuttle recovery led to about 40% of the spacecraft being returned to NASA for final investigation; that's over 80,000 pieces. And what's more, the Forest Service team members did their part working with the Incident Command System (ICS). It is amazing

how far FS employees are willing to go from spending weeks on end supporting the firefighting efforts to disaster relief following the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks to recovering the space shuttle. Forest Service employees did their part to try to heal the wounds caused from disaster.

The space shuttle recovery was truly a National team effort, which included many Federal and State agencies working together. The Southern Research Station was there, with National Forest and State & Private Forestry personnel. Besides NASA, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the FBI, whom we would all expect to show up at an incident of this nature, the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Texas Forest Service, local volunteer fire departments, and local law enforcement agencies all worked together to search and recover the debris. During stressful management of incidents like this one, we can be one Nation to get the job done.

Clearly, the space shuttle incident came at a bad time - the war on terrorism was in full swing, and personnel were needed to provide homeland security to keep America secure. National Guard units were on alert or deployed to the Persian Gulf; they had their jobs to do, just as Forest Service Incident Managers took an active role in recovering the space shuttle.

Many employees of SRS were involved, and some have shared some amazing stories of the work they did. Forest Health Protection personnel from Asheville and Pineville were detailed for over a month to map the shorelines of Lake Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend Lake by taking high-resolution aerial video which geo-referenced the area being searched. The data and video clips were sent to the NASA command post in Lufkin, TX for evaluation. The data gathered from these flights were later used by on-the-ground survey teams to locate individual pieces of the shuttle wreckage. Forest Inventory and Analysis personnel provided surveyors to pinpoint locations and map debris using forest survey techniques and GPS (global positioning system) technology. Some of the debris was located using a helicopter and crew from the Grandfather District of the National Forests in North Carolina by using low-level flights to pinpoint unusual pieces of debris. Personnel from the Pineville, LA lab were frequently called upon due to the close proximity to the crash site. A number of other SRS units also contributed personnel to this effort.

At an Appreciation Event hosted by NASA and FEMA at Lufkin, TX, NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe presented the Southern Research Station with a beautiful framed print of the shuttle mission. Both NASA and FEMA commented that they were humbled by the dedication of the people involved in the search and recovery efforts. The Station and FHP personnel made significant contributions to the recovery effort. For that, a grateful Nation and Southern Research Station leadership give you thanks for a job well done. You have given us all yet another reason to be proud to wear the pine-tree shield.

Thanks!

## Gentle Logging Demonstration

In May of 2001 the Forest Operations Unit (RWU-4703) located in Auburn, AL helped coordinate a demonstration of state of the art low-impact harvesting systems in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The "Gentle Logging Demonstration" was an extension project funded by the USDA Forest Service's Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) to demonstrate alternative harvesting systems capable of working in wet areas in the Lake States region.



*Demonstration of the state-of-the-art low-impact harvesting.*

Unit personnel were involved in specifying harvesting equipment, soliciting participation from manufacturers, and collecting system performance data during the demonstration. Over 400 loggers and forest managers from the region attended the demonstration. The extension effort also included follow-up reports detailing the harvesting systems' performance, environmental and stand impacts and results from attendee questionnaires as well as a video conference, a Web site (<http://forestry.msu.edu/msaf/WERCdemo/MainPage.htm>) and a presentation session at the 2002 Society of American Foresters annual meeting. The success of this partnership was recently recognized with a 2002 Eastern Region Director's Award for Excellence. Unit personnel who participated in the project were **James Dowdell, John Klepac, Shannon Morris, McKinley Owen, Bob Rummer, Preston Steele, and Jason Thompson.**

## Employees recognized with Chief's Awards

**Bernard Parresol**, Biometrician in Asheville, NC, received the Chief's Global Stewardship Award. The award was for outstanding work with the People's Republic of China, Mexico, Portugal, and Spain, and for helping to host the International Wetlands Symposium in China this year, which was a great success.



*Bernard Parresol (Bernie).*

The National Technology Transfer Team received the Chief's award for Excellence in Technology Transfer for exhibiting extraordinary national leadership in Technology Transfer for Urban and Community Forestry. **Ingrid Sather**, of RWU-4901 in Athens, GA, is a member of the NTT team.



*Ingrid Sather.*

### Reminder:

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

If you must submit digital photos, your digital camera must have an image quality of 1.3 megapixels or better on the high quality setting. The final size of the digital photo should be 1024X768 or larger. Images of lower quality than 300dpi 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 resubmit either black-and-white photos or 35mm slides.

### *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 by the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, P.O. Box 2680, 200 WT 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 email to [rcoates@fs.fed.us](mailto:rcoates@fs.fed.us). Photographs are encouraged, preferably black and white.



## W.O. Seminar and Product Fair



Each year, the Leadership Team presents a program in the Washington Office about our successes, partnerships, and plans for the future. This annual spring Seminar showcases the work and employees of the

Southern Research Station and provides a springboard for discussion with the W.O. Research and Development staff and others. A special feature for 2003 was the addition of a "product fair" featuring posters, displays, and publications from the past year. They were set up the week preceding the Seminar, to spark interest in the presentation, and to reach W.O. staff who might not be able to attend. Featured were the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA) and the Hypertext Encyclopedia, with additional posters from several units.

For variety, the Seminar was designed with a focus on tools and products that come out of our work, such as models and assessments, rather than on broad research topic areas as in the past. Guest speakers included Louise Milkman from The Nature Conservancy commenting on the value of the SFRA and Dave Smith, representing the Society of American Foresters, offering support for the Hypertext efforts. The presentation wrapped up with an introduction to some key areas for the 2005 budget request, that crosswalk with what the Chief has described as "the Four Threats" – areas of concern in the present and immediate future – fragmentation, healthy forest initiative, unmanaged recreation, and invasives.

If you would like more information, a copy of the basic powerpoint presentation was distributed to project leaders, or you can contact Melissa Carlson ([mcarlson01@fs.fed.us](mailto:mcarlson01@fs.fed.us)) to request one. And, we will be looking for good photos of employees at work for next year's Seminar, as well as for the 2003 Annual Report, so please keep that in mind over the next few months, and take 35mm slides of your work (or high resolution [300 dpi] digital images) to send in to Asheville.

## Retired SCSEP

(continued from page 1)

Betty was responsible for janitorial duties, but she always went above and beyond cleaning offices. Betty was so talented in many ways. Betty beautified the campus with her magical touch for gardening and flowers. She hand carved beautiful gourds and made attractive centerpieces out of anything natural "laying" around.

Betty Pittman grew up near Bent Creek and loved the mountains. She had a wealth of knowledge about people, places, and living/history. She was a real "people" person. She made everyone whether a coworker, visitor, new employee, intern or construction worker, feel right at home with her warm welcome or homemade beans and ham soup.

She always said "she knew a little about everything but not a whole lot about anything" which is what we needed here at Bent Creek. She also went in the field with the technicians to help with data collection. She said it wasn't the job that kept her here but the people. She always told people "it was the best job you will ever love." She was helpful in bringing other SCSEP enrollees to the program.

Harold's duties at Bent Creek were ground maintenance. He also did field work with the technicians. Harold could remember every tree and plot in the whole Bent Creek watershed. His knowledge of trees and timber made him a real asset to the project. Harold loved working outdoors. Harold always took the extra time to make sure the campus looked nice for workers and visitors.

Harold earned a living as a commercial logger for many years. Upon joining the SCSEP program in 1983, he used his logging skills for making a number of regeneration cuts in research plots in the experimental forest. Harold was well known and sought after for his clean, neat cuts while performing logging operations. Harold always had a smile on his face and was always helpful in whatever way he could be. The staff at Bent Creek will miss Harold and Betty a lot and wishes them all the best.

## Can YOU help us celebrate 100 years of Forest Service research in the South?

(New Century of Service)

by Rodney Kindlund



Many employees and retirees may have been wondering: What is the New Century of Service (NCS) that we've been hearing about?

What can you do to help the agency celebrate its 100 year history while reflecting on the future? Are there things retirees can do to volunteer their time planning for local or regional events in 2005? These are all good questions to be answered individually by interested employees and retirees around the Southern Research Station. To make it a reality will take some commitment from all of us.

To answer the first question: "What is New Century of Service?" — New Century of Service is basically about three things: (1) honoring the past, the lessons learned, and the many contributions made by Forest Service employees and retirees, (2) Sharing and highlighting new ways of doing the work we do to serve the public, and (3) celebrating 100 years of caring for the land and serving people.

While these objectives are rather broad, there are things that you can do at the local level to directly involve the public during the New Century of Service celebration. Below is a list of questions about NCS that may help you decide if there is anything you can do locally or regionally to assist or take the lead in planning events for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forest Service:

- 1) Do you have an interest in planning a local or regional NCS event?
- 2) Do you have coworkers that share your interest that could assist you?

3) Is there a retiree organization near you that may have an interest in participating in the event?

4) Is there a tie-in to a local community-based event being planned for 2005 that could benefit by Forest Service participation and coordination that would include NCS?

5) Does the research at your work unit have a historical reference or significance that could relate to a NCS event?

6) Is there a written history of your research lab?

7) Do you know of retirees who may be willing to assist in planning?

8) Do you know retirees who have personal knowledge about the history of the Appalachian Experiment Station, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Southern Forest Experiment Station, or Southern Research Station?

If you have answers to any of these questions and are willing to help organize a local or regional event to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forest Service, your assistance could prove invaluable. We need volunteers to help plan regional and local events leading up to and including the centennial celebration. If you are interested in assisting, please contact **Rodney Kindlund**, Public Affairs Officer at 828-259-0560 (office), 828-257-4838 (fax), 828-275-3240 (cell), or email [rkindlund@fs.fed.us](mailto:rkindlund@fs.fed.us). For more information about NCS, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/newcentury/index.htm>



November 1930 Crew tallying reproduction strips.

Article deadline for next issue: August 24, 2003



Photo captions from page 1:

Top: (1916) Wilson Lick Ranger Station, Wayah Ranger District.

Bottom: (1958) Stringing fire for prescribed burning in loblolly pine.



(1923) Forest research party moving camp in a region accessible only by trail.



(1932) Camp of forest research field party at Wolf Gap, George Washington National Forest, VA.



(1958) Tallying yellow-poplar in a mixed upland hardwood stand in the Piedmont. Large stump was a scarlet oak removed in an improvement cut.

Right: (1950's) Bark streaks 9 feet from the ground → require a special long handled tool for pulling the streak and safely applying the acid. The laborer is shown applying 50-percent sulfuric acid to a streak 8 feet from the ground in this naval stores (turpentine) operation.



(1942) Big four-wheel underslung log cart hauling load of logs from woods to sawmill. In this woods operation carried on by the Thomas Lumber Company of Whiteville, NC about 8,000 bd. ft. are being cut out per day from a 12,000 bd. ft. per acre stand.



(1949) 45-year old loblolly pine stand with understory controlled by prescribed burning, Santee Experimental Forest, SC.



*Excerpts from: Anniversary Report 1921–1946, Twenty-five Years of Forest Research in the Southern Appalachians*

### INTRODUCTION

The federal forest experiment stations in the United States exist primarily for the purpose of discovering ways and means of growing more valuable timber faster. This information is for the use of managers of the world's greatest system of national forests, for timber owners, farmers, and anyone else who can and will use it. Over the years the stations have expanded to supplement timber management studies with associated work on the relation of forests to stream flow; with the Forest Survey, which measures the national, state, and local forest resource; with woodland grazing research; with a Forest Utilization Service which serves as a liaison between the famous Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin, and the nation's wood-using industries. Side by side with these activities go the cooperative work on tree diseases and insects, by scientists of the United States Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agriculture Engineering and the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; work on forest wildlife under the Fish and Wildlife Service; the U.S. Weather Bureau's meteorology studies and weather predictions, vital to modern forest fire fighting and detection; also direct cooperation on specific projects with the State agricultural experiment stations, timberland owners and industries and other forestry agencies.

One of the first modern regional stations, the Appalachian (now Southeastern) Forest Experiment Station celebrated its Silver Anniversary on July 1, 1946. . . .

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

. . . . A broad attack on the forest production problems of the Appalachian region were contemplated. Two handicaps faced the researchers . . . . In addition, there was an enormous job to be done with few men and little money. The new Station's territory covered some 120 million acres. It included all or major populations of at least seven broad forest types. The problems of this great area were to be attacked by a staff of four technicians (Frothingham, Korstian, McCarthy, and Haasis) and one clerk (Josephine Laxton) with an annual allotment of \$17,300. . . .

*Editor's note: to read more about the histories of the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Southern Forest Experiment Station, or the Southern Research Station, go to the SRS Web site at [www.srs.fs.usda.gov](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov) and scroll down to [Station Information] [Historical Papers, Reports, Photos]. . . .*



(1940) Forest Officer scaling rough yellow pine pulpwood, salvaged from beetle-killed timber.



(1940) Swamp Hardwood and Cypress type.

### Apologia. . . .

Although some Station retirees have asked not to be mailed the Station newsletter, as an exception, I am sending it nonetheless. For this issue only, the editorial staff is including all retirees in the mailing to solicit your opinions and ideas for celebrating the New Century of Service, the 100th anniversary of the USDA Forest Service as a forest management agency. If you have ideas for types of events to be planned, we want to hear from you. No idea is too far-fetched. Your voice will be heard and we value the input we receive from you.

Thank you for your indulgence and please accept our apologies if you are one of the readers who wished to no longer receive the *Southern Aspect*. . . . the editorial staff

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