

f for Your information



Caring for the Land and Serving People

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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Fire Forecast Page Gets *L.A. Times* Award

The *Los Angeles Times* recently awarded a "pick" award to the web page <http://meteora.ucsd.edu/ecpc/globaltoregional/>, which contains fire weather forecasts that were developed through cooperative research sponsored by the Fire Meteorology Research Unit, Riverside, and headed by Project Leader Francis Fujioka. The page itself was developed by Shyh Chen of the Scripps Experimental Climate Prediction Center. The *L.A. Times*' "pick" awards are offered as a guide to what's new, timely, useful, and interesting on the Web.

Station Celebrates National Hispanic Month

PSW will observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. This year's theme is "Excellence in education: building opportunities for our youth." An integral part of the mission of the Forest Service is to provide not only equal opportunity in employment, but also to provide programs which recognize the diverse national heritages that have always contributed to our way of life. Employees are encouraged to use this period to become better acquainted with the many achievements and cultural contributions of Hispanic Americans.

USDA Has Resources for Workplace Violence

The number of violent incidents and threats of violence in the workplace have increased in the Forest Service just as they have in private industry. Because of this, FS Chief Mike Dombeck has issued a policy on violence in the workplace, and offers employees several resources for learning about and dealing with such occurrences. Information about coping with workplace violence is available from these sources: Office of Personnel Management, "A Manager's Handbook: Handling Traumatic Events"; the Department of Justice Publications Catalog, available by calling 1-800-851-3420; the home page for the Partnership Against Violence Network, at www.pavnet.org; and the Federal Protective Services booklet, "What You Should Know About Coping with Threats and Violence in the Workplace," available by calling (202) 690-8809.

Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

* Jim Allen, Forested Wetlands Research Team, Honolulu, helped organize and served as a moderator for a panel, "Protection and restoration of lowland wetlands," at the Hawaii Conservation Conference in Wailea, Maui, July 24-25.

* Katherine Ewel, Forested Wetlands Research Team, Honolulu, presented a paper co-authored with Susan Vince, "Should pondcypress swamps in the southwest USA be cut?", at the Ecological Society of America meeting, August 11-14 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Travel Report: Rappaport and Mori in Mexico

Nancy Rappaport, Soil/Site Productivity Science Team, Redding, and Sylvia Mori, Statistics Group, Albany, recently returned from the state of Michoacan, Mexico, where they helped conduct a field test of cone beetle pheromone efficacy in collaboration with Arturo del Rio Mora, a researcher with the Mexican government, and John Stein, formerly of PSW. Cone beetles limit reforestation in many areas of North America, and this research, funded by the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team, Morgantown, W. Va., should result in nontoxic methods for controlling the beetles and thus enhancing reforestation across the continent.

The Mexican experimental forest, dubbed "Blacks Mountain South" by the collaborators, is located at an altitude of 6,000 feet in the *mesetas* (tablelands) between several recently-active volcanos in the highlands west of Mexico City. The highly-productive pine forest is managed collectively by the indigenous peoples' community of San Juan Nuevo Parangaricutiro, and wood harvested from the forest is used in the community's furniture factory. The forest is a true multiple-use site: in addition to timber, it is used for cattle grazing, harvesting wild mushrooms, producing naval stores, picnicking, and as a place of worship on Sundays. "The forest is extremely well-managed," said Nancy. "It's a kind of intensive but gentle forestry that can be done where labor is plentiful and heavy equipment lacking."

Previous research conducted by Nancy and John, who is Program Manager, FHTET/Morgantown, had revealed three promising new components for controlling cone beetles, which are serious pests of seed production in most pine species in North America. One of these components synergizes cone beetle pheromone response, and

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Caring for our forests ("Cuidemos nuestros bosques") and preventing cone beetles from limiting reforestation is the goal of research being conducted in Mexico.

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(Meetings/Conferences/Seminars, cont'd.)

* Martin Ritchie, Forest Growth/Development Science Team, Redding, chaired the Annual Meeting of the Western Mensurationists, in Tahoe City, Calif., June 23-24. Bill Oliver and Fabian Uzoh, also from Redding, were in attendance.

Personnelly Speaking

Civil Rights Committee Spot Cash Awards

- * Bruce Bingham, Arcata
- * Merle Bowen, Redding
- * Carol DeMuth, Albany
- * George Durst, Riverside
- * Gladys Evans, Albany
- * Francis Fujioka, Riverside
- * Armando González-Cabán, Riverside
- * Ella Guest, Riverside
- * Bernadette Jacquint, Albany
- * Rosemary Leen, Hawaii
- * Tom Munton, Fresno
- * Mark Poth, Riverside
- * Shimon Schwarzschild, Albany
- * Rochelle Selvin, Albany

Cash Awards

* Marilyn Burrows, Facilities/Administrative Services Group, Albany, "for your dedication and the extra effort in planning and conducting the 1997 Business Management Assistant Meeting held in Sacramento, July 8-10."

* Sylvia Mori, Statistics Group, Albany, "for your outstanding contribution to the experimental design and coordination of an international study of cone beetle pheromones."

* Carline Rudolph, Forest Genetics Research Unit, Placerville, "for your outstanding contribution to the experimental design and coordination of an international study on cone beetle pheromones."

For Your Information is published every other week. Vince Dong (510-559-6324) and Lisa Wolters-Broder (510-559-6327), editors (DG: S27A). Field correspondents: Alfonzo Domingo (Hawaii), Brian Boroski (Fresno), Phil McDonald (Redding), Chris Nelson (Placerville), Lola Thomas (Riverside), Bob Ziemer (Arcata).

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(Travel Report, cont'd.)

the other two inhibit it. Both repellent and attractive blends are useful for pheromonal insect control, allowing resource managers to repel pests from the interior of a stand and to attract them to traps outside the stand.

The pheromone blends were tested in two stands in the Mexican forest, one dominated by *Pinus pseudostrabus* and the other by *Pinus teocote*.

Japanese beetle traps were baited with the female beetle pheromone alone and in combination with each of the other components, and then hung by tree climbers in the top 3 meters of the trees, which averaged 30 meters in height. After 2 months, the traps will be removed and the behavioral efficacy of the blends will be assessed. In addition to the field assays, pheromones were isolated from infested pine cones using a portable pump system designed to capture plant and insect volatiles *in situ*. Such isolations can provide valuable clues about which volatile chemicals may be behaviorally-active for insects. Future collaborative studies will focus on optimizing release devices, utilizing the best of the pheromone blends isolated and tested in this year's study.

Job Vacancy

Personnel Assistant, GS-0203-7, Albany

Closes

10-10-97

Executive Calendar

September 15-19

- Space M-Th: Salt Lake City; F: Albany
- Aune M-F: Redding
- Bell M-Tu: Sacramento; W-Th: Mammoth Lakes; F: Albany
- DeMuth (Acting) . . M: Albany; Tu-Th: Sacramento; F: Albany
- Ewel M-F: Honolulu
- Mason (Backup) . . . M: Albany; Tu-Th: Sacramento; F: Albany

September 22-26

- Space M-Tu: Albany; W-Th: Lihue; F: Honolulu
- Aune M-F: Redding
- Bell M-F: Albany
- DeMuth (Acting) . . M-F: Albany
- Ewel M-Tu: Honolulu; W-Th: Lihue; F: Honolulu
- Mason (Backup) . . . M-F: Albany