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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Robertson Wins Entomology Award

Jackie Robertson, who was a PSW Project Leader at Albany until her retirement last month, is the 1997 recipient of the C.W. Woodworth award for outstanding research in entomology. The Woodworth Award, presented by the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America, will be given to Jackie in June.

In the Pacific Branch Program, Jackie acknowledges two individuals—the late Lucille Boelter, who was a technician in her research unit for 18 years, and Haiganoush Preisler, statistician in the unit, with whom she has written one book so far and numerous technical articles—for their influence on the direction that her research has taken.

Associate Chief Unger to Retire in July

FS Associate Chief Dave Unger has announced that he will retire from the agency on July 3.

“You’ll notice that this date is immediately followed by Independence Day,” Dave quipped, then added, “I have been fortunate to have had a succession of wonderful conservation jobs in the Federal government, State government, and the private sector—adding up to about 44 years of service. It’s time to move on to some new challenges, and I look forward to them. But I’m not gone yet—and I will continue to expect complete, immediate, and cheerful adherence to all my decisions!”

Dave became Associate Chief in 1993. Prior to that, he was Associate Deputy Chief—National Forest System, and then Acting Chief. Before joining the FS in 1987, he was Associate Chief, Soil (now Natural Resources) Conservation Service for 5 years.

Thrift Savings Plan Returns Dip in March

Monthly returns for the three investment options of the Thrift Savings Plan dropped or remained stable for the month of March. Returns for the C Fund, which tracks the common stock index, dropped from .79 percent in February to -4.13 percent. The slightly less risky F Fund dropped from .24 percent to -1.11 percent. And the G Fund actually gained slightly, from a .51 percent return in February to .57 percent in March. Over the last 12 months, however, the C Fund has earned a cumulative return of 19.68 percent; the F Fund, 4.93 percent; and the G Fund, 6.92 percent.

North Central Station Seeks Director

The North Central Forest Experiment Station, in St. Paul, Minn., has been without a Station Director for 4 years now—but that situation will soon change. The position, which had been scheduled to be abolished, will now be filled. The Director is a

(continued)

Changes Planned for Albany Headquarters

Changes will be at hand for some PSW employees at Albany and at Redding over the next 5 to 7 years, as the Station continues its efforts to consolidate units and services, and to position itself for a strong scientific program for the future. Assistant Station Director Garland Mason reported on some of these proposed plans at a Station meeting held in Albany on April 16. The main points were:

- * Over the next 5 to 7 years, the Station plans to relocate most scientists now located at Albany and at Redding to the University of California, Davis campus, in a transition period for the Forest Genetics, Insect Chemical Ecology, and Western Forest Management Research Units. Some aspects of these programs may remain at Albany, but the main thrust of their research is expected to be conducted at Davis.

- * By the end of this Fiscal Year, all staff presently located on the second floor in the Albany headquarters building are expected to be moved to the first floor. However, some laboratory space on the second floor will be kept by the Insect Chemical Ecology and Forest Genetics units.

- * Space vacated by PSW on the second floor at Albany will be returned to the USDA Agricultural Research Service as a cost-saving measure. Anticipated savings will be applied to the Station’s needs at Davis.

- * Scientists who are stationed at Albany and who wish to work at the UC Davis campus can now do so on a voluntary basis, although their official duty station would remain at Albany.

- * The purpose of the move to UC Davis is to get scientists into a university atmosphere, where they can maintain closer contact with colleagues in natural resources research.

- * PSW already has a contingent at UC Davis (the Urban Forestry Research Unit), and several scientists from the Forest Genetics Unit and one from the Insect Chemical Ecology Unit currently work there, as well.

PSW to Share Services with Region 5

In response to a request from the FS Washington Office for field units to “form a seamless organization” and share services, PSW has been negotiating with Region 5 headquarters in San Francisco to determine what services can be shared between the two.

The PSW Library will be relocated from Albany to R-5 at Mare Island, near Vallejo, Calif., and will serve the Pacific Southwest Region (PSW, R-5, and the Office of the USDA General Counsel). Sara Garetz, Group Leader—Library Services, developed a Memorandum of Understanding for the move, which R-5 has signed and which OGC will soon sign.

The next step in plans to share services is to relocate some of R-5’s personnel management files to Albany. R-5 also plans to detail a personnel clerk to Albany, who will work with PSW.

(North Central continued)

member of the Federal Senior Executive Service of the FS' Executive Team. For applications and additional information, contact Denise Howell-Parker at 703-235-8102, ext. 3051. Applications must be received by May 12.

Personnelly Speaking

Reassignment

* Elvira Metcalfe: from Facilities/Administrative Services Group; to Personnel Management Group, Albany, April 18.

Resignation

* Bruce McGurk, research hydrologist, Albany, April 25.

Retirement

* Jackie Robertson, research entomologist, Albany, March 28—30 years of Federal service.

Length of Service Awards

10 Years

* Albany—Joyce Burrus, Mechelle Cochran, Dawn Hayhurst, Claire Kinlaw, Elvira Metcalfe, David Neale, Rochelle Selvin, Sandy Young

* Arcata—Kelly Busse, Jeff Waters, Cynthia Zabel

* Honolulu—Kathleen Friday

* Redding—Alice Ratcliff, Martin Ritchie

* Riverside—George Durst, Mark Fenn, Warren Hanna,

David Larson, Susan Schilling

15 Years

* Albany—Garland Mason, Bruce McGurk, Sylvia Mori

* Arcata—Rodney Nakamoto

* Honolulu—Yvonne Cordeiro, Jean Maka

* Placerville—Annette Delfino-Mix

* Redding—Rose Leonard

* Riverside—Carol Kenefick, David Weise

* Soda Springs—Randy Osterhuber

20 Years

* Arcata—Ronald Knickerbocker, Debbie Tarantino

* Fresno—Sandy Hicks

* Honolulu—Audrey Haraguchi

* Riverside—Marcia Narog

25 Years

* Albany—Jacqueline Yerger

* Fresno—George Steger

* Hilo—Donovan Goo

* Riverside—Francis Fujioka

30 Years

* Albany—Rosanne Hunt, Pat Shea

35 Years

* Albany—Jim Space

* Redding—Bill Oliver

Job Vacancy

Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-07, Redding (temp.)

Closes

4-30-97

Executive Calendar

April 28-May 2

Space.....M-F: West Pacific Islands

Aune.....M: Redding; Tu-W: Seattle; Th-F: Redding

Bell (Acting).....M-F: Albany

DeMuth (Backup)...M-Tu: AL; W-F: Albany

Ewel.....M-F: West Pacific Islands

Mason.....M-F: Albany

May 5-9

Space.....M-F: Puerto Rico

Aune.....M: Blacks Mtn.; Tu: Challenge; W: Placerville;

Th: Sacramento; F: Redding

Bell (Acting).....M: Riverside; Tu-F: Albany

DeMuth (Backup)...M-F: Albany

Ewel.....M-F: Honolulu

Mason.....M-Tu: Albany; W-Th: Placerville; F: Albany

Pacific Southwest Research Station
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
P.O. Box 245
Berkeley, CA 94701-0245