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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

## North American Soils Conference Held at Tahoe

The Station's Western Forest Management Program, at Redding, was well represented at the Ninth North American Forest Soils Conference, held August 9-13, at Granlibakken, Lake Tahoe, and in the 2-day post-meeting field tour that followed. Held every 5 years, the Conference is cosponsored by the Soil Science Society of America, Society of American Foresters, Canadian Soil Science Society, and Canadian Forest Service. This year's conference was supported by the USDA Forest Service, California Forest Soils Council, and Desert Research Institute.

The Conference theme was "Forest Soils and Ecosystem Sustainability." Scientists from 11 countries presented 25 papers and 75 posters. Bob Powers, Team Leader—Soil Productivity Research, Redding, coplanned the meeting, and led the post-meeting field tour. He and J.R. Boyle of Oregon State University are editing the papers for journal publication by *Forest Ecology and Management* and for a book to be published by Elsevier Science B.V. Members of the Redding staff assisting in the post-meeting tour were Terrie Alves and Bert Spear of the Soil Productivity Research Team, and Phil Aune, Program Manager.

## Directorship in Outside Organizations Barred

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that employees in their official capacity may not serve on the board of directors or in any other fiduciary capacity with an outside organization. Such service would be a violation of the criminal statutes, according to the Office of Legal Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice. Requests for waivers from this prohibition are being coordinated by the FS Washington Office.

## Area Code for Fresno Changed to 559

The telephone area code for Fresno, California, changed to 559, effective November 14, 1998. The Station's Forestry Sciences Laboratory, which houses the Sierra Nevada Montane Ecosystems Research Unit, is located in Fresno.

## PSW Science Seminars (Albany)

November 17: Mike Haverty and Gail Getty, Insect Chemical Ecology Research Unit, Albany, speaking on "Interfacing Basic Biology with Termite Bait Technology."

December 8: Bob Westfall, Institute of Forest Genetics, Albany, speaking on "Mating System Analysis in a Natural Stand of *Abies borsii regis*."

## Byers Receives Chief's Resource Agenda Award

Jan Byers has been awarded a \$7,000 FS Natural Resource Agenda grant. Her grant and more than 100 others were announced by FS Chief Mike Dombeck at the agency's National Leadership Conference, on Oct. 29, in Mesa, Ariz. The grants totaled more than \$2 million, and were selected from among more than 900 grant proposals submitted to the Chief's Office last October. A team of FS employees evaluated the proposals on a criteria, such as their support of the Natural Resource Agenda goals and partnership development.

"These grants indicate the commitment we have in sustaining all forests," said Mike in announcing the awards. "These funds will help us move the Natural Resource Agenda forward in a more aggressive manner."

The title of Jan's grant proposal was "Effects of Prescribed Fire Condition on *Carpenteria californica*, a Rare Shrub from the Sierra Nevada." She is a plant ecologist with the Station's Fire Effects/Prescribed Fire Research Unit at the Forest Fire Laboratory, at Riverside, Calif. Jan and Joanna Clines, forest botanist with the Sierra National Forest, will be principal investigators of the study. The award will be used for travel, experimental supplies, and salary support.

As part of their study, the two investigators intend to do greenhouse experiments to test the effects of dry and moist heat on the seeds of *Carpenteria californica* endemic to the foothills of the central Sierra Nevada. They are concerned that prescribed burning on wet soil, as in spring burns, could affect seed survival and restrict plant regeneration. They have scheduled a prescribed burn for late spring or early summer and will monitor it as well as examine it for noxious weeds in the area before and after the burn.

According to Jan, the results should help refine fire prescriptions for plant habitat and could help develop fire plans for species with similar life history patterns, including sprouting shrubs or trees with non-dormant seeds. The California Native Plant Society will cooperate in the study and help with monitoring *Carpenteria* populations after the fire.

The Chief's Natural Resource Agenda grants were awarded to a wide array of projects that included community forestry, outreach to urban communities, interpretation and education, noxious weed eradication, watershed and road rehabilitation, wildlife and fisheries, forests, harvesting methods, forest stress, and watershed restoration.

## Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

• Hal Salwasser, Station Director, and Carol DeMuth, Assistant Station Director attended the FS National Leadership Conference, Oct. 26-29, Mesa, Ariz.

• Marion Page, Insect Chemical Ecology Research Unit, Albany, presented a paper at the Sixth European Congress on Entomology, in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, Aug. 23-29. He was an invited speaker at a special workshop on “Taxonomy of Bark and Timber Beetles,” and co-authored a second presentation with Stephen Seybold, University of Minnesota. He spoke on “Cuticular Hydrocarbons as Characters for Taxonomic and Phylogenetic Analyses of Bark Beetles.” His second presentation dealt with “Biochemical Basis for the Application of Aggregation Pheromones and Cuticular Hydrocarbons to Taxonomic and Phylogenetic Analyses of Bark Beetles.”

• Debbie Chavez, Recreation/Urban Cultures Research Unit; Francis Fujioka, Project Leader—Forest Meteorology Research; Benjamin Ly, Research Support Services—all of Riverside; and Vince Dong, Information Services Group, Albany, attended the FS Asian Pacific American Employee Association’s National Workshop, Nov. 2-5, in Los Angeles. Debbie talked about “Fern Gathering on the Arrowhead Ranger District,” Francis moderated a panel on “FS Programs Serving the Asian Pacific Community,” Benjamin discussed “Contemporary Issues,” and Vince introduced the presentation on “The Angel Island Story.”

**For Your Information** is published every other week at Albany. Vince Dong (510-559-6324; [vdong/psw@fs.fed.us](mailto:vdong/psw@fs.fed.us)) editor. Field correspondents: Brian Boroski (Fresno), Yvonne Cordeiro (Hawaii), Phil McDonald (Redding), Chris Nelson (Placerville), Lola Thomas (Riverside), Bob Ziemer (Arcata).

## Personnelly Speaking

### *Spot Cash Awards*

To the following three members of the Institute of Forest Genetics Research Unit for “providing exceptional support to the Sierra Nevada Science Review”:

- Diane Delany, biological laboratory technician
- Sandra Nedley, budget assistant
- Robert Westfall, mathematical statistician

To the following member of Library Group, for “excellent work for the PSW Library and Information Center and its Monthly Alert customers”:

- Judi Oser, library technician

### *Extra-Effort Award*

- Gladys Evans, Civil Rights Unit, Albany; “for successfully ensuring that employees receive Civil Rights Training module I training within required time-frames.”

To the following members of the Sierra Nevada Montane Ecosystems Research Unit, Fresno, for “tireless efforts in helping complete field operations while working under demanding time constraints and under challenging weather conditions”:

- Karen Bagne, wildlife biologist
- Carol Campbell, biological science aid
- Christopher Caris, wildlife biologist
- Scott Deal, biological science technician
- Kevin Mazzocco, wildlife biologist
- Levin Nason, biological science aid
- Rodney Olsen, Jr., biological science aid
- Michael Seely, biological science technician
- Susan Sutton-Mazzocco, biological science technician
- Annette Tenneboe, wildlife biologist

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