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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Gause Appointed FS Civil Rights Director

Kathy Gause has assumed duties as Director of Civil Rights in the FS Washington Office. For the past 2 years, Thelma Strong has been the agency's Acting Civil Rights Director. Kathy shifts to her new job from the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, in Washington, D.C., where she directed Equal Employment Opportunity and Conciliation Programs. She has worked in EEO, civil rights and human resources for more than 20 years. She holds a business degree from Rider University, in Lawrenceville, N.J., and a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.

Newell Leaves Pacific Islander Forester Post

After nearly 17 years as Pacific Islands Forester, Leonard Newell has left for a new job on the mainland, at FS Region 5's Regional Offices in Vallejo, Calif. As Pacific Islands Forester, Len has been the eyes, ears, and advocate of the FS's State and Private Forestry and International Forestry programs in the western Pacific. And in that capacity, he has worked closely with the Station's Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry and shared space with the Institute staff in Honolulu. Starting his new job on Oct., 10 as Program Manager for Fire Facilities, Len will be based at Mather Air Force Base, near Sacramento.

"A successor to Len has not yet been decided on, nor as to how the job is to be structured," says Jack Ewel, Institute Director. "Until that has been decided, Len's former duties will be shared by Katie Friday, Associate Pacific Islands Forester, and Duane Nelson, Forest Health Management Coordinator, both of the S&PF staff at Hilo, Hawaii.

The Pacific Islands Forester position was established by the FS in 1978, and Leon assumed the job in 1984. But FS presence in the western Pacific Islands dates much earlier. In 1954, Bob Nelson of the PSW staff in Berkeley was assigned to Hawaii to provide S&PF assistance to the Hawaiian Islands and Guam. That assistance was later extended to all U.S.-affiliated western Pacific Islands, including the Marianna Islands, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau.

World War II had left the economy, civil infrastructure, and local government completely devastated on many of the Pacific Islands. Len recounts that in a postwar survey of war-ravaged Pelelieu, in the Palau Islands—the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of the war—a botanist did not find a single tree still standing.

In 1960, the Forest Service began to work with the Pacific Islands in replanting on these severely eroded sites with highly acidic, aluminum toxic soils. Much of the early work in developing species trials for reforestation was done by silviculturist Craig Whitesell, of the PSW staff in Honolulu.

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Urban Forestry to Develop Watershed Tool

The Station's Urban Forestry Research Unit, at Davis, is joining with the University of California at Davis' Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources in developing a computerized decision-support tool for urban watershed management in Los Angeles. The 3-years project has received \$517,000 from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop and test a tool that watershed managers can use in the field to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of environmentally friendly landscape practices.

Says Greg McPherson, Project Leader—Urban Forestry Research, at Davis: "Such a tool is needed to implement best management practices aimed at reducing stormwater runoff and landscape irrigation water use, conserving energy, and recycling green waste water."

Besides Greg and Jim Simpson of PSW others participating in the research project are Susan Ustin and Qing Fu Xiao of UC Davis, Jeff Wallace of EarthView Environmental Computing, and Andy Lipkiss of Tree People. The urban watershed auditing tool will be installed on the internet and be transferable to other regions, said Greg.

Ritchie Succeeds Oliver as Team Leader

Martin Ritchie has succeed Bill Oliver as Team Leader—Vegetation Growth and Development, at the Station's Silviculture Laboratory, Redding. Martin is a mathematical statistician with the unit. Bill will continued as a researcher in the unit, overseeing the Blacks Mountain and Gooseneck Adaptive Management Area studies.

Martin joined the PSW staff in 1987, at Redding. He holds a forestry degree from Humboldt State University, and an M.S. degree in forest management and doctorate in forest biometrics from Oregon State University.

In Memoriam

Carol J. Kenefick, retired computer specialist at the Station's Forest Fire Laboratory, died on Oct. 11 at age 64, after a brief illness, at Riverside. She worked for PSW for 15 years, before retiring in 1998. She started out as a clerk-typist, and became successively a secretary, assistant administrative officer, and after completing specialized training, a computer specialist. Memorial services were held on Oct. 20, in Moreno Valley, Calif., and she is interred at Riverside. Carol is survived by her husband Loren (Bud), three children—Lisa, Toni, and Eric—two granddaughters, four brothers, and two sisters.

(Newell—continued)

Len's work in the Pacific centered on developing local people in the islands to manage their natural resources, build partnerships, and increase islands budgets. He also encouraged their participation in the National Association of State Foresters.

In his new position with the FS Region 5's Fire and Aviation Management Staff, Len will be developing a database of fire facilities Statewide, so as to make the best use of these facilities within budget constraints. He will also work on implementing an agency proposal, which Congress has been asked to fund, to build a FS national fire academy at McClellan Air Force Base, near Sacramento.

Personnelly Speaking

Cash Awards

- Marilyn Burrow, Station Director's Office, Albany, for "for outstanding performance of duties in FY2000"
- Laurie Dunn, Research Information Services Group, Albany, for "extra-efforts in organizing, editing, and helping produce the Fire Economics Proceedings."
- Sara Garetz, Communications Group, Albany, for "diligent efforts as Acting Communications Group Leader."
- Rosanne Hunt, Personnel Management Group, Albany, for "outstanding performance of duties as Group Leader—Personnel Management during FY2000."
- Jennifer Jones, Personnel Management Group, Albany (two awards) for "outstanding performance of duties in FY2000" and for "extra-efforts in supervising FS Region 5 personnel unit at Albany."
- David Olson, Recreation/Urban Cultures Research Unit, Riverside, for "outstanding services provided on the Information Technology/Computer Committee, Forest Fire Laboratory."
- Chuck Richmond, Facilities/Administrative Services Group, Albany, for "superior performance of duties and meeting target dates."
- Rochelle Selvin, Personnel Management Group, Albany, for "excellent performance of duties in managing the Station's Senior Community Service Employment Program."
- Melissa Smith, Personnel Management Group, Albany, for "outstanding performance of duties in FY2000."
- Patricia Stevenson, Personnel Management Group, Albany, for "extra-effort in processing in an unusually heavy recruitment and employment period."

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- Sheila Vlach, Personnel Management Group, for "extra efforts in employee relations support."

Quality-Step Increase Award

- Imogene Holmes, Facilities/Administrative Services Group, Albany, for "outstanding performance of duties as Support Services Supervisor."
- Jackie Rountree, Budget/Financial Management Group, Albany, for "sustained quality of exceptional leadership as Group Leader—Budget/Financial Management."

Resignation

- Sandra Johnstone-Peralta, accounting technician, Riverside, Aug. 26.

New to PSW

He isn't really new, nor is he on the PSW staff. But he will be working so closely with the Urban Forestry Research Unit, at Davis, and sharing offices there, that James R. Geiger is almost a Station employee. He is, however, assigned to the FS Region 5 State and Private Forestry Staff, and officially located at Davis, effective July 31.

A technology transfer specialist in urban and community forestry, Jim has more than 20 years of experience working with individuals and civic organizations. From 1978 to 1993, he served as Urban Forestry Program manager with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, in Sacramento. And earlier, he had been City Forester in Chicago.

Jim was born in Brady, Texas, lived there for only a month, and then moved with his family to Milwaukee, Wis. He earned a B.S. degree in forestry management at the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point (1974). Jim got his first taste of the FS, when he worked one summer in the Routt National Forest, in Colorado. Her received an M.S. degree in organizational development at the University of San Francisco (1996).

"Jim will be assisting the research unit in developing cutting-edge technologies and training programs from science-based information, as well as extending the unit's research expertise to solve local problems and build community capacity," according to Greg McPherson, Project Leader—Urban Forestry Research, at Davis.