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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Collins Designated Associate Chief/COO

Sally Collins has been named Associate Chief/Chief Operating Officer of the USDA Forest Service. She becomes the agency's highest ranking manager after FS Chief Dale Bosworth. Sally is the first person to hold the newly combined position. As Associate Chief, she succeeds Hilda Diaz-Soltero, and as Chief Operating Officer, she succeeds Phil Janek. A study by a transition team had reported that the Chief should consider consolidating the two second-ranking positions into one. Hilda will become Station Director of the Pacific Southwest Research Station, and Phil has assumed duties as Director of Wildlife, Fish, Water, and Air Research, in the FS Washington Office.

Since April 2000, Sally had been FS Associate Deputy Chief—National Forest System, and before then had been Forest Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest, in Oregon. An 18-year career Federal employee, Sally was born in Ames, Iowa, and earned a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation at the University of Colorado, and a master's degree in public administration at the University of Wyoming.

Eddy's Vision Hailed at IFG Anniversary

James G. Eddy's vision as a far-sighted founder of a forest genetics research institute was hailed as the Station's Institute of Forest Genetics celebrated its 75th anniversary on Aug. 1. More than 250 visitors thronged to the IFG facility at Placerville in the Sierra Nevada foothills, to listen to accounts of the Institute's founding, savor reminiscences from James Eddy's grandson, stroll through the Eddy Arboretum, hear poster presentations, and partake of a barbecue dinner in the Arboretum.

The actual anniversary date of the IFG was December of last year but the celebration was postponed until this year to allow a refurbishing of the interpretive displays made possible by a FS Conservation Education Grant to Chris Nelson, support specialist at IFG. Acting Station Director Garland Mason welcomed the visitors. Tom Ledig, who is a senior scientist at IFG and began organizing the anniversary celebration a year ago, recounted the history, accomplishments, and current programs of the IFG.

Following Tom's comments were reminiscences about James Eddy by his grandson, John Warjone, who is president of the Timber Division of the Eddy family-owned Port Blakely Tree Farms, in Seattle. He called his grandfather a visionary who could foresee that the new science of genetics could revolutionize forestry.

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The Eddy Arboretum at the Station's Institute of Forest Genetics, at Placerville, welcomed more than 250 visitors to the IFG's 75th anniversary celebration on Aug. 1. The day's festivities included speeches, poster presentations, self-guided tours, and a barbecue dinner.

Diaz-Soltero Named 16th Station Director

Hilda Diaz-Soltero, currently FS Associate Chief for Natural Resources, has been named PSW's 16th Station Director. She will officially join the Station staff on Oct. 7, and assume the Directorship on Nov. 5. Garland Mason, who has been Acting Station Director since July 1, 2000, will resume duties as Assistant Station Director—Research/Northern California, at Albany.

Since July 12, 1999, Hilda has been the Associate Chief, overseeing the National Forest System and Research and Development branches initially, and then later, State and Private Forestry as well—the first woman in the agency and the first non-USDA career employee to hold that position.

Shortly after her new job was announced by FS Chief Dale Bosworth on Aug. 6, Hilda joined the PSW leadership team in a review of Station programs by the FS Deputy Chief—R&D and his staff, at the Institute of Forest Genetics, Aug. 14-16, in Placerville. After the review, she visited with Station employees, at Albany, and was introduced at an employees' meeting, on Aug. 17, at Albany headquarters.

"PSW is doing a lot of good work," she told those attending, "and it is my goal to make people aware of it."

Native of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, Hilda earned a B.A. degree in geology and astronomy at Vassar College, and an M.S. degree at the University of Puerto Rico. She attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and then the Program for Natural Resources Managers at Pennsylvania State University.

Hilda started her public career as Superintendent of the University of Puerto Rico Botanical Garden, and then became successively, Special Assistant to the Director of Puerto Rico Recreation Development Company, Deputy Secretary and later Secretary of Natural Resources for Puerto Rico. After serving as Staff Director for The Nature Conservancy, she shifted in 1987 to the Federal sector, becoming a Field Supervisor and

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(IFG Anniversary—continued)

Besides Chris, other IFG staff members who helped organize and carry out the day's festivities were Cindy Collins, Gayle Dupper, Dave Johnson Annie Mix, Roger Stutts., and Dave Wren. Among the visitors were two of the earliest members of the Institute staff: forestry technicians Clyde Berriman and Al Liddicoet, who started work in the late 1920's. Other retirees who attended included former FS Associate Chief, Doug Leisz and two former IFG Project Leaders: Tom Conkle and former Station Director Bob Callaham.

Conferences/Meetings/Seminars

- Carolyn Hunsaker, research wildlife ecologist, Sierra Nevada Research Center, Fresno, spoke on "Spatial Analysis for the Sustainable Forest Ecosystem Project" in meetings with French scientists in Toulouse, Montpellier, and Besancon, France, during July.

- Kathleen Matthews, research fish biologist, Sierra Nevada Research Center, Albany, presented a paper on "Resistance and Resilience of Alpine Lake Fauna to Fish Introductions" at the Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America, Aug. 4-10, Madison, Wisc. Her presentation was based on a paper of that title, by Roland Knapp, her, and Orlando Sarnelle, published recently in *Ecological Monographs* (17: 401-421).

- Richard Truex, wildlife biologist, Arcata, spoke on "The Ecology of Fisher in the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, California" at a meeting of the Southwestern Carnivore Committee, Albuquerque, in June.

- Bert Spear, research assistant, and Dave Young, soil scientist, Soil Productivity Team, Redding, attended the California Forest Pest Council Weed Tour, July 24-26 in Siskiyou County, Calif.

(Diaz-Soltero—continued)

later a Deputy Assistant Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a Regional Director and later Director of Protected Resources for the National Marine Fisheries Service of the U.S. National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, in Washington, D.C.

Soil Productivity Team Assists in Meeting

Members of the Station's Soil Productivity Team, at Redding, helped coordinate and participate in the 20th Annual Meeting of the California Forest Soils Conference, which included field tours, held July 11-13, in Shasta County. Conference topics include soil and vegetation recovery after fire, effects of soil compaction on forest development, and methods to retain organic matter harvesting. Team leader Bob Powers led the tours. Other participants were Terri Alves, biologist; Matt Busse, microbiologist; Nancy Rappaport, entomologist; Bert Spear, research assistant; and Dave Young, soil scientist.

Personnelly Speaking

Cash Awards

- Diane Delaney, biological laboratory technician, Institute of Forest Genetics, Albany: "for extra effort in designing and reconstructing cubicles."

- Paul Hodgskiss, biological laboratory technician, Institute of Forest Genetics, Albany, "for extra efforts in designing and rebuilding cubicles."

Appointment

- Kathy Ewel, research ecologist, Forested Wetlands Team, Honolulu: member, Research Advisory Committee, FS Washington Office.

Reassignment

- Malcolm North, research plant ecologist: from Sierra Nevada Montane Ecosystems Research Unit, Fresno; to Sierra Nevada Research Center, Davis, Calif.

Retirement

- Vicenta Orje, library technician, Library Group, Vallejo: 13 years Federal service, July 31.

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