



Goombay 2000: A Celebration of Ancestral Heritage

The Forest Service was one of many participants in the 18th annual Goombay Festival held in Asheville, North Carolina on August 25-27. Goombay, a West African word that means rhythm or drum, is a celebration of African, Caribbean, and African-American cultures through music, dance, arts, crafts, food, and cultural enrichment. While much of the three-day festival



Smokey (AKA Mike Walker), the hit of the Goombay Parade, poses with **Arthur Phalo** (left), SRS National AASG Representative/Forester, Athens, GA, and **Barry Miller**, SRS Purchasing

was either plagued with temperatures that escalated to the high 90's, or periodic rain showers, neither of these two elements could dampen the spirits of this year's Goombay participants. Quite the contrary, as Asheville Parks and Recreation estimates the Goombay 2000 attendance at approximately 75,000 (the highest recorded attendance throughout the festival's 18-year history).

This was the first year the Southern Research Station (SRS Headquarters), and National Forests in North Carolina (NFsNC) participated in this event. Because it attracts a vast diversity of participants, the festival as an excellent forum to inform these publics of recreational, career, and other opportunities available through the Forest Service. The planning committee developed a display that would interest and attract festival on-lookers. The theme chosen, "Taking the Forest

(continued on page 4)

Federally Endangered Lichen Found Near Study Site

Jason Love, a biological technician at Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, found a Federally Endangered population of lichen in the Shining Rock Wilderness, NC. The rock gnome lichen (*Gymnoderma lineare*) has been on the US Fish and Wildlife endangered list since 1995. Jason discovered the rare lichen growing on a boulder adjacent to a stream where he collects water samples for chemical analyses. Forest Service botanist **Gary Kaufman** later verified the find. Shining Rock Wilderness lies north of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Pisgah National Forest, Haywood County, NC.

The rock gnome lichen is the only member of its genus occurring in North America. The lichen is found at high elevation rock outcrops or in deep river gorges where it is kept moist (but not wet) by fog or high humidity. Thus far, it has only been found in the southern Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia. Although about 40 populations are known to exist, only 7 of these cover an area larger than 2 square meters. The population at Shining Rock seems to be widely scattered on streamside boulders; however, none of these scattered populations are very large. Hopefully, a more detailed survey performed in the future will yield more extensive populations.

Several factors may contribute to the decline of the lichen. Significant tree mortality in high elevation spruce-fir forests has caused formerly shaded rock outcrops and cliffs to be exposed to the sun, drying out these moist sites where the lichen grows. Air pollution has also been found to adversely affect lichens. Photosynthetic rates, respiration rates, and the membrane integrity of lichens are very sensitive to pollution, including sulfur dioxide, heavy metals, and ozone. Some populations have suffered direct physical damage by humans, either by specimen collecting or trampling by climbers and anglers.

(continued on page 2)

In this issue:

Page 3...
Southern Pine Beetle Attacks Bent Creek

Page 5 ...
Station Director Receives Presidential Award

Page 7...
Human Influences on Southern Forests

Director's Corner

Accessibility concerns are part of our work lives in more ways than ever before. For years, we have been aware of physical accessibility needs – providing access to buildings and Braille information for using elevators. Today, accessibility standards also apply to our corporate use of information technology. And as the Internet becomes a primary communications tool, we now face the need for Web accessibility for our customers.

We have been managing information using the new "Section 508" accessibility standards, so that the material we publish is readable by our publics. This new standard means that the materials we publish meet accessibility for type or font size (large type), and color clarity so that people with color-blindness can discern content of the information, both in the printed or online versions of our publications. Another issue that faces publishing of online material is accessibility to "screen-readers" for visually impaired audiences. Federal agencies are working with industry, the research community, and users to create a voluntary consensus standard and testing protocol that will provide a means to assure that products are accessible.

Section 508, part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, requires that electronic and information technology developed, procured, maintained, or used by the Federal government be accessible to people with disabilities. This includes Federal Web sites. Unless it would pose an undue burden to do so, all Federal sites must have been in compliance by August 7, 2000.

One area of accessibility that may be less visible to most computer-users is the access to computers and the Internet for viewing or obtaining the information we publish. When we publish we need to think about the intended audiences and whether or not they can access the information we make available. While it is important to make information easily accessible on the Internet in electronic format, we must not forget that over one-third of the public does not access information by electronic publishing methods.

Our mission is to create the science and technology needed to sustain and enhance southern forest ecosystems and the benefits they

provide. We must be able to serve all people equally who can benefit from SRS information. Until the Internet becomes universally available, we must continue to publish papers and proceedings in printed format, from printing presses with real ink, while at the same time providing many of our customers electronic copies of the same information.



For more information about online accessibility issues:

Federal IT Accessibility Initiative
<http://www.section508.gov/>

Center for IT Accommodations (CITA)
<http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/cita/>

Web Page Accessibility Verification
<http://w3.gsa.gov/web/m/cita.nsf/4419fcd6011ecace852567840056ab0d?OpenForm>

Endangered Lichen *(continued from page 1)*

Coweeta scientists and technicians have been working in Shining Rock Wilderness since April 2000. They are measuring a number of parameters to try and determine how sensitive the site is to air pollution, especially sulfate deposition. Shining Rock is designated a Class I Wilderness. Much of Shining Rock was severely burned in the past, exposing the soils to erosion by wind and water. These windswept soils may be sensitive to inputs from sulfate deposition. The data gathered may be used to predict the effects of atmospheric sulfur deposition and contribute to management recommendations.

Southern Pine Beetle Attack at Bent Creek

by Henry McNab

Visitors to the Bent Creek Experimental Forest headquarters campus will see fewer pines and more hardwoods. Southern pine beetles dropped by unannounced in July as dinner guests in a majestic stand of 85-year-old shortleaf pines. Despite the valiant, but ultimately futile treatment of the pines with a preemptive spraying of Dursban earlier in the summer, the old pines couldn't kick out the uninvited guests. Soon after trees began falling from the chainsaw's bite, however, the compassionate loggers suddenly stopped their cutting when they found three, apparently resilient, baby squirrels calling for momma after falling out of bed when their nursery dropped 100-feet from the treetop.

The SCSEP team, **Betty Pittman**, **Christine Joyner**, **Frank Robison**, **Hal Buckner**, and **Harold Pittman** hope to find time to help clean up after the loggers. Then, it looks like Arbor Day will be a winter-long event this year at Bent Creek and may consist of transplanting red maples (nothing eats 'em) and white oaks (they'll live 400 years) from nearby woods into a bare lawn.

The rest of the story on the squirrel orphans: they're growing-up in an animal rescue facility maintained by the Animal Hospital of North Asheville. Thanks to the quick action of **Brenda Minton**, with the Forest Health unit also on the Bent Creek campus, the triplets probably missed only one feeding during their ride to the hospital. Upon returning to the home of their youth at Bent Creek, the orphans probably will not recognize the old neighborhood, which can deteriorate quickly when hungry pine beetles move in.

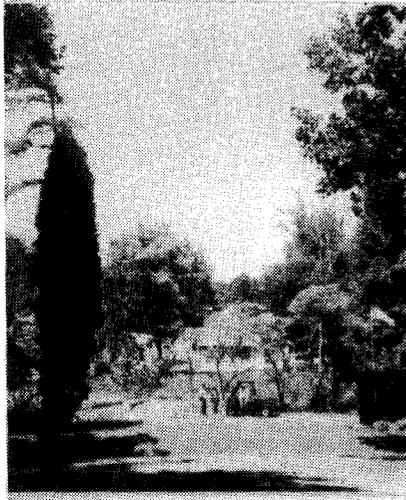


Photo #2
(After):
Bent
Creek
headquarters
campus
after
clearcutting
beetle-
killed
shortleaf
pines.



Photo #3: Part of Bent Creek SCSEP staff (Christine Joyner (l.), Harold Pittman (c.), Betty Pittman (r.)) surveying the situation.



Photo #1
(Before):
Bent Creek
headquarters
campus
before pine
beetle
attack.

New Publication: Ecoregion Codes by County GTR SRS-36

Victor Rudis, Starkville, MS, produced the General Technical Report, "Ecological subregion codes by county, coterminous United States," in 1999.

Southern Aspect

includes events and employee news from the research laboratories and administrative staffs of the Southern Research Station, which serves Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. This newsletter is published quarterly by the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 2680, 200 Weaver Boulevard, Asheville, NC 28802.

Editor: Rod Kindlund
Associate Editor: Ron Coates.

To submit newsworthy stories for future issues, please send **complete articles** hard copy, on diskette (MS Word or RTF) or by email to Ron Coates (rcoates@fs.fed.us). Photographs are encouraged, preferably black and white.

Goombay 2000 (continued from page 1)



Al Hall (3rd from right), Historically Black Colleges Unit Program Manager poses with several Goombay Committee members in front of Forest Service display

Service to the Community”, presented a listing various Forest careers. A special booklet that highlighted general Forest Service facts and provided specific information on the SRS, NFsNC, and Forest Health Protection Southern Region was available to festival visitors. Conservation/education packets (both for adults and children) were given to visitor at the Forest Service booth. The public comment cards received included favorable comments about the FS’s participation in the festival and the services and information provided.

The sights and scenes of Goombay were spectacular. Some 100+ vendors lined the streets of historic Eagle and Market Streets with their kiosks full of sundry souvenirs and every type of island food imaginable. Here you found the finest fritters, sizzling fried alligator meat, steamed veggies, authentic Bahamian food, clothing,



The crowd gathers to enjoy the spectacular sites and sound of the Goombay 2000 parade

electrifying music, and a wide assortment of arts and crafts. The festival showcased people of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and philosophies. It

offered an open invitation for people to embrace the deeply ingrained laughter, language, music, and cultures that appeared to unite them as “one people.”

A hearty “thank you” to everyone who contributed their time, energy, and expertise to make



A curious parade fan poses for a picture with his new friend, a stilt walker from New Orleans, LA

this first year’s participation in the Asheville area Goombay festival, a rousing success. SRS and NFsNC employees participating in the event were **Pearley Simmons, Barry Miller, Mike Walker, Cheryl Jefferson, Venessa Bogany, Ava Poore, Ted Green, Ivory Walker, Ollie Todd, Constance Gist, Bertha Baker, Judy Allen, Rebecca Allen, and Pat Robinson.**

Special thanks are extended to the following persons for their support:

Al Hall, Historically Black Colleges Unit Program Manager in the Washington Civil Rights Office—Al had a significant impact on the effectiveness of Forest Service’s festival participation. He provided information on the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program, which attracted many interested festival-goers. The Goombay committee prepared scholarship program flyers in preparation for Al’s visit, that were disseminated throughout Asheville and surrounding area high schools, churches, and community locations.

L.T. Allen, Schenck Job Corps Center Principal—L.T. provided key information to festival-goers on the Center’s newly-implemented high school program, USDA Pre-Forestry College Program, and other general Job Corps offerings.

Arthur Phalo, SRS Representative to the National African American Strategy Group —Arthur provided invaluable service to the Goombay festival committee. He helped staff the Forest Service booth, providing Forest Service information to visitors, and walked with Smokey in the Goombay parade.

Robert Bogany, (husband of SRS Accounting Technician, Venessa Duncan-Bogany)—Robert graciously volunteered his time and energy to assist with the erection of the Forest Service tent, and provided other needed assistance.

SRS Reaches New Heights

Station Director, **Pete Roussopoulos**, and Assistant Director for Administration, **Bettie McGuire** proudly display a Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Award that was presented to the SRS for exceptional performance in unsubsidized placements during Program Year 1999.



Pete Roussopoulos and Bettie McGuire with the SCSEP award

The award was accepted by SCSEP Coordinators **Rebecca W. Allen**, and **J.C. Smith** at a National Senior, Youth, and Volunteer Programs (SYVP) Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 11-15.

The Department of Labor (the authority under which all SCSEPs are funded) mandates that SCSEP Sponsors attain an annual unsubsidized placement target of 25 percent, or better (25 percent of all Program participants must be placed on public or private sector jobs at self-sustaining wage levels that improve their standard of living). This was a history-setting event for the Station, as this was the first year that the 25 percent unsubsidized placement target was reached (27 percent unsubsidized placements). Congratulations to all persons responsible for helping the SRS reach this outstanding milestone.

Anne Weiskircher Receives USDA Award

Anne Weiskircher, travel coordinator at the Southern Research Station in Asheville, NC, was recently awarded the USDA Secretary's Honor Award.



*Chief of the USDA Forest Service **Mike Dombek** (left) and **Phil Janik** (far right) presented Ann Weiskircher (center) with the USDA Secretary's Honor Award for outstanding customer service*

Anne's award reads: "Anne R. Weiskircher is hereby given official commendation for providing outstanding customer service in domestic and foreign travel and transfers-of-station to the employees of the Southern Research Station, Southern Region, and Schenck and Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps Centers."

DECEMBER 15, 2000

Deadline for next issue:

STATION DIRECTOR RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL RANK MERITORIOUS EXECUTIVE AWARD



Dr. Peter J. Roussopolous, Director of the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, has been recognized as one of 287 Senior Executives in the Federal government to receive the Presidential Rank Award of

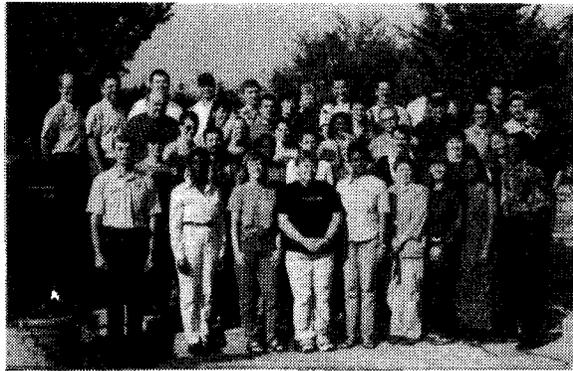
Meritorious Executive. Only 5 percent of career Senior Executive Service members may receive the award each year. Winners of this prestigious award have demonstrated their ability to lead a government that delivers great service, fosters partnerships and community solutions to achieve results, and continuously pushes itself to get the job done more effectively and efficiently.

(continued on page 7)

New Employee Orientation Held in Asheville

by Ivory Walker

In September the Eastern Administrative Zone (EAZ) held its first combined New Employees Orientation session.



New employees pose at employee orientation session

It was held at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort in Asheville. Thirty-seven new employees from the National Forests in North Carolina, Francis Marion and Sumter, Savannah River Station, and the Southern Research Station participated in the session. The attendance was down due to the fires out West.

The participants were welcomed by **Dave Wilson**, Forest Manager, who started the session off on a positive note encouraging the participants to not leave the session with questions unanswered. **Ed Brannon**, Director of Grey Towers National Historic Landmark provided the participants with a brief history of the Forest Service. The remainder of the week the participants were provided useful information from Acquisition and Property, Civil Rights, Claims, Customer Services, Early Intervention Programs, Human Resources Management, Mentoring, Safety and Health, and Travel.

They also received overview information from the various partners in the EAZ highlighting their individual organizations. On Thursday, the participants went on a Forest Tour where employees received an onsite tour of the Schenck Job Corps Center from the Center Director, **Roger Mullins**, visited the Pisgah Ranger Office and viewed an archeological dig, visited Sliding Rock where five participants took a slide down a rock surface into some ice cold water, and ended the tour after visiting Cradle of Forestry where District Ranger **Art Rowe** provided an overview and took them on a walk down the Forest Trail.

New Employees in Charleston

Lara Matthews, Biological Scientist, joined the Center for Forested Wetlands Research at Charleston, SC, July 2000.

Lara is presently hard at work getting several analytical instruments up and running. Her primary goal is to have a functioning on-site laboratory capable of supporting the project scientists' research.



Lara Matthews and her nieces

Lara received her B.S. in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina in 1989, and an M.S. in Marine Science from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1991. After finishing her Masters' research, she worked as an aquarist for Riverbanks Zoo, Columbia, SC and as a chemist working at James H. Carr and Associates in Columbia as an environmental analyst. While at Carr and Associates, Lara was also responsible for the establishment and operation of an aquatic toxicity laboratory. In 1997, she began her government career by accepting a Physical Scientist position with the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, Reston, VA. Lara was responsible for groundwater sample analyses and data processing in support of a variety of USGS projects, most prominently the Toxic Substances Hydrology Program. On a personal note, Lara, born and raised in St. Louis, MO, is the proud aunt of Olivia (3) and triplets Grace, Charlie, and Maggie (1).

Ruth Adams, Office Automation, also joined the Center at Charleston, in July, 2000. She has been with the federal government over 17 years and has been associated with the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Veterans Administration. She enjoys the challenge of her position at the Center for Forested Wetlands Research. She spent 20 years as an Army wife and has lived in several areas in the United States in addition to helping her husband enjoy three tours in Germany. Ruth was born in northeast Missouri; she enjoys working in the yard, helping the Church, and antique shopping.

New Employee in Stoneville

Jessica Benson began work in June as a Biological Science Technician at the Southern Hardwoods Laboratory. Jessica moved here from Amherst, MA where she just completed work on a Master's degree in entomology with the University of Massachusetts. At the SHL, Jessica will work primarily with Ted Leininger on sycamore and oak declines, bacterial wetwood in oaks, and other forest health problems. Jessica is new to the South and is in the process of being properly indoctrinated about mosquitoes, snakes, chiggers, agricultural chemicals, and the like. Y'all make her feel welcome now, y'here!

Human Influences on Southern Forests: The Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Assessment

By Annie Hermansen

As populations and urbanization expand in the South, human influences on southern forests are increasing. Managing natural resources in the wildland-urban interface presents new challenges and opportunities for natural resource professionals. For example, the 1998 fire season in Florida and the 2000 wildfires out West demonstrate that fire management, prevention and control in the interface are increasingly important. Additionally, new management techniques are required for increasingly smaller forestland parcels in the interface.

Acquiring additional skills, knowledge and tools for managing resources, and forming collaborative partnerships are essential for those working in the interface.

The Southern Research Station and the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service, along with the Southern Group of State Foresters, are assessing wildland-urban interface issues to help address this growing need for information and tools. The main products of the assessment are an assessment publication, a summary report, a project Website (Interface South, www.interfacesouth.org) and a regional wildland-urban interface conference to be held in November 2001. The assessment findings will be unveiled at the conference.

Assessment focus groups were conducted in six locations across the South: Birmingham, AL; Loudoun County, VA; Houston, TX; Biloxi, MS; Helen, GA; and Daytona Beach, FL. These focus groups helped to identify, refine and validate interface issues to be explored in the assessment. Participants came from a variety of professional backgrounds, including foresters, firefighters, developers, planners, realtors, forest industry and nonindustrial private forest landowners. The summary focus group report will be available on the Interface South Website by November 2000.

Station Director Receives Award

(continued from page 5)

Dr. Roussopolous started his career with USDA Forest Service Research and Development in 1967. He became Director of the former Southeastern Forest Experiment Station in 1992 and in 1995 became the Director for the combined Southern Research Station, responsible for Forest Service research throughout the thirteen Southern States. Prior to his current assignment in Asheville, NC, his career as a Research Forester has taken him from Minnesota to Michigan, to Colorado, Arizona, and Washington, DC. He received his PhD in Forest Ecology for Michigan State University in 1978, following his BS (1969) and MS (1971) in Forestry from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Roussopolous has been a resident of Asheville, NC since 1992; his wife, Sue, works for the National Forests of North Carolina. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters and Sigma XI - The Scientific Research Society.

**GOT
STORIES?**

(If so, send them to the editorial staff for the next issue of the Southern Aspect by December 15, 2000)

Southern Forest Science Conference: Contributions of Forest Research to Sustainable Forestry

Preliminary Announcement and Call for Papers

November 26-28, 2001 Renaissance Waverly Hotel Atlanta, Georgia

Make plans to participate in the most comprehensive forest science conference of the millennium. The Southern Forest Science Conference is targeted toward anyone interested in the contributions of Southern forest science. Researchers, research managers, research users, policymakers, landowners and other interested stakeholders will find this conference particularly useful.

Objectives are to:

1. Synthesize and celebrate the progress of the forest science community in the 20th century.
2. Create a framework for a vision for forest science and management in the 21st century.
3. Strengthen partnerships within the forest science and management community in the South.

For more information about the conference or to submit a paper in any one of a number of categories please visit www.southernforestsience.net.

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