



Southern Forest Resource Assessment

by Melissa Carlson

Findings Remain Unchanged in Final Report that Gauged Health of Southern Forests & Resources

The Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA), a study aimed at gauging the sustainability of southern forests, was released in early October, concurrently with the annual Society of American Foresters convention held in Winston-Salem, NC.



photo by Melissa Carlson

Dave Wear, coleader of the Assessment, talking with visitors to the Southern Research Station exhibit at the SAF Convention in Winston-Salem, NC.

While the final SFRA report addresses concerns raised during a 90-day public comment period, overall findings remained unchanged from last year's initial version. The draft report concluded that, while several forces are reshaping southern forests, urban sprawl represents the most significant and permanent force affecting their future.

"The public provided hundreds of comments on the assessment—many had coordinated their messages," said USDA Forest Service's **John Greis**, who co-led the study. "While making the final revisions to the documents, we paid particular attention to and used comments that addressed accuracy and completeness of the technical material or its clarity of presentation."

(continued on page 5)

New Emphasis on Tribal Relations in the Forest Service

by Susan Fox



The Forest Service manages the national forest system lands and resources entrusted to its care for the benefit of the general public, while respecting the special trust relationship of the United States towards Indian

Tribes. We are challenged to meet our administrative obligations within our legal authorities, while conserving ecosystem values, protecting endangered species, providing natural resource benefits, and fulfilling our part of the Federal government's responsibilities towards Indian Tribes.

Last year the National Leadership Team established a National Tribal Relations Implementation Team to work on fulfilling responsibilities towards Indian Tribes. An initial staff of six full-time employees with possible expansion later based on program monitoring and evaluation was agreed upon. The functions identified for staffing will ensure coverage of Deputy Areas (National Forest System, Research and Development, and State and Private Forestry), as well as areas involving Training, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Environmental Justice, Tribal Colleges, Policy, Communications, and Budget.

To identify regional Tribal issues in the South, Region 8 established a Tribal Relations Program and designated **Alan Dorian** in Pineville, Louisiana as the Coordinator.

(continued on page 5)

In this issue:

Page 3...
Conference on Restoration of Boreal and Temperate Forest

Page 6...
Forestry and Natural Resources Symposium

Page 7...
Days Along the Yangtze River

Page 9...
Safety Note

From the Director's Desk . . .

Ten years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, South Africa hosted the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). I had the honor of attending the Summit, which took place August 26 to September 4, as a member of the U.S. Government's delegation. The experience reinforced the pride I feel for the work of the Southern Research Station on so many of the issues that were central to the WSSD dialog.

Our delegation was led by Secretary of State **Colin Powell** and consisted of about 250 people from more than 20 Federal agencies. In addition to Secretary Powell, there was strong high-level representation from the United States Government. USDA Deputy Secretary **James Moseley** attended the entire Summit and participated with the USDA Delegation in numerous sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management, and sustainable community development events. The sixteen USDA delegates to WSSD represented the Forest Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Office of the Chief Economist—and included our own Associate Chief **Sally Collins**. One hundred ninety countries sent delegations.

There were nearly 40,000 delegates from governments, civil society, and the private sector participating in discussions about how to implement sustainable-development measures. Debate, discussion, and deliberation went on 24 hours a day all during the Summit, tapering off only during the concluding days. It was both exhilarating and exhausting to participate. Despite what may have appeared in the US news, the Summit was a huge success! It produced three main outcomes:

- The **Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development**, finalized by all parties in the closing plenary session, reaffirms nation's commitment to sustainable development.
- The **Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI)** focuses on concrete actions and measures needed to implement sustainable development and advance the goals described in *Agenda 21*:

The United Nations Programme of Action from Rio and internationally agreed development goals. The JPOI concentrates on integrating economic, social and environmental concerns with a focus on addressing the needs of the poor.

• **Partnerships for Sustainable Development** substantially helped to create a positive momentum throughout WSSD, and offer much promise for greater and more lasting impact than the Rio Conference ten years ago. More than 220 partnerships (with \$235 million in resources) were identified before the Summit and some 60 partnerships were announced during the Summit. The U.S. played a key role in championing the idea of partnerships as products of the Summit. Our commitment was demonstrated by organizing and announcing four "signature actions" – Water for the Poor, Clean Energy, Cutting Hunger in Africa, and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership – as well as advancing many other partnerships including one addressing HIV/AIDS health issues.

Experiences like this often cause me to reflect on the relevance of what we do at the Southern Station. My time in Jo'burg reinforced for me the importance of sustainability as the central driver of our work. Our research is contributing significantly to progress on many of the most critical issues of the Summit, like safe drinking water, conservation of biodiversity, renewable energy, global climate change, and "smart growth." And in particular, I was struck by how nicely our recently released **Southern Forest Resource Assessment** aligned with the principal natural-resource themes of WSSD. The information base provided by the Assessment sets the context for our regional contributions in the global movement toward sustainable development. We could not be positioned better to assist in ensuring that our natural resources are managed sustainably. I am pleased and proud to see yet again how the people of our Station are contributing to so many of the truly important social issues of our time.

(continued on page 10)

Constance Gist, Purchasing Agent, 1953-2002

by Melissa Carlson

Constance Gist, Acquisition and Property Purchasing Agent, Southern Research Station, began her 29-year Federal career with the USDA Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service. In 1975, she was selected for a clerical position in the



Constance Gist.

Engineering section of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, in Asheville, NC. During her 27 years with the Forest Service she advanced to a Supervisory Purchasing Agent position, which serves the Eastern Administrative Zone of the Forest Service. She also served as a Supervisory Purchasing Agent with the US Army Reserve in Asheville, retiring from the Reserves after 20 years.

“Constance was a highly valued employee of the Station, both professionally and personally, and we are all deeply saddened by her tragic loss,” said **Pete Roussopoulos**, Director of the Southern Research Station. “When she was assigned to a job, we knew it would be done efficiently and promptly. Over the years her mentoring of other employees has been of great benefit to our workforce.”

Constance served as the Station’s Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor in the mid-80’s and served one year on the Executive Team, contributing a multicultural perspective to decisionmakers.

Constance was shot and killed outside of her home, the morning of October 30, 2002, apparently when she was leaving to come to work. Police have not released any details about the investigation into her death. She is survived by one son, eight grandchildren, and numerous other relatives. She was a lifelong resident of Asheville and will be missed by coworkers and many other friends. Robbie Chrishon, Director of Acquisition Management in the Washington Office, spoke on behalf of the Forest Service at the service in celebration of Constance’s life.

Conference Held on Restoration of Boreal and Temperate Forest

by John Stanturf

An international conference on Restoration of Boreal and Temperate Forests was held in Vejle, Denmark from 29 April to 3 May. The Southern Research Station (RWUs 4104 and 4155), the Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute, and the Southern Swedish Forest Research Center sponsored the meeting, held under the auspices of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

Pete Roussopoulos, SRS Director, welcomed the 112 participants from four continents and 19 countries. The meeting was divided into 2.5 days of oral and poster presentations, with a 1-day in-conference



Lynne Breland, SRS-4104, instructing Pete Roussopoulos on the finer points of assembling a map display for the field tour.

field trip to view forestry and restoration practices in Denmark (Haderslev State Forest District, Jutland) and Germany (Schleswig State Forest District, Schleswig-Holstein). Forty-four participants continued on a post-conference tour to view restoration in southern Sweden (Biskopstorp, SkÅne).

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 by the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 2680, 200 WT Weaver Boulevard, Asheville, NC 28802.

Editor: Shane Coates

To submit newsworthy stories for future issues, please send complete articles hard copy or on diskette (MS Word or RTF) to Shane Coates at the above address, call (828) 259-0509, or email to rcoates@fs.fed.us. Photographs are encouraged, preferably black and white.

Forest Service Employees' House Featured in Country Music Video

by Charisse Oberle



Stephanie and Danny Skojac with Steve Azar (middle) in the Skojac's house during the video shoot.

Danny and Stephanie Skojac, Forestry and Biological Science Technicians, respectively, at the Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research (RWU-SRS-4155) in Stoneville, MS, were surprised to

hear that their house had been chosen to be a location setting in the recently released country music video "Waitin' on Joe." **Steve Azar**, a Mercury Nashville recording artist, is a native of the Stoneville area. The Skojacs work with **Charisse Oberle** whose husband Danny graduated from high school with Mr. Azar. Charisse is also a Biological Science Technician at CBHR.

Danny "Tweety" Oberle received a phone call from Azar's brother/manager who asked if he would act as a location scout for the video. One of the sites listed on Azar's manager's list was a "working class" house. Although the Skojac's house was not what the production company was really looking for, the bathroom and bedroom provided the camera angles and setting they needed.

Another shot that was used in the video is at a local barbershop, Spanky's. **Roderick Williams**, owner of Spanky's, seen in the video cutting hair and telling Azar that he hasn't seen "Joe." Williams is the nephew of **Brenda Marshall** who is also employed at CBHR as an Administrative Support Assistant.

Clemson Hosts Urban Forestry Workshop

by Ingrid Sather

In August 2002 the Department of Forest Resources, Clemson University, hosted a three-day workshop entitled "Technology in Urban Forestry."

Cosponsors with Clemson were the Southern Center for Urban Forestry Research and Information (USDA Forest Service), Southern Regional Extension Forestry, and Southern Group of State Foresters. The workshop provided a hands-on introduction to GIS, GPS, personal digital assistants, visualization software, ecosystem analysis software, and new tools and technology for managing the urban forest.

The workshop was attended by 65 enthusiastic urban forestry professionals from across the South, as well as several students. The professionals represented State forestry agencies, Cooperative Extension, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations. For further information about the workshop, contact **Don Hamdham** at dham@clemson.edu, **Ingrid Sather** at isather@fs.fed.us, or **Bill Hubbard** at whubbard@uga.cc.uga.edu.



Workshop participants receive GIS instruction.

SFRA

(continued from page 1)

While each of the report's authors made subsequent changes to their individual chapters, the conclusions were unchanged.

Four Federal agencies and southern State forestry agencies teamed up in 1999 to study pressures placed on southern forests and forecast their future condition, given the pressures being placed on them. While it appears southern forests are sustainable—which means they will remain diverse and productive, while providing economic and social benefits for the future—the SFRA pointed to a number of trends that require attention.

Compiled by more than 25 scientists from the Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and several universities, the SFRA provides a comprehensive basis for informed public policy and decisionmaking.

“Population growth and urbanization are the most significant challenges facing Southern forests,” said Forest Service Researcher **Dr. David Wear**, who was also a coleader for the study. Between 1992 and 2020, about six percent of the South's forests could be lost to urban uses, Wear said.

Effects of urban and suburban areas extend far beyond city limits, resulting in wildlife habitat fragmentation, a scarcity of forest benefits such as recreation opportunities, and limitations on management options necessary to keep forests healthy. Most of these effects will be focused in the Piedmont and along the coastal areas of the South.

“This Assessment provides the necessary information in an understandable form so that southern citizens, the five million southern landowners and public policy-makers can better understand southern forests, their condition, and how management decisions can affect them,” Wear said.

You may request a copy of the report from the address or phone number below, or by submitting a form on the Internet at: <http://www2.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain/order.asp> The materials relating to the Assessment are the 635-page Technical Report, a 100-page full-color Summary, and a CD-ROM of the Technical Report. To request any of these, please visit the Web site above; call 828-257-4830; e-mail: pubrequest@srs.fs.fed.us; or write to Southern Research Station, P.O. Box 2680, Asheville, NC 28802. Please provide your current shipping address.

Tribal Relations

(continued from page 1)

Alan is by education and experience an archeologist with a longstanding professional and personal belief that social scientists must relate directly to, and understand, the living descendants of the material cultures studied. He has served on three R8 Forests in the last 25 years, Francis Marion/Sumter, Ocala, and Kisatchie. Along the way he has worked in several different positions as Forest Recreation Staff Officer, Forest Administrative Officer, and as District Ranger.

In his new position he will serve as liaison between the Southern Region and the 52 American Indian Nations and Tribal Governments within the Region, providing overall coordination in initiating, planning, and facilitating Regional activities and relationships with American Indian and Tribal Governments.

The objective of the Tribal Government Program Manager is to improve the relationship between tribal governments, organizations, tribal members, and the Forest Service, as well as focus on regional policy development and overall tribal awareness and sensitivity.

Susan Fox and **Bernie Parresol** are the SRS representatives in the regional program. We will be keeping you informed about tribal issues by putting updates in our SRS newsletter.

Article deadline for next issue: January 14, 2003

Forestry and Natural Resources Symposium September 17-20, 2002

by Ted Willis

Florida A&M University Forestry and Natural Resources Conservation 2+2 Joint Degree Program Host Symposium: Celebrating Minority Professionals in Forestry and Natural Resources

In 1992, Florida A&M University (FAMU) and the University of Florida (UF) implemented a 2+2 joint degree program in Forestry and Natural Resources Conservation (FNRC). The program is supported by the Forest Service with the

Southern Research Station serving as the administrative host. The tenth anniversary celebration brought together graduates of the program, current students, officials from various universities, the Forest Service, other agencies, and private industry.

The purpose of the four-day symposium was to highlight the program and its contribution to increasing minority professionals in FNRC. The symposium also offered an opportunity for FNRC professionals from academia, State, Federal and private industry to interact.

More than one hundred participants from across the country were in attendance. The deans and directors of both universities, as well as officials from the Forest Service, welcomed the participants.

Papers were presented on a variety of topics ranging from recruitment, graduates in the workforce, and retention to research activities at USDA-Forest Products Laboratory. Graduates of the 2+2 FAMU-UF presented a special session that was very well-received by the participants. The symposium was adjourned on Friday afternoon (9/20/02) after four days of successful activities. By all indications, the symposium was a success and we look forward to using its success to enhance recruitment, retention and graduation of more minority professionals in FNRC.

SRS Researchers Tour the Yangtze River

by Zoë Hoyle

SRS researchers **Carl Trettin, Harbin Li, Bernie Parresol, Chris Barton, Dan Hitchcock**, and **John Kilgo** spent most of September on or near the Yangtze River in China as part of an international conference to discuss the restoration and management of Asian wetlands. Trettin, Project Leader for the SRS Center for Forested Wetlands Research in Charleston, SC, acted as co-chair for the symposium, and Li, research ecologist with the same unit, was a member of the Executive Committee.



FAMU/UF 2+2 Joint Degree Program administrators and graduates, left to right, Ted Willis And Marcus Warwell (USFS), Dr. Oghenekome Onokpise (FAMU), Stephanie Steele, (USFS), Terrence Campbell (CDC) and Dr. Donald Rockwood (UF)



Aquaculture, Lake Taihu.

The Yangtze River served as both the symbolic theme and structure for the conference. Through a series of presentations and field study tours, participants followed the river from its mouth in the China Sea upstream through the Taihu and Dongting lakes. Dongting, the second largest lake in China, was once a site of extensive wetlands, but the construction of dikes to produce agricultural lands has reduced the surface area of the lake by over 60 percent. The tour focused on a pilot project funded by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWFN) to restore the wetlands through work with local farmers.

Dongting Lake

The WWFN pilot site is located at the Xipanshanzhuo polder (low-lying piece of land reclaimed from the sea, lake, or other water body) on the north end of the Chishan Island, the largest island in Dongting Lake.

(continued on page 7)

SRS Researchers

(continued from page 6)

Around 580 people live and farm on the polder, which was flooded in 1996, 1998 and 1999. Traditional farmers constantly face floods, damage to the dikes, and the high cost for polder maintenance—as well as low income and an unstable livelihood. The challenge is to find alternatives that are ecologically sound as well economically feasible for the farmers. The WWFN started the pilot project in 1999 to demonstrate a new way of farming that returns the polder to lake and develops fisheries, orchards, and livestock. In this process, farmers gained appreciation for the sustainable use of wetlands and lakes, obtained technical training by WWFN staff, and improved their quality of life.

During the winter of 2000, thousands of water birds returned to the restored wetland habitat. The project is an example of how ecosystem and social sciences can be integrated for effective wetland restoration efforts. “Creating a riparian buffer zone in this situation means taking away valuable cropland,” said Trettin in a post-trip interview. “Yet the tremendous water pollution from both agriculture and aquaculture must be addressed; Dongting and other Yangtze lakes supply much of the water for major Chinese cities.

This area presents a tremendous opportunity to work closely with farmers on natural treatment systems such as constructed wetlands—and it proved a tremendous lesson for researchers from around the world about the importance of considering the social and cultural needs when addressing environmental restoration issues.”

The Three Gorges

From Dongting Lake, the SRS researchers continued on a 4-day boat tour of the Three Gorges area of the Yangtze River, where the largest hydroelectric dam in the world, scheduled for completion in 2009, is being built. When completed, the Three Gorges Dam will span a mile and a half across and tower 600 feet above the world's third longest river. The second phase of Three Gorges Dam project comes to an end in November 2002, when the diversion channel in the area where the dam is being constructed will be closed and

full length of navigation along the river suspended until June 2003.

The SRS researchers had the unique opportunity to view this majestic landscape before it is permanently changed. The study tour also included discussions on the complex social and political context of the Three Gorges project led by Peter Hessler, who regularly contributes articles about Chinese culture and politics to the *New Yorker* magazine. Hessler's presentations revealed how cultural differences inform an environmental ethic that is distinctly different from that in the U.S.

“The trip was a real eye-opener, especially for those who had never visited China,” said Trettin. “It is really hard for Americans to imagine how precious land is in Asia. Every inch is cultivated; a few feet of dirt can determine whether a family has enough to eat. It was really brought home to me that you cannot think about the environment separately from people in Southeast Asia.”

For more information: Carl Trettin at 843-766-0371 or ctrettin@fs.fed.us

Days Along the Yangtze

by Zoë Hoyle

Bernie Parresol, SRS Biometrician stationed in Asheville, recently reflected on the tour he took of China's Three Gorges area as part of the international conference on wetland restoration in Asia. He toured Lake Dongting, a wetland restoration area, and later took a boat trip up the Three Gorges part of the Yangtze River, where the largest hydroelectric dam in the world is being built. On the visit to Lake Dongting, researchers had the opportunity to talk, through World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWFN) interpreters, with people living in the polder communities along the lakeshore.

The polders were originally made along the edges of Lake Dongting by building dikes and pumping out the water from lake bottomland. This process reduced the surface area of the lake—important both as a wetland and as a source of drinking water—by almost 60 percent. WWFN projects are helping farmers adjust to the process of restoring the lake to its original boundaries.

(continued on page 8)

Days along the Yangtze

(continued from page 7)

"The mindset in rural China is that you must always have some land in rice," said Parresol. "This is a need passed down through the generations from a time when the rice field was the only thing between the family and starvation. This is my third trip to China, and I really haven't seen any food shortages, but the Chinese have long memories. To them, the famines of a few generations ago are like yesterday." No new polders will be constructed on Lake Dongting: the push now is to expand the area of the lake itself and restore the lake bottom. The tour visited two different polder communities.

In the first polder, restoration was almost complete. The people were living on houseboats, the remains of their homes and outbuildings visible in the water below. In the second polder, people are moving farther from the shoreline, shifting to raising ducks and fish in the water as the lake moves over the land. "We were able to have extended conversations with the area residents and to talk, I believe, very candidly through the interpreters supplied by WWFN," said Parresol.

"We asked fairly personal questions about what WWFN was trying to do. There was some skepticism, of course, but many people realized that they could no longer conduct farming as usual. "September is the harvest season in China. On the road to

Lake Dongting, Parresol saw rice, corn, and oats spread everywhere—on sidewalks, shop fronts, even on the highway, where farmers use passing vehicles to mill their grain. How people live in rural China is a rare and wonderful sight for an American; there are no shopping malls or movies, few cars, few of the diversions that mark life in the U.S.

"Instead of turning on the television or computer when they finish work, people gather to drink tea and play mah jong, slapping down tiles while they talk about what's going on with everyone," said Parresol. "Food is always part of getting together. I got the impression of a

very strong sense of community. It was almost like listening to my own parents talk about how things were here in the 1930s and 40s." Parresol described the boat trip through the Three Gorges area as spectacular. He emphasized that the Three Gorges Dam, viewed by many in the West as a looming disaster, is viewed very positively by the Chinese people, who have a history of embracing projects on a grand scale. "In many ways, the dam will be a boon," said Parresol. "The brown haze from energy generation is a major pollution problem in Asia. This one dam will generate 10 percent of China's electric needs, and will allow them to take some of their coal-fired plants off line." The main purpose of the dam, however, is flood control. "To many people along its banks, the river is a monster," said Parresol. "Thousands have died in floods over the last century. A hundred thousand people were mobilized to clean up the flood right before our visit. The government realizes the consequences of building the dam, that fish communities will be impacted, as well as the scenic beauty of the Three Gorges. But they feel that the flood control and electricity are worth it, and even with flooding for the dam, the mountains will still tower above the Three Gorges, and there will still be the scenes of the sun setting in the evening fog."

Laura Lipe Retires after 36 Years with the Forest Service

Laura Lipe is leaving the Forest Service after 36 years of dedicated service. She worked in business management on three different Ranger Districts—the Wayah, Grandfather Mountain, and Pisgah—before starting her position at SRS as Station Workforce Diversity Program Manager. She also has had a distinguished career in the Fire organization. Laura's retirement promises to be exciting; she has two grandchildren to keep up with, and a multitude of hobbies, including sewing, quilting, and rubber-stamping. She also helps her husband, Frank, with his contracting business, and is considering opening a craft shop with friends.



China has as many bicyclists as it does citizens who drive.

Safety Note

The following story was forwarded by **Glen Everest**, PSW/Redding; and is based on a telephone conversation he had with **Don Sands** of the Redding Smokejumpers. This is the story as Don relayed it to Glen:

Klamath National Forest, Stanza Fire, July 25th around 11a.m.:

Several smokejumpers observed a burning snag at their elevation that began to slowly crack and was starting to fall. There was a firefighter way down below the snag who was not aware of this. The smokejumpers shouted several times to no avail. One of the smokejumpers (**Steve Frank**) pulled out his yellow Forest Service whistle and blew it in several loud bursts. The firefighter looked up just in time to get out of the way as the snag hit exactly where he had been.

ATTN: Newsletter Mailing List Update

Please print when filling out the form below.

We are updating the mailing list for the Southern Aspect, the internal newsletter from the Southern Research Station. To continue receiving the newsletter in hardcopy format you **must** complete and return the information below. We are trying to reduce administrative cost and would like everyone who has an email to get the newsletter in that manner. All SRS employees will receive the newsletter electronically.

Please keep sending the newsletter by postal mail:

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

You can also view the newsletter on the Internet at <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/about/newsletter/index.htm>, which is a direct link. If you would like to register to receive the newsletter by email, go to <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/list/index.htm>. This link also has other mailing lists that you can choose from.

Please add me to the email newsletter mailing list and remove me from the hardcopy list:

Email_____

Return form to:

ATTN: Shane Coates
 Southern Research Station
 USDA Forest Service
 200 WT Weaver Boulevard
 P.O. Box 2680
 Asheville, NC 28802

Reminder:

When submitting photos for the Southern Aspect, please send black-and-white print photographs, if possible. A second choice is to send in good quality 35mm slides.

While new technology exists and many people now have digital cameras, most of the digital photos supplied to go with your newsworthy articles have not been usable, due to poor image quality.

If you must submit digital photos, your digital camera must have an image quality of 1.3 megapixels or better on the high quality setting. The final size of the digital photo should be 1024X768 or larger. Images of less quality cannot be used. The editorial staff will contact those who submit articles with digital photos that do not meet the minimum quality level, so that you may have time to resubmit either black-and-white photos or 35mm slides.

...Editor

From the Director's Desk. . .

(continued from page 2)

As the holidays approach, I want to thank all of the Station's employees, former employees, and partners for all that you do to advance our work. We all can take pride in what we have accomplished this past year. It will soon be time to reflect on those accomplishments, and to contemplate the promise and possibilities next year will bring. My wife, Sue, joins me in wishing each of you and your loved ones a joyful, relaxing, and love-filled Holiday Season.



You can find additional information on the WSSD at the USDA Sustainable Development Web site: www.usda.gov/sustainable/, the UN Johannesburg Summit Web site: www.johannesburgsummit.org, or the partnership Web site: www.state.gov/g/oes/sus/wssd/.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDAs TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

United States
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Research Station
P.O. Box 2680
200 Weaver Boulevard
Asheville, NC 28802