



Near-record Yellow Poplar 80" DBH at Bee Branch Scenic Area

by Glendon Smalley



From left to right:

Arnold Mignery-Project Leader, Southern Forest Experiment Station, Silviculture Laboratory, Sewanee, TN
Russell Chipman- Supervisor, Alabama National Forest, Montgomery, AL

Thomas Russell-Research Forester, Southern Forest Experiment Station, Silviculture Laboratory, Sewanee, TN

Glendon Smalley-Research Forester, Southern Forest Experiment Station, Birmingham, AL

Phillip Briegleb-Director, Southern Forest Experiment Station, New Orleans, LA

Brad Emery-District Ranger, Bankhead National Forest, Haleyville, AL

Herbert Yocom-Research Forester, Southern Forest Experiment Station, Birmingham, AL

H.O. Mills-Timber Management, Alabama National Forest, Montgomery, AL

This photo was taken by James Burton, Research Forester, Southern Forest Experiment Station, Silviculture Laboratory, Sewanee, TN

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Fire Research on South Carolina Forests will Provide Forest Management Knowledge from the Coast to the Piedmont

by Lindsay White

Charleston, SC – November 6, 2003 – The Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests have developed a collaborative project with the Station (SRS-4103, 4703) and the College of Charleston to address the role of their prescribed fire program on soil erosion, soil productivity and vegetation. This new work builds on a recent graduate research project conducted on the Sumter National Forest's Enoree Ranger District with College of Charleston's Environmental Studies Program and the USDA Forest Service's Center for Forested Wetlands Research (Charleston, SC). The field studies will include the Enoree Ranger District and be expanded to include the Long Cane District of the Sumter National Forest near Aiken, SC and the Francis Marion National Forest near Charleston.



A light, dormant season prescribed burn that was conducted March 2002 in the Enoree District of the Sumter National Forest to understand its effects on vegetation, forest fuels, soil movement, and nutrients

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From the Director's Desk . . .

As we approach the end to another year, marked with the traditional holidays, it is fitting to reflect once again on our accomplishments at the Southern Research Station. The year has been filled with challenges and the Station employees have been inspired to achieve and accomplished much.

Some of the Station's accomplishments stemming from the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SoFRA) align well with the Agency's "four threats": hazardous fuels, invasive species, fragmentation/urbanization, and unmanaged recreation. The Station has contributed well to the mission of the agency and Administration goals by focusing on the President's Healthy Forest Initiative through the SoFRA and new research to address its key findings.

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) has finished collecting data on all periodic State surveys in the South and is focusing on the annualized inventory process for eleven of the individual 13 Southern States. These annual inventories will produce State Reports for FIA on a sustained schedule when fully implemented.

Accreditation of Alabama A&M's forestry program by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) was celebrated at a 10-year partnership symposium with SRS and the university. Alabama A&M is the first historically black university to achieve this standing and our recruitment program there continues to set the standard for the Agency.

Competitive Sourcing occupied much administrative attention in FY-2003. The Station did its part to support the President's Management Initiatives by contributing the full-time involvement of our IT Director, Mike Grube, to the national IT Study Team. Additionally, the Station completed an intensive study of the maintenance function, resulting in a decision to retain the in-house maintenance of fleet vehicles, buildings, and other facilities. We expect several additional functions to be studied over the next two years.

While restructuring the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), the Station committed two employees to develop the Agency's grant proposal for the Department of Labor. Their efforts lead to a Chief's Award for their selfless contributions to the national SCSEP program.

February to April was a time of sadness and recovery after space shuttle Columbia was destroyed over Texas and Louisiana. With sad hearts, Station employees provided technical expertise and resources for the Columbia Shuttle Recovery. The Station contributed over 80 employees to the effort—about 5 person-years, in addition to our FIA "pluggers", who provided GIS technology and expertise to mark locations for thousands of shuttle parts. Forest Health Protection employees from Asheville also provided support.

The Station established several new technology transfer positions, including positions linking specifically with the southern State forestry organizations and with the Native American Nations through the Intertribal Nursery Council.

For a detailed accounting of the Station's work this past year please see the SRS annual report: *Forest Science in the South* when it is released in February. I'll just point out a few summary highlights here. In 2003 we:

- Added the Chipola Experimental Forest (FL) to the Federal estate
- Completed construction of the new Coweeta bunkhouse and conference center (NC)
- Authored 743 publications, including 253 in refereed journals.
- Published 69 Station fire publications funded by the National Fire Plan (NFP)
- Published the assessment report *Human Influences on Forest Ecosystems* and provided research exchange with communities and organizations in the South through the Center for Wildland-Urban Interface Research and Information (FL)
- Added 1700 downloadable research publications to our Web site—bringing the total inventory to 6,700 papers

2003 was, in almost all respects, a very good year for the Southern Research Station. For the dedication and support shown by all Station employees and cooperators—thank you for a job well done! As you close the book on 2003, I hope you will do so with as much pride and satisfaction as I feel for what you have accomplished. Please be safe over the Holidays, and may they bring peace and joy to you and your loved ones.



New Century of Service: Celebrating the Past While Looking Forward to the Future...

As we continue to plan for the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Forest Service as a USDA agency, the editorial staff would like to share some historic photos with the loyal readership of the Southern Aspect.



Crossett Experimental Forest, Arkansas—A superior loblolly pine selected for breeding experiments and seed orchard use. (photo taken by R. W. Neelands – Feb. 1961)

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Near-record Yellow Poplar

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Historical Trivia

Glendon Smalley sent this photo to Dr. Larry Walker (deceased), hoping that he might include it in a book he was writing about Forests of North America just missing the publication deadline. Walker was head of the Forestry School at Stephen F. Austin State College (now State University), Nacogdoches, TX. He authored or co-authored several books on forestry. The following are excerpts from his hand-written letter to Smalley dated 5-13-1998.

“Thank you for the classic photo of the big yellow-poplar in Bee Branch. The tree looks just as it did when I was in the draw with forestry school deans sometime between 1964 and 1972. . . .In the photo are folks I know. Mignery was with the FS (at Nacogdoches); Chipman was district ranger on the Davy Crockett RD (I think) when I was a JF (Junior Forester) on the Sabine; Briegleb was as great a man as I have ever known. . . .”

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.

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 lower quality than 300dpi 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.

**From the Southern
Aspect editorial
staff, a very Happy
Holidays and a most
Joyous New Year!**

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, P.O. Box 2680, 200 WT Weaver Boulevard, Asheville, NC 28802.

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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.

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Station Civil Rights Committee Holds Successful Fall Meeting

by: Linda LeBlanc

The Southern Research Station (SRS) Civil Rights Committee (CRC) met for its Fall meeting at Alabama A&M University October 27-31.

"We have a great committee and we worked especially hard at this meeting," said CRC Chair David White. "I want to remind everyone that we serve management and employees and fully support the essence of the station's Human Rights Perspective - the right of everyone in the workplace to be treated fairly, impartially and respectfully."

The meeting was White's first as CRC presiding officer. The recently installed



The CRC visit the Black Archives Museum at Alabama A&M University pictured from left to right (top): Harbin Li, Daniel Jackson, Nancy Meadows, David White, Anita Dungan, Penny Byler, Linda LeBlanc bottom left to right Kaye Mansfield, Callie Schweitzer, and Blossie Boyd

chair works as an ecologist at Clemson RWU. It was also the first meeting for members Faye Mansfield (Zone 5) and Daniel Paul Jackson (Zone 6) in their new role as zone representatives. Other members attending included Harbin Li, Zone 1; Nancy Meadows, Zone 2, Anita Dungan, Zone 4, and local representatives, Blossie Boyd, Callie Schweitzer and Penny Byler, Zone 5.

Fire Research

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The work in 2004 will focus on the effects of growing season prescribed fire on soil erosion, vegetation, and soil productivity and stability in both Coastal and Piedmont forested ecosystems. Technology transfer is also integral to this work. "Bridging the gap between scientific research and a public utility of those results through information dissemination is the most crucial step to establishing value to science" said Lindsay White, who conducted the graduate work on prescribed fire at CofC and is the Fire Ecologist on this new initiative. This initiative brings together a new team of scientists and staff who will be working with Lindsay to conduct the work; Southern Research Station: Carl Trettin, Emily Carter; College of Charleston: Tim Callahan, and Sumter - Francis Marion National Forest: Dick Rosemier, Beth LeMaster, Dennis Law, and Bill Hansen,.

Initial results from the Enoree study indicate that a light prescribed burn during the dormant season that removed ~20% of forest fuel mass did not alter soil movement or fertility. Forthcoming work will consider high intensity, growing season burns on the Piedmont and long-term trends from a 40-year study at the Francis Marion National Forest, which were recently resampled after discontinuance following hurricane Hugo.

Preservation, synthesis, and demonstration of fire ecology research will foster a greater understanding of larger-scale forest ecosystem processes throughout South Carolina. Additionally, this research and demonstration will provide technical and operational guidance for land management decisions within the National Forest and private land owners.

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Fiesta Latina

by: Linda LeBlanc

“Empleos en el Gobierno Federal” or “Employees in the Federal Government” read the colorful banner on the Forest Service (FS) exhibit booth staffed by SRS and National Forest employees during the Fiesta Latina 2003 held in West Asheville on October 4, 2003.



Local dance company performs Latin dances for festival goers

Exhibit workers enjoyed a steady flow of visitors of all ages to the booth and once again proved that FS participation at community events continues to be a great venue for program participation and outreach. Nelida Rodriguez and Linda Cortes-Hardaway did an outstanding job working with volunteers Ted Green, Barry Miller, Ava Moore, Ed Yockey, Mike Ward, Bettie McGuire, William Hoffard and Linda LeBlanc to ensure a visible FS presence.



Smokey Bear puzzles educational materials catch the eye of festival goers at the FS booth

The 6th Annual celebration of Hispanic arts and culture was held on Haywood Road, the center of West Asheville's Hispanic community and home to many Latino businesses.

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It's the Same Program with Different Faces: The Forest Service presents its annual Conservation Education Outreach Program (CEOP)

by Stephanie N. Love



CEOP interns asking kids questions after participating in conservation education activities

For five summers the Forest Service office stationed at Alabama A&M University, under the supervision of Ms. Louise Wyche and Team Leader Stephanie Love, has been providing an enrichment program for youth to learn about the importance of conserving the forest. Each summer, 3-4 summer interns are chosen to perform the duties of going out to YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, and many other summer programs, to enlighten the participants of facts of the forest. This year's teachers were Elisabeth Jones (Anaheim, CA), Keylonda Armwood (Pride, LA), and Bridgett Thigpen (New Market, AL).

Elisabeth Jones, a graduate student in elementary education at Alabama A&M University, has a true love for teaching. Her vast knowledge of working with children and teaching techniques were very useful to the team.

Keylonda Armwood, a sophomore urban forestry student at Southern University, contributes a more in-depth perspective of ecosystems, environments and habits as it relates to the urban interface.

Bridgett Thigpen, a sophomore forestry major at Alabama A&M University, brings hands-on field experience in forestry to the team.

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Article deadline for next issue: February 20, 2004

Trettin Reviews Finnish Forest Carbon Cycling Research Program

The Finnish Forestry Research Institute (Metla) commissioned an external panel to review its program "Pools and fluxes of carbon in Finnish forests and their socio-economic implications" (HMS). The principal goal of the programme is to conduct research on the carbon cycle in Finnish forests relative to the biological, physical and social sciences to produce information that is needed for addressing the various issues associated with carbon and greenhouse gas accounting, carbon inventory, and resource management.

The research is intended to enhance the understanding of the carbon cycle in boreal forests and to be relevant for policy and decision-making. The HMS program is an important and promising initiative due to the need for greenhouse gas data in relation to the Kyoto-protocol and for developing guidelines on how to mitigate emissions through land-use and land-use change in forestry. Metla is the lead agency but the work also involves scientists and students from the University of Helsinki and the University of Joensuu.

The HMS program consists of three principal research tasks addressing (1) pools and fluxes of carbon on mineral soils and peat lands, (2) modeling forest carbon cycles, (3) the forest carbon sink and economic costs of the Kyoto protocol. Several studies comprise each of the research tasks, and Metla staff serve to coordinate the overall program. The coordination function is particularly important since Metla is in a position to identify the most important and relevant research needs, and to ensure that the research findings are synthesized in a manner that is useful to policy makers.

Carl Trettin (SRS-4103) along with Prof. Mats Olsson, Swedish Agricultural University, and Prof. Hans Fredrik Hoen, Agricultural University of Norway, comprised the review panel. During the course of a 2-day program that included presentations and a field inspection, the panel evaluated the progress of the work relative to the HMS plan and considered the overall relevancy of the program. Feedback was provided in the form of a written report that was conveyed to the Metla Director. More information on the HMS program is available at their website: <http://www.metla.fi/ohjelma/hms/index-en.htm>.

New Century of Service

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*Crossett Experimental Forest, Arkansas—
Hardwood distillation wood cut from tops of sawlog trees and from small defective and low quality trees. Each "pen" is approximately 6 1/2 feet high. (photo taken by R. R. Reynolds – January 1938)*



Fiesta Latina

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What began as one of the first cool days of Fall ended in beautiful afternoon sunshine as festival goers of all ages filled the street. The atmosphere was one of a small town "block party" with the aroma of hot tamales and roasted corn mixed in with sounds of Spanish reggae and salsa. The YMI Cultural Center produced the annual event which serves to educate people about educational and social services and healthcare.



The aroma of roasted corn fills the air at Fiesta Latina

Station Civil Rights

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To familiarize the committee with the research and education programs at AAMU, presentations and talks were conducted by Dr. Govind Sharma, Chair, Department of Plant and Soil Science, Dr. George Brown, Director, Center for Plant and Forestry Ecology, and Dr. Yong Wang. Louise Wyche, Student Program Manager and Callie Schweitzer, Research Forester and her students also presented. The CRC enjoyed a tour of the State Black Archives hosted by students and staff of the Learning Center.

The CRC spent the remainder of the meeting exchanging information, problem solving, determining future projects and fostering teamwork and relationships. New Zone representatives, Mansfield and Jackson were presented with a "Welcome to the CRC" souvenir and Bettie McGuire received one for her support of the Civil Rights Program.

Glendon Smalley Named Emeritus Scientist

(Normal, AL) Dr. Glen Smalley, research soil scientist, has been recognized with the Emeritus Scientist Award in recognition of his significant research contributions during his career with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station. He retired from the Southern Station's Silviculture Laboratory in Sewanee, TN in 1988 with 35 years of service. Dr. Smalley received his PhD in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Tennessee in 1975. He is a 50-year member of the Society of American Foresters and was elected an SAF Fellow in 1989.

Dr. Smalley classified and evaluated forest sites for the management of a number of commercially valuable tree species. His research provided land managers with a land classification system that enabled them to subdivide forest land into logical segments having approximate equal productivity and to recognize any limitations and hazards that the landtypes imposed on forest management activities.

As Emeritus Scientist, Dr Smalley will continue site classification mapping and interpretation of site characteristics, assist with soil mapping in Jackson County, AL, and conduct field tours and other technology transfer activities. He will work with a subunit of the Southern Research Station's Ecology and Management of Southern Appalachian Hardwood Forests research work unit that is conducting research in the Cumberland Plateau.

Bent Creek Experimental Forest Needs Your Help!

by Julia Murphy

The technology transfer department is compiling a list of everyone who has ever worked at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest. This includes past project leaders, scientists, technicians and administrative staff. If you can help with names, dates or any other interesting information about Bent Creek we sure would appreciate it. Also, we would like historical photos. We would like to scan or make reprints of the photos. We will return the photo to you. So please if you can help or if you know someone who has retired and would be able to help please notify Julia Murphy at (828) 667-5261 extension 104 or email juliamurphy@fs.fed.us

CEOP

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Jones, Armwood, and Thigpen began their internship with a week of training at the Southern Research Station Headquarters in Ashville, along with other CEOP interns that would be stationed at duty stations in Tallahassee, FL; Milwaukee, WI; and Atlanta, GA. During training, they were briefed on the rules and regulations of being government employees, and were also certified in Project Learning Tree. These activities and techniques were implemented in the execution of CEOP site visits throughout the summer. The intern team traveled to summer camps, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, and YMCA's from Huntsville, AL to New Orleans, LA, serving over 1200 youth. Though the summer of 2003 is over, it is far from forgotten. Overall, the team says they had a wonderful experience. Despite arbitrary obstacles, they succeeded in educating the youth on the importance of the environment, conservation, and how it applies to them.

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