

Project Leader's Report

January - 2004



DMISE
DISTURBANCE AND MANAGEMENT
OF SOUTHERN ECOSYSTEMS

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Technology Transfer :

- Joe O'Brien presented a report at the First Abaco Science Alliance Conference in Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas, entitled "Fire management in Bahamian pineyards." About 200 Bahamian and U.S. scientists conducting research throughout the Bahamas attended this meeting, including Dr. Livingston Marshal, Science Advisor to the Prime Minister. After the meeting, O'Brien spent four days in the field collecting stand structure and light environment data in one of the last old growth pine forests in the Bahamas.
- Rick Reitz and Sandra Rideout-Hanzak reviewed proposals for the Joint Fire Sciences Program in Boise.
- John Stanturf presented an overview of the soil carbon work being done at the Short Rotation Woody Crops Cooperative Experiment "A" site at Savannah River, at the SRWC Coop meeting in Aiken.

- The latest monthly issue of InterfaceSouth Update featured the Fire Encyclopedia; to learn more about InterfaceSouth or to sign up to receive their Update, visit <http://www.interfacesouth.org/swuinet.html>.
- Rick Reitz attended the 2004 Southern Forest Fire Chief's winter meeting in Panama City, FL and presented an update of the unit's fire and smoke research. Topics highlighted included: carbon storage in soils of forests managed by prescribed burning, PB-Piedmont smoke visibility model, Rabbit fire spread model, super-fog smoke visibility model, Southern Fire Science Encyclopedia, fire and fire surrogate treatments, fire hazard in the southern Appalachians, smoke plume dynamics model, and using infrared thermography for field measurements.

Outreach Activities:



John Moore, Hitchiti Forest Manager, in an old growth pine stand on the Hitchiti Experimental Forest.

Six organized groups totaling 50 people visited the Brender Forest during January. These groups included the Georgia Water Quality and Timber Harvest Planning Workshop, with training in stream protection methods while logging, and proper planning of timber harvest. A group of GFC foresters were trained on proper planting of Longleaf pine in the Piedmont of Georgia, in order to provide assistance to landowners; Georgia DNR Parks & Recreation staff; the Forest Management Chief of the Georgia Forestry Commission; the Oconee Ranger District Staff; and Boy Scout Troop 170 who worked on the Hitchiti Interpretive Trail for an Eagle Scout Project.

Continued

Approximately 36 visitors came by the office at the Brender Forest for information and 50 people signed the register at the Hitchiti Interpretive Trail.

Hitchiti Experimental Forest and Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge cooperative deer hunts harvested a total of 541 deer, with 46 of these from Hitchiti.

Brender Forest is planning a Prescribed Burning Workshop in cooperation with Jones County Extension Service and the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, to be held February 5. Another workshop is planned on temporary logging roads; a model road will be constructed on the forest in February. A training video will be made of the workshop and road construction.

- Scott Goodrick gave two invited presentations, use and interpretation of the Keetch-Byrum Drought Index and the Southern High Resolution Modeling Consortium, at the 2004 Alabama Fire Weather Symposium held in Pelham, AL. The audience consisted of state and federal land managers as well as meteorologists from the National Weather Service and the Southern Area Coordination Center.

- Mac Callaham attended a workshop in Gaithersburg, MD to report progress on the DOE sponsored “Enriched Background Isotope Study (EBIS)”. He detailed progress on the recently initiated study that follows movement of ¹⁴C labeled leaf litter under experimentally manipulated earthworm communities. Callaham, with the help of Corey Babb, conducts this study at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

- Joe O’Brien was invited to participate in a workshop on pine rocklands fire management, to be held in Miami in February.

- Yongqiang Liu will give a seminar to the Athens lab staff on February 9th on “Environmental Effects of Wildfire.”



Rick Reitz, Tech. Transfer Specialist, at the Southern Forest Fire Chiefs Meeting

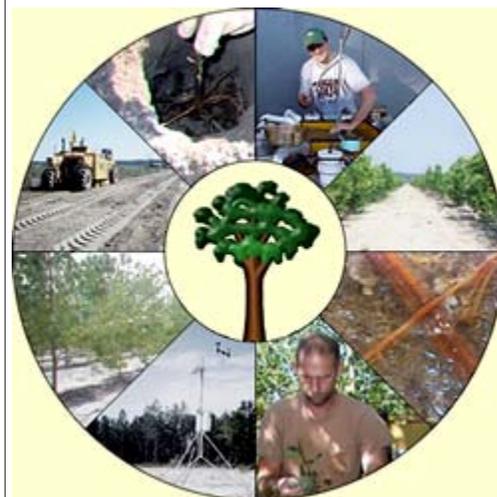
Meetings / Reports :

- Fred Allen, Special Assistant to the Director, visited staff to discuss research of interest to the Southern Group of State Foresters. Fred provided information on the National Wildland Fire Leadership Council visit to the Palm Coast area of Florida in February, a symposium on carbon planned for Athens in June, and a cooperative effort by State and Private, Southern Group of State Foresters, and the Forest Products Lab to identify markets for small diameter timber. We have begun to follow up with Fred on these items.



Fred Allen visited Athens.

- John Stanturf attended the Short Rotation Woody Crops Cooperative Research Program Annual update and planning meeting in Aiken SC. Technical sessions focused on canopy and belowground controls of productivity, phytoremediation, pest studies, and carbon cycle research. Larry Biles from UGA outlined the objectives of the Southern Forest Research Partnership; including opportunities to work together to attract new funding to forestry related research in the southeast. Dave Coyle received an award for dedicated service during his tenure with SRWC Co-op. David will leave to enter a Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin and an announcement for his position is on USAJobs.



<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/swrc> is the website for the Short Rotation woody Crops Research Cooperative.

Meetings / Reports :

- The SRWC Coop Business Meeting included discussion of its future role; we concluded that annual meetings should be broadened in scope to include activities throughout the southeastern US and be held at various locations.

- Ken Outcalt and Dale Brockway (4105 Auburn) met with the staff of Goethe State Forest, Florida Division of Forestry to discuss a new cooperative research study funded by the Division of Forestry on options for management and regeneration of longleaf pine. The meeting and tour of the Goethe Forest resulted in the selection of 3 areas for study installation and mutual agreement on tasks to be completed by the forest and research personnel. Local staff and DOF leadership in Tallahassee are very excited about this work, are ready to provide all the logistic support needed, and look forward to having an area that provides valuable technical knowledge and serves as useful demonstration area.

- Scott Goodrick attended a workshop at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV to prepare a seasonal assessment for the Southern Region's upcoming fire season. He was an invited participant, along with cooperator David Zierden from Florida State University. They helped incorporate results from an ongoing National Fire Plan funded project on Developing New Tools for

Long-range Seasonal Forecasting of Fire Season Severity in this year's assessment.

- Tom Waldrop and Sandra Rideout-Hanzak met with Dr. Rob Bixler and Dr. Bill Hammitt of Clemson University to discuss their study of public perceptions of fuel reduction treatments in the southern Appalachians, a component of the National Fire and Fire Surrogate Study. The topic is particularly important in the southern Appalachian Mountains because of an unusual dilemma: the main fuel that causes wildfires to reach uncontrollable intensities in the region is also a major attraction to tourists and residents. Ericaceous shrubs, including rhododendron and mountain laurel, add to the scenic beauty of the mountains. Under fire exclusion, however, these shrubs reached invasive levels of cover. An understanding of public perceptions could help guide fuels management policy that would remove these shrubs in hazardous areas.

- Stanturf participated in the planning meeting for the SRWC Operations Working Group joint meeting with IEA Task 30, to be held in Charleston, SC in November. The SRWC Co-op will organize the meeting on "Biomass and Bioenergy Production for Economic and Environmental Benefit." See www.woodycrops.org for details; a first call for papers is out and selected papers will be published in Biomass and Bioenergy.



- Lee Barkow, a member of the Governing Board of the Joint Fire Science Program and Director of the National Science and Technology Center,

Bureau of Land Management, will offer three seminars on the program on March 25 in Athens. Barkow will present "The six-step process of technical transfer (or science delivery)," "Scientist and manager partnerships," and "Improving responses to JFSP Announcements for Proposals." He will be in the North Building Conference Room from 0900 to 1130 and from 1300 to 1500. Rick Reitz is hosting Barkow and requests that you RSVP.

- Scott Goodrick and Gary Achtemeier will attend the National Fire Plan Research Meeting in Reno, NV in March. The meeting conflicts with the SRS Management Team Meeting and the All Scientists Meeting. Scott and Gary will give overviews of the unit's NFP funded research; Scott will attend a meeting of the Core Fire Science Caucus and Gary the FCAMMS directors meeting.

- Ken Outcalt and John Moore will attend a planning meeting with Bill Nightingale, Ranger on the Oconee National Forest and his staff to discuss the proposed two 70-acre commercial thinning projects on the Hitchiti Experimental Forest. One of the units is adjacent to the long-term prescribed burning research plots.

GPRA Accomplishments:

Category	FY 2002	FY 2003
	Total	To Date
Number of Refereed Journal Publications	24	9
Number of Non-Refereed Publications (include abstracts)	50	32
Number of Publications (refereed + non-refereed)	74	41
Number of Tours	66	19
Number of Short Courses/Training	8	8
Number of Invited Presentations to Scientific Organizations	8	9
Number of Invited Presentations to Lay Organizations	45	11
Volunteer Presentations to Scientific Organizations (non-GPRA)	27	30
Number of Technology Transfer Activities (other than above)	135	52
Outside Funding	\$1,955,455	\$1,979,500

Funding :

- Fire and Aviation Management has directed additional Hazardous Fuels funding to the regional modeling consortia. The Southern High Resolution Modeling Consortium will receive \$100,000.

- Gary Achtemeier received \$10,000 from Savannah River Forest Station for Smoke Dispersion Modeling project.

- Tom Waldrop co-authored a proposal to the Joint Fire Science Program for continued funding of the National Fire and Fire Surrogate Study (NFFS), which is nearing the end of its fourth year of funding. Staffs at most of the 13 study sites have completed treatment installation and are collecting post-treatment data. Numerous publications and presentations have described results of studies of individual disciplines on individual sites. However, the greatest challenge of the NFFS study network will be interdisciplinary analyses on individual sites and on all study sites combined. A few members of the NFFS study team are well versed in the multivariate statistical procedures required for these analyses. Others need training. If funded, the new grant would provide money for key members of the team to attend training workshops on multivariate classification procedures, structural equation modeling, and meta-analysis.

- Cynthia Fowler and Rick Reitz submitted information that went into a Letter of Intent to the USDOE/USDA Biomass Research and Development Initiative from SRS for a biomass tech transfer project under topic #7: Biomass Focused Forest Management Training.

- National Fire Plan funding to the unit has been finalized; although less than full funding, the cuts are not as dire as once anticipated. The following table compares net funding to the unit under the National Fire Plan, after SRS overhead was removed.

FY01	FY02
\$2,514,456	\$1,987,200
FY03	FY04
\$1,551,000	\$1,840,000

- South Carolina State Climatologist Hope Mizzell and Jason Caldwell, Severe Weather Liaison, Department of Natural Resources of South Carolina, visited the SHRMC team to discuss their plans for an in-house MM5 capability in SC. They visited with Gary Achtemeier, Scott Goodrick, Yong Liu, and Tim Giddens. They discussed scientific research and computer hardware. There may be a possibility of some level of collaboration with them in the future.

Visitors :

- Dan Richter, who is on sabbatical from his teaching duties at Duke University, spent a week with Mac Callaham learning the esoteric art of soil invertebrate identification.



Personnel News :

- Ross Phillips, Helen Mohr, Gregg Chapman and Chuck Flint, of the Uplands Team, received spot awards for excellence in field support of the National Fire and Fire Surrogate Study.

- Cynthia Fowler, Joe O'Brien, and Rick Reitz passed the Arduous Level of Work Capacity Test for Wildland Firefighter II and obtained their Red Cards. Fowler also received training to administer the test from Tommy Anderson, FMO from Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. Ken Forbus passed the Moderate Level of the test (he's an old guy).

Name: Ken Forbus
Birthday: Dec. 11, 1950

Qualifications:
passed the *Moderate*
Level for Wildland
Firefighter II.



News from around the Region :

• Region 8 State and Private Forestry, the Forest Products Lab, and the Southern Group of State Foresters initiated a 12-month project to develop a strategic action plan that addresses the gap between supply and demand for southern timber resources. Tommy Loggins, a 1970 graduate of the School of Forest Resources and 1974 graduate of the College of Business Administration, both at UGA, is a consultant hired for the project. His assignment includes identifying new and existing uses for low-value, small diameter, otherwise underutilized trees, identification of alternative markets, and making recommendations for new research & development opportunities for value-added fiber resource utilization across the 13 State Southern Region. Focus will also include identifying those factors affecting the marketing of hardwood forest products. Specific objectives are to: identify alternative markets for low-valued trees and small diameter pine, thinning and forest fuel reduction activities, and dead, dying and damaged forest resources; focus on factors driving change in the furniture and hardwood industry; evaluate biomass energy opportunities; and to focus on short-term accomplishments, while identifying long-term opportunities. Loggins can be reached at 404-347-2451 in the Cooperative Forestry office in Region 8, Atlanta; E-mail is tloggins@fs.fed.us.



• The InnoWood Research Database provides access to information on more than 500 projects on research, training and education for Forestry, Timber and

Furniture; it can be accessed at www.innovawood.com. The developers invite people to contribute to the portal; research and technology transfer summaries, relevant events, and other arrangements that may be of interest to the users of the forest wood-based chain. The portal focuses mostly on European work but developers seem open to including relevant work from the colonies.

• Entergy has begun using intensive forest management to support carbon sequestration at their Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, located near Port Gibson, Miss. They converted 65 acres of box elder, sweetgum, dogwood and elm trees and planted 9,400 cypress, ash and oak trees in their place. Their thinking is to remove trees that are less desirable for timber, wildlife and carbon sequestration in order to plant trees that grow longer and larger. They will monitor the amount of carbon on the site in 5 years, then every 10 years thereafter. Entergy has committed \$5 million per year, available over five years, to fund projects from both Entergy endeavors and in partnership with external organizations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with about 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, and it is the second-largest nuclear generator in the United States. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.6 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. (Source: PRNewswire-FirstCall)

• Georgia-Pacific Corp. plans to sell its Brunswick Pulp subsidiary to KoCell LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Koch Industries, Inc. They have signed a letter of intent for Koch to acquire Georgia-Pacific's non-integrated fluff and market pulp operations for \$610 million, including Georgia-Pacific's pulp mills at Brunswick, GA, and New Augusta, MS,

a short-line railroad servicing the New Augusta mill and the assets of two international sales offices. Annual fluff pulp capacity at the Brunswick mill is 826,000 tons. Fluff pulp is predominantly used in products such as disposable diapers, baby wipes and sanitary products. In 2002, the New Augusta, MS, mill had annual market pulp capacity of 628,000 tons. Goods commonly produced from market pulp include fine papers, postage stamps, tissue products and coffee filters. Combined, the facilities being sold employ approximately 1,100 people. Koch Industries, Inc., based in Wichita, KS, owns a diverse group of companies engaged in trading, operations and investments worldwide.

• What's in a name? Apparently the ability to be pronounced is important. A name change is in store for the world's largest producer of magazine and catalog papers, in conjunction with a global re-branding campaign. UPM-Kymmene will become just UPM in all commercial communication. The Company, however, will continue to use "UPM-Kymmene" in legal and financial transactions and communications, as well as in its Website and e-mail addresses. The Company's griffin logo also will continue to be used, accompanied by the "UPM" lettering. The second half of the Company's unusual name (pronounced "Kim-Mea-Knee" by most North Americans and "Que-Ma-Kna" by many Europeans) was formed when the Finland-headquartered corporation was created in 1995 by a merger of Kymmene Corp. with Repola Ltd. and its subsidiary, United Paper Mills Ltd. (UPM). Although the current corporate entity is relatively new, its origins extend to the early 1870s when the Kymi (short for "Kymijoki," or "mighty river" in Finnish) paper mill was founded along the banks of Finland's

well-known Kymi River. “Kymmene” is the Swedish language version of “Kymijoki.” Swedish enters into the Company’s legacy because, in earlier times, Finland’s Swedish-speaking minority ran much of its paper industry. (Sweden and Finland are separated only by the Baltic Sea’s narrow Gulf of Bothnia, and to this day, many Finns learn to speak Swedish, in addition to Finnish and English). This change applies to the Company’s Corporate, Paper and Wood Products divisions and their respective units and functions throughout the 17 countries — including the United States and Canada — in which UPM has operations. (Source: PRNewswire-FirstCall)



thousands of km of electrical and telephone wires, caused more than one billion euros in damage. (Source: AFP)

- For fashion experts, khaki is the new black; for music enthusiasts, hip-hop is the new pop; and for DIY-ers, maroon is the new gray - at least when it comes to duct tape. Now, duct tape enthusiasts can add maroon as a new color to their toolboxes. (Source: BusinessWire)

- A little soils humor: A friend was describing her canine companion on a recent road trip from Boulder, CO to Boston, MA, caused by a persistent inner-ear infection that made air travel impossible. The dog, Mollisol, is a chocolate lab named after an order of soils with characteristic deep brown or black organic horizons. According to the friend, “I guess that makes her a soils lab.”

- Portugal will spend 200 million euros (\$250 million) over the next three years to reforest up to 60% of the 280,000 hectares destroyed during a wave of summer wildfires that killed 20 people between late July and mid-September of 2003. The government estimates the fires, which destroyed some 100 homes as well as

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An agroforest in Kodi, West Sumba, Indonesia. Notice the dried coconut frond hanging horizontally between the trees. This is a *weri* which signifies a harvest prohibition on the fruits and/or wood of an individual tree or an entire tree stand. See the new publication by Cynthia Fowler.

Upcoming Events :

2004

- Feb 2-3** 2nd Annual Western Gulf Forest Soils Tour, Alexandria, LA
- Mar 1-2** SRS Management Team meeting, Atlanta
- Mar 2-4** Southern Research Station All Scientists Meeting, Atlanta
- Mar 3-5** National Fire Plan and Wildland Fire Conference 2004, Reno, NV http://www.iafc.org/pdf/conf/WF04_attendee.pdf
- Mar 17-19** 14th Central Hardwood Forest Conference, Wooster, OH.
<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/chfc2004/>
- Mar 24-27** Coastal Plain Chapter, Society for Ecological Restoration Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC; www.ser-coastalplains.org
- May 25-29** IUFRO Conference, Restoration of forest soils in polluted areas, Praha, Czech Republic, <http://www-ldf.mendelu.cz/konference/rfspa/>
- May 3-7** 12th meeting of the International Boreal Forest Research Association, "Climate-Disturbance Interactions in Boreal Forest Ecosystems", Fairbanks, Alaska
<http://www.lter.uaf.edu/ibfra/default.cfm>
- May 4-5** AF&PA's Agenda 2020 Wood and Wood Composites Task Group—formerly the Committee on Research Evaluation (CORE)—meeting, Forest Products Lab in Madison, WI
- May 11-13** Interagency Fire and Air Group meeting, Athens; contact Gary Achtemeier (gachtemeier@fs.fed.us) for information
- Jun 14-18** IUFRO Division 1 - Silviculture Conference, CIRADForet, in Montpellier, France. **Note date change.**
- Jun 24-26** Greenhouse gas emissions and abrupt climate change: Positive options and robust policy, Paris, France; dates and location tentative; <http://www.iiasa.ac.at>

- Jun 27-Jul 2** First Agroforestry World Congress, Orlando, FL
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/wca/#background>
- Jul 25-31** 7th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
<http://www.bio.uu.nl/INTECOL>
- Aug 15-20** Large-Scale Experiments for Sustainable Forestry: Balancing Ecosystem Values; International IUFRO Workshop, Portland, OR. <http://outreach.cof.orst.edu/ecosystem> Call for papers now out, abstracts due January 30!!
- Aug 23-27** Society Ecological Restoration International annual meeting, Victoria, BC; <http://www.ser.org/meeting.php?pg=call4abstracts2004>
- Sep 1-2** Forest IT 2004 Exhibition and Congress, Jyväskylä, Finland; <http://www.ForestIT.net>
- Sep 3-7** European Forest Institute (EFI) Annual Meeting, Bangor, Wales (UK).
- Sep 4-12** EUROSIL, Freiburg, Germany; www.forst.uni-freiburg.de/eurosoil
- Sep 12-16** IUFRO Conference Regenerating Mountain Forests, Kloster Seeon, Bavaria, Germany; http://www.forst.tu-muenchen.de/events/rmf2004/index_en.html
- *Sep 20-22** IUFRO All Division 8 Conference, Conservation biology and ecosystem functioning in plantation forests, Bordeaux, France; http://www.pierroton.inra.fr/IEFC/manifestations/IUFROD8_2004registration.php
- Sep 27-30** IUFRO Conference: The Economics and Management of High Productivity Plantations, Lugo, Spain; <http://www.lugo.usc.es/iufro>
- Oct 1-7** The National Wilderness Summit and Expo will be held, Denver, CO; <http://www.wilderness.net/40th>

- Oct 2-6** Society American Foresters Annual Meeting, held jointly with Canadian Institute of Forestry, Edmonton, Alberta
- Oct 18-22** Advancing the Fundamental Sciences - A Conference for Forest Service Physical Scientists San Diego, CA
- Oct 19-21** SRS Management Team meeting, Coweeta or New Orleans
- Mar 2-4** Southern Research Station All Scientists Meeting
- Oct 31-Nov 3** Soil Science Society of America Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- Nov 6-8** Southeastern Society American Foresters Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL "Managing forests for wildlife"
- Nov 7-11** Short Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group Biennial Meeting, Charleston, SC
- Nov 8-12** Short Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group Biennial Meeting, Charleston, SC (date change)
- Nov 17-25** IUCN Third World Conservation Congress (WCC), Bangkok.
- Nov 24-26** Introduction of broadleaf species for sustainable forest management, international conference sponsored by SUSTMAN project at the University of Ulm, to be held in Reisenburg, Germany, <http://www.sustman.de>

2005

- Aug 8-13** IUFRO World Congress, Brisbane, Australia. Stanturf to attend. <http://www.iufro2005.com>
- Aug/Sep** Society for Ecological Restoration 17th International Conference, Zaragoza, Spain.

- Oct 19-23** Society American Foresters Annual Meeting, Ft. Worth, TX
- Nov 6-10** Soil Science Society of American Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT
- TBD** 5th International Conference on Forest Vegetation Management, IUFRO Research Group 1.13.00 Forest Vegetation Management. Corvallis, Oregon, USA Contact: [Robin Rose](mailto:Robin.Rose@orst.edu), robin.rose@orst.edu.
- 2006**
- Jul 9-15** 18th World Congress of Soil Science, in Philadelphia, PA <http://www.18wcss.org>



Kodi women collecting yams in a secondary upland forest in Indonesia.

SRS-4104 Project Leader's Report

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