

Forest Health Monitoring Program

Monthly Update

December 2013

WHAT'S NEW

Wes Nettleton (U.S. Forest Service, State & Private Forestry), Forest Health Protection Director for the Southern Region, will be retiring on January 3, 2014. After graduating from the Duke University School of Forestry, Wes worked in Department of Entomology at NC State University for six years. He started with Forest Health Protection as an entomologist in the Alexandria Field Office in 1980, and moved to Regional Office in Atlanta 1988. In 2002 he became the Director of FHP for the Southern Region and has been active in Forest Health Monitoring program specifically with the early development of the National Insect and Disease Risk map. Congratulations and best wishes to Wes as he begins retirement.

U.S. Forest Service Region 8 has announced that Don Duerr (U.S. Forest Service, Region 8) will serve as the Acting Director of Forest Health Protection beginning in January 2014. Don is currently the Regional Entomologist and located in the Regional Office in Atlanta. He can be contacted at dduerr@fs.fed.us or (404) 347-3541.

Dale Starkey (U.S. Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection), Forest Health Monitoring Manager for the Southern Region will be retiring on January 3, 2014. Dale started his career as an Assistant Farm Forester, Special Projects Forester, and contractor with the Missouri Department of Conservation. He also served as an Area Extension Forester with Kansas State University. Since 1981, Dale has been a Plant Pathologist in R8 Forest Health Protection. In 2008 he took on the coordination duties for the Forest Health Monitoring Program in the Southern Region and served on the FHM Management Team. Congratulations and best wishes to Dale as he begins retirement.

U.S. Forest Service Region 8 has announced that Dr. John Nowak (U.S. Forest Service, Region 8) will be the FHM Acting Southern Regional Manager beginning in January 2014. John is an entomologist and the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program Manager in Asheville, NC. He can be contacted at jnowak@fs.fed.us or 828-257-4326.

Steve Oak (U.S. Forest Service, State & Private Forestry), forest pathologist with the Southern Region, Forest Health Protection, will retire effective January 11, 2014. Steve began his professional career in 1977 researching pitch canker disease of southern pines at the University of Florida. For the past 33 years, he has been privileged to work in his dream job with FHP in Asheville, NC. He has served as national technical coordinator of the *Phytophthora ramorum* Early Detection Survey of Forests since its inception in 2003. Congratulations and best wishes to Steve as he begins retirement.

Christian Torres-Santana (U.S. Forest Service International Institute of Tropical Forestry) has shared that he will be leaving for a new position as the Director of the [Parque Doña Inés](#), a metropolitan arboretum of the Luis Muñoz Marín Foundation beginning January 15, 2014. Christian has been a valued colleague of the Forest Health Monitoring Program and a strong advocate for forest health in the Caribbean. He has developed many productive partnerships with state agencies, universities and non-profit organizations and institutions in the US Caribbean and internationally. We wish him well in his new position.

UPCOMING **EVENTS**

(Items beginning with * indicate a new listing or new information)

January 14-16, 2014. Conecuh National Forest, southern AL. The Southwide Forest Disease Workshop. The meeting will be held at the Solon Dixon Education Center, a 5000 acre demonstration forest used by a number of universities, and State and federal agencies interested in natural resources. Plans are to have research abstracts for paper presentations, project reviews/station reports, a field trip, a poster session, and graduate student competition. The deadline for registration is December 1, 2013. For more information including registration, lodging, and all deadlines, visit the [Southwide Forest Disease Workshop website](#)

March 18-20, 2014. Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. The 2014 Northeastern Forest Pest Council (NEFPC) Meeting. The meeting will be held in Quebec City - Tuesday March 18 A.M. to Thursday March 20 noon (2.5 days) and include a student forum, state and province forest health updates, and presentations on current research of forest health issues in the U.S. and Canada. Topics planned include emerald ash borer, spruce budworm and white pine blister rust. If you have a topic you would like to see covered or would like to present your research please contact Julie Coop. ph: 617-797-3392 Email: julie.coop@state.ma.us. If you are a student and would like to be a part of the student forum please see the website and contact Dr. William H. Livingston by January 17, 2014. ph: 207-581-2990 Email: WilliamL@maine.edu. The Delta hotel has set up links for room reservations (Deadline is February 18):

English: [Delta Hotel link for room reservations in English](#)

French: [Delta Hotel link for room reservations in French](#)

If you are traveling from the US don't forget to make sure your passport is in order:

[U.S. government link to passport information](#)

More information about the NEFPC can be found at: [Link to more information about the Northeastern Forest Pest Council](#)

***March 25-27, 2014. SAVE THE DATE!** The Forest Health Monitoring Program Biennial Meeting Workgroup Meeting is being planned to be held on March 25-27, 2014 near Jacksonville, FL. Please stay tuned for more details in future Updates.

July 7-11, 2014. Manoa, HI. Island Biology 2014. This international conference will be held at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The conference will consist of plenary lectures, symposia, contributed talks, and posters. Content will cover a broad range of taxa, regions, and biological disciplines. The deadline for abstract submissions is

January 31, 2014. The deadline for notification of acceptance is February 28, 2014. Final acceptance requires that the author register for the conference by April 15, 2014. For more information including instructions for submitting an abstract, visit the conference [Island Biology 2014 internal conference website](#).

Job Opportunities

The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection Region 8 is seeking to fill one GS-0401-13 (Biologist) position that serves as the Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Southern Regional Program Manager. The Regional Forest Health Monitoring Program Manager is responsible for the Southern Region's part of the national Forest Health Monitoring Program. The FHM Program Manager is an expert in the field of forest health and monitoring of forest pest damage. He/she is a key member of the regional Forest Health Protection staff unit and serves as the principal advisor to the FHP Director on forest health monitoring issues. The manager serves on the national FHM Management Team with the national FHM program manager, regional FHM managers, and others who direct the program. The incumbent coordinates efforts of state, national forest, and other cooperators for forest pest detection, occurrence, and damage reporting. Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) Program ground plot data and other data sources are often used in analyses and reports. A key component of FHM is upward reporting using standard methods and databases. Special surveys and evaluation projects are often funded as enhancements to regular program activities. This position is in the Forest Health Protection Unit. The duty station is the Southern Regional Office, 1720 Peachtree Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA, 30309. The Southern Region is a dynamic collection of lands, cared for by people as a legacy for future generations. We believe that benefits to people flow from healthy land, which healthy land is conserved through wise management and that management are most effective when shared. The Forest Service employs about 250 people at the Atlanta regional headquarters, and about 3,000 throughout the South. There are 13.3 million acres of National Forest System lands in the Southern Region, and because of fragmentation and population pressures, State and Private Forestry is integral to the Region's overall program delivery. If you are interested in this position, you are encouraged to express your interest in the position by completing the attached Outreach Response Form (attached to this Update as attachment 1). The vacancy announcement will be advertised on the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management website](#). If you would like more information about this opportunity, please contact Debra Harrell at 404-347-1628 or by email at daharrell@fs.fed.us. Please use the appropriate attached Outreach Response Form and send your response to Deidre Smith at dwsmith@fs.fed.us by **January 3, 2014**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Office of the Morgantown Field Representative is seeking to fill one GS-0414-11/12 Entomologist position through the **FS Merit Promotion Plan**. This is a permanent position stationed at the Morgantown Field Office in Morgantown, West Virginia. The vacancy announcement is not yet open. This employee will serve as part of a team providing technical advice, assistance and guidance on various forest health and forest

entomology issues to state and federal cooperators throughout the Mid-Atlantic States. The position combines technology transfer, various field surveys and evaluations, and interaction with diverse stakeholders including Federal and non-Federal. Travel and frequent field work is required. The Morgantown Field Office is one of three field units of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry ([public Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry website](#)). The field office delivers both forest health and forest management programs (stewardship, urban/community forestry) to the Mid-Atlantic States including the District of Columbia. The Forest Health staff services 3 National Forests and other Federal sites within the mid-Atlantic region including the National Park Service, Department of Defense, and the US Fish and Wildlife. The Morgantown Field Office of State and Private Forestry is co-located with the Northern Research Station Morgantown Field Site at 180 Canfield Street. The Northeastern Area of State and Private Forestry serves 20 states and the District of Columbia, which includes 43% of the nation's population and 23% of the nation's forests, of which 93% are nonfederal. The huge land base is part of the challenge and the excitement of working in a productive and highly regarded State and Private Forestry unit. Non-native insect and disease invasive species early detection, cooperative pest detection surveys, urban forest health, and invasive plants are part of the workload in the Northeastern Area. The Morgantown Field Office encounters major complex forest and shade tree entomology issues including: beech bark disease, hemlock woolly adelgid, gypsy moth, and southern pine beetle as well as detection and survey efforts for walnut twig beetle and exotic/introduced bark beetles. To express interest in this position please complete the outreach form (attached to this Update as attachment 2) by **December 25, 2013** and for additional information please contact via e-mail Daniel Twardus, Forest Health Group Leader at dtwardus@fs.fed.us or 304-285-1545 or Robert Lueckel, Field Representative, Morgantown Field Office, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry (304) 285-1540 or rlueckel@fs.fed.us. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC) of the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station is recruiting for a Biological Scientist position located in Raleigh, North Carolina. The position is targeted for the GS-12 grade level. This is a permanent position. This position is located in the Eastern Environmental Threat Assessment Center, Southern Research Station Raleigh office. The position provides professional support (75%) and also develops independent research projects within problem areas established by the supervisor (25%). This assignment is directed at (1) quantifying impacts of forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) on water quality protection, (2) improving the understanding of nitrogen deposition impacts on eastern US forest health, and (3) defining roles of yellow birch in Southern Appalachians as an indicator of climate change risk. Assignments includes identifying different soil types and performing laboratory analysis on soil samples, collecting and analyzing appropriate soil, foliage, and tree core data for evaluating the impacts of anthropogenic stressors and forest management practices on forest ecosystems on a plot and/or regional scale. The incumbent will also be responsible for cleaning and formatting data for statistical analyses, some of which are moderately complex, using multiple statistical software tools (e.g., SAS, JMP, SYSTAT) to streamline data management and processing, managing and interpreting large hydrology databases, recording and processing multiple datasets using statistical tools and analysis, integrating data with other projects for understanding future

management strategies, and resolving issues with missing data or preparing reports to facilitate preliminary evaluations of results. The candidate will write and publish project data in peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts and general technical reports, present findings at conferences and plans, coordinates, and conducts field site tours for visiting scientists, other federal and state agencies, and nonprofits. The position requires (1) comprehensive professional knowledge of the biological sciences sufficient to modify or adapt standard techniques, processes and procedures applicable to the coordination of projects; to assess and apply precedents to the resolution of complex situations; to devise strategies and plans to overcome significant scientific or analytical problems; and to monitor product quality and correct deficiencies; (2) working knowledge of a broad range of natural resource disciplines sufficient to serve as a coordinator and troubleshooter with respect to the management and coordination of projects; (3) knowledge of data processing and soil and forest interactions to manage, prepare, and manipulate data; (4) knowledge of statistical software programs and packages such as SYSAT, SAS, and JMP to perform complex mathematical computations on large datasets; and (5) ability to communicate in writing in order to complete reports and scientific publications. Candidates interested in the position should submit a completed Outreach Response form (attached to this Update as attachment 3) to William Foster no later than **December 25, 2013**. It is anticipated that the vacancy announcement will be posted on the ([U.S. Office of Personnel Management website](#)). For more information about the position contact Ge Sun, Research Hydrologist, at (919) 515-9498 or e-mail gesun@fs.fed.us. If you would like to learn more about EFETAC, visit the [EFETAC website](#). Should you like to learn more about the Southern Research Station, visit the [Southern Research Station website](#). *USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity employer.*

The USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region will soon be advertising to fill a permanent, full-time Entomologist on the Forest Health staff located in Flagstaff, AZ. The target grade is GS-414-12 and may be advertised as a GS-414-9/11/12. This position will be supervised by the Arizona Zone Leader. The major duties for this position include: plans and coordinates all aspects of a major insect detection, evaluation, prevention and suppression program with a complex of bark beetles and forest defoliators found in the Southwest; provides site-specific, technical assistance and information concerning forest health issues to the National Forests of Arizona and other Federal, State and Tribal lands, and site visits may require long periods of driving, frequent overnight travel, and hiking over uneven terrain in mountainous forest settings; prepares plans, organizes assigned staff members, collects field data, supervises field crews, processes and analyzes data, consults with other professionals, evaluates results, and makes recommendations to meet technical objectives; organizes, plans and conducts forest health related training programs, presentations or seminars for various Federal, State and Tribal agencies; serves as a team leader or team member of various integrated and cross-disciplinary teams; conceives and conducts special evaluations in collaboration with research relative to insect biology, ecological relationships, parasitic effects, survey methodology or new control techniques. The Arizona Zone Office consists of 1 zone leader, 1 plant pathologist, 2 entomologists, and 1 biological technician. They maintain an active and full forest health program including all aspects of surveillance, detection, technical assistance, technology development, training, and prevention & suppression. The office is co-located with the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station on the campus of Northern Arizona

University. This arrangement allows for interaction with natural resource research scientists with both state and federal agencies. If you are interested in this position please submit a completed Outreach Response form (attached to this Update as attachment 4) to John Anhold (U.S. Forest Service) by the close of business **January 17, 2014**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection, Southern Regional Office may shortly be advertising the Director of Forest Health Protection position. This position, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist (GS-0401-14/15), is responsible for providing leadership, direction, policy formulation, administration, and supervision of the forest health programs of the Southern Region. This involves management of forest insect, disease and non-native invasive plant activities on all forested lands in the South. The Director is a recognized Regional authority will provide program guidance, strategy and development. The Forest Health Protection program provides: technical assistance; technology development and transfer; biological evaluations; funding to support pest suppression, eradication, and prevention projects; monitoring; and planning to protect, improve, and restore the health of the Region's forested ecosystems. This position is in the Forest Health Protection Unit. The duty station is the Southern Regional Office, Atlanta, GA, 30309. If interested, you are encouraged to express your interest in the position by completing the Outreach Response Form (attached to this Update as attachment 5). The vacancy announcement will be advertised on the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management website](#). If you would like more information about this opportunity, please contact Debra Harrell (U.S. Forest Service) at 404-347-1628 or by email at daharrell@fs.fed.us. Please use the attached Outreach Response Form and send your response to Ken Arney (U.S. Forest Service) by **January 17, 2014**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

Ph.D. Assistantship in Forest Health at the University of Georgia - The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia, Athens invites applications from highly motivated and enthusiastic students for a Ph.D. Assistantship starting in Fall 2014/Spring 2015. This collaborative work with Dr. Kamal Gandhi (University of Georgia) and Dr. Rima Lucardi (USDA Forest Service) will focus on a newly documented scale insect species (*Matsucoccus macrocitrices*) in the southeastern U.S., its interaction with associated fungal organisms, and its potential contribution affecting the fitness of eastern white pine. Major objectives include, but are not limited to the determination of the ecological relationship(s) between eastern white pine, the newly documented scale species, and parasitic fungal complexes through population genetics and biogeographical approaches. This program will require extensive field sampling with dedication in the laboratory and during computational analyses. Strong cooperative relationships with other research institutions, governmental agencies (state and federal), and NGO's will also be developed. Ideal candidates would already possess both extensive field and molecular laboratory experience, a strong statistical background, and an independent spirit to develop, conduct, and publish ecological and applied research. A Master's Degree in a related field, especially in molecular ecology or bioinformatics, is preferred. The [Forest Entomology laboratory](#) at University of Georgia is a dynamic group that works on a broad range of forest health issues, insect species, and ecosystem-types. They invite applications from highly self-motivated and enthusiastic students that are genuinely interested in working at the forefront of forest health issues. Training in forest

entomology, forest pathology, and molecular ecology will be provided. A competitive Ph.D. assistantship for three years along with full tuition waiver is available. Interested students should submit a statement of interest, current CV along with contact information for 3 referees, and unofficial transcripts to Dr. Kamal Gandhi (kjgandhi@uga.edu; 706-542-4614). The [Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources](#) is the oldest forestry school in the South, has >70 faculty working in diverse fields, and provides exemplary training of students in the fields of forestry, ecology, and conservation biology. The School is housed in a four-building complex on campus, and has >23,000 acres in the state for research, teaching, and service activities. [The University of Georgia](#) is a “land-grant and sea-grant university, and is also the state's oldest, most comprehensive and most diversified institution of higher education”. Its motto is: "to teach, to serve and to inquire into the nature of things". *The University of Georgia is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer.*

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Marler, T.E.; Lawrence, J.H.** 2013. Phytophagous insects reduce cycad resistance to tropical cyclone winds and impair storm recovery. *Hortscience* 48(10): 1224-1226.

FOR MORE FHM INFORMATION

Visit the [FHM homepage](#) and the [Forest Health Portal](#)
or access both via the [USDA Forest Service homepage](#)

Outreach Notices Response Form
Respond to Sharon Heidt
[\(sheidt@fs.fed.us\)](mailto:sheidt@fs.fed.us)

By January 3, 2014

Title of Outreach Position: Regional Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Program Manager

Series and Grade of Outreach Position: Biologist GS-0401-13

Unit Name of Outreach Notice: Forest Health Protection

Outreach Position Location: Atlanta, Georgia

RESPONDING EMPLOYEE:

Name: _____

Current Agency/Region/Forest/District: _____

Current Position Title: _____

Current Series and Grade: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Brief statement of how you think your experience/education meets the duties and basic qualifications of the outreach position.

OUTREACH NOTICE FORM

If you are interested in this Merit Promotion Plan position and want to receive a copy of the Vacancy Announcement, please complete this form and send via email to dtwardus@fs.fed.us Or you may complete the form and mail or fax to:

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Daniel Twardus –Group Leader, Forest Health
180 Canfield St
Morgantown, WV 26505

Fax: (304) 285-1505

I am interested and would like to receive a copy of the Vacancy Announcement for the following position:

Position Title/Series/Grade: *Entomologist, 0414, GS-11/12*

Location: *Office of the Field Representative, State and Private Forestry, Morgantown, West Virginia*

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

E-Mail Address:

Phone:

Current Title/Series/Grade:

Current Location:

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!

Please return this form to us no later than December 25, 2013.

Outreach Response Form

USDA Forest Service
Southern Research Station
Permanent Position

Position Title/Series/Grade: Biological Scientist GS-0401-12 Permanent

I am interested in the position and will call the contact person, in addition to checking [U.S. Office of Personnel Management](#) for the position announcement, which will be posted at a later date.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

E-Mail: _____

Current Federal Employee? Yes _____ No _____

Current title/series/grade/location: _____

Current type of appointment: _____
(e.g., Career, Career-Conditional, Excepted, Excepted VRA, etc)

Submit Outreach Notice to:

William Foster

E-mail: wfoster@fs.fed.us or

Mail: 920 Main Campus Drive Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27606

Phone: (919) 513-2974

It is anticipated that the vacancy announcement will be posted on OPM's ([USA Jobs website](#))

Please do not send résumés and/or transcripts when responding to this outreach notice.

The USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM ~ Entomologist GS-0414-9/11/12

Please submit this form by close of business January 17, 2014 to:

Return Form To:

John Anhold janhold@fs.fed.us **Fax: (928) 256-2130**
USDA Forest Service **Office: (928) 556-2073**
2500 S. Pine Knoll Dr.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

NOTE: The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish the appropriate recruitment method (service-wide, region-wide, government-wide, or DEMO, i.e. non-government). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination.

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

Government Employee: Yes___ No___

If Yes, name of Agency: _____

Current Duty Location: _____

Current Position (title/series/grade): _____

If no, Current Position: _____

Current Location: _____

Name of Current Employer: _____

**IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE
ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL
AUTHORITIES (please check those that apply):**

- ___ PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
- ___ VETERANS READJUSTMENT
- ___ DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
- ___ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
- ___ FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
- ___ STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
- ___ OTHER _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR VACANCY

Outreach Notices Response Form
Respond to Ken Arney
(karney@fs.fed.us)

By January 17, 2014

Title of Outreach Position: Director, Forest Health Protection

Series and Grade of Outreach Position: Biologist GS-0401-14/15

Unit Name of Outreach Notice: Forest Health Protection

Outreach Position Location: Atlanta, Georgia

RESPONDING EMPLOYEE:

Name: _____

Current Agency/Region/Forest/District: _____

Current Position Title: _____

Current Series and Grade: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Brief statement of how you think your experience/education meets the duties and basic qualifications of the outreach position.
