

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update September 2015

WHAT'S NEW

Manfred Mielke (Forest Health Protection) has accepted the Project Leader position for NRS 14, Director of the Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center located at Purdue University. The Center is a consortium of the FS, Purdue University, the Midwest hardwood industry, and individual supporters. Manfred began working with the Forest Health Monitoring Program in the early 1990's as the Damage Indicator Leader. He also was the North Central FHM Regional Program Manager and served on the FHM Management Team for many years. We wish Manfred well as he leaves the FHM program and begins his new position. (Please note that Jim Steinman (jsteinman@fs.fed.us) is currently handling Regional Program Manager matters for the FHM North Central Region.)

Evaluation Monitoring (EM) Request for Proposals – The Forest Health Monitoring Program is requesting proposals for FY 2016 EM projects designed to determine the extent, severity, and causes of undesirable changes in forest health. Project proposals for new and continuing projects should be submitted by **September 30, 2015** to the appropriate FHM Regional Manager: Jim Steinman for Northeast and North Central FHM Regions (jsteinman@fs.fed.us), Chris Asaro for Southern FHM Region (casaro@fs.fed.us), Jeri Lyn Harris for Interior West FHM Region (jharris@fs.fed.us), or Alison Nelson for West Coast FHM Region (asnelson@fs.fed.us). The FHM Regional Managers will, in turn, forward their top selected proposals to the Washington Office by November 6, 2015. Detailed instructions and a template for project proposals are available on the [EM portion of the FHM website](#), click on *2016 EM Proposal Guidelines*.

Additional Forest Health Protection (FHP) requests for proposals are available on the [Forest Health Protection website](#). Requests for the following programs area available: Special Technology Development Program (STDP); Forest Service Pesticide Impact Program (FS-PIAP); and Biological Control of Invasive Plants (BCIP).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

September 17-20, 2015. Ashland, OR. 2015. 2015 Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation Annual Science and Management Workshop. The Genetics and Restoration of Whitebark Pine on the Pacific Coast workshop and field tours to

Crater Lake National Park, Crater Creek and Dorena Genetic Resource Center are still scheduled for Sept. 17-20 in Ashland, Oregon. Please check the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation [website](#). for current updates or contact Kristen Chadwick at kchadwick@fs.fed.us) or 503-668-1474 OR Richard Sniezko at rsniezko@fs.fed.us or 541-767-5716 for the latest information. This will be the first time the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation (WPEF) has had their scientific meeting in the Pacific Coast range of whitebark pine – a chance to feature unique aspects of this part of the range (California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia), the other high elevation white pine species, and to hear key information from scientists and managers from other areas. The hope is to feature not only whitebark pine, but also the other high-elevation 5-needle pines (foxtail, limber, southwestern white pine, the two bristlecone pines – many of which occur in this area [and notably in California]). Also, the definitive (through 2015) information on genetic blister rust resistance will be available. The Crater Lake National Park field trip will feature many things, including the successful restoration plantings they have established, the dramatic impacts of mountain pine beetle on whitebark pine, the selection of trees for resistance testing and gene conservation, and much more. There will be an indoor session followed by a poster session, and multiple field trips.

September 21-25, 2015. Newport, OR. The 63rd Western International Forest Disease Work Conference (WIFDWC). The conference will be held at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn. Register with the inn by **August 21, 2015** to receive the conference rate. Visit [the conference website](#) for updated information about the conference as it becomes available.

October 28-29, 2015. Logan, UT. Restoring the West Conference 2015. This annual conference to be held at Utah State University in Logan, UT addresses prominent science and management issues in the western U.S. This year's theme will be "Fire ecology and restoration in the Interior West" and will feature aspen and cohort forest communities, as well as other vegetation zones. Check the [Restoring the West](#) website as details continue to be posted in the coming months.

November 3-7, 2015. Baton Rouge, LA. Society of American Foresters 2015 National Convention. The theme of the convention is *Recreating Forestry: The Confluence of Science, Society, and Technology*. The 2015 call for presentations is currently posted. The deadline for presentation submissions was March 31, 2015. The deadline for poster submissions is **September 30, 2015**. For complete information about the convention, visit the [Society of American Foresters convention website](#).

December 8-10, 2015. Portland, OR. 2015 Forest Inventory and Analysis Science Symposium. The US Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program is pleased to announce the 2015 FIA Science Symposium. The theme of the 12th biennial Science Symposium is *Pushing Boundaries – New Directions in Inventory Techniques & Applications*, emphasizing the development of innovative approaches to incorporating non-traditional approaches and uses of inventory information. The Symposium brings together international forest scientists, managers, and stakeholders to share insights on a wide variety of topics, including contemporary issues, science policy,

mensuration, geospatial products, and inventory methods. For more information about the symposium, visit [the symposium website](#) or contact Sharon Stanton (sharonMstanton@fs.fed.us).

May 16-19, 2016. Chicago, IL. Gene Conservation of Tree Species: Banking on the Future. Early Alert! The USDA Forest Service is sponsoring a workshop that will bring together a mix of land managers, conservation and restoration practitioners, researchers, and non-governmental organizations who share the goal of conserving tree species. The workshop will include invited and contributed presentations and posters, and a field trip hosted by The Morton Arboretum. More information including the call for papers and posters is available at the [workshop website](#).

UPCOMING **WEBINARS**

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

***Urban Forest Connection webinar series: Urban FIA: Bringing the Nation's Forest Census to Urban Areas. Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. ET.** Last year, the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program began developing an urban inventory program in recognition of the need to include urban forests in its nationwide forest census and in response to legislative direction in the 2014 Farm Bill. The FIA program has inventoried the nation's forests since 1930 – while the program has piloted urban inventory approaches in years past, FIA had never formalized an urban forest approach until last year. This webinar will present an introduction to the new Urban FIA program, key information on Urban FIA methods, and the very latest on efforts currently underway in Baltimore MD, Austin TX, Madison and Milwaukee WI, Providence RI, and other “first” cities. The speakers will discuss early successes, future developments, and how the U.S. Forest Service plans to work with partners to implement the program across the nation. **Mark Majewsky** (USDA Forest Service) will provide an overview of the FIA program and new urban inventory methods, including differences between urban and rural data collection and synergies with i-Tree Eco. **Dick Rideout** and **Andrew Stoltman** (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources) will explain how and why the State of Wisconsin is redefining its forest inventory efforts and embarking on a statewide Urban FIA initiative. **Chris Edgar** (Texas A&M Forest Service) will present key findings from Urban FIA work now completed in Austin, TX – the first city to collect and publish a full set of Urban FIA data. Edgar will discuss the importance of seamless rural to urban monitoring, and how Urban FIA data can strengthen urban forest management and advocacy efforts. This webinar is open to all. Your [RSVP](#) is appreciated, but not required. Contact the [Urban Forest Technology & Science Delivery Team](#) with questions, feedback, requests for special accommodations, speaker suggestions, or to be added to the mailing list. Please feel free to forward this announcement to interested parties. See [the Urban Connections website](#) for updates and to watch recordings of previous webinars and **to access the current webinar**.

***Learn at Lunch Live Webinar: Strategy for Successful Urban Tree Growth in Wet and Dry Sites.** (Sponsored by the Utah State University Forestry Extension, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, and TREE Fund)
Speakers: Dr. Nina Bassuk (Professor, Cornell University) and Dr. Hallie Dozier (Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University, TREE Fund Trustee, Research and Education Committee Chair). Droughts, flooding, extreme temperatures – today’s variable weather patterns can leave urban foresters with soils that are too wet or too dry, making it more challenging than ever to grow strong, healthy trees. What can you do to increase your odds for success? Dr. Nina Bassuk of Cornell University will discuss the secrets of science-based soil modification strategies to increase a tree’s ability to access water. Discover plant selection resources and expand your palette of plant choices for challenging conditions. No registration is required! 1 CEU is available from the following organizations: International Society of Arboriculture, and Society of American Foresters. This webinar will be conducted at **12:00 p.m. (MST) on September 23, 2015**. To access this free webinar, visit [the webinar information site](#) for more details. Plan to access the site a few minutes early.

The Sustainable Forest Roundtable offers periodic webinars. For information about accessing past and future webinars, please visit [the Webinar Portal for Sustainable Forests](#).

Job Opportunities

The U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry (SPF) is advertising an Entomologist/Plant Pathologist position (GS-0434/0414-13). This position is in the Southwestern Regional Office in Albuquerque, NM. The incumbent serves as the Forest Health Protection (FHP) Group Leader within the State and Private Forestry (SPF) organization. The position has responsibility for providing long-range planning, program direction, coordination, evaluation of program activities and staff supervision. The program includes professional assistance to all Federal, State, and private agencies within the Region. For additional information about the position, including how to apply, view the full vacancy announcements on the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management website](#). The job announcement for federal career and status eligible applicants (see announcement for a full list) is 15-03-148374G-MB. The open period is **Friday, August 28, 2015 to Tuesday, September 8, 2015**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The U.S. Forest Service, State & Private Forestry (S&PF) is currently advertising a Supervisory Entomologist/Plant Pathologist position (GS-0434-0414-13). This is a Regional Office position on the State & Private Forestry staff with a duty location of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The position: serves as the recognized scientific expert in Forest Health Protection (FHP), including forest insect and pathogen identification, detection, evaluation, prevention and control;

provides coordination and liaison between staff and federal/state/private/tribal and managers regarding technical assistance, federally funded projects, and special projects needs to meet program objectives. Formulates plans, and organizes, coordinates, and directs FHP activities on forest lands in cooperation with resource managers; conducts special evaluations, often collaborating with research contacts, to gain additional specific knowledge concerning insect/pathogen biology, ecological relationships, parasitic effects, survey methodology, or new control techniques; is responsible for developing reports and publications such as insect and disease conditions, forest pest leaflets, and other special publications to meet state, private, federal, and tribal land managers' needs; develops written guidelines requiring a high degree of judgment which are incorporated into various resource project plans; participates inter-regionally with upper-level management and group leaders in formulating regional policies, programs, and standards for federally funded forest insect and disease prevention, suppression and restoration projects; supervises administrative, professional and technical employees: assigns work and establishes quality standards; conducts performance reviews; effects minor disciplinary measures; and provides for the developmental and training needs of subordinates. For additional information about the position, including how to apply, view the full vacancy announcements on www.usajobs.gov. The job announcement for all U.S. citizens and Nationals is 15-01-150571DP-SG and the open period is **Tuesday, September 1, 2015 to Tuesday, September 8, 2015**. The job announcement for federal career and status eligible applicants (see announcement for a full list) is 15-01-150571FS-SG and the open period is **Tuesday, September 1, 2015 to Thursday, September 10, 2015**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

Michigan State University, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences and Department of Forestry, is currently advertising for an annual year (12-month) tenure-track position at the assistant professor rank with a focus in forest and ornamental tree pathology. The position will be a joint appointment in Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences (60%) and Forestry (40%). The position will include extension (50%), research (40%), and teaching (10%) with responsibilities directed at pathogens affecting trees in forested and urban settings. The successful candidate will establish a competitive externally-funded research and extension program that advances our fundamental understanding of forest and urban tree diseases. An integrative approach to both extension and research is expected; this includes working with multidisciplinary teams of research scientists, extension specialists, extension educators, and stakeholders to develop research and educational activities and to provide a leadership role in the plant pathology of forest and tree diseases. Active participation in the Extension Natural Resources team and other teams relevant to this position is expected. The successful candidate will be expected to combine innovative research and information transfer to client groups, develop a national and internationally recognized research program by securing competitive external funding, publish in peer-reviewed journals, recruit and mentor graduate students, and advance the understanding and management of forest pathogens. Extension activities should focus on solving critical disease issues affecting forested ecosystems and urban landscapes. A collaborative and multidisciplinary

approach to problem solving with scientists and stakeholders is expected. The successful candidate will co-instruct an undergraduate level course on insects and diseases of forest and shade trees. Additional responsibilities may also include undergraduate mentoring, departmental and university service, and professional service. Required qualifications include an earned Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, Forestry, Natural Resources, or a related field, with demonstrated training and expertise in forest pathology. Applicants should have a record of scholarly activities in their field. Although not required, value will be placed on evidence of successful applied research or extension experience, grantsmanship, and teaching. To review the position description and apply, go to posting # 1804 on [the Michigan State Application website](#). Review of applications will begin **October 15, 2015** and will continue until a suitable candidate is selected. *MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. We actively encourage applications from, and nominations of, women, persons of color, veterans, persons with disabilities and other individuals who can contribute to the intellectual diversity and cultural richness at Michigan State University. MSU is committed to providing a work environment that supports employees' work and personal life, and offers employment assistance to the spouse or partner of candidates for faculty and academic staff positions*

The University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) is currently advertising for a 12-month Assistant Professor of Resilience and Restoration Silviculture position with tenure accruing in the SFRC. The assigned responsibilities will be 70% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) and 30% teaching (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, at the University of Florida. This assignment may change in accordance with the needs of the unit. The faculty member will develop an internationally recognized, externally funded research program focused on silviculture as a tool to adapt forest composition, structure and function towards long-term site-specific goals. The research is expected to help mitigate impacts of novel and emerging forest health threats across diverse forest types and ownership classes. This hire will conduct field research on topics such as spatiotemporal stand dynamics, forest nutrition, genetic deployment, stand resistance to disturbance, and other factors associated with maintenance or restoration of forest ecosystem health and resilience. Research approaches incorporating quantitative methods and/or modeling are desirable. The faculty member will be expected to collaborate with new faculty hires in the Healthy Forest Ecosystems Cluster (described below), as well as with a diverse set of existing experts in the SFRC (forest health, biology and management), the Florida Climate Institute, the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute, other units on campus, and government agencies. Instruction is a critical need due to increasing enrollments and diversifying curricula and the successful candidate will engage in scholarly activities related to instruction, including teaching undergraduate and/or graduate courses, advising and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, participating in curriculum revision and enhancement, seeking funding for the teaching program, supervising undergraduate and graduate research and creative work, and engaging in professional development activities related to teaching and

advising. Because of the IFAS land-grant mission, all faculty are expected to be supportive of and engaged in all three mission areas—Research, Teaching and Extension—regardless of the assignment split specified in the position description. A doctorate (foreign equivalent acceptable) in silviculture or a closely related discipline such as forest ecology or forest ecophysiology is required. Experience in forest pathology, forest entomology, and/or other aspects of forest health are highly desirable, as are quantitative analytical and modeling skills. Research focus should be within the context of forest management. Postdoctoral experience is desirable. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in publication of peer-reviewed research, verbal communication, interpersonal relationships, and procurement of extramural funding. The ability and desire to lead as well as work effectively within interdisciplinary teams is required. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system. Candidates must also have a commitment to the IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability. To review the position description and apply, go to posting # 493227 on [the University of Florida job applications website](#). For full consideration, candidates should apply and submit additional materials by **October 15, 2015**. The position will remain open until a viable applicant pool is determined. *The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The selection process will be conducted in accord with the provisions of Florida’s ‘Government in the Sunshine’ and Public Records Laws. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.*

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center.** 2015. Forest ThreatNet, the July/August 2015 edition of the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center’s newsletter. Available online: [The Forest ThreatNet](#).
2. **Nowak, John T.; Meeker, James R.; Coyle, David R.; Steiner, Chris A.; Brownie, Cavell.** 2015. Southern pine beetle infestations in relation to forest stand conditions, previous thinning, and prescribed burning: evaluation of the southern pine beetle prevention program. Journal of Forestry. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5849/jof.15-002>

FOR MORE FHM INFORMATION

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