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*Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710*

## **Awards to IPIF and Two Kathys: Ewel and Friday**

Last month, Kathy Ewel and Kathy Friday, who oversee the Internship Program at the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry (IPIF), Honolulu, received two outstanding honors: PSW's Traveling Civil Rights Trophy and a FS Chief's 2002 Multicultural Organization Award, which honors an organization that "through their efforts have made outstanding contributions to achieve a multicultural organization." Ewel and Friday accepted the award from Chief Dale Bosworth at a July 7, 2002, ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Both awards resulted from the scientists' service on IPIF's Education Committee, which is promoting an active, extensive educational program in natural resource management for Pacific Islands' students. Dr. Ewel is Team Leader—Forested Wetlands Research, at Honolulu, and Friday is Associate Pacific Islands Forester, at Hilo.

Until recently, efforts of scientists and others trying to reverse trends toward extinction of endemic species in Hawaii and the Pacific often met with frustration and failure. Information on land and species management was not well received by landowners when the people delivering the message—scientists born and trained on the mainland rather than the islands—lacked understanding and sensitivity to the cultural context of land usage. Few Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders were educated in natural resource management and research.

In 1995, IPIF joined the University of Hawaii to sponsor local students conducting environmentally based internships on their home islands.

So far, 54 interns have participated in the program. Currently, five—three Native Hawaiians, two Micronesians, and one American Samoan—have jobs in natural resource management and conservation. Five others—two Native Hawaiians, two American Samoans, and one Micronesian—have gone on to graduate school. Says Dr. Ewel, "We are so proud of this program and of all who have contributed to its success. Most important," she adds, is "the collaboration among many organizations and the meshing of programs—to get this job done."

## **Ratcliff, Young Elected to Forest Soils Council**

Two members of the Soils Productivity Research Team, Redding, were elected officers of the California Forest Soils Council. Alice Ratcliff and Dave Young will serve a 2-year term as co-Secretary/Treasurer. The Council, whose mission is educational, was founded over 20 years ago at the urging of the Society of American Foresters, Soil Science Society of America, and California State Board of Forestry.

## **Small Lots, Big Risk for Fire in South Lake Tahoe**

For years, property owners seeking to reduce the risk of fire have been asked to create defensible space 30 feet around their homes or to the property line if that is nearer. This may not be enough to protect homeowners with small lots in South Lake Tahoe, according to Lisa de Jong of PSW's Center for Urban Forest Research at Davis, Calif.

Fire-hazard assessment of private, developed lots in South Lake Tahoe determined that most homeowners simply do not comply with the law requiring open space around a dwelling. In addition, small lots make the problem worse. "Even if [people] have made the effort to protect their home, they may still be at risk if their neighbor is not compliant," says Lisa. In the future, to know the true fire hazard, the assessment must consider homeowner practices, lot size, and neighboring fire hazards, she advises.

## **Commission to Investigate Aviation Safety**

On August 2, 2002, FS Chief Dale Bosworth announced that Texas State Forester Jim Hull and former National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Jim Hall will co-chair a Blue Ribbon Commission looking into aviation firefighting efforts. The Department of the Interior is co-sponsoring the Commission, which is charged with thorough review of safety management. "Safety remains our bottom line," Chief Bosworth says.

## **Sierra Nevada Science Symposium in October**

A Sierra Nevada Science Symposium will be held Oct. 7-10, at the North Tahoe Conference Center in Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe, Calif. PSW is one of several organizations serving as conveners. According to Peter Stine, Program Manager, Sierra Nevada Science Center, Davis, the conference will provide an overview of the current state of scientific knowledge, linking recent scientific findings to land management and policy. Further information is available on the web, at <http://danr.ucop.edu/wrc/snssweb/snss.html>. Or, call Joni Rippee at (510) 642-0095.

## **In Memoriam**

Edward (Ed) Stauber, 25, a biological technician assigned to the Sierra Nevada Research Center, died August 16, 2002, as a result of an accident on Mount Winchell in Kings Canyon National Park in central California. This was Ed's second summer with PSW. He was a third-year student at Mayo Medical School, Rochester, Minn., studying orthopedics. He is survived by his parents, Rita and Charles Stauber, of Wisconsin and an older sister also from Wisconsin.

## Distribution Center Shares FS Chief's Award

This year, the FS Chief's Customer Service Award went to the Southwestern Region and Rocky Mountain Research Station. It recognizes an "organization that has made outstanding Customer Service contributions and demonstrates the spirit and intent of the National Customer Service Plan—to create a 'customer-driven' Forest Service."

Cited for outstanding work was the RMRS Publishing Services Group, whose Distribution Center distributes publications of RMS and PSW. Receiving the award from FS Chief Dale Bosworth at the July 7 ceremony in Washington, D.C., was Richard Schneider, who manages the Distribution Center at Fort Collins, Colo. and is the PSW liaison.

## Personnel Speaking

### Extra Effort Award

Danny Lee, Project Leader—Timber/Wildlife Research, Arcata: "for exceptional effort in helping to prepare a new concept to meet the biological diversity requirements for the new Forest Planning Rule."

## Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

- David Neale, Institute of Forest Genetics, Davis, gave a seminar to the Forest Genetics and Biotechnology Group April 25-26 at the Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research, Davis, gave a presentation at the Trees, People, and Our Urban Environment Conference sponsored by California State University—San Bernardino, College of Extended Learning. The conference was held March 20-21 at the Richard Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, Calif.
- Tom Lisle, Hillslope Processes/Fishery Research Unit, Arcata, participated in a Symposium and Workshop on Small Stream Channels sponsored by the British Columbia Ministry of Forests—Ecology and Earth Sciences Section, Research Branch. The symposium was held Feb. 18-21 at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C, Canada.
- Kathy Ewel, Forested Wetlands Research Team, Honolulu; attended the NCEAS (National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis) Science Advisory Board meeting in Santa Barbara, Calif., March 6-7.

## Meetings (continued)

- Jack Ewel, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Honolulu, attended the All Conservancy Science Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 3-5.
- C. John Ralph, Timber/Wildlife Research Unit, Arcata, was the keynote speaker at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Songbird Festival at Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park in Slave Lake, Alberta, Canada, June 1-3.
- Deborah Chavez, Wildland Recreation and Urban Cultures Research Unit, Riverside, presented five papers at the 9th International Symposium on Society & Resource Management, Bloomington, Indiana, June 2-4. She presented one solo-authored paper, "Communicating Through International Symbols," and co-presented two papers with Jo Tynon: "Responses to Crime on Public Lands: National Forest Case Studies," and "Testing Pizam's Model: Classification of Outdoor Recreation Crimes." The remaining two papers were presented with Bill Hendricks: "Place Attachment in Big Sur: Observance-Influence of Fire Management Practices," and "Cruising, Surf's Up, and Power Lounging: Place Attachment, Constraints, Observations and Fire Management." Deborah also served on the Symposium's Program Committee.
- Deborah Chavez, Wildland Recreation/Urban Cultures Research Unit, Riverside, presented four papers at the Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences, Honolulu, June 10-15. She presented "Communicating with the Public: The Use of International Symbols" and "Managing Trails on Public Lands: The Emergence of Extreme Recreation." She co-presented two papers with Jo Tynon: "Response to Crime on Public Lands: U.S. National Forest Case Studies" and "Testing Pizam's Model: Classification of Outdoor Recreation Crimes in the US." She was also session chair for "Other Areas of Social Science" at the Conference.

## Wired

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