

**FIRST BIENNIAL NORTH AMERICAN
FOREST ECOLOGY WORKSHOP**



**JUNE 24-26, 1997
NORTH CAROLINA ST. UNIV.
RALEIGH, NC**

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WORKSHOP WAS ORGANIZED

UNDER the AUSPICES OF the:

FOREST ECOLOGY WORKING GROUP,

SOCIETY of AMERICAN FORESTERS

J. E. COOK and B. P. OSWALD, COMPILERS

An event like the First Biennial North American Workshop requires a tremendous amount of planning and work by many people. It also requires financial and in-kind support in order to run the event at a reasonable cost.

The following individuals (alphabetically by last name) served on the steering committee and are highly deserving of recognition and thanks for all their hard work:

Tim Baker
Robert Brooks
James Cook
Jim Fralish
Craig Hedman
Barbara McGuinness
Rose Marie Muzika
Brian Oswald
David Sampson
Terry Sharik
John Zasada

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PREFACE

The First North American Forest Ecology Workshop, held June 24-26, 1997 in Raleigh, North Carolina, brought together scientists from across the United States and Canada. The papers and posters presented covered a wide variety of topics of concern in forest ecology today. The idea for the Workshop was conceived by Terry Sharik and John Zasada, and was unique in two ways: i) it targeted *forest ecologists*, and ii) brought them together in a format that facilitated extended discussion among the participants.

This proceeding is set up in four sections based on type of presentation (paper vs. poster), whether the associated manuscript appeared in a special issue of Forest Ecology and Management (FEM) and whether the authors wanted a full manuscript in these proceedings.

The first section is the full-text papers of some of the oral presentations given at the workshop. The second section contains the abstracts of the papers that were published in FEM. The third section is abstracts of oral presentations that the authors wished to appear in abstract form only. The last section contains the abstracts of the many posters presented in Raleigh.

As compilers, we did not edit the articles or the abstracts for content or writing style. In a similar manner, we did not try to find and correct all mechanical mistakes in the documents. Essentially, we are presenting the paper/abstract as it came to us. We did attempt (not with complete success) to standardize the major elements of style (font, heading levels, etc.) in the manuscripts; however, we were prevented from working with a few of the manuscripts and figures because of the variety of software used to create them. We hope these minor differences among articles do not detract from the "readability" or use of these proceedings.

Respectfully,

Dr. James E. Cook and Dr. Brian P. Oswald, Proceedings Compilers
We would like to extend special recognition to Christie Trifone for her help in preparing the proceedings for publication.

June, 1999

FULL PAPERS OF ORAL PRESENTATIONS	Begins On Page
<u>Response of forest soil microarthropods to a forest regeneration burn at Wine Springs (Southern Appalachians)</u> D.A. Crossley and K.L. Lamoncha.	1
<u>Effects of timber harvesting on birds in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming.</u> B.L. Dykstra, M.A. Rumble, L.D. Flake.	16
<u>Integration of ecological and biological concepts in forest reserve assessments.</u> W.L. Gaines and R.J. Harrod.	27
<u>Measurement of historical inventory locations to assess changes in forests and woodlands in Arizona.</u> G.J. Gottfried, P.F. Ffolliott, M.B. Baker.	51
<u>Seedling reproduction of northern red oak: biotic and abiotic mechanisms.</u> L.S. Gribko.	65
<u>New concepts for classifying potential natural forested plant communities.</u> F.C. Hall.	83
<u>Relative density measurement and species composition in the mixed bottomland hardwood forests of East Texas.</u> G. Holley, B.P. Oswald, L. Dale, G.D. Kronrad.	93
<u>Using past and present forest seral stage distribution to develop an ecologically based management strategy for the Six Rivers National Forest in California.</u> T.M. Jimerson, L.M. Chapman, K.A. Knight.	107
<u>The effect of riparian zones in structuring small mammal communities in the southern Appalachians.</u> L. Laerm, M.A. Menzel, D.J. Wolf, N.G. Hicks, J.R. Walsh.	132
<u>Effects of clearcut patch size on bird communities in montane and Piedmont forests of South Carolina.</u> J.D. Lanham.	146
<u>Ecological insights gained from model analysis of mountain pine beetle outbreaks.</u> J.A. Logan, P. White, B.J. Bentz, J.A. Powell.	163
<u>Thinning and underplanting to enhance diversity of young Douglas-fir stands in the Oregon coastal range: Four years at Cataract.</u> K.G. Maas-Hebner, S. Chan.	177
<u>Changes in ponderosa pine structure in the Black Hills of South Dakota 1874-1995.</u> A. McAdams and W.W. Covington.	185
<u>Effects of clearcutting and selective harvesting on hardwood forest understories – 1st year results.</u> T. H. Shear and M. McKinney.	196

	<u>Begins On Page</u>
<u>Species selection and seedling establishment for restoration of bottomland forests.</u> K.W. McLeod and T.G. Ciravolo.	222
<u>Impacts of group selection harvest openings on the reproductive success of the solitary vireo (<i>Vireo solitarius alticola</i>) in an Appalachian hardwood forest.</u> A.L. Meehan, C.A. Haas, D.N. Harpole.	237
<u>Effects of silvicultural treatments and forest structure on temperature at various scales in northern hardwood forests.</u> E.A. Nauertz, D.S. Buckley, R.M. Teclaw, T.F. Strong, J.C. Zasada.	253
<u>Management and disturbance as agents of change in Lake State timberlands.</u> T.L. Schmidt, P.D. Miles, M.H. Hansen.	267
<u>Hydrologic impacts of forest management practices on a cypress-pine flatwoods landscape.</u> G. Sun, H. Riekerk, L.V. Komhak.	287
<u>Use of GIS as a tool for forest hydrology research.</u> G. Sun, S. McNulty, L.G. Arvanitis, V.D. Valavanis.	302
<u>Stream temperature climate in a set of southern Appalachian Mountain streams.</u> L.W. Swift, Jr; P.P. Clinton.	316
<u>The pre-European settlement shortleaf-oak-hickory forests of Louisiana – abiotic factors that maintained it and caused its disappearance.</u> R.A. Williams.	336
<u>A Prospectus on Restoring Late Successional Forest Structure to Eastside Pine Ecosystems Through Large-Scale, Interdisciplinary Research.</u> S. Zack, W. F. Laudenslayer, T. L. George, C. Skinner, W. Oliver	343

THESE ABSTRACTS ARE FROM PAPERS INCLUDED IN A SPECIAL ISSUE
OF FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT, VOL. 114, 1999.

	Page No.
<u>Ecosystem management decision support for federal forests in the United States: A review.</u> H. M. Rauscher.	356
<u>Vegetation dynamics following stand replacement prescribed fire in the southern Appalachians.</u> K. Elliott, R. Hendrick, A. Major, J. Vose, W. Swank.	357
<u>Using stand replacement fires to restore southern Appalachian pine-hardwood ecosystems: effects on mass, carbon and nutrient pools.</u> J. Vose, W. Swank, B. Clinton, J. Knoepp, L. Swift.	358
<u>Forest to food plot: habitat gradient analysis among small animals in the southern Appalachians.</u> M. Menzel, J. Laerm, M. Ford, D. Krishon.	358
<u>Effects of a community restoration fire on small mammals and herpetofauna in the southern Appalachians.</u> M. Ford, M. Menzel, D. McGill, J. Laerm, T. McCay.	359
<u>Factors affecting salamander density and distribution within four forest types in the southern Appalachian Mountains.</u> C. Harper, D. Guynn.	360
<u>Effects of uneven-aged management intensity on structural diversity in two major forest types in New England.</u> D. Solomon, J. Gove.	360
<u>Putting community data to work: some understory plants indicate red spruce regeneration habitat.</u> A.C. Dibble, J.C. Brissette, M.L. Hunter, Jr.	361
<u>Modeling the distribution of shrub species in Pacific Northwest forests.</u> D. McKenzie, C. Halpern.	362
<u>Understory structure by season following uneven-aged reproduction cutting: a comparison of selected measures two and six years after treatment.</u> V. Rudis, R. Thill, J. Graman, J. Pione, N. Kalidindi, P. Tappe.	363
<u>Heterogeneity of wood decay classes within hardwood logs.</u> C. Pyle, M. Brown.	364
<u>Fertilization response in a bottomland hardwood stand in north-central Louisiana.</u> M.A. Dunn, K.W. Farrish, J.C. Adams.	365
<u>Wildlife linkages: volumes and values of residual timber in riparian</u>	366

<u>zones in eastern Texas.</u> G. Burns, M. Whiting, G. LeGrande, J. Dickson.	
<u>Ascribing value to environmental process: An economic view of ecological change.</u> R. Schaberg, T. Holmes, K. Lee, R. Abt.	366
<u>Combining tree growth, fish and wildlife habitat, mass wasting, sedimentation and hydrologic models in decision analysis and long-term forest land planning.</u> C. Olson, B. Orr.	367
<u>Effects of seven silvicultural treatments on terrestrial salamanders.</u> D. Harpole, C. Haas.	367
<u>Single versus multiple species management: native fishes in Arizona.</u> J. Rinne, J. Stefferud.	368
<u>Trout use of woody debris and habitat in Wine Spring Creek, North Carolina.</u> P. Flebbe.	369
<u>Relationships between overstory species and community classification on the Sipsey Wilderness, Alabama.</u> L. Zhang, B.P. Oswald, T.H. Green.	370
<u>Preliminary ecological classification for the Chauga ridges region.</u> C. Hutto, V. Shelburne, S. Jones.	370
<u>Ecological land classification in the southern loam hills of south Alabama.</u> R. Carter, M. MacKenzie, D. Gjerstad.	371
<u>Classification of vegetation and environmental gradients into ecological units in the Wine Spring Creek ecosystem management area of the Nantahala national Forest.</u> W. McNabb, S. Browning, S.A. Simon, P. Fouts.	372
<u>Comparison of hardwood stand structure after partial harvesting using intensive canopy maps and geostatistical techniques.</u> S. Grushecky, M.A. Fajan.	373
<u>Historical stand reconstruction in ponderosa pine forests to guide silvicultural prescriptions.</u> R. Harrod, B. McRae, W. Hartl.	374
<u>Limitations and possibilities for mesic forest restoration on abandoned rangeland, Island of Hawaii.</u> P. Scowcroft, J. Jeffrey.	375
<u>The influence of progressive deforestation on selected aspects of pattern.</u> M. Trani, R. Giles.	376

Heterogeneity of forest landscapes and the distribution and abundance of the southern pine beetle. R. Coulson, B. McFadden, P. Pulley, C. Lovelady, J. Fitzgerald, S. Jack. 377

ORAL PRESENTATIONS THAT WERE NOT PUBLISHED IN THE SPECIAL ISSUE OF FEM, AND THAT ARE NOT PUBLISHED IN THE PROCEEDINGS AS ARTICLES.

Functional heterogeneity of red-cockaded woodpecker habitat in the Sam Houston National Forest: Insights for management. J.C.M. Azevedo, S.B. Jack, R.N. Coulson, D.F. Wunneburger. 378

Fire and canopy removal effects on woody vegetation dynamics in oak forests. T.R. Baker and P.B. Reich. 379

Life and death in a southwestern ponderosa pine forest. F. Biondi. 380

The role of bark beetle herbivory in structuring forest landscapes of the southern U.S. R.N. Coulson, C.N. Lovelady, F.L. Oliveria. 381

Evaluating Texas red-cockaded woodpecker cluster susceptibility to southern pine beetle infestation. R.J. DuBey, W.G. Ross, D.L. Kulhavy 387

Gradients of forest structure vs. seral stages: a paradigm revisited with examples from the Sierra Nevada of California. J.A. Fites-Kaufman, J.F. Franklin, J. Verner and B. Bingham. 382

Models of structural development on natural forest ecosystems and contrasts with the plantation model. J. F. Franklin, D. R. Berg, R. VanPelt, T.A. Spies, D. Thornburg, J. Fites-Kaufmann. 383

Variation in species richness and abundance of small mammals and amphibians in relation to microhabitat parameters in the upper elevation Appalachian hardwood forest. J. Gassett, J. Laerm, M.A. Menzel, T.S. McCay, K.J. Elliott, J. Knoepp, W.M. Ford. 392

Comparing measured and modeled net ecosystem carbon fluxes for an upland pine plantation and a wetland cypress swamp in northern Florida. H. Gholz, K. Clark, W. Cooper. 384

Disturbance from Gypsy moth defoliation and mortality: Mediation by silvicultural treatments. K.W. Gottschalk, R.M. Muzika, M.J. Twery 381

Effects of prescribed fire on the vegetative composition of an upland longleaf pine ecosystem L.C. Jones and M.S. Fountain. 385

<u>Effects of flooding and herbivory on baldcypress saplings at Caddo Lake, Texas.</u> B.D. Keeland and S.L. King.	386
<u>Tree stem temperature and regional-scale carbon flux dynamics in southern Appalachian forests.</u> B.D. Kloeppel, D.C. Feldkirchner, P.V. Bolstad, J.M. Vose.	384
<u>Disturbance regimes in red-cockaded woodpecker clusters: Implications for management.</u> D.L. Kulhavy, W.G. Ross, N. Erbilgin, G.M. Christmer, R.J. DuBey	387
<u>Characterizing variation in forest susceptibility to the gypsy moth at multiple spatial scales.</u> A.M. Liebold, R.M. Muzika, K.W. Gottschalk.	
<u>Controls of productivity of Longleaf pine-Wiregrass ecosystems across wide environmental gradients.</u> R.J. Mitchell, S. Pecot, C. Wilson, K. Kickman, J. Hendricks, R. Hendricks, B. Palik, L. Boring, M. Drew.	388
<u>Assessment of vegetative recovery on abandoned well sites in Big Thicket National Preserve.</u> A.M. Pennell and M.S. Fountain.	389
<u>Are there light limitations to loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i> L.) foliage production?</u> D.A. Sampson, T.J. Abaugh, H.L. Allen.	388
<u>Foliar nitrogen dynamics and decomposition of yellow-poplar and white pine during 4 seasons of exposure to elevated ozone and carbon dioxide.</u> A.J. Scherzer, J. Rebbeck, R.E.J. Boerner.	390
<u>Canopy removal effects on regeneration of northern red oak forests in northern Lower Michigan.</u> T.L. Sharik, D.S. Buckley, M. Zhou, C. Kim.	391
<u>Old red river bottom forests in the southeastern United States.</u> T. Shear, M. Young, R. Kellison.	392
<u>Interactions between autumn olive and growth of sapling and pole-sized black walnut.</u> J.W. Van Sambeek.	386
<u>Canopy gaps in old-growth and selection-logged hardwood forests in northern Maine.</u> A. Whiteman.	382
<u>Understory plant communities in old-growth and selection logged forest in northern Maine.</u> A.A. Whiteman, J.M. Hagan, S.L. Grove.	394
<u>Comparing growth of slash pine in China with growth in the southern</u>	393

<u>US- impacts of its exotic planting and the historic land use.</u> R.A. Williams and K. W. Farrish.	
<u>A retrospective dendroecology of the American chestnut in a southern Appalachian forest.</u> P.J. Young.	380
 ABSTRACTS of POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
<u>Using natural fire regime as a guide for sustainable forest management in the boreal forest.</u> B. Harvey, Y. Bergeron, and A. Leduc.	395
<u>Age structure and growth dynamics in northern conifer selection stands.</u> L.S. Kenefic and R.S. Seymour.	396
<u>Ecologically based expanded-gap silvicultural systems in the Acadian.</u> R. Seymour and M. Day	397
<u>Ecological diversity in unmanaged old-growth, unmanaged second-growth and managed northern hardwood forests.</u> D.S. Buckley, T.R. Crow, E.A. Nauertz, and J.C. Zasada.	398
<u>Dendrochronological analysis of gypsy moth, <i>Lymantria dispar</i> L. outbreaks in the Northeast.</u> R.M. Muzika and A.M. Liebold.	399
<u>Long-term trends of woody species diversity in a central Appalachian forest.</u> T.M. Schuler	399
<u>Composition and structure of two contrasting southeastern Ohio old-growth forest ecosystems.</u> P.G. Goebel, D.M. Hix and A. Olivero.	400
<u>Microenvironments and species diversity gradients in a chronosequence of Central Hardwood clearcuts.</u> C.K. Yu and A.R. Gillespie	400
<u>Comparative stand development and stand histories in even- and uneven-aged longleaf pine stands in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.</u> W.K. Moser and C.K. Yu.	401
<u>Growth and development of cherrybark oak and willow oak in the bottomlands of East Texas.</u> M. Hasagama, B.P. Oswald, M.S. Fountain, and G.D. Kronrad.	402
<u>Acorn predation, herbivory, and herb layer competition effects on height of cherrybark oak seedlings in experimental canopy gaps.</u> G.B. Landman and B.S. Collins.	403

<u>Vertical distribution of understory vegetation in the boreal forest and its relationship to light availability.</u> A. Isabelle and C. Messier.	404
<u>Functional role of gaps in longleaf pine-wiregrass ecosystems.</u> R. Mitchell, C. Hedman, K. Kirkman, S. Horsley, S. Pecot, J. McGuire, B. Palik, R. Hendrix and D. Gjerstad.	405
<u>Comparisons of different methods to estimate the growing season light transmittance of a forest stand.</u> J. Gendron, C. Messier, and P. Comeau.	405
<u>Sapwood biomass-leaf area ratio of <i>Pinus taeda</i> L. stands in relation to canopy structure.</u> S.D. Pecot and T. J. Dean.	406
<u>Genetic diversity of loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>) grown in managed plantations: evidence of differential response to climatic events.</u> J.E. Grissom.	406
<u>The importance of tip-up mounds on diversity in the understory of bottomland hardwood forests.</u> , B.D. Keeland, C. Wells, L.E. Gorham and G.A. Weisbrich.	407
<u>Soil carbon dynamics in bottomland hardwood plantations.</u> C.C. MacDonald, K.W. Farrish, C.E. Roswell, J.C. Adams, and R.A. Newbold.	407
<u>Digital change detection techniques using two data landsat thematic mapper imagery.</u> D. Wendt.	408
<u>Role of legumes in frequently burned longleaf pine-wiregrass ecosystems.</u> R.J. Mitchell, L.R. Boring, B.J. Palik, D.J. Gjerstad, and R. Wyatt.	408
<u>Compatibility of rhizobial bacteria from <i>Gliricidia sepium</i>(Jaqc.) Walp. on other legumes of Central and North America.</u> N. Navarette-Tindell and J. W. Van Sambeek.	409
<u>Response consistency of several rhizobial strains on <i>Gliricidia sepium</i> and <i>Crotalaria longirostrata</i> seedlings.</u> N. Navarette-Tindell and J. W. Van Sambeek	410
<u>Annual patterns of nitrogen and phosphorus availability as related to site productivity.</u> C.A. Wilson, R.J. Mitchell, L. R. Boring, J.J. Hendricks, and D.C. Carter.	411
<u>Landscape variation of nutrients in litterfall and throughfall in longleaf pine ecosystems.</u> L. R. Boring, C.A. Wilson, R.J. Mitchell, and D.C. Carter	411

<u>Effects of whole-tree harvesting and windrowing on nutrient pools and availability of clayey sites in northwestern Quebec.</u> S. Brais, C. Camire, and D. Pare.	412
<u>Using land-based, small format stereo photogrammetry to obtain three dimensional data in forests.</u> E.L. Taylor and S.B. Jack.	413
<u>Landscape evaluation of effects of management activities on timber and habitat (LEEMATH): A model for management of sustainable forest resources.</u> H. Li, D. Gartner, C. Bunton, and C. Trettin.	414
<u>Riparian ecosystem development in a karst landscape of the lower Gulf Coast Plain.</u> P.C. Goebel, B.J. Palik, L.K. Kirkman, S.W. Golladay, L. West.	415
<u>Species diversity among ecosystem classification types of a lower Gulf Coastal Plain landscape: application of a multifactor ecological classification system.</u> L.K. Kirkman, P.C. Goebel, M.B. Drew, B.J. Palik, and L. West.	416
<u>Using concepts of ecosystem classification as a framework for ecological restoration of a disturbed lower Gulf Coastal Plain landscape.</u> B.J. Palik, P.C. Goebel, L.K. Kirkman, and L. West.	417
<u>Reestablishment of Jeffrey pine (<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i> Grev. & Balf.) on a high elevation mine site in the Sierra Nevada.</u> R.F. Walker.	418
<u>Underplanting confers in Oregon coast range riparian areas.</u> K.G. Maas-Hebner.	419
<u>Negative impacts of elk on aspen stands in northern New Mexico.</u> D.H. Long, W.D. Hacker, and S.M. Fettig.	419
<u>Habitat diversity in uneven-aged northern hardwoods.</u> L.S. Kenefic and R.D. Nyland.	398

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Functional heterogeneity of red-cockaded woodpecker habitat in the Sam Houston national Forest: Insights for management. J.C.M. Azevedo, S.B. Jack, R.N. Coulson, D.F. Wunneburger. Braganca Polytechnic Institute and the Department of Forest Science, Texas A&M University.

Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW, *Picoides borealis*) populations are greatly affected by the fragmentation of forest habitat through the effect on dispersal between active clusters and other suitable habitat. In order to assess the suitability of a given landscape structure for the maintenance and expansion of RCW populations, land managers need an index that correlates with the bird's perception of that structure. Rather than assuming that the application of the most common landscape metrics will provide the necessary information, we applied three indices of functional heterogeneity (as opposed to measured heterogeneity) to a GIS coverage for the Raven District of the Sam Houston National Forest using two observable scales. The GIS coverage included information on habitat suitability and RCW cluster distribution and size. The analysis indicated that the presence of cavity trees is the most important factor for RCW population maintenance and that fragmentation of the foraging habitat has much less impact. The analysis also indicated that many areas currently of high functional importance for the RCW are effectively isolated from one another. This second result has significant implications for dispersal of individuals between areas of high functionality and thus also the maintenance of RCW in this forest.