

Comments

Tree Planters' Notes

Dedicated to technology transfer and publication of research information relating to nursery production and outplanting of trees, shrubs, and native plants for reforestation, restoration, and conservation.

TPN is sponsored by the USDA Forest Service's Cooperative Forestry Staff, State & Private Forestry, in Washington, DC, and Atlanta, Georgia. The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of public business required by law of this Department.

Editor-in-chief: George A. Hernandez (Atlanta, GA)

Editor: Karen E. Burr (Coeur d'Alene, ID)

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Research reports are peer-reviewed by two outside, anonymous referees. **Technology transfer articles** are reviewed for accuracy and applicability by the editor, with the assistance of the editorial board. Please see the instructions for authors and the manuscript submission sheet at the end of the magazine for details about editorial policy and style.


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Where Do We Go From Here?

Is there still a need for the USDA Forest Service to be involved in the transfer of technology about forest tree seedling production? Non-industrial private forest (NIPF) lands account for half of the timber harvested in the United States. In the South, which I know best, it has been reported that forest removals have exceeded growth for the first time in 30 years. Less than 20% of NIPF lands are managed under professionally developed management plans. The importance of harvest from NIPF lands will increase as harvest levels on federal lands continue to decrease. State nurseries, which are the major source of seedlings used in NIPF reforestation projects, produced 21% of the 1.5 billion seedlings grown in the United States in 1998. In the South there is presently a significant shortage of pine seedlings, estimated at 125 million. Fires, drought, and landowners who want to plant but haven't planned—all have led to an increased demand for high-quality genetically improved nursery seedlings with a known provenance. Additionally, there is an increased need for tree seedlings for use in bottomland hardwood forest habitat, ecosystem restoration, and wildlife enhancement programs as well as an increased interest in using native species. New technologies, new machines, new pests, and new techniques all generate the need for technology transfer. In all regions of the United States, a new generation of nursery workers and managers are stepping into leadership roles. As long as the United States is in need of wood and fiber, the USDA Forest Service must continue to take the lead in ensuring a steady supply of timber. NIPF landowners thus must have high-quality tree seedlings to regenerate their lands. State nurseries must have current and accurate information so that they can provide these seedlings. For these reasons, the USDA Forest Service must remain involved in the transfer of technology about forest tree seedling production. *Tree Planters' Notes* has long been one of the means for disseminating this kind of information.

Is *Tree Planters' Notes*, after 50 years of publication still useful for technology transfer? I personally believe that *Tree Planters' Notes* is still one of the best tools that the USDA Forest Service has for fulfilling its technology transfer mission of making available current scientific information about the production of high-quality forest tree seedlings to the growers in forest tree nurseries. Happily, I have been given the opportunity to prove that this is true.

Who am I? My name is George Hernandez, and I am the new editor-in-chief of *Tree Planters' Notes* (I have replaced Clark Lantz as the Nursery and Tree Improvement Specialist for the South). As editor-in-chief, it is my responsibility to make sure that *TPN* continues to provide scientists working in nursery production and forest regeneration with a means to communicate their results with nursery tree growers and tree planters. It is also my responsibility to find a way to make sure that *TPN* continues to ensure that growers and planters of forest tree seedlings have a way of sharing their innovations and techniques with each other and with interested scientists.



Currently most of our contributors are scientists. I have always felt that one of *TPN's* strengths was that it was a journal where scientist and practitioners shared information. One of my goals is to increase the number of articles that are submitted by nursery managers and growers. I will need the help of you, our readers, to achieve this goal.

What is being planned for *TPN*? I am working with fellow members of the USDA Forest Service's Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) team and the editors of *TPN* to create an editorial system that will ensure the future health, relevance, and timeliness of the journal. We are putting together an editorial team and redefining our editorial board's duties. Each person on this team will have to contribute in order for us to reach this goal. Karen E. Burr of the USDA Forest Service's Coeur d'Alene Nursery has been appointed as the editor and will handle the day-to-day business of receiving and screening manuscripts and getting them reviewed appropriately. Rebecca G. Nisley, our managing editor, will continue to edit and work with graphic designers and printers to produce the magazine. Contributing editors will be expected to write. I will be interacting with nursery managers and workers at meetings and nursery visits to find out what *TPN* readers are interested in hearing about and what they have learned or developed that they are willing to share with their fellow *TPN* readers. In addition, the "Cultural Perspectives" column from *Forest Nursery Notes* written by Tom Landis, Nursery and Tree Improvement Specialist for the West, will be moving to *TPN* and will become a regular feature in future issues. Look for further improvements and refinements in the issues to come.

This issue marks the return of the State & Private Forestry's National Tree Planting Report to *Tree Planters' Notes*. In the "old days," lots of reports like this were published as part of *TPN* and we welcome the opportunity to return this report to our pages. It will be one of three issues of *TPN* now published annually. We plan on publishing only two regular issues a year, issues that we hope will be fat with good articles. **PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE SKIPPING THE YEAR 1998, BUT THAT THE VOLUME NUMBERS WILL CONTINUE ALONG IN PROPER SEQUENCE.**

George A. Hernandez
USDA Forest Service
S&PF Southern Nursery Specialist
Atlanta, Georgia

Note: Our concept of this editorial space is that it should be a place to publish opinions and ideas relating to the nursery, reforestation, and restoration professions. We invite you to submit ideas for commentaries. The views expressed here are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the *Tree Planters' Notes* editorial staff, the Forest Service, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. - GAH, KEB, RGN, and the editorial board

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Website:

>><http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/snti/snti.htm> <
E-mail: » ghermand/r8@fs.fed.us <
» tpnotes@nidlink.com <
» rnisley@ct2.nai.net <

For changes of address, contact: Eula Emanuel, USDA Forest Service, Office of Communications, Auditors Building 2C, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090; tel: 202-205-0819; e-mail: >> eemanuel/wo@fs.fed.us <

Cover: Longleaf pine plantation in Louisiana (photograph by Jim Barnett, USDA Forest Service, Pineville, LA).