

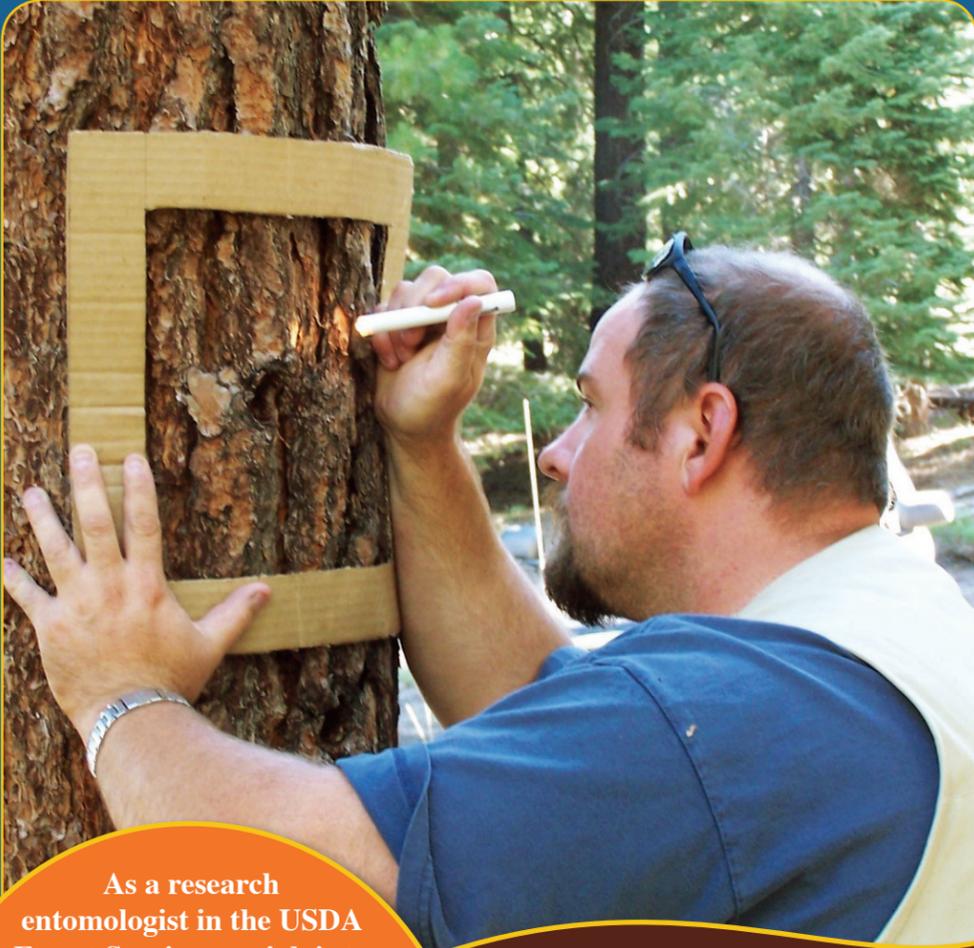


Meet the Scientist!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

<http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>



As a research entomologist in the USDA Forest Service, my job is to help define the roles and impacts of insects in forests and wildland ecosystems in order to maintain the health, diversity and productivity of these environments. Entomologists, in general, typically work in one or more sub disciplines (e.g., agriculture, forestry, genetics, medicine, veterinary, etc.).

Dr. Chris Fettig
Research Entomologist
Ph.D., The University of Georgia
USDA Forest Service scientist



Dr. Chris Fettig

Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Critical thinking
- ★ Persistence

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

In the West, bark beetles kill millions of trees each year. Often insecticides are applied directly to trees to prevent beetle attack. We studied several questions: 1) How much insecticide goes into the ground?; 2) Where is it most concentrated?; 3) How much of a risk is it for organisms other than beetles? In the end, the study revealed that the movement of insecticides poses little threat to adjacent aquatic environments if appropriate no-spray buffers are used.

Technology or equipment used in research:

We use many different technologies to answer complex research questions. However, we still rely most heavily on a compass and 4WD vehicle to accomplish much of our work!

<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/efh/staff/cfettig/>

Most Exciting Discovery

Developing an environmentally-sensitive tool to protect trees from bark beetle attack. This project was called the "Art of Chemical Camouflage", because we made host (susceptible) trees smell like nonhost (unsusceptible) trees (e.g., making a pine tree smell like an aspen tree). This confuses the beetles and they won't attack these trees or attack them at much lower densities, which allow the trees to survive.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

Since elementary school, I always wanted to be a scientist or commercial fisherman. However, it wasn't until college that I made a serious commitment to become a scientist.