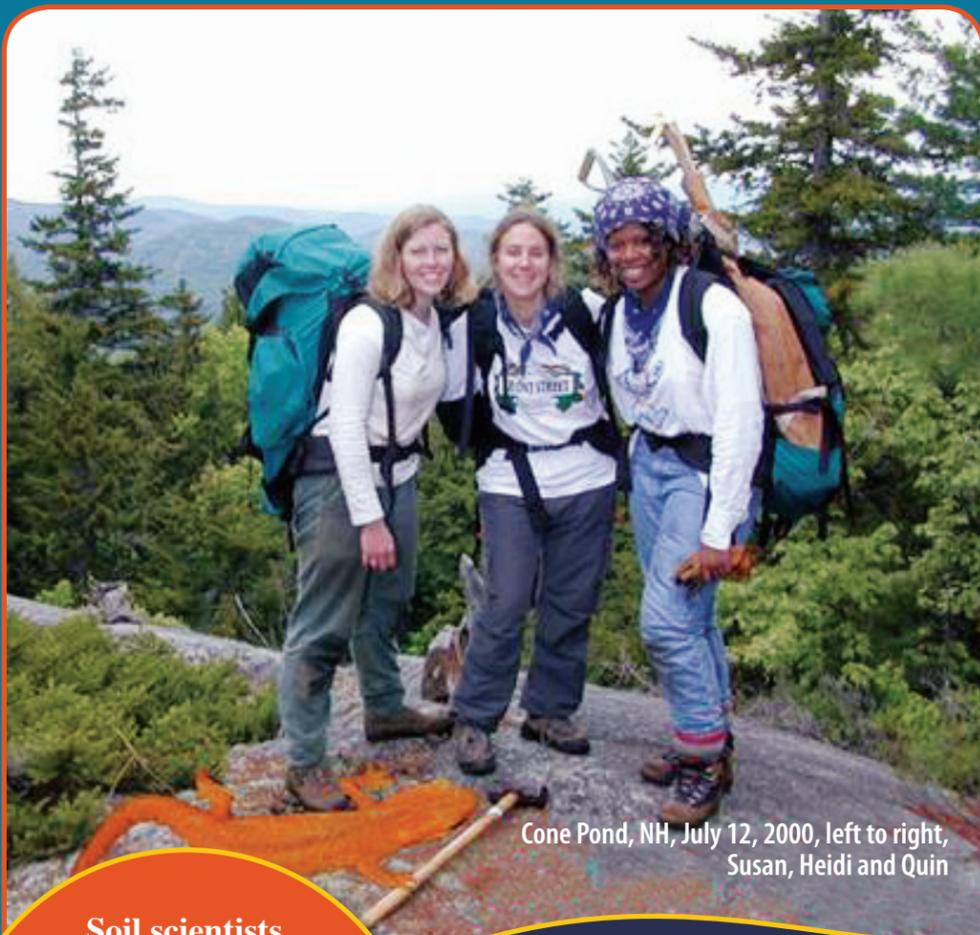




Meet the Scientist!



Cone Pond, NH, July 12, 2000, left to right, Susan, Heidi and Quin

Soil scientists are concerned with the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics and behavior of soils, and their management for both agricultural and nonagricultural uses.

Dr. Quin Holifield

Soil Scientist

Ph.D., State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY/ESF)

USDA Forest Service scientist



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

<http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>



Dr. Quin Holifield

Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Thinking outside of the box
- ★ Investigation
- ★ Ability to see the "whole picture" (for an example of this visit www.naturalinquirer.org and click on scientists cards.)

Example of a simple research question I have tried to

answer: Can microbial populations be used as an indicator of healthy soils and healthy trees, much like vital health signs, such as heart rate, body temperature, glucose levels and blood pressure, are used to assess human health?

Technology or equipment used in research:

Soil scientists use a variety of simple hand held equipment to hi-tech instruments to assess the conditions of the soil in both the field and in the laboratory. Of course a shovel is very handy to collect soil in the field, but soil scientist may also use sophisticated equipment like a LI-COR® multiplex system to measure soil respiration or a hydrometer to measure the moisture content in the field.

www.interfacesouth.org

Most Exciting Discovery

The decline of red spruce trees in the Northeastern USA as a result of changing land history.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

As a child, I was curious about how the natural world really worked. My grandfather was a farmer and he exposed me to the wonder world of soil, at an early age. I had ambitions of being an architect, or lawyer or a medical doctor. After doing a book report on Benjamin Banneker, the first African-American man of science, I realized that I wanted to pursue science as a career.