



Meet the Scientist!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



A meteorologist studies weather and climate. Weather is what is happening today or tomorrow. For example, is it raining or is it hot or cold? Climate is how weather changes over time.

Dr. Scott Goodrick

Meteorologist

Ph.D., University of Alabama, Huntsville

USDA Forest Service scientist

Important Scientist Characteristics

Curiosity, creativity and a love of puzzles are the talents contributing most to my scientific research. Curiosity means always asking questions about the world around us. Creativity allows you to look at problems in ways others have not. A love of puzzles gives one the drive to find the answer.

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

Some years have more forest fires that burn more acres than other years. Can we predict the number of forest fires and how big they will get each year by looking at how weather patterns are changing? Are there certain weather patterns associated with big forest fires?

Technology or equipment used in research:

Meteorologists use a wide range of tools from simple thermometers for measuring temperature to satellites that show us large storm systems from space. Weather radars are another tool that shows us what is going on inside clouds and can give us clues about the development of severe weather, like tornadoes.

Most Exciting Discovery

The atmosphere connects all parts of the globe. Colder than normal ocean temperatures along the equator in the Pacific Ocean can change weather patterns over the United States and lead to increased forest fires in the coastal plain of the southeastern United States.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I was 7 when I saw these amazing video clips showing flowers blooming and passing clouds, but time in these movies moved much faster than normal. Hours became seconds, days became minutes. Being able to see the world in different ways made me curious about everything.

<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>