



Meet the Scientist!



As a forest entomologist, I study how native trees interact with the feeding from invasive insects from other countries.

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<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

Important Scientist Characteristics

love working with other people on projects and helping to solve problems. Staying curious, asking questions, careful observation, and enthusiasm are skills that contribute most to my work.

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

How can we manage invasive insects and prevent them from moving into other areas? Invasive insects are not native to a location. Invasive insects can cause major problems in United States forests. I work with other scientists to find ways to manage these invasive insects and stop their movement to new areas. Most of my research has been working on the gypsy moth.

Technology or equipment used in research:

My partners and I work with aerial applicators. Aerial applicators can apply female mating pheromones (insect perfume) into the forest with aircraft and other equipment. We use computer technology to help guide the aircraft to specific areas. After the use of aerial applicators, male moths are confused and cannot find females for mating.

Most Exciting Discovery

My favorite science experience was traveling to Mongolia. I went with another forest entomologist to help train their foresters on using aerial applicators against forest pests. I also traveled to Bulgaria and Canada to provide similar training. Working with scientists from other countries is exciting!

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

Growing up, I always loved the outdoors. When I graduated from high school, I wanted to study forestry, but I was told there were no women foresters. I was stubborn, so I enrolled in forestry classes anyway. I loved it! After I took an entomology course in graduate school, I became interested in insects. As a small child, I used to scream for mom every time I saw a bug!

<http://www.gmsts.org/>