



# Meet the Engineer!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



Research engineers work on problems in a variety of areas. We work on everything from how a piece of material behaves when it is used to how to inspect historic artifacts.

## Dr. Bob Ross Engineer

Ph.D., University of Georgia  
USDA Forest Service engineer

### Important Engineer Characteristics

I believe curiosity is essential for a successful research career.

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

Is it safe to display a 2,500 year old Egyptian coffin in a museum? We used ultrasound techniques to determine that the coffin, which was made entirely of wood, was safe to be displayed in a well-known museum.

### Technology or equipment used in my work:

We use ultrasound techniques a lot to determine the quality of wood. Certain characteristics of wood alter ultrasound transmission.

### Most Exciting Work

My most exciting discovery was a relationship between various ultrasound characteristics and the quality of wood in trees.

### When did you know you wanted to be an engineer?

I knew I wanted to be a scientist later in grade school. I really enjoyed working on my projects for a science fair. I was a second place finisher in one of them!

<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>