



Meet the Scientist!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

A silviculturist studies how to grow forests.

Dr. Mark Twery

Silviculturist

Ph.D., Yale University

USDA Forest Service scientist

Important Scientist Characteristics

Most important to my research is my desire to make what I do useful. Being able to apply the results and see a difference out in the world is aided by good listening skills and a creative approach to the work.

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

How do plants on the forest floor respond to different growing conditions caused by a variety of tree-cutting activities?

Technology or equipment used in research:

I use computers to help me get a broad picture of conditions in the forest and to predict how things might change. I also use a special measuring tape to measure the diameters of trees in the forest.

Most Exciting Discovery

Although some forest plants may be less common after a disturbance such as tree cutting, none disappear. They all recover in a fairly short time as forest conditions return to what they were like before.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

After college I spent several years doing other work. I made furniture and built houses. However, I wanted my career to include more intellectual activity, and being a scientist allows me to ask and answer more of the “why” and “how” questions I have.

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/people/mtwery>