



# Meet the Scientist!



A wood anatomist studies the relationships between the structure of wood and its functions and properties, whether in the living tree, in a 2x4, or in a piece of trace evidence from a crime scene.

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<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

### Important Scientist Characteristics

My greatest strength as a scientist is probably my willingness to take the time to run with a new idea, and see where it leads.

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

Is it possible to train non-specialists in the wood identification of endangered species to prevent or curtail illegal logging? Can those people then go forth and train others so that the knowledge spreads?

### Technology or equipment used in research:

The transmitted light microscope is the workhorse of wood anatomy. The elegance of wood structure, as well as its complexity and variation, is best revealed at the magnifications available from a light microscope.

### Most Exciting Discovery

My most exciting work thus far has been in the area of applied forensic analysis. I have conducted forensic analyses of wood evidence from numerous crime scenes, contaminated food products and shipments of illegally-logged wood.

### When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I knew from my earliest years that I wanted to be a scientist. For years I saw myself becoming an entomologist, but one morning between my first and second semester of college, I woke, sat up in bed, and said, "I am going to be a botanist."

<https://www.fs.fed.us/research/people/profile.php?alias=awiedenhoef>