

## Triangle Climate & Landscape Researchers' Doggie Bag

Take-Home Info from the Brown Bag on December 11th, 2014

### Main Presentation

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**"What foresters are observing in the South (2013): A lesson in digging deeper for insights in climate change outreach".** Mark Megalos, Extension Forestry Specialist with the NCSU Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, led a friendly conversation sharing his ongoing insights and lessons learned from a regional interdisciplinary climate adaptation effort as they relate to outreach, engagement, tech transfer and adaptive management actions. He discussed the goals of PINEMAP, the Pine Integrated Network: Education, Mitigation, and Adaptation Project—to produce and disseminate information to Southern pine landowners to increase carbon sequestration, reduce fertilizer inputs, and generally use adaptive forest management and genetics techniques to ensure a resilient regional forest industry in the face of climate change.

Research on Southern extension agents suggests about 70% of Extension professionals are at least concerned about climate change. Their likelihood of participation in climate change programming is strongly related to engagement with the issue. Personal and regional differences do exist, which should be considered when designing and implementing climate change programming. See [this research summary](#) for more information. Analysis of a rigorous survey of Southern foresters suggests that years of forestry experience, state of residence, employer, gender, education level—and most of all, political ideology—influence foresters' climate change attitudes. Brad suggested that political ideology could be driving the relationship between years of experience and climate change attitude if older, more experienced foresters were more likely to be conservative. Foresters' attitudes, observations, concerns, and adaptive management actions were all found to be interrelated. Mark concludes that educators should focus programming on “no regrets solutions to future uncertainty,” solutions that benefit forest productivity by minimizing risk, regardless of climate impacts in a particular area. Communicators can't wait until their audience is receptive; by the time foresters observe changes, it may be too late for management action. Outreach should focus on adaptation solutions that align with foresters' forest health concerns. View this [research summary](#) and [factsheet](#) for more information. There was interesting discussion about whether foresters need to agree that climate change is anthropogenic to alter their management strategies—Hilary and Mark thought no, educators could just talk about drought, independent of climate change.

Mark previewed additional state-by-state spatial analysis of climate change observations suggesting KY, OK, and TX foresters are more likely to accept climate change. Foresters in these states also more commonly observed more frequent/severe plant infestations, fires, and drought conditions. In general, foresters observed increased drought in states located along the periphery of the Southeast (FL, TX, OK). Along the Atlantic Coast, there was a trend of decreasing drought observations from south (FL) to north (VA). Foresters observed increased invasive plant infestations in states located in the northeast corner of the Southeast (KY, VA, OK). Rua suggested additional research linking observations to actual occurrence of climate change phenomena based on climate data.

### Next Triangle Climate & Landscape Researchers' Brown Bag Topic

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**November 13th, 2014: " Bioenergy in the South: An ever-changing landscape "** Christopher Galik, a Senior Policy Associate in Environmental Economics with the Duke Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions

**Time:** 12:00-1:30pm

**Location:** 3rd Floor Training Room, Wildlife Resources Commission Building, NC State University's Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Drive. Free visitors' parking is located in rear of building.

## Triangle Climate & Landscape Researchers' Doggie Bag

### News & Events

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#### **Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH) new partnership facilitator**

- SERCH has hired Lisa Fouladbash as a new partnership facilitator. Welcome, Lisa!

#### **Alternating Brown Bag locations in 2015**

- For the foreseeable future, Brown Bags will be held alternately on Centennial Campus in the WRC building and on NCSU's main campus in Jordan Hall to reach a wider audience of attendees. Please be sure to check your reminder emails and the [Brown Bag page](#) on the South Atlantic LCC website to be sure of the location each month.

### Attendees & Contacts

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Lisa Fouladbash	NCSU/SERCH	<a href="mailto:lmfoulad@ncsu.edu">lmfoulad@ncsu.edu</a>
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### Meet your Brown Bag Hosts

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**South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative:** Hilary Morris, Blueprint User Support and Communications ([hilary\\_morris@fws.gov](mailto:hilary_morris@fws.gov))

If you're not a member of the South Atlantic LCC's website, simply click [here](#) to join for regular updates!

**Southeast Climate Science Center:** Aranzazu Lascurain, Program Coordinator ([alascur@ncsu.edu](mailto:alascur@ncsu.edu))

**State Climate Office of North Carolina:** Heather Dinon Aldridge, Applied Climatologist ([hadinon@ncsu.edu](mailto:hadinon@ncsu.edu))

**Southeast Regional Climate Hub:** Sarah Wiener, SERCH Coordinator ([sswiener@ncsu.edu](mailto:sswiener@ncsu.edu))