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**Message from the Chair:**

I hope that many of you will be able to attend the Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting in April. It should be a very interesting meeting in our nation's capitol. Our Chapter is sponsoring a symposium: "Forest Fragmentation and Biodiversity in the Southeastern United States" organized by Scott Franklin of the University of Memphis. We will hold our annual luncheon and business meeting on Friday, where we will elect a new Vice Chair and discuss plans for future meetings. The Chapter has sponsored the Odum Award since 1985 for the best student paper in ecology presented at the ASB meeting. Please consider contributing to the Award Fund. See you in April.

**Spring 2003 Chapter Meeting in Washington D.C.:** We are looking forward to the next chapter meeting with the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB) April 10-13, 2003 at Howard University in Washington D.C. Our section will sponsor a symposium "Forest fragmentation and biodiversity in the Southeastern United States" coordinated by Scott Franklin, University of Memphis. **Note that the SE-ESA luncheon will be on Friday** (NOT Thursday as listed on the registration form).

**2003 Elections:** Elections for vice-chair will be held at the Spring 2003 meeting for a 2-year term beginning in August. We have two nominations for ESA Southeastern Chapter Vice Presidential Nominees, and their biographical sketches are below. Interested in running for office? Responsibilities are listed on the section webpage under bylaws.

**Joan Walker**

Joan L. Walker is a research plant ecologist for the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station where she conducts research needed to conserve and recover Southeastern rare plant species and their habitats. Her research focuses on the population biology of selected rare plant species of the longleaf pine savannas in the Apalachicola Lowlands, and on restoring the herbaceous layer of longleaf pine communities. She is committed to translating research findings into practical management and conservation options, and does that by teaching at many technical workshops and working with individual land managers. She has worked most intensively in the fire-maintained longleaf pine ecosystem, but through experiences on public lands throughout the south, has developed an understanding of research needs and conservation issues in many of the region's natural systems.

Joan received her PhD in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1985. After a postdoc at Duke, she joined the Faculty at Southeastern Louisiana University. She joined the USDA Forest Service in 1988 as the first Plant Ecologist for the National Forests in Florida, and in 1990 became the first Regional Plant Ecologist for the Southern Region. In this position she contributed to Forest Planning efforts throughout the southeast focusing sensitive plant management and ecological land classification. In 1992, she assumed her current position with the Southern Research Station at Clemson University where she has adjunct faculty status and advises graduate students in Forest Resources and Biological Sciences. Joan has authored or coauthored publications on plant diversity, rare plant biology, restoration ecology, and forest management.

**Nicole Welch**

Nicole Turrill Welch is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). She received her B.S. and M.S. in Biological Sciences from Marshall University and Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Tennessee. Nicole's postdoctoral research was through the Indiana University (Bloomington) School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Her research interests include the use of prescribed burning to restore and maintain Table Mountain pine communities in the southern Appalachian Mountains, plant-soil interactions, forest succession following disturbance, and ecosystem carbon dynamics.

Nicole joined the MTSU Faculty in January 2002 following three years as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology at Indiana University. There she taught general biology courses for both science majors and non-majors. She currently is teaching an introductory biology course for non-science majors at MTSU. In addition, she is developing an online version of this course to be offered next fall. Nicole enjoys her role as the Department's Tri Beta Co-Advisor and as a volunteer for the Children's Discovery Center at Murfree Spring in Murfreesboro, TN.

**Membership Renewal:** The good news is that ESA remembered to include the SE chapter on the membership form this year. Please remember to check the SE chapter box, check that ESA has your email address correct, and notify us of changes. Your contribution to the Eugene P. Odum Fund will support next year's best student paper award.

**Upcoming Meetings and Symposia:** The 2003 ESA Meeting will be held August 3-8 in Savannah, Georgia, <http://www.esa.org/savannah/>. The deadline for abstracts is March 1. The SE Chapter will have an informal brown-bag lunch at the ESA meeting.

Other meetings of interest to ecologists in the southeast: The Society of Wetland Scientists will hold their 24th Annual Meeting, June 8-13, 2003, in New Orleans, LA. A USDA Symposium on Natural Resource Management to Offset Greenhouse Gas Emissions will be held in Raleigh, NC, Nov. 19-21, 2002. The Coastal Plains Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration will hold the Annual Symposium and Membership Meeting February 27 and 28, 2003 at the University of Georgia in Athens. The 2nd International Wildland Fire Ecology and Fire Management Congress will be held 16-20 November 2003, Colorado Springs Resort, Orlando, Florida.

**Keeping in touch:** Join the Southeastern Chapter of ESA LISTSERVER: To join the ListServer, send a message to <[majordomo@mail.auburn.edu](mailto:majordomo@mail.auburn.edu)> with the following command in the body of your email message: subscribe scesa. If you use a signature file, it's best to turn it off. If you have news or announcements for the Southeastern Chapter's Homepage, please send them to Mark MacKenzie.

Yetta Jager, Newsletter Editor