

April 19, 2017

The Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center (HTIRC) is a collaborative national research, development and technology transfer center for hardwood stewardship. Its mission is to advance the science and application of tree improvement, management, and protection to improve hardwood forests, and the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) at Purdue University and the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station (USFS-NRS) stand committed to this long-standing partnership.

Because HTIRC is a joint effort on the part of USFS-NRS and Purdue FNR, it is crucial that this collaboration is reflected in the administrative management of the program. It is for this reason that we are pleased to announce the appointment of Co-Directors to lead HTIRC. **Dr. Mark Coggeshall will serve as Co-Director of HTIRC** leading the USFS personnel in the work of the program. We also have appointed **Dr. Matt Ginzel to serve as Co-Director of HTIRC** leading the Purdue FNR portion of the program. Mark and Matt will work closely together to provide one voice regarding leadership decisions for the center. Mark and Matt's Co-Directorships of HTIRC are effective immediately.

Both Purdue FNR and USFS-NRS have been working together in TropHTIRC for a number of years, and have made positive and significant impacts in tropical hardwood research. As a result, we have decided to increase our joint efforts to address major tropical hardwood challenges in the Hawaiian Islands and surrounding area. Therefore, we are also happy to announce that effective immediately **Dr. Doug Jacobs will serve as Director of TropHTIRC**. This new leadership appointment will also create a more distinct administrative separation between HTIRC and TropHTIRC.

As HTIRC and TropHTIRC are well established research partnerships between FNR and the USFS Northern Research Station, these new leadership appointments represent the continued commitment of both organizations to the success of these programs.

We thank Drs. Coggeshall, Ginzel, and Jacobs for their willingness to assume these new leadership roles in HTIRC and TropHTIRC.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Wagner
Professor & Head
Department of Forestry & Natural Resources
Purdue University

Thomas L. Schmidt
Assistant Director, Research
Northern Research Station Executive Team
US Forest Service, Northern Research Station