

## A DNA MARKER RESOURCE FOR LONGLEAF PINE GENETICS

**Sedley Josserand**,<sup>1</sup> Craig Echt, Dennis Deemer, and C. Dana Nelson

<sup>1</sup>Southern Institute of Forest Genetics, Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, Saucier, MS

Microsatellite DNA markers, also known as SSR (simple sequence repeat) markers, are an essential genetic resource for population assessment, conservation genetics research, and seed orchard monitoring. We are developing longleaf pine SSR markers by evaluating mapped markers from loblolly pine and *de novo* markers from DNA sequence databases. Hundreds of potential markers are being evaluated with the goal of selecting a set of highly informative markers for use in a variety of applications. We will present our progress, research plans, and public distribution outlet for marker data.