

The broader research team

Beyond the A&M team there are four primary Co-Principal Investigators on the establishment of this plot, all of whom support the building of capacity in research and teaching at Alabama A&M University.

Dr. Luben Dimov, originated this work at Alabama A&M with the establishment of the first funding and building the team of researchers. He has since moved to the University of Vermont, but is staying strongly connected and supportive of the endeavor. He is an expert on the tree flora of Alabama and in forest ecology and silviculture.

Dr. Richard Condit, has worked on large-scale forest plots all over the world. He directed the Barro Colorado 50-ha plot for 30 years, and helped design and implement plots in Ecuador and in Cameroon, and wrote a book providing detailed methods for large plot censuses (http://conditdatacenter.org/pdfs/Condit_1998_CensusPlotsmethodsBook.pdf). He has also authored over 100 papers on forest demography and diversity that are based on plot data (most available at <http://conditdatacenter.org/ConditBibliography/>).

Dr. Stephen Hubbell is a Distinguished Professor at UCLA, a world expert on tropical forest ecology, and one of the founders of the Smithsonian Institution's global ForestGEO network of plots. He established the first ForestGEO plot in Panama in 1980 with Robin Foster of the Field Museum in Chicago.

Bill Finch is an expert on the botany of Alabama and the Sharp-Bingham Mountain Preserve, and is currently a Principal Conservation Science Advisor at the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation. He was previously the Director of Conservation and External Affairs at the Nature Conservancy in Alabama.

Partners and Collaborators

Through the establishment of this project, the support from the Nature Conservancy and the Smithsonian Institution has been invaluable.

New Relationships: As this project has developed, engagement has expanded to University of Georgia and University of Alabama (Alabama Museum of Natural History), among other institutions.

One of the CoPIs, Bill Finch, has established a nonprofit, [The Paint Rock Forest Research Center](#), which will support work on this plot and research in the broader area.

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