

Thomas W. Swetnam is Professor of Dendrochronology and Director of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona. Tom's research is on forest ecology, disturbance ecology, and climatology. He has worked extensively in National Parks and National Forests throughout the western U.S., using tree rings to reconstruct the history of forest fires, insect outbreaks, and climate. This work has provided basic understanding of the ecological role of fire and insects, the effects of past land uses, and insights on broad-scale climate patterns. He has recently served on Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano's Forest Health Advisory Council, and her Climate Change Advisory Group. As Director of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research he works with interdisciplinary faculty, staff, and students to maintain the excellence of this premier and largest laboratory in the world dedicated to the use of tree rings to study environmental and cultural change.