



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The N.C. Arboretum to Host Presentation of National Climate Assessment

ASHEVILLE, NC – The third National Climate Assessment was released in May 2014. The most authoritative and comprehensive report on climate change to date, the assessment was produced by a team of more than 300 experts, guided by a 60-member Federal Advisory Committee. Laura Stevens, research scientist with the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites, North Carolina, will present an overview of the findings at the Arboretum on Thursday, July 31 at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Based at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites was formed in 2009 through a national consortium of academic, non-profit and community organizations. The central focus of CICS is collaborative research into the use of satellite and local observations in climate research and applications. Primary collaborative activities are organized into six streams: Climate Data Records, Climate Literary, Climate Reference Network, National Climate Model Portal, National and Regional Assessments and Workforce Development

As a research scientist with CICS-NC, Laura Stevens provides science and technical support to the National Climate Assessment Technical Support Unit. Among her responsibilities is the analysis of both observational and climate model data sets, which led to the development of several figures included in the Third National Climate Assessment. Stevens' presentation will address the assessment, including how it came about, its goals and outcomes, and the process involved in creating the report. Her presentation will also include a look at past trends in U.S. temperature and precipitation, as well as future climate projections, with a focus on the Southeastern United States.

The presentation will take place in the Education Center auditorium at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 31. This event is free and open to the public, however normal parking fees (\$12 per personal vehicle) apply. Members of The North Carolina Arboretum Society always park for free.

For more information, please call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org. The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system, is to cultivate connections between people and plants.

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The NC Arboretum is located next to the Blue Ridge Parkway entrance at Milepost 393. From I-26, take Exit 33 and follow Blue Ridge Parkway signs for two miles to the entrance ramp. Visit www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit for parking fees, property hours and building hours. For general information call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org.