

National Technical Information Service

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR RETIRES

After 17 years with the Federal Government and 21 years in private industry, Jon Birdsall will be retiring from NTIS at the end of July. Jon has held several positions with NTIS, the most recent of which are the Associate Director for Customer Services and the Associate Director for Manufacturing and Distribution. Under Jon's direction, NTIS has continued to keep customers paramount in decisions related to ordering, customer outreach, problem resolution, product reproduction, and order fulfillment. We wish Jon a long and enjoyable retirement.

A GLIMPSE AT THE NTIS DIRECTOR'S OFFICE BY HIS SENIOR ADVISOR, STEVE NEEDLE

Steve Needle has been an important part of the NTIS team for 15 years, serving as the Senior Advisor to four NTIS Directors. Holding both Master of Business Administration and Juris Doctorate degrees, Steve makes an outstanding contribution to NTIS in a variety of areas.

Pat Moton: "Steve, what types of issues do you, as the NTIS Director's Senior Advisor, resolve, and what types of projects do you guide?"

Steve Needle: "As you know, NTIS is now earning a good portion of its revenue from services to other Federal agencies. Sometimes, in an effort to please a customer, it's easy to forget that there are limits on what we are allowed to do. My main job is to review all agreements to make sure that they are clear and that we are fully protected. In addition, I function as the 'go to' guy for public affairs, Congressional relations, Freedom of Information and Privacy issues, and matters relating to our Advisory Board."

Pat: "In light of NTIS' central focus on its customers, what are some of the initiatives you've worked on, or are currently working on, that will enhance NTIS' service and interaction with its customers?"

Please see page 3.



MIGRATORY BIRD CARE DURING OIL SPILLS

This year, NTIS added to its collection a guide entitled *Best Practices for Migratory Bird Care During Oil Spill Response* (PB2010-107889). This guide, created in 2003 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, includes direction on the highest standards of care for the migratory bird population during an oil spill crisis. It discusses specifics related to capture equipment and techniques designed to expose the oiled bird to the least amount of stress. Further, it describes safety requirements for the transport of captured birds, stressing that temperature control and monitoring are critical during transport. Specifics regarding bird-cleaning, drying, and waterproofing are also included. While wet birds being transported may require a temperature of 80°F to be comfortable, dry, oiled birds require a cooler environment. And don't forget that birds may overheat inside an air-conditioned vehicle if containers are exposed to direct sunlight. Further, the guide describes precautions professionals and volunteers need to follow for their own safety during rescue operations.

“. . . don't forget that birds may overheat inside an air-conditioned vehicle if containers are exposed to direct sunlight.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Whether you're a new customer to NTIS (*Welcome!*) or you've been with us for years (*Thank you!*), you may not realize that NTIS offers free downloads of reports in our collection that have been digitized and are five pages or less. I recently came across one of these reports and asked Sue Feindt, the Manager of our Cataloging and Indexing Division, for additional examples. To view these reports at no charge, just click on the titles below, and then, under the prices for the other media types available, click on "Click to download for free."

[ADA515969, Ethical Challenges for Commanders and Their Chaplains;](#)

[DE2010-952871, Hybrid Taxis Give Fuel Economy a Lift. Clean Cities, Fleet Experiences;](#)

[PB2010-107519, NIOSH Field Effort to Assess Chemical Exposure Risks to Gas and Oil Workers;](#)

[PB2010-109918, International Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea: Hindering Maritime Trade and Water Transportation Around the World;](#)

[PB2010-107897, Youth Afterschool Programs and Law Enforcement. Research in Progress Seminar Series.](#)



A GLIMPSE AT THE NTIS DIRECTOR'S OFFICE BY HIS SENIOR ADVISOR, STEVE NEEDLE

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Steve: "NTIS's customers aren't just the people who buy our products and services. Obviously, they are the most important class of customers and without them we might as well turn out the lights. But we also have to be responsive to the folks at Main Commerce downtown, and much of what I do relates to that and helps us demonstrate that NTIS is a responsible part of the Commerce Department community."

Pat: "As NTIS' Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer, can you explain why, when people send in a FOIA request for a publication, NTIS provides them the price and ordering information for the product rather than the product itself?"

Steve: "We'd be in a pretty bad way if people could simply demand products we sell under the Freedom of Information Act. Fortunately, the Act itself recognizes how unfair that would be. It makes it clear that it doesn't take priority over statutes that provide authority for agencies to sell items that the person is trying to get."

Pat: "I understand that NTIS is actively seeking individuals to serve on our Advisory Board. Would you explain the functions of the NTIS Advisory Board and the type of individuals we are seeking to serve on the Board? Also, do members of the Advisory Board get paid for their services?"

Steve: "We recently published a notice in the *Federal Register* seeking candidates for the Board, and we were delighted with the number and quality of the responses we received. By law, the Board advises us on all aspects of our operation, including the fees we charge. We're looking for a broad range that represents business, academia, and users of our goods and services. Members receive a per diem allowance for their expenses, but they are not compensated for their time."

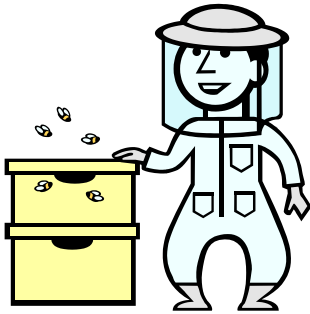
Pat: "Do you have a vision of where NTIS will be three years from now and the types of challenges it will be facing?"

Steve: "I think the biggest challenge to NTIS isn't what most people think – that more and more Federal information is available for free on the Web. That's a factor, but I think a bigger issue is that we are becoming an information and service-oriented economy, and I don't know if the demand for Federal technical information will be what it was when we were a "smokestack" economy. Still, it is important that what the Government produces be collected, organized and preserved and that we maintain the proper mix between 'product' and 'services' in what we offer."

Pat: "Thank you for taking time to provide us some new insights on NTIS."



"... NTIS is a responsible part of the Commerce Department community."



Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder

In January 2010, the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress prepared a report for Congress on the phenomenon now called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) as it relates to honey bee colonies in the United States. In late 2006, commercial migratory beekeepers along the East Coast began reporting sharp declines in their honey bee colonies. Beekeepers in most States have now been affected.

Although honey bee colony losses are not uncommon, the losses in recent years differ from the past because they are occurring mostly because bees are failing to return to the hive—highly uncharacteristic bee behavior. Honey bees have been identified as the most economically valuable pollinators of agricultural crops worldwide. They are the only bee species kept commercially in the United States.

This report, which describes the extent and symptoms of Colony Collapse Disorder and ongoing research into its cause, may be purchased from NTIS as [PB2010-106730](#).

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Mount St. Helens 30 Years Later: A Landscape Reconfigured

It was on May 18, 1980, following two months of tremors, that Mount St. Helens erupted in Washington State and changed forever a vast area surrounding the volcano. The vertical eruption plume continued for 9 hours, with ash rising 15 miles into the air and eventually encircling the globe. When the north slope of the mountain catastrophically failed, it formed the largest landslide witnessed in modern times.

Scientists were on the scene within days and have remained, documenting the process of ecosystem reassembly. Findings from their work have shifted thinking on how to manage landscapes after a major disturbance. They have learned that the volcanic ash that coated the fallen trees not only reduced flammability but also served as an effective insecticide. In addition, forest harvest policies have been changed as a result of this ongoing research which has led to the practice of leaving some live and some dead trees within harvest areas.

The full story is reported in the Spring 2010 issue of the Department of Agriculture's Pacific Northwest Research Station's *Science Update* available from NTIS as [PB2010-107478](#), or you may view this update at <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/science-update-19.pdf>.

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