

Thursday, February 18, 1999

Crew changes announced for upcoming missions STS-96, STS-101



Chopping, cutting, burning of Refuge part of scrub restoration

▲ On Feb. 12, NASA announced a **change in the crews** on upcoming Space Shuttle missions STS-96 and STS-101. Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev (on left in photo, with Commander Kent Rominger) has been named to the STS-96 mission, replacing cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, who is now assigned to STS-101. Also assigned to STS-101 is cosmonaut Boris Morukov. Tokarev joined other STS-96 crew members at KSC last week for a payload Interface Verification Test, checking equipment that will fly in the SPACEHAB logistics double module on the first logistics flight to the International Space Station. STS-96 is scheduled to launch on May 20 .



▲ **Scrub Restoration** -- During February and March, bulldozers and tractors will be chopping and cutting shrubs and tall trees in areas of the Wildlife Refuge to restore the habitat required by the Florida scrub jay. The scrub habitat has become overgrown, losing its value for scrub-dependent plants and animals and presenting conditions that can change the habitat. For one, the tall trees provide perches for predators, which threaten the scrub jays. After the chopping and cutting, when conditions are favorable, the refuge fire specialist will burn the 1500-acre area to create natural openings and reduce the overall height of the scrub.

◆ **NASA Call For Submissions for 1999 Software of the Year Award** -- The Inventions and Contributions Board at NASA HQ is seeking nominations for Software of the Year Award. The award, which will include a plaque, a certificate signed by the Administrator, and a monetary award of up to \$100,000, will be presented to author(s) of software in which (1) NASA has an intellectual property interest, (2) it has been supported, adopted, sponsored, or used by NASA, (3) it is significant to the NASA mission, and (4) software programs have completed all experimental phases; i.e., must have been released by the nominating NASA center release authority to qualified users. Additional guidance for the NASA Software of the Year competition is available at the following web site: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codei/codeic.html>

◆ **Science Fair judges** are still needed in several elementary schools for events in February and March. The schools are Andersen Elementary, Rockledge, Feb. 25; Imperial Estates Elementary, Titusville, March 2; Riverview Elementary, Titusville, March 10; and Space Coast Middle School, Port St. John, April 16. To volunteer, call Denise Coleman, 867-4444, or e-mail her at denise.coleman-1@ksc.nasa.gov.

◆ **Did You Know? The FLOWMOBILE (Florida Licensing on Wheels)** will no longer be coming to Kennedy Space Center. The State Licensing Office has stated that the Flowmobile, which provides driver license renewal, is no longer in service. If other means of providing this service becomes available, KSC will be notified by the State.

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