

Northeastern Area



News Notes



Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Thursday, June 19, 2003



FOREST SERVICE ADDRESSES AND ADDS VALUE TO MAJOR ISSUES

When you notice a tract of forest being converted to a housing development, do you feel disappointment over the permanent loss of natural scenery or the lost opportunity to stroll through the land? This type of reaction is spurring a land protection movement throughout the country. The term “land protection” describes the legal means by which land is maintained in its

current land use and is prohibited from conversion to specific uses such as residential or industrial. The conservation easement is the predominant tool used to protect land. A conservation easement (or conservation restriction) is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values.

Since the 1990 Farm Bill, in which a number of new Cooperative Forestry programs were enacted, the Forest Service has been adding value to the land conservation effort. The Forest Legacy Program is implemented with State and nonprofit partners to purchase conservation easements on forest land so that the land is protected but remains privately owned. The companion Forest Stewardship Program establishes standards for forest management plans, which ensure that private forest landowners follow professional advice when managing their lands according to their chosen objectives. These Federal partnership efforts address forest fragmentation, which has been identified as a major issue by the Northeastern Area State Foresters and by the Chief of the Forest Service in his list of “great issues of the early 21st century” (http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/2003/apr25/index.html).

The completely voluntary Forest Legacy Program has expanded from 6 initial States in 1992 to 34 active States today, with a handful of States currently conducting Assessments of Need to become eligible for Forest Legacy funds. Over 370,000 acres have been protected with the Forest Legacy Program nationwide. Here in the Northeastern Area, 13 of our 16 active States have completed 108 projects to protect 204,000 acres of nationally recognized important forest land. We are on the verge of protecting 500,000 additional acres in the Northeastern Area before the year is out.

Land protection movement participants include State and local governments and nonprofit organizations that are, coincidentally, our partners. Land trusts are qualified organizations under Internal Revenue Service rules that can receive donations and hold in perpetuity conservation easements. The number of land trusts and, correspondingly, the number of conservation easements, have grown tremendously since the Tax Reform Act of 1976 explicitly recognized donated conservation easements as tax deductible.

“Cost of Community Services” studies appear to have spurred action in local and State governments to enact bond measures to protect locally important land. These studies generally show that open space property tax revenues exceed the costs required to service open space. Thus, open space tax revenues help pay for community services on developed land. The bond measures enable local governments to purchase conservation easements.



The Land Trust Alliance, a national organization that supports the nation's 1,200-plus nonprofit land trusts, reports on their Web site (www.lta.org):

“Voters in 93 communities in 22 States approved on Nov. 5 (2002) ballot measures that committed \$2.9 billion to acquire and restore land for parks and open space. The successful measures were among 109 conservation measures considered on State and local ballots across the United States. On Nov. 5 alone, voters approved 85 percent of the referenda on which they voted.”

People want open space strongly enough to pay to protect it.

Through the Cooperative Forestry Act, the Northeastern Area is addressing the major issues of the early 21st century as an innovative organization heavily dependent on partnerships. The Forest Legacy Program offers substantial results from which we can substitute that sense of disappointment of forest loss with a sense of accomplishment of conserving forest land for future generations.

Kathy Maloney

2ND ANNUAL MIDWEST WILDFIRE TRAINING ACADEMY IS A BIG SUCCESS



The Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact held its second annual Wildfire Training Academy May 28 to June 1, 2003, in Jefferson City, Missouri. The Academy, offering a schedule of 14 wildfire classes, allowed firefighters to boost their skills in all aspects of the wildfire management arena. There were a variety of courses available for all skill levels ranging from the Basic Wildland Firefighter (S-130) to Fire Behavior Calculations (S-390).

The Wildfire Training Academy began in 2002 with a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, to the Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact (Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri). A partnership was formed with the

University of Missouri-Fire and Rescue Training Institute to incorporate wildland fire management courses into their Summer Fire School. With an attendance of 288 students, the 2002 Academy was a success.

In 2003, the Academy was expanded to 14 classes. The student enrollment increased to 400, with firefighters coming from as far away as Idaho and New Jersey. Many of the previous year's students returned to take advanced classes. Local volunteer and career fire department personnel were well represented. State forestry, Federal, and military agencies also took advantage of the Academy's numerous course offerings.

The instructor cadre was a real tribute to interagency cooperation. There were 30 instructors, representing 14 States within the Northeastern Area (and one from New Mexico). Approximately one half of the instructors was from Federal agencies (USFS, USF&WS, NPS, and NOAA). The other half was from NA State agencies.



The University of Missouri-Fire and Rescue Training Institute has been holding the Summer Fire School since 1933. Over the last 70 years, the Institute has built a reputation for conducting an excellent training experience for students who attend. Within the second year, the Wildfire Training Academy had an enrollment of 40 percent of the total Summer Fire School. There is no shortage of firefighters who need quality training.

Plans are already underway for the 2004 Academy. Mark your calendar (May 26-30, 2004) for a great training experience.



Durham Field Office Notes

A TASTE OF INDIA, IN HIGH FASHION

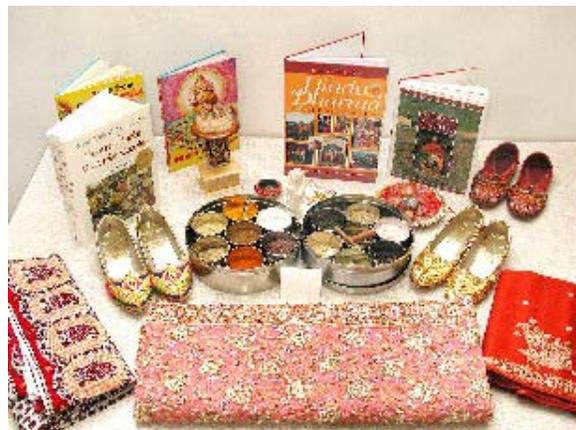


“Smile for the camera!” Models gather for a photo before the India fashion show.

Rakesh and her husband, Subhash, a professor at the University. As the smell of curry wafted into the conference room, Subhash led a lively discussion on India’s political and educational structure. The day’s events culminated with a buffet lunch of savory Indian food, expertly prepared by Rakesh, her friend Kumud Nanda, Yvonne, and Matsie. As guests feasted on a variety of curries, rice pilaf, yogurt raita, chutneys, and lentil chips (papads), they examined the various displays set up in the lobby. A photo collage depicted Indian wedding traditions and a wide array of Indian items, including shoes, jewelry, cloth, and books, which were artfully arranged for all to see. Clips from Indian movies, featuring exquisite costumes, elaborate dance numbers, and lively music, served as lunchtime entertainment.

The overwhelming consensus is that this event was the best at Durham in quite some time. The efforts of Rakesh, Yvonne, and Matsie were recognized at the June Civil Rights meeting, when they each received a Certificate of Appreciation that read, *“Our thanks, from the USDA Forest Service, Durham Civil Rights Committee, for your extraordinary initiative to conceive and promote the May 2003 Indian cultural event and luncheon. You packed the conference room with enthused coworkers, friends, and family, who shared a tremendous occasion for learning and community.”*

NE/NA Durham employees and guests celebrated **Asian-Pacific American Month** in style on May 15, 2003. The day’s focus was the food and culture of India, led by the dedicated efforts and vast wardrobe of NE’s **Rakesh Minocha**, with help from **Yvonne Chainey** and **Matsie Mairs**. First up was a fashion show, with employees modeling a variety of Rakesh’s beautiful saris and salwar kameez sets. As the models sashayed along the conference room “runway,” Rakesh explained the origin, material, and use of each outfit. Employees and guests “oohed” and “aahed” at the vibrant colors and intricate materials. Rakesh then led attendees on a virtual “tour of India” with a slide show of photos taken during trips to her homeland. Next on the agenda was a medley of traditional and contemporary Indian dance, performed by Sridev Mohapatra, a UNH doctoral student who is advised by



Rakesh Minocha displayed a number of items from her homeland.





Jo Santiago volunteered to be Shanti's lifelong caretaker, a 25- to 30-year commitment.



Roy Moose's enthusiasm for snakes was shared by many of the students.

THE SHANTI PROGRAM COMES TO BOSTON

A Civil Rights grant enabled a unique education program to be brought to four different Boston area schools June 3 through 5, 2003. The Shanti Program nurtures an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the essential interrelationship between people and natural systems of the environment. This is done with the help of "Shanti," a red-tailed hawk who is unable to return to the wild due to a car collision, and several poisonous and nonpoisonous snakes. Jo Santiago, Director of the Monongahela National Forest's

Cranberry Mountain Nature Center and Shanti's caretaker, introduced red-tailed hawk characteristics, learned through her years of caring for the bird.

Roy Moose, an interpreter/snake handler at Cranberry Mountain, presented 10 native snake species, including timber rattlers, a copperhead, and several nonpoisonous snakes. Students were able to touch and handle the nonpoisonous snakes and see the similarities and differences between poisonous and nonpoisonous snakes. **Connie Carpenter**, **Dan Carpenter** (Forest Service Volunteer), and **Susan Cox** helped bring the program, which promotes nature education to underrepresented communities in both urban and rural settings, to the Boston area. Future plans are to have Jo and Roy return in the fall to present additional programs in New Hampshire.



HACU intern Rolando Lopez found a new friend at a recent conservation education program.

DURHAM WELCOMES HACU SUMMER INTERN

The Durham Field Office welcomed its HACU summer intern, Rolando Lopez, on June 3, 2003. Rolando is a Computer Science major from the University of Puerto Rico and has completed four prior HACU internships with the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC. His first project will involve development of a Web application for grant monitors to record the outcome of contacts with grantees. Beyond the work lined up for him, Rolando will also get the chance for field experiences to introduce him to the Northeastern Area and the Forest Service. His first such trip had him handling snakes during the Shanti Program outreach effort with Boston area schools.

MAINE'S NEW STATE FORESTER RETURNS TO HIS ROOTS

Department of Conservation Commissioner Patrick McGowan announced the selection of Alec Giffen as Maine's new State Forester effective May 5, 2003.

"Alec is recognized for his interest in developing solutions that are forward thinking, based on fact and sound analysis, and serving society's need for a sound economy as well as a clean, and healthy sustainable forest," observed

Commissioner McGowan. Giffen brings to the post a blend of public and private service. He spent the first 16 years of his career in a variety of positions in Maine State government, including Director of the Land Use Regulation Commission at the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Director of the Natural Resource Planning Division at the State Planning Office. Fifteen years ago, he founded Land & Water



Associates, an environmental consulting firm specializing in management planning and conflict resolution. Giffen stated, *“I am delighted to be back at DOC and serving the people of Maine. . . . My intent is for us all to work together to both enhance the quality of our forest resources and the contribution forest products make to the Maine economy.”*

PURE WORKS IN BUFFALO

The Partners for Urban Resources and the Environment (PURE) have participated in a string of successful projects aimed at restoring Buffalo’s urban ecosystems. Darlene Vogel, PURE Coordinator, and Dave Paradowski from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation recently welcomed **John Parry** to on-site visits highlighting their work, which is sponsored in part by a 2001 Urban Forestry Title VIII grant. PURE has coordinated or participated in a variety of projects, including a land analysis of Buffalo’s estimated 12,000 vacant properties, and a City Green Analysis, which shows the impact the tree canopy has on air quality, storm water runoff, and energy conservation. PURE is working with the city to complete an Urban Forest Master Plan as a followup to a tree survey completed last year. Restoration work has started on Seneca Bluffs, a 15-acre city parcel on the Buffalo River. The work will create a usable green space by providing user access, cleaning up trash and debris, controlling invasive plants, and replanting native species.



Volunteers finish up landscaping work at Puddingstone Park in Boston’s Roxbury neighborhood.

INNER CITY PARK RESTORATION COMPLETED IN BOSTON

The Boston Parks Department and the Community Outreach Group (COG) took advantage of good weather recently to put the finishing touches on the restoration of Puddingstone Park in Roxbury. The work in this neighborhood park was supported in part by a Forest Service Civil Rights grant. COG is a coalition of landscape designers who donate their services and enthusiasm to initiate worthy greening projects in the city. They worked in cooperation with neighborhood volunteers, the Boston Parks Department, and others to restore this neglected park and have a lasting impact on the community’s livability. **John Parry** has assisted with this project from start to finish, helping to acquire civil rights funding and providing technical assistance.

AREA-WIDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION MEETING

Teri Heyer, Dan Kincaid, and Susan Cox hosted an NA Conservation Education meeting May 27 in Huron, Ohio. The meeting was scheduled to coincide with the Project Learning Tree (PLT) Conference held at the same site. Meeting topics included education efforts concerning four forest threats — fire, invasive species, fragmentation, and recreation users. State partners were able to share information on projects and partnering opportunities. Dave Chase, PLT National Office, shared the status of PLT in the States served by NA. The PLT conference focused on building partnerships, developing the Model States Initiative, and improving programs. The field trip included a tour of a composting business and Ohio State’s Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie.



Grey Towers Notes



Students learn how to read tree rings along the Grey Towers Forestry Trail.



Students play a game of "Tree Trivia" along the Grey Towers Forestry Trail.

During a 3-week period this spring, Grey Towers staff provided conservation education programs to more than 850 youngsters from regional schools. Students ranging from kindergarten to high school learned about Gifford Pinchot, the Forest Service, water quality, forestry, wildlife, and habitat in a number of interesting programs, hikes, tours, and presentations. As schools re-evaluate their post-9/11 travel policies and operate with tight fiscal constraints, Grey Towers is increasingly becoming a popular school field trip destination because it is in close proximity to school districts in three States and charges no fee for education programs. Staff members continue to come up with creative ways to juggle several hundred students, conference participants, and the visiting public without impacting services or the site!

GREY TOWERS IS POPULAR SCHOOL TRIP DESTINATION

GREY TOWERS GOES TO GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK LAKE FESTIVAL

Grey Towers staff once again participated in the Annual Lake Festival at Gifford Pinchot State Park, Lewisberry, Pennsylvania. The park is named for Gifford Pinchot because it is located on one of the first roads to be paved under Governor Pinchot's "get the farmer out of the mud" roads program. The Lake Festival offers regional environmental groups a chance to share information about their programs, and Grey Towers uses the opportunity to educate visitors about Gifford Pinchot and his forestry career. We have discovered that while many in Pennsylvania are knowledgeable about Gifford the Governor, very few are aware of his impact and influence on conservation in the Nation.

PINCHOT INSTITUTE, GREY TOWERS EXPLORE SUSTAINABLE FORESTS

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation and the Forest Service at Grey Towers sponsored a workshop last month exploring the issue of how to produce long-term sustainable forests in the Delaware Highlands region. This region is unique in that it has large intact tracts of forest, despite the fact that it is one of the fastest growing areas in the Northeast. It also serves as the recreational playground for and controls the water resources of two major urban areas: New York City and Philadelphia.

Participants agreed that the Pinchot Institute and Grey Towers could spearhead this initiative by taking on the jobs of convening, policy analysis, and education. The next step is to turn out a proceeding with recommendations, launch a program, and create partnerships. Peter Pinchot, chairman of the Pinchot Institute Board of Directors and Director of the Milford Experimental Forest, has taken the lead in this project.

Other conferences and meetings at the Grey Towers conference center in the past few weeks include:

- Forest Supervisors Leadership Forum;
- Region 9 Ranger Advanced Leadership Forum; and
- Federal Excess Property Advisory Council.

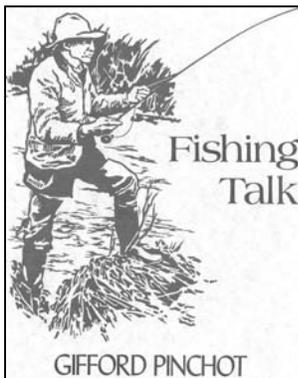


CHAMBER MUSIC LINKS ARTS & CONSERVATION AT GREY TOWERS

The second annual Kindred Music Chamber Music series is underway at Grey Towers. This popular program, which seeks to make the connection between nature and art through music, is held in the Great Hall at Grey Towers, the ideal venue for chamber music. In addition, the concert series offers an opportunity to share the legacy of James Pinchot, Gifford's father, who was one of the first in the Nation to understand and support the connection between the arts and nature. The 2003 schedule includes:

- June 20-21: Stephen Wilber
- July 5: Barchois Folk Concert
- July 18-19: Behdad Moghaddasi
- August 15-16: Damocles Piano Trio
- September 5-6: Hye-Jin Kim
- October 4-5: Vega String Quartet

A Folk Concert is planned for July 5 in the Grey Towers amphitheatre. The Pinchot Institute for Conservation sponsors the music program.



"JUST FISHING" TOPIC OF GREY TOWERS PROGRAM

Grey Towers Museum Specialist Rebecca Philpot shared some of Gifford Pinchot's favorite fishing stories at a public program on June 7. "*Just Fishing*," which is the title of a book authored by Pinchot, also included a look at some of the Grey Towers historic fishing collection. Pinchot was an avid angler who loved fishing the local streams of Pike County. Pinchot also fished the South Seas and wrote "*To The South Seas*" about the expedition he led between his two gubernatorial terms. The program

was part of Grey Towers' Off The Shelf cultural program. Postscript: The Pinchot family recently donated Gifford's favorite canoe to the Forest Service historic collection at Grey Towers. It will be exhibited in the Letter Box.



Morgantown Field Office Notes

WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, CHILDREN'S GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL

The Washington County Children's Groundwater Festival was held on May 14, 2003, at California University of Pennsylvania. More than 1,200 sixth grade students from 10 schools in the county participated in a day of demonstrations, exhibits, experiments, and presentations on the importance of protecting our groundwater. **Roxane Palone** and **Jeffery Bejune** represented the Morgantown Field Office with an exhibit titled "Forests for All." The display and accompanying experiment showed the students the importance, benefits, and functions of riparian forest buffers. Students were given specific assignments that were completed with the help of the exhibitors. The sixth graders also participated in several classroom presentations about fish, animals, and aquatic ecosystems. Some of the live "guests" at the festival included snakes, turtles, fish, owls, a skunk, ducks, and hawks. The annual festival is sponsored by the Washington County (Pennsylvania) Watershed Alliance.





PILOT RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FROST VALLEY, NEW YORK

The Watershed Forestry Program of the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) in the New York City Watershed hosted a workshop in late May on the grounds of the 6,000-acre YMCA facility in Frost Valley. WAC requires foresters and consultants to be knowledgeable in forest management, road construction, and riparian buffer management in order to write management plans for the NYC Watershed. **Dave Welsch**, Watershed Specialist from the Durham Field Office, and **Karen Sykes**, FRM Group Leader from the

Morgantown Field Office, were asked to develop presentations on specific riparian benefits and proper silvicultural treatments to maintain forest productivity while protecting the riparian character of the forest. Ten forestry consultants and New York DEC foresters attended to learn more about the benefits of forest riparian buffers, how to delineate riparian buffers, and how to prescribe silvicultural treatments. Karen gave a presentation on riparian benefits and the tree species that should be favored during silvicultural operations based on landowner objectives. Dave described silvicultural treatments to various riparian stands based on current stand conditions. The group had discussions on fisheries, wildlife, timber, aesthetics, water quality, and other landowner objectives.

REVITALIZING BALTIMORE

On Tuesday, April 22, 2003, **Anne Cumming** attended a joint meeting of the Revitalizing Baltimore Technical Committee and the Baltimore Ecosystem Study (BES) Science Committee. This assembly was part of the BES information gathering effort to support the BES National Science Foundation grant re-application. Representatives from Baltimore watershed associations, Revitalizing Baltimore, Maryland DNR Forest Service, USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry and Research, and scientists from the BES attended.

MARYLAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VISIT

On Tuesday, April 22, 2003, **Anne Cumming** met with Mike Galvin for a technical assistance visit and program update. They reviewed the status of action items for the most recent 5-year program review. They also discussed the transition of the state council function from the Maryland Community Forestry Council to the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards. This board has statewide representation.

BIDWELL TRAINING CENTER

The Bidwell Training Center of Pittsburgh hosted a meeting of arboriculture professionals on May 20, 2003, at their facility. Gary Baranowski, Director of the Horticulture Technology Program, worked with Bill Elmendorf to convene the meeting. **Anne Cumming**, Steve Miller (Consulting Arborist), Dale Vezzetti (Forester, City of Pittsburgh), Rich Vrbonic (Bartlett Tree Experts), Brian Tarbutt (Davey Tree), and John Smith (Hazelett Tree) attended to discuss possible expansion of the horticulture program to include arboriculture. Bidwell Training Center is a post-secondary vocational training center. Their new horticulture program has just been accredited and the school is exploring the possibility of adding an arboriculture track. Discussions centered on the needs of employers for qualified workers and the types of skills that are desired. The group will be working with Gary on the expanded curriculum this summer.





Liberty State Park – Site of the 2003 New Jersey State Arbor Day and the Living Memorial to the New Jersey residents who died on 9/11/01.

NEW JERSEY STATE ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

On Friday, April 25, 2003, **Anne Cumming** attended the New Jersey State Arbor Day Celebration at Liberty State Park, Jersey City, New Jersey. This is the site for a Living Memorial dedicated to the New Jersey residents who lost their lives in the World Trade Center attacks. As part of the Arbor Day ceremony, volunteers planted the first 200 trees for the project. When the project is complete, a total of 691 trees will be planted. Other activities of the celebration included awards for 1st, 20th, and 25th year Tree City USA communities and Tree Line USA companies. Winners of the Arbor Day essay contest and the prestigious Joyce Kilmer Award were announced. Phil Rodbell, Matt Arnn, and Erika Svendsen represented the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area and the Northeastern Research Station.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARBOR DAY FAIR



More than 1,100 people visited Montgomery County, Maryland, Arbor Day.

On Sunday, April 27, 2003, **Anne Cumming** participated in the Montgomery County Arbor Day Fair in Derwood, Maryland. This is the third year the USDA Forest Service has been invited to have a booth and be an exhibitor at the fair. This year the USDA Forest Service featured a display on proper pruning and the harmful effects of topping. More than 1,100 people attended the fair this year and were treated to planting demonstrations, displays from over 20 natural resource groups, music, and games all centering on the benefits of trees.

FAIRHEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB PRESENTATION

The Fairheights Garden Club, Westover, West Virginia, voiced concern over utility pruning and species selection at their recent meeting on May 21. **Anne Cumming** was guest speaker at the club's May meeting. Anne presented information on the importance of urban and community trees and offered many opportunities for the club to become involved with trees in their community.

PENNSYLVANIA URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

On May 14, 2003, **Anne Cumming** attended a meeting of the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council. Participants of the well-attended meeting were treated to presentations by Patrice Carroll, who presented information on the Delaware Valley City Green Analysis, and Dr. Don Eggen, who spoke to the group about exotic pests that threaten Pennsylvania's trees. The council is actively working on their grant program and various urban forestry publications.





Two hundred-foot? 200-foot slag heap near the Monongahela River.

NINE MILE RUN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

A 20-story high slag heap presents challenges to an older residential city neighborhood in Pittsburgh. **Anne Cumming** met with Marijke Hecht, Executive Director of the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, at her offices in Wilksburg, Pennsylvania, on May 22, 2003. Marijke is in her first year of organizing watershed projects in the Nine Mile Run Watershed, including several community forestry projects. Anne is providing technical assistance.

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Delaware Cooperative Management Review (CMR) was conducted in Dover, Delaware, on May 28 and 29. Review Team members included Austin Short (DE State Forester), John Nordin (Deputy Director, NA), Victor Mercado (Civil Rights Specialist, NE), Joanne Fuss (Grants Specialist, NA), and **John Hazel**. It included presentations by representatives of the State agency describing their organization and programs, a review of actions in the CMR conducted in 1998, and discussions of programs, financial management and grants administration, civil rights compliance, and working relationships. Also participating in the review were Michael Scuse (Delaware Secretary of Agriculture), Bryan Hall (Senior Forester-Urban), Debbie Carey (Administration–Civil Rights), James Olson (Senior Forester-BMP and Stewardship), Erich Burkentien (Senior Forester-EAP), James Dowd (Conservation Technician V-Fire), Michael Valenti (Senior Forester-Forest Health), Sandy Ogden (Administration-Controller), and Cindy Davis (Administration-Senior Accountant).

The Delaware Cooperative Management Review (CMR) was conducted in Dover, Delaware, on May 28 and 29. Review Team members included Austin Short (DE State Forester),

Noteworthy were Delaware’s efforts in supporting the 2002 national wildfire suppression effort by providing two 20-person fire crews, addressing a unique coastal wildland interface fire hazard caused by invasion of phragmites (a tall flammable invasive grass), establishing new education facilities at Blackbird and Redden State Forests, participating in the Mid-Atlantic Conservation Education Cooperative, increasing the number of certified arborists in the State, modifying the DFS organization to enhance program delivery and to allow for career ladder opportunities, and maintaining efficient grant processing.

MARYLAND STEWARDSHIP REVIEW



Landowner Paul Perry shows his harvesting tools to members of the review team.

A Stewardship Program Review was held in Maryland during the week of June 2nd. The review was conducted by an NA-State Forestry Agency team consisting of **Karen Sykes**, Morgantown FRM Group Leader; Lloyd Casey, Landowner Assistance Program Manager; Patrick Meckley, Maryland Stewardship Coordinator; and Jim Stiehler, Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Coordinator. The team spoke with State Forester Steve Koehn several times and visited five landowner sites that demonstrated Stewardship, CREP, and other management activities. Landowners Paul and Helen Perry took the team on a tour of their Tree Farm and demonstrated the use of their Mighty Mite, a portable sawmill.



MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS



Ed Fletcher from Banner Elk, North Carolina, explains the cultivation of black cohosh.

On June 9, a workshop to learn more about non-timber forest products was held at the Crummies Creek Tree Farm in remote Arnoldsburg, West Virginia, Calhoun County. The program was sponsored by the Forest Stewards Guild, WVU Extension, Woodland Owners Association of West Virginia, WV Ginseng Growers Association, WV Tree Farm Committee, Appalachian Hardwood Center, WV Forestry Association, and WV Division of Forestry. The intent of the workshop was to show foresters and land managers how to recognize and evaluate populations of understory plants of commercial value or ecological significance. The program included a demonstration of inventory techniques for determining populations of understory medicinal plant species, with an emphasis on black cohosh, and opportunities and markets for Shiitake mushrooms produced from low-quality and small-diameter white oak and chestnut oak logs. Because some of these economically important plants require specific light densities, **Karen Sykes** discussed methods and tools for determining forest cover, shade, and crown closure. She demonstrated how to use a densiometer, which is used to

measure forest overstory density. The workshop was an excellent opportunity for participants to hear about research and markets that are rapidly developing for non-timber forest products.

WASHINGTON OFFICE DETAIL TO REDESIGN WOOSY BROCHURE

From June 2 through 13, 2003, **Tinathan Lewis** was detailed to the Washington Office Conservation Education Staff to revamp the “Woosy Owl Recreation Tips” brochure. Tinathan spent the two weeks meeting with individuals to collect information for redesigning the publication and left the staff with a prototype. Tinathan will continue to work on the publication from her home unit until the product is finalized.

St. Paul Field Office Notes

SAD FAREWELLS TO TWO ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE EMPLOYEES

Ann Jungmann, Program Analyst, and **Rich Wiest**, Stewardship Forester, retired from the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area on May 30. **Ann** has over 18 years of Federal service and more than 10 with the Northeastern Area. **Ann** plans to enjoy her retirement by traveling with her husband and spending time with her grandchildren. Known for her calm, unflappable demeanor and her love of working with numbers and the budget, we will all miss working with her.

Rich began his career with the USDA Forest Service as a high school student out West. With over 35 years of service to the Forest Service, **Rich** worked in Idaho, California, Montana, Alaska, and Minnesota. A former smokejumper, **Rich** has a vast knowledge of forestry and an endless supply of incredible firefighting stories. On one fire assignment, **Rich** even met Bob Hope (on a golf course – not on the actual fire!). **Bob** spent several minutes joking with the jumpers and asking them questions about their job. **Rich** intends to spend his time working at a golf course and continuing his woodworking and cabinet making. Sounds like a whole lot more fun than jumping out of a perfectly good airplane.



TRENDS, TREES, AND TREE FARMERS

Steve Bratkovich, Marketing and Utilization Specialist, and **Gina Childs**, Information Management and Analysis Group Leader, wrote the feature article for the May/June issue of *Tree Farmer* magazine. For their article, Steve and Gina interviewed a number of forestry experts including **Ron Overton**, Regeneration Specialist, and **Lloyd Casey**, Landowner Assistance Program Manager, from the Northeastern Area. The article presents observations of several trends in forest products and encourages tree farmers to be good stewards of their land. *Tree Farmer* is the official magazine of the 65,000-member American Tree Farm System.

NORTHEASTERN AREA SPOTLIGHTED AT CALIFORNIA URBAN WOOD UTILIZATION WORKSHOP

Steve Bratkovich was the kick-off speaker at the daylong Urban Wood Utilization Workshop at Palomar College in San Diego sponsored by the California Urban Forestry Council. Steve presented the national perspective on urban wood utilization. The audience included municipal foresters, arborists, non-profit organizations, woodworkers, and others with an interest in the topic. This is the second time the California Urban Forestry Council has asked Steve to lead one of their workshops on this topic. These workshops are a result of the collaboration between Steve and Eric Oldar, Urban Forestry Coordinator for California. Eric provided one of the case studies for Steve's popular publication, "Utilizing Municipal Trees: Ideas from Across the Country."

ANOTHER CASE FOR FORESTRY AFFECTING PROPERTY VALUES

Researchers at Bemidji State University have calculated how water clarity affects the value of lakeshore property. Leech Lake in Minnesota, for example, is clear to a depth of 10 feet. The study found that if the water got clearer – so that you could see down another 3 feet – the surrounding property's value would rise by \$423 for each foot of frontage. For a 40-foot lakefront lot, that amounts to nearly a \$17,000 gain in value. The researchers obtained a \$100,000 grant from the Legislative Commission of Minnesota Resources to conduct the study. The work was done under the direction of the Mississippi Headwaters Board, a land-use planning group. The Board is trying to encourage landowners to practice wise stewardship by protecting trees, native plants, and aquatic vegetation as well as limiting the use of fertilizers on lakefront property.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY ASSISTS MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

Michael Prouty, Field Representative, and **Lisa Burban**, Forest Resources Management Group Leader, paid a technical assistance visit to a new partner in the Urban and Community Forestry Program – Marquette University in Milwaukee. Marquette received an earmark of \$199,000 within the Urban and Community Forestry appropriations for tree planting. Mike and Lisa provided an overview of Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and its programs, explained the grant authorities within the Urban Forestry Program, and guided them through the grant application and monitoring process. The City of Milwaukee will be actively engaged in the process and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will likely serve as a technical advisor to the project.

ASKING ARBORISTS TO SERVE AS THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST NON-NATIVE INSECTS

Gina Childs, Group Leader for Information Management and Analysis, with the assistance of **Noel Schneeberger**, **James Hanson**, **Dennis Haugen**, **Steve Katovich**, **Dennis Souto**, and **Michael Connor** (all entomologists), wrote the feature story for the May 2003 issue of *Arbor Age* magazine encouraging arborists to be the first line of defense in detecting new introductions of non-native, invasive insects. The story highlighted emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, gypsy moth, and hemlock woolly adelgid. *Arbor Age* reaches over 18,000 subscribers; 80 percent of those subscribers are commercial arborists and tree service companies, 13 percent are municipal foresters, 5 percent are right-of-way maintenance companies, and 2 percent are commercial chemical applicators.



Editor's Corner

THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick** and **Robert Hartlove**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Melissa Emerson**, **Roxane Palone**, and **Karen Sykes**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web; and to **Sandy Fosbroke** for an extra “eye.”

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **July 15, 2003**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Lewis at talewis@fs.fed.us.

