

Northeastern Area



Thursday, August 22, 2002



THE LONGER VIEW OF TOUGH TIMES

Our wildfire suppression costs are “front and center” on most people’s minds these days. Clearly this is not “business as usual.” Dealing with this tough financial situation has challenged the Forest Service, the Area, and our partners.

Taking the longer view of our situation, I maintain a sense of optimism. The Forest Service, and the Northeastern Area, will work through the financial and relationship issues. In fact, this crisis causes us to reevaluate how we do business and what our priorities are. Tough times have a way of prompting self-examination. Are we a good partner? Do we stick to our commitments to partners? Is our organization well prepared to effectively deal with changed priorities? I believe the current challenges we face will help us see and address better ways to work with our partners and through our processes. Within the Area, I know we will look at ways we can improve our relationships with partners as well as our internal procedures.

The Forest Service must balance its books by the end of the fiscal year. The urgency is real. At the same time, our relationships with our partners are being tested. We’re working closely with them to address their critical needs as best we can. Hopefully, by being responsive to their critical needs, and by identifying areas for improvement in the long term, our relationships will not only survive but also become stronger. Our partners are questioning the strength and substance of our relationship and asking if it must be reformed. These questions are fair and deserve thoughtful consideration.

Getting through this financial crisis requires patience, understanding, commitment to learn from the situation, and actions to avert future recurrences. Perhaps the learning and positive actions are the best possible long-term results that will come from our short-term difficulties. I hope you will join me in making the best of these tough times, including learning from them and improving future performance.

— Kathy Maloney

ADDITIONAL STATES RECOGNIZED FOR ECOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION AND MAPPING EFFORT

NA Director Kathy Maloney recognized the States of Missouri, New Jersey, and Wisconsin for their work in ecological classification and mapping, and the development of statewide Land Type Associations (LTA). The States’ efforts are especially important, because ecological classification and mapping based on a classification system common to multiple partners compounds the benefits that can be derived from its use. It provides an



ecological context for storing and interpreting information and providing that information to other State agencies and partners.

A total of 27 individuals from the three States received recognition in the form of NA Good Neighbor Awards and Certificates of Appreciation.

Missouri: Tim Nigh and Lynda Richards, Missouri Department of Conservation; Walter Schroeder, University of Missouri; Mike Schanta and Garry Houf, Mark Twain National Forest; and Dennis Potter, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

New Jersey: Craig Coutros, David MacFarlane, and James Dunn, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Wisconsin: Darrell Zastrow and Mitch Moline, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and David Hvizdak, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, led the 18-member team.

Army Environmental Center Notes

ARMY CALLED TO FIGHT FIRES IN OREGON



Staff Sgt. Tudela leads Team 22 into the Monument Fire near Unity, Oregon.

The 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery of Fort Riley, Kansas, has been fighting fires on the Monument Fire and Tiller Complex in Oregon for the past 30 days. **Mark Cleveland** is serving as one of the Military Crew Advisors to the battalion. The 540 soldiers of Task Force Destroyer were given 1 day of training at Fort Riley and then 3 days of training at the Monument Fire. As their skills increased, the soldiers moved from mop-up to fireline construction and burn out operations. Several soldiers in the battalion had previous experience in fire fighting, such as Staff Sergeant Ivan Tudela – these Oregon fires marked the fourth time since 1988 that he's gone to fight fire.

firefighting resources are exhausted. Since 1988, 27 task forces and several companies have deployed to support the wildland firefighting mission.

The military has a history of assisting the National Interagency Fire Center when all traditional

PUERTO RICO PARTNERSHIP REVIEWS PROGRESS

Eric Wolters and **Helene Cleveland**, along with Derek Halberg of the National Guard Bureau, assisted in a progress review of the partnership between the Caribbean National Forest (CNF) and Puerto Rico Army National Guard. Personnel from the CNF are assisting the Guard in implementing natural and cultural resources activities at the Camp Santiago Training Site. Activities in the past year include placing a forester at Camp Santiago, reforestation training areas, surveying for cultural resources, and educating soldiers in environmental stewardship. Colonel Victor Ortiz, Commander of Camp Santiago, participated in the review and approved recommendations to improve the partnership that is facilitated through NA's Interagency Agreement with the Army National Guard. Colonel Ortiz and Pablo Cruz, Forest Supervisor, reiterated their support for the continuing partnership.



In Fiscal Year 2003, CNF personnel will assist Camp Santiago in a GIS assessment, cultural resources surveys, and reforestation projects among other activities. At 13,000 acres, Camp Santiago is the largest National Guard training site in the Caribbean and supports training for all Department of Defense military services.



Certain farming practices in Okinawa contribute to soil erosion.

EROSION CONTROL EFFORTS HIGHLIGHTED IN "STARS & STRIPES"

Just 3 months after being assigned to Marine Corps Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, **Larry Soenen** has helped focus media attention on erosion problems. The July 20 issue of "Stars & Stripes," one of the most widely read newspapers for military personnel, carried a ¾-page article on the causes of erosion, environmental effects, and solutions involving Camp Butler. Although most Okinawans believe that military activities are causing the erosion, Soenen says in the article, *"What I am finding more often than not is the source of the runoff – on and off the base property – are the farms."* Soenen is working with farmers that lease small plots of land from the base to raise pineapples and sugar cane to show them how to be more productive and reduce soil erosion while not increasing costs.

Soenen is also working with Marine Corps personnel, Okinawan officials, and university researchers to focus efforts on preventing soil erosion through best management practices and to work on a watershed basis.

Durham Field Office Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE TEAM TOPS AT NATIONAL ENVIROTHON!

Teams from Northeastern Area States did very well at this year's national Canon Envirothon competition in Massachusetts, July 29 through August 3. Teams of 5 high school students from 42 states and 7 provinces competed in the event, which challenges student's knowledge and understanding of the environment. Teams were tested in forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soils, and this year's topic—invasive species. They were then challenged to solve a problem and present their solution to a panel of judges.

The top 10 teams were from New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Ohio, New York, Minnesota, New Jersey, Delaware, and Nova Scotia. The New Hampshire team dominated the competition, placing first not only in the overall competition but also in forestry, wildlife, invasive species, and their oral presentation, placing second in aquatics, and third in soils. The USDA Forest Service sponsored the forestry section of the competition.

Assisting during the competition were **Susan Cox** and **Roger Monthey** (Durham), **Vicki Evans** (Morgantown), and **Kathleen Diehl** (Green Mountain National Forest). Next year's competition will be held in Maryland; West Virginia will host in 2004. For more information, visit the Envirothon Web site (<http://envirothon.org>).

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

The USDA-Durham Federal Workers have raised a Corporate Citizenship Force (CCF) for the 11th Annual United Way Day of Caring. Durham colleagues from NA, NE, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will join with 1,600 other volunteers to complete service projects throughout New Hampshire's Seacoast region. The 2002



Day of Caring will take place on September 11, the same date as last year, and it will use action to celebrate our strength and care for one another. The USDA-Durham Federal Workers look forward to providing an annual CCF to the Day of Caring. We're also discussing an additional annual event which may involve Earth Day work. The CCF builds upon individual volunteer work that continues to be done by USDA-Durham Federal Workers.



The forests surrounding Kimball Pond have been protected forever under the Forest Legacy Program.

forestlands protected under Forest Legacy from 12,797 acres to 47,769 acres. New Hampshire placed conservation easements on the 10,198-acre Pond of Safety property and the 18,430-acre Bunnell Mountain property in December and the 5,372-acre Ossipee Mountain property in March.

New Hampshire has demonstrated its commitment to the Forest Legacy Program and the long-term benefits it provides. New Hampshire is the first State in the Northeastern Area to have completed all of its FY 2001 funded projects and to complete an FY 2002 project.

NEW HAMPSHIRE IS LEAVING A FOREST LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

New Hampshire is leading Northeastern Area States in Forest Legacy project completions. On July 18, 2002, New Hampshire placed a conservation easement on the Kimball Pond property — a 972-acre tract surrounding 60-acre Kimball Pond. The pond is an anomaly in southern New Hampshire as its shores are undeveloped. They will remain so forever with the Forest Legacy conservation easement in place. The pond is less than 15 miles from New Hampshire's largest city, Manchester, and its capital, Concord.

Kimball Pond is the fourth project New Hampshire has completed in the last 7 months, pushing the total of

NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK FOREST HEALTH WATCH

The Durham Field Office released its first issue of the New England and New York Forest Health Watch on July 22 to forest health cooperators in the seven-State area. **Margaret Miller-Weeks** and **Dennis Souto** led the effort to compile the update, which will be produced several times a year to keep cooperators current on forest health threats in the region. The issue may be viewed at <http://www.fs.fed.us/na/durham/foresthealth/fhpubs/fhwatch0702.pdf>

CONNECTING UNDERSERVED YOUTH WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

The Eagle Eye Institute (EEI) in Somerville, Massachusetts, has worked tirelessly for more than a decade to use the power of nature to transform urban youth. As part of their "Learn About" summer programs this year, **John Parry** and **Dennis Souto** volunteered as instructors to work with groups from Boston's Mission Hill and Chinatown. John taught his group about how a watershed works, basic tree identification, and how trees grow. Dennis taught his group how to estimate distances by pacing and how to use a compass. In addition to receiving instruction, the youths work on a stewardship project (such as clearing a trail or cleaning aquatic weeds out of a pond that disabled Vietnam vets fish in) during their day with the institute. EEI has recently become nationally recognized and is working to share its expertise and approach with other cities throughout the country.



VEGETATION INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT AT MARSH-BILLINGS-ROCKEFELLER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Florence Peterson, Roger Monthey, Tom Luther, and summer intern **Cristina Burgos** recently completed an understory vegetation survey of the 550-acre Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont. Opened in 1998, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller is Vermont's first national park, and the only one in the country to focus on conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship in America. The survey work is part of an interagency agreement for the Forest Service to assist the National Park Service in developing a comprehensive forest assessment to use in establishing forest management objectives and treatment plans. The survey will provide the park with information on the abundance of tree, shrub, and ground cover species, and the volume of coarse woody debris, as well as the occurrence of rare species and invasive species. Data collected will be analyzed using the Northeast Decision Model software, developed by the Northeastern Research Station.

AERIAL SKETCHMAPPING TRAINING

On July 23 through 25, the Northeastern Area conducted a training and awareness session entitled "How to Sketch Map" in Utica, New York. The training was designed for individuals who are just starting to conduct aerial surveys or those who feel the need to refresh and enhance their abilities as aerial sketchmapping specialists. Training goals included the following:



Aerial sketchmap training attendees gather after a day of flying.

- Enhance the aviation safety aspects of flying aerial surveys
- Teach proper techniques for conducting aerial surveys
- Review forest health aerial survey GIS reporting and mapping standards to ensure data compatibility between all forest health cooperators
- Refresh the aerial survey specialist with the different damage types and how they appear from the air

Participants included 13 individuals from New York and 1 from Rhode Island. The training consisted of 1 day of classroom training followed by 2 days of flying aerial surveys and completing a ground checking exercise of the data acquired.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

Susan Cox attended the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) conference in Boston on August 8. The theme for this year's conference was "The Boston TEE (Total Environmental Education) Party." The conference theme followed four strands, chosen to reflect Boston's pivotal role in American and world history: (1) From Nature to Sustainability: environmental education through time, (2) Designing and Planning Spaces for People: the role of EE in community character and community appearance, (3) Towards the Just City: environmental justice and diversity through environmental education, and (4) Leading the Way: the role of higher education in environmental education. Each strand featured workshops, presentations, symposia, poster sessions, interacts, and keynote speakers. Keynote speakers for the day were Tony Cortese, president of Second Nature, a nonprofit organization that promotes environmental justice and sustainable action, and Vernice Miller-Travis, Program Officer for Environmental Justice for the Ford Foundation. For more information see the NAAEE Web site at <http://www.naaee.org/>.



Grey Towers Notes

YOUNG GREY TOWERS VISITORS BECOME “READING RANGERS”

Grey Towers staff worked with the regional library system this summer to offer a “Reading Ranger” program to area children. The Reading Ranger program was created to promote literacy and environmental awareness. It encourages reading as fun and beneficial. Every Friday morning in July, Grey Towers staff chose an environmental book from its library to read to the children and then conducted a related activity. The program is part of Grey Towers Conservation Education and Off-The-Shelf outreach programs.

NEW FORESTRY TRAIL OPENS AT GREY TOWERS

A new trail through the forested area of the Grey Towers site was officially opened to the public on August 11, Gifford Pinchot’s birthday. The trail, which winds through the estate for about one mile, includes “Learning Loops” and forestry activities where participants can learn about forestry and the forest ecosystem. The trail was designed and developed by Grey Towers staff and community volunteers, including youth groups. It is designed to be self-guided but can also be used for school and other group visits.



Educators work on an arts and crafts activity that illustrates the complexity of the forest ecosystem during a workshop at Grey Towers.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Grey Towers staff and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Office of Environment and Ecology, recently co-sponsored an educators workshop at Grey Towers. Attended by classroom teachers from the Northeast region, the workshop introduced the new Environment and Ecology Academic standards and showed teachers how to correlate the activities to the standards. Grey Towers staff introduced interesting curriculum guides — such as the Forest Service Ecosystem Matters, Project Learning Tree, and Sustaining Penn’s Woods — and demonstrated how these activities can be included in the classroom and used to meet the new standards. Participants also learned about how Grey Towers can be utilized as an educational resource.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GIFFORD PINCHOT!

August 11, 2002, marked the 137th anniversary of Gifford Pinchot’s birthday. Grey Towers staff celebrated with house and garden tours, the opening of the new Forestry Trail and refreshments for almost 300 people. Last year Grey Towers hosted its grand re-opening celebration on Gifford’s birthday, after the extensive historic renovation. *“This year has been a tremendous time of growth and partnership building,”* remarked Grey Towers Director Ed Brannon. *“The renovations have enabled us to truly capture the intention of the gift of the Pinchot family, to carry on Gifford Pinchot’s conservation legacy.”* Public visitation, attendances at special events and programs, and conference participation have increased tremendously during the first year of operation since the re-opening last August.



PENNSYLVANIA AUDUBON CO-HOSTS DEER WORKSHOP AT GREY TOWERS

Grey Towers staff worked with the Pennsylvania Audubon Society to facilitate an educational workshop on “The Ecological Impact of White-tailed Deer” for park and nature center naturalists, environmental educators, land managers, and others who educate the public on ecological issues. Workshop participants received forest health kits, which they brought back to their facilities to begin monitoring and assessing deer impact. Participants will return to Grey Towers in September to discuss the findings from the kits and for additional activities that can be used to help educate the public on the deer impact issue. These workshops are being held statewide and the Grey Towers program was directed at the Northeast region.

Morgantown Field Office Notes



WOODSY'S WARRIORS WIN TOP HONORS

The Relay for Life Team, Woody's Warriors, made up of Morgantown Field Office employees, family, and friends, was awarded a plaque for “Top Government Agency” for the Monongalia County 2002 Relay for Life. The Relay for Life is a nationwide “team event to fight cancer” and occurred on April 26 through 27, 2002, at the West Virginia University Track in Morgantown. Team captains were **Karen Felton** and **Melissa Emerson**, and the team consisted of: Tonya Moore, **Amy Onken**, **Joy North**, Melissa Radocay, **Barbara Morgan**, Toni Jones, **Nancy Lough**, **Frank Cromer**, Jim Colbert, **Helen Butalla**, George Racine, **Chuck Coole**, **Vicky Evans**, Amanda Emerson, and Emily Levendosky.

St. Paul Field Office Notes



BRINGING FORESTRY TO PEOPLE

Teri Heyer, Conservation Education, and **Luis Rivera**, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Intern, assisted the University of Minnesota with the Natural Resources Adventure Camp. The University sponsors the camp each year at the Cloquet Forestry Center. Thirty-five youth ages 10 through 13 learn about silviculture, soils, wildlife, water, traditional and non-traditional forest products, and trail design. The students are organized into four teams and they apply their knowledge by developing a management plan for their properties.



These plans were presented and critiqued by a panel of natural resource professionals. Teri assisted in teaching the silviculture and soils sections. Luis was a team counselor and participated in a natural resources careers panel discussion. Luis is from Puerto Rico and talked about recently completing the course work for his Masters degree in environmental health.

TREE CLIMBER REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Manfred Mielke, Plant Pathologist, and **Marc Roberts**, Forester, provided tree climbing instruction at the Dorena Tree Improvement Center on the Umpqua National Forest in Oregon from June 23 through 28 for their Tree Certification Workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to certify candidate tree climbers and instructors and to recertify instructors whose certification has expired. The workshop is well attended, extremely organized, and given the hazardous nature of tree climbing, safety is emphasized throughout. The safety record Dorena has had over the years is remarkable in and of itself. To maintain the record, it would be easy to deny a deaf individual the opportunity to obtain the necessary training to become a Forest Service certified tree climber, given the need for communication, and the dangerous and technical nature of the task. This year, the tree-climbing candidates included one deaf student. Marc saw potential in this tree climber and went beyond the normal interaction between student and instructor to ensure both his safety and success. The young man proudly achieved his goal and is now a certified Forest Service tree climber.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE LAUNCHES URBAN FOREST MONITORING IN WISCONSIN

Manfred Mielke, Plant Pathologist, launched two new projects to help state forestry officials assess the composition and condition of urban forests in Wisconsin. Urban forests include the trees and other vegetation growing in cities, villages and developed areas of the state. Wisconsin has more than 1.7 million acres of urban forests. Eighty percent of Wisconsin residents live in these forests, yet very little is known about this resource that affects the environmental, social, and economic quality of people's daily lives. The two projects are:

1. *The Street Tree Health Monitoring Project* to assess the health of trees along public right-of-ways. The Wisconsin DNR has contracted with NSR Land Management, Inc. to collect data from 900 plots in urban forests.
2. *The Urban Forest Health Monitoring Project* is aimed at assessing forests regardless of ownership. These plots could include backyards, parks, industrial areas, streets and anywhere else trees can grow in a community. Three 2-person crews from the Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council will be inspecting 137 plots throughout the state.

The goal the first year is to develop a picture of what Wisconsin's urban forest looks like. This will provide a baseline to compare to in future years. If these tests are successful, these assessments will continue. Each successive year, the plan is to revisit about one-fifth of the plots to monitor how the urban forest is doing.

HACU STUDENT LUIS RIVERA SAYS GOODBYE AND THANKS TO THE NORTHEASTERN AREA

My name is Luis O. Rivera from San Juan, Puerto Rico and I'm a student from the University of Puerto Rico (Medical Science Campus). My background in the United States goes back to boarding school, which I did in Salisbury, Connecticut. After this experience (which was one of the greatest in my life), I did one year of college at Hobart College, Geneva, New York. Afterwards, I went back to Puerto Rico and finished my major. My major is on Biology with a minor on Environmental Science. I continued on with graduate studies and at the moment am finishing my master degree on Environmental Health. The thesis project that I am recently working on deals with the levels of nutrients (especially nitrogen and phosphorous) on an agricultural drainage channel in Lajas, Puerto Rico. The objective of the project is to determine the levels of nutrients that the water jacinth can withstand in an eutrophicated body of water.

As of this summer, I applied through HACU (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities) for an internship with several federal agencies. Out of all the positions I was offered, I decided to come to Minnesota and try out the Forest Service. To tell you the truth, I made a great choice. My experience so far has been great and very



constructive. Although my field of expertise deals more with the health aspect of contaminants, I have always had a great love for the outdoors, especially our National Forest System. Now I have learned what it takes to keep it the way it is and to conserve it for the use of our future generations. This internship has given me a broad experience on the different tasks that the Forest Health Protection team realizes and the great effort that this team puts into their work. I would like to thank all of the staff that worked with me for sharing the experience and knowledge that they have.

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PLANT PATHOLOGISTS RENDEZVOUS IN MILWAUKEE

Diseases of trees featured prominently in the program for this year's Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society (APS), held July 27 through 31 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Around 1,500 plant pathologists attended the convention, where they had the opportunity to participate in one or more of the following forest pathology sessions: a 2-day forest pathology field trip, a 1-day chestnut blight field trip, and oral paper session on forest pathology, two poster sessions, a symposium entitled "Chestnut Blight: A 10-year Study of Disease Management Using Hypovirus," a discussion entitled "Sudden Oak Death: A New Disease Reported on Oaks and Rhododendrons," and a symposium entitled "Forces that Shape Microbe Populations in Forest Ecosystems." The Forest Pathology Committee of APS sponsored many of these opportunities. APS (the Forest Pathology Committee in particular) is the primary professional society to collectively represent and serve scientists working on tree diseases in North America. **Linda Haugen**, Plant Pathologist, attended the convention as chair of the Forest Pathology Committee through the 2002 meeting; Glen Stanosz of the University of Wisconsin-Madison assumed responsibility of chair at the completion of the meeting. **Joe O'Brien**, Plant Pathologist, currently serves on the Forest Pathology Committee and presented information on oak wilt during the forest pathology field trip. In 2003, the committee will plan and sponsor sessions and a field trip at the 2003 convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, and develop a web page.

Editor's Corner

THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helene Cleveland**, AEC; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Melissa Emerson**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul.

For her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web, **Helen Butalla**. **Frank Cromer** posted this issue.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be **September 16, 2002**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Coger at tcoger@fs.fed.us.

