



Northeastern Area

News Notes



April 29, 2008



From the Director's Desk

Forests, Water, and People Connected!

We all know the expression “April showers bring May flowers.” In fact, one of nature’s most powerful demonstrations that spring is here is the sight of light green buds on trees after a heavy April shower. It also reminds me of the strong and direct connection between forests, water, and people. Not only do the spring rains nourish our forests, but they provide source water for streams that feed our drinking water reservoirs.

Foresters have known about the connections between forests, water, and people for many years. Momentum is building at many levels to recognize the important role of clean and accessible water, and its link to forests. Recently, the importance of water quality and quantity was identified as one of the Chief’s emphasis areas, and the United Nations recognized the lack of clean water worldwide in its March observance of World Water Day. Chief Kimbell stated, “The evidence shows that we are entering a period of water scarcity not seen in our history; the Forest Service can make a difference by managing vegetation to restore ecological processes and functions, including the recharging of streams and aquifers.”

In the Northeastern Area, we recently completed a source water assessment titled “Forests, Water, and People” to quantify the magnitude and scope of forest-dependent drinking water supplies across the region. The assessment provides data and information in a consistent format for use by watershed forest managers specifically and natural resources specialists in general to more effectively manage their lands, which could be at risk for future development. More than 52 million people in the 20 States and District of Columbia depend on surface water supplies protected in large part by forest lands. Nearly three-quarters of this forest land is privately owned and subject to development. Forests, Water, and People uses a watershed condition index known as the “Ability to Produce Clean Water” as a starting point to identify critical watersheds near private forests at risk for land use conversion.

NA and its partners will use the assessment results to more effectively target watershed management tools to those geographic areas where they can be most effective. The results can be used to improve management strategies for priority forested watersheds across program areas. Forests, Water, and People also has the potential to add value to ongoing planning efforts, such as the redesign of State and Private Forestry, and may provide several core data layers to States as they develop their State Forest Resource Assessments over the next few years, especially their priority watershed layer.



The final assessment report, maps, and tables will be available later this spring on the NA Web site in pdf format. A State companion set that includes a summary sheet, maps, and tables customized for each State within NA will be available online for download at the same time. For more information and to view some of the final maps, go to http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/fwp_preview.shtm.

Understanding the importance of healthy forests as a crucial contributor to clean drinking water for a growing population is a necessary step towards developing priorities for management action. With the Chief's emphasis on water, coupled with the results of Forests, Water, and People, NA will be well positioned to identify specific actions to assist watershed forest managers as they work to protect forests surrounding more than 1,600 surface drinking water supplies in the region.

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director



Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Bottled Water

Fact to Ponder: “Thirty years ago, bottled water barely existed as a business in the United States. Last year, we spent more on Poland Spring, Fiji Water, Evian, Aquafina, and Dasani than we spent on ipods or movie tickets—\$15 billion. It will be \$16 billion this year.”¹ What many people don’t realize is that bottled water is often *less safe* than tap water, and its production, packaging, distribution, and disposal (of the bottles themselves) entail enormous environmental costs. Last year, 1.5 million barrels of oil were used in the production of those plastic bottles for the U.S. market. And that figure does not include the millions more barrels of oil that were needed to transport 1 billion bottles per week to and throughout the United States. Finally, 38 billion recyclable water bottles were trashed last year! “But wait!” you say, “The reason that I drink bottled water is because it’s cleaner, safer, purer, and/or healthier than regular old tap water!” Well, that’s certainly what the bottled water industry *wants* you to think. Tap water in the United States, with rare exceptions, is impressively safe. Tap water is regulated by the EPA, an agency that employs hundreds of scientists to test and monitor the safety and quality of water throughout the country; in addition, local water authorities employ their own scientists to ensure safety and quality. Bottled water, on the other hand, is regulated by the FDA, which has less than **one** full-time employee to monitor bottled water, which is often no more than **bottled tap water**! In fact, 24 percent of the bottled water that we buy in this country is tap water that is repackaged by Coke and Pepsi. Perhaps that \$1.50 per bottle of water is the price of convenience, but ounce for ounce, bottled water is far more expensive than gasoline, and if we paid the same for our household water as we do for bottled water, the average monthly household water bill would be \$9,000! So, next time around, remember it is actually safer, **much** cheaper, and much healthier for you and the planet if you tote your own bottle, and fill ‘er up at the tap!



Actions to Take:

- Carry your own bottle of water, and fill it up at the tap. Nalgene and Sigg both make great, durable, reusable bottles that can be purchased online or at any outdoor/gear store. Sigg bottles are made of metal, so you don’t have to worry about icky bisphenol-A, a chemical found in many polycarbonate plastics that has been linked to cancer and health problems.
- If you prefer bottled water because it has less of a “taste” than your tap water, try using a water filter. Filters can take the form of pitchers or attach directly to your kitchen tap, and they are much more environmentally friendly (and cheaper) than regularly buying bottled water.

¹ *Message in a Bottle*. Fast Company Magazine. July 2007.



Newtown Square

2008 Director's Awards

Holding with tradition, Kathy Maloney presented the 2008 Director's Awards during the January meeting of the Northeastern Area Executive Team in Newtown Square. Awards were presented to individuals, units, and teams for outstanding and sustained achievement, as well as for civil rights efforts.

This year's Individual Award went to two employees. **Kathy Duran** was recognized for her outstanding leadership in multiple areas, including grants management, civil rights, assistance in management reviews, and revision of the grants management section of the Forest Service Handbook. **Lisa Burban** also received the award for her sustained accomplishments in urban forestry and civil rights, and for her special efforts in developing the "Dialogue on Diversity" training program. According to Kathy Maloney, "Both of these employees were so deserving of special recognition, I had to present the award to both. We are extremely fortunate to have them both as part of the Northeastern Area."

The Team Award went to the Morgantown Field Office I-PED team for the development of a state-of-the-art urban pest and detection monitoring network. Team members included **Dan Twardus, Anne Cumming, Donna Murphy, Al Iskra, and Rick Turcotte**. The program will establish a national system for detecting and observing urban insect or disease problems.

The Fire Protection Group received the Director's Unit Award for overall program support for the Northeastern Area and cooperative fire program. The staff has led the country in cooperative fire accomplishments for the past 4 years. They have played a key role in development of the Department of Homeland Security's National Response Framework to help improve response to national emergencies of all types. The staff included **Alan Zentz, Jan Polasky, Robert Hartlove, Patty Reiff, Maureen Brooks, Dan Zimmerman, Winnie Owens, Mike Gilmore, John Grosman, Tom Brady, Gloria Pellin, Matthew Dillon, and Billy Terry**.



The Fire Protection Group received the Director's Unit Award. Pictured from left to right are Billy Terry, Bob Hartlove, Director Kathy Maloney, Patty Reiff, and Dan Zimmerman.



Lisa Burban (left) receives the Director's Award for Individual Achievement from Director Kathy Maloney.



Director Kathy Maloney (right) recognized Kathy Duran for her sustained contributions to the Northeastern Area.



The Civil Rights Committee received the 2008 Director's Award for Civil Rights. Pictured (left to right) are committee members Lisa Burban, Kathy Duran, and Billy Terry with Director Kathy Maloney.



The Director's Award for Civil Rights went to the Civil Rights Committee. While this was only the first year the Civil Rights Committee existed within NA, members demonstrated their commitment to helping NA improve diversity and address civil rights issues within the organization. Members included **Sherri Wormstead, Kathy Duran, Devin Wanner, Quinn Chavez, Billy Terry, Winnie Owens, Barb Swann, and Lisa Burban.**

USDA Undersecretary Announces Forest Legacy Projects in the Northeastern Area

A Departmental official chose two Northeastern Area locales to make a nationwide Forest Legacy announcement. **Mark Rey**, U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, traveled to Concord, NH, on March 24 and to St. Paul, MN, on March 31 to announce 2008 Forest Legacy Program grants in three Northeastern Area States.

Rey announced the awarding of more than \$11 million in Federal funding for five projects in the Northeastern Area for the conservation of 86,659 acres in Maine, New Hampshire, and Minnesota. The U.S. Forest Service has coordinated Federal funding to help State and private partners protect more than 1.5 million acres of environmentally important forest land in 37 States through the Forest Legacy Program. Many other projects nationwide were granted Federal funding through the program in 2008.



Robert Fitzhenry, NA Office of Communications (left), and Undersecretary Mark Rey stand in front of the Forest Legacy banner during the Concord, NH, announcement of the 2008 Forest Legacy budget.



Richard Peterson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, makes comments behind the podium after Undersecretary Mark Rey (right) announced the 2008 Forest Legacy budget at a press event organized by the NA Office of Communications.

The Northeastern Area Office of Communications Public Affairs machine went into gear to find hosts for the two events and invite interested parties to attend. **Robert Fitzhenry** from the Durham Field Office organized the agenda for the Concord announcement; **Gina Childs** and **Sally Toomey**, stationed at the St. Paul Field Office, organized the St. Paul agenda and provided general coordination of both. The Forest Legacy Program is a popular program across the country that has been funded at close to the \$60 million level for the past 3 years. Mr. Rey noted that he chose Concord because of the leadership exhibited by Maine and New Hampshire in the Forest Legacy

Program, and took the opportunity to encourage Congress to pass the farm bill. Allison Stewart, Headquarters public affairs specialist, said, "The Northeastern Area public affairs team came together in an instant to coordinate the events, and the two trips came off without a hitch."



Second Firewood Forum a Success



Participants at the Firewood Forum gathering in NJ.

Nearly five dozen policymakers and staff members from 13 States attended the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry's Firewood Forum on April 15 at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Whippany, NJ. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together key people to discuss ways to communicate the message of the Forest Service and its partners: "Don't move firewood."

Invasive pests and diseases spread easily and often when people move firewood. The New Jersey event was the second firewood forum

sponsored by the Area. The first was held in the Midwest, specifically to address the emerald ash borer, which has killed or caused the destruction of more than 25 million ash trees to date.

Among the attendees were New Jersey State Forester Jim Barresi and employees from State departments of agriculture, natural resources, parks, forestry, and extension agencies. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Tree Care Industry Association provided speakers and support.

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus opened the meeting with remarks about the State's efforts to curb invasive pests such as the gypsy moth and Asian longhorned beetle. He said the State is expecting a worse-than-normal season for gypsy moth, but that they have successfully eradicated one infestation of ALB. He also pointed out the need for a good communications infrastructure to make sure that Federal, State, and local government agencies work together to let the public know what they can do to help slow the spread of exotic insects and diseases.



Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters Director Ian MacFarlane fields questions about the NAASF's firewood initiative.

Barresi showed how firewood is sold in New Jersey State forest campgrounds under the brand name "Hot Sticks." The firewood is bundled in plastic with information about the product on the package. However, the information can be ambiguous because terminology has different meanings in different places. This, Barresi noted, highlights the need for a common set of standards and definitions for the firewood industry.

Presentations in the morning covered diverse topics such as the science behind firewood movement and the spread of invasive pests and diseases, regulatory efforts aimed at containing firewood movement, communications tools available to help spread the word, and the results of a survey commissioned by TNC studying the attitudes of the consuming public on the issue.

In the afternoon, the group split apart for sessions on developing consistent messages, moderated by Barresi, and how best to develop policies and best management practices that can be used by



all States. This was moderated by Ian MacFarlane, executive manager of the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters.

Overall, response from attendees was positive. They appreciated the opportunity to learn and have feedback on the issue, and especially the chance to meet people from other States and organizations who deal with the same issues. One participant said the best part of the meeting was “the opportunity to interact with presenters and attendees...This is relatively rare in my experience.”

The Northeastern Area and its State partners will be redoubling communications efforts as Memorial Day approaches, reminding the camping public: “Don’t move firewood!”

More information about the risks associated with moving firewood can be found on [NA’s firewood Web pages](#).

Ceremony Marks Official Eradication of Asian Longhorned Beetle from Chicago, IL

On April 17, under a bright blue Chicago sky, Federal, State, and local officials gathered to declare victory over the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). Representing the Forest Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at the ALB eradication ceremony were U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretaries Mark Rey and Bruce Knight. The announcement was made in the core of the Ravenswood neighborhood where the beetle was first discovered in July 1998.

During the 10 years that followed the discovery of ALB, Federal, State, and local authorities worked as a truly cooperative team with the media and ordinary Chicago residents in the eradication efforts. Several speakers noted that the Chicago Cooperative ALB Eradication Project is now considered a [model for success](#) in the difficult battle against invasive insects and diseases. The efforts of staff members from the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Office and what is now the Northern Research Station contributed significantly to the Forest Service role.

In his comments at the ceremony, Undersecretary Rey said that one of the most important contributions from the Forest Service was the smokejumpers who worked during the fire off-season to climb trees in the affected area and look for the beetle. Using climbers was considered the most effective tool for inspecting the thousands of offstreet and backyard trees in the quarantine areas. In recognition of their efforts, Rey called smokejumper Frank Castillo from Missoula, MT, to the podium. Castillo was invited to the ceremony to represent the more than 100 climbers from seven smokejumper bases who participated over the life of the eradication program. Speaking for the State, Warren Goetsch, Bureau Chief of Environmental Programs for the Illinois Department of Agriculture, read the proclamation from Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, which designated April 17, 2008, as “Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Day.”



(L-R) Frank Castillo, Noel Schneeberger, Judy Antipin, Tom Dille, and Gina Childs represented the U.S. Forest Service at the ALB eradication ceremony.



In addition to supplying smokejumpers, the Forest Service made other major contributions to the eradication program:

- The interagency tree restoration program became a “crown jewel” of the overall effort. The Forest Service took the lead, providing funds for replanting in all of the affected neighborhoods.
- The Forest Service developed effective information products such as [pest alerts, guides, and ID cards](#) for use in a variety of outreach efforts.
- Forest Health Protection and Research Station staffs provided scientific and technical support to the program by contributing entomological, scientific, and forest pest management and monitoring expertise.
- Between 2003 and 2004, Forest Service staff members **Judy Antipin** and Tom Dilley prepared a case study on the Chicago program as a model for effective response to an invasive insect emergency. The resulting publication, [Chicago vs. the Asian Longhorned Beetle: A Portrait of Success](#), was released nationally in fall 2004. This study has become an important tool for communities preparing for or facing an invasive insect emergency.



Undersecretaries Rey (left) and Knight (right) stand beside Skokie, IL, park worker Barry Albach, who was honored as the person who first discovered and reported the presence of Asian longhorned beetle in Chicago in July 1998.



Chicago Alderman Gene Schuster (center), who represents the Ravenswood neighborhood, is flanked by USDA Undersecretaries Mark Rey and Bruce Knight as they spread soil around a tree planted in honor of the ALB eradication ceremony.



Undersecretary Mark Rey speaks from the podium at the Asian longhorned beetle eradication ceremony.



Students from a nearby school applaud at the ceremony.



National Park's First Silvicultural Operation Linked to Marsh and Pinchot

A year before taking lead of the new U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot gave the first state and private forestry-style workshop for Vermont landowners. His work—carried on today by the Northeastern Area—helped a Federal partner accomplish another ground-breaking event recently. [Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park](#) (MBRNHP) just completed one of the first silvicultural operations ever undertaken by the National Park Service for purposes other than fuel management or ecological restoration.

Is the National Park Service expanding into timber production?

“Oh, no,” said Christina Marts, MBRNHP Resource Manager. “History shapes the management of each historical park. The park’s forest is the oldest scientifically managed woodland in the United States—the Marsh, Billings, and Rockefeller families practiced sustainable forest management here for over 130 years. So, we honor their unique legacy by continuing a program of silvicultural management.”

Nestled among the rolling hills and pastures of eastern-central Vermont, MBRNHP is the only national park dedicated to telling the story of conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship in America. The boyhood home of George Perkins Marsh (author of *Man and Nature*) and later the home of Frederick Billings, the property was given to the American people by its most recent owners, Laurance S. and Mary F. Rockefeller.

Pinchot, a friend of Billings’ nephew and greatly influenced by *Man and Nature*, came to Woodstock January 4, 1904, to speak with Vermonters about private forestry. The Woodstock Opera House nearly filled with people from across the countryside.

“[Pinchot] described the natural development of trees in new growths after cutting or fire,” the *Vermont Standard* reported, “and the rivalry of individual trees and varieties, amounting almost to apparent feeling and character. But the whole emphasis of the speaker’s remarks was laid upon the *use* of forests and upon the proposition that forestry can be applied by the individual owner of woodlands, not upon the plea of general welfare or of promised benefits to posterity, but for his own financial profit.”

“What a marvelous historical event for the National Park Service,” said Dick Paterson, Director of Grey Towers National Historic Site, Pinchot’s ancestral home in northeastern Pennsylvania and part of NA. “The work of Marsh shaped the imprint Pinchot left for the Forest Service. More than a century later, it comes full circle for the benefit of conservation and landowners, with the modern twist of intergovernmental cooperation and partnership. Our forebears would be proud.”

NA has worked with MBRNHP for many years on forest health issues, as is the charter of State and Private Forestry on Federal lands. NA has also followed Pinchot’s lead by presenting workshops at MBRNHP for the people of Vermont and nearby New Hampshire, as well as doing field work in the park.

“It was the forest inventory of MBRNHP led by the Area forest health staff that formed the foundation of the park’s forest management plan and prepared us for our first harvest,” Marts said.

NA and the State of Vermont supported MBRNHP in development of 100-year goals and short-term actions for forest management on the 550-acre historical park. The first silvicultural treatment from the park’s new management plan involved thinning three historic plantation stands. Harvesting was completed on the two accessible stands late in 2007, with control of invasive plants and enhancement of recreation trails also resulting from the work.



Operations on the third stand progressed after ground-freeze and finished in late February 2008. Yield from all three stands totaled 185,000 board feet of red pine, 7,000 board feet of mixed logs, and 148 tons of softwood pulp.

The wood harvested from the park carries another important message—it is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The park was awarded certification in 2005 as part of an evaluation of public lands certification conducted by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, and was one of the first Federal lands to earn this distinction.

“The park has a strong educational mission related to sustainable forestry,” noted Marts. “As we continue to offer landowner workshops in partnership with the Forest Service and the State, the forest can serve as a demonstration of best management practices—as it has from Billings’ time forward. The accessible scale of the park, and its history of thoughtful management by multiple family generations, offers private forest owners a real picture of what they too can do.”

Educated landowners practicing sustainable forestry is especially important in NA, where ratios of private to Federal land can reach 9 to 1 or more. While Vermont and New Hampshire combined outpace their neighbors by enjoying about 1.2 million acres of national forest, nonindustrial private forest across the two-state landscape tops 6.8 million acres.



A Bell harvester was used to harvest white pine. (Photo credit: National Park Service)



A logger limbs pine at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. (Photo credit: National Park Service)



Rottne forwarder operator gathers logs for transport to landing. (Photo credit: National Park Service)



Durham Field Office

"Improved" Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Predator Released in New Hampshire

Dave Mausel (University of Massachusetts) recently began collecting *Laricobius nigrinus* beetles in the West for release in New England. This is not unusual—Dave has been collecting "Lari" beetles from the West for several years. What is unusual is where these beetles came from. Instead of being collected in the mild maritime climate of Seattle, WA, these beetles were collected in Idaho. The Idaho beetles are much better equipped to survive in the northern New England climate. Recent releases in Rye, NH, and Kittery, ME, marked the first time that Idaho "Lari" beetles have been released in northern New England. It is hoped that this beetle successfully protects hemlock trees from the hemlock woolly adelgid.



Dave Mausel gently transfers an Idaho "Lari" beetle onto a hemlock twig.



Dave Mausel and other crew members select a branch with many hemlock woolly adelgids for beetle releases.

NA Represented at Council of State Science Supervisors Meeting

Susan Cox represented the Forest Service Conservation Education program at the Council of State Science Supervisors (CS3) meeting held in Boston in March. Group members develop and administer the science frameworks and standards in their respective States and work within each State's department of education. Susan talked about what the Forest Service does and how teachers and schools can access educational resources. CS3 initiatives include increasing collaboration with nonformal educators to have science learning occur outside the classroom, and linking science with language arts standards. Forest Service materials and opportunities fit well with those initiatives.

The National Science Teachers Conference was also held the same week. Susan and Clare Long (White Mountain National Forest) helped Sue Cummings and Vicki Arthur (Washington Office) staff the Forest Service exhibit.

Morgantown Field Office

Lindgren Funnel Traps Deployed in West Virginia and Maryland to Detect Pine Shoot Beetle

In late March, **Chelsea Gibson** set up Lindgren funnel traps in West Virginia and Maryland to detect the pine shoot beetle. Gibson spent a week deploying traps in the Monongahela National Forest. Traps were set up in areas that had 3 or more acres of pine in Greenbrier, Grant, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, and Webster Counties. Gibson also visited the supervisor of



Camp Caesar to ask permission for access to the lake on their property. Access was granted, but there was no pine found in the area to warrant setting a trap.

In Maryland, **Sam Forbeck** visited four sites on the Eastern Shore—Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge, Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, and Assateague National Seashore. Forbeck met with representatives from each site to initiate the process for obtaining permission to deploy Lindgren funnel traps. Traps were set up at Assateague National Seashore with permission from the National Park Service. GIS data was also collected from Blackwater, Eastern Neck, and Assateague.

Group Meets to Provide Input to New Research and Development Team

Federal, State, and public partners met at the Salt Fork State Park Conference Center in Cambridge, OH, in March to provide input to the newly formed research and development team focused on “Sustaining Forests in a Changing Environment.” **Rick Turcotte** attended the meeting for State and Private Forestry. Group discussions centered on four broad problem areas: sustaining mixed oak and northern hardwood forests, managing forests affected by invasive species, understanding climatic changes to forests, and contributing to stewardship through long-term research studies.

Morgantown Holds Digital Aerial Sketchmapping Training Session

Morgantown Field Office personnel joined State partners from Maryland and West Virginia, and employees of the Allegheny National Forest to attend an aerial sketchmapping training session. **Bill Frament** of the Durham Field Office led the training and delivered two new digital sketchmapping systems to the personnel from West Virginia.

Rod Whiteman organized the training session, which provided participants with hands-on experience in the setup and use of both the hardware and software components of the system. The group conducted ground-based simulations in the afternoon.

Exotic Insects Training Session Held on Monongahela National Forest

Rick Turcotte presented a 2-hour training program about exotic insects at the Supervisor’s Office of the Monongahela National Forest in March. The presentation included information about the identification and biology of exotic insects, and their potential impacts on forests. Forest silviculturists, foresters, and forestry technicians attended the presentation.

The Tree Musketeers



Devin Wanner hands out a tree along with information on the benefits of trees.

Several employees from the Morgantown Field Office spent their morning in early April individually wrapping 500 Douglas fir trees for the 10th annual West Virginia University Children’s Health Fair. The trees came from the West Virginia Division of Forestry Clements State Tree Nursery. **George Racin, Sandy Fosbroke, Toni Jones, Al Iskra, Yun Wu, Melissa Emerson, Karen Sykes, Frank Cromer, Nancy Lough, and Devin Wanner** worked feverishly to wrap all the seedlings in just a few hours to beat an approaching storm front.



The health fair was held 2 days later at the Morgantown Mall. This year's theme for the fair was "Go Green: Healthy You, Healthy Planet." In addition to handing out trees, Forest Service employees staffed an exhibit about native and invasive insects, and had wood specimens showing different types of damage done to trees. The U.S. Forest Service and the West Virginia Division of Forestry displays were located next to each other, and Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl alternated making appearances throughout the day.



Morgantown employees wrap Douglas fir seedlings for the West Virginia University Children's Health Fair. Pictured from left to right are Al Iskra (NA), Devin Wanner (NA), Melissa Emerson (NA), Yun Wu (back) (FHTET), Sandy Fosbroke (front) (NA), Toni Jones (NRS), and Karen Sykes (NA).

For the past 3 years, the Morgantown Field Office has used the health fair to educate children about how important trees are to our health. **Chelsea Gibson, Janice Gottschalk, Sam Forbeck, and Devin Wanner** gave the Douglas fir seedlings to families to plant in their yard. They also fielded many question about the insects on display, and talked about the emerald ash borer. Many families that stopped by the display this year commented that the trees they received in previous years are doing well and getting noticeably bigger. Several thousand people attended this year's health fair. Event organizer Stephanie Bock noted, "I've been involved with the Kids Fair since its inception, and I can honestly say that this year's fair was among our best."

Workshops Introduce New Software Tools for Sawmill Efficiency Analysis

A group of researchers and computer scientists at the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station has developed two software tools that can help mill owners and managers have access to information about sawmill operating costs as well as detailed information about key operational factors such as the break-even costs of logs.

The free Forest Service software package includes two programs: **COST** (Cost Of Sawing Timber) and **SOLVE**, a sawmill efficiency study and analysis program that has been updated to a more user friendly Microsoft Windows format. The programs are designed so that sawmills can use them to analyze their own operations.

The software package will be rolled out to the wood industry in May 2008 through a series of workshops in the East and Midwest. These workshops, targeted to sawmill owners, managers, and business managers or comptrollers, are made possible by funding from the U.S. Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center. Workshops are scheduled for May 20, 2008, at Stonewall Farm, Chesterfield, NH; May 22, 2008, at Alfred State College, Alfred, NY; and May 29, 2008, at Area 30 Vocational Center, Greencastle, IN.

The workshops will introduce the programs, data entry, data processing, and analysis of the results. Participants will be able to use the software themselves and have ample time to have a "hands-on" learning experience. Attendees are also encouraged to bring their own laptop computers to load the software and enter their own cost data.

For more information about available software or to receive more workshop information, contact Paul Frederick at (802) 241-3698 or send an e-mail to paul.frederick@state.vt.us.



The COST and SOLVE software tools are available on the Northern Research Station Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/princeton/software/index.html>.

St. Paul Field Office

Connecting People and Nature Workshop

Susan Cox and **Tom Dilley** attended the *Building Capacity to Connect People and Nature through Youth, Volunteer, and Hosted Programs* workshop held April 15 to 17 in Salt Lake City, UT. Over 100 attendees learned about successful models for interest-based volunteer programs, techniques for effective collaborating, enhancing capacity through partner engagement, developing volunteer leadership, and working toward interagency collaboration, among a host of related issues. Susan, Conservation Education Coordinator from the Durham Field Office, and Tom, Chicago Metropolitan Initiative Coordinator, also participated in small group sessions to identify future possibilities and directions that the Forest Service could address to build capacity and collaborate with partners.

Biocontrol Agent for Garlic Mustard Submitted to APHIS for Review

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the University of Minnesota announced that a petition for the introduction of *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis*, a biological control agent for the invasive plant garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), has been submitted to APHIS's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for review. This petition is a significant milestone in the effort to find an effective control agent for garlic mustard, an herbaceous biennial plant that has become a widespread invasive weed in the Eastern United States and Canada. Through a rigorous collection and screening process, several promising biocontrol agents were identified, including *C. scrobicollis*, a root-feeding weevil, and other closely related weevils.

Since 1998, a consortium that includes the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota, CABI-Europe, Cornell University, Michigan State University, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and several other States and private organizations has supported the development of a biocontrol agent for garlic mustard. Much of this work has been and continues to be supported by grants from the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry branch and the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team. While the TAG approval process can take up to 12 months, the group is hopeful that the first releases may occur by fall 2009.

State and Private Forestry Role Featured at National Park Service Conference

Dennis McDougall from the St. Paul Field Office presented at talk entitled "Overview of State and Private Forestry, with an Emphasis on Forest Health Protection" at the 6th Annual Western Great Lakes Research Conference in Marquette, MI. The annual meeting of National Park Service (NPS) professionals offers a forum for the NPS and cooperating researchers to share current research related to the management of national parks and other public lands. "While it was clear that many of the attendees had a poor understanding of State and Private Forestry," noted Dennis, "I was able to point out that some of the work being presented at the conference was actually funded or supported by S&PF." By making this connection, Dennis hopes that attendees came away with a greater understanding of and appreciation for the relevance of S&PF to the mission of national park management.



NRCS Detail Focused on the Healthy Forest Reserve Program for Minnesota

Teri Heyer is serving a 60-day detail with the Minnesota office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as part of the USDA Graduate School Executive Leadership Program. Teri is working on the Healthy Forest Reserve Program in the State, a forest easement program for private landowners that protects lands that have threatened or endangered species or State species of concern, and high biodiversity value. Minnesota is implementing the program in Wabasha County in the southeastern part of the State and near areas that will be enrolled in the Forest Legacy Program. Teri is assessing the effectiveness of NRCS programs in the Driftless Area of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Teri's work also involves developing relationships with NRCS foresters in the Midwest that will continue when she returns to the St. Paul Field Office.

Teaching Forestry to Kids

Just in time for Arbor Day and Arbor Month, the St. Paul Field Office hosted a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources program on teaching forestry to kids. Forest Service employees and others at the Northern Research Station headquarters building in St. Paul participated in the 1-day class. **Linda Haugen, Dennis Haugen, and Dennis McDougall** from State and Private Forestry; Arlene White (R9 Urban Connections liaison); and several Forest Inventory and Analysis employees took advantage of this opportunity to learn effective teaching methods and acquire Project Learning Tree materials. Although the participants already actively talk with students and scout groups about natural resources, they will use their newly acquired skills to teach meaningful natural resource lessons to children as part of the Chief's vision of reconnecting youths with the outdoors.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is **noon, Wednesday, May 21, 2008. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us.**

Please remember:

- **Send text separate from photos and graphics.**
- **Include captions for all images.**
- **Do not place images in Word or PowerPoint.**

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