



# Northeastern Area News Notes



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November 28, 2005

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

### **Emergencies of National Consequence and the Sustainable Forest Mission**

The hurricanes of 2006, like those of 2005, have reminded everyone that we are all linked by the forests that cover our Nation. The Northeastern Area's goal of "promoting sustainable forest management" has taken on new meaning considering the more than 17 million acres of wind damaged and downed trees lining the gulf coast. That meaning is simply this: Proactive work with partners directed at keeping forest lands in a healthy condition provides the benefits of wood, water, jobs, and recreation, and can reduce the impacts of disasters on people.

Land managers learned some interesting things from the hurricanes. In forest stand assessments following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, stands that have even spacing and are relatively free from diseased or slow growing trees withstood the winds of the storm far better than neglected stands. This seems like further evidence that a healthy forest will withstand the impacts of a disaster better than an unhealthy forest. The effects of the hurricanes in heavily impacted woodlands, on the other hand, lead to several consequences. There is not only the loss of the wood, water, and other benefits, but also the high probability of a series of catastrophic wildfires that will further impact people and their lives.

A wildfire in Wisconsin this year burned more than 30 homes in a matter of hours. An unhealthy forest condition provided the setting for this disaster. A lack of management resulted in a stand that was waiting for an ignition and a windy day. However, the loss extends far beyond the homes burned. More than 6,000 acres of forest land will need to be restored over the next few decades, and these acres will produce little in the way of benefits. A proactive management program could have headed off this situation.

In the winter of 1998, a severe ice storm hit the Northeast. Trees broke, power lines snapped, and people were left in jeopardy from the cold. The time and money required for recovery to a healthy forest condition is continuing even today. Research conducted after the storm did show that, "Trees that are healthy and responsive before the storm are more likely to survive and will recover more quickly from storm injury."<sup>1</sup> Again, being proactive makes a difference.

Scientists know that healthy forests filter water and protect against erosion and land degradation. This was very apparent following the hurricanes. Many of the tidal wetlands that had once protected the gulf coast were no longer there because of neglect or removal for expansion. The hurricane's impact was increased where tidal lands were not in a condition to slow the water surge and help absorb the winds. Just another example.



The goal I mentioned earlier about promoting sustainable forest management is, I am sure you agree, important. More than that, it is critical in the Northeastern Area's quest for constant improvement in the condition of forests across the area we serve. Driven by our mission, we will ensure our forests are in the best possible condition to provide benefits and environmental services, and to better withstand nature's fury as well. Disasters and incidents of all types will continue to occur. Working together with our partners, healthy, well-managed forests can greatly reduce the impacts of disasters on forests and the people that depend on them.

<sup>1</sup>Shortle, Walter C.; Smith, Kevin T.; Dudzik, Kenneth R. 2003. Tree survival and growth following ice storm injury. Res. Pap. NE-723. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station. 4 p.

— Kathryn Maloney

## NEWTOWN SQUARE OFFICE NOTES

### Northeastern Area Cosponsors Fire Conference

Northeastern Area Fire and Aviation Management was one of the major sponsors of the recent "Fire in Eastern Oak Forests: Delivering Science to Land Managers" conference, held November 15–17 at Ohio State University in Columbus. More than 360 people attended the conference, which featured a poster session and invited presentations by scientists and managers on topics related to using fire to manage eastern oak forests.

The poster session featured current work and findings on approximately 40 research projects. Twenty-one talks were featured on the 2-day agenda, covering topics on fire history; forest change after fire suppression; fuels and fire behavior; fire effects on soils, air quality, flora (native and introduced), and fauna; social constraints on fire use; and prescribed fire law and litigation. Peer-reviewed conference proceedings will be made available.

**Alan Zentz**, SFA Program Manager, served on the steering committee for the conference. Additional conference sponsors included the Forest Service's Southern Region and Northeastern Research Station; the Joint Fire Sciences Program; Ohio State University; the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; The Nature Conservancy's Global Fire Initiative; and Lion Apparel.

### Fire and Aviation Management Welcomes New Employee

**Michael Gilmore** joined the Fire and Aviation Management Staff on October 31 as a Property Disposal Specialist in the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) Program. Michael will be responsible for assisting the 20 Northeastern Area State agencies in managing the disposal of items on loan through the program. The Northeastern Area administers this program through cooperative agreements with the 20 State forestry agencies. Under the FEPP Program, the Forest Service acquires Federal property, originally purchased for use by a Federal agency but no longer needed by that entity, for loan to States or Territories for use in their rural or wildland fire protection programs. The program provides trucks, heavy equipment, and aircraft to support State and local fire agencies. More than 13,000 pieces of equipment valued at more than \$226 million have been recycled for public service through Fire and Aviation Management.

Michael has been a Forest Service employee since 1991. His previous position in the Newtown Square Office was as a Supply Technician with the Northeastern Research Station. Please join the



Fire and Aviation Management staff in welcoming Michael to his new position in the Northeastern Area. Welcome and congratulations!

## U.S. ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

### Helene Cleveland Receives U.S. Army Civilian Award



**Helene Cleveland receives the Commanders Award and Medal for Civilian Service from Colonel Tony Francis, Commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Center.**

At a recent awards ceremony, **Helene Cleveland**, Military Projects Coordinator, received the Commanders Award and Medal for Civilian Service for her coordination of the joint U.S. Army Environmental Center/Northeastern Area exhibit at the 2005 National Boy Scout Jamboree. The jamboree, held July 25 to August 3 at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, was attended by more than 60,000 people, including over 40,000 scouts and scout leaders. The interactive exhibit demonstrated how the Army uses data from the Forest Service's Forest Health Monitoring Program to care for the land. The award was presented by Colonel Tony Francis, Commander, U.S. Army Environmental Center. Helene is part of a five-person working group with the Northeastern Area Fire and Aviation Management Staff that provides assistance to U.S. military services and installations around the world.

## DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

### Biomass Facility Tour Prompts Widespread Media Coverage

A tour of a Massachusetts college campus helped indirectly to generate widespread media coverage on an important alternative fuel source. Durham staff members **Bob Fitzhenry**, **Debbie Muccio**, and **Glenn Rosenholm** planned to take a guided tour of the biomass heating plant at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) in Gardner, MA. Shortly before their trip, they invited along Springfield, MA-based Associated Press Journalist Adam Gorlick to help further his own understanding of this emerging issue. The four visitors met at the campus on October 27 where Rob Rizzo, MWCC Associate Director of the Forest and Wood Products Institute, gave them a personalized 90-minute tour of the school's biomass energy heating plant.



**Rob Rizzo (right) describes the woodchip burning process.**



The carbon dioxide-neutral renewable energy plant at MWCC heats all of the buildings throughout the campus for about one-tenth the cost of using electricity, said Rizzo. Before installing the biomass facility, MWCC spent about \$400,000 per year on electricity for heating. Now, the college spends only about \$31,000 per year to heat the same space, about 500,000 square feet. The college expects the biomass plant, which cost about \$4.3 million to install, to pay for itself in 10 years or less. During heating season, the facility burns about half a tractor-trailer load or 10 tons of wood chips a day. The high-tech biomass plant complies with strict State air pollution regulations and emits almost no particulate matter, unlike traditional woodstoves. The facility also saves energy by using wood chips from forests only 30–40 miles away instead of fuel from overseas, helping to reduce dependency on foreign oil sources and supporting local economies.

The visitors left with not only a better understanding of what biomass energy is and how it works, but also a better appreciation for the value this underutilized renewable fuel source can provide to America. In fact, Gorlick was so impressed with the facility that he wrote a lengthy article about it and put it on the Associated Press News Wire. His feature quickly started showing up in print, on the Web, and on broadcast media. Web searches and personal observations indicated it appeared in or aired on at least 13 regional newspapers, including the *Boston Globe* and the *Boston*

*Herald*; television stations in Boston and Presque Isle, ME; two Massachusetts commercial radio stations; and several Web sites, including Environmental Health News, EPA In The News, Energy Action.net, and Environmental Evaluation and Cost Benefit News. Pretty good results for a day's work!



Entrance to the Mount Wachusett Community College biomass power plant.

### Noted Plant Pathologist Speaks at Durham

Durham's Forest Health Protection group hosted Dr. Dale Bergdahl of the University of Vermont for a seminar and discussion on November 3. Dale's seminar, "Concepts in Forest Protection in the Face of Exotic Pests: A Focus on Butternut Canker Disease and on Exotic Fungi Associated with the Introduced Pine Shoot Beetle," was presented to a packed conference room.

Dale explained that the fungus that causes butternut canker disease, *Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum*, is believed to be exotic to North America. First discovered in Wisconsin in 1967, the disease is now found throughout the range of butternut and is responsible for causing extensive mortality. He projects that butternut mortality in Vermont will be over 85 percent by 2012.

Dale also discussed *Leptographium wingfieldii*, a fungal associate of the exotic pine shoot beetle *Tomicus piniperda*. *L. wingfieldii* is pathogenic to pines and causes blue-stain disease. The pine shoot beetle was first found in North America in 1992 but with no report of associated fungi. Two things have since become apparent: (1) introduced bark beetles are most likely responsible for the introduction of exotic fungi that may prove to be pathogenic to North American conifers, and (2) these pathogenic fungi are now also associated with our native bark beetles.



## Raising Awareness About Exotic Insects

**Dennis Souto** gave talks to three different audiences recently to help increase the number of people aware of and looking for exotic insects. On October 27 he spoke to a group of New Hampshire Master Gardeners—volunteers trained to answer questions from citizens. On November 1 he spoke to the Massachusetts Arborist Association—an active group of professionals who work closely with trees in the Commonwealth. On November 15 he spoke to an environmental sustainability class at Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts. The students expressed a keen interest in our environment. To all three groups the message was the same: we need the public's help to find exotic insects as soon as they enter our country if we are to succeed in managing them.

## Farm Bill Listening Session

**Roger Monthey** and **Rob Clark** attended a Farm Bill listening session in late October in Manchester, NH, hosted by USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Tom Dorr. Despite the heavy rain and wind, the session was well attended by about 60–70 people, including Congressmen Charlie Bass and Jeb Bradley. Unlike other listening sessions held throughout the country, forestry and forest conservation was a major topic. In fact, a number of speakers recommended all future sessions be called “Forest Land and Farm Bill Listening Sessions.”

Among those speaking on behalf of forestry was New Hampshire State Forester Phil Bryce, who shared with Under Secretary Dorr that, *“New Hampshire is the second most heavily forested State in the Nation, and, along with our agricultural lands, the forests are integral to the character, quality of life, and economy of this State. Investments in our forests through the Farm Bill are essential to maintain our working landscape here in the State.”*

Dennis Shaffer, the Northern New England field office director for the Trust for Public Land, spoke about the importance of conserving important forest lands. *“Forest Legacy and the Urban and Community Forestry Programs have provided important resources for protecting and enhancing the viability of New Hampshire's timber resources. It is important for the next Farm Bill to recognize the significance of forest lands to States like New Hampshire. Existing programs such as Forest Legacy should be expanded, and opportunities for new conservation initiatives should be established.”*

At the end of the session, Under Secretary Dorr commented that he had conducted several sessions throughout the country and each one has its own unique regional theme. He clearly heard the forestry regional theme in New Hampshire and said, *“I think we have perhaps one of the most outstanding heads of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and advocates for the Forest Service and forest land programs that we've had in this country in a long time in Under Secretary Mark Rey. So I think those of you who are really concerned about how these forests are managed and how we control the development of them have a real advocate and an intellectual who's capable of dealing with the issues in a way in which I think you want.”*





## Invasive Species Workshop at New Boston Air Force Station



(left to right) Dennis Souto, Kevin Dodds, Steve Najar (New Boston AFB), and Tom Rawinski scout out possible field stops for the afternoon tour.

On October 18, **Dennis Souto**, **Cindy Ash**, and **Tom Rawinski** conducted an invasive species workshop for enlisted and civilian natural resource management personnel at the New Boston Air Force Station in New Hampshire. Insects, diseases, and plants were highlighted in morning presentations, followed by an afternoon outdoor exercise that involved, among other things, the hand-pulling of an incipient population of Asiatic bittersweet. The workshop was very well received. At the request of one of the participants, Tom recently conducted an invasive plant survey at the New Hampshire Army National Guard Training Site in Center Strafford.

## Community Tree Inventory Workshops

The NA Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) staff worked with the program coordinators in Maine and Vermont to deliver 1-day workshops on how to conduct community tree inventories with an emphasis on using new software and technology. A portion of the workshops focused on the use of personal digital assistants (PDAs) and MCTI (Mobil Community Tree Inventory) software. MCTI was developed by NA's Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry and can be downloaded at no cost (<http://www.umass.edu/urbantree/mcti/index.htm>). The software allows users to conduct tree inventories in the field using small handheld PDAs and then transfer the data to a personal computer, greatly simplifying both the collection and use of the data. Attendees received hands-on instruction in using PDAs.

The workshops, designed as a basic introduction for first-time users, included volunteer Tree Stewards, Tree Wardens, parks and public works staff, arborists, and foresters. Thirteen people attended the workshop in Maine on November 8 and 20 attended in Vermont on November 10. A third workshop is scheduled in Rhode Island on November 30, with additional State workshops to follow in 2006.

The three NA U&CF centers have worked together to conduct the workshops, with NA staff **John Parry**, **Jill Johnson**, and **Donna Murphy**, and State coordinators Mike DeBonis, Jan Ames, Danielle Fitzco, Paul Dolan, and John Campanini all organizing and participating in the training. **Dave Bloniarz** (Northeastern Research Station), who originally guided development of the MCTI software, provided advice for the training. The Rhode Island Tree Council is also assisting in organizing and conducting the workshops.

## Building a Presence for Science

Building a Presence for Science is the largest networking initiative of the National Science Teachers Association. The mission of Building a Presence for Science is to end the isolation of classroom science teachers and to provide them with professional development opportunities and



science teaching resources. One of the initiative's goals is to create an infrastructure of national and State partners who are advocates for effective science teaching and learning. New Hampshire has recently joined Building a Presence for Science, **Susan Cox** serves as a science leader partner. For more information, visit <http://ecommerce.nsta.org/bap/default.asp>.

### **PLT Workshop in Vermont**

New England and New York Project Learning Tree (PLT) coordinators hosted a workshop for university professors of education and natural resources in White River Junction, VT. The 16 professors from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York who attended were trained on the PLT guides and also planned how they could incorporate PLT into their curriculum for pre-service teachers. **Susan Cox** assisted in the workshop in highlighting the network that PLT has with natural resource professionals and organizations.

## **MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES**

### **Meeting Addresses Emerald Ash Borer Threat in Ohio and the Midwest**

On October 27, **Dan Twardus, Karen Sykes, Anne Cumming, Ann Steketee, and Bob Acciavatti** met with personnel from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss the emerald ash borer (EAB) threat in Ohio and the Midwest. The DNR has hired four foresters, one of whom is dedicated to emerald ash borer urban forestry and one to emerald ash borer information and education. The foresters have provided assistance to 40 landowners. The assistance is primarily directed at developing stewardship plans that help landowners reduce the amount of ash while maintaining functioning and healthy forests. Twenty-four landowners were contacted in 2 months in the Toledo, OH, area. The DNR is now starting to receive requests from landowners. Most of these contacts were for new stewardship plans.

The Sylvania area just west of Toledo has been selected as the first demonstration community to attempt a significant reduction in ash material. The idea is to voluntarily remove as much ash as possible in advance of EAB. If it is successful, the experiences in Sylvania could be used as a model for other States.

One of the ongoing challenges is identifying markets that can use EAB material, which is made difficult due to the tight restrictions placed upon the movement of EAB materials or the inability of facilities to obtain compliance agreements. Another challenge is the continued transport of emerald ash borer-infested wood. This continues to be one of the most common ways the emerald ash borer is moved from infested areas to uninfested areas.

### **West Virginia National Guard WMD Team Trains at the WERC**

On October 18–19, the West Virginia National Guard conducted a practice exercise for its 35<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team–Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) at the Wood Education Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, WV. Several members of the National Guard arrived a day early to plan the final details of the training exercise. The simulated scenario presented to the WMD team was described as follows:

The rough mill facility was operated by a local business, but in reality a domestic terrorist organization was manufacturing dirty bombs and biological weapons for use against State and Federal governmental agencies. The WMD team had to



locate and identify the agents present and provide advice and guidance to local emergency management officials.

An observation team from Atlanta reviewed the entire exercise, and two members from a WMD team located in Wisconsin observed the operation. Thirty-five members of the guard participated in the event. **Joe Branscome** and **Ed Cesa** from the Wood Education and Resource Center assisted the team with facility needs.

### Wood Education and Resource Center Hosts Disability Mentoring Day

The Northeastern Research Station and the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) jointly hosted a Disability Mentoring Day at WERC in Princeton, WV, on October 19. The station has hosted a Disability Mentoring Day event for the past 3 years, and the event gets bigger each year. This year's gathering drew about 50 participants, including students from the surrounding area, and local businesses and agencies with employment programs or other resources for individuals with disabilities.

Melody Akers, Jan Wiedenbeck, Betsy Poterfield, Joyce Coleman, and several other employees of the Northeastern Research

Station organized the event and were assisted by **Joe Branscome** and **Ed Cesa** from WERC.

**Patricia Purnell** and **Judy Terrell** from the Newtown Square Office also participated. The program began with inspirational talks by individuals with disabilities on how attitudes have changed through the years and how barriers are disappearing, although at a slower rate than desired. **Devin Wanner** from the Morgantown Field Office gave an interesting presentation on Federal job programs for hiring people with disabilities. In addition, Wanner gave a demonstration of his specially modified truck, which gives him the ability to travel independently. A job fair followed the presentations. One radio station did a live broadcast from the job fair, and two local television stations covered the event on the 6 o'clock news.



**Devin Wanner presents information on Federal job programs that can benefit individuals with disabilities at the Disability Mentoring Day event.**

### West Virginia Eastern Area Urban Tree Meeting Held in Romney

**Anne Cumming** attended the West Virginia Eastern Area Urban Tree Roundtable Meeting in Romney, WV, on October 28. Representatives from six cities, two utility companies, two parks departments, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the USDA Forest Service, and the West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Council joined the West Virginia Division of Forestry for a roundtable discussion of issues, concerns, and successes of urban tree programs in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. Participants shared a number of key messages: tree care issues are similar throughout the State and are not necessarily dependent upon city size or budgets; there are many opportunities to get assistance from State resources; and, by working together, they can overcome many obstacles. Each participant had an opportunity to address the group and summarize their successes and challenges. The group heard about services and partnership opportunities available through the State, UCF Council, and ISA. The session concluded with an informational session on "Our Love Affair with the Bradford Pear," which emphasized alternatives for this overused street tree.





## Employees Honored at Multicultural Lunch

Morgantown Field Office employees gathered for a taco lunch on October 3 to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The program began by honoring several employees with length-of-service awards. Awards were given to **Bob Acciavatti**, **Karen Sykes**, **John Hazel**, **Helen Butalla**, **Chris Grant**, **Nancy Lough**, and **Roxane Palone**.

## Morgantown Breaks a Piñata to Celebrate Surpassing CFC Goal

At an all-employee family meeting in Morgantown on November 7, **John Hazel** announced that the Morgantown Forest Service laboratory had exceeded its Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) goal, and by a significant margin! The campaign, led by CFC Keyworker **Janice Gottschalk**, was a huge success. Employees contributed and pledged a total of \$10,828, exceeding the \$8,500 goal by 27 percent. Hazel commented, *"The Forest Service is recognized within the Morgantown community as a Federal agency comprised of caring individuals who want to make a positive difference in the lives of others. It is a privilege to work with the folks here."* Those attending the meeting participated in breaking a piñata, carrying over recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the CFC achievement.



**John Hazel congratulates CFC Keyworker Janice Gottschalk on the great success of the 2005 Combined Federal Campaign.**

## BMP Training Held in Delaware to Test Monitoring of Water Quality During and After Timber Harvest



**Dave Welsch** (second from right) leads a discussion of the monitoring protocol during a recent field training session. **Jim Olson** (second from left) of the Delaware Forest Service will be heading up the BMP monitoring effort in his State.

Hazardous material disposal and social influences on BMP implementation will also be investigated. **Dave Welsch** (Durham Field Office) and **Karen Sykes** conducted the field training, while **Cindy Barnett** provided guidance on equipment use and uploading data.

Delaware, one of 10 Northeastern Area States that have taken part in pilot projects or beta testing for monitoring water quality during and after timber harvesting, hosted a training session for Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring. The monitoring protocol focuses on areas that are at potentially high risk for water quality degradation, such as roads and skid trails that cross water bodies. Delaware service foresters will collect data at haul road and skid trail water crossings, haul roads in riparian buffers, and temporary water crossings to determine if the crossing structures, such as culverts and bridges, are in compliance with guidelines established in the Clean Water Act.



## New Jersey Forest Service Celebrates Centennial and Dedicates New Center



**Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl are joined by New Jersey State officials (left to right) Jose Fernandez, Terry O'Leary, Bradley Campbell, and Jim Barresi at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new interpretive center.**

New Jersey held its annual Fall Forestry Festival on October 1 at the Forest Resource Education Center in Jackson, NJ. This year marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Jersey Forest Service, which was celebrated with special activities at the festival. A special commemorative electric branding iron was designed to burn the 100-year anniversary emblem into sassafras and redcedar wood cookies. The New Jersey Forest Service also dedicated a new interpretive center at the education center with a ribbon cutting ceremony. **Devin Wanner** from the Morgantown Field Office assisted at the event.

## Paul Bunyan Still Living Large in Ohio

The annual Paul Bunyan Festival was held on the campus of Hocking University in Nelsonville, OH, October 9–11. This event, which draws over 60,000 people interested in various forest industries, is billed as the largest forest industry festival on the east coast. **Vicky Evans** and **Devin Wanner** staffed the Ohio Project Learning Tree booth Saturday afternoon. Evans and Wanner were impressed with the number of activities and learning opportunities at the festival. They came away from the event with plans to increase the Northeastern Area's participation in the festival next year. There are opportunities for all State and Private Forestry program areas to conduct educational programs throughout the 3-day event.

## "Urban Forestry Considerations in Design" Presented at Landscape Architects Meeting in West Virginia

On November 10, **Donna Murphy** from the Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry delivered a presentation to the West Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects in Canaan, WV. The presentation, titled "Urban Forestry Considerations in Design," focused on urban forest health issues as related to design and plant material selection. Other topics included streetscape safety considerations, structural soils, and tree risk implementation planning as it relates to the landscape architecture profession. The presentation finished with introductions to resources available through the USDA Forest Service and its academic partners. The presentation was well received, and Donna was asked to return next year when the annual statewide meeting of landscape architects is held in Morgantown.



# ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

## Wisconsin Best Management Practices Advisory Committee Meeting

**Teri Heyer**, Watershed Specialist, and **Mike Majeski**, Stewardship Coordinator, attended the Wisconsin Forestry BMP Advisory Committee meeting on November 1. This committee provides leadership, advice, and guidance to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in order to promote the long-term success of the forestry BMP program. Topics covered at the meeting included prioritizing which ownerships should be monitored in 2006, reviewing the Northeastern Area regional BMP monitoring protocol and how it will fit with the existing monitoring scheme, outreach topics, research priorities, and updating the existing BMP manual. Other items of note included the development of a forestry rutting policy. The rutting policy, which will define the limits of acceptable rutting on forest roads and trails, is being developed in response to a corrective action request from the Forest Stewardship Council's certification review.

## Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership Gains Greater Visibility

**Mike Prouty**, Field Representative, gave a presentation on the Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership to the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA). The UMRBA serves as a regional interstate forum for discussion, study, and evaluation of river-related issues of common concern to the States of the Upper Mississippi River Basin (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri). State representatives are appointed by their Governors; Federal representatives serve in an advisory capacity. Future work of the UMRBA will be centered around the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program, a 15-year, \$1.5 billion integrated management program.

## Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership to Host Upcoming Stakeholder Meeting

The Northeastern Area has invited over 100 stakeholders to the upcoming Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership Stakeholders Forum to be held February 28–March 1, 2006, in Dubuque, IA. This meeting occurs at an exciting time for the partnership. For the past 2 years, the Northeastern Area has been working with the Midwestern State Foresters to build this partnership. Accomplishments to date include hiring a coordinator, developing a work plan, establishing an organizational infrastructure, attracting national visibility, securing \$300,000 to implement projects to improve Neotropical migratory bird habitat, and displaying an exhibit about the partnership at the recent White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation. In addition to sharing information, participants at the stakeholders meeting will break out into working groups where they will be asked to suggest ideas for forestry projects that address one of the following four topic areas:

- Conservation of priority forest areas
- Migratory bird habitat
- Regeneration of bottomland hardwoods
- Establishment of riparian forest buffers

A list of attendees can be found at the newly launched Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership Web site ([http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/upper\\_mississippi\\_partnership/](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/upper_mississippi_partnership/)).

## Interested in Using the Web to Reach Woodland Landowners?

Those interested in using the Web to reach woodland landowners will benefit from a report recently completed by the University of Minnesota Extension Service, *Reaching Woodland Owners Online: Current Approaches and Recommended Future Directions for Minnesota*, by Eli



Sagor. The purpose of this study was to learn from the experiences and insights of Minnesota's forestry community and the managers of existing and developing Web sites targeting family forest owners on how to best structure information to reach woodland landowners. The primary output is a series of recommendations for future Internet development in Minnesota. One of the interesting findings in the report—Minnesota woodland owners are using the Web primarily to find information on forest insects, diseases, wildlife management, timber management, and forest recreation. The report can be found on-line at <http://www.forestrycenter.org/library.cfm?refid=77506>.

### **New Center To Combine American Indian and Forest Service Forest Management Traditions, Values, and Expertise**

Recognizing that they share a mutual interest in the long-term health and productivity of forest lands, five units of the USDA Forest Service have joined with the College of Menominee Nation and its Sustainable Development Institute in Keshena, WI, to establish a research and education center to promote sustainable forest management techniques. The center, called the Center for First Americans Forestlands, seeks to promote sustainable forestry by combining American Indian expertise, tradition, and values with values, expertise, and technology from the Forest Service. The participating Forest Service units include the Northeastern Area, the Eastern Region, the Northeastern and North Central Research Stations, and the Forest Products Laboratory.

**Mike Dockry**, an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, has been named the Forest Service liaison to the College of Menominee Nation and the Center for First Americans Forestlands. Prior to coming to the center, Mike was the Forest Planner for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests.

Nationwide, some 60 Native American tribes own forest lands; 44 tribes actively manage 19 million acres of forest to produce income. Among the latter is the Menominee Nation in Wisconsin, with lands bordering the Nicolet National Forest. For more information about the center, please see an article prepared by George Couch of the Forest Products Laboratory at <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documents/newlines/newsline-2005-4.pdf>.

## **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

***Diameter-Limit Cutting and Silviculture in Northeastern Forests: A Primer for Landowners, Practitioners, and Policymakers***—Though research on diameter-limit cutting is limited, more and more experiments are being conducted and their results published. The authors have compiled existing data into a guidebook for on-the-ground application. Research consistently concludes that although diameter-limit cutting produces higher timber income in early harvests, it degrades the overall quality of a stand, resulting in sharply declining income in later harvests. Silvicultural methods, on the other hand, provide more consistent, sustained income while enhancing a stand's health, vigor, and regeneration. Contact Jane McComb at (603) 868-7693 or [jamccomb@fs.fed.us](mailto:jamccomb@fs.fed.us) for copies. (Kenefic, Laura S.; Nyland, Ralph D. 2005. NA-TP-02-05. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. 18 p. [<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>].)

***A Planning Guide for Small and Medium Size Wood Products Companies, Second Edition***—Steve Bratkovich, Forest Products Specialist, and Jeff Howe, President of Dovetail Partners, co-wrote and revised this publication, which is based on research studies conducted in Maine and





Minnesota that focused on the successful characteristics of small and medium size wood products companies. Contact Doreen Deutsch at (651) 649-5244 or [ddeutsch@fs.fed.us](mailto:ddeutsch@fs.fed.us) to obtain copies. (Bratkovich, Steve; Howe, Jeff. 2005. NA-TP-03-05. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. 66 p. + app.)

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick and Maureen Brooks**, Newtown Square; **Helene Cleveland**, U.S. Army Environmental Center; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Devin Wanner**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul.

For current and past issues of the NA News Notes visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>.

### DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, January 18, 2006**. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at [dmuccio@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmuccio@fs.fed.us). Please send text separate from photos and graphics, and include captions for all images.

