



Northeastern Area News Notes



Thursday, June 24, 2004



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Embracing Change!

How willingly do we embrace change, to look beyond the disruption “change” brings and see the benefits beyond? As our world and our workplace change, seemingly in dramatic and significant ways, we are confronted daily with the challenges of adjusting to what is changing. During recent visits to Washington, D.C., I noted the many visible changes of recent years to security at public places. I also noted that everyone, workers and tourists, small children and adults, seemed to take the new situations in stride. The picture is similar in airports, where the routine of frequent travelers removing shoes is a visible change from just a few years ago. The benefit we expect is a visit or trip that is uneventful, at least in terms of our safety and security.

Within the Forest Service, significant changes are underway as well. Will we embrace these changes? Take them in stride? Competitive sourcing, business process reengineering, and performance accountability represent significant changes within the Forest Service and will affect everyone in our organization. We share concern for employees directly affected by the decisions to centralize certain functions and much of our focused energy will appropriately be directed to helping them adjust to the changes. Every one of us will have to learn some new ways to do things. Why? The expected benefits go beyond cost savings and financial audit results to the relevancy of what we do and our ability to demonstrate that relevancy. The recent mandate to align individuals’ performance standards (GS-14s, GS-15s, and SESers) with the agency’s strategic plan goals and objectives is a most tangible example of our changed situation. In addition to gaining cost efficiencies through improved processes, continued support for our programs depends on demonstrated relevance, given our mission as it is expressed through the agency’s goals and objectives!

As much as this makes logical sense, it is not so simple to achieve. This is a change of significant proportion and a challenge we must successfully meet. Embracing change, looking forward to the future and benefits to be realized, is essential to getting through the challenging situations we face. During the recent memorial services, we heard many stories of the life of President Reagan, how he focused on our Nation’s future and he embraced the monumental changes that would affect our future. Let’s follow President Reagan’s example and focus on our future, working hard to ensure the sustainability of forests throughout the Northeast and Midwest, while we work through the immediate challenges.

— Kathy Maloney



ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER NOTES

Woodsy Owl Meets the General

Army Environmental Center staff, Woodsy Owl, and Major General Larry Lust helped several hundred students at Edgewood Elementary School in Edgewood, Maryland, celebrate Arbor Day. The students learned how a tree grows by ‘becoming’ parts of the tree themselves—students took on the roles of bark, roots, leaves, etc. Then with Woodsy offering encouragement, the students planted dogwoods, ashes, and oaks.



Major General Lust planted a black walnut tree in honor of the long-standing partnership between the Army and the school. Major General Lust, who is in charge of Army installation management worldwide, is a forester, although he rarely gets to practice forestry.



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Durham Celebrates Asian-Pacific American Month



Matsie Mairs (right) introduced **Max Aung Kyaw Oo**, an employee of the **Nori Sushi Company**, who explained the intricacies of sushi and brought along samples of his handiwork to share.

Asian-Pacific American Month in Durham was truly a multi-cultural event, highlighting elements of Chinese, Japanese, and Thai culture. The program on May 13th began with an introduction to sushi by a chef who prepares hundreds of servings of sushi each day for a local grocery store as well as University of New Hampshire Dining Services. Max Aung Kyaw Oo, a native of Burma, brought along samples depicting the range and intricacies of his work. Next on the agenda was Jeremiah Landry, a UNH communications major with an interest in Japanese language and writing. After giving an overview of the complexity of the Japanese language and its various alphabets, he translated each attendee's name into Japanese characters. The program culminated with a buffet lunch featuring Chinese, Japanese, and Thai food. As attendees dined on such delicacies as pad thai, crab rangoon, moo goo gai pan, and an eye-catching array of sushi, they strolled among tables displaying Asian items collected by a number of employees during their various travels.

Special guests included **Peter Woodbury's** wife Carole Erslev and their daughter Maia, whom they adopted from China in 1998. A special thanks to the Durham Civil Rights Committee, especially **Matsie Mairs** and **Yvonne Chainey**, for making this a special event!



Peter Woodbury's daughter **Maia**, wearing an outfit from her homeland **China**, proudly displayed how her name is written in **Chinese characters**.

Field Testing a New HWA Survey Tool

On June 8th, **Dennis Souto** joined Jen Bofinger and Jen Weimer, forest health specialists for the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, and Stan Swier, an entomologist with UNH Cooperative Extension, to test a new hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) survey protocol in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The protocol was recently developed by Scott Costa of the University of Vermont with financial support from the HWA Initiative and demonstrated to the six New England States and New York in a field-training session at Mt. Tom, Massachusetts. The protocol and training session were supported by funding from the HWA Initiative—a Northeastern Area response to the NASF HWA Resolution passed last year. Excitement is high because this could be the first standardized protocol available to answer questions about HWA's spatial distribution in all infested States.



Jeremiah Landry, a communications student who hopes to study in Japan next year, discussed the Japanese language's three alphabets and the differences in uses for each.



Presidential Management Fellow Completes Stint in Durham

Meg Roessing recently completed a 2-month rotation with Connie Carpenter, NA Sustainability Coordinator, in the Durham Field Office. Meg is a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) with Policy Analysis in the Washington Office. The PMF Program pulls recent graduate students into jobs throughout the Federal government. As part of this program, fellows spend part of their first 2 years rotating to other offices. While in Durham, Meg worked on a variety of projects, including writing a brochure explaining the NA/NAASF base indicators of sustainability.

“I’ve really enjoyed the chance to work in NA S&PF, especially with Connie and Sherri Wormstead. This rotation allowed me to learn in detail the programs and services that NA provides, from conservation education in schools, to best management practices monitoring by professionals, to diagnosing forest health problems in the woods. I also appreciated the opportunity to go out in the field with folks from Forest Health, Forest Management, and the Northeastern Research Station.” This knowledge, as well as many mosquito bites, will accompany Meg back to DC.

Durham Celebrates Grand Reopening of Forest Health Lab



Durham celebrated the grand reopening of the Field Office’s Forest Health Lab on June 1st. **Bernie Raimo**, Forest Health Group Leader, cut the ribbon with a pair of loppers, welcoming both NA and NE staff to the celebration. The lab’s new biosafety cabinet, necessary to comply with APHIS regulations for receiving routine diagnostic samples from outside the State, occupied a prominent corner of the lab and was a common topic of discussion during the celebration. The lab is now ready to receive samples from throughout New England and New York.

Master of Ceremonies Bernie Raimo prepares to cut the ribbon at the grand reopening of Durham’s Forest Health Lab as Cindy Ash (left) and Margaret Miller-Weeks look on.

Civil Rights Funding Will Help Urban Nonprofit

Eagle Eye Institute, a community-based nonprofit organization located in Somerville, Massachusetts, has received \$11,040 from the Northeastern Area Civil Rights Committee. The funds will be used to hire two Southern University urban and community forestry students to work with both the Urban 4-H Program in Boston and the City of Ithaca to help deliver Eagle Eye’s Learn About Forests (LAF) Program. The LAF Program builds environmental awareness in underserved urban youth of color. Urban Forestry Coordinator John Parry and the Durham Civil Rights Committee will monitor the project.

NEFA News

On June 10th, Field Representative Karen Mollander participated in a quarterly meeting of NEFA (Northeast State Foresters Association), which is comprised of the State Foresters from New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, and Maine. NEFA and Executive Director Charles Levesque have been busy. The meeting agenda included a review of projects that are coming to completion, projects in progress, and future projects:



- A report on five grants awarded through the Arts and Rural Community Assistance Grants—a joint effort by the National Endowment for the Arts, NEFA, and the USDA Forest Service.
- Low Grade Wood Business Plan Project—a report on this continuing project in which NEFA works with at least four existing businesses to identify new or expanded markets for underutilized and small-diameter material, and to assist them in developing preliminary business plans for these new markets.
- Conservation Easement Study—a report on the study being conducted by a University of Vermont student (who has turned it into a master’s thesis) to determine if conservation easements are affecting the forest management being carried out on lands covered by these easements, as well as the quantity and quality of timber being harvested.
- Northern Forest Lands Council followup—a report on the status of two efforts under grants from the USDA Forest Service: (1) an assessment and invited workshop review of the status of the Northern Forest area and the progress on items identified in the council’s original report, now 10 years old; and (2) a public conference to convene original council members and the general public.
- Making Sustainable Forestry Profitable—a future project that includes the topic of carbon sequestration and the developing market for carbon credits.

Durham Hosts Diagnosticians Workshop

Plant Pathologists **Cindy Ash** and **Margaret Miller-Weeks**, in conjunction with Dr. Cheryl Smith of the University of New Hampshire, coordinated a diagnosticians workshop May 25–26. On the first day the group discussed important topics, including (1) State, land grant university, and Forest Service labs: Shouldn’t we be best friends?; (2) survey updates and diagnostics for *Phytophthora ramorum*; (3) the National Plant Diagnostic Network; (4) sharing expertise, tests, and information between labs; and (5) services offered by each lab and their funding situation. The next day the group participated in a full-day workshop on the microscopic identification of *Phytophthora* species led by Dr. Rob Wick of the University of Massachusetts. The meeting evaluations were very complimentary, including comments such as “I greatly appreciated the hands-on activities on such a timely topic,” “Extremely helpful; excellent review of *Phytophthora*,” and “It was very helpful to have the mix of agency diagnosticians.”

New Hampshire Envirothon

Schools from around New Hampshire participated in the annual State Envirothon on May 18th at St. Anselm’s College in Goffstown. The theme for this year’s event, hosted by the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts, was Natural Resource Management in Urban Areas. Student teams from over 20 high schools rotated through stations where they were tested on a variety of natural resources topics. **Roger Monthey**, Stewardship Coordinator, and **John Parry**, Urban Forestry Coordinator, assisted with the forestry test. First place winner Souhegan High School in Amherst will represent New Hampshire at the national Envirothon in Buckhannon, West Virginia, in August.

New York UCF Program Looks Ahead

The New York Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program began work in June on a new 5-year urban and community forestry strategic plan. State Coordinator Frank Dunstan convened a group of key State program partners to provide input and direction for the plan. Urban Forestry Coordinator **John Parry** was on hand to help facilitate parts of the 2-day session. A 5-year plan is a required component of State UCF programs.



MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

West Virginia Assistant State Forester Selected

State Forester Randy Dye announced that Todd Groh will be joining the Division of Forestry staff on June 22nd to fill the Assistant State Forester position for the Forest Management and Stewardship Programs in West Virginia. Todd comes to West Virginia from Florida where he had similar responsibilities with the Florida Division of Forestry. Randy, David Lilly (Assistant State Forester for LSCA and Water Quality), and Todd will meet with **John Hazel** and his staff in Morgantown the week of June 24th for introductions and an orientation to the Northeastern Area.

Congressional Visits Conducted

Kathy Maloney and **John Hazel** met with the staffs of Congressional Members of States served by the Morgantown Field Office in the District of Columbia on June 2nd and 3rd. The purpose of the visits was to provide general orientation and information about State and Private Forestry programs. Offices visited included Senator Barbara Mikulski (MD), Senator Robert Byrd (WV), Congressman John Peterson (PA-5th), Congressman Don Sherwood (PA-10th), Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-9th), Congressman Ralph Regula (OH-16th), Congressman David Hobson (OH-7th), Congressman Alan Mollohan (WV-1st), and Congressman Curt Weldon (PA-7th). The meeting provided an explanation of the National Forest System, Research and Development, and State and Private Forestry. Information specific to the Members' State and District was provided. Offices from Ohio were particularly interested in emerald ash borer status and plans for management.

Forest Service Recognized For Community Educational Support

John Hazel accepted the Business Partner of the Year award from the Monongalia County Technical Education Center (MTEC) at the school's annual awards ceremony in Morgantown, West Virginia. Initially working with MTEC through the national Partner In Education Program, Hazel's involvement with the school as a Forest Service representative expanded to include a seat on the MTEC Advisory Council and the Local School Improvement Council.

NA, NE, and FHTET Employees Team Up for the United Way Day of Caring

Three Morgantown Field Office employees joined 322 other volunteers as part of the 14th Annual United Way "Day of Caring" May 19th, 2004. The program links volunteers from local organizations and companies with identified needs of local nonprofit agencies in Monongalia and Preston Counties. Volunteers representing 50 businesses and organizations did everything from painting and helping people with special needs to spring cleaning and gardening. **Lisa Cress** (FHTET), **Toni Jones** (NE Research), and **Sandy Fosbroke** (NA) joined the other volunteers for a pizza lunch (complete with a brief appearance by Elvis) before heading out for the day to help clients of *In Touch and Concerned*, a local nonprofit agency that provides services to elderly and disabled residents of Monongalia County. They helped with gardening, yard work, and cleanup needs and had a great time in the process!



Forest Service Recognizes Somerset County Technology Center

On May 27th, **Chuck Reger** and **John Hazel** attended a ceremony at the Somerset County Technology Center in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, to recognize the efforts of students and faculty in preparing sites and planting trees as part of the Legacy Groves of Somerset County, a Living Memorial Project creating



living memorials to the victims of terrorism, their families, and communities tied to the events of September 11, 2001. Hazel and Somerset County Commissioner Pam Tokar-Ickes presented certificates and plaques to 19 students and 3 faculty members who worked in establishing the sites at the Somerset County Technology Center and the Volunteer Fireman's Training Center. Tom Grote, Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, introduced Hazel and Tokar-Ickes. He accompanied Reger and Hazel to inspect the Living Memorial grant sites and to visit the Flight 93 Memorial site near Shanksville.

The USDA Forest Service, under the direction of Congress, is supporting these Legacy Groves with grant money to support the Living Memorials Project in communities affected by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

HACU Intern in Morgantown



The Morgantown Field Office is hosting an intern under the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) program. Her name is Johanna Rodriguez and she is from Utuado, Puerto Rico. Johanna is a junior at the University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo Campus, majoring in Computer Science. Johanna will be working in the Information Management and Analysis, Information Systems and Development Group with Helen Butalla, Cindy Barnett, and Frank Cromer. During Johanna's 10-week internship, she will be working on an MS Access[®] front-end (data entry screen, queries, reports, and maps) to the Best Management Practices Software that was designed for the pocket pc. Johanna's email address is: joha_rod@yahoo.com.

Elementary Students Learn About the Forest

Several school buses pulled up to Chestnut Ridge Regional Park near Cooper's Rock, West Virginia, on June 3rd and deposited over 90 energetic third-graders from North Elementary School. The children were there for a yearly community outreach program sponsored by the Morgantown Field Office of the USDA Forest Service to teach the students about the forest and its inhabitants. The theme of the event was "Survivor" in terms of what animals, insects, and trees do to survive.

The children were broken up into four separate groups. Each group was devoted to a unique task or activity and the children rotated to each station. The activities included taking a nature hike and collecting leaves, capturing insects, drawing a tree cookie, identifying different animals via a matching game, and pretending to be a tree in the forest.



Forest Service employees involved in the program included: **Sandy Fosbroke**, Lisa Cress, **Vicky Evans**, **Tanya Gross**, **Derek Handley**, **Norm Montoy**, and Gary Hayes of State and Private Forestry; and Toni Jones and Dr. Patrick Tobin of the Northeastern Research Station.



Exotic Insects and Disease Presentation

Rick Turcotte from Forest Health Protection (FHP) in Morgantown recently presented two programs on exotic insects and diseases, including information on their identification, biology, and potential impacts on forests. The first presentation was on Tuesday, May 25th, at the Marietta Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest (WNF) for the WNF leadership team. And on Tuesday, June 8th, all district personnel at the Bradford Ranger District of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) attended the presentation as part of their monthly safety meeting.



MID-ATLANTIC CENTER FOR URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Keystone College Receives Grant for Environmental Institute

The USDA Forest Service, through the Education Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas, Inc., recently awarded Keystone College \$225,000 to establish the *Environmental Education Institute: The Academy in the Woodlands* on its La Plume campus.

“The entire college community is honored to welcome the Environmental Education Institute to campus,” said college President Dr. Edward G. Boehm, Jr. “Keystone is committed to environmental education, and we are thrilled to expand that role.”

The Keystone College Environmental Education Institute provides teachers (K-12) with the knowledge, resources, and training to strengthen their programs in environmental education. The Institute is also committed to enhancing the learning experience through hands-on, inquiry-based science and environmental education that uses nature as the laboratory. All programs and activities of the Institute will fall under the direction of Keystone College Professor Howard Jennings, who has been in the field of environmental education for more than 36 years.

The Institute will host two workshops this summer. The first will focus on forest stewardship. The second will be a session on watershed concepts. Tuition grants, as well as \$400 in educational materials, are available to the first 25 teachers who enroll. To learn more about the Keystone College Environmental Education Institute, call 570-945-8555 or visit the Institute’s Web site at www.Kceel.keystone.edu.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Wisconsin State Lands Receive Dual Certification

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) and NSF International Strategic Registrations, Ltd. (NSF-ISR), both independent forest certification firms, announced that they have certified 490,000 acres of Wisconsin State forest lands as responsibly managed. Certification was granted according to rules of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). SCS and NSF-ISR, who partnered in this dual assessment, presented framed certificates to Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle at a ceremony, which also recognized the purchase and protection of an additional 10,000 acres on the Rainbow Flowage and Pickerel Lake. Increasingly, buyers are seeking certified wood to ensure that their products are coming from properly managed forests.

Governor Pawlenty Proclaims June as Invasive Species Month in Minnesota

The Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Committee (MISAC) recently initiated the Governor’s proclamation of June as “Invasive Species Month.” Steve Katovich, Entomologist, is the Forest Service representative in this group. “Invasive Species Month” was designed to highlight the importance of fighting invasive pests such as gypsy moths, purple loosestrife, and zebra mussels, and to draw public attention to the increasing risk invasive pests pose to Minnesota’s landscape and waters, as well as inform citizens about the steps they can take to prevent the spread to their neighborhoods.



Minneapolis Selected As Pilot for Integrated Urban Forest Cost/Benefit Analysis

Jill Mahon, Midwestern Urban Forestry Center Director, participated in the planning meeting for iTree, the new integrated cost/benefit model that will calculate the benefits of urban trees and forests. iTree will integrate several products developed by researchers in the USDA Forest Service, including UFOR, STRATUM, and MCTI. Minneapolis will be the first site that iTree will be used. Jill will coordinate the citizen volunteers who will collect data for the project. Dave Bloniarz, Northeastern Urban Forestry Director; Greg McPherson, Western Urban Forestry Center Director and Project Leader; Scott Maco, Western Urban Forestry Center; and Dave Nowak, Northeastern Research Station Project Leader, also participated in the meeting.

Comprehensive Urban Forestry Technology Transfer Database Underway

Jill Mahon, Midwestern Urban Forestry Center Director, is coordinating “Ufind,” an Urban Forestry Index National On-line Resource Database. Jill is working on a subcommittee of the USDA Forest Service National Urban Forestry Technology Transfer Team with the University of Minnesota, Tree Link, and the Southern Center for Research and Information to develop a comprehensive online database of urban forestry information. The database will include all publications, videos, posters, presentations, and other informational products developed for urban foresters by communities, government organizations, universities, nonprofit organizations, and private industry. A preliminary online system will be launched by October 1, 2004.

Midwest Firefighters Train to be Fire Information Officers

Gina Childs, Information Management and Analysis, assisted Bruce Palmer, Missouri Department of Conservation Public Affairs, Bob Krebs, Missouri State Forester, and Jenny Farenbaugh, District Ranger on the Mark Twain, in teaching Fire Information Officer Training (S-203) at the Midwest Wildfire Training Academy. As a result of the training, 14 students will be certified to assist on wildfires and other incidents as an Information Officer Type 3 trainee. The Midwest Wildfire Training Academy is a popular venue for firefighters seeking additional training—attracting nearly 1300 students from 14 States.

Better Safe than Sorry... Illinois Prepares for EAB

Since emerald ash borer has been confirmed in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana... Illinois figures it is just a matter of time. With the leadership of the Morton Arboretum and the technical assistance of Judy Antipin, Northeastern Area Public Affairs, and Tom Dilley, Chicago Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, Illinois has developed a plan for how it will deal with emerald ash borer in the event it is discovered in Illinois. The plan can be viewed at: <http://www.agr.state.il.us/newsrels/r0524041.html>.

Green Infrastructure Vision Wins Honorable Mention from the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association

Tom Dilley, Chicago Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, recommended the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association recognize the “Green Infrastructure Vision” for their efforts in guiding decisions related to wilderness in the Chicago metropolitan area. As a result, the Green Infrastructure Vision received an Honorable Mention in the Plan Category. The Chicago metropolitan area is home to some of the best-preserved fragments of oak woodland/tallgrass prairie in the world. The Green Infrastructure Vision is one of many efforts designed to protect and promote these unique ecosystems.



EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helene Cleveland**, Army Environmental Center; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Rick Turcotte**, **Sandy Fosbroke**, **Helen Butalla**, **Derek Handley**, and **Chuck Reger**, Morgantown; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web; and to **Sandy Fosbroke** for her proofreading skills.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **July 19, 2004**. Please mail articles to Nancy Lough at nlough@fs.fed.us.

