



Northeastern Area News Notes



February 28, 2006



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The Wood Education and Resource Center in Action

About a year ago, the Northeastern Area's Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) sharpened its focus to better serve the primary and secondary hardwood manufacturing industries located in the country's eastern hardwood forest region (33 States). WERC is seeking to foster interaction and information exchange with the industry to enhance opportunities for sustained production of forest products. Ultimately, WERC's objective is to contribute to a more competitive, sustainable, productive, and profitable hardwood manufacturing industry.

WERC began in 1999 through congressional legislation that authorized the Forest Service to assume ownership of the former hardwood technology center located in Princeton, WV. WERC consists of offices, classrooms, a wood shop, a training annex, and a rough mill. While WERC is unique in many ways, the expectations with regard to performance are viewed in the same manner as for other NA programs. From a qualitative perspective, I believe there are Three R's (Relevancy, Relationships, and Results) we must pay particular attention to because they are important to long-term success in most cases. Let's look at WERC with this perspective!

Relevancy

The pursuits of WERC must be relevant to its clients and their needs; otherwise, clients will go elsewhere. WERC provides clients with access to technical and market information, training, and assistance in adopting new technology. This focused effort will assist the wood industry in facing today's critical challenges, such as global competition, application of advanced technologies, and historical industry fragmentation.

To be relevant, the information and technology must be current. WERC conducts an annual grants competition for projects that meet mission goals. In Fiscal Year 2006, projects selected for funding will be based on their ability to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Maintain the economic competitiveness of the primary and secondary hardwood industries.
- Bring information and technology about processing, marketing, and business-related skills to existing and emerging businesses involved in the development and manufacturing of wood products.
- Bring information and technology to existing and emerging businesses that focus on urban wood utilization, hazardous fuels reductions, utilization options geared to improving stewardship, or the use of woody biomass as a domestic energy source.
- Encourage the adoption of new technology to improve competitiveness and profitability.
- Provide support and key information to entrepreneurs and start-up businesses.



- Address global issues such as phytosanitation of wood packaging materials, assisting communities and industries facing threats from invasive species such as the emerald ash borer.

Relationships

WERC continues to build relationships with a variety of organizations and individuals whose goals and objectives align well with WERC's mission. Key partnerships have been established with State forestry agencies, universities, trade associations, industry, and nonprofit organizations. One such example is the development of a strategic alliance with the Sloan Forest Products Center at Virginia Tech. The Sloan Center assists with WERC's training objectives by providing a series of workshops targeted to improving the economic competitiveness of the hardwood industry.

During the last year, another important partnership has been developed—with the Hardwood Publishing Company in North Carolina, publisher of a weekly newsletter for the hardwood sawmill industry. Hardwood Publishing is coordinating a *wood flooring information initiative* in cooperation with WERC, two wood flooring associations, several universities, a private foundation, and the new Northern Research Station. This partnership is developing a methodology and process to obtain and track trend data pertaining to raw material utilization, production, and inventory. The flooring market is a major consumer of low-grade hardwood lumber.

Results

Ultimately every Federal program, including WERC, must deliver results that matter. Results are essential to the ongoing relevancy of our efforts as well. WERC accomplishments over the past year have been significant! Several recent accomplishments include the selection and funding of 41 competitive projects that met the selection criteria outlined previously. These projects received \$2.9 million in Federal funding; required matching by the grantees sets their value at twice this amount. The projects were selected based on their ability to meet WERC priorities and industry needs. USDA Secretary Mike Johanns announced these projects during a trip to Minnesota in August 2005.

WERC's rough mill, a 43,000-square-foot wood manufacturing facility housing high-production woodworking equipment, has been vacant for several years. In 2005, a Request for Proposals was announced to locate a user for this facility. In January 2006, a wood products manufacturing business was awarded a special-use permit to operate the facility for a 5-year period. Once fully operational, the new business will manufacture wood shutter and window covering parts and may employ more than 25 people—providing a needed boost to the local economy and a financial return to WERC as well.

During the last year, WERC has laid the groundwork for better access to and use of comprehensive program management information. The approach being taken will manage information and technology gained from grants and cooperative agreements. This information will provide the backbone for an on-line library system and an on-line project information system. The result will be customer-driven, easy, and direct access to beneficial information by industry, cooperators, and many others.

Many of WERC's current activities are well aligned with the *Investing Where It Matters The Most* (IWIMM) effort that is being conducted by the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters and the Northeastern Area. The priority areas and possible investments identified thus far in IWIMM represent a compelling convergence on what is important, given our mission and the



interests of our partners and cooperators. In closing, I encourage you to learn more about WERC by visiting <http://na.fs.fed.us/ea/werc/werc.shtm> or by contacting WERC staff at 304-487-1510.

— Kathryn Maloney

NEWTOWN SQUARE OFFICE NOTES

Assistance the Southern States in an Early Fire Season

An early fire season and a continuing drought have been plaguing the South-Central States, the Southwest, and the Midwest. While not in the news, fires have also been occurring in southwestern Missouri. State and Federal resources have been fighting forest and grass fires nonstop since mid-December. To date, 5,159 fires have burned 390,190 acres nationally. The 5-year averages for this time of year are 3,470 fires on 20,953 acres.

The Northeastern and Midwestern States have assisted in the effort by sending personnel and equipment to the fires in the South. The Eastern Area Coordination Center reported on February 21 that 49 individuals and 24 pieces of specialized equipment from our States were assigned to incidents in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Louisiana. Resources are assigned not only to the current fires but are also continuing to support the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort.

Updated incident information can be found on the National Interagency Fire Center Web site at www.nifc.gov.

After Action Review of the 2005 Hurricane Season

The Southern Region recently held an After Action Review (AAR) of Fire and Aviation Management's involvement in the busy 2005 hurricane season. The review, held in Atlanta January 31–February 2, sought to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the response from a national, State, and local perspective in an unprecedented hurricane season. At one point during the fall, more than 5,000 Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, and State resources were mobilized across the South.

Thirty-three individuals representing all levels of management and organization that were mobilized participated in the review. **Alan Zentz** represented the Northeastern Area. The Southern Region plans to utilize the findings from the AAR in order to improve its response during the 2006 hurricane season.

DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

McCreery Takes the Helm as Acting Field Rep

Lew McCreery arrived in Durham on February 6 to assume duties as the acting field rep. Lew, who worked as an entomologist in Durham earlier in his Forest Service career, had most recently served as the coordinator for the Economic Action Program out of the Morgantown Field Office.



The Durham staff looks forward to his guidance and leadership. *“While it seems like I brought winter back to New England, the folks in the field office have given me a very warm reception. I’m enjoying renewing old friendships and beginning new ones,”* Lew remarked.

Model Interdisciplinary Effort Recognized in Durham

The Durham Field Office recently recognized **Tom Rawinski** and **Glenn Rosenholm** for their model interdisciplinary team effort to advance Forest Service goals regarding invasive species. The team relied on Tom’s expertise as a botanist and Glenn’s experience in mass communications to generate numerous professional inquiries and educate millions of citizens about large gray willow, a little-known invasive that has established itself in the forests of southern New England.

Tom and Glenn worked on a communications plan and news release that resulted in coverage of large gray willow by the Boston *Globe*, New York *Newsday*, Worcester (MA) *Telegram*, Hartford (CT) *Courant*, Rutland (VT) *Herald*, Manchester (NH) *Union Leader*, Massachusetts Public Radio, and dozens of smaller papers throughout southern New England.

The widespread coverage and e-mail forwarding of the article among the natural resources community brought positive outcomes in the fight against invasive species:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service distributed the article to staff biologists. They invited Tom to survey at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Newburyport, MA, where Biologist Nancy Pau and Tom made an early detection discovery of the species. Control measures are being planned. Tom was invited to survey other refuges in 2006.
- Invasive plant committees in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and New Hampshire are now aware of the plant’s threat potential and will likely add it to their invasive species lists.
- New Hampshire Invasive Species Coordinator Doug Cygan traveled to coastal New Hampshire and discovered the plant, new to the State, after reading the article. Additional surveys are planned in New Hampshire in 2006.
- International willow expert Alexey Zinovjev contacted Tom and worked with him in the field to clarify the taxonomic status of this plant.
- NRCS Ecologist Dr. Nels Barrett wrote Tom, *“You know, I spent a lot of time looking at kettlepond vegetation on Cape Cod and I confess I always dismissed much of what I saw that looked like native pussy willow as not anything but.”* Dr. Steven Smith of the Cape Cod National Seashore is now aware that most willows on the seashore are the introduced species.
- The Nature Conservancy’s Karen Lombard has concerns about the willow’s impact at Sandy Neck, in Barnstable, MA. The article provided added justification for controlling the willow in 2006.
- Dr. Charles R. Vossbrinck of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station requested fresh specimens of the plant for DNA sequencing. Tom provided the specimens and the sequencing results that will prove useful in the future.



Souto Speaks at New England Grows!

Entomologist **Dennis Souto** spoke at the 2006 New England Grows! convention held in Boston January 31–February 2. This annual convention is the largest gathering of green industry professionals in the country. In a presentation entitled “Why Exotic Insects Are Hard To Manage,” Dennis talked about the Sirex woodwasp and also addressed the winter moth after his co-presenter became ill. The two insects are the latest exotics to arrive in the Northeast and represent excellent case studies to illustrate the theme. This is the third time that Dennis has spoken at the New EnglandGrows! convention; each visit has included his largest audience ever.

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Forest Vegetation Simulation Training Used to Model Beech Bark Disease Impact

As part of the Allegheny National Forest Plan revision, assistance was requested with modeling the impact of beech bark disease on the forest. Morgantown Field Office Plant Pathologist **Martin MacKenzie** and Plant Pathologist **Bill Jones** from the Asheville, NC, Forest Health Protection program received training using the Forest Vegetation Simulator with the goal of applying this growth and yield simulator to a beech bark disease scenario on the Allegheny National Forest. In the meantime, the modeling group out of Fort Collins, CO, was able to assist the forest with an initial model for beech bark disease.

A Forest Vegetation Simulator training session was conducted January 23–27 in Asheville. On the final day of the session, Pathologist Steve Oak made presentations on using the simulator to monitor southern pine beetle, gypsy moth, and oak decline events. Following these presentations, MacKenzie and Jones recognized the possibility of using historical Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plot data from beech stands and comparing them with more recent FIA data in the simulator to obtain a preliminary estimate of beech bark disease impact. As Bill Jones pointed out, *“Because American beech is in the same family as the oaks, the Fagaceae, there is a chance that under the multiple stressors of a decline complex, both the oak group and American beech may react similarly.”*



Participants offer suggestions as part of Louisiana Recovery Planning Day.

Strategic Planning Sessions to Rebuild Communities Destroyed by Hurricanes

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed nearly 217,000 homes and 18,000 businesses, and caused \$25 billion in losses along the Gulf Coast. Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco declared January 21, 2006, as “Louisiana Recovery Planning Day” to gather input from residents for strategic planning to rebuild communities destroyed by flooding and storm surges. Daylong visioning sessions were held in 30 communities both within and outside Louisiana with the goal of reaching 80 percent of the displaced population.

In response to a national call to Federal agencies to support this effort, **Donna Murphy**, Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator from LaPlume, PA, and **Matt**



Arnn from Newtown Square, PA, assisted with the community-based sessions. They collected input on key recovery issues and planning choices, and compiled the data immediately following the sessions in Houma and St. Tammany. The information will be used by the Louisiana Recovery Authority and FEMA's Long-Term Community Recovery operation to ensure that rebuilding plans reflect the priorities, sentiments, and needs of Louisiana residents.

The event gave affected families an opportunity to contribute their ideas as part of the hurricane recovery process, express local needs, and help define a community-based vision for recovery. Citizens offered ideas on a range of subjects, including the economy, education, and environmental issues.

Guest Lecture at Fairmont State University

GIS Specialist **Ann Steketee** presented "Opportunities in GIS" as a guest lecturer for an introductory GIS class at Fairmont State University. Steketee discussed applications of GIS in all types of industries and provided examples from Homeland Security, medical and public health, archeology, and her experience with the Space Shuttle Columbia recovery on its 3-year anniversary.

Nontimber Forest Products Income Opportunities Presentation

The Delmarva Forestry Seminar, held January 21 at the University of Delaware, College of Marine Studies, in Lewes, DE, was attended by more than 80 forest landowners, loggers, and forestry professionals from Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. The yearly seminar offers forest management information to landowners and gives them the opportunity to have their forest management questions answered by professional foresters, loggers, and wildlife managers. Speakers discussed wood markets, invasive species, conservation easements, silviculture, and financial assistance. **Karen Sykes** provided a presentation on agroforestry and income opportunities from nontimber forest products, and retiree Lloyd Casey discussed forest taxes.

Morgantown Field Office Conducts Chainsaw Training Course

Tom Elliott presented a USDA Forest Service Chainsaw Training Course January 31–February 2 to **Michael Effinger, Karen Felton, John Juracko, Martin MacKenzie, Norman Montoy, Brad Onken, Brian Simpson, Heather Smith, and Rod Whiteman** of the Morgantown Field Office. Participants learned about job hazard analysis, personal protective equipment, situational awareness, chainsaw operation, chainsaw maintenance, safe chainsaw use, starting procedures, safe and efficient bucking and limbing practices, and basic felling techniques.



Brian Simpson practices a felling notch while Martin MacKenzie and Tom Elliott look on.

The class moved to the field for the second and third day to apply the methods learned during the first day of classroom instruction.



The entire class worked well as a group, often assisting each other with brushing and slashing. Everyone completed the training, and additional hands-on experience will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

Team Meets to Evaluate Proposals for Gypsy Moth Mating Disruption Contract

Entomologist **Amy Onken** was a member of the Technical Evaluation Board (TEB) that met with the Eastern Region contracting officer during the week of January 30 in Asheville, NC. The team received instructions for evaluating technical proposals received for the multiyear gypsy moth mating disruption project. Other TEB members included Donna Leonard, Patricia Sellers, and Mike Quesinberry of the Southern Region, and John Kyhl and Jan Hacker of the Northeastern Area. Members of the TEB individually reviewed and rated each of the five proposals based on equipment, experience, past performance, and project plan considerations.

The TEB discussed individual rankings and reached a group consensus for each proposal. Four of the five proposals were deemed to be competitive, but the TEB identified areas of weaknesses or deficiencies that required further clarification. Final negotiations were completed on February 2, and Best and Final Offers were received by February 3.

The team then reviewed the Task Order Technical Proposals from the four proposals for work to be performed in 2006. After individually rating each proposal, the group discussed the rankings and reached a group consensus to select contractors for each bid item.

As with all USDA Forest Service aviation contracts, a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) must be assigned. With this contract, a COR III must be assigned to each bid item due to the complexity and value of the contract, which exceeds \$1 million in this project. Onken volunteered to be the COR for the aerial application of Disrupt II in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and central Wisconsin. She will also be responsible for the management and implementation of the project.

Twardus and Cumming Present at National Forest Health Workshop

Dan Twardus and **Anne Cumming** attended the National Forest Health Workshop in Charleston, SC, January 30–February 2. This workshop covered a variety of topics, including the creation of a national pest risk map, exotic and invasive species detection, and overall forest monitoring. Cumming hosted a session focusing on the status of urban forest health monitoring, including ongoing work in Tennessee and Colorado, and presented a poster summarizing these activities. Twardus presented information on exotic pest detection in urban areas. Exotic pests (e.g., Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer) often are first discovered in urban areas due to the presence of ports and the commerce associated with urban areas.

West Virginia NRCS Holds Coordination Meeting in Morgantown

Field Representative **John Hazel** met with the West Virginia Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) leadership in the NRCS office in Morgantown on January 12 to discuss ways to possibly work more closely together. State Conservationist Ron Hilliard, State Resource Conservationist Rick Heaslip, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs Herb Andrick, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations Bill O'Donnell, and Public Affairs and Marketing Specialist Carol Lagodich shared information on agency organization and programs. They agreed that there was greater opportunity to cooperate in private forest landowner assistance, watershed management, invasive weeds management, and conservation education efforts. Hazel also agreed



that the Morgantown Field Office would be better represented at State Technical Committee meetings. The group decided that the agencies would prepare an MOU providing temporary office space should one of the offices become disabled, in support of Homeland Security guidelines.

Emerald Ash Borer Activity Assessment Conducted in Ohio

Field Representative **John Hazel** met with Ohio State Forester John Dorka on January 18 to discuss the emerald ash borer situation and eradication activities. They discussed each of the action areas in the 2005 USDA Forest Service grant to Ohio for emerald ash borer efforts. Good progress is being made to help private landowners revise stewardship plans. There will be greater assistance in sale preparation and marketing. Emerald ash borer assistance to communities through the Urban and Community Forestry Program is being assessed for a possible change. Progress is also being made in marketing and utilization of chips and log debarking. Ohio's Division of Forestry and Department of Agriculture are working together in this effort. There is an opportunity for these two programs to coordinate more closely in eradication efforts that include removing ash trees through logging as well as chipping, which is the predominantly used method.

Emerald Ash Borer Management Team Holds Meeting

Field Representative **John Hazel** attended the Emerald Ash Borer Management Team meeting January 19 in Findlay, OH. Twenty-three representatives from USDA APHIS, the Ohio Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Governor's Office, and the Northeastern Area attended. The group discussed the 2006 Emerald Ash Borer Science Advisory Panel recommendation and gateway placement as a strategy. The regulatory quarantine, including nursery stock movement restrictions, was reviewed. The group also discussed budgets, including 2005 carryover and 2006 allocations, and actions being taken in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

Aerial Survey Working Group Meeting Held in Tampa

Forester **Rodney Whiteman** attended the 10th annual Aerial Survey Working Group meeting held in Tampa, FL, January 18–19. The meeting was also attended by personnel from the Durham and St. Paul Field Offices; the National Forest System; FHTET; State agencies South Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Idaho; and Australia. Some of the topics discussed included automated flight following, digital aerial sketchmapping, the shortage of FAR 135 pilots and aircraft, and ground truthing.



Toni Jones and Samantha Bennett with the “NA at a Glance” display at the Suncrest Career Fair.

Morgantown Participates in Suncrest Middle School Career Fair

Toni Jones from the Northeastern Research Station and **Rick Turcotte** and **Samantha Bennett** from the Forest Health Protection group set up a booth and displays at the Career Fair at Suncrest Middle School in Morgantown. The booth was well received as evidenced by the large number of eighth graders who asked questions about careers in the science and natural resource fields.



Ag Day Held at West Virginia State Capitol

West Virginia Ag Day was held at the State Capitol on February 14. Ag Day gives agricultural groups a chance to visit with and present their programs, accomplishments, and needs to West Virginia's 134 State legislators. Agencies and agricultural producers from throughout the State were present. Field Representative **John Hazel** and Information Management and Analysis Group Leader **Chuck Reger** staffed a display and provided informational material about Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry programs.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Wisconsin State Legislature Approves Additional \$400,000 for Landowner Assistance

The Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program is receiving an additional \$400,000 from the State legislature in 2006 and again in 2007. The Wisconsin Landowner Grant Program, a State cost-sharing program established by the Department of Natural Resources in 1998, provides \$1,250,000 annually for stewardship practices on private forest land. Up to 50 percent of the eligible costs are refunded to landowners upon completion of approved work. This extra funding will help alleviate the backlog of 350 landowners waiting to implement sustainable forest practices on their land.

State Audit Conducted on Michigan's Emerald Ash Borer Program

Michigan's Office of the Auditor General conducted an audit of the State Department of Agriculture's emerald ash borer (EAB) program to determine the effectiveness of the department's education and enforcement efforts relative to the spread of EAB beyond established quarantine areas. The Office of the Auditor General interviewed State park and private campground operators as well as hunters and recreational vehicle owners. Only 7 percent of State parks and 28 percent of the privately owned campgrounds asked campers who lived in quarantined areas if they brought firewood with them. Fifty-six percent of hunters and recreational vehicle owners did not know if they lived in a quarantined county, and 10 percent regularly transported firewood while hunting or camping. As a result, the Auditor General recommends that the department improve its communication of quarantine restrictions. In addition, the auditor recommends that the department assess fines against identified violators of the EAB quarantine restrictions since their findings show that the department did not pursue some known violations. To view the full report, visit <http://www.audgen.michigan.gov/> and click on Recently Released Audit.

Northern Station All Scientists Meeting

Lisa Burban, Group Leader for Forest Resources Management, designed and facilitated the recent All Scientists meeting for the new Northern Research Station. The goal of the meeting was to develop and reinforce collaborative relationships among scientists to result in strengthened and relevant research programs, as well as to smooth the transition from the Northeastern Research Station and North Central Research Station to the combined Northern Research Station. The planning committee for the meeting included John Brissette, Co-Chair, Durham, NH; Alex Friend, Co-Chair, Houghton, MI; Matt Bumgardner, Delaware, OH; Vince D'Amico, Newark, DE; Sarah McCaffrey, Evanston, IL; and Chris Woodall, Saint Paul, MN. **Dennis Souto**, Entomologist, **Susan Cox**, Conservation Education Specialist, and **Teri Heyer**, Watershed Specialist, assisted in facilitating the meeting.



National Association of Conservation Districts Learns More About Backyard Woods

Mike Majeski, Stewardship Forester, made presentations on “Backyard Woods” and “Emerging Issues and Opportunities in Forestry for Conservation Districts” at the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting in Houston. To complement Mike’s presentation, the National Arbor Day Foundation staffed a booth on Backyard Woods at the fair share. Each conservation district across the country had received the Backyard Woods packet and tip sheets prior to the meeting.

Federal Agency Meeting on Emerald Ash Borer in Wisconsin

Steve Katovich, Entomologist, participated in the Federal Agency Meeting for Emerald Ash Borer in Wausau, WI. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and develop a response plan in case (or when) emerald ash borer (EAB) is found on Federal lands in the State of Wisconsin. The State has a draft EAB Response Plan that it has shared with urban constituents, industry, tribal nations, and State park personnel. Wisconsin has a large proportion of Federal lands, including two national forests, a national lakeshore, a national scenic riverway, five national wildlife refuges, Fort McCoy, extensive tribal lands, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands. In addition, ash trees are even more abundant in Wisconsin than in Michigan. The Forest Inventory and Analysis Program estimates that Michigan has 420 million ash trees while Wisconsin has 710 million, although the ash resource on Federal lands is not well documented. Participants at this meeting discussed opportunities for common approaches and coordination in the event emerald ash borer is found on Federal lands.

Red Pine Management Guide

Steve Katovich, Entomologist, worked with the University of Minnesota and the North Central Research Station to develop the *Red Pine Management Guide*. This guide will be the first in an on-line series of tree guides designed to help land managers find out about the silviculture, ecology, health, habitat value, and economics of specific tree species in the Midwest. View the new guide at <http://devel.ncrs.fs.fed.us/fmg/species/index.html>.

Digital Aerial Sketchmapping Training

Dennis McDougall, Forester, participated in the Digital Aerial Sketchmapping Training in Lansing, MI. The purpose of the meeting was to distribute our four new digital aerial sketchmapping (DASM) systems to their recipients and provide those recipients with training on the use of the equipment. The training was well attended by the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET) out of Fort Collins, CO. The new DASM units will be distributed to Michigan, Wisconsin, and the St. Paul Field Office. All participants will be using the new system over the next fiscal year.

Illinois Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Team Meeting

Tom Dilley, Urban Forester, **Katie Armstrong**, Urban Forester, and **Judy Antipin**, Public Affairs Officer, participated in the February meeting of the Illinois Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Team. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss preparedness issues in the event that emerald ash borer is detected in Illinois. The agenda included updates on the containment and eradication program, updates on surveys in Illinois, and a discussion of developing a firewood policy and outreach. The meeting also included a “Readiness Exercise” to help participants experience firsthand how they might approach an infestation in Illinois.



Restoring Nature to Industrial Areas

Tom Dilley, Urban Forester, assisted The Nature Conservancy's Might Acorns school children with hands-on activities at the U.S. Steel Gary Works site in Gary, IN. This project received funding from a USDA Forest Service Forestry Innovations Grant and is designed to restore nature to a blighted, formerly industrialized area. The project has been incredibly popular in the Gary metropolitan area and has provided a unique opportunity for volunteers and school children to make a visible and lasting improvement in their neighborhood.

Preparing for Invasive Pests in Illinois

Tom Dilley, Urban Forester, in partnership with Bob Benjamin of the City of Chicago and Edith Makra of the Morton Arboretum, gave a series of presentations on invasive species at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The presentations were part of the Northeastern Area-funded "Early Warning Rapid Response Program" workshops coordinated by Chicago Wilderness and the Illinois chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Presentations focused on gypsy moth, Asian longhorned beetle, and emerald ash borer.

A Change in Tactics for Indiana's Emerald Ash Borer Program

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources recently announced a change in the State's emerald ash borer eradication program. After finding a new EAB infestation in Carmel, IN, the department announced that ash trees will no longer be cut down within ½ mile of an infestation. Instead, when emerald ash borers are found, the movement of ash trees and most ash tree products will be restricted. In light of the fact that emerald ash borer is difficult to detect and hard to lure, the Indiana Department of Agriculture decided it was cost-prohibitive to continue removing trees. Under the new program, homeowners will need to be aware of quarantined areas and will be financially responsible for the care and removal of any ash trees on their property.

EDITOR'S NOTES

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

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DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, March 22, 2006**. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us. Please send text separate from photos and graphics, and include captions for all images.

