



# Northeastern Area News Notes



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April 21, 2006

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

### Public Affairs Team

The Northeastern Area established a new Public Affairs Team in October. The overarching goal of the Team is to develop a well-organized public affairs function within NA, one driven by goals and measurable objectives. Instead of multiple discordant voices, the vision is for multimedia in harmony conveying what NA and its partners do for the nation, its people, and its forestlands.

Currently led by Mike Prouty, Field Representative for the St. Paul Field Office, the Team brings together public affairs specialists from across NA: Gina Childs and Mike from St. Paul; Chuck Reger and Devin Wanner from Morgantown; Bob Fitzhenry and Glenn Rosenholm from Durham; Lori McKean from Grey Towers; and Judy Antipin and Keith Tackett from Newtown Square. Together, they represent more than a century of government public affairs and communications experience.

The initial focus of the Team was to develop a set of key messages. These messages are fundamental, easy to remember sentences that can be used to speak with almost any audience, from cooperators and partners familiar with NA's work to people who are not aware of forestry issues. The Team is now developing second-tier messages, which are more specific and tailored to particular program areas. They will give NA employees a consistent framework to speak about their programs and projects.

A key contacts database is being developed to better manage and track communications with partners, governmental officials and others important to NA's work. Originally envisioned as a way to manage information about contacts such as State Foresters and Congressional delegations for the Executive Team, it will allow users at any level to generate labels for publication distribution or group mailings, look up individual addresses or phone numbers, and create email address lists for project control.

A series of seminars to Forest Service leaders in the Washington Office is also being prepared. Delivered by subject matter experts from NA, this series of seminars will help inform headquarters personnel at all levels about the innovative work in which NA is involved. Topics under consideration include:

- The Last Unfinished Business of Gifford Pinchot: State and Private Forestry, The New Frontier of Forestry,
- When Something's Wrong... Who You Gonna Call? – Homeland Security,
- Insect and Disease Problems,



- Woody Biomass Energy – Not Just Fuels for Schools... but for Hospitals and Cities too!,
- Goods from the Woods – Nontraditional Forest Products.

Media relations are critical to delivering our message. The Team has been working to build relationships with key reporters, editors and assignment directors in the entire service area. Building positive relationships now means more, and more knowledgeable, coverage for NA and its partners in the future. News release production has increased, and includes for the first time a release coordinated between field offices.

The Team has made great strides since their formation, with greater payoffs over the horizon. More effective communication will lead to better understanding of Northeastern forests by the American public. And better understanding will lead to sustainable forest land stewardship.

— Kathryn Maloney

## NEWTOWN SQUARE OFFICE NOTES

### Growing Home Campaign

On April 3, Al Todd joined Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith and others from Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource management, the MD DNR Forest Service and local partners to publicly launch the Growing Home Campaign. Growing Home is an innovative market-based approach to increase the planting of trees on private properties by homeowners. The Growing Home Campaign is an important part of Baltimore County's Green Renaissance and one component of its program to increase Urban Tree canopy.

As a unique partnership between county, retailer, and homeowners, the goal of the Growing Home Campaign is to have 10,000 new trees planted in 2006. The Campaign provides useful information for citizens about the importance of planting more trees, how to select species of trees to plant, and how to plant them. Colorful printed brochures are available through all County libraries, senior centers, and recreation and parks facilities, as well as online at Baltimore County's Website at [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/trees](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/trees). Homeowners are also offered a \$10 coupon redeemable toward the purchase of a tree from local participating nurseries and garden centers. Many retailers have agreed to match the discount for the purchase of multiple trees.

The Growing Home Campaign represents a positive way that citizens from any community can participate in Baltimore County's Green Renaissance—one tree, one yard, one family at a time. Baltimore County aims to double the amount of urban tree canopy in communities within its urban growth boundary.



Left to right are Al Todd, David Carroll, Director of Baltimore Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM), Mike Galvin, Urban Forester, MD DNR Forest Service, and James Smith, Baltimore County Executive.



The Growing Home Campaign is coordinated by Baltimore County and is funded by the US Forest Service and the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program. The Baltimore Gas and Electric Company committed funding to continue the program in 2007.



**Judy Antipin (left), Maureen Brooks and Keith Tackett.**

### **Newtown Square Employees attend the New Employee Orientation**

Judy Antipin (left), Maureen Brooks and Keith Tackett, all from the Newtown Square office, enjoy the program of The Fiddlin' Foresters at Jacksonville Landing during the New Employee Orientation. The three were part of the more than 350 attendees learning about the organization and history of the Forest Service during the annual event. Sessions covered such topics as networking, customer service, and the organizational structure of the Forest Service. Featured speakers included Associate Chief Sally Collins and Ellie Townes, former Regional Forester.

## **IMA NOTES**

### **Posting Is Publishing**

As program specialists find more outlets on the Web for information they want to share with customers and cooperators, questions come up about the publication approval process. Web information needs to go through the review and approval process just as printed information does. The reason is that posting either information or publications on the Web distributes those materials outside the Forest Service. The flip side is that whenever you use information from an electronic source, it should be cited. If you have questions about posting or citing electronic information, contact the IMA staff. If you want to read more about posting on the Web, see the new FSM 1661.

## **ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**

### **Secondary Roads Course Taught in Okinawa**

Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, hosted the fourth Secondary Road Construction and Maintenance course for Marine, Navy, and Japanese engineers. Larry Soenen, NA soil scientist stationed at Camp Butler, and Ray Langstaff, road engineer from the White River National Forest (Region 2), taught advanced methods of gravel road construction to improve the environment and reduce soil erosion. The training helped the



**Larry Soenen, NA, and Ray Langstaff, White River NF, oversee the field exercises of the secondary road construction/maintenance course in Okinawa.**



Marines and Seabees to learn aspects of road construction that are not taught at their military occupation specialty schools. In those schools, Marines and Seabees are taught to build roads quickly, as if they were in a combat zone. Gunnery Sgt. Stephen Dube, platoon commander for the Heavy Platoon, Engineer Maintenance Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Materiel Readiness Battalion said “Training like this enhances the Marine Corps’ ability to construct roads, while reducing the impact on the environment and staying in compliance with regulations.”

### **Technical transfer to Department of Defense biologists**

NA publications were in great demand during the Show and Tell feature at the National Military Fish and Wildlife Meeting held in March at Columbus, Ohio. Joseph Cook, supervisory entomologist from the Morgantown Office, and Helene Cleveland staffed an exhibit featuring numerous Forest Health Protection and Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team publications. Big hits were field guides for identifying oak trees in the Eastern US and invasive plants of the Northeast. The exhibit also provided a chance to talk to biologists to be on the lookout for the exotic *Sirex* woodwasp as well as other forest pests.

### **Forest Service assists prescribed burning on several military installations.**

For the second year, fuel loads at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, were reduced via prescribed burning with the help of Forest Service firefighters. Eight firefighters from the Willamette National Forest (NF), Lewis & Clark NF, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, and Humbolt-Toiyabe NF prescribed burned approximately 8,000 acres on the base which is near Panama City. A similar program is starting at Avon Park Air Force Range south of Orlando. Several McCall, Idaho, smokejumpers and firefighters from the Sawtooth NF are assisting with fuel reduction burns at Avon Park. In addition to reducing the fire risk to the bases and surrounding communities, the details provide the firefighters with training opportunities in southeast ecosystems and keep them employed during their units’ non-fire season. The firefighters’ details were arranged through NA.

In the northeast, the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes NF continues to implement National Fire Plan goals by assisting military installations. In March, they conducted burns on 228 acres of grasslands surrounding the active runways of Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts. Working with the Base’s Fire Department crew, they accomplished natural resources, bird/wildlife aircraft strike hazard reduction, and wildland fire training objectives. The Green Mountain crew is also scheduling prescribed burns at New Boston Air Force Base, NH, and at Fort Drum, NY, this spring. All of the expenses are paid for by the receiving installation.



**Slope stabilization project near Landing Zone Coot.**

### **Northeastern Area assists US Military in natural resource management**

The Northeastern Area has an Interagency Agreement with the US Army Environmental Center located in Aberdeen, MD to help the Army and other Military Services enhance training, mission readiness, and natural resources through forest stewardship. The Military Services manage 30 million acres of diverse landscapes for training and testing around the globe. Managing the natural resources on these lands is critical to the military's mission and important to maintaining the trust and support of the American people. The Army/USDA



Forest Service Partnership office is staffed by five Northeastern Area employees: Steve Davis, Helene Cleveland, and Jim Anderson, who are located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD; Jim Nelson who is located at the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (the Air Force counterpart to the Army Environmental Center) in San Antonio, TX; and Larry Soenen, who is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

This group and previous liaisons and staff members have coordinated the work of approximately 200 Forest Service experts to assist more than 60 installations. The group provides a variety of technical assistance on military lands and assists in the coordination of military use of national forest lands. They act as project managers and facilitate the detailing of Forest Service employees to work on various natural and cultural resources projects including preparing wildland fire management plans; providing wildland fire and prescribed fire policy guidance; developing natural resources and cultural resources management plans and their associated environmental analyses; and similar projects. They also work on individual projects based on Army and Air Force needs.

Alone, but extremely busy in the Pacific, is Larry Soenen. Larry is a soil scientist and watershed specialist. Through his efforts, monitoring stations have been placed at critical locations on the 44,000 acres that the Marine Corps manages. These stations provide quantitative data on the effects of military training on water quality. He has also been instrumental in working with the units to improve erosion control measures on several sites. He has taken the lead on a drainage/flooding study at Futenma Airfield coordinating between Ginowan City and the military. Flood control issues are a high priority as the airfield is scheduled to be returned to the Government of Japan. He has had success in getting Marine units to install temporary erosion control measures during rainy weather. Larry has also instructed the maintenance crews to install small check dams on abandoned roads. These dams, or "silt benches", control concentrated flow runoff and allow vegetation to become established. A common cause of landslides is the improper management of road water runoff. Where this has occurred, Larry works with maintenance crews to install cross drains to prevent a reoccurrence.

Whether in Okinawa or in the US, this team works to promote Forest Service ecosystem sustainability goals, increase understanding between military and Forest Service units, and promote partnerships.

## **DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES**

### **Invasive Plant Training**

On March 23, Tom Rawinski gave an hour-long presentation in Brewer, Maine on invasive plant identification, ecology, impacts, and control. In attendance were 120 certified pesticide applicators that received re-certification credits in the categories of forestry and rights-of-way. The program was offered by The University of Maine Cooperative Extension.



## Woodsy Owl Makes Guest Appearance

Nationally recognized environmental champion Woodsy Owl put in a special guest appearance for preschoolers at the Head Start Program in Somersworth, NH.

Woodsy is best known for the national anti-littering slogan, “Give a hoot, don’t pollute,” and has been promoting environmental responsibility across the Nation since 1970.

The preschoolers did a 3-month-long project on recycling, according to Head Start Teacher Laurie Wormstead. Meeting with Woodsy was the culmination of their event. The children made projects, including airplanes, puppet shows, and kazoos, out of recycled materials. They showed off their cardboard and aluminum creations to Woodsy, family members, and friends during an open house on April 14.

“They absolutely loved Woodsy,” said Wormstead. “They especially liked the way Woodsy danced. We’re very grateful to the USDA Forest Service for helping to put on this event and would love to do it again sometime.”

The preschool event coincided with the 2006 Earth Day celebration. Wormstead earlier reviewed the learning activities compiled by Forest Service Writer-Editor-Educator **Roberta Burzynski**. The Head Start teacher then incorporated the environmentally appropriate projects for the preschoolers in her class.



**Woodsy Owl meets with more than a dozen recycling enthusiast preschoolers at Somersworth Head Start. Photo by Justin Wormstead.**

## MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES



**Joe Shupp uses an airspade to remove soil from a root system.**

### **Morgantown Personnel Test Using an Airspade to Expose Root System**

**Rick Turcotte, Martin MacKenzie, Tom Elliott, and Joe Shupp** tested the effectiveness of using an airspade to expose root systems without harming the roots. The airspade is a tool that was developed in the arboriculture industry to loosen compacted soils around specimen trees. It consists of a hand-held lance that is connected to a high-volume air compressor, which generates a supersonic stream of air that blows away compacted soil from tree roots. Once the compacted soil has been removed, arborists replace it with a nutrient-rich aerated soil.

The tool has research applications in both forest pathology and entomology. Because it does not damage the absorbing mycorrhizal roots, pathologists can use it to evaluate the mycorrhizal associations of trees or investigate root rots. It



can also be used to evaluate the relationships between beech root suckers and their parent tree as illustrated in the photograph. Entomologists can use the tool to reveal root damage by root-feeding insects or track the spread of systemic insecticides within the root system of a tree.

### **West Virginia and Pennsylvania State Technical Committee Meetings Provide Opportunity for Information Sharing**

**John Hazel** and **Chuck Reger** attended the West Virginia State Technical Committee meeting in Morgantown, WV, on April 5. Hosted by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), this meeting provides an opportunity for Federal and State agencies and their partners to coordinate and share information about programs and activities. The meeting included an update on the Farm Bill and its programs, an update on Field Office Technical Guides, and partnership opportunities with Trout Unlimited. Hazel made a presentation and led a discussion on the emerald ash borer to encourage attending agencies to begin preparing for its arrival.

Hazel also attended the Pennsylvania State Technical Committee meeting in Harrisburg, PA, on April 12. Similar in purpose to the West Virginia meeting, this meeting focused on providing input to the NRCS for its program delivery in FY2006. Jim Steeler from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry attended, providing an opportunity to discuss forestry activities in NRCS programs as well as the status of Forest Land Enhancement Program delivery in Pennsylvania with Hazel.

In a step to support Homeland Security efforts, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the West Virginia NRCS office, NE, and NA to provide temporary office space for the agencies located in Morgantown should one of the offices become disabled.

### **Morgantown Staff Participate in Children's Health Fair**



**Chris Ledoux (left) hands a tree sapling to a health fair participant to plant in her yard. The Dombrowski family (right) spends a part of the afternoon planting the pine tree they received from the USDA Forest Service at the WVU Children's Health Fair.**

West Virginia University held its annual Children's Health Fair in Morgantown on Saturday, April 1. The fair provides children and parents with information on staying healthy. The Forest Service has staffed an exhibit at the fair for the last 4 years to teach people about the link between managing for a healthy natural environment and healthy living conditions. This year **Devin Wanner** and **Chris LeDoux** talked about the vital role that trees play in our lives.



Many products come from trees, but often the most important benefit that trees provide is overlooked. Much of the air we breathe comes from the process of photosynthesis that trees use to obtain carbon to grow. Trees also provide a shady place to cool off during hot summer days and offer an ideal place to climb that builds strong muscles and bones.

The exhibit included tree cookies that illustrated not only how trees grow, but also how tree rings indicate the age of the tree and how well it grew. After hearing an explanation about tree cookies, children created their own tree cookie using paper plates and crayons. Each family was given a tree seedling to plant in their yard for many years of enjoyment.

### **Students Learn About USDA Forest Service Career Opportunities**

**John Hazel** met with 90 students from West Preston Middle School and their teachers in Masontown, WV, on April 4 as part of career day activities. Hazel's presentation focused on career opportunities in natural resources. He discussed careers and answered questions using personal examples drawn from his more than 35 years of work experience with private industrial forestry, State forestry agencies, the National Forest System, and State and Private Forestry.

### **Enterprise Team Conducts Digital Aerial SketchMapping Refresher Training**

**Rod Whiteman, Rick Turcotte, Martin MacKenzie, Tom Elliott, Ann Stekete, Frank Cromer, Bill Oldland, Dan Twardus,** and **Karen Felton** attended a refresher training session on the Digital Aerial SketchMapping (DASM) Hammerhead system. Loren Iverson from the Allegheny National Forest attended the training as well. The training was provided by Lowell Lewis and J.D. Mullen from the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET) group in Ft. Collins, CO, on April 5, 2006.



**Students practice using the Tablet PC in the parking lot as part of the refresher course.**

Traditionally, aerial sketchmapping is done while flying by finding the plane's location on hardcopy maps and mapping any observable areas of forest damage, then going back to the office and having the maps digitized and assigning attributes to the damage observed. The DASM system consists of the Hammerhead Tablet PC with a built-in Garmin global positioning system (GPS) receiver. The mapping software, GeoLink, allows the user to input digital background maps of the area to be flown. An icon is displayed to show the current position of the aircraft, which is continually updated, and the background map automatically shifts as the plane moves. The user can draw points, lines, and polygons that represent different types of forest damage anywhere on the screen and can assign attributes to these features. After the survey, the digital files of collected data can be exported directly into a GIS. The advantages of the DASM are the automation of the traditional sketchmapping process that produces a quick turnaround of the data and the sketchmapper knowing exactly where the plane is located on the background map, increasing the accuracy in mapping forest damage locations.

The training was a success. A suggestion was made to have annual refresher training sessions to keep people abreast of any new developments in the system's technology.





**This aerial photograph illustrates the 50 percent mortality of American beech trees that occurred in less than 5 years on the Allegheny National Forest.**

## **Beech Bark Disease Paper Presented at the 2006 Northeastern Forest Pest Council Meeting**

**Bob Acciavatti** and **Martin MacKenzie** attended the 2006 Northeastern Forest Pest Council meeting on March 22 and 23 in Newport, RI. MacKenzie presented *“The Other Insect Components of the Beech Bark Disease Complex”* at the meeting. Many speakers gave credit to NA and FHTET (**Dick Reardon**) for financial support of their projects.

MacKenzie was impressed with the quality of the papers presented by graduate students. He was particularly interested in the *“Beech Mortality and Drought in Maine”* presentation made by Mathew Kasson from the University of Maine. He noted that the upsurge in beech bark disease mortality on the Allegheny National Forest was matched by a similar episode of mortality in Maine. While the two episodes have slightly different aspects, both were driven in part by a period of drought.

## **ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES**

### **Save the Date – Firewood Forum – Developing Successful Outreach Strategies**

On Wednesday, May 24, 2006, the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area will be hosting a one-day forum to address firewood movement and the role it plays in the spread of invasives. The forum will be held at the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois. This no cost forum provides an opportunity for cooperators to network with peers in other states and share communication strategies related to this issue. The purpose of this meeting is to develop consistent messages that will be useful in changing public behavior in the movement of firewood. Featured speakers will have hands-on experience in the spread of non-native forest insects and diseases, regulatory issues, and communications and behavioral change. For more information, contact Judy Antipin, Public Affairs Specialist, Katie Armstrong, Emerald Ash Borer Liaison, or Gina Childs, Group Leader Information Management and Analysis.

### **National Biomass Coordinator Visits Northeastern Area**

**Marcia Patton-Mallory**, National Biomass Coordinator, participated in a tour of biomass initiatives in the Midwest. **Steve Bratkovich**, Marketing and Wood Utilization Specialist, coordinated the visit and sits on the US Forest Service National Biomass Team. As a part of the tour, Marcia visited the St. Paul District Energy Plant which uses urban wood waste to heat the City of St. Paul as well as Detroit which is using emerald ash borer wood waste for a number of products including energy and wood products.



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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick, Keith Tackett, Roberta Burzynski, 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, May 24, 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.

