



Northeastern Area News Notes



April 30, 2007



From the Director's Desk

Spring, the Outdoors, and Safety

It is spring, and with warmer weather people across the States we serve begin to spend more time outdoors, celebrating the benefits and beauty of trees and the natural environment. Arbor Day and Earth Day events that occur in spring also provide popular venues for citizens to connect with the land. The enthusiasm displayed by the public for these events serves to underscore the importance of the work accomplished by the Northeastern Area (NA) with our partners to promote sustainable forest management and enhance the capacity of the region's 170 million acres of forest land to provide public benefits.

For this critical work to occur, we rely on our most valuable resource—our employees. The spring season is when our employees, partners, and contractors spend more time working outdoors in some capacity. Many of these activities, including conducting surveys for invasive insects, firefighting, supporting aerial pest suppression tactics, traveling to public events, and providing assistance to private forest landowners, involve increased levels of risk to personal safety.

As we rely on our employees to accomplish this critical work, we must always remember that *no job is so important that we cannot take the time to work safely.*

In his Safety Policy Statement, former Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth said that when we design our projects and activities, every one of us—first and foremost—must be aware of any associated hazards and take action to mitigate them.

Current Chief Gail Kimbell has gone a step further through the new performance management system. Every supervisory employee has a specific performance element that requires a demonstrated commitment to the agency's safety goals and objectives. Furthermore, every nonsupervisory employee is required, as part of their performance standards, to "properly follow all workplace safety and security procedures, including approved job hazard analysis."

We have an obligation to ourselves, our families, our coworkers, our partners, and the public we serve to work safely and to report unsafe or unhealthy conditions.

As we prepare for the busy summer season, keep in mind a few safety tips that will help protect us as we perform our work or enjoy time with our families and friends.



Thunderstorms occur frequently in the summer. During a thunderstorm, it is important to avoid water, high ground, small picnic or rain shelters, trees, and open spaces. Avoid all metal objects, including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors, and power tools. Where possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck, or van with the windows completely shut. If you are working indoors, avoid water, stay away from doors and windows, do not use the telephone, and turn off, unplug, and stay away from appliances, computers, and power tools.

We also spend a lot of time driving in the summer. The National Safety Council uses the acronym **START UP** to remind drivers of seven precautions they should take every time they get behind the wheel.

Secure loose objects.

Turn off the cell phone.

Allow enough time to avoid speeding and aggressive driving.

Read fuel and fluid levels.

Tire pressure.

Use safety belts and child restraints properly. Every person. Every time.

Properly adjust mirrors.

When driving, take a break at least every 2 hours or whenever you feel uncomfortable or drowsy.

It is a wonderful time of year. Enjoy the warmer weather as you recreate or work—but please be safe!

—Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Newtown Square

Chicago Wilderness: It's More Than the Bulls and the Bears!

More than 200 public and private organizations are working together to protect, restore, study, and restore biodiversity on 300,000 acres of publicly and privately owned natural areas—right in the backyard of 9 million Americans.

The most recent of the Northeastern Area's seminar series brought Field Representative **Mike Prouty** to Washington to talk about Chicago Wilderness. Joining Mike were representatives of two major partners in the effort: Laurel Ross, from Chicago's Field Museum and a member of the Chicago Wilderness steering committee, and Melinda Pruett-Jones, Executive Director of Chicago Wilderness. NA Director **Kathy Maloney** also attended the seminar.

The presentation highlighted the importance of the Chicago region's biodiversity—both to local citizens and the world at large. With more than 300,000 acres protected, the project is one of the largest of its kind in the world. Begun with Forest Service funding in 1995 with only 34 organizations participating, Chicago Wilderness now boasts more than 200 partners engaged in a model program. The consortium includes landowners and managers; government at all levels,



from Federal to local; nongovernmental conservation organizations; corporations; and research and educational facilities.

The presenters also discussed some of the major challenges facing conservation efforts in the area, home to more than 9 million residents—fragmentation of parcels, invasive species, fire, development, and lack of public understanding—and how the partners are organizing to meet them.

Mike and Laurel concluded the seminar by summarizing lessons learned from the Chicago Wilderness experience that will be valuable in applying this model to other urban areas in the United States. The model has received much interest by other cities, including Portland, OR; Houston; Pittsburgh; and the island of Oahu in Hawaii, as well as internationally.

Their presentation and others in the series can be seen at http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nanews/nastories/naseminars/na_seminars.shtm.

“From Forest to Faucet: Linking Forests, Water, and People” Conference Planned



This traditional suburban housing development, adjacent to forests and water bodies, demonstrates an example of the development pressure on open space areas throughout the Northeast and Midwest.

In partnership with the Forest Service funded WET Center, **Martina Barnes, Al Todd, and Matt Arnn** are working with a diverse committee of partners to plan a national conference for fall 2008 entitled, “From Forest to Faucet: Linking Forests, Water, and People.” The conference will focus on the importance of forests in providing clean drinking water, as well as the role that local, regional, and community and urban planning play in strengthening the connections between forests, water, and people. The conference, tentatively scheduled to take place in Springfield, Massachusetts, will consist of a series of sessions and field tours on forest hydrology, watershed forest management, riparian area

restoration, urban hydrology, watershed mapping, open space conservation, and watershed management.

In addition to the science-based sessions, the conference hopes to attract a wider professional audience, including land use planners and nongovernmental organizations such as land trusts and watershed associations. It will highlight the need to effectively communicate forest conservation and source water protection to the public, approaches to the management of forested watersheds used for drinking water supply, and how to apply ideas about forest sustainability to the design of subdivisions, offices, roads, and shopping centers. For more information on the conference or to become part of the conference planning committee, contact Martina Barnes at 610-557-4217, 212-637-3863, or martinabarnes@fs.fed.us.



Planning the Future of Our Forests

Global climate change was clearly on the minds of thousands of planners as they attended the American Planning Association (APA) conference in Philadelphia, April 15–18. Despite a major nor'easter storm event, the sessions were packed with local, State, and Federal planning officials and their nonprofit and corporate partners. Perhaps a majority of sessions were focused pointedly on community sustainability, green infrastructure planning, disaster response planning, and multi-municipal and regional approaches—planners are hungry for tools that will help them to assess landscape change and impacts of population growth or loss. **Phil Rodbell** moderated a session describing a new toolbox in development by the APA Research Division for incorporating urban forests into local comprehensive plans, including several case study presentations. The session attracted more than 200 attendees and included an active question and answer period. **Martina Barnes** presented a poster and moderated a session on the Highlands region of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. We clearly have friends in the planning community who share our goals of conserving tree cover for the many environmental, economic, and societal benefits they provide. This is an excellent time to build bridges with this community of professionals.

Back in the Saddle

Phil Rodbell, Urban Forestry Program Manager, is back at his desk after a 4-month detail with the Environmental Protection Agency's Region III office in Philadelphia. His assignment was to the agency's Environmental Assessment and Innovation Division, where he served loosely as a consultant to their air, water, and hazardous waste divisions. He was fully integrated into their staff and worked on a variety of projects at local to regional scales, studied their authorities and mandates, and hosted several forums and meetings on urban tree cover and stormwater management. Perhaps the most important result of his short time with the agency is the one-on-one relationships that he built with staff there and in the city of Philadelphia. He continues to serve as a resource and a bridge for them to the Northeastern Area and the State forestry agencies. Kudos to Technology Transfer Specialist and Landscape Architect **Donna Murphy** for filling in behind Phil while he was gone!

Army Environmental Command

Reducing Fuel Loads for the Air Force

From October 2006 through March 2007, seven Forest Service firefighters assisted Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB), FL, on natural resources projects, including conducting prescribed burns and reducing fuel loads. Located near Panama City, Tyndall AFB covers approximately 18,000 acres. For the past 3 years, the Northeastern Area has been locating and detailing firefighters to assist Tyndall AFB in improving its fire situation. This year, participating firefighters came from Regions 1, 4, 5, 6, and 10. The firefighters conducted burns on over 6,000 acres. For the second year, smokejumpers from McCall, ID, are assisting in a similar project at Avon Park Air Force Range, FL, located south of the Orlando area.



DOD/NIFC Meeting

Representatives from the Department of Defense (DOD) and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) met in Boise, ID, April 17–18 to discuss issues related to the use of DOD resources for the upcoming fire season. Air tankers (modular airborne fire fighting systems) and ground forces (military task forces) were used last season and may be called on again this year. **Helene Cleveland** attended the meeting to find ways to utilize DOD civilian wildland firefighters who meet the National Wildfire Coordinating Group requirements.

Forest Inventory Assistance

From January through March, a team of Forest Service foresters and technicians conducted a forest inventory for Fort McClellan in Alabama. The Army National Guard installation needed to inventory 16,000 acres of forest land that they manage for military training and asked for assistance from the Northeastern Area. The Army Environmental Command arranged for James Halperin, a Pacific Northwest Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) forester, to head the crew, ably assisted by personnel from the Gallatin, Payette, Kisatchie, Francis Marion-Sumter, and Green Mountain National Forests, and an FIA forester from Region 8. Personnel from the National Forests in Alabama, particularly the Shoal Creek Ranger District, also assisted and provided necessary technical expertise.

Maintaining Qualifications

Steve Davis attended the L-380 Fireline Leadership course at the McClellan Interagency Fire Training Center in California. The course provides an avenue to improve essential leadership skills, situational awareness, and safety in order to provide competent and confident leadership in wildfire and prescribed fire management. By acquiring these skills and maintaining fire qualifications, Steve is able to provide expertise in these areas for the Army and the DOD.

Wood Education and Resource Center

Lean Manufacturing for the Wood Products Industry Workshop

The Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) and Virginia Tech University are cosponsoring a 3-day workshop in Princeton, WV, May 7–9 entitled “Lean Manufacturing for the Wood Products Industry.” The workshop will bring the latest in lean manufacturing technologies to managers in wood products businesses. Workshop activities and lessons will help participants identify target areas for improvement in their businesses, provide a step-by-step guide for the implementation of “lean systems,” and direct organizations toward a philosophy of continuous improvement needed for today’s increasing competition. Visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/lmwkshp.pdf> for additional information. WERC provided funding for this workshop through a cooperative agreement.

Wood Industry Summit

The Wood Education and Resource Center, West Virginia Hardwood Alliance Zone, and West Virginia Technology Center are cosponsoring a 3-day “Wood Industry Summit” in Buckhannon, WV, May 7–9. The summit will provide managers and executives of wood processing businesses with a current update and forecast on developments impacting their businesses. The summit’s



four sessions will present information about hardwood economics, transportation opportunities, the Appalachian workforce, and the value of Appalachian hardwoods. Visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/mwiSummit.pdf> for additional information. WERC provided funding for this workshop through its competitive grant program.

Decisionmaking Software Tools for the Sawmill Industry—Videoconference

The Wood Education and Resource Center and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, along with other partners, are cosponsoring a videoconference on May 23 entitled “Decisionmaking Software Tools for the Sawmill Industry.” This videoconference is an interactive train-the-trainer program for State and cooperative extension wood utilization specialists, consultants, and industry associations.

The broadcast will originate from the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, VA, with presentations being made by researchers from the Northern Research Station in Princeton, WV; the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, WI; and the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. The videoconference is available at the following receiving sites: Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA; University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI; Ohio State University, Piketon, OH; Penn State University, State College, PA; Purdue University, Lafayette, IN; Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, NY; Claremont High School, Claremont, NH; and West Virginia Wood Technology Center, Elkins, WV.

The conference will introduce wood utilization specialists to a number of free software packages designed to give sawmill personnel the tools they need to make informed decisions about their operations. The goal is to use this videoconference to familiarize wood utilization personnel with the software so that they are comfortable in recommending specific tools to manufacturers and to provide a basic level of user support and interpretation to businesses.

Several different packages and programs will be presented, but a special emphasis will be placed on the recently developed SOLVE 2003 package (developed by the Northern Research Station), which includes COST, SOLVE 2003, and the techniques for implementing continuous mill studies. The GRADEYIELD sawmill analysis spreadsheet (developed by the University of Wisconsin) and several software utilities, and the HARDWOOD QUALITY CD will also be demonstrated.

Contact Paul Frederick, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (paul.frederick@state.vt.us) or Ed Cesa (ecesa@fs.fed.us) for more information. WERC provided funding for this workshop through its competitive grant program.

Durham Field Office

Private Forest Landowner Issue Prompts National Coverage

A Northeastern Area news release helped to prompt coverage recently in *AARP The Magazine*. The NA article, “Future of Nation’s Forests Might Hinge on Families Talking,” discussed how a lack of private forest landowner familial communication could put millions of acres of forest land at risk in the coming years. The original article was based on National Woodland Owner Survey and Pinchot Institute studies, conducted by Brett Butler and Catherine Mater, respectively.



The article was an early step in an NA Public Affairs Team/Stewardship Program Next Generation joint communications initiative. The objective was to use mass communications as a vehicle to significantly raise the visibility of the issue and improve landowner communications on a landscape scale. Since the focus of the release was elder forest landowners across the country, Public Affairs Team members sought a suitable communications medium. They chose *AARP The Magazine*, with its nationwide age 50+ audience, as the optimal outlet based on demographics to break the story.

After approving the article for release, team members pitched the story idea to the 23-million-reader magazine. AARP agreed and covered the issue in its May–June 2007 issue. A freelance writer wrote the AARP article, “Paving Paradise,” which included quotes from former Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth and NA’s own **Chuck Reger**.

Associated Press is now working on a follow-on wire story about the issue. Public Affairs Team members continue to pitch the story issue to other national media outlets. In recent weeks, several NA staff members across program areas worked hard to expand and improve related content on the NA Forest Stewardship Web site, hoping to use the issue’s increased visibility as a springboard to improve landowner estate management communications.

The original NA article can be found at http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nanews/nastories/future_of_nation_rev1.pdf.

Interagency Resource Representative Refresher Course

Interagency Resource Representatives (IARRs) from across the Northeast met at the New Hampshire Fire Academy in Concord March 27–29 to update their skills in preparation for a safe fire season. Cooperative Fire Specialist **Tom Brady** and Durham Field Office Forest Management Group Leader **Rob Clark** were the New Hampshire hosts to 22 students from 10 Northeastern States.

IARRs provide a critical link in the fire organization between firefighters, Incident Command Staff, and the firefighters’ home units. IARRs are usually assigned to wildland fire emergencies and are typically responsible for the care and welfare of 100–120 eastern region firefighters. A new emerging role for IARRs is supporting FEMA in natural disaster relief efforts.

The New Hampshire refresher course included traditional topics such as fire business management, equal employment opportunities and civil rights, and simulated scenarios. New this year was a section on all-risk response and working with FEMA. In addition to instruction led by Brady and Clark, **Alan Zentz** and **Bob Hartlove** each taught portions of the workshop.



Bob Hartlove leads a session at the recent Interagency Resource Representative refresher course.



National Conservation Education Conference

Judy Antipin (Newtown Square), **Daniel Banks** (Grey Towers), and **Susan Cox** (Durham Field Office) attended the National Conservation Education Conference, “Kids Outside, Nurturing a Land Ethic,” in Madison, WI. State Forester Paul DeLong welcomed the group with some “cheesy” Wisconsin jokes. Gina McCarthy, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, kicked off the conference with her keynote speech on the State’s successful “No Child Left Inside” initiative. Other speakers included Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry; Brian Day, Director of the North American Association of Environmental Educators; Gus Medina, Director of the Environmental Education and Training Partnership; and Curt Meine, Aldo Leopold biographer. Northeastern Area conservation education efforts were highlighted in presentations by partners Jan McLaughlin, New Hampshire Department of Education Science Specialist, and Jessica Olenych, New York City Watershed educator. **Susan Cox** received an award for her dedication to the National Environmental Education Guidelines training.

Morgantown Field Office

Amy Onken Receives Award for Excellence in Customer Service

Entomologist **Amy Onken** is the first recipient of the David F. Thomas Award for Excellence in Customer Service, named in memory of a career Forest Service employee with an outstanding record of achievement in the field of customer service. The award is given to a member of a Forest Health Protection staff who has demonstrated significant contributions in furthering the Forest Health Protection mission, sustaining internal and external customer service, and helping build a team environment for their unit.

Forest Health Protection Investigates Bald Cypress Bole Bark Shedding

On March 19, **Bob Acciavatti** and personnel from several Maryland State agencies joined Joe Fehrer, Manager of The Nature Conservancy’s Nassawango Preserve, to examine stands of bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) near Snow Hill, MD. The group examined bald cypress trees in parts of the preserve where extensive bole bark shedding has been observed for several years.

Acciavatti first became aware of the affected bald cypress in 2006 while conducting woodwasp lure evaluation trapping. At the time, the bald cypress trees did not have much shedding bark, and the low-light forest conditions resulting from overhead foliage made it difficult to see existing bald cypress conditions. Acciavatti and Fehrer returned in November and detected large, smooth, gray- to russet-colored areas on the mid-boles of several bald cypress trees, which seemed to be caused by mechanical scraping. The trees’ outer, reddish bark had been removed down to the inner bark. They decided to conduct a second visit in the spring and ask staff from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to accompany them.

The group visited areas of the preserve where most of the bald cypress showed signs of bole bark shedding. Scott Smith from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Services found small, parallel scratches on the inner bark, possibly made by a small, tree-climbing animal such as a flying squirrel. These scratches were associated with russet-colored, shreddy areas of what looked like more recent bark shedding on the bole of one tree.



Jeff Horan from the Maryland DNR Forest Service suggested that whatever was removing the bark might just be searching for something to eat.

Frass and Lepidoptera pupal cases were found in cavities upon careful removal of small bark flaps on several bald cypress trees that have insect exit holes. Steve Tilley, MDA Forest Entomologist, said that he would return to search for and collect moth larvae this summer in hopes of finding and rearing a moth to the adult stage in order to identify it.

The extensive nature of the damage now appearing in certain bald cypress stands on the Delmarva Peninsula is likely a result of a higher-than-normal moth population that is coinciding with a flying squirrel population in search of food over several years. Even at low densities, flying squirrels could cause damage that accumulates over time.

Woodsy Owl Spreads Message at WVU Children's Hospital Health Fair



Adam Cumpston poses with Woodsy at the WVU Children's Hospital Kids Fair.

On Saturday, April 14, **Adam Cumpston** and **Joseph Shupp**, and West Virginia University (WVU) students **Chelsea Gibson**, **Brendon London**, and **Jennifer Fortney** participated in the ninth annual West Virginia University Children's Hospital Kids Fair. The fair offers hands-on activities that teach kids about maintaining healthy habits throughout their lives. The staff members and WVU students handed out tree seedlings and escorted Woodsy Owl around the mall. Woodsy's message—"Lend a Hand, Care for the Land"—supports the idea that a healthy environment provides a healthier life for kids and their families.

The Battle Against Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on the Monongahela National Forest

Joe Shupp and West Virginia University student **Chelsea Gibson** released approximately 500 predatory beetles (*Scymnus sinuanodulus*) at the Falls of Hills Creek Scenic Area on the Monongahela National Forest on April 12. The scenic area, which includes a ¾-mile trail and boardwalk providing access to three waterfalls, is popular with forest visitors and local residents. It is hoped that beetles from this first release at the site will become established and provide a measure of control against hemlock woolly adelgid.

Rick Turcotte and **Norman Montoy** treated 15 eastern hemlock trees with the systemic insecticide imidacloprid at the Blue Meadow Recreation Area and the Falls of Hills Creek Scenic Area. The imidacloprid treatment is expected to reduce hemlock woolly adelgid populations on treated trees and provide up to 3 years of protection.

Predatory beetle releases and trunk injections are among the control strategies being employed to fight this introduced pest on the Monongahela National Forest.



Forest Health Issues Discussed on the Monongahela National Forest

Rick Turcotte and **Ann Steketee** traveled to the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) supervisor's office on March 5 to discuss past, current, and future forest health issues with Forest Silviculturist Glen Juergens and GIS Specialist Sammie Lammie. Hemlock woolly adelgid and beech bark disease were discussed in detail; it is expected that these two items will top the list of issues facing the forest. The MNF will develop a list of this year's forest health priorities. Once it is complete, Forest Health Protection and the MNF will create an action plan to address the priorities identified.

Forest Health Issues Discussed on the Wayne National Forest

Rick Turcotte, and **Devin Wanner** traveled to the Wayne National Forest (WNF) supervisor's office on March 28 to discuss past, current, and future forest health issues. The meeting included Mike Freidhof, Gary Willison, and Phil Sammon from the WNF and Dawn McCarthy from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Plant Protection and Quarantine. Issues discussed included the WNF Insect and Disease Communication Plan, along with other general plans and priorities. The impact of the ice storm on the Ironton Ranger District was mentioned as one of the forest's highest priorities, along with emerald ash borer, pine resources, and gypsy moth. The communication plan was discussed in detail. It was recommended that the plan be passed up to the regional office, where it could potentially act as a framework document for communication issues dealing with introduced insects and diseases. It is expected that more discussions and a final plan will be worked out for this year's field season sometime in the next month or two.

Biological Control of HWA on National River and Recreation Area

Forest Health Protection staff members **Karen Felton** and **Brad Onken** went to the New River Gorge National River (NRGNR) in West Virginia on April 17 to search for *Laricobius nigrinus* and *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* predatory beetles. The beetles were released at Hedrick's Creek in the Gauley River National Recreation Area and at the Burnwood Area of the NRGNR as a biological control method of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA).

On April 18, Onken and Felton provided training for chemical treatments of HWA to personnel from Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and the New River Gorge National River. Attendees included John Perez, biologist at Shenandoah National Park, and members of the West Virginia Citizens Conservation Corps on behalf of the NRGNR. Felton also provided training on the process for monitoring treatment success and determining the percentage of HWA winter mortality. In the afternoon, a release site for *Scymnus sinuanodulus* predatory beetles was selected at Wolf Creek on the NRGNR. The release will take place this later this spring.



Brad Onken checks for winter mortality of HWA and looks for *Laricobius nigrinus* predatory beetles at Hedrick's Creek in the Gauley River National Recreation Area.



EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is **COB Wednesday, May 23, 2007. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us.**

Please remember:

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

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