



Northeastern Area News Notes



August 16, 2006



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Refocus on Partnering

What distinguishes State and Private Forestry (S&PF) from other Forest Service mission areas is our expert advice, innovative technology, and financial assistance, which help landowners and resource managers sustain our Nation's urban and rural forests. And we in the Northeastern Area (NA) are uniquely positioned, serving a region containing 43 percent of the Nation's population and 23 percent of its forests (most of which are not federally owned), so that we can make a significant impact. We have done well, and much of our success can be attributed to sound partnerships, particularly those with our State forestry organizations. We need to do more.

At the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) annual meeting held in Maryland last month, S&PF Deputy Chief Jim Hubbard and NAASF President Jim Hull spoke together on "Reinventing S&PF." A key message was that S&PF is at a critical point, and to remain viable S&PF needs to demonstrate compelling worth to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget. They discussed the importance of strong working partnerships to achieve this.

In early August, NA was reviewed by NAASF, the counterpart to the Cooperative Management Reviews that we conduct of our State partners. There too, the need to work through strong partnerships was identified, partnerships that go beyond those between NA and the State Foresters.

Each of the NA Executive Team members has a new supplemental performance element that focuses on developing relationships with groups such as the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the State cooperative extension services, conservation education groups, and others. For example, I signed a Memorandum of Understanding on July 24 between the Northeastern Area and the Northeast and North Central Regions of the National Association of Conservation Districts promising greater information sharing to provide greater program efficiencies and service to the public.

These activities have in common a theme that I have mentioned before: "Relevance, Results, and Relationships." For NA to continue to be successful, determining how we demonstrate compelling worth (Relevance), how we make a difference in people's lives (Results), and how we partner to do this (Relationships) should not be limited to the Executive Team. All of us in NA need to be thinking about how to take nontraditional approaches in working with both traditional and nontraditional partners to ensure that S&PF and NA continue as viable parts of the Forest Service.

— Kathryn Maloney



ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

U.S. Army and Ducks Unlimited Partner for Conservation



Attending the MOU signing were (left to right) Don Young, Ducks Unlimited Executive Vice President; Alex Beehler, Assistant Deputy, Under Secretary of Defense, Environment, Safety and Occupational Health; Tad Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Environment, Safety and Occupational Health; Dr. Jim Hulbert, Ducks Unlimited President; and Dr. Craig College, Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, Installation Management.

At a special ceremony at the Pentagon on July 7, the U.S. Army and Ducks Unlimited signed a Memorandum of Understanding making Ducks Unlimited an official partner in the Army's Compatible Use Buffers (ACUB) Program. ACUB is similar to the Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. The agreement encourages both parties to work to include wetland development and enhancement in conservation easements purchased by the Army, while establishing buffer zones for military installations, maximizing security, and minimizing encroachment on Army testing, training, and operations. **Jim Anderson** represented the U.S. Army Environmental Center at the ceremony as a wetlands subject matter expert. Jim briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health prior to the ceremony.

GREY TOWERS

Thousands Visit Grey Towers for Festival of Wood

More than 2,000 visitors attended the second annual Festival of Wood at Grey Towers National Historic Site on August 12–13. Wood craftsmen, musicians performing with wood instruments, children's activities using wood, and educational exhibits about wood use and sustainable forestry all contributed to the 2-day event, which was designed to raise awareness about our natural and cultural heritage of wood.

The program expanded this year to include a new historic Wood in Recreation exhibit, which enabled visitors to see some of Gifford Pinchot's recreational equipment, including his snowshoes, surfboard, bamboo fly-fishing rods, cross-country skis, balsa rafts, 19th century gaming set, bow and arrow, and unfinished hand-crafted rifle stocks. A portable sawmill demonstration helped illustrate a "From Logs to Lumber" message, and the Gifford Pinchot Audubon Society helped children construct bluebird nest boxes.



Instruments made with wood provided a treat for visitors who enjoy bluegrass music.





Antique wooden spinning wheels were demonstrated throughout the day.

Northeastern Area employees involved included **Linda Singleton** from the Morgantown Field Office, who provided hours of on-site assistance, and Newtown Square's **Juliette Watts**, who served as official photographer and stepped out as Woodsy Owl each day. **Steve Milauskus** of the Wood Education Recreation Center staffed an educational booth all weekend, where NA's informational handouts on invasive species were snapped up by visitors. NA retirees also were on hand. **Jim Lockyer** conducted a Conservation Field Journaling workshop and exhibited some of his Grey Towers artwork, and **John Nordin** was spotted checking out the fine wood crafts.

Partners who helped provide the activities and events included the Pocono Arts Council, which offered wood

craftsmen from throughout the tristate region an opportunity to exhibit and demonstrate a whole range of wood crafting skills, including wood turning and carving, Windsor chairs, wooden snowflakes, wooden bowls, spoons and fishing lures, sawdust folk art, and more.

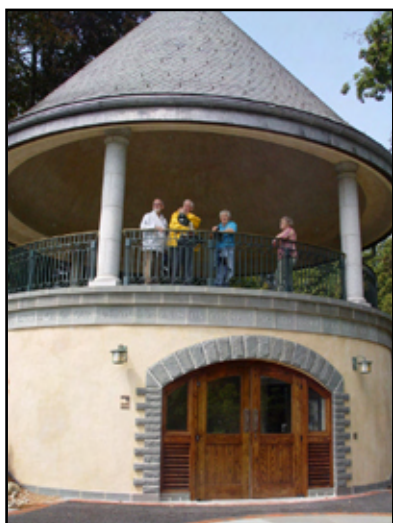
Nearly 1,000 visitors viewed films and videos, and toured the Grey Towers mansion and gardens. Two area schoolteachers provided guided hikes on the Forestry Trail.

Planning for next year's Festival of Wood, which will coincide with Pinchot's birthday (August 11), is already underway.



Visitors enjoyed watching a wood turner at work at his portable lathe.

New Visitor Pavilion, Parking Opens at Grey Towers



Grey Towers' visitors enjoy the view from the newly opened Visitor Pavilion.

A new visitor pavilion, parking lot, and pedestrian walkways have opened for public use at Grey Towers. This fourth phase of the ongoing restoration and renovation of Grey Towers focused on visitor safety, service, and security. The improvements will now enable Grey Towers to fully serve the public as it was originally intended.

The visitor services area can accommodate increased and simultaneous site use by visitors, conference attendees, program participants, and others; eliminates unsafe parking; provides expanded use of the site through improved pedestrian access; improves visitor orientation to the site; and includes new restroom facilities.

The visitor pavilion blends into the landscape and is constructed of natural materials or materials that are consistent with other structures on the site. It is set into the contours of the land so that



it is partly concealed and does not intrude on the historic landscape. The first level includes the restrooms; the second level, an open-air deck.

The parking lot will serve as a demonstration area. Designed to mitigate runoff, it is terraced and broken up into cells instead of one large paved area. Porous paving and separate aquifer recharge basins installed under each cell also will address runoff. Extensive landscaping addresses erosion, solar reflection, and esthetics of the site.

The project was funded as a 50-50 cost-share between the Federal government (USDA Forest Service, Federal Transportation Enhancement awards, and Congressional appropriations), and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through the Governor's Capital Budget Redevelopment Program.

DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Using Demonstration Sites to Help Battle Invasives

The Durham Field Office Forest Stewardship and Forest Health staffs continue to work with partners on the development of invasive plant demonstration sites in New England and New York. The installation of demonstration plots and the application of manual and chemical treatments is currently underway at the Prouty Woods property in Littleton, MA, which is owned by our project partner, the New England Forest Foundation. The Connecticut Forest and Park Association is just starting to establish their demonstration plots at a woodlot next to near their headquarters building in Middlefield, CT. And Durham Field Office specialists have met with representatives from the Rhode Island Natural History Survey to begin establishing their demonstration site near Kingston, RI. Workshops will likely be held at each site in spring 2007.



Cynthia Henshaw, New England Forest Foundation, stands in front of a fencerow that is crowded with invasive species at the Prouty Woods demonstration site in Littleton, MA.

Burning bush and Japanese barberry are the major invasives being treated at these sites. The Prouty Woods property includes a planned timber sale site. Invasives are being removed within the timber sale boundaries in hopes of eliminating the spread of invasives following logging.

Forest Health Program Review at Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Dennis Souto, Bernie Raimo, and Margaret Miller-Weeks met with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station staff on August 8–9 for a review of their Forest Health Program. Kyle Lombard, Forest Health cooperator from the State of New Hampshire, also joined the review. The session was hosted by Kirby Stafford and Victoria Smith. Station scientists presented information on various ongoing projects, such as hemlock woolly adelgid controls, Ramorum surveys, and defoliating insect trends, along with chestnut blight and butternut canker research. There was a most interesting study on deer and the spread of invasive plants; you can guess what they were collecting for that project! A report will be prepared by the Forest Service listing commendations and recommendations for the issues that were identified during the review.



Trail Map Under Development for Woodstock, Vermont

Rebecca Whitney, GIS Specialist, has been working with Christina Marts and Jennifer Wait from the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Vermont and several of their local partners on developing a “Walk Woodstock” map. This map will highlight the village of Woodstock’s extensive network of carriage trails, footpaths, and sidewalks that connect the village to the national park, the Billings Farm and Museum, Mount Peg Park, and several other town parks. In June, Rebecca and **Tom Luther** spent a day updating their trail data with GPS to more accurately depict the trails on the new map. The map will be released on September 16 during “Walk Woodstock Day,” an all-day event that will feature guided walks through the town.

National Timber Tax Network Meeting

Members of the USDA Forest Service Tax Team met August 1–2 in Washington, DC, as part of the annual National Timber Tax Network meeting. **Neal Bungard** attended as part of the team to update participants on his involvement in the timber tax arena. Since many changes to the tax treatment of timber have occurred in the past few years, such as treatment of capital gains, reforestation incentives, and changes in casualty loss rules, it was important to update those across the country who advise the public on timber tax issues of the changes so they can better serve their customers.

Neal facilitated a Net Conference, which was held to get the information out to the broadest audience. The audio portion was a normal conference call, but attendees were able to log into Net Conference and see PowerPoint slides on their computer screen. People from all over the country logged in, and the response to this type of meeting has been overwhelmingly positive. One participant commented, *“I probably would not have attended even if it meant traveling to a regional conference, but I learned enough that is useful to me to make participation worthwhile.”*

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

NA and NACD Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Renew Partnership



Northeastern Area Director **Kathryn Maloney** (left) and National Association of Conservation Districts Northeastern Region Chair **Patricia Sueck** sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Northeastern Area Director **Kathryn Maloney** and Field Representative **John Hazel** met with members of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) on July 24 during a combined meeting of the NACD Northeastern Region, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, and the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission in State College, PA. The meeting provided an opportunity for a ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Northeastern Area and the Northeastern and North Central Regions of the NACD. Signing for the Forest Service, Kathryn Maloney spoke about issues in common between the Forest Service and NACD, and the recognition by both parties of the unique opportunities to serve the public in a geographic



area where a significant portion of the Nation's natural resources and population overlap. The MOU promises greater cooperation and information sharing between the Forest Service and NACD to provide greater program efficiencies and service to the public.

Interns Learn About the Different Programs Co-Located in Morgantown

USDA Forest Service Policy Analysts Cindy Chojnacky and Denise Ingram traveled with three college interns to Morgantown on July 31 as part of a tour of Forest Service offices outside the Washington, DC, area. The tour introduced the graduate students to the different branches of the Forest Service and the wide array of Forest Service program areas.

The Morgantown Field Office provided a unique opportunity for the group because several Forest Service units are housed in the same facility. Field Representative **John Hazel** and Deputy Director **Larry Mastic** told the group about the functions of State and Private Forestry within the Northeastern Area. **Lisa Cress** gave a presentation about the Forest Health Technology

Enterprise Team, a Washington Office unit located in Morgantown. **Chris LeDoux** and **Kurt Gottschalk** briefed the group about the Northeastern Research Station and specific research projects being conducted through the Morgantown office. Wood Education and Resource Center Director **Steve Milauskas** talked about the center, which is located in southern West Virginia.

As an added bonus, the Morgantown Field Office arranged a site visit of the MeadWestvaco Natural Resources Center on the West Virginia University Forest for the visiting students to learn about research being conducted at the center. The group met with West Virginia University Associate Professor John Brooks, who told them about the history of the area and how the center had come about. He then took the group to a small clearcut site to talk about regeneration. The rest of the field trip itinerary consisted of visits to the Fernow Experimental Forest, the Monongahela National Forest, and the George Washington National Forest.



(left to right) Denise Ingram, Arelys Morazon, Kate Balet, Sarah LaPlante, and Cindy Chojnacky discuss research projects with West Virginia University Professor John Brooks at the MeadWestvaco Natural Resources Center.

Dutch Elm Disease Training Held for Urban Forestry Administration Arborists

During June, Plant Pathologist **Al Iskra** conducted training and consultation sessions with several Washington, DC, District Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) arborists involved with Dutch elm disease (DED) surveys, diagnostics, and management. The Casey Tree Foundation is not involved with DED surveys this year as in previous years, and these UFA arborists have total responsibility for managing elm conditions. The district has funds available for 2006 DED suppression and management efforts such as diseased elm removals, pruning, and fungicide injections.

It is important to note that for the first time, UFA had adequate staff dedicated to the elm project. In fact, 8 arborists were recently hired, bringing the total to 10 full-time staff members. Each arborist is responsible for the evaluation and care of elms and other tree species on every city street within eight distinct wards. Each of these wards within the district represents not only a defined political boundary but often distinct areas with unique tree management problems. Therefore, all tree problems are addressed on a "ward basis" and attended to by a specific arborist. Iskra traveled with each of these arborists within their respective wards during the training. Training involved



DED recognition, instruction on when to remove or prune elms for preventing the spread of DED, and recommendations on when to inject elms with fungicides for effective treatment or disease prevention.

During training, typical “flagging” symptoms characteristic of DED (wilting and browning leaf discoloration) were distinguished from other similarly occurring symptoms. Many other disease stressors and abiotic disorders are typically present, especially within the city environment. Many elms without typical DED flagging symptoms had measurable dieback or leaf chlorosis. Discussions developed with the arborists concerning these questionable observations associated with elm diagnostics. It is not always possible to make a definitive diagnosis. DED was also confirmed by taking samples from symptomatic branches, which provided each arborist with firsthand experience in more direct disease confirmation.

Training also involved hazard rating of elms, which should be the first step when conducting elm surveys. Questioning or deliberating over any elm diagnostic or treatment becomes inconsequential if a tree needs to be removed immediately due to the presence of a hazard.

Thousands of Acres Treated to Slow the Spread of Gypsy Moth

The 2006 Slow the Spread Pheromone Flake Application Project was conducted on approximately 426,473 acres in the Southeast and Midwest during June and July. Treatment areas were located in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Minnesota.

The pheromone flake contract covers 3 years. In 2006, the contract was divided into three bid items: bid item 1 was awarded to Pontiac Flying Service, Pontiac, IL; bid item 2 went to Hatfield’s Spraying Service, Nunica, MI; and bid item 3 was awarded to Al’s Aerial Spraying, Ovid, MI.

Amy Onken was the Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) for bid item 1, and Jan Hacker and Ken Klein (Southern Region) were the inspectors. Pheromone flake application started in Elizabeth City, NC, on June 5 and ended on June 9 in Danville, VA, to complete the first project area. The second portion of the contract started on June 19 in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia, and the work was completed on June 22 from the New River Valley Airport in Dublin, VA. The final stage of the contract was conducted in central Wisconsin from July 5 through July 7.

Pontiac Flying Service used AT-502 air tractors to apply the pheromone flakes; they also used two observation planes. Three of the four application aircraft were equipped with “super pods” designed and manufactured by Scott Petersen, president of Pontiac Flying Service. Pontiac treated a total of 119,322 acres safely and efficiently.



Amy Onken (center) worked with the team from Pontiac Flying Service, which treated 119,322 acres with pheromone flakes in a project designed to slow the spread of gypsy moth.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Presentation at West Virginia Botanical Garden

Rick Turcotte and **Adam Cumpston** made a 2-hour presentation about eastern hemlock and the hemlock woolly adelgid at the West Virginia Botanical Garden at Tibbs Run in Morgantown, WV, on Saturday, July 15. The presentation was part of a summer series at the garden and was well attended by botanical garden personnel and the public.

Morgantown Pathologist Gives Presentation in Quebec City

Plant Pathologist **Martin MacKenzie** attended the 2006 joint meeting of the American Phytopathological Society, the Canadian Phytopathological Society, and the Mycological Society of America in Quebec City, Quebec, from July 29 through August 2. MacKenzie gave a presentation entitled “Beech Bark Disease Spread and Intensification in Eastern Hardwood Forests of North America” on August 1.

The beech bark disease complex in North America has two major components—an inciting scale (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*) and either a native fungus (*Neonectria ditissima*), or exotic fungus (*N. faginata*). Beech bark disease intensification has been observed to be driven by multiple stressors and may also be influenced by both the density of non-beech *N. ditissima* hosts and the replacement of the native fungus by the more fit exotic species.

Crummies Creek Tree Farm Site of Forest Health Workshop



Participants at the forest health workshop relax in the cool shade of a forest glade while listening to one of the presenters.

“Invasives, Forest Health, and Forest Productivity” was the theme of a workshop at the Crummies Creek Tree Farm hosted by the West Virginia University Extension Service and the West Virginia Woodland Owners Association. Approximately 80 forest consultants, service foresters, and resource professionals attended the workshop to discuss how invasive plants, insects, animals, and introduced diseases are causing irreparable damage to the Appalachian hardwood forest at a cost of billions of dollars in lost productivity and unmeasured losses in biological health and ecological diversity. The intent of the workshop was to identify and highlight

some of the invaders of local significance and provide a platform for increased communication about the issues among natural resource professionals. **Karen Sykes** was a member of a panel discussion on invasive species control, and educational efforts and approaches to addressing invasive species and forest health.

White Pine Health Discussed on the Wayne National Forest

Rick Turcotte and **Martin MacKenzie** met with Art Martin, Jason Reed, Chad Fitton, and Gary Dixon of the Wayne National Forest on July 13 to discuss white pine health and visit several white pine plantations. The pine stands are overstocked and have pockets of pine bark adelgid infestation and bark beetle-related activity. Pockets and contiguous areas of mortality indicate that insect and disease activity have occurred over many years. Because many of these areas were mapped during this year’s aerial surveys, this meeting presented an opportunity to ground truth some of the surveyed areas and discuss current and future forest health issues.



The forest's Marietta District is considering development of a white pine project in the Lamping area, and this visit was part of a request for a site and biological evaluation of these stands. The group also discussed a similar project on the Ironton District (the Crider Pine Project) and the potential for conducting insect and disease surveys in these areas. Forest Health Protection personnel recommended setting up funnel traps and destructively sampling infested trees to better assess adelgid and bark beetle impacts, as well as making a district-wide assessment of white pine plantations using data provided by the district. It was also recommended that Wayne National Forest personnel develop a list of questions and concerns about the project areas so that Forest Health Protection personnel could better serve the unit. This will be a developing project; surveys and discussions are expected in the future as this project moves forward.

Viburnum Leaf Beetle Impacts Noted on the Allegheny National Forest



An example of defoliation caused by the viburnum leaf beetle.

Rick Turcotte met with September Wilhelm of the Allegheny National Forest on July 14 to discuss and visit several planted wildlife areas that contained defoliated *Viburnum* plantings. The defoliation was caused by the viburnum leaf beetle, an exotic insect. This European beetle, which was first found in North America in the late 1940s in Ontario and has been moving steadily southward over the past 60 years, has the potential to become a serious problem on the Allegheny. The adults and larvae of this insect feed exclusively on plants in the genus *Viburnum*, causing dieback and death. Forest Health Protection and Allegheny National Forest personnel discussed survey and management options for this insect, and future meetings and discussions are expected.

Five Area Employees Enhance Computer Skills at Training Course

Five Northeastern Area employees—**Cindy Barnett**, **Helen Butalla**, and **Ann Steketee** from Morgantown; **Quinn Chavez** from St. Paul; and **Tom Luther** from Durham—attended a 3-day Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute (ESRI) course in Charlotte, NC. The group learned about geodatabases, a proprietary database format used by ESRI's ArcGIS software. The course, Building Geodatabases I, provided the employees with the necessary skills to support the Forest Stewardship Program's Spatial Analysis Project and Web-DET application, which was developed by ESRI. The knowledge obtained during the class will be used to move existing State GIS datasets into the Web-DET application. ESRI Instructor Tanya Hardison provided the training.



Training attendees pause for a group photo. Pictured are (left to right) Cindy Barnett, Helen Butalla, and Ann Steketee (Morgantown); Quinn Chavez (St. Paul); Tanya Hardison (ESRI Instructor from Redlands, CA); and Tom Luther (Durham).



Ice Damage Project on the Wayne National Forest

Rick Turcotte met with Chad Fitton and Gary Dixon of the Wayne National Forest (WNF) on July 20 to discuss the Ice Damage Project. This is the final year that Forest Health Protection will conduct intensive surveys for this project. Plans were developed for a new inventory and the possible establishment of regeneration plots. In addition, funnel traps were set up in the Lamping and Crider White Pine Project areas. These traps will be monitored biweekly by WNF personnel.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Emerald Ash Borer is the HOT Topic of Concern in Illinois

“This is not a time to be spreading panic, but we’ve been given warning that this is something we have to deal with,” said U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (Illinois), who convened the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) summit at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, on July 21. About 100 people, including community residents, municipal arborists, village mayors and managers, and agency representatives at the local, State, and Federal level, attended this timely informative meeting. Expert panelists from the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Morton Arboretum, and the Michigan Governor’s Office cited getting an early jump on the problem as crucial to controlling the emerald ash borer. *“I would urge any city foresters, if you’re doing routine pruning of ash trees, go ahead and peel the bark back and look for signs of the borer,”* said Mark Cinnamon, an Illinois Department of Agriculture official who helped fight the Asian longhorned beetle. Presentations were made by agency representatives on the status of EAB in Illinois, management approaches for EAB, impacts on municipalities, wood disposal and utilization, lessons learned from Michigan, and the status of funds.

Tom Dilley, Northeastern Area Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, discussed the significant differences between EAB and the Asian longhorned beetle, an exotic woodborer all too familiar to Chicago area residents, and how these differences will likely affect the scope of the response to EAB. USDA APHIS also announced the availability of \$7.6 million from the Commodity Credit Corporation, a USDA contingency fund, to address the new EAB finds in Illinois and to promote additional detection surveys in Wisconsin. Coincidentally, a new spot infestation of EAB was officially confirmed in Evanston on the day of the summit.

EAB has killed an estimated 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. So far, no significant resistance to EAB has been observed in native ash trees. In a recent economic analysis, the Forest Service has estimated that at the insect’s current rate of spread, the potential cost to homeowners and local governments to remove and replace dead trees could be about \$7 billion (present worth) over the next 25 years. Aside from their esthetic value, Illinois’ 130 million ash trees are worth \$3 billion in lumber, and nurseries stand to lose up to \$50 million in destroyed trees, said Warren Goetsch, a natural resources manager for the State Agriculture Department.

Firewood Restrictions Move Forward in Several States

- **Steve Katovich**, Entomologist, attended a Leadership Team meeting for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in July and presented material on the emerald ash borer situation. The presentation was part of a discussion on firewood restrictions that the forest is planning. They have drafted an “Order of the Forest Supervisor,” to be signed by Forest Supervisor Ann Archie, regarding firewood restrictions on Wisconsin national forest lands. The Wisconsin



Department of Natural Resources already has restrictions in place—no out-of-state firewood can be brought onto State-managed lands. At this time, the Hiawatha and Ottawa National Forests have bans that are tied to the designated quarantine areas. The Forest Service Eastern Region is in the process of developing consistent firewood restrictions for all national forest lands in the region.

- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced an emergency regulation on July 27 that prohibits bringing in or using out-of-state firewood on properties managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Firewood movement is already restricted from any area where a quarantine has been imposed owing to the discovery of the emerald ash borer (EAB). The new regulation is intended to prevent the spread of the emerald ash borer, particularly to any State park, fish or wildlife area, conservation area, recreation area, natural area, or other property owned or managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee is asking visitors from other States to leave their firewood at home to prevent the spread of emerald ash borer. Concerned with the high incidence of campers that pack their own firewood, the Park Service has started checking zip codes and license plates for visitors from States with emerald ash borer infestations, asking them not to bring firewood into the park.

Bittersweet Victory for Chicago

The following is an excerpt from the *Chicago Tribune*. **Rob Mangold**, Director of Forest Health Protection, and **Tom Dilley**, Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, represented State and Private Forestry at this event.

Eight years after the Asian longhorned beetle first was spotted munching on the majestic trees of Chicago's North Side, city, state and federal officials declared victory in their \$75 million fight against the invasive pest.

The celebration was muted, though, by the discovery last month in Kane County of the emerald ash borer, another imported insect that could prove to be even more destructive. . . .

"We've got some reasons to be happy and relieved, but we can't relax," said Joe McCarthy, senior forester in the Chicago Bureau of Forestry and manager of the city's efforts to stop the Asian longhorned beetle.

For another year or so, workers still will crawl around the city's leafy canopy of maples, willows and box elders, searching for the distinctive black bugs with white spots and long antennae. Some of the oldest and biggest trees in a handful of neighborhoods also will continue to get annual doses of a potent insecticide.

But after three years without a sighting of a longhorned beetle, authorities decided to lift the last quarantine that led to the destruction of 1,500 infested trees. It applied to an area around Oz Park where three infested trees were found in 2003. Trees and firewood now can be safely moved in and out of the neighborhood without fear that the beetles will spread. . . .

(Hawthorne, Michael. Battle against unfab 2: 1 beetle down, 1 left. *Chicago Tribune*. 13 July 2006.)



If You Can't Beat 'Em, Join 'Em



Now known as the “fifth beetle,” **Jill Johnson** donned the emerald ash borer costume for the International Society of Arboriculture Field Days held in Loring Park, Minneapolis in July. The field days are open to the public and feature a variety of educational events designed to create greater public awareness about urban trees and forests, and the importance of professional tree care. In addition, the field days include the International Tree Climbing Competition.

The Field Days coincided with the International Society of Arboriculture’s annual conference, which was also held in Minneapolis. **Lisa Burban**, Group Leader for Forest Resources Management; **Joe O’Brien**, Pathologist; **Jill Johnson**, Urban Forestry Center Director; **Tom Dilley**, Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator; **Katie Armstrong**, Emerald Ash Borer Liaison; and **Jill Pokorny**, Pathologist, were instrumental in making the conference a success by coordinating preconference workshops, facilitating panel sessions, developing tours, participating in the field days, and staffing exhibits.

Jill Johnson poses as the emerald ash borer for the International Society of Arboriculture Field Days in Minneapolis.

Wisconsin State Technical Committee Forestry Subcommittee

Mike Majeski, Forest Stewardship Coordinator, attended the Wisconsin State Technical Committee Forestry Subcommittee meeting on July 17. Mike gave an overview of the Northeastern Area, and State and Private Forestry programs. In addition, Mike discussed the Upper Mississippi River Forest Partnership and described the focus areas of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding and the GIS analysis to identify priority areas. Discussion followed on the Forest Stewardship Program Spatial Analysis Project, smaller forest parcels, the Backyard Woods program, and future opportunities for biofuels from corn, switch grass, trees, and wood waste. The Wisconsin State Technical Committee Forestry Subcommittee is charged with the task of developing recommendations on Farm Bill programs and private forest land management in Wisconsin.

Improving Forest Management in the Lake States

Manfred Mielke, Pathologist, and **Mike Ostry**, Research Pathologist with the Northern Research Station, are working on a number of projects, including the following:

Effects of Fire on Insects and Pathogens in Red and White Pine Forests—This project, being implemented by Andrew Storer of Michigan Tech, is designed to look at the effects of fire on insect and disease populations. The project includes four 30-acre test plots that are comparing (1) no harvest, no burn, control; (2) harvest and no burn; (3) harvest and burn; and (4) no harvest and burn. All four blocks had pre- and post-treatment monitoring of insect and pathogen (shoot blight) populations. Additional observations are being made on pre- and post-treatment affects on tree



health, crown condition, associated vegetation, and wildlife. Preliminary results will be provided this fall. Fire is an important component of the natural ecology of upper Michigan. This study could have significant implications for the management of red and white pine.

White Pine Demonstration Planting—This project is a demonstration planting of two seed sources for white pine established on the Ottawa National Forest in 1989. The purpose of this demonstration planting is to compare two seed sources—superior seed from the Oconto River Seed Orchard and field run seed from the national forest. Seedlings were planted in clearcut and shelterwood cut settings. Half of the seedlings in each treatment have been pruned. Over the years, data has been collected on growth and mortality, incidence of blister rust, white pine weevil, pine adelgid, root disease, and snow damage. This project will result in better recommendations for white pine seed source for replanting in typical Lake State settings and scenarios.

Butternut Project and Oak Wilt Suppression Projects—These projects are being carried out in cooperation with the Nicolet National Forest and have implications for improving the management of butternut and red oak. Plans are being made to collect data on the incidence and health of butternut following various management treatments implemented in the past. In addition, Manfred and Mike are monitoring an oak wilt suppression site where aggressive root disruption efforts have been implemented. Oak wilt is absent in many of the treated areas, overall oak wilt incidence appears to be significantly reduced, and natural regeneration is occurring. The supporting data will be available this fall. This project has implications to the adjacent State and private lands and may help to control the incidence of oak wilt across all land ownerships in Wisconsin.

Northeastern Area to Host Reforestation Discussion in Illinois

Noel Schneeberger, Forest Health Program Manager, and **Tom Dilley**, Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, will host a discussion and planning meeting regarding reforestation efforts related to emerald ash borer in Illinois. Topics will include a comparison of reforestation implementation in the other affected States, a discussion of agency roles, a review of the community forestry landscape in Illinois, and a discussion of a central point of contact for planning, implementation, and monitoring of replanting efforts in Illinois.

Katie Armstrong Details to the Headquarters Press Office

Katie Armstrong, Emerald Ash Borer Liaison, recently returned from a 3-week detail in the Press Office at the Forest Service headquarters in Washington, DC. While there, Katie had the opportunity to work directly with reporters on a wide variety of issues such as the roadless rule, predator control in wilderness areas, and a subject that Katie is all too familiar with—the emerald ash borer. The Press Office’s Dan Jiron and Joe Walsh were instrumental in making Katie’s detail a tremendous development opportunity.

Minnesota’s State Forestry Program on the Rebound

According to Tom Baumann, Section Manager/Assistant Director of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, forestry in Minnesota is on the rebound. Forestry is receiving more attention and more funding from the State legislature. He cited the appropriation of State funds for conservation easements, increased funding for State forest land, and a division policy that will allow a percentage of State timber sales to be used for tree planting on private forest lands as examples of the rebound. Tom presented this information at the July meeting of the Minnesota Forest Stewardship Committee attended by **Mike Majeski**, Forest Stewardship Coordinator.

In addition, the Forest Stewardship Committee supported the conference “Family Forest Stewardship: Getting to the Next Million Acres.” Minnesota is starting an aggressive campaign to



increase land covered by new Forest Stewardship Plans by 1 million acres by 2015. This will require increasing the current average of 60,000 acres covered by new stewardship plans per year to 110,000 acres per year. The increase in technical assistance needed to write the plans will come from the private sector, not from new Division of Forestry staff.

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council Meets in the Twin Cities

Lisa Burban, Group Leader for Forest Resources Management, and Ken Holman, Urban Forestry Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, hosted a meeting of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) in Minneapolis. Lisa and Ken assisted with logistics and invitations. In addition, with the help of City of Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota, they designed one of the best tours NUCFAC has ever attended.

Minneapolis Mayor RT Rybak welcomed the group and spoke passionately and knowledgeably about urban forestry and the role of trees and the environment in cities. Josee Cung, Minnesota DNR Southeast Asian Program manager, gave an overview of the 2003 NUCFAC grant that she has been working on with the Tree Trust. Josee gave an excellent overview of the Southeast Asian population in the Twin Cities, why the DNR established a program to serve them, and how the NUCFAC grant has created a connection to the urban forest. Lisa Burban is the Federal grant monitor for this grant.

Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee Update

Mike Majeski, Forest Stewardship Coordinator, attended the Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee meeting in early July. The Indiana Land Resources Council is restarting after Governor Mitch Daniels suspended it shortly after taking office in January 2005. One of the council's goals is to reduce the development of agricultural and forest land. In addition, two new district foresters are being hired, the division is developing a habitat conservation plan for the Indiana bat on State forest land, and it will also begin random third-party BMP monitoring on State land. Additional Indiana Forest Stewardship updates include the following:

- The Classified Forest Program started in 1921 to keep Indiana private forests intact by offering landowners property tax breaks. The program had record-breaking enrollment in 2005 with 25,000 acres. They expect nearly 20,000 acres this year. (Classified Forest Program plans are also Forest Stewardship Plans.)
- The division is no longer providing technical assistance to landowners with less than 10 acres. They will modify Backyard Woods tip sheets to use as one component of a "small landowner" literature distribution program.
- A statewide cost-share program will start this year. The funds come from a portion of State forest land timber sales.
- Eleven of Indiana 18 forestry districts changed boundaries after a review of current field workload.
- To streamline forest planning services, Indiana will develop a computer-aided rapid woodland assessment for initial forest inspections. These prescriptions are to be followed by more intensive plans, such as Forest Stewardship Plans.



- Forest certification in Indiana is underway. The State forest system will be assessed to determine eligibility for Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council certification, and Classified Forests will be assessed under the American Tree Farm System. All assessments and reports are to be completed by January 31, 2007.

National Tree Climbers Certification

Manfred Mielke, Pathologist, participated in the training of 32 new and renewing tree climbers and tree climbing instructors at the Dorena Tree Improvement Center on the Umpqua National Forest in Oregon. Manfred presented a session on “Hazard Trees: Recognizing Them Before You Climb.” This presentation is an adaptation of one he has made previously on tree hazards in recreation areas, but is specifically targeted to new tree climbers. Included in this module is a tour of hazard trees around the training area. Manfred facilitated an instructor training session and trained individuals in mechanical ascender use and associated skills.

Brainerd Lakes Forestry Legacy Project Celebration

U.S. Senator Norm Coleman (Minnesota) and USDA Undersecretary Mark Rey joined the Trust for Public Land, Potlatch Corporation, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, representatives for U.S. Senator Mark Dayton and U.S. Congressman Jim Oberstar, and other State and local officials to celebrate the completion of the 1,635-acre second and final phase of the Brainerd Lakes Forest Legacy project. **Teri Heyer**, Upper Mississippi River Forest Partnership Coordinator, represented the Northeastern Area at this event. This celebration culminated a 4-year partnership effort to purchase a forest conservation easement on 4,776 acres owned by Potlatch, which will ensure public access, prohibit development, provide for sustainable forest management, and protect habitat in the growing Brainerd Lakes area. These lands are part of a 22,000-acre block that includes the Crow Wing and Pillsbury State Forests, county forest land, and privately owned forest land. The Minnesota congressional delegation was thanked for their leadership in securing \$2.8 million in Federal funds through the Forest Legacy program. The Minnesota Legislature and Governor Pawlenty provided a match of \$730,000.



U.S. Senator Norm Coleman (standing at podium) and Under Secretary of Agriculture Mark Rey (seated, on left) join others in celebrating the Brainerd Lakes Forest Legacy closing.



EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helene Cleveland**, Army Environmental Center; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **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, September 20, 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.

