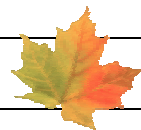




Northeastern Area News Notes



October 22, 2007



From the Director's Desk

Satisfaction and Challenge

Working in the State and Private Forestry branch of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture brings satisfaction as well as challenges. It is satisfying working with all our partners—consummate and talented professionals dedicated to improving the condition of natural resources. It's satisfying knowing our work will leave a legacy for future generations. It's satisfying knowing that our work furthers the Forest Service mission of caring for the Nation's forests.

Our challenges are also many! In the Northeastern United States, our citizens are overwhelmed each day with international, national, regional, and local news. Given this 24/7 glut of information, Americans have become adept at filtering the news to absorb a manageable amount of information—only a small fraction of what they are exposed to. While forests in our region play a huge role in providing a quality of life, it's hard to get on the public's private "radars." Even a catastrophe like the emerald ash borer, having killed millions of ash trees across the Midwest, usually gets relegated to the back pages as other crises compete for the public's attention.

We're challenged to remain relevant in the face of changing ownerships and demographics, resource conditions, tight Federal and State budgets, and citizen's needs.

We're challenged to demonstrate the results of our long-term work to an impatient world with a short-term perspective.

So what should we do? We need to be humble and persistent. We need to acknowledge that while forestry issues may not scream from the front pages of newspapers, we should continue to describe the challenges and opportunities forests present to the public. We need to get better at telling this story—to the person next to us on a plane, to our neighbors, and to elected officials, the media, and our own colleagues in government. We need to be nimble and adapt our programs in ways that keep them adding value to partner and citizen needs. Adding value is what the "service" part of the Forest Service is about!

The Forest Service is going through a period of change in which we are examining our organization, our programs, and our efficiency and effectiveness. As we evaluate and evolve, we will continue to keep our eyes on the prize: promoting healthy and sustainable forests across this country. This, after all, is our true challenge and ultimate satisfaction as professionals. I look forward to ensuring the Northeastern Area plays its part in achieving it. Why? Because a quarter of the Nation's forests and almost half of its citizens are here within the 20 States and District of Columbia—the area we serve!

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director



Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Do you use GOOS?

Fact to ponder: Every year, the average Northeastern Area employee uses 16 reams of paper—over 8,000 sheets!* Executive Order 13423 requires Federal agencies to lead by example to reduce consumption, reduce waste, and increase recycling.

*Estimate based on paper purchased in the Durham Field Office. Other offices may use more or less paper.

Actions to take:

Print less: Do you need to print every e-mail, correspondence, or publication? Think about the hard copy documents you've printed and added to your shelves and cabinets over time. How often are you consulting them? Try transitioning to a digital file system and read documents on your computer screen. If you have trouble reading on the screen, increase the font size of the item you are viewing. Check the "view" menu in your software to increase text size or zoom in.

Print/copy on both sides: Printing on both sides of a sheet, often called duplex or double-sided, is an easy way to reduce the amount of paper you use. When you print a document, always check the "Properties" tab for options to "duplex" or "print on both sides." You can also duplex on most copiers.

Print smaller: Many network printers give you the option to print "2 UP" or "4 UP." These options essentially place two or four pages on one sheet of paper. While the text is smaller, it is a nice way to reduce the number of sheets printed. Check the printer's "properties" tab for this option.

Use GOOS: Good On One Side (GOOS) paper is paper with printed text on one side. Use the blank side of the sheet for header pages, taking notes, or printing draft documents. Consider designating one printer tray for GOOS paper.

Recycle: Don't forget to recycle! Most office paper is recyclable. Check with your facility staff for more information. If you do not have a paper recycle box in your office, please ask for one!



Photo source: EPA 2006, New Employee/Contractor Training. EPA Region 3, Philadelphia office/facility Environmental Management System (EMS) <http://www.epa.gov/region3/ems/facility/index.htm>



Newtown Square

Lessons Learned From Forest Service Involvement in Carbon Market Development

This summer, the Forest Service began a formal partnership with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to offer voluntary carbon offsets through the Carbon Capital Fund project. Interested individuals could access a carbon calculator on the NFF Web site, estimate their personal emissions, and then donate via the Carbon Capital Fund to fund reforestation projects on national forest lands to offset their emissions. Following on the heels of a press announcement of this project, Senator John Kerry and Representative Edward Markey of Massachusetts sent a letter to Forest Service Chief Gail Kimball expressing concerns that Forest Service involvement in this project might be inappropriate.

One of their concerns was that the Forest Service was using new money to fund projects that the Forest Service was required to do anyway. The Chief responded that the projects showed “financial additionality,” and NFF donations were not muddled with Forest Service reforestation budgets. Another concern was that the Forest Service would be getting donations to essentially reforest in areas that they had just harvested (albeit, post disturbance). The Chief explained that projects were in naturally disturbed areas and “Carbon Capital Fund projects will not have commercially valuable materials removed from the reforestation project site.”¹ Other concerns spoke to carbon additionality, ecological quality, verification, transparency, permanency, discrepancies in personnel characterization of the project, and capture by the timber industry (e.g., would industry be able to “buy” Forest Service favor by donating to NFF?). All concerns underscore issues that must be considered in projects involving developing ecosystem service markets.

The Washington Office distinguishes between a “credit” and an “offset” as follows:

The global carbon market involves the purchase and trading of carbon dioxide units or “credits” derived from qualified emission reduction projects or from emission allowances allocated under a regulatory cap. Unlike carbon credits, carbon offsets offered through the NFF Carbon Capital Fund have not been accredited through standards specific to a formal program (such as the Chicago Climate Exchange or the European Union Emission Trading Scheme). Carbon Capital Fund offsets do not enter a marketplace and are not subject to future trades or other transactions. The Forest Service is not selling carbon credits via the Carbon Capital Fund. The National Forest Foundation is offering carbon *offsets* on specific projects that meet strict rules of additionality.²

¹Kimball, Abigail R. [Letter to Senator John Kerry and Representative Edward Markey]. 2007 August 16. Located at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington, DC.

²U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 2007. Carbon Capital Fund FAQs. http://www.fs.fed.us/ecosystems/services/Carbon_Capital_Fund/faqs.shtml. (September 21).



NA Fire Director Assists Mexico in Adopting ICS



Billy Terry is interviewed by a local television station in Campeche, Mexico, during the Advanced ICS Training conducted through the International Forestry program.



Billy Terry addresses a meeting of the Mexican federal, state, and local Officials at the opening ceremonies of “Curso para Manejo de Emergencias” or “Advanced incident Management” course conducted in Campeche, Mexico.

Billy Terry, Assistant Director for Cooperative Fire Management, recently returned from Mexico where he assisted Lawrence Garcia, of the Gila National Forest, and Pat Velasco, a Forest Service retiree, with the delivery of an advanced incident management course for Mexican federal, state, and local fire and emergency officials. The training was sponsored by International Forestry and is part of an ongoing effort under an international agreement with Mexico to share technology in the management of forest fires and all risk response to natural and human-caused disasters.

Trainers proved the ICS-400 course to 36 students in the state of Chiapas and 40 students in the state of Campeche. This was the first time these courses were offered in Spanish. The course concentrated on the coordination of fire and emergency response resources across agency jurisdictional and administrative boundaries, which is the practice in the United States under the National Response Plan and through the National Interagency Incident Center. Students were encouraged to consider the training as it related to their needs in Mexico. The hope is that improved forest fire and emergency response training conducted in Mexico and throughout the international community will foster a worldwide method for responding to emergencies of all types. Other advanced incident management courses are planned for early 2008 in the Mexican states of Quintana Roo and Yucatan.



Forest Service Establishes Roots in New York City—with the Help of Big Bird and the Divine Miss M

October 9 marked the first official trip by a Forest Service chief to New York City. Chief Gail Kimbell visited to recognize two partnerships connecting the agency with people in the country's largest and most diverse metropolitan area.

Chief Kimbell launched the Nature Fieldwork Partnership of the Harlem Link Charter School and the Northern Research Station with a classroom visit and school assembly. The partnership, recipient of a 2007 "More Kids in the Woods" grant, supplements the school's science curriculum with hands-on experience in forests, wetlands, and restoration sites throughout the New York City region.

Chief Kimbell also joined Mayor Michael Bloomberg and entertainer Bette Midler in announcing the city's intention to plant and care for 1 million trees over the next 10 years. The initiative is a partnership between the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and the New York Restoration Project. Forest Service scientists and urban forest specialists serve on the advisory committee for that partnership and provide the scientific foundation for its work. One of the first corporate sponsors is the Home Depot Foundation, of a \$2.5 million gift.

Bette Midler, founder of the New York Restoration Project, said "We're going to transform New York City from a town that's mostly asphalt, mostly steaming in the summer, to a place that is cool, green, and refreshing to be in all seasons."

Martina Barnes and Phillip Rodbell represented the Northeastern Area at the ceremony.

After the Million Trees NYC press conference, Chief Kimball met with NYC Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe and his staff to discuss the ways in which the Forest Service can continue to support the city's efforts to improve quality of life through better natural resources stewardship. That visit included a hike through a grove of 200-year-old tulip trees.

Both the Northern Research Station and the Northeastern Area have a significant presence in the city, promoting natural resource stewardship and ecological literacy. Their work includes joint projects such as the Living Memorials Project, which documented and supported the use of trees and open space after the events of September 11, 2001.



Martina Barnes and Phillip Rodbell flank Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell in New York City.



With Sesame Street's Big Bird watching, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and entertainer Bette Midler water one of the first trees in the mayor's Million Trees NYC initiative.



The NRS's NYC Urban Field Station, established in 2006, partners with municipal managers for "research in action" programs that support urban ecosystem management. The staff also conducts comparative research that can be shared with other metropolitan areas. In particular, Forest Service scientists and cooperators will measure, monitor, and improve upon the urban tree canopy and open space goals established in Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC 2030.

NA's work includes leadership in the OASISnyc.net partnership, which provides a free online service for visitors to view and map their neighborhoods in relation to parks, community gardens, open space and several dozen other "layers" of information. NA also coordinates implementation of the Federal Highlands Conservation Act, legislation that authorizes funding for land protection in the nationally significant Highlands region. Along with partners such as the city's Watershed Agricultural Council, NA helps protect the NYC watershed by helping bridge the "forest to faucet" connection for city residents.

Stewardship Staff Meets for Work Planning

Members of the Northeastern Area's stewardship staff met the first week of October at Grey Towers to plan work activities for the coming year. **Mark Buccowich, Karen Sykes, Lisa Burban, Rob Clark, Sarah Hines and Roger Monthey** combined information presentations and work planning to cover a wide range of topics.

On the docket for the next year are three state stewardship reviews; 1) consideration of State technical assistance needs and how they will fit into the new NA Strategic Business Plan; 2) getting the states geared up to monitor stewardship plans in FY 2008; possible greater use of peer-to-peer outreach networks, and tasks from the Northeastern Area Association of State Forester's Investing Where It Matters Most initiative.

Also under discussion was the use of the Intergenerational Transfer display and how it was received at the recent American Association of Retired Persons convention in Boston. The display highlights the importance of family communication to help prevent conversion of forest land to other uses. Future opportunities could include such venues as county fairs and other related convention or conference settings.

Sara Hines, a recent addition to the Cooperative Forestry staff as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF), briefed the group on her work with carbon markets. Rebecca Madsen, a PMF working in the Annapolis office, gave a phone briefing on the Bay Bank and Ecosystem Services. Lew McCreery spoke from Morgantown about the biomass business plan and its implications for the Stewardship Program. Phillip Rodbell phoned in to discuss competitive grants and the recently mailed guidelines, and Barb Tormoehlen gave an update on Web/WinDET.

Additionally, the group reviewed the action items proposed under the NA Strategic Business Plan, determining priorities of the items.



Al Todd Receives the 2006 Wagon Wheel Gap National Hydrology Award

Al Todd, Watershed Staff Specialist with the Northeastern Area's Chesapeake Bay office in Annapolis, MD, has been named the recipient of the 2006 Wagon Wheel Gap National Hydrology Award for excellence in hydrology.

Water is a fundamental natural resource critical to sustaining the life and health of people and ecosystems. The Forest Service provides hydrology expertise for protecting, maintaining, improving, and restoring surface and ground water resources.

The Wagon Wheel Gap National Hydrology Award recognizes a high level of performance by hydrologists and hydrologic technicians in all branches of the Forest Service who are engaged in watershed management. The award is named in honor of the first watershed experiments in the United States at the Wagon Wheel Gap Experimental Forest on the Rio Grande National Forest.

Al was honored for his successful coordination across boundaries and forming active alliances with State agencies, the agricultural community, the military, land trusts, nonprofit organizations, and countless others. He is one of three recipients for the 2006 award, one within each deputy area: Research, State and Private Forestry, and the National Forest System. The other two award recipients are Michael J. Furniss, Research, and Greg S. Bevenger, National Forest System.



Watershed Specialist Al Todd is recognized for excellence in hydrology.

Rodbell Named "Citizen of the Year"



Phil Rodbell rides in a 1958 Ford Fairlane as he's honored as Citizen of the Year in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

Phillip Rodbell, Urban Forestry Program Manager, was recently named Citizen of the Year in Bala Cynwyd, PA. In addition to his duties with the Northeastern Area, Phillip finds time to volunteer in his community, helping make it a greener place to live. He is a member of the Lower Merion Township Shade Tree Commission and chair of The Neighborhood Club's TreeVitalize committee.

According to *The Gateway*, The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd's newsletter, "The universal opinion is that Phillip's work is of the highest quality."

The newsletter notes the legacies of Phillip's efforts—an increased green canopy and a stronger

sense of community. In 2006, Phillip coordinated efforts to plant 120 street trees in Bala Cynwyd, with a grant from the State's TreeVitalize Initiative in southeastern Pennsylvania. In May, he led another tree planting effort, and has yet another scheduled for November.



The Grafton Forest Legacy Project Warrants an Hour of “Thank You’s”

At the quintessential Newry, Maine grange hall, officials from the Maine Congressional delegation, the U.S. Forest Service, the State of Maine, Land Trusts, and other non-profit organizations and interested parties assembled to celebrate the fee purchase of the 3,688-acre Grafton Forest Legacy Project. The September 18, 2007 event consisted of an hour or so of “thank you’s” bestowed by Sam Hodder, Maine Trust for Public Lands Director—the project proponent—to all the partners involved in the project. **Anne Archie**, Durham Field Representative accepted the token of appreciation on the part of the Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program and said, “You have entrusted the U.S. Forest Service with our nation’s forests—not only the National Forests but guidance and support for the vast acreages of private and government forests. The Forest Legacy Program is a diamond in the Forest Service because we work with partners to truly protect and sustain the ecologically important, fragile, and beautiful forests of our country—beyond the National Forest boundaries.” **Deirdre Raimo**, Forest Legacy Program Manager, was acknowledged in the crowd by Sam, who recognized the Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program as a key component of the Maine land protection effort. The Grafton Project encompasses the southern slope of Old Speck, Maine’s highest mountain outside Baxter State Park, and runs adjacent to the most rugged mile of the Appalachian Trail. On May 25, 2007, the State of Maine purchased the parcel for \$2,850,000 with \$2,000,000 from the Forest Legacy Program, \$750,000 from the Land for Maine’s Future Program, and \$100,000 in other private donations.



Anne Archie, center-right, accepts a walking stick as a token of appreciation along with Alan Stearns on her left, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands Director and Maine Forest Legacy Program State lead agency, and other Grafton Forest Legacy Project partners. (Photo by Deirdre Raimo)



Durham Field Office

Forest Service at Big E USDA Exhibit



The large wind turbine, displayed in the background, was one of the renewable energy focuses at the USDA 2007 "Big E" exhibit.

Renewable energy and energy conservation was the theme for this year's USDA exhibit at the Eastern States Exhibition, fondly known as "The Big E." located in Springfield, MA. **Sue Cox** and **Debbie Muccio** participated in the planning and staffing the exhibit at this year's event. The agricultural fair was held from September 14–30; and the attendance reached over 1,227,000 visitors! For the second year, each participating agency is spotlighted with an agency day. The Forest Service highlighted the Urban and Community Forestry Program, with messages on tree care and tree planting for conservation. Several State Project Learning Tree coordinators donated Energy and Society kits to raffle to educators for use with their classes.

A Forest for Every Class Session

Second session of "A Forest For Every Class" took place October 12–13 in Concord and Hillsborough, NH. This session included a sawmill tour at HHP, Inc. During the summer session, teachers had toured a White Mountain National Forest timber sale that HHP purchased. During this session, they were able to see what is done with wood harvested from a sale. They also had sessions with Eric Orf, Wildlife Biologist, and Dr. Bill Livingston, University of Maine professor. Eric focused on seasonal changes of wildlife and took the group out to look for animal signs. Bill worked with the teachers on changes in the forest with leaf color and soil chemistry. The group also participated in activities on invasive species, including forest pests.



Don Winsor, procurement forester for HHP, talks with teachers about biofuels and sawmill byproducts.



A "Forest For Every Class" in New Hampshire is a joint project with New Hampshire Project Learning Tree, the White Mountain National Forest, the Northern Research Station, the Hubbard Brook Foundation, and the National Wildlife Federation. Visit PLT's Website at

<http://www.nhplt.org/FFEC.htm>

Dr. Bill Livingston (center) works with teachers on soil chemistry, comparing softwood stand soils with hardwood stand soils.

Invasive Species Is a Hot Topic at the Forest Health Meeting

The annual New England/New York Forest Health Cooperators Meeting, hosted by Kyle Lombard of the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, took place October 16–17 at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, NH. The venue gave the group, which includes Forest Health Specialists from the 7 Northeastern States, an opportunity to visit an historic area that has been protected as a State Park and education center along the valuable New Hampshire coastline. The agenda included discussions on the detection, suppression, and impacts on forests of both native and invasive species. **Bernie Raimo**, FH Group Leader at the Durham Field Office, gave a presentation on competitive funding that outlined the process and its implications for FY 2008. Also participating from Durham were **Margaret Miller-Weeks**, **Kevin Dodds**, **Dennis Souto**, **Bill Frament**, and **Florence Peterson**, along with **Brad Onken** from the Morgantown Field Office.

iTree Training in Connecticut

The Rhode Island Tree Council and Durham Field Office hosted a 2-day iTree workshop in Windsor, for the New England/New York State Urban Forestry Staff and their partners. iTree is a suite of software that allows users to inventory, manage, and analyze cost-benefit relationships of the urban forest. The workshop provided hands-on training for the 26 attendees to help them become more familiar with the basic iTree components. Participants took home skills to use iTree, assist other communities in using it, and help promote iTree use through training events. Dave Bloniarz and Eric Kuehler from Forest Service Research, Francisco Escobedo from the



Chris Donnelly describes the Hartford iTree project.

University of Florida, and Chris Luley from Forestry LLC presented the training. Chris Donnelly, Connecticut DEP; John Campanini, Rhode Island Tree Council; and **John Parry** from the Durham Field Office organized and hosted the workshop.

Storm Planning and Response Workshops in Vermont and New York

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation both conducted storm response workshops in September to assist communities in preparing for and mitigating storm damage to urban trees. Daniel Fitzko and Kate Forrer lead the workshop in Montpelier, VT, for 45 attendees in response to recent storms that cause significant damage in Rutland. A severe early season snowstorm in Buffalo, NY, last fall created ongoing interest in that State in preparing communities for disaster preparedness. Urban and Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator Mark Kramarchyk organized the New York training, which was attended by over 70 people. **John Parry** from the Durham Field Office assisted in planning both workshops, which were partially funded by the Forest Service. The Forest Service videotaped the Vermont workshop to create distance learning opportunities on storm response, which individual users can access through the Internet or via DVD.



Morgantown Field Office

Impact of the 2003 Ice Storm on Hardwood Species of the Wayne National Forest

Forest Health Protection personnel recently assessed the impact of the February 2003 ice storm on a forest tract in the Ironton Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest. This storm was one of the more unique weather systems to affect this area in many years.

Ice storms, sometimes referred to as glaze storms, are a frequent form of disturbance in the Northeastern United States and occur every 20 to 100 years. These storms often play a role as an important disturbance factor in forest succession and stand dynamics. This storm affected more than 47,000 acres in the Ironton Ranger District. Personnel from the Morgantown Field Office provided a rapid assessment of the damage by making an aerial sketchmapping survey of the district in March 2003. The Northeastern Area provided funding for aerial photography of the district later that year. In addition, forest managers asked Forest Health Protection personnel to assess how much damage they could expect following the ice storm due to loss of wood quality and tree growth, as well as what level of mortality to expect.



This photograph shows the type of damage observed during the March 2003 aerial sketchmapping flight.

Forest Health Protection initiated a “tag and track” study in the summer of 2003 to determine the effects of the storm on trees in the district. Personnel assessed individual trees and then flipped a coin to determine if the tree was marked (tagged) and followed over time (tracked). To assess the impact of the storm on different species, trees were randomly selected to represent three size classes (sapling, pole, and sawtimber) and four crown loss classes based on the amount of crown that was damaged or lost (none, 1–33 percent, 34–66 percent, and greater than 66 percent).

Results after 3 years of monitoring indicate that most sawtimber trees survived the loss of up to 66 percent of their crown, but crown loss greater than 66 percent caused increased mortality. Tree survival following ice storms or other types of damage involves a complex mix of factors such as species, age, stocking, size, crown position, site, time of year, and type of disturbance, among others. Monitoring results and ongoing projects give land managers estimates of the mortality that is occurring. This “natural event” will continue to shape the forest structure and dynamics of the Ironton Ranger District for many years to come.



Urban Wood Waste Utilization Forum Held at the University of Baltimore



Forum participants listen to Amy Celep, Director of Baltimore's Community Wealth Ventures, discuss business planning principles.

The Parks & People Foundation hosted an "Urban Wood Waste Utilization Venture Forum" on October 11 at the University of Baltimore. The forum attracted more than 45 participants from across the United States to share and discuss business ventures and opportunities for reusing urban wood waste. The forum, sponsored by the Northeastern Area, featured broad and local perspectives on business development and marketing strategies, and included case studies and panel discussions related to forest products and waste wood utilization. The forum targeted rural and urban foresters, parks and recreation

staff, waste utilization specialists, and employees of academia, arboreta, and private industry. Forest Products Specialist **Al Steele** delivered opening remarks with a global perspective on the importance of managing wood waste. Presentations related to business development and marketing were delivered by personnel from the New Jersey Forest Service, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, private enterprise, community wealth ventures, and locally based entrepreneurship programs. Technology Transfer Specialist **Donna Murphy** worked closely with the Parks & People Foundation to plan and deliver the forum, and **Phillip Rodbell** moderated a panel discussion. Murphy will provide technical assistance in planning a Webcast of the forum scheduled for January 2008. For information related to the Web-cast, contact Murphy at dmmurphy@fs.fed.us.

Intergenerational Land Transfer Display Put on View in West Virginia

Morgantown, WV, was the site of the first fall West Virginia Outdoors Hunting and Fishing Expo on September 15 and 16. The event provided an opportunity for the Northeastern Area to set up an intergenerational land transfer display to educate outdoor enthusiasts about the importance of planning for the transfer of land to the next generation. **Devin Wanner, Sam Forbeck, Chelsea Gibson, Al Steele, Frank Cromer, and Dick Reardon** staffed the booth at the expo. Several thousand expo attendees saw the display banner's message, "Who Will Inherit Your Family Forest?" The display included handouts that explained options for forest landowners and provided State and Federal contacts to help families begin their forest legacy discussions.



Chelsea Gibson provides information on intergenerational land transfer to interested forest landowners.

West Virginia Agencies Hold Emerald Ash Borer Coordination Meeting

A number of West Virginia agencies met October 3 for an emerald ash borer information and coordination meeting. The meeting was hosted by Gary Gibson of the West Virginia Department



of Agriculture. Attendees included USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) representatives, West Virginia State Forester Randy Dye and staff, **Dan Twardus** and **Bob Lueckel** from State and Private Forestry, Monongahela National Forest Supervisor Clyde Thompson and staff, and personnel from West Virginia State Parks and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Topics included the status of emerald ash borer infestation and spread, survey plans proposed by APHIS for 2008, borer eradication in Maryland, and firewood movement issues.

State and Private Forestry Forest Health Roles Presented at Partnership Conference

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Nature Conservancy, and State natural resource directors attended the Third Partnership Conference on October 4. Conference topics included key Corps and Conservancy restoration projects, flood plain management, the Sustainable Rivers Project, and invasive species. **Brad Onken** from NA's Forest Health Protection Program gave a presentation about the roles that this program plays in providing technical and financial assistance for pest management and invasive species.

St. Paul Field Office

Aurora University Students in Chicago Learn About Invasives and EAB



An Aurora University student demonstrates EAB bark peeling.

Representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, and the Illinois Department of Agriculture, along with, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, recently joined students in the classroom at Aurora University for a discussion and demonstration of invasives in the Chicago land region. Approximately 60 biology and botany students and professors participated in the classes, which included a discussion of the State and Federal regulatory role related to quarantines, especially concerning emerald ash borer. **Tom Dilley**, Chicago Metropolitan Initiative Coordinator, explained the Forest Service role in providing technical and outreach assistance. An emerald ash borer bark peeling demonstration was given by the Illinois Department of Agriculture at the end of the sessions. Each agency provided handouts for every participant and provided additional materials for the Aurora University library.



Urban Youth in Chicago Earn their Red Cards

Tom Dilley, Chicago Metropolitan Initiative coordinator, and **Renee Thakali** of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie developed two pilot projects to reach youth in urban Chicago, providing conservation education and skills and future employment opportunities to this underserved population. Partners in the Urban Youth Restoration Program include the Youth Conservation Corps, Lake County Forest Preserve District, the Student Conservation Association, Friends of the Cook Forest Preserve District, Cook County Forest Preserve, and Chicago Wilderness.

Recently, participants in the program completed a week of Forest Service 130/190 training and the Pack Test. After successful completion of both, a “red card” can be issued by the employing agency, indicating that the cardholder is qualified to work on the fire lines.



Urban Youth Restoration Program participants take part in Forest Service fire line qualification instruction at Salt Creek Nursery in Cook County, IL.

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 **noon, Monday, November 26, 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.**

The Northeastern Area news notes are published monthly by:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4103

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>

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