

# Northeastern Area



## News Notes



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Friday, April 18, 2003

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### CREATING NEW BEGINNINGS

Spring is in the air and the landscape is full of a kaleidoscope of colors. The soft pink of the cherry blossoms, deep crimson of the maple flowers, and brilliant yellows of the forsythias awaken the land from its winters sleep. Now might be a good time to push back from our desks and take a look around us — to gaze at the changes around us, and gain a broader perspective of what we do, and how we do it. We cannot help

but notice that the landscape looks a little different than it did several months ago. So, too, our jobs and the people we serve are changing. Perhaps it is time for all of us to reexamine what we do, and like the spring, create a new beginning in making a difference in people's lives and in ensuring forest health and sustainability.

The Fire and Aviation Management Staff recently hosted the National Cooperative Fire Workshop April 8 through 10 at Grey Towers. In the shadow of Gifford Pinchot, they worked with Washington Office and Regional Cooperative Fire personnel to evaluate our vision, mission, goals, and objectives for the Cooperative Fire Program and related National Fire Plan implementation tasks. They realized that communities and their needs are changing, and new delivery programs and techniques are needed to meet these changes. The meeting ended with the framework necessary to develop a strategic plan to meet these needs.

For example, a shortage of aviation maintenance inspectors within the Northeastern Area and the Nation had the potential to reduce aviation service to our partners in communities and states. The Fire and Aviation Management Staff partnered internally with Forest Health and collaborated with Forest Service Region 9 to hire and provide an aviation management specialist, ensuring more timely inspections. In addition, the specialist will survey the States' and cooperators' aviation programs and work with them to improve aviation safety.

In New York City, the Fire Department of the City of New York realized that although they are experts with initial response fire and disaster assistance, additional expertise was needed to help manage a long-term incident, especially in planning and logistics. Based on their experience working hand-in hand with USDA Forest Service Incident Management Teams after the September 11, 2001, attack, they requested help from the Secretary of Agriculture in providing Incident Command System Training for their most experienced chiefs. The success of this training, developed and coordinated by the Northeastern Area's Fire and Aviation Management staff, is discussed in one of the following articles.

Just as the seasons change, so, too, do our opportunities to make a positive difference for the people we serve. As you take a moment to enjoy the new season, take an extra moment to consider your work and new beginnings—those of the past, those needed now, and for the future. Be creative!

— Kathy Maloney



## INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM TRAINING FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK



**Class and Cadre of FDNY Incident Management Training – Department Headquarters, Brooklyn, New York.**

The Northeastern Area's Fire and Aviation Management staff completed the coordination of two 2-week training courses in Incident Command Management for the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) on April 4, 2003. The courses, which began February 24 and finished April 4, 2003, were requested by the FDNY to enhance their abilities to respond to large-scale incidents, from fires and other natural disasters to breaches of national security.

Seventy FDNY personnel completed the training, which included Incident Command System (ICS) courses I-100, I-200, I-300, I-400, and a week of disaster simulations. An additional 38 FDNY personnel attended the Incident Command System for Executives course I-402, and 40 people attended the ICS Orientation course I-100. Personnel from other Forest Service, Federal, State, and local fire departments assisted the Northeastern Area.

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a highly effective structure to manage large-scale incidents and national disasters. It coordinates the command, planning, logistics, and financial operations into a homogenous operating system called an incident management team. It is part of the President's Homeland Security Plan, and all emergency agencies have been directed to use the same ICS system.

In the past three fire seasons, the USDA Forest Service has used dozens of incident management teams to effectively fight history-making blazes that burned more than 7 million acres. Within the first few hours after the attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the Forest Service, as the lead agency under the Federal Response Plan, was on the way to New York City, New York, and Arlington, Virginia, with several National Interagency Management Teams to assist in response and recovery efforts. Forest Service personnel made up the majority of these teams.

Upon completion of Incident Command Management training, personnel from the FDNY will have the knowledge of incident command techniques and team structure to better respond to complex and long-duration incidents within the City of New York. The FDNY plans to have two incident management teams ready for mobilization by the end of April.

## A TREE DEFICIT ANNOUNCED IN PHILADELPHIA

American Forests, Inc., released the results of its Urban Ecosystem Analysis for the Philadelphia region on March 27, 2003, at the city's municipal building. **Terry Hoffman** and **Phillip Rodbell** represented NA as having funded the study with the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Philadelphia Water Department, and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. The study provides community leaders with detailed information about the region's tree cover and its environmental and economic impacts. The study covered a 2.4 million-acre area, including nine counties in southeastern Pennsylvania and four counties in southern New Jersey. Four urban watersheds were also detailed to assist local communities in the development of their watershed management plans. The study indicated that *"The area does not have adequate tree cover to compensate the changes made to the landscape, making it difficult to maintain stormwater and air quality at healthy levels."* The local ABC affiliate and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* covered the event.



## Women's Quilts & the Underground Railroad

Quilts made by slaves, free blacks, and Abolitionists were used as a means of secret communication on the Underground Railroad. Messages were hidden in plain view hanging from fences, clotheslines, and windows. Quilt patterns - including the use of specific colors, stitches, and pattern sequences - signaled escape, help, and safety.



The Monkey Wrench was displayed when an escape was being planned.



The Tumbling Blocks appeared when it was time for escape.



The Bear Paw signaled a proposed route that through the Appalachian Mountains.



The Blue Fly signaled a place to find clean clothing and take a bath.



The Bow Tie meant there was a "safe haven" in the area.



The Flying Geese pointed the direction to travel with a solid color band.



The Log Cabin pattern with a black center block signified a safe house.



Drunkard's Path told runaways to stop and double back.



It is believed that a quilt was used to signal the escape route. The quilt was made of the same material as the quilt used to make the quilt. The quilt was made of the same material as the quilt used to make the quilt.

Sponsored by: NE/NA Civil Rights Coordinator & Civil Rights Eastern Region Multicultural Team.

## WOMEN'S QUILTS AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD QUILT POSTER BIG HIT NATIONWIDE

The Women's Quilts and the Underground Railroad poster, designed 2 years ago by **Vicky Evans** for the Morgantown Field Office's Women's History Month Special Observance, is making a big hit nationwide. Civil Rights Zone Representative **Toni Jones** has gotten requests for the poster from all over the country and from a variety of educators, agencies, organizations, and individuals. Jones was instrumental in procuring funding for printing the poster and has been coordinating its distribution. Seven thousand copies were printed with an NE/NA Civil Rights Special Project grant, and so far, copies have been sent to Forest Service personnel in Alaska, Colorado, Missouri, California, Oregon, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, New York, Vermont, and the District of Columbia. Other Federal employees from USDA Rural Development and the U.S. Postal Service have also requested copies to display at their work places. "We were quite taken by the Women's Quilts and the Underground Railroad poster," said Ms. Kathy Daskivich, a Norfolk, Virginia, U.S. Postal Service worker. Contact Toni Jones at 304-285-1580 or [tjones@fs.fed.us](mailto:tjones@fs.fed.us) to receive a copy, or view the poster online at [http://fsweb.ne.fs.fed.us/staff/cr/special\\_resources/pdfs/Underground Railroad Poster.pdf](http://fsweb.ne.fs.fed.us/staff/cr/special_resources/pdfs/Underground Railroad Poster.pdf)

# Army Environmental Center Notes

## OKINAWA NEWS



Congratulations are in order for **Larry Soenen** our Watershed Specialist working at Marine Corps Base Camp Butler in Okinawa. Larry was selected as the Facility Engineers' Employee of the Quarter. Larry has only been in Okinawa for a year and has proven the worth of Forest Service assistance. Since his photo (taken in Forest Service uniform) will be on display at the Commanding General's Headquarters for the next three months, the Forest Service will get some additional public relations attention.

One of Larry's most recent accomplishments (other than the roads course mentioned next) was to represent Camp Butler at the *International Workshop On Military Activities and Environment* hosted by Okinawa University. Larry made a formal presentation on his and the Marine Corps' efforts to reduce erosion and other watershed management activities. Participants were from all Asian countries where the United States has or has had a military presence.





## WHITE RIVER NF ROAD MANAGER TEACHES ROAD MAINTENANCE IN OKINAWA



Marine Corps and Navy heavy equipment operators are taught how to quickly construct roads under combat conditions, and they do it very well. However, they realized the need for additional instruction in maintaining roads in mountainous areas to prevent erosion, which is an issue in Okinawa. During the first week of April, **Ray Langstaff**, Road Manager (see photo) on the White River National Forest, Colorado, and **Larry Soenen** conducted a road maintenance course for 29 Marine Corps and Navy equipment operators in Okinawa. Ray and Larry taught participants the importance of removing water from the road surfaces quickly, to accurately measure road gradients, and to construct water diversion devices. The course was very well received and comments such as, *"This should have been taught in engineering school."* and *"Wish I'd known this when we were in the Philippines."* were made more than once. In addition, the Marine Corps has requested that the training be held again later in the year.

## OUACHITA NF FIRE CREW RESTORES SAVANNA AND REDUCES WILDFIRE THREAT AT LITTLE ROCK AFB.



Thanks to the Ouachita fire crew: (in nomex, left to right) **Donnie Robertson**, **Mike Bean**, **Andy Dyer** (coveralls), **Tim Haas**, **Amy Haas**, **Ron Garrison** (kneeling), and **Frank Moore**.

On March 22, the fire crew from the Jessieville/Winona Ranger District of the Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas, along with personnel from Little Rock Air Force Base, burned 277 acres of overgrown post oak savanna behind the base's family housing area. The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission had identified the savanna as a unique area for the State. In addition to restoring the savanna and improving wildlife habitat, the burn helped reduce the fuel load and wildfire potential. The base fire chief was very pleased with the burn because in the summer of 2000, the fire department responded to a wildfire set by kids playing with matches. This project was arranged through the Interagency Agreement between NA and the U.S Air Force.

## CAMP SHELBY SPECIAL USE PERMIT UPDATE

Many Army National Guard personnel get their tank training at Camp Shelby. Most of the 134,000-acre training site is actually National Forest System land used by the Guard under a special use permit from the National Forests in Mississippi. Because the permit expires in 2005, an environmental impact analysis process is underway. **Don Dagnan**, Liaison to the National Guard Bureau, traveled to the National Forests of Mississippi the first week of April to work with both the Executive Steering Committee and the Interagency/Interdisciplinary Team on the renewal of the permit and the Camp Shelby Master Plan Environmental Impact Statement.



## ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER SUPPORTS THE FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

The Department of Army initiated a training program in March with the inaugural Army Environmental Training Symposium in Kansas City, Missouri. Natural and cultural resource civilian personnel attended the symposium from Army installations throughout the United States. It is anticipated that this will be a yearly event to update and train Army installation personnel on environmental systems, issues, regulations, and policy. This year, more than 100 classes were offered on topics that included hazardous materials, environmental law, management systems, solid waste, invasive species, endangered species, clean water, and NEPA and environmental impact analysis. **Eric Wolters** taught two courses on Army Conservation Partnerships that were attended by approximately 60 people. The courses provided an understanding of how partnerships with state agencies and nongovernmental organizations can support the Army range and training land strategy. Eric also addressed the implications of the expanded authority to enter into partnerships provided by Congress as part of the FY03 Defense Authorization Bill.

# Durham Field Office Notes

## NEW NA EMPLOYEES ATTEND ORIENTATION, AND STAFF NA EXHIBIT AT EXPO

The 2003 New Employee Orientation held this month in Nashville was more than just 3 days of meetings about ethics, professional integrity, customer service, safety, and civil rights. After hearing presentations from professional speakers and Forest Service leadership, one common theme rang true from everyone: **PRIDE**. The term Forest Service Family is often used to describe the organization, and after hearing about the honor and dignity the presenters take from working for the agency, the 600-plus new employees were able to understand the meaning behind the term “family.” The Chief, Deputy Chiefs, Regional Foresters, and others invigorated the audience with talks about how they worked their way up to their current positions and how they have always viewed their work as more than just a job.

Northeastern Area attendees **Jill Mahon** and **Dennis McDougall** of the St. Paul Field Office, and **Neal Bungard** and **Bob Fitzhenry** of the Durham Field Office, were students during the day and served as presenters at the evening employee Expo. They staffed a booth for the Northeastern Area and made many contacts from the 90 percent National Forest System audience. The recurring theme concerned the difference in land ownership patterns from West to East and the resultant imperative for strong State and Private Forestry programs in our 20 States.

## STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY AN INTEGRAL PART OF NESAF THEME

“Private Lands—Public Benefits” was the theme of the New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF) winter meeting held March 17–20 in Burlington, Vermont. More than 250 participants interacted with presenters to learn how multiple public benefits are derived from private forestlands. A highlight was a speech by Peter Pinchot of the Pinchot Institute of Conservation. Peter gave a first-hand account of how his own views on forest conservation and sustainable management were shaped by his grandfather, Gifford Pinchot. The Northeastern Area was well represented at the meeting: **Rob Clark** moderated a session on managing stands within the landscape context, **Deirdre Raimo** moderated a session on economic values associated with private lands, **Roger Monthey** participated in a session on agroforestry, and **Sherri Wormstead** presented a poster on forest sustainability.

## FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES BID FAREWELL TO NY'S JIM BEIL

**Karen Mollander** traveled to Albany, New York, on March 25 to participate in New York State's farewell to Assistant State Forester Jim Beil, who took an early retirement incentive offered by the New York Department of



Environmental Conservation (DEC). Attendees included approximately 100 of Jim's friends and colleagues. The event offered an opportunity to recognize Jim's longtime enthusiasm for forestry, his commitment to enhancing the profession's diversity and increasing minority outreach in New York's forestry work, and his commitment to veterans' issues. State Forester Rob Davies presented Jim with a certificate from the DEC. Karen Mollander presented Jim with a certificate of appreciation from the Northeastern Area signed by Kathryn Maloney and a gift from the Durham Field Office of a saltwater fishing reel engraved with happy retirement wishes from his USDA Forest Service colleagues. In his parting words, Jim observed that in the aftermath of the early retirement offering, over 8,000 years of DEC experience were going out the door, and he noted the challenges that this provided for New York. He promised to stay active in forestry issues and will be busy helping with the national SAF meeting to be held in Buffalo in October.

### **"THE YEAR OF THE TREE" AT MOHARIMET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

As Moharimet Elementary School in Madbury, New Hampshire, celebrates the "Year of the Tree," Durham Field Office personnel are helping students learn about their trees. On April 2, **Susan Cox** and **Bob Fitzhenry** worked with 38 1st and 2nd graders to learn how different tree parts function through the Project Learning Tree activity "Tree Factory" in which students act out the parts of a tree to see how it operates like a factory. Further efforts at Moharimet include a skit based on Sharon Ossenbruggen's "This is Your Life Acer Maple" play and a mapping project of the sugar maples on the school property. The school has built its own sugar shanty for boiling sap and hosts an annual pancake breakfast as a fundraiser.

### **RHODE ISLAND URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM UNDERGOES 5-YEAR REVIEW**

The Rhode Island Division of Forest Environment had a chance to showcase its Urban Forestry Program during a 5-year program review conducted recently by the Durham Field Office. State Urban & Community Forestry Program Coordinator Paul Dolan and Volunteer Coordinator Norma Willis hosted a tour for reviewers **John Parry**, **Phillip Rodbell**, and **Dave Bloniarz** from the Northeastern Area; A.J. Dupere from the State of New Hampshire; and Jan Ames from the State of Maine. The group visited projects and groups in Providence, Scituate, and Little Compton, and attended an evening meeting with the Rhode Island Tree Council. The Tree Council is a leader among the New England States, sponsoring projects such as a Notable Tree Calendar and their own cable TV show.



Participants in Rhode Island's Urban Forestry Program review included (clockwise from lower left) Phillip Rodbell, Dave Bloniarz, Norma Willis (RI U&CF Volunteer Coordinator), Paul Dolan (RI U&CF Program Coordinator), Jan Ames (Maine Volunteer Program Coordinator), and A.J. Dupere (NH Program Coordinator).

### **GRANT SELECTION GOES ANOTHER ROUND**

On April 11, **Dean Huber** participated on the Grants Review Committee in the ninth round of the New York City Watershed Forestry Program/EAP Grants selection. Eleven grants were received and reviewed, seven of which were awarded some level of cost-share funding. A total of \$125,212 was awarded.

### **HAZARD TREE TRAINING REACHES NEW AUDIENCE**

**John Parry** and **Dennis Souto** presented a hazard tree training session to employees of the New York Power Authority on March 14 in Utica, New York. This represents the first time Durham's resident hazard tree experts have worked with a utility company. Previous efforts to expand the audience for hazard tree training included a series of sessions for the New York Department of Transportation.



## *The Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry Notes*

### VINTAGE TREE CONFERENCE

The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry recently cosponsored a conference on Vintage Trees, held at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Over 310 participants attended the daylong conference, entitled “Vintage Trees For New England: Protection and Preservation,” which featured speakers on a variety of topics related to the identification, protection, and maintenance of significant trees in the region. Speakers included **David Bloniarz**, Northeast Center Director, who discussed “What is a Vintage Tree,” and Bill Rivers of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, who provided an overview of old growth stands in Massachusetts. Conference attendees represented New York and all of the New England States.

### ARBORICULTURE AND THE INTERNET PRESENTATION TO CT TREE WARDENS

**David Bloniarz**, Northeast Center Director, was the keynote speaker for more than 70 attendees at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Wardens Association. David delivered a presentation on the value of the Internet as a tool for arborists and tree wardens. David discussed useful Web sites, including Forest Service sites, as well as links to commercial and nongovernment organizations.

### PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT TRAINING HELD IN RHODE ISLAND

The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, in cooperation with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Rhode Island Tree Council, conducted a workshop introducing the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) as an organizational and management tool. The workshop included a full day of hands-on, step-by-step instruction on using PDAs and an overview of several software packages that can be used in urban forest management situations. Additional workshops are planned this spring.

### RISK TREE SYMPOSIUM FOR CONNECTICUT OFFICIALS

“Public Trees and Risk Management” was the title of a symposium recently conducted by the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency in cooperation with University of Connecticut Extension. **David Bloniarz**, Northeast Center Director, delivered a presentation on the importance of trees in a community setting. Other speakers at the symposium included Dr. Bruce Fraedrich from Bartlett Tree Experts and Bob Ricard, University of Connecticut Extension.

### NEW YORK STATE PARKS STAFF RECEIVE RISK TREE TRAINING

The Northeast Center, in cooperation with the Durham Field Office and the University of Massachusetts, recently held a training workshop on risk trees with staff members from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The daylong workshop introduced risk tree awareness and management to more than 40 staff members of the agency that manages many of the State’s campgrounds and parks. **Dennis Souto**, Durham Field Office, **David Bloniarz**, Northeast Center Director, and Dr. Dennis Ryan, University of Massachusetts, conducted the training. The instructional workshop was held at the Hubbard Lodge at Fahnestock State Park, near Peakskill, New York, and included classroom instruction and field review of several trees near the lodge.

### PREVENTING CONSTRUCTION DAMAGE TO TREES WORKSHOP HELD FOR CIVIL ENGINEERS

The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, in cooperation with the Town of Brookline, Massachusetts, conducted a training workshop on “Preventing Construction Damage to Trees” for the engineering staff of the Town of Brookline. The workshop presented 15 civil engineers an overview of how to protect trees during construction, excavation, and underground utility operations. **David Bloniarz**, Center Director, and Thomas Brady,





Director of Forestry for Brookline, led the instruction, which included actual case studies from the town and highlighted upcoming major roadway construction projects planned for later this year.

### **RISK TREE AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAM HELD IN NEW YORK**

The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, in cooperation with New York ReLeaf, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the University of Massachusetts, recently held a training workshop for "Risk Tree Awareness, Identification, and Management" in Canandaigua, New York. Seventy participants, including town arborists, tree wardens, and planners, attended the daylong workshop. David Bloniarz, Center Director, and Dr. Dennis Ryan, University of Massachusetts, provided instruction for the workshop, which included classroom and field exercises.

# **Morgantown Field Office Notes**

### **EMPLOYEE COMPLETES WILDFIRE PREVENTION/EDUCATION TEAM TRAINING**

**Tinathan Lewis**, Public Affairs Specialist, attended a Southern Fire Prevention/Education Team Workshop held in Crossnore, North Carolina, March 11 through 12, 2003. Tinathan is currently trained as an Information Officer Type III, and this training will enable her to work as a Public Affairs Officer on a Fire Prevention/Education Team.

National Wildland Fire Prevention/Education Teams go (upon request) to areas experiencing severe wildland fire threats to assist local fire managers with tasks including, but not limited to, preparing fire protection assessments; reducing the number of person-caused fires; educating people about actions they can take to reduce the danger to themselves, their families, and their neighbors in the event of a wildland fire; reducing collateral losses from fire protection, such as negative effects on tourism and travel; and educating people about pre-fire management priorities appropriate to the wildland urban interface. The Team's purposes are to reinforce local fire prevention/education resources and to bring special prevention/education planning, logistics, and operations expertise to bear in larger, complex, and severe situations that exceed the capabilities of local organizations.



**L to R: Bill Atkinson, Maryland Office of Planning; Linda Boxx, Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation; and Lew McCreery, NA**

*Photo by Roxane Palone*

Using the Big Savage Tunnel as a backdrop, **Lew McCreery** and **Roxane Palone** awarded the Chief's National Rural Community Assistance Award to Linda Boxx and Bill Atkinson of the Allegheny Trail Alliance Marketing Committee. The action award was presented along the Great Allegheny Passage in Pennsylvania on March 13, 2003, for "outstanding accomplishments in branding and marketing the Great Allegheny Passage, resulting in social and economic benefits to communities and tourists from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Cumberland, Maryland." The ATA is composed of seven area trail groups that worked together to name, construct, and promote the network of rail-trails through the mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania and western Maryland. A portion of their work was funded by grants received through the Northeastern Area's Rural Development through Forestry Program. Currently, about 100 miles of the 150-mile trail are complete. Work has begun to restore the 3,300-foot long Big Savage Tunnel, originally built in 1911 for the Western Maryland Railroad. Once completed, the tunnel will safely carry hikers and bikers from Pennsylvania into Maryland.

### **ATA MARKETING COMMITTEE RECEIVES CHIEF'S NATIONAL RCA AWARD**

Using the Big Savage Tunnel as a backdrop, **Lew McCreery** and **Roxane Palone** awarded the Chief's National Rural Community Assistance Award to Linda Boxx and Bill Atkinson of the Allegheny Trail Alliance Marketing Committee. The action award was presented along the Great Allegheny Passage in Pennsylvania on March 13, 2003, for "outstanding accomplishments in branding and marketing the Great Allegheny Passage, resulting in social and economic benefits to communities and tourists from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Cumberland, Maryland." The ATA is composed of seven area trail groups that worked together to name, construct, and promote the network of rail-trails through the mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania and western Maryland. A portion of their work was funded by grants received through the Northeastern Area's Rural Development through Forestry Program. Currently, about 100 miles of the 150-mile trail are complete. Work has begun to restore the 3,300-foot long Big Savage Tunnel, originally built in 1911 for the Western Maryland Railroad. Once completed, the tunnel will safely carry hikers and bikers from Pennsylvania into Maryland.





## IRONTON ICE STORM INCIDENT SUMMARY REPORT

**Tinathan Lewis**, Public Affairs Specialist, NA State and Private Forestry, Morgantown Field Office, was detailed to the Wayne National Forest Ironton Ranger District March 17 through March 25, 2003, for the purpose of compiling, editing, desktop publishing, and producing the Ironton Ice Storm Incident Summary Report – Phase 1. The report is complete and can be viewed at [http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/ice\\_storm/index.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/ice_storm/index.htm). **Dan Kincaid** from the MFO has also been serving on detail as the Ironton District Ranger during the ice storm cleanup. His detail ends on April 24, 2003.



**Barry Emmons** explains Asian Longhorned Beetle activities to the NJ UCF program review team.

## NEW JERSERY UCF PROGRAM REVIEW

A break in the winter weather accommodated the review team for the 5-year New Jersey Urban and Community Forest program review in Trenton March 12 through 14, 2003. Michael D'Errico, Jim Barresi, and the New Jersey Community Forestry Staff hosted **Anne Cumming** (review team leader), Phil Rodbell, Gene Odato (PA UCF Coordinator), and Sandy Macias (USDA FS Region 5) for a detailed look at the community forestry program. Guests on the review included John Hazel, Donna Murphy, and Mark Buscaino (USDA FS UCF Director, WO). The review team heard presentations on the various programs and projects currently underway in New Jersey. Dave Johnson spoke about the "No Net Loss"

legislation; Pam Tappen addressed the technical assistance that the program provides to shade tree commissions and professional arborists around the State; Lisa Simms and Carrie Magee explained the projects led by the New Jersey Tree Foundation; and Mary Ferraro illustrated her skills in forestry and media relations. One morning was spent with the New Jersey UCF Council, a legislatively mandated State council. Field trips included the Camden Airshed project; Asian longhorned beetle activities in Riverton; and community action in Manalapan, Marlboro, and Freehold.

## FOREST SERVICE STAFF SERVED SUBPOENA IN MARYLAND TREE EXPERT CASE

An administrative hearing was held on March 21, 2003, in Hunt Valley, Maryland, to present arguments regarding pruning techniques employed by a power company's sub-contractor on trees along General's Highway in Annapolis, Maryland. **Anne Cumming** was asked to help prepare arguments in favor of Maryland's Tree Expert Law. Anne was on-call during the hearing to act as an expert witness, if needed. A decision on the case is expected by the end of June.

# St. Paul Field Office Notes

## CHIEF BOSWORTH BRIEFED ON NORTHEASTERN AREA'S DATABASE SUPPORT TO NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

**Peter Bedker**, Natural Resource Analyst, briefed **Chief Bosworth** regarding the National Fire Plan Accomplishment Reporting System (NFPARS). Peter provided technical assistance to the development of the interagency reporting system being developed for reporting accomplishments related to National Fire Plan allocations. The reporting system is a web-based computer application designed to collect and report the real-time accomplishments of Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior employees. The Washington Office Fire and Aviation staff oversees the project.



## ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE SUPPORTS THE 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL IOWA SHADE TREE SHORT COURSE

Several St. Paul Field Office staff presented educational workshops at the Iowa Shade Tree Short Course, an annual conference designed for urban foresters, green industry professionals, and community volunteers and sponsored by Iowa State University Extension. **Lisa Burban**, FRM Group Leader, and **Jill Mahon**, Midwest Urban Forestry Center Director, presented "New and Innovative Urban and Community Forestry Projects and Technology Transfer Efforts;" **Maureen McDonough** of Michigan State University presented a paper co-authored with Lisa Burban, "Dialogue on Diversity: Broadening the Voices in Urban and Community Forestry;" and **Dennis Haugen** presented "New Pests Threaten Our Trees." This is Iowa's 47<sup>th</sup> year hosting a Shade Tree Short Course. Attendance ranges from 5 to 700 people, and most of the attendees work or volunteer on community forestry projects.

## FINDING HIGHEST USES FOR URBAN WOOD WASTE

**Steve Bratkovich**, Marketing and Utilization Specialist, is quoted in the March 2003 issue of *Biocycle Magazine: The Journal of Composting and Organics Recycling*. The article, "Finding the Highest Uses for Urban Wood Waste" builds on Steve's recent publication covering case studies of communities and individuals using urban trees for wood products. The article features PAL, a non-profit tree recycling organization in San Francisco, that could serve as a model for similar ventures in other cities.



## JOURNEY THROUGH THE KINGDOM OF FUNGI

**Gina Childs**, Group Leader IMA, and **Joseph O'Brien**, Plant Pathologist, recently wrote the feature article/photo essay for the March 2003 issue of *Arbor Age Magazine*. The article, "Journey Through the Kingdom of Fungi," features photography by Joe O'Brien and gives a summary of the role of fungi in the environment as well as the diversity within the Kingdom.

## TALKING TO MAYORS ABOUT NON-NATIVE INVASIVES

**Judy Antipin**, Northeastern Area Public Relations Specialist, and **Tom Dilley**, Chicago Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, staffed a booth at the Wisconsin Tree City USA event in Madison, Wisconsin. This annual event attracts approximately 350 people, most of them mayors and municipal leaders for mid-size to small towns throughout Wisconsin. This event provided Judy and Tom the unique opportunity to interact with interested decisionmakers about one of our most important forest health issues.

## INDIANA URBAN FOREST COUNCIL PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

**Lisa Burban**, Group Leader and Urban Forester, assisted the Indiana Urban Forest Council with developing their strategic plan for the next 3 years. Lisa worked with Council membership to develop their strategic framework, then facilitated the discussion and strategic planning session among members. Indiana continues to have an active and interested Urban Forest Council that supports the State Urban Forestry Program and provides leadership for communities throughout the State.

## GET FIREWISE MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division partnered with eight Home Depot locations and local fire departments to present "Get Firewise Minnesota." This educational expo presents simple, proactive tips that homeowners can do on their property and in their subdivisions to prevent or reduce the threat of property loss to wildfire. The expo includes a display of fire trucks and firefighting equipment, as well as fire prevention displays, prizes, and a visit by Smokey Bear.



# Editor's Corner

## THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick, Steve Davis, and Phillip Rodbell**, Newtown Square; **Helene Cleveland**, AEC; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Melissa Emerson, Roxane Palone**, and **Vicky Evans**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web; and to **Sandy Fosbroke** for an extra “eye.”

## DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **May 12, 2003**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Lewis at [talewis@fs.fed.us](mailto:talewis@fs.fed.us).

