



Northeastern Area News Notes



February 25, 2008



From the Director's Desk

Mutual Respect and Success Go Hand in Hand!

Potentially, the entire success of an organization and the individuals that make it up can hinge on maintaining respect in the workplace. While we do a good job at respecting others within the Northeastern Area, I think it is important to pause for a moment and think about “respect” and exactly what this word means.

Respect is defined as “having consideration for other people’s privacy, their physical space, and belongings; and respect for different viewpoints, philosophies, physical ability, beliefs, and personality.” That covers a lot of respecting we are obliged to do on a day-to-day basis.

Respectful behaviors are simple things, but they require a conscious effort to apply. These behaviors result in reduced conflicts, less stress, and more productivity. Let’s review a few.

Approach everyone in a patient manner. Patience is described as a combination of empathy and selflessness. Maybe that is why patience is a virtue many find difficult to cultivate. Try to see things from the other person’s perspective and express the empathy and the desire to be helpful in all situations.

Become a good listener. It is difficult to address a situation if you don’t know the issues. When a coworker raises an issue or makes a suggestion that you think is the worst idea you ever heard, hear them out. Don’t make the mistake of forming your response until you know the whole thought. The height of disrespect is interrupting someone before he or she has the opportunity to describe his or her position. Be a good listener and expect to be heard in return.

Find a way to laugh. Few things in life are so serious that laughter has no place in the discussion. Don’t use humor that someone would find offensive or make light of a personal or serious issue. Base humor on yourself, common interest you have with this individual, or about joint past experiences. Just a little well-placed humor can relax the situation and lead to productive interaction.

Finally, always be honest. If you want to gain a person’s respect, the best way to do that is to be honest and up front every day—not just when honesty is convenient. If honesty requires a discreetly selected time or place to be shared with a person, select the time and place that will be helpful and not hurtful. Delivering an honest message in a mean manner or under improper circumstances only makes things worse. Use honesty in a positive, constructive manner, to help someone understand what is best for him or her or the organization.

So, what does disrespect look like? It could include, but is not limited to:

- Having loud telephone conversations
- Showing up late for meetings
- Neglecting to say please and thank you



Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Purchase “Green”

Fact to ponder: The Federal government spends more than \$200 billion on goods and services each year. Executive Order 13423 requires agencies to purchase [biobased](#), [environmentally preferable](#), [energy-efficient](#), [water-efficient](#), and [recycled-content products](#), and sets the minimum recycled content for paper at 30 percent post-consumer fiber content. This preference in purchasing and acquisition is referred to as [“green” purchasing](#).



Buying “green” helps conserve natural resources and minimize our environmental “footprint;” improve worker safety and health; reduce Federal energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste to landfills; and provide a potential cost savings over the life of the product.

Actions to take:

- Ensure [awareness](#) of and compliance with all “green” purchasing requirements.
- Substitute “green” products for virgin products to the extent possible. [GSA](#) and other [vendors](#) list “green” products that are more environmentally friendly.
- Use recycled paper and recycled-content office products.
- Buy Energy Star and energy- and water-efficient products.
- Find alternatives for products with excessive packaging or those with toxic chemicals.
- Consider the entire life cycle of the product, including disposal and recycling.

Always think “green” at the start of the acquisition process.

Sources: [Office of the Federal Environmental Executive](#); [Green Purchasing Brochure](#); [USDA Sustainable Operations](#); [NA/NRS Sustainable Operations](#)



Newtown Square

NA Employees Receive Special Achievement in GIS Award

Members of the Web-DET (Web-based Data Entry Tool) and Win-DET development team recently received a *Special Achievement in GIS Award* at the 27th Annual Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) International User Conference. Team members from the Northeastern Area include **Cindy Barnett, Helen Butalla, Tom Luther, and Barb Tormoehlen**. Karl Dalla Rosa, national manager for the Forest Stewardship Program, leads the team. As stated in ESRI's press release of the event, "USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry (USFS S&PF, represented by the development team) stood out from more than 300,000 organizations worldwide that use geographic information system (GIS) software to make a difference in the world. The USFS S&PF uses GIS technology to provide field foresters with Web-based planning tools to manage their resources. The agency works with States, tribes, communities, and nonindustrial private landowners with the goal to sustain the Nation's forests. GIS allows the organization to target forest landscapes where program resources should be focused and to track the effectiveness of implemented programs. GIS helps to create customized tools for different areas to address their specific needs. The technology also allows the USFS S&PF to monitor resource management and program outcomes."

NA States Gather for Forest Legacy Program News

The President's FY 2009 budget recommends funding for three Forest Legacy Projects. Two of the projects are located in the Northeastern Area (NA), which illustrates the success of the NA Forest Legacy Program.

Three days after the release of the President's budget on February 4, 2008, **Neal Bungard** facilitated an Area-wide Forest Legacy Program (FLP) conference call to discuss FLP projects recommended for funding. Representatives from 13 of the 20 NA States participated in the call. **Deirdre Raimo**, Area-wide FLP manager, provided an overview of the 2009 FLP budget, including the role of the national panel in prioritizing FLP projects. A national panel meets in January of each year to prioritize FLP projects for the upcoming fiscal year budget. **Scott Stewart**, who was the NA representative on the national panel, provided insight into how the national panel functions, and led a discussion on how to improve project proposals in the future.

The two NA projects included on the President's FY 2009 budget list are from Maine and Minnesota. The Machias River Project in Maine tops the funding recommendation list with a budget request of \$3,450,000. Maine has received prior funding for the Machias River Project in FY 2004 and FY 2006, and has protected a total of 13,978 acres. When the Machias River Project is completed, it will protect more than 47,000 acres.

The third-ranked project recommended for funding is the Koochiching Project in Minnesota with a budget request of \$3,050,000 in FY 2009. This project received \$3,464,000 in FY 2008. When the Koochiching Project is completed, more than 127,000 acres will be protected through acquisition of a conservation easement.



NA Supports the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council

The Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council (PPFC) was established in early 2007 to promote the safe and effective use of prescribed fire in Pennsylvania for regenerating oak forests and conserving biodiversity. Dr. Jim Thorne of the Natural Lands Trust currently serves as the chair of the PPFC. **Alan Zentz** from Fire and Aviation Management represents NA on the council. The council has been meeting monthly to build a recognized community of stakeholders who promote the responsible use of fire and to develop partnerships in Pennsylvania and across the Nation to reintroduce fire into ecosystems. The council is currently working to pass Pennsylvania's first prescribed fire legislation.

With the support of the Northeastern Area, the council held its first annual conference and membership meeting February 19–20, 2008, in State College, PA. The development of the first annual conference was a joint project of the principal partners in the PPFC, which include the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, Penn State University, Natural Lands Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, among others. Two hundred people attended the conference, which was open to the public.

The public benefits by having an organization in Pennsylvania that can provide information and education about the safe and effective use of prescribed fire for natural resource management. Research on the importance of prescribed fire for oak regeneration indicates that it will have a significant impact on the composition of Pennsylvania's future forests. There is also little knowledge of the importance of prescribed fire in the conservation of certain rare species and natural communities. Public acceptance of prescribed fire will require a significant amount of public education and awareness of these benefits. An immediate benefit of the PPFC has been improved communication between partners and stakeholders.

Durham Field Office

Forest Health Monitoring Working Group Meeting Held in Texas

The Texas Forest Service hosted the 2008 Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Working Group national meeting from February 11 to 14. NA employees **Margaret Miller-Weeks**, **Manfred Mielke**, **Jerry Boughton**, **Jim Steinman**, and **Quinn Chavez** joined State forest health representatives from throughout the Area. The main working groups discussed aerial survey standards, ground surveys, and the role of FHM in global climate change. The meeting also included the first face-to-face gathering of the 20-State NAASF Forest Health Committee, currently chaired by Ron Murray from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The committee discussed plans and accomplishments, forest health State cooperator meetings, urban forest health monitoring efforts, implications of U.S. Forest Service transformation and redesign efforts, a national firewood policy, emerald ash borer summit, and response to the hemlock woolly adelgid.

Connecticut Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Symposium

Approximately 175 people attended the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Symposium held at the Hartford Hilton. The Northeastern Area, Northern Research Station, and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station organized the meeting. Don Smith gave a wonderful welcome in



his final presentation as the retiring Connecticut State Forester. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Maine Department of Agriculture, and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation were well represented as moderators. Anne Archie attended the final day's proceedings that included a presentation by Rob Mangold.

Aviation Team Meets with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry

On February 5–6, 2008, the Northeastern Area's Aviation Team of **Rod Whiteman, Dan Zimmerman,** and **Bill Frament** met with forest health managers of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Division of Pest Management. One of the purposes of this meeting was to help forest health managers develop an aircraft contract that would enhance aircraft safety, provide more aircraft availability, and standardize field data that would meet the needs of their aerial survey program.

During the meeting, the NA Aviation Team made recommendations and advised State managers about critical elements that should be required within a contract for aircraft services. The team also offered suggestions on how to improve the division's aerial surveying team by organizing the State into four or five regions and then having a core aerial survey team that would concentrate their efforts into collecting accurate and standardized aerial survey data.

On the second day, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry personnel demonstrated the Digital Aerial Sketchmapping System (DASM). Loren Iverson of the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team discussed the hardware and software recommended for use with the DASM. Bill Frament and Rod Whiteman then demonstrated how the system is set up and used to collect aerial survey data. In the afternoon, the demonstrators took the equipment outside, placed it in the vehicles, and collected data. During this exercise, they explained how to process the data after collection to conform to the Forest Health Monitoring standards. Bureau of Forestry personnel indicated that the DASM would fit very well into their program and make collecting aerial survey data much easier.

The presentations and field exercise that included an overview and familiarization of the equipment that Bill provided were very well received. This meeting represented a fine example of cooperation, communication, and integration of program efforts between the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the Northeastern Area. The Bureau appreciated the time and effort of the Aviation Team.



Tongass National Forest and Alaska Community Representatives Tour Successful Biomass Energy Sites in New England

The Durham Field Office (DFO) and Pacific Northwest Research Station recently hosted a 3-day technical assistance tour in New England to show Alaska communities how to reduce their fuel-oil dependence and derive alternative energy from their local renewable resources. They introduced Alaska officials to state-of-the-art processes and equipment used to produce and use energy from woody biomass and cellulose-based household waste, such as paper and cardboard. The tour ran from January 22 to 24.

The Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station brought the group from southeastern Alaska to New England, where Durham Field Office employees led them on tours of seven local facilities that use biomass.

"People asked us, 'Why go to New England when you can see some of these things out West?'" said Station Research Forester Allen Brackley, who led the technical assistance project. "But the West is so big. We could get from one place to another much quicker and more conveniently in the Northeast than out west."

DFO Forest Resources Management Group Leader **Rob Clark** and state forester staff provided site coordination in New England with facilities in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The group toured a wood pellet production plant, special needs educational facility, biomass energy power plant, college campus, paper and cardboard densification materials production plants, and a hospital. All either produced wood-based fuel or utilized biomass for local heating, cooling, and power.

"This trip proved to them that it's possible to use biomass from local, renewable resources for energy production," said Clark. "Instead of shipping their paper and cardboard to Seattle for recycling, we showed them options to recycle it locally into fuel to heat buildings or produce electricity. That saves money and makes sense."

The group included representatives from the Nature Conservancy in Alaska, Tongass National Forest, University of Alaska, and a local Alaska business interest. NA Biomass Coordinator **Lew McCreery** also participated in the tour.

One of the participants was Thorne Bay Mayor Jim Gould, who said he saw many technologies in New England that applied to southeastern Alaska. He encouraged members of other communities in southeastern Alaska to participate in similar orientation trips if the opportunity arose.



New England biomass tour attendees from left to right: (back row) NA Biomass Coordinator Lew McCreery, Thorne Bay Councilman Bob Hartwell, U.S. Forest Service Thorne Bay District Ranger Jason Anderson, NA Durham Field Office Forest Resources Group Leader Rob Clark, Nature Conservancy Forester Keith Rush, (front row) U.S. Forest Service Researcher Allen Brackley, Univ. of Alaska's Karen Peterson, Thorne Bay Mayor Jim Gould, Sitka Entrepreneur Bruce Pauley, and U.S. Forest Service Tongass National Forest Petersburg Ranger District Forester Kent Nicholson.



A Forest for Every Class Workshop Session Presents Winter Ecology

The third workshop session of *A Forest for Every Class* (FFEC) in New Hampshire was all about winter activities and winter ecology. The group met at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest and explored study areas established during the summer session. They learned how to track animals, measure snow depth and temperatures, and identify trees in the winter. The last session for this cadre of teachers will be in May, where they will hear a panel discussion on forest stewardship, learn about climate change, and present their curriculum to the FFEC team. The FFEC New Hampshire effort includes New Hampshire Project Learning Tree, Clare Long (White Mountain National Forest), and **Susan Cox** (NA).



Jill Zaffers, John Stark Regional High School science teacher, measured snow depth and water content at an FFEC session at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest.

Morgantown Field Office

Gypsy Moth Presentation Made at Northeast Agricultural Aviation Association

The Northeast Agricultural Aviation Association (NEAAA) asked **Amy Onken** to present information about gypsy moth population spread (i.e., location of defoliation and new infestations) at the NEAAA meeting in Harrisburg, PA, on January 21. She also covered proposed 2008 gypsy moth eradication, suppression, and Slow the Spread projects in North America as well as contact information for aerial applicators interested in bidding on State and Federal contracts. Onken presented a summary of 2007 treatments and drought conditions that persisted in the Northeast, which were attributed to increased levels of defoliation in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the Professional Aerial Applicators Support System (PAASS) program. This program is a voluntary educational program with the goal of reducing the number of aviation accidents and drift incidents associated with the aerial application of fertilizers and crop protection products. The themes of this year's PAASS program included airfield watch program and operational security, human factors in maintenance, and spray drift reduction—spray system maintenance to avoid misapplications.

Meeting Held on Wayne National Forest to Discuss Damage from 2003 Ice Storm

On Thursday, January 31, 2008, **Ann Steketee**, **Dan Snider**, and **Rick Turcotte** traveled to Nelsonville, OH, for a meeting with staff from the Wayne National Forest (WNF). The meeting was a review and discussion of last year's accomplishments and this year's plans for the ice damage project. This project is a result of an ice storm that occurred on Valentine's/President's Day 2003. This storm was a large-scale ecological disturbance that severely affected the Ironton Ranger District. The storm produced widespread limb and bole breakage, blowdown, and bent trees.



Steketee and Turcotte presented summary information about the project, including spatial data and inventory data from the plots. The field survey and sampling portion of this project is expected to conclude sometime near the end of March 2008 with the establishment of 32 to 36 “star” plots throughout the district. The primary purpose of this project is to address questions about the extent and impact of the 2003 ice storm on the Ironton Ranger District. The Northeastern Area contributed to the design, analysis, and quality control of this project. Steketee and Turcotte are currently waiting for WNF personnel to discuss the results of this meeting before further analysis.

Although ice storms are only one of a number of common factors that affect eastern forests, the 2003 ice storm caused more damage than most typical ice storms that affect the region. These natural and recurring events occur with varying degrees of intensity, duration, and frequency. Nine major ice storm events have been documented in the Eastern United States since 1934. These include storms in New England in the late 1990s that affected 17 million acres of forested land; an extensive glaze storm that covered New York, New England, and Canada in 1942; and storms in Ohio in 1986 and on the Cheat Mountain Range in West Virginia in 1956.

St. Paul Field Office

Northeastern Area Employee Designs and Facilitates Saint John's Arboretum Strategic Planning Retreat

Board members, staff, and environmental partners met in February to develop a long-term strategic plan for the Saint John's Arboretum in Colleeville, MN. The 2,500-acre arboretum, which is located north and west of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, is subject to constant development pressure. The group met to discuss and develop strategies for showcasing the arboretum's leadership role in education, discuss opportunities for research, and identify how the property could be used as a model for sustainable community development. The group spent considerable time discussing urban development and options for addressing it, including using easements, acquiring land, and collaborating with other entities that have similar goals. At the end of the session, attendees developed a detailed set of strategies and actions for taking the next steps. **Lisa Burban** from the St. Paul Field Office designed and facilitated the retreat, and will have a copy of the final plan when it is completed.

Forest Service Assessment Tools Highlighted at Wisconsin Conference

More than 200 attendees of Wisconsin's annual Urban Forestry/Arboriculture Conference attended a 3-hour pre-conference workshop on Super Bowl Sunday. St. Paul Field Office representatives **Joe O'Brien**, **Jill Pokorny**, and **Jill Johnson** joined urban forestry consultant Brian Pelot to discuss new Forest Service tools for assessing urban tree risk and storm damage. These tools included the Electronic Tree Risk Assessment Calculator (E-TRAC), Storm Damage Assessment Protocol, and International Tree Failure Database. The Northeastern Area and Northern Research Station's Urban Natural Resources Institute jointly developed E-TRAC as a pocket PC data collection tool that complements the Forest Service's Urban Tree Risk Management Guide. The Storm Damage Assessment Protocol is a software program within the i-Tree software suite that helps communities rapidly and accurately assess cleanup costs after a major storm. The International Tree Failure Database provides a place for trained professionals to record information about failed trees to help predict and prevent future tree failures.



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, Wednesday, March 19, 2008. 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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