



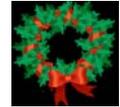
Northeastern Area News Notes



November 29, 2007



From the Director's Desk



Reflection

Last week we witnessed the first snowfall of the 2007–2008 winter. It's another reminder of seasonal change that also ushers in the big winter holidays. For me, this time of year is marked with reflection of the past year—of our accomplishments as well as the many benefits we brought to people in the Northeastern United States. We have many extraordinary partners, and we work in a part of the world that has an abundance of natural resources. What a gift we have in our partnerships that maintain and enhance those resources.

One of the values of our work is our assistance to others to care for and manage resources. We give landowners blueprints to care for their land and provide communities with skills and knowledge to care for the trees treasured by their citizens. We stand on the battlefield of invasive species and help wood product businesses grow through changing markets. Our stakeholders recognize the years of workforce experience we share with them and count on us to stay focused on continually learning and updating our knowledge bases. Our strength is in our ability to provide relevant information, financial support, and guidance to help forest owners and users maximize their resource potential.

It isn't always easy to see the results of our efforts in a short timeframe. Sometimes the seed of knowledge we sow takes awhile to grow and make a difference in a community or a forested tract. Reflect back on the work you have done and mark the changes you have made that affected a piece of land or a whole neighborhood! Although our work is far from done, let us celebrate the positive impacts we have achieved with our partners and engage them in the work ahead in the New Year.

I wish all of you a wonderful winter holiday season. Thank you so very much for your wonderful spirit, hard work, and unique ideas that make the Northeastern Area such an extraordinary place—to serve the public and care for the land!

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director



Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Holidays and the Pursuit of Happiness



Fact to ponder: Last year, the average American spent about \$900 on holiday gifts, according to the National Retail Federation. Yet, according to a 2005 survey by the Center for a New American Dream, 78 percent of Americans wish that the holidays were “less materialistic.” Other studies have found that, since the 1970s, measures of “happiness” have declined as real incomes have risen. How do NA employees measure up? Here are some practical tips that might help decrease consumption and increase your enjoyment of this holiday season.

Actions to take:

Buy less, and ask that others do the same for you: If you were asked to describe the ideal holiday season, chances are you might list sharing the company of loved ones, as well as enjoying good food, fun, relaxation, and perhaps some wintry weather and outdoor activities. Alleviate much of the stress of the holiday season for yourself and others by buying fewer gifts, and/or making gifts—of food, time, or experience. Insist that others do the same for you. More details and tips can be found at grist.org or newdream.org.

Kids and the Holidays: For those of us with kids in our families, the holidays can be especially stressful. The advertising industry spent \$170 million targeting kids in 1983; last year, they spent a whopping \$17 billion convincing children which toys they must have. While it may be possible to limit the amount of advertising that children are exposed to, it is nearly impossible to eliminate this influence. However, kids may be incredibly receptive to alternative holiday ideas (gifts to charity, visiting the elderly, gifts of time and experience), especially if they understand the meaningfulness of their actions. In addition, kids are often more enthused about unwrapping presents than the presents themselves—often, the less complicated a gift, the more it engages the child’s imagination. Marbles, a sack of foreign coins, building blocks, puppets, and paints are all great options. You can also be creative and assemble a dress-up box of clothes; old forms, rubber stamps, and supplies to play office; or a cash box and play money to play store, among other ideas.

Decorations: Pondering whether to buy an artificial or real tree? Go for real: while the Christmas tree industry often uses some harmful pesticides and fertilizers, fake trees can be loaded with PVC and lead, both of which are far more harmful. Ideally, go for a local organic tree or one that you can replant in your yard after the holiday, if you can find it. Those who celebrate Chanukah may want to look for pure beeswax candles, which do not contain the lead, petroleum, and other unhealthy additives that many candles typically contain.



Newtown Square

“Ecological Forestry” Workshop at College of Menominee Nation



Ron Waukau (far right) speaks to the attendees of the Ecological Forestry workshop held at the College of Menominee Nation in Keshena, WI. Attendees spent a half-day in the classroom, and the rest of the 2-day session visiting field sites where the silvicultural practices taught in the classroom are put into use.

A workshop titled "Ecological Forestry: Incorporating Principles of Natural Disturbance and Stand Dynamics into Silviculture" was held October 10–11 at the College of Menominee Nation in Keshena, WI.

The 2-day workshop focused on how silvicultural and management techniques can create forest structures similar to those created by ecological processes that have shaped our forests for thousands of years. Ecological forest management creates forest structures and functions that promote diverse and healthy forests across the landscape.

The goal of the workshop was to present core principles of natural disturbance- and natural development-based silviculture as well as matrix management paradigms through classroom

lectures, discussion, and field visits to innovative projects that implement these principles. The workshop built upon an ongoing training program on ecological forestry organized by the Conservation Forestry Network.

More than 50 people from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, and Nebraska participated. Participants represented tribal natural resource management departments, State natural resources organizations, the U.S. Forest Service, county land management agencies, conservation organizations, forestry consultants, and interested community members.

Mike Dockry, Forest Service Liaison to College of Menominee Nation, helped organize the meeting. Brian Palik, Northern Research Station, and Linda Parker, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, were both instructors and organizers. Jerry Franklin, University of Washington, was the main classroom instructor, and Marshall Pecore and Ron Waukau presented Menominee forest management in the field.



Capitol Christmas Tree

The U.S. Forest Service played a big part in bringing the Nation its iconic holiday tree this year, from its roots on a Northeastern National Forest to its route through Gifford Pinchot's Pennsylvania hometown. Along the way, Forest Service scientists and partners stepped in to make sure the 55-foot balsam fir was healthy enough to greet the Nation in 2008.

The Capitol Christmas Tree made its public debut on Friday, November 16, when the Green Mountain National Forest hosted a harvesting ceremony for the cutting of the tree. The tree location had been top secret and its location was not revealed until the day of the harvesting ceremony. Several new trees were planted simultaneously.

After leaving Vermont, with a sendoff sponsored by the Bennington Chamber of Commerce, the tree made its way to Milford, PA, home of Grey Towers National Historic Site, Gifford Pinchot's ancestral home. The Forest Service administers Grey Towers as a conservation and leadership center, and worked closely with the Milford Business Council to welcome the tree on its way to the Nation's Capitol.

At each location, the community embraced the significance of hosting the Nation's arboreal icon of the holiday season with festivities, guest speakers, and a special tribute to the U.S. Armed Forces. In Milford, local elementary school children sang holiday songs and a regional theatre company read holiday stories aloud. Dick Paterson, Director of Grey Towers, and John Donahue, Superintendent of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, helped welcome the Capitol Tree to the community.

"It's a beautiful tree now and our job (was) to get it to Washington just as it is," said Mike White, a private consulting forester and one of the many people tasked with caring for the tree. "We will handle it with care."

Apparently, the tree has been "handled with care" for many years prior to its final selection as the Capitol Tree. A few years ago, long before the National Architect selected the 55-foot-tall balsam fir for the honor of adorning our Nation's Capitol Building, forest health experts detected a heavy infestation of balsam woolly adelgid (BWA) in a section of woods on the Green Mountain National Forest.

Jim White, a retired county forester from southern Vermont, suspected the tree-harming insect in question was BWA, and he called in **Dennis Souto**, a U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry entomologist out of Durham, NH. Souto helps track and manage forest health issues across the Northeast. He quickly confirmed White's suspicion: the bug was indeed BWA.

"We hadn't had a BWA outbreak there in about 30 years," said Souto. "It caught us completely by surprise."

Souto said he had extensive experience managing forest health issues on a landscape scale, but he had little experience managing the health of individual high-value trees. Since the last BWA



Onlookers attend the Capitol Christmas Tree cutting event on the Green Mountain National Forest.



outbreak occurred before he started his career, he did not have much experience working with the BWA. He called in another expert, Peter Wild, an arborist out of Massachusetts.

Souto said Wild was very knowledgeable and generous. The arborist brought his own people and material up to the National Forest and applied a systemic insecticide injection to kill off the BWA without harming the tree. He did not charge the government or the State of Vermont a penny for his work or materials, according to Souto.

Wild returned to the site later on. The second treatment was a nutrient application on the soil beneath the tree itself. “We did that last year,” Souto added.

By this time, the trees were not only dealing with the BWA infestations, they were also dealing with a really heavy cone crop, he said. “It takes a lot of energy for a conifer to produce a heavy cone crop. That means there’s much less energy available for the tree to heal itself,” he added.

This past February, White returned to the site and took pictures of the tops of the trees. “They didn’t look so good,” said Souto. “We started getting really worried.”

“Months later, though, the 2007 buds on the tree expanded, and lo and behold the top of the crown of the tree, the top 5 feet or so, started looking much better,” he said.

“The untreated trees nearby had dead tops and the treated trees had nice green tops.”

Souto said that one of the people on the Capitol Tree committee asked if they should apply a nitrogen treatment. It was decided later that a potassium treatment would be a better choice, though. “This was yet another nutrient treatment for the trees,” he added.

By the time the National Architect arrived from D.C. to make a selection at the National Forest, he said he was impressed with the quality of the trees.

Souto said the key player in giving this story a happy ending was Peter Wild. “His expertise, judgment, and generosity really made a difference in the outcome of this story. It was nice because we could put a private contractor in contact with the State and a National Forest. There were a lot of players in this thing.”

“The part I played was only a very small part,” said Souto. “It’s not because of my expertise in treating trees. I just knew Peter and knew of his expertise in this field and that it might be helpful.”



Durham Field Office

MOU to Result from Six-State Meeting with NRCS



NRCS leadership from New England met with the Area at the Durham Field Office to discuss USDA programs for family forests. Left to right: Chris Morrisette, Jim Wood, Toby Alexander, Kim McCracken, Jan Dybdahl, Chris Jones, Eric Sherer, Anne Archie, Mark Edmunds, and Rick Devergilio.

Durham Field Representative **Anne Archie** and DFO Forest Resources group leader **Rob Clark** hosted NRCS resource conservationists from the six New England States on November 6. They met to discuss ways to integrate stewardship planning delivery with NRCS programs for implementing forestry practices.

“From our planning support, to the support NRCS gives for implementation of practices on the ground, it should be one seamless path for landowners,” Archie said.

Clark has long championed closer ties with NRCS and has worked on that goal with Archie since her arrival. Chris Jones, resource conservationist in Maine, arranged NRCS participation in the meeting.

“NRCS has program tools for landowners, but needs help with forestry expertise,” Clark said. “We bring the expertise and networks in forestry that together will make USDA more effective for families and private landowners.”

The group plans to build a Memorandum of Understanding among the NRCS offices in New England and the U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area to explore two specific links between the agencies for forest management. First, NRCS will compare the U.S. Forest Service stewardship plan template to NRCS conservation plans. Findings will determine if stewardship plans can be directly used as conservation plans, the document a landowner must provide NRCS when applying for EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) funding. If gaps exist, recommendations for closing them would be made.

The second link involves the NRCS “legacy” program (Farm and Ranch Protection Program, or FRPP), which applies conservation easements to farms and ranches. Some forested land can be included in the FRPP. Along this same program area, Maine NRCS is testing implementation of the Healthy Forest Reserve Program that also deals with conservation programs and easements for lands that provide habitat for federally identified threatened or endangered species. Under the MOU, the New England NRCS and the DFO would analyze where the conservation easement programs are applied and explore opportunities to coordinate decisions, focusing on opportunities to protect larger, contiguous blocks of land using easements.

The tentative date for draft MOU completion is the end of January, followed by a round of reviews that would refine and enhance the document. Final approval is tentatively scheduled for early spring 2008.



Planning for Trees in New York

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the Forest Service's Region 3 ReLeaf Committee conducted a workshop for planners in October titled "Planning for Trees in Urban and Community Landscapes." The workshop, organized by Mary Kramarchyk and Lou Sebesta of DEC and Stephanie Mellozi of Cooperative Extension, attracted more than 70 participants. Dr. Jason Grabosky of Rutgers University spoke about finding space for trees, and **John Parry** of the DFO gave a presentation about the benefits of trees.

Rhode Island Hosts Annual Urban Forestry Conference

The Rhode Island Tree Council, led by John Campanini, Jeanne Current, and Rhode Island State Coordinator Paul Dolan, hosted its very successful annual conference in Warwick in October. Beautiful Aldrich Mansion on Narragansett Bay was the site of the conference, which attracted approximately 100 urban forestry supporters. The session included an awards ceremony to recognize outstanding Tree Stewards, and covered topics on climate change, storm preparedness, and arboriculture. **John Parry** of the DFO presented information about storm planning and preparedness.

New Hampshire Leave No Child Inside Forum

The **New Hampshire Leave No Child Inside Forum** was held November 27, 2007, in Concord, NH, to focus on reconnecting children and families with the outdoors. More than 600 people attended the morning session, which began with a proclamation from New Hampshire Governor Lynch that made November 27, 2007, Children and Nature Day. Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*, gave the keynote address, followed by a panel discussion with State leaders in health, education, and community planning. The session was moderated in typical "town meeting" style with audience members joining in. Panel members were asked to address issues in New Hampshire, including diseases (eastern equine encephalitis and Lyme disease) and how to educate the public about climate change.

More than 200 people stayed for the afternoon to begin developing action items for getting children and families outdoors. Participants attended sessions on fundraising, influencing policy, building a nature-based community, affecting education practices, and public health and safety. **Susan Cox** facilitated the session on building a nature-based community for more than 50 participants. Discussion and action items revolved around the need to build social capital and get people involved in community decisions about planning, development, and conservation. Other forum attendees included **Margaret Miller-Weeks** (NA), Clare Long, and Rebecca Oreskes (White Mountain National Forest). New Hampshire Fish and Game, the Sierra Club, the National Children and Nature Network, and the newly formed New Hampshire Children in Nature Initiative sponsored the forum. For more information, visit <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/ChildrenInNature/index.htm>



Grey Towers

Pinchot, Muir, and Roosevelt “Meet” in Connecticut

While some in the conservation field tend to emphasize the discrepancies in the philosophical differences between Gifford Pinchot and John Muir, a powerful new play and a celebration in Pinchot’s birth State are refocusing their relationship.

"Forces of Nature," performed for the first time on “Gifford Pinchot Day” November 9 in Hartford, CT, is structured as a dramatic dialogue among Pinchot, pioneering conservationist John Muir, who founded and headed the Sierra Club, and Theodore Roosevelt, the progressive Republican President whose name is synonymous with public lands in America.

The play, commissioned by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association and supported in part by the U.S. Forest Service, strengthens their philosophical and personality common threads rather than the more well-known differences in their approaches.

“The issues they struggled with over a century ago bear great relevance to the challenges of today,” said **Richard Paterson**, Director of Grey Towers, who assisted with the production as an advisor. “It’s a strong statement for the future to have the Forest Service, the Sierra Club, and other conservation groups come together to tell this powerful American story.”

Author and historian Char Miller wrote, “These early environmentalists had much in common. They shared some personality traits that complicated their relationships—strong willed and not a little zealous, they loved the clash of public debate, and, shockingly enough, each felt he was right. Their combative characters and deep-seated convictions are on full display in "Forces of Nature," an apt title for a play about three alpha males who did so much to change our environmental perceptions.”

Even though two Tony Award winners, Brian Dennehy and James Naughton, read the parts of Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir, “Forces of Nature” is designed to do more than entertain. It is intended to remind the American public of the vision and courage of these early environmentalists and to spur today’s audiences to action.

Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, PA, the ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot that now serves as a conservation leadership and education center for the Forest Service, is looking into hosting the staged reading sometime during 2008.

Morgantown Field Office

Emerald Ash Borer Discovered in West Virginia

In mid-October, West Virginia became the latest State to positively identify the destructive emerald ash borer within its border. The discovery was made deep within West Virginia in Fayette County. The West Virginia Department of Agriculture’s Plant Industries Division discovered an emerald ash borer larva in a “trap tree” that had been prepared as part of a beetle survey. State officials were surprised that the first detection occurred that far south in West Virginia. They had estimated that the first detection would occur in the Northern Panhandle, which is adjacent to the closest known areas of infestation in Ohio and Pennsylvania. State and Federal officials will now conduct broader surveys to determine the extent of the infestation.



Emerald Ash Borer Research and Development Meeting Held in Pittsburgh

Dan Twardus and **Rick Turcotte** traveled to Pittsburgh on October 23 and 24 to attend an emerald ash borer (EAB) research and development meeting. The agenda included program updates from the States of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, Illinois, and Pennsylvania as well as our northern neighbors in Canada. Presenters also gave research reports on EAB behavior, biology, ecology, regulatory and outreach efforts, host relationships, chemical and biological control, and survey methods. Meeting participants learned that individual beetles could fly up to 32 km (~20 miles) at a time in flight chambers. Preliminary genetics work suggests that EAB has been introduced into North America multiple times. Researchers have also found a new species of solitary braconid parasite associated with EAB in Michigan.

Michaux State Forest Hosts Chesapeake Bay Forestry Work Group

The Chesapeake Bay Forestry Work Group met on November 7 at the Michaux State Forest west of Gettysburg, PA. This group has met six to eight times annually for several years. The group includes personnel from State forestry agencies in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia; water resource agencies; the Chesapeake Bay Alliance; Environmental Protection Agency; and other nongovernmental organizations, in addition to **Sally Claggett** and **Karen Sykes** from the Northeastern Area. Group members exchange information, implement forestry-related projects around the Bay, and continue to develop projects and information about how forest protection, restoration, and stewardship contribute to solving ecological and economic problems in the Bay.

State Forest District Manager Mike Kusko led the group on a tour of inactive and active timber sales to demonstrate how harvesting Best Management Practices (BMPs) protect water quality on Pennsylvania State forests. He discussed timber sale prospectus development, sale execution and oversight, BMPs, and the certification process relative to Pennsylvania's State forests. Trees damaged from an ice storm a few years ago were being harvested at the active timber sale on Mont Alto Mountain. The group discussed the erosion and sediment control plan, soil types, haul roads, and seeding requirements of this project. They also had a spectacular view of Gettysburg and its surrounding farming community.



State Forest District Manager Mike Kusko takes Chesapeake Bay Forestry Work Group members on a tour of inactive and active timber sales to demonstrate how harvesting Best Management Practices protect water quality on Pennsylvania State forests.

Invasive Pest Presentation at Longwood Gardens Field Day Series



Morgantown Field Office entomologist **Rick Turcotte** recently gave a presentation about hemlock woolly adelgid research and management developments at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. The field day Turcotte participated in was one in a series on tree treatment and technology sponsored by Bayer and Arborjet.

Approximately 90 tree care professionals from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia attended the

This is an enhanced image of one of two newly discovered mites found in eastern hemlock forests.



event. Turcotte's 30-minute presentation covered the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Initiative, and provided updates about adelgid surveys and monitoring, modeling and mapping, biological control, silvicultural options, and arthropods associated with eastern hemlock. The arthropod association work is part of a joint project with Linda Butler of West Virginia University that is funded by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Initiative to investigate insects associated with eastern hemlock. Turcotte also announced the discovery of two previously unknown mites that were collected from eastern hemlock branches. The mites are believed to be detritus feeders that make up part of a complex food web that uses the sweeping branches of hemlock as collectors of leaf litter and other debris falling through the forest canopy.

Mid-Atlantic Conservation Educators Hold Annual Conference

The Mid-Atlantic Conservation Educators (MACE) held their annual conference at King's Gap Environmental Education Center near Carlisle, PA, at the end of October. MACE members started the conference by highlighting each State's accomplishments for the past year. The rest of the conference was devoted to a train-the-trainer session on *Training Partnerships for Nonformal Environmental Educators*.

This was the fourth training session sponsored by the Washington Office in the Northeastern Area in partnership with the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The training included recommendations for developing and administering high-quality, nonformal environmental education programs. These recommendations will help educators build a firm foundation for new programs or make improvements to existing ones.

City of Morgantown Holds Fall Arbor Day Celebration

Morgantown, WV, celebrated Arbor Day in September with events held in conjunction with the local farmer's market. Bob Hannah from the West Virginia Division of Forestry presented the city with The National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Award, which Morgantown has received for the past 10 years. To help mark the event, flowering cherry trees were planted at various locations on Pleasant and Walnut Street.

U.S. Forest Service representatives set up a booth with a variety of items such as nail polish, a sponge, coffee cans, and other objects to show that our forests produce many more products than we sometimes realize. The booth also presented information about the emerald ash borer and the transportation of firewood.

Entomologist Teaches School Children about the Importance of Spiders

Forest entomologist **Rick Turcotte** gave a well-received presentation on spiders and their kin at the Cheat Lake Elementary School in Morgantown, WV. Second grade students spent about 30 minutes discussing spider biology and the ecological role of spiders and their close relatives in the environment. Live spiders and other organisms, along with a video camera and monitor, were used to provide a closeup look at the interesting and strange world of spiders. A large number of students and staff members also asked questions about spiders and their importance in the environment.



Teaming Up with the West Virginia Division of Forestry at Family Fun Day



West Virginia University held its annual heritage and traditions festival—Mountaineer Week—from November 2 through November 9. Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and the West Virginia Division of Forestry staffed a booth at the Family Fun Day event held on campus on Saturday, November 3. **Bryan Wamsley, Chelsea Gibson, and Devin Wanner** provided Woodsy Owl material while the Division of Forestry had Smokey Bear items for the children and adults that stopped by the booth.

Smokey Bear waves at people in the Mountainlair at West Virginia University's Family Fun Day.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue. *Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!*

DEADLINE!

There will be no December edition due to the holidays. The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is **noon, Wednesday, January 23, 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.**

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