



Northeastern Area News Notes



January 28, 2008



From the Director's Desk

NA and the Dialogos Report

Last April, the consulting firm Dialogos International presented a draft “diagnostic memo” to the National Leadership Team called “Integrating Mission Accomplishment with Safety at the U.S. Forest Service.” The Chief’s Executive Leadership Team (ELT) is using the Dialogos report and continuing consultation with Dialogos International to address management issues that go beyond safety concerns. I would like to provide a brief summary of the findings by Dialogos, and then describe the steps NA has taken to address the important management issues identified by Dialogos’ work.

The Dialogos Report

The Dialogos document was based on a series of group sessions and individual interviews with more than 400 Forest Service employees. The following quote from the Chief’s letter on the implications of the Dialogos report summarizes the primary findings:

“...Dialogos determined that our safety record is not just about safety—it is about literally everything we do, and how we do it. Our safety record and our operational challenges are embedded in how we:

- Contribute to mission confusion by not making hard strategic choices;
- Avoid or discourage straight talk, including reporting near misses;
- Divert energy from mission work, overtaxing people and diminishing our capacity;
- Skip time to detect, learn from, and act on our errors;
- Lose energy to a proliferation of piecemeal initiatives that come and go;
- Support a normalized attitude that it is okay to deviate from safety protocols.

This is not easy for most of us to hear. However, it is critical in this time when we are transforming and realigning our national and regional organizations. We need to ensure that we as core leaders are better aligned, provide more mission clarity, ensure better community and working relationships, and integrate our work and capabilities across boundaries. To ensure our success, we must continue to engage our employees in identifying things that drain energy away from our mission, and integrating what we learn in a single, unified effort to work well, safely, and consistently for the long run.”



NA's Approach Starts with the Strategic Plan Update

As the Agency goes through changes related to State and Private Forestry Redesign, WO-RO-NA Transformation, changing budgets, and a presidential election in November, among other events, the work and priorities of NA are clearly stated through our foundational documents. These include the NA Strategic Plan Update for 2008–2012 and the Strategic Business Plan for 2008. These documents were created through the combined wisdom and contributions of all NA employees, with input from our key stakeholders.

As I stated in the preface to the NA Strategic Plan Update, the major purpose and need for this work was to remind ourselves, and our stakeholders, of our shared purpose, to look ahead to the opportunities and threats associated with the results we seek, and to work together. The goals, objectives, and management principles lay out a simple but powerful mission and bearing for us to engage the public we serve.

In turn, the actions that comprise the FY 2008 Strategic Business plan describe how we will perform in FY 2008 to implement the NA Strategic Plan.

In other words, we have linked our performance directly with our mission. These documents give us “mission clarity.” With that we can move forward to implement our programs and improve our performance in ways identified by the Dialogos report.

As an example, using the NA Strategic Plan Update as our guidepost, we commissioned an NA organizational study and made decisions that streamlined our business operations processes and placed stronger emphasis on program implementation. This has served to clarify roles and decisionmaking—issues raised by the Dialogos report. We have now linked our organizational structure more closely to achieving our mission, and we will continue to make more strides over time.

In an organization as large and complex as the U.S. Forest Service, there may always be a need to improve organizational awareness and pay attention to the dynamics identified in the Dialogos report. We in NA have made important strides in this direction, and will continue to do so as we link our focus, dialogue, learning, honesty, safety practices, and our experience with how we implement the NA Strategic Plan. We are also well positioned to respond to the changes the Agency is going through now.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to read the Chief's letter and the full Dialogos report. Both documents are on the Forest Service Intranet at <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/dialogos/safety-culture.pdf> and <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/dialogos/fs-nlt-v8.5.pdf>, respectively.

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director



Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month



Visit the NA/NRS Sustainable Operations Web site:

http://fswweb.na.fs.fed.us/staff/Director/sust_ops.shtml

Fact to ponder: Even slight changes can make a large difference in the environmental footprint of our Forest Service operations. Executive Order 13423 requires Federal agencies to lead by example to reduce consumption, reduce waste, and increase recycling.

Actions to take: Visit the **NEW NA/NRS Sustainable Operations Intranet Site** to get facts about our consumption and tips to reduce fuel use, purchase “greener” products, recycle, and more. We have collected information from a variety of sources and archived them all in one place. Don’t forget to check out the “Tip of the Month;” “In the News” page; a list of Federal, State, and private sustainability initiatives; and the “footprint” pages on water, energy, fleet, recycling, green purchasing, and sustainable leadership.

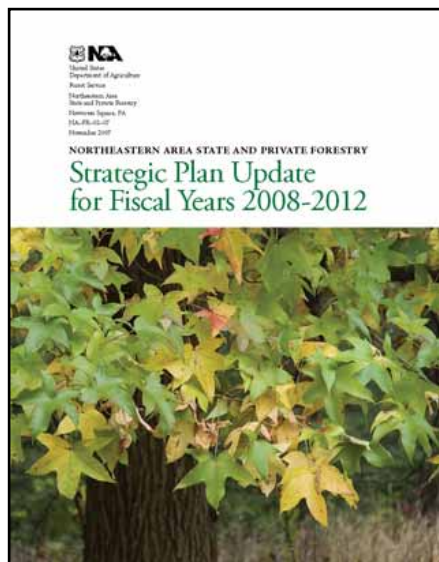
Newtown Square

U.S. Air Force Thanks NA for Forestry Workshop Assistance

The U.S. Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment formally expressed its gratitude to the Northeastern Area for its technical assistance. The Texas-based military command wrote in a November 15, 2007, letter that **Jim Nelson**, an NA employee assigned to the Department of Defense (DoD), provided expert technical assistance to the 2007 DoD Forestry Workshop held October 22-23. The workshop was hosted by the DoD and the Society of American Foresters. It brought together military natural resource professionals from across the country to discuss important land management issues. Nelson provided planning and logistical assistance. He also gave a presentation about using different types of tree-mulching equipment to help achieve forest management goals.



The NA Strategic Plan for 2008-2012 is Available on the Internet



The *Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Strategic Plan Update for Fiscal Years 2008–2012* is available on the Internet. This document charts the Northeastern Area's way forward, providing focus on goals and objectives that are crucial to accomplishing the NA mission of providing sustainable forest management and use across the landscape.

In the midst of unprecedented change, in both the forests, States, and people that NA serves and in the very structure of the Forest Service itself, it's important to assess what NA has done and will do in the future. The plan builds on past successes, while looking to the future, providing a roadmap for the next 5 years.

The management strategies contained in the plan consider the operating environment, current conditions, key issues, and the desired future. Everyone involved in the

development of the plan has worked hard to make it both actionable and accountable—that is, to drive NA's program of work and evaluate the effectiveness of that work.

As part of NA's continued focus on sustainability, the plan is available electronically on the NA Internet site at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/detail.cfm?id=3226>.

Business Operations Meeting Held at Grey Towers, PA

The Northeastern Area Office of Knowledge Management (OKM) and Office of Communications (OC) met together at Grey Towers on December 4 and 5, 2007, to transition from Information Management and Analysis staff roles to new staff groups. Grey Towers staff provided facilitation, training, and hospitality throughout the meeting. **Chuck Croston** conducted a tour of the National Historic Site for meeting attendees. The new NA Business Operations staffs (OC, OKM, Business Management, and Grants Administration) officially began operating in mid-November, 2007. During the meeting, the OC and OKM groups worked together as an extended Business Operations group, and separately in individual groups and smaller teams to identify key issues and discuss opportunities for working more efficiently and effectively to serve the Northeastern Area, our partners, and our cooperators.



Interpretive Guide **Chuck Croston** (left), conducts a tour of Grey Towers for the NA Business Operations group.



Delaware Closes on Phase Five of its Green Horizons Forest Legacy Project



U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area Deputy Director **Larry Mastic** (left), Delaware Secretary of Agriculture **Michael Scuse**, Delaware Governor **Ruth Ann Minner**, State Senator **Charlie Copeland**, and the Mid-Atlantic Director of The Conservation Fund **Blaine T. Phillips, Jr.**, gather in Dover to celebrate the Green Horizons acquisition.

In early December 2007, the State of Delaware purchased nearly 350 acres of forest land from Glatfelter Pulpwood Company with help from the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program and The Conservation Fund. Glatfelter Pulpwood Company once owned more than 19,000 acres of forest land in Delaware. Over the last several years, Glatfelter has been selling this property, and the company is expected to sell its remaining lands within the next 2 to 3 years. The State and its partners have been working hard to protect as much of this land as they can through fee acquisitions and conservation easement purchases.

The Forest Legacy Program has been working with Delaware since 2002 and has protected more than 2,000 acres of working forest land in the State. The Forest Legacy Program has provided grants to Delaware in excess of \$8.9 million dollars. The State and its partners have contributed more than \$7 million dollars to the project.

U.S. Roundtable on Sustainable Forests

The National Roundtable on Sustainable Forests met December 10–12 at Oregon Ridge Park in Baltimore County, MD. The roundtable is an open communication process committed to the goal of sustainable forest management on all lands in the



United States. The meeting's theme was "Tackling Technical Challenges," and included sharing information about implementing the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators of Forest Sustainability at county, State, regional, and national levels. Don Outen from the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resources Management gave a presentation about Baltimore County's effort to develop a strategy for sustainable forests (see http://greeninfrastructure.net/baltimore_county_md for more information). **Sally Claggett** discussed work with indicators conducted by the Chesapeake Bay executive council. **Sherri Wormstead** discussed efforts to implement criteria and indicators of forest sustainability at the 20-State regional level. Other roundtable highlights include preparations for the 2010 report on the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators. **Sherri Wormstead** also gave a presentation about the online Forest Sustainability Indicators Information System, which was followed by discussion on increasing stakeholder engagement through innovative Web-based communications.



2007 Sustainable Operations Summit Held—Planning Underway for 2008 Summit

Sherri Wormstead represented NA at the 2007 U.S. Forest Service Sustainable Operations Summit held in Denver, CO, November 13–16, 2007. The main objectives of this meeting were to officially launch the National Sustainable Operations effort, and share stories, ideas, and resources to help find solutions and innovative ways to reduce our environmental footprint. These objectives were accomplished through panel discussions, keynote speakers, breakout sessions on more focused topics, tours, roundtable discussions, and informal networking. The importance of actions at the unit level was emphasized, and the NA & NRS Sustainable Operations Team received a framed certificate for their efforts. Every employee has a role in sustainable operations!

Planning is underway for the 2008 Sustainable Operations Summit, which will be hosted by the Forest Products Lab (FPL) in Madison, WI, from November 18–20, 2008. This summit is being planned jointly by R9, NA, NRS, and the FPL. We are committed to making this meeting more virtual in nature by offering presentations via Webinars so that more people can be engaged with less travel. Please contact Sherri if you have topic ideas for the 2008 Summit.



Watershed Program Recognized



Members of the Chesapeake Executive Council sign the 2007 Implementation Document for Directive 06-1 Protecting the Forests of the Chesapeake Watershed. From left to right: Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources John Griffin, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture Mike Scuse, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, EPA Administrator Steve Johnson (signing), DC Mayor Adrienne Fenty, U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment Mark Rey, Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission Delegate Jim Hubbard, and Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell. Not pictured are representatives from the West Virginia and New York governors' offices.

Al Todd, NA Watershed Program Leader, is on a detail in the Washington Office. He was surprised to be asked to attend Chief Gail Kimbell's morning standup on January 24. He was even more surprised that he was presented with a pen.

Not just any pen, though. This pen was used by Mark Rey, Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, to sign a historic document. On December 5, the Chesapeake Executive Council met to sign a goal and joint framework for conserving forests in the watershed, recognizing that this is essential for a healthy Chesapeake. The Executive Council includes the Governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; the mayor of the District of Columbia; the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator; Undersecretary Rey; and the chair of the Bay Commission.

Undersecretary Rey sent the pen to be presented to Al in recognition of the watershed staff's work with the States, Federal agencies, and other partners in the Chesapeake Bay Program to come to agreement on a set of bold new commitments for forest conservation.



Maine Forest Service and NA Collaborate to Create "Leave Your Firewood at Home" Bookmark

Maine Forest Service Entomologist Charlene Donahue worked with **Sandy Fosbroke** (MFO) and **Debbie Muccio** (DFO) to design a "Leave Your Firewood at Home" bookmark. The Maine Forest Service recently printed 10,000 bookmarks that they are currently distributing in 2008 camping reservation packets and through other venues.

The bookmark targets Maine recreationists with information about bringing insect-infested firewood into the State:

“Hauling insect-infested firewood from home dramatically speeds up the spread of invasive insects that harm our forests. An invasive insect population might spread a few miles on its own in a single year. But moving infested wood can spread the same pest hundreds of miles in a single day.

- Pests can be in, on, or under the bark or in the wood.
- Help protect Maine’s forests—buy wood where you burn it.
- For more information, visit: www.maine.gov/firewood or send an e-mail to forestinfo@maine.gov.”



Durham Field Office

Forest Service Employees Donate to Those in Need



Five hundred pounds of food was donated to the New Hampshire Food Bank. (Photo of Ron Page).

The Durham Employees Association held a food drive in December 2007. **Rebecca Whitney** coordinated the food drive with the New Hampshire Food Bank, the only such facility in the State. NA and NRS employees in Durham, NH, donated roughly 500 pounds of food and more than \$300 to the New Hampshire Food Bank. Each year, the food bank distributes more than 4 million pounds of donated food to nearly 350 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, day care centers, senior citizen homes, and substance abuse treatment centers. These member agencies in turn provide the food to the more than 95,000 hungry men, women, and children throughout New Hampshire.

Specialists Provide Training in the Certified Tree Steward Program

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County, NY, conducted a Certified Tree Steward Program for municipal workers and managers who are involved with urban tree care and



planting. The training spanned 10 days of class time during November and December, and covered topics such as tree pruning, planting, and protection. Mary Kramarchyk from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Dave Bloniarz from the Forest Service's Northern Research Station, and **John Parry** from NA State and Private Forestry conducted 2 days of the training that focused on important steps in managing and protecting community forests. Part of the workshop also focused on completing tree inventories, including the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) and free software created for PDA inventories called i-Tree.

Bernie Raimo Retires!

The Durham Field Office recently bid a fond farewell to friend and colleague Bernie Raimo. After 31 years of Federal service, Bernie retired on January 3, 2008. He began his career in forest pest management in 1973 as a temporary technician at the Forest Service research unit in Hamden, Connecticut. Early in his career, he worked in government and the agricultural chemical industry, developing biological and chemical controls for forest insects. His Forest Service assignment took him to Colorado, where he spent 15 years managing forest insect and disease problems throughout the Rocky Mountain Region. He returned to New England in 1994 and has served as the Forest Health Group Leader in Durham. He now has ample time to dedicate to his favorite hobbies of beekeeping, fly fishing, and clay target shooting!



Wood Education and Resource Center

Wood Education and Resource Center Joins the National Association of Home Builders to Host Seminars

The Wood Education and Resource Center and The National Association of Home Builders' Research Center will host a 1-day seminar—*Gaining a Competitive Advantage: Insights for Smaller-sized and Startup Eastern Hardwood Manufacturers*—in Princeton, WV, on March 6; in Asheville, NC, on March 24; and in Williamsport, PA, on April 4.

These seminars will help manufacturers of eastern hardwood products uncover and evaluate new opportunities for the residential construction industry. The presenters have about 20 years of experience supporting new product development for the Nation's largest and most successful building products manufacturers, and will share their insights into this industry with entrepreneurial producers of hardwood products.

The seminars will also include recommendations on how manufacturers can capitalize on industry changes due to the current soft housing market, based on a 2008 nationwide survey of homebuilders.

The goal of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) is to provide and expand opportunities for families to have safe, decent, and affordable housing. The NAHB promotes policies that keep housing a national priority. The NAHB Research Center provides evaluation



and testing of products and materials to keep builders on the leading edge of technology, and enhance the quality and affordability of housing materials. Visit www.nahbrc.org for more information about this organization.

Morgantown Field Office

Sudden Oak Death Surveys Come Back Negative



A stream-bait trap with rhododendron leaves used to survey for *Phytophthora* spores floats in a stream. (Photo courtesy of West Virginia Department of Agriculture Plant Pathologist Jill Rose).

Sudden oak death detection surveys were conducted in nine Northeastern States during 2007. Al Iskra conducted training in the spring for survey crews in New Jersey and Delaware to show them how to set stream-baiting traps to collect and record survey samples. Steve Oak from State and Private Forestry in Region 8 in Asheville, NC, conducted the training for other States.

Survey crews sampled 36 streams 10 times each, resulting in 356 samples. All samples sent to diagnostic laboratories came back negative for the detection of the fungus *Phytophthora ramorum*, the cause of sudden oak death.

For many States, this was the first year that stream baiting was used to collect samples instead of the standard terrestrial sampling methods previously used. “The terrestrial sampling method is more labor intensive, and attempting to locate disease-infected leaves may be comparable to looking for a needle in a haystack,” noted Iskra. Stream sampling is a much more efficient detection method. “We know that stream baiting is a valid sampling technique because most samples routinely test positive for other *Phytophthora* species,” said Iskra.

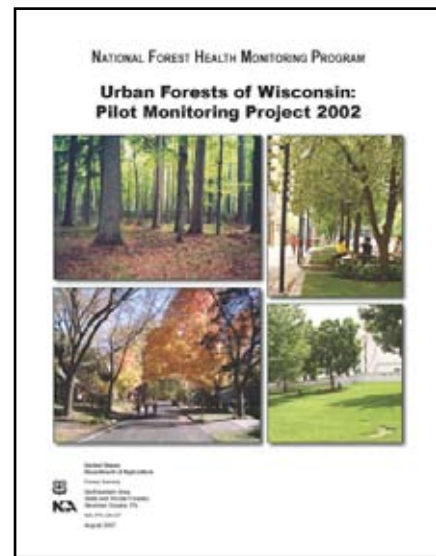
The stream-baiting technique involves using rhododendron leaves in a mesh bag. Survey crews tether the mesh bag in the stream current. Spores produced by *Phytophthora* and washed into streams during precipitation events attach to and infect the rhododendron leaves, which are collected when samples are retrieved. Two laboratories test the samples for independent verification.



New Publication Documents Using Urban Forest Effects Model to Analyze Urban Forest Structure, Function, Health, and Values in Wisconsin

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry has a new publication available titled *Urban Forests of Wisconsin: Pilot Monitoring Project 2002* and authored by **Anne Cumming**, David Nowak, **Daniel Twardus**, Robert Hoehn, **Manfred Mielke**, and Richard Rideout. The publication highlights findings from the first statewide urban forest health monitoring pilot study conducted in the State of Wisconsin in 2002.

Although trees in urban settings contribute significantly to human health and environmental quality, little is known about the urban forest resource and what it contributes locally, regionally, and nationally in terms of ecology, economy, and social well-being. Urban forest structure, functions, health, and values in Wisconsin were analyzed using the Urban Forest Effects Model. Results demonstrate the value of collecting and analyzing urban forest data, and can be used to advance the understanding and management of urban forests to improve human health and environmental quality.



The statewide survey of Wisconsin's urban forest is one of a series of pilot studies initiated to determine the structure, condition, and function of forests in urban areas at a broad scale, beyond just one city or community. The Wisconsin study is the first pilot to incorporate the full panel of urban plots throughout the State and to integrate those with the corresponding Forest Inventory and Analysis data. The pilot study was developed to test the feasibility of using a variety of procedures and analysis techniques in urban forest health monitoring. Similar pilot studies are being conducted in Indiana, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Colorado.

The 130.6 million urban trees in Wisconsin have an estimated structural value of \$17 billion, provide annual energy savings to residents of \$24.3 million, remove \$36.3 million worth of pollution from the air, and store 6.1 million tons of carbon.

The publication is available online at http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/fhm/pilot/pilot_study_wisconsin_02_lr.pdf.

Northeastern Area Mourns the Loss of Jan Hacker



Jan Hacker, former Forest Service employee, recently passed away.

Jan Douglas Hacker, 61, of St. Albans, WV, passed away at his home on Saturday, January 12, 2008. Hacker was born in Converse, IN, on June 15, 1946.

Hacker retired from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture after 32 years of service as an entomologist and assistant director of the Plant Industries Division. Since his retirement, he worked part time for the U.S. Forest Service as a key member of the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. His efforts have been vital in slowing the spread of gypsy moth. In recognition of his work in this area, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2007 National Gypsy Moth Review.



Hacker was an active leader in the Boy Scouts of America, serving as a role model for countless young men. He served as Troop 250 scoutmaster, assistant scoutmaster, and troop committee chairman; on the Pioneer District camping committee; and as Buckskin Council properties chairman. He was also a proud member of the Ramp Patrol, an unofficial group of volunteers who provide extra service and support to the council.

Hacker is survived by his wife, Pamela Sue Hacker; his son, Gregory John Hacker and his wife Cathy of Colorado Springs, CO.; his daughter, Dawn Marie Miller and her husband Jeff Miller; grandchildren Megan and Griffin Miller of Mason, OH; and brothers Bill and Marc Hacker.

In lieu of flowers, Hacker had requested that donations be made to the Buckskin Council of the Boy Scouts of America; HospiceCare of Dunbar, WV; or the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Online condolences may be made at www.bartlettchapmanfuneralhome.com.

Amy Onken Attends Western North American Defoliator Working Group Meeting

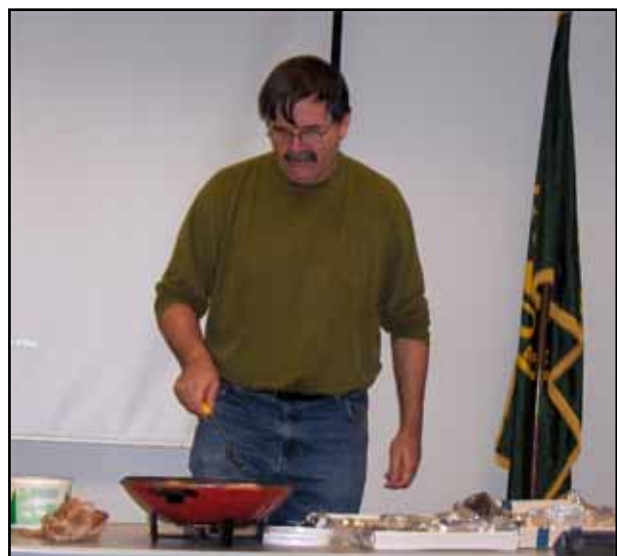
In December 2007, **Amy Onken** attended the Western North American Defoliator Working Group (WNADWG) meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. She gave two presentations at the meeting that were well received and generated many questions and much discussion. Iral Ragenovich, chair of WNADWG, also asked Onken to share the gypsy moth training videos that John Ghent presented at the 2007 Annual Gypsy Moth Review. The videos demonstrated aircraft calibration (fixed and rotor wing), explained how an aircraft GPS functions, and covered spray deposition from Micronairs. The group noted that private spraying is popular in the West, and that private landowners are requesting assistance and advice. Many of the meeting attendees felt that there is an urgent training need for aerial and ground application of pesticides.

The meeting was very informational and provided an opportunity to establish contacts with western Forest Service counterparts and their State cooperators. After listening to the State presentations, Onken has a greater appreciation for the many insect defoliator problems and subsequent mortality the West has and is experiencing on hundreds of thousands of acres across all land ownerships.

Morgantown CFC Campaign Exceeds Fundraising Goal

In November 2007, the Morgantown Field Office and Forestry Sciences Laboratory concluded its Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) 2 days early by announcing they had exceeded their goal by 6 percent after raising a total of \$9,065.78. A drawing among contributing employees was also held for donated gift certificates to a local movie theater. The winner of the drawing was **Linda Wilson-Singleton**.

CFC donations were collected during a "Grandma's Old Fashioned Donuts and Hot Cider" event at the facility sponsored by **Al Steele** and through 57 percent participation of employees making one-time gifts and payroll deduction contributions. In the past, Morgantown office employee donations have

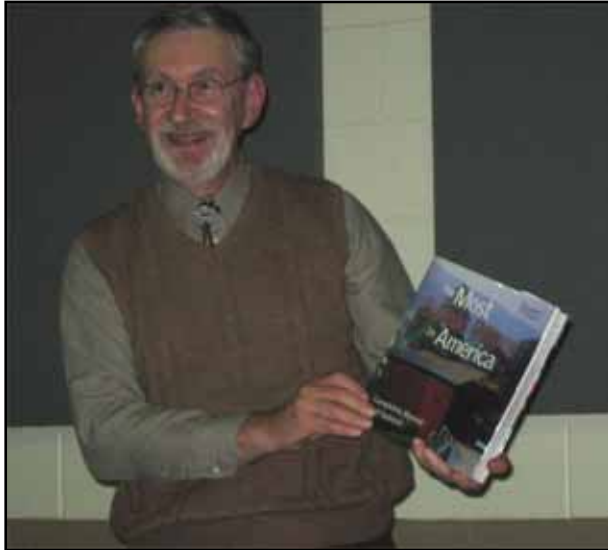


Al Steele makes "Grandma's Old Fashioned Donuts" as a fundraiser for the Combined Federal Campaign at the Morgantown Field Office and Forestry Sciences Laboratory.



only been surpassed by the Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, two Federal agencies that have many more employees. Field Representative Bob Lueckel and keyworker Janice Gottschalk headed the CFC campaign. Gottschalk commented, “The generosity of the Morgantown group is amazing. In addition to exceeding the CFC goal, they just raised a significant amount of money to help a fellow employee.”

Well-Known and Respected Entomologist Retires



Dr. Robert E. Acciavatti holds up one of his retirement gifts, a book titled, “*The Most Scenic Roads in America*.”

On January 3, 2008, the Morgantown Field Office said farewell to one of the last “true entomologists” in the Forest Service. **Dr. Robert E. Acciavatti** celebrated his retirement at a dinner hosted by his coworkers of the Morgantown Field Office. **Bob Lueckel**, MFO Field Representative, emceed the event where colleagues from the Forest Service and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, PA, joined family members to sing the praises of Dr. Bob and wish him well in his retirement. Acciavatti will continue some of his ongoing field work related to bark beetles and wood-boring insects as he functions as a volunteer for the Forest Service—and cleans out his office! He and his wife, Aurie, will remain in Morgantown, close to their two children and five grandchildren. He will be missed by his fellow employees, and we wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

Forest Health Employees Help Ohio Set Up Insecticide Trial Against Emerald Ash Borer

From December 17 to 19, 2007, **Rick Turcotte**, **Bryan Wamsley**, **Chelsea Gibson**, and **Sam Forbeck** traveled to the Maumee State Forest in Ohio to lay out spray blocks for a spring insecticide trial against the emerald ash borer (EAB). The group laid out the spray blocks, inventoried the blocks, and evaluated all ash trees within the blocks for signs and symptom of EAB. This is a cooperative project involving The Ohio State University; APHIS; Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry; U.S. Forest Service; and the Maumee State Forest. For this trial, a helicopter will apply two spinosad applications in early and late June to correspond to the peak emergence and feeding times of EAB.

Spinosad is a naturally derived insecticide generated during fermentation by the actinomycete soil bacteria *Saccharopolyspora spinosa*. It works through both ingestion and contact exposure. Spinosad has a unique mode of action that is different from all other known insect control products. Spinosad causes excitation of the insect nervous system, leading to involuntary muscle contractions, prostration with tremors, and finally paralysis. Spinosad has been in use in cotton and turf grass industries since 1997. In 2005, spinosad was approved for use on more than 150 fruit and vegetable crops. The pesticide has low toxicity for mammals and environmental



impacts. The USDA National Organic Standards Board has approved spinosad for use in certified organic agriculture in the United States.

Meeting at New River Gorge Outlines Response Strategy for Recently Discovered Emerald Ash Borer

Rick Turcotte traveled to the New River Gorge (NRG) National Park in West Virginia on December 11, 2007, for a meeting about the emerald ash borer (EAB). The meeting included Rachel Braud and Tom Elliott from APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine; and John Perez and Matt Varver with the NRG National Park. The group discussed the recent finding of EAB on land adjacent to the park, and the need to conduct future survey and inspection activities to detect the borer at NRG. The park will prepare a short management plan for EAB. This plan will start the process of assessing the potential impacts that this new introduction will have on forest resources. The plan will include identification of high-risk sites with an ash component, identification of high-value areas in the park likely to be impacted by the borer, education options for visitors regarding the borer, selection of trapping sites, assessment of the need for monitoring plots and surveys, and ash seed collection.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE

Midwest States Form Emerald Ash Borer Informational Forum

State and Federal urban forestry coordinators from 11 Midwestern States joined State forest health program staff to initiate a forum to discuss the emerald ash borer. The borer is already directly affecting some of these States, while others are preparing for the borer's introduction. These groups participated in a conference call in December 2007 to share information, solutions, resources, and tools. The participants discussed the roles that their agencies play with respect to the emerald ash borer and response plans, tools, and resources that they are currently using. The group agreed to focus subsequent forums on a specific topic area. A short summary of notes was shared with participants. Steve Rasmussen of the Nebraska Forest Service, SPFO Urban Forester **Lisa Burban**, and Susan Ford from the Rocky Mountain Region State and Private Forestry Cooperative Forestry Program worked together to organize and host the meeting.

Mystery Holes in Wood Caused by Powderpost Beetles

SPFO Entomologist **John Kyhl** offered tips for identifying and managing wood-destroying insects during a presentation at the 2007 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference. The magazine *Pest Control Technology* featured Kyhl's presentation in an article, *Mystery Holes in Wood* (<http://www.pctonline.com/articles/article.asp?MagID=1&ID=3056&IssueID=236>), in its November 2007 issue. The presentation focused on powderpost beetles (Lyctid) commonly found living in the dead wood of trees. These beetles can damage wooden items, such as furniture or tool handles, and even cause structural damage over long periods. Observers can identify infestations by the telltale holes from which adult Lyctids emerge and the powder-fine frass that burrowing larvae leave behind. For more information, see *Kyhl's Yard and Garden Brief* (<http://www.extension.umn.edu/projects/yardandgarden/ygbriefs/e609powderpost.html>) on the *University of Minnesota Extension* (<http://www.extension.umn.edu/index.html>) Web page.



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, February 20, 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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