

Northeastern Area



News Notes



Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Wednesday, February 19, 2003



IN THESE TIMES

Whatever your perspective, change and uncertainty seem to prevail! How do you respond? Some will find renewed energy spurred by the need to understand and get through the uncertainties. For others, the struggle is great to overcome the sense of being overwhelmed.

One area of uncertainty is competitive sourcing. I want to thank those who joined our conference call on February 13, 2003. Thank you for participating by listening and by asking questions. We covered a lot in a short time. Please take the time to share what you heard and learned from our discussion with a co-worker who was not able to be on the call. Information is a powerful tool! Understanding what competitive sourcing is about will enable each of us to influence the outcome.

The web site at <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pma/main/CS.shtml> is a terrific source of information on competitive sourcing. Check it out! You will find many of the questions you have addressed here. Information about government-wide guidance on the process of competitive sourcing can be found on the Office of Management and Budget web site, www.omb.gov, as you search for "A-76" information. For information on matters of concern to individuals, the Office of Personnel Management web site, www.opm.gov, is a useful resource.

I mentioned at the end of the conference call the counsel I give to myself when the times seem tougher than the usual. Take a step back and refocus on the job you have to do. With renewed focus, and energy, do your work well! What you accomplish will help you through these times and will contribute to the objectives of the Northeastern Area – to provide high-quality technical assistance to our many partners!

— Kathy Maloney



Durham Field Office Notes

NELT TAKES WASHINGTON BY STORM

The New England Leadership Team (NELT) delegation—**Karen Mollander** (S&PF, Durham), Mark Twery (Research, Burlington), Tom Wagner (White Mountain National Forest), and Paul Brewster (Green Mountain National Forest)—took Washington, DC, by storm the first week of February, visiting 26 Congressional offices in 4 days. During this annual pilgrimage, the team provides Congressional staffers with updated briefing books and highlights current issues of interest. The themes in this year's visits included fire borrowing and its very real effects in the Northeast, the Healthy Forests Initiative, Forest Legacy, invasive species, and technology transfer (in the form of the Mobile Community Tree Inventory and NED software demonstrated on a personal digital assistant). Matt Arnn, NYC Metropolitan Initiative Coordinator, joined in visiting the offices of 2 New York City Congressional representatives, Nita Lowey and Jose Serrano.

The Forest Service was well received, and both new and experienced staffers appreciated the expertise and sources of information provided on forestry issues. The NELT visit began with a briefing session with the Washington Office's Steve Hart from Legislative Affairs and Hank Kashdan from Budget. NELT hit the Hill the same day as the President's 2004 budget. The visit ended with a closeout and "debriefing" with Legislative Affairs, followed by a briefing with Chief Bosworth and Associate Chief Collins, including recommendations for followup. The team felt this year's visits were the best yet—substantive, in spite of the tight scheduling. Highlights included meeting with Senator Jeffords (VT) and Representatives Allen (ME), Bass (NH), Bradley (NH), and Kennedy (RI).

BLONIARZ AND FITZHENRY PRESENT NA PROGRAMS TO OUTDOOR WRITERS

Dave Bloniarz and **Bob Fitzhenry** presented an overview of Northeastern Area programs at the New England Outdoor Writer's Association annual meeting on February 7. The theme, "Maintaining the Forest Land Base," targeted the interests of this group, whose membership includes leading fish, game, and recreation writers.

The northeastern forest landscape was portrayed as a mosaic of predominately State and private ownerships. The concepts of sprawl, parcelization, and fragmentation were introduced, followed by the vision of NA programs to maintain contiguous, sustainable forests. Audience members had personal familiarity with some programs, notably Fire, Stewardship, and Conservation Education.

Dave and Bob planted a number of ideas in the audience that the writers felt would benefit them in their work. Many requests for follow-up information and publications were made. Attendee Ellie Horwitz, Chief of Information and Education, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, invited Dave to collaborate on suburban wildlife issues, a potential partnership for educational opportunities, and a possible workshop.

The traveling Forest Service display was used as a backdrop for the presentation. The display is available for events year round; for details visit http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/2002/dec6/exhibit.htm.

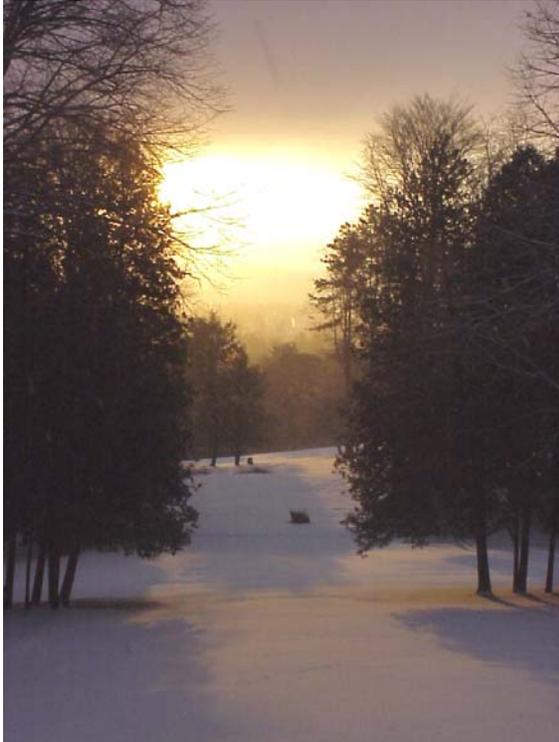
GOOD THINGS COME ROUND

These days, Brendan Kelly is with the New York State Division of Lands and Forests "practicing for {his} director days!" In 1996, he was a graduate student in Forestry at the University of New Hampshire. **Dean Huber** was one of many people Brendan highlighted in his thesis acknowledgments as being instrumental to completion of his work.



“You pointed me in the right direction,” Brendan’s recent letter to Dean noted, “and for that I am thankful. Also for the times I have needed your help answering questions at work.” His work involves New York’s Forest Products Utilization and Marketing Programs for the Lowville regional office.

Grey Towers Notes



Sunrise at Grey Towers in the winter.

GREY TOWERS CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Pre-construction activity at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark for Phase IV, Visitor Services, has begun with preparation of the site.

Phase IV, Visitor Services, addresses improving access to the site, including widening the entry drive, improving pedestrian walkways, remodeling the visitor reception area with educational exhibits and rest rooms, and enlarging the parking area. Phases I through III included improvements and renovations to the mansion, historic gardens, and other site structures.

“Now that we’ve completed the first three phases of the renovation of Grey Towers, it’s time to address improving our visitor services,” said Edgar Brannon, Director of Grey Towers. “This project will enhance the visitor experience, address safety and security concerns, and improve the economic benefits to the community.”

Part of the site preparation includes removal of trees so the entry drive can be widened to accommodate two-way traffic. Trees selected for removal include dead and hazardous trees and invasive and non-native species. A replanting project when construction is completed is part of the plan.

“The replanting will include native trees, such as sugar maples, and other native deciduous and evergreen shrubs. Pike County’s landscape should look much different than it does, but years of overbrowsing by deer has severely affected the plant diversity,” explained Grey Towers Horticulturist Elizabeth Hawke. “With the deer fence installed in 2000, we can now illustrate what the natural landscape would look like without deer over-population.”

Pedestrian access to the Grey Towers site will be unaffected until construction begins. Alternate access for both pedestrians and vehicular traffic during construction will be available.

For more information about the Phase IV, Visitor Services project at Grey Towers, please call (570) 296-9672.



Morgantown Field Office Notes

CAHR PLANS CONTINUE

John Hazel and **Karen Sykes** met with Jim White, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization (CRCPO), on January 14 at the Cuyahoga National Park near Akron, Ohio, to discuss continuing the Cuyahoga American Heritage River (CAHR) project in FY 2003. CRCPO has been the lead community partner since the Cuyahoga River was first named an American Heritage River in 1998. Depending on funding being provided by the Washington Office, FY2003 is being planned as a year during which the project will transition to less dependency on the Forest Service. CRCPO will assume the responsibilities previously held by the Forest Service-provided River Navigator. The CAHR could be modeled similarly to the Hanaleia American Heritage River in Hawaii, which has been funded by the Forest Service as a community lead river.

NA PRESENTS WIT AWARD TO SECRETARY OLIVER

John Hazel presented a plaque to Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary John Oliver for Kathy Maloney on January 15 in the Rachel Carson State Office Building, headquarters for the DCNR. Secretary Oliver accepted the plaque for Governor Mark Schweiker as a first-place award in the National Timber Bridge Award Competition. This national competition is co-sponsored by the Wood In Transportation Program, APA Engineered Wood Association, the American Institute of Timber Construction, the USDOT Federal Highway Administration, Roads and Bridges Magazine, and the American Wood Preservers Institute Wood In Transportation program. The award was for rehabilitation of the Tohickon Aqueduct in Delaware Canal State Park, Bucks County. **Ed Cesa**, **Jeff Bejune**, and **Roxane Palone** also attended from the MFO.

URBAN FORESTRY NEWS

On January 8, 2003, **Anne Cumming** met with Mike D'Errico in his offices in Trenton, New Jersey, to make plans for the New Jersey 5-year review. The review will take place during the second week in March and will highlight many aspects of the New Jersey Community Forestry Program including a visit with the New Jersey Community Forestry Council, field visits to Camden and Monmouth Counties, and discussion with the entire New Jersey Community Forestry staff. The review team will consist of federal and state urban foresters. Anne attended the New Jersey Community Forestry Council meeting on January 9, 2003, in Freehold, New Jersey. Many topics were covered during their first meeting of 2003. The new commercial urban forestry license plate was displayed and the group discussed its sale throughout the State. Updates were given on the No-Net Loss law, bacterial leaf scorch data collection, the Asian longhorned beetle incident in Jersey City, Tree Expert classes/issues, and the urban forestry short-course offered at Rutgers. The council is excited to be part of the 5-year program review.

PENNSYLVANIA STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REVISING FLEP

John Hazel and **Karen Sykes** attended the Pennsylvania Stewardship Committee meeting at State College on January 23. It was the first time they had the opportunity to meet the wide array of forest landowners and government agency, environmental, and forest products representatives on the committee. Both Forest Legacy and the new Forest Land Enhancement Program(FLEP) were discussed.





Jennifer Newland, Randy Dye, and Kiena Smith (l to r) listen as John Hazel discusses State and Private Forestry programs.

THE MID-ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS PROGRAM: TRANSFORMING THE LEGACY

Morgantown's **John Hazel**, **Lew McCreery**, and **Karen Sykes**, along with West Virginia State Forester Randy Dye, met with Kiena Smith, Executive Director of the Canaan Valley Institute, in Charleston, West Virginia, to exchange information on State and Private Forestry and the Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program (HAP). Jennifer Newland, CVI Research Specialist, gave a presentation on HAP, explaining how the program could be implemented in West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania somewhat like the Chesapeake Bay Program. John, Lew, and Karen discussed NA programs to determine whether State and Private Forestry will have a role if HAP is implemented.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH FORESTRY PROPOSALS REVIEWED

On January 9 and 10, a review panel of Northeastern Area specialists and state partners met in St. Louis, Missouri, to review 40 forest-based economic development special project grant proposals. Team members included **Roxane Palone**, MFO; **Steve Bratkovich**, SPFO; **Lew McCreery**, NA Economic Action Program Manager; Brian Brookshire, Missouri Department of Conservation; and Sarah Smith, University of New Hampshire Extension. Proposals were received from 13 states. The maximum amount of funding per proposal was \$30,000 for a single state and \$50,000 for a multi-state project. Proposals were ranked based on how well they supported sustainable economic development; how they supported federal, state, regional, and local strategic plans; if they would create tangible results; how well they leveraged support and funding; and if they were innovative and demonstrated new concepts. Based on 2003 funding projections, it is estimated that approximately 10 of the special project proposals will be funded. Projects ranged from training immigrant workers to marketing special forest products to promoting the history and culture of wood products.

EMPLOYEE TEACHING COURSE AT WVU

Dan Kincaid (MFO) is teaching a three-hour course entitled, "Public Relations and Media Relations for Natural Resource Managers," at West Virginia University this semester. This is the second time he has taught the course, which is geared specifically for students in the WVU Division of Forestry's programs: Forest Resource Management; Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Wood Industries; and Wildlife & Fisheries.

St. Paul Field Office Notes

THE ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE WELCOMES JILL MAHON

Jill Mahon is the new Coordinator of the Midwest Center for Urban and Community Forestry. Jill is formerly the Community Involvement Coordinator for the State of Vermont where she provided statewide urban forestry assistance to community volunteers, green industry professionals, and regional urban foresters. She has worked as an Urban Forester with the national non-profit organization, American Forests, has been a Community Forester for the City of Wautoma, Wisconsin, and an intern with the City of Milwaukee. In her new role, Jill will provide cutting-edge urban forestry technical assistance to the seven Midwestern states.



MIDWEST URBAN FORESTRY COORDINATION MEETING

Lisa Burban, Urban Forester, and **Jill Mahon**, Midwest Urban Forestry Center Director, hosted a 3-day coordination meeting for urban and community forestry specialists within the Midwestern states. The purpose of the meeting was to share information among State Coordinators and Federal Urban Forestry Coordinators and provide Jill a good foundation as she enters her role as Center Director. Attendees at the meeting included State Urban Forestry Coordinators; Technology Transfer Committee Members; other Area Center Directors; **Mike Carroll**, State Forester for Minnesota; **Phillip Rodbell**, Northeastern Area Urban Forestry Program Manager; **Mike Prouty**, Field Representative; and various St. Paul Field Office staff specialists.



Jill Pokorny and Dwight Scarbrough staffing the booth at the Expo.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE STAFF PROVIDE TECHNICAL INFORMATION AT MINNESOTA GREEN EXPO

Dwight Scarbrough, Entomologist, organized an effort to set up and staff a booth at the Minnesota Green Expo, held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, January 8 through 10, 2003. Several other staff members assisted and provided technical assistance to Green Expo attendees, including: **Scott Olson**, Business Management Assistant, **Mike Majeski**, Hydrologist, **Teri Heyer**, Conservation Education Specialist, **Dennis McDougall**, Forester, **Jill Pokorny**, Plant Pathologist, and **Joe O'Brien**, Plant Pathologist. The Green Expo is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association and the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation, and is attended by

approximately 6,500 people employed by the Green industry, including arborists, landscape contractors, lawn and garden centers, tree care services, and nursery and greenhouse growers. Our staff provided expertise and handed out literature related to exotic insects and diseases, conservation education, urban forestry, and the Backyard Woods program. This event provided our field office with a great opportunity to disseminate many of our publications as well as interact with the diverse groups employed within the Green Industry.

INVASIVE BUCKTHORN REDUCES FOREST LEAF LITTER

A recent study by DePaul University professor Liam Heneghan and the Lake Forest Open Lands Association has revealed that buckthorn leaf litter has high nitrogen content and decomposes more rapidly than the litter of most of Chicagoland's dominant native species. Buckthorn chokes out healthy plant communities by blocking sunlight. But that's only part of the story. Though nitrogen is a critical soil nutrient, the excess nitrogen from decomposing buckthorn leaves causes a significant increase in the rate of decomposition. Heneghan found that, as buckthorn spreads and dominates a preserve, the rate of decomposition of all forest floor material increases dramatically, adding large amounts of nitrogen to the soil very quickly and modifying the soil composition. He concluded that the increase in nitrogen content could have serious negative effects on the survival of many native plants even after the buckthorn is removed. Heneghan found that forest leaf litter virtually disappears each year in the high-nitrogen conditions found in dense buckthorn thickets. As buckthorn encroaches still further, the disappearance of the leaf litter may cause local extinctions of several invertebrate animal species. "This loss in turn may have implications elsewhere in the food chain - affecting the diversity of mammals and birds, for instance," suggests Heneghan. Heneghan's work is supported, in part, by the Northeastern Area Urban and Community Forestry Program. Liam will be hosting an invasive species roundtable on February 13 and will share his latest research findings.



MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF SAF RECOGNIZES TWO ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE EMPLOYEES

The Minnesota Society of American Foresters recognized **Teri Heyer**, Conservation Education Specialist, as the “Outstanding Member of the Year.” This award is in recognition of Teri’s sustained contributions to the Chapter’s success. **Dennis McDougall**, Forester, was recognized for his efforts coordinating the “Natural Resources in the Classroom” project. “Natural Resources in the Classroom” is an activity that matches natural resource professionals with classroom teachers to bring conservation education to schools and schoolchildren.

EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE

Although not yet confirmed by APHIS, **Dr. Robert Haack**, of the North Central Research Station, is fairly positive that ash trees in Toledo, Ohio, are also infested with Emerald ash borer. **Steve Katovich**, Entomologist, has designed a draft survey protocol to detect Emerald ash borer populations in Michigan. In addition, Steve has been contacting other Midwest states such as Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana to initiate informal surveys to detect the insect. The Michigan Department of Agriculture has developed a position description for a public relations specialist dedicated to Emerald ash borer; the position will assist in coordinating information campaigns among agencies and organizations.

PETER BEDKER NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL FIRE PLAN AWARD

Peter Bedker, Natural Resources Analyst, was recently nominated for a National Fire Plan Award in the Technology category. Peter has been instrumental in designing and developing the accomplishment reporting information system for the National Fire Plan as well as information systems for State and Private Forestry.

RESOURCES FOR THE ARBORIST

Lisa Burban, Urban Forester, recently gave a presentation to the 57th Annual Conference of the Midwestern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. Lisa presented “Resources for the Arborist” and provided attendees with descriptions of information products developed by the Northeastern Area and our cooperators that were designed to assist arborists and urban foresters perform their jobs even better.

MIDWEST REGION INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Gina Childs, Information Management and Analysis, gave a presentation about Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry to the Midwest Region’s Annual Inter-Tribal Foresters meeting. The presentation provided information on Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry programs and technical assistance to Tribal Foresters. Attendees were very interested in hearing about the Emerald ash borer as well as the types of technical assistance and publications provided by our field office.

JANUARY WEBSITE STATISTICS FOR THE NORTHEASTERN AREA AND ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE

Our website remains a popular source of information on trees and forestry with over 45,000 people visiting the site. Many must find the information useful, since we received over one million total hits (meaning some visitors visited our site several times.) Our most popular pages include the Silvics Manual, How to Prune Trees, Publications List, Forest Landowners Guide to the Internet, Asian longhorned beetle, and Wildland Fire Training. Most visitors to our website come to us from America Online and Google. The website is a great way to communicate information about trees and forestry to interested people. If you are interested in placing publications or other information on the Northeastern Area website, contact Tim Reynolds at treynolds@fs.fed.us or call him at 651/649-5242.



GREAT LAKES SILVICULTURE SUMMIT

This 3-day meeting will be held April 22 through 23, 2003, in Houghton, Michigan. The Summit will chart a research agenda for the future by bringing together researchers and organizational decision makers responsible for implementing silviculture policy. For more information, visit <http://www.cnr.umn.edu/CCE/events/silviculturesummit/index.html> or contact Louise Yount, (218)879-0858 or lyount@umn.edu.

NATURAL AREAS CONFERENCE: DEFINING A NATURAL AREAS LAND ETHIC

This conference, scheduled for September 24 through 27, 2003, in Madison, Wisconsin, features presentations on natural area identification, protection, and management; restoring natural communities; rare species conservation; developing a land ethic and sense of place; and the following special forums: Landscape Ecology, Large River Systems, Fire Ecology, and Private Lands Protection. In addition, the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin will host an all-day Invasive Plants Symposium on September 27. If you are interested in submitting a paper, an abstract Submission Form (or equivalent) is due April 21, 2003. For more information visit <http://www.naturalarea.org>, <http://216.156.79.173/na/03conf.htm>.

BALANCING ECOLOGY AND ECONOMICS: A START-UP GUIDE FOR FOREST OWNER COOPERATION

To help address some of the challenges faced by private woodland owners, the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives (UWCC), Cooperative Development Services (CDS), and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy's Community Forestry Resource Center (CFRC) have published, "Balancing Ecology and Economics: A Start-up Guide for Forest Owner Cooperation." The 160-page guide is intended to show how private landowners, working together, can improve the ecological conditions of their lands while at the same time improving their own economic well-being and that of the communities in which their forest land is located. The cost of the manual is \$13, plus sales tax for Minnesota residents. For more information about Sustainable Forestry Cooperatives, or to order a copy of "Balancing Ecology and Economics: A Start-Up Guide for Forest Owner Cooperation," please visit <http://www.forestrycenter.org>.

Editor's Corner

THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Dan Kincaid**, **Roxane Palone**, and **Melissa Emerson**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul. For her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web, **Helen Butalla**. Special thanks to Sandy Fosbroke for her extra set of "eyes."

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be **March 14, 2003**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Lewis at talewis@fs.fed.us.

