

Northeastern Area



Monday, November 24, 2003



DIVERSITY ENRICHES US ALL

Diversity...what comes to mind? Is it people, programs, perspectives, or perhaps biological diversity? We work every day with “diversity” in a variety of ways, each presenting us with complex challenges, incredible opportunities, and the potential for greater understanding. Just as we understand the value of bringing multiple programs and activities together to address forest health or watershed restoration, bringing

together people who hold different views, have different skills, and have been influenced by different experiences has value too. It is my firm belief that such diversity enriches us all and enables us to better serve the people of the United States. Merriam Webster’s definition of diverse is, “composed of distinct or unlike elements or qualities” (www.merriamwebster.com). There is no definition for the “value of diversity,” but it might be along the lines of “the value of improved decisions and higher quality service that results from bringing diverse people, thought, and experience together to solve problems in a holistic and integrated manner.” So, a fair question is, “Are we in NA, or the USDA Forest Service as a whole, getting the full value of diversity?”

The Northeastern Area has made progress over the years, statistically, in procurement, program delivery, and to some extent in workforce hiring and retention. In recent years, our progress toward diversity that is comparable to that of the civilian workforce has slowed. We’ve strengthened efforts in outreach and recruitment. With the Northeastern Research Station, we have established a guide for employment outreach. The employment outreach guide is designed to ensure that vacant positions receive the widest outreach possible through contacting and networking with governments, industry, and the private sector to reach the best talent available [April 2003 CR Update]. We can and will do better on this front as we use the guide consistently each and every time we have a vacancy. Our success in bringing greater diversity to candidate pools is an essential step in diversifying!

In addition to statistics, I believe our opportunity to improve on workforce diversity begins with the individuals currently on board. It starts with how we treat one another, the respect and deference we give to and share with one another, and the value we place on each of our contributions to meeting the missions of the Northeastern Area and the Forest Service. Regionally, we benefit from collaborating not only with our partners, but also with the Forest Service units in the Northeastern and Midwestern United States, namely the Eastern Region of the National Forest System and the two Forest Service research stations (North Central and Northeastern). There are tremendous opportunities for us to work with and learn from each other. Collectively, we are much more effective than we are individually, and hence we realize the value of our diversity. The leadership of these Forest Service units has committed to increased collaboration and coordination.

We have to do better in working with one another to achieve our goals. Together, let’s showcase all of our talents, backgrounds, and perspectives. The resources we steward and the people we serve will be the beneficiaries.

Kathy Maloney



FOREST SERVICE ADDRESSES AND ADDS VALUE TO MAJOR ISSUES

When you notice a tract of forest being converted to a housing development, do you feel disappointment over the permanent loss of natural scenery or the lost opportunity to stroll through the land? This type of reaction is spurring a land protection movement throughout the country. The term “land protection” describes the legal means by which land is maintained in its current land use and is prohibited from conversion to specific uses such as residential or industrial. The conservation easement is the predominant tool used to protect land. A conservation easement (or conservation restriction) is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values.

Since passage of the 1990 Farm Bill, in which a number of new Cooperative Forestry programs were enacted, the Forest Service has been adding value to the land conservation effort. The Forest Legacy Program is implemented with State and nonprofit partners to purchase conservation easements on forest land so that the land is protected but remains privately owned. The companion Forest Stewardship Program establishes standards for forest management plans, which ensure that private forest landowners follow professional advice when managing their lands according to their chosen objectives. These Federal partnership efforts address forest fragmentation, which has been identified as a major issue by the Northeastern Area State Foresters and by the Chief of the Forest Service in his list of “great issues of the early 21st century” (http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/2003/apr25/index.html).

The completely voluntary Forest Legacy Program has expanded from 6 initial States in 1992 to 34 active States today, with a handful of States currently conducting Assessments of Need to become eligible for Forest Legacy funds. More than 370,000 acres have been protected with the Forest Legacy Program nationwide. Here in the Northeastern Area, 13 of our 16 active States have completed 108 projects to protect 204,000 acres of nationally recognized important forest land. We are on the verge of protecting 500,000 additional acres in the Northeastern Area before the year is out.

Land protection movement participants include State and local governments and nonprofit organizations that are, coincidentally, our partners. Land trusts are qualified organizations under Internal Revenue Service rules that can receive donations and hold conservation easements in perpetuity. The number of land trusts and, correspondingly, the number of conservation easements, has grown tremendously since the Tax Reform Act of 1976 explicitly recognized donated conservation easements as tax deductible.

“Cost of Community Services” studies appear to have spurred action in local and State governments to enact bond measures to protect locally important land. These studies generally show that open space property tax revenues exceed the costs required to service open space. Thus, open space tax revenues help pay for community services on developed land. The bond measures enable local governments to purchase conservation easements.

The Land Trust Alliance, a national organization that supports the Nation's 1,200-plus nonprofit land trusts, reports on their Web site (www.lta.org):

“Voters in 93 communities in 22 States approved on Nov. 5 (2002) ballot measures that committed \$2.9 billion to acquire and restore land for parks and open space. The successful measures were among 109 conservation measures considered on State and local ballots across the United States. On Nov. 5 alone, voters approved 85 percent of the referenda on which they voted.”

People want open space strongly enough to pay to protect it.

Through the Cooperative Forestry Act, the Northeastern Area is addressing the major issues of the early 21st century as an innovative organization heavily dependent on partnerships. The Forest Legacy Program offers substantial results from which we can substitute that sense of disappointment of forest loss with a sense of accomplishment of conserving forest land for future generations.





Born of Dreams— Inspired by Freedom

CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT

The “*Centennial of Flight*” celebration continues as another milestone in aviation is reached. Between 1900 and 1902, the Wright Brothers built three gliders, testing them over the sands of Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, a location that was ideal

because of its high winds, tall dunes, and plenty of sand for soft landings. Early in 1902, their third full-scale glider completed 1,000 flights, remaining airborne for as long as 26 seconds and covering distances of up to 622.5 feet. The characteristic of these flights was limited to that of a nearly straight compass heading. However, October 8, 1902, marks the historic event when a ‘non-powered’ glider took its first flight—testing the roll, pitch, and yaw controls of the glider. These fundamental controls, which are used for turning, banking, and increasing and decreasing altitude, are used on aircraft today. Prior to the invention of these controls, a glider was launched and only straight-line flight was attainable. As aircraft manufacturers applied technology in navigating through the sky, it became important to ‘flight-follow,’ or know where the aircraft was located at all times during flight.

Within the Forest Service today, Dan Zimmerman, Area Aviation Officer, explains how we continue to reach milestones in aviation that further contribute toward greater safety during flight operations. In order to monitor and track aircraft utilized on forestry projects, the Northeastern Area has been selected to test the Web-based Windstream Automated Flight-Following System. Field Aviation Officers testing the system continue to use radio flight-following procedures during the test. Eventually, such a system will become a part of flight operations and base-tracking dispatch operations. Applying this advanced technology results in enhanced safety and greater flight monitoring during our aviation operations. The actual 100th anniversary of powered flight remains only 2 months away.

GROWING NATIVE

October marked the third annual GROWING NATIVE event, a program borne of the Potomac Watershed Partnership. The Partnership is a watershed restoration and stewardship venture between State and Private Forestry (NA and R8), Virginia Department of Forestry, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Quality, George Washington-Jefferson National Forest, Ducks Unlimited, and the Potomac Conservancy to preserve the health of the Potomac River watershed.



Due to an increase in forest restoration efforts in the Chesapeake Bay region, native seedling stocks are in short supply. GROWING NATIVE is a widespread, volunteer-led search for tree seeds. The collected seeds are then grown at State nurseries and transplanted in streamside reforestation project. This program is a wonderful outreach tool and educational opportunity for all ages. The lesson is that trees help clean water, so “Get Nuts for Clean Water” is one of the program’s popular slogans.

At a GROWING NATIVE awards celebration held October 29 at the American Horticultural Society headquarters, the USDA Forest Service presented awards for the:

- Largest Seed Collection
- Largest Amount of Seed Collected
- Most Innovative Application of GROWING NATIVE to an Educational Curriculum
- Most Diverse Selection of Species Collected
- Most Creative Community Outreach

This year, the program yielded record numbers of volunteers and seeds. More than 6,000 volunteers collected eighteen thousand pounds of seed. Of the 20-odd species desired, there was even an overabundance of one—*Juglans nigra*, the black walnut seed. Each year, the program grows to fill a new need. This year, the emphasis was on backyard collections in parks and other public places, and next year, the emphasis may be on harder-to-find species. There is



interest in seeing this very practical and successful applied education program grow into one that is national in scope. Regardless of whether that happens, the program will continue to “grow native” in the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

Durham Field Office Notes

DOUBLE EFFORT FOR DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

The Durham Field Office and Research Lab and USDA-Durham partner Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) were treated to two Civil Rights events in October in celebration of Disabilities Awareness Month.

All-Terrain Wheelchair Demonstration — The unveiling and demonstration of Durham’s new all-terrain wheelchair highlighted the first event, which leveraged the success of the wheelchair purchase and the partnership effort conceived and driven by **John Parry**, Urban and Community Forester. The wheelchair, purchased with Civil Rights funding, will be available for use at no charge for Forest Service and State partner events and site visits.

“Outdoor workshops and other events can be difficult for wheelchair users,” John observed. “We wanted to open accessibility to these users and also spur other wheelchair users to participate in our events. We often approach accessibility by changing grades and surfaces. The variability of the outdoors required a different approach, and an all-terrain wheelchair for shared use by the Forest Service and its partners helps address this. Civil Rights funding gave us the capacity to go ahead with a good idea.”

The wheelchair event celebrated Durham’s new partnership with a group that is an expert in disability and accessibility issues — Northeast Passage (www.nepassage.org), a self-funded program at the University of New Hampshire. Northeast Passage “works to create an environment where individuals with disabilities can recreate with the same freedom of choice and independence as their able-bodied peers.” They offer expertise and group outings for the disabled, as well as adaptive equipment for loan.



David Lee of Northeast Passage demonstrates adjustments on the chair for Forest Service and NRCS participants.

Northeast Passage lead the wheelchair presentation, which included an introductory video that showed its patrons water skiing, cycling, playing hockey, on group hikes, and in other recreational pursuits. The audience saw how Northeast Passage made opportunity virtually limitless for those it serves. David Lee, Northeast Passage’s Executive Director, noted that achieving accessibility requires them to be creative and inventive, first and foremost. He warned to look not at barriers, but at the outdoor pursuit sought, the equipment available, and any adaptations needed to get the job done.

*“This is the ideal we want for Civil Rights events,” **Bob Fitzhenry**, Chair of the Durham Civil Rights Committee, emphasized. “We bring in a partner to celebrate their efforts and the work of peer leaders such as John Parry. The outcome lasts beyond basic awareness to become real knowledge and contacts for the job. John gets all the credit for this one. He’s an innovator.”*

Once the tire kicking was over, Forest Service and NRCS participants moved outside for an off-road test of the Forest Service chair and a hand-cycle brought by Northeast Passage. With just a quick tour of the grounds, those experiencing the adaptive equipment got a real sense of opportunities and limitations, both as a user and for the



equipment. Wheelchair user **Brian Linvill** from NRCS appreciated the added stability of the chair over grass and terrain transitions, but noted the extra effort needed to keep the heavy-duty chair rolling as compared to his everyday chair.

The event presented wheelchair user **Dennis Kathios** of the Durham Field Office with a wealth of possibilities. *"It was a real eye opener for me,"* Dennis observed. *"I had no idea such chairs existed. I look forward to using the all-terrain chair to access some of my favorite fishing spots in the mountains. The chair's ease of use will help make the experience more enjoyable and relaxing."* Just the thing Northeast Passage had in mind.



Dennis Kathios of the Durham Field Office utilizes a hand-cycle, one of many pieces of adaptive equipment for loan by Northeast Passage.



Cross-country skiing is an option for wheelchair users, as shown by Crystal Chalich of Northeast Passage.

Door to Door Video—October's second event was the lunchtime showing of the TNT television movie *Door to Door*, which chronicled the life of Bill Porter, who triumphed over cerebral palsy to become a successful salesman.

"The movie was excellent," noted viewer **Bill Frament**, Remote Sensing Technician. *"It really showed that, with spirit and the right attitude, we can accomplish nearly anything."* **Sherri Wormstead**, Sustainability Assistant, agreed. *"Both Door to Door and the presentation by Northeast Passage showed us the strength of human will."*



Cindy Ash is Durham's new plant pathologist.

CINDY ASH JOINS FOREST HEALTH STAFF

The Durham Field Office recently welcomed plant pathologist **Cindy Ash, Ph.D.**, to the Forest Health staff. Cindy comes to New Hampshire from Minnesota, where she has lived and built her career since high school.

Cindy earned her master's degree working with Robert Stack at North Dakota State University on Botryodiplodia canker of American elm. Her doctorate is from the University of Minnesota, where she studied Verticillium wilt of maple and ash, and worked on disease transmission using woodchip mulches under the guidance of Thor Kommedahl and Neil Anderson.

For the last 7 years, Cindy served as the Director of Scientific Services for the American Phytopathological Society (APS), where she was highly respected by APS members, boards, committees, and the staff at APS headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota. That respect was earned through expert knowledge and hard work. As Cindy notes, *"Until I started at APS, I had no idea how much went on behind the scenes to keep a society up and running; it's amazing."*



During her time at APS, Cindy also volunteered with forestry programs at the University of Minnesota and lead development of the Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course's Tree House of Horrors (THOH). The large THOH display of "tree pieces" presents learning situations ranging from disease and insect identification and management to proper pruning and planting.

When she's not working, you'll find Cindy out in her garden or off on a weekend trip hiking, biking, canoeing, or cross-country skiing. Of her arrival to New England, Cindy observes, *"I didn't think there could be any place more beautiful than Minnesota, but I may have found an equal!"* Although she will miss the grasses and wildflowers of the Plains prairies, Cindy looks forward to exploring the White Mountains and the seacoast.

STEWARDSHIP OF WOODLANDS IN URBANIZING AREAS WORKSHOP



Peter Lammert, Utilization Forester, Maine Forest Service, dazzled the audience with his array of alternative forest products.

Durham's Forest Fragmentation/Urban Sprawl Working Group (**John Parry, Roger Monthey, Deirdre Raimo, Tom Luther, and Susan Cox**) recently hosted a workshop for 45 State staff members and partners from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, representing Urban Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy, Forest Planning, Utilization, and other State programs. The 3-day workshop, entitled "Stewardship of Woodlands in Urbanizing Areas," was designed to provide a forum to interact and address an emerging issue that is common to all program areas. Following presentations on program activity and projects underway in each State, participants interacted with speakers on a variety of exciting topics ranging from "Utilization of Municipal Trees" to "Fire Wise Communities" to "Harvesting on Small Woodlots." A highlight of the event was an afternoon field trip hosted by the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands that included stops at (1) the Creek Farm Project—a Society for the

Protection of New Hampshire Forests case study in protecting and managing land in an urbanizing environment; (2) the Town of Rye, New Hampshire, Cooperative Forest Management Project; and (3) a walking tour of the Stewardship Education and Outreach activities at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth.

Participants, many of whom raved about the quality of the workshop, concluded with a brainstorming session on possible future workshop topics. As a result of this workshop, the New England chapter of SAF has expressed interest in addressing this topic at their 2004 meeting in Québec, Canada.

MASSACHUSETTS FILLS TOP FORESTER SPOT

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry, recently welcomed **Jim DiMaio** as the new State Forester. A Massachusetts native, Jim received a B.S. in Forest Management from the University of Massachusetts and has continuing education credits from Colorado State University, Oregon State University, and the University of Washington towards a master's degree in silviculture. Jim served as a Peace Corps volunteer for over 2 years in Niger, West Africa. As a long-term Forest Service employee, Jim held a variety of positions with the agency, including certified silviculturist, district ranger, forest program leader, and, most recently, forest planner. He served on national forests in New Hampshire, Michigan, California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, as well as with the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program in New England.



Grey Towers Notes



Pictured cutting the ribbon are, from left: John Nordin (NA), Sen. Charles Lemmond, Ed Brannon (Grey Towers), and Al Sample (Pinchot Institute).

PENNSYLVANIA SENATOR CHARLES LEMMOND HONORED AT GREY TOWERS AS LETTER BOX IS DEDICATED

A new conservation education center at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark was dedicated this fall in a ceremony that also paid tribute to Pennsylvania Senator Charles Lemmond and celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.

The dedication marked completion of the renovation and restoration of the Letter Box, a small building on the grounds of Grey Towers that will be used to launch new and expanded conservation education and research projects. Formerly serving as Gov. Gifford Pinchot's archives and office space for his staff, the Letter Box now has state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, research and meeting space, and an area for programs.

The Letter Box will continue now as a home for conservation education and outreach programs that will be delivered cooperatively by the Forest Service and the Pinchot Institute.

Honored at the dedication ceremony was Pennsylvania Senator Charles Lemmond, who has been a supporter of the activities at Grey Towers since he began representing the district in 1985. Most recently, he helped the Forest Service and the Pinchot Institute secure grant money from the Commonwealth to complete the renovation of the Letter Box.

"Senator Lemmond has been a champion of Grey Towers for nearly 20 years," said Grey Towers Director Edgar Brannon. "This tribute is but a small gesture to show our appreciation for all he has done for us and for natural resource conservation over the years."



Sen. Charles Lemmond at the podium.

The evening also was a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation. On September 24, 1963, President John F. Kennedy publicly accepted the gift of Grey Towers from the Pinchot family to the Forest Service and designated it as the home of the Pinchot Institute. *"Every great work is in the shadow of a man,"* President Kennedy had stated to a crowd of about 10,000. *"And I don't think many Americans can point to such a distinguished record as can Gifford Pinchot. (The Pinchot) Institute, which is only the latest manifestation of a most impressive legacy, can serve as a welcome reminder of how much we still have to do in our time,"* Kennedy had remarked.

An additional public program was held earlier at Grey Towers to commemorate the historic Presidential visit and to honor the Pinchot Institute's 40th anniversary. This public program included a brief description of the Pinchot Institute and why Kennedy came to Grey Towers to dedicate this as its home. A video of the historic Kennedy visit was shown. Program participants who wanted to share their memories of the 1963 Kennedy visit were able to record their thoughts in a guest register.

Visitors to Grey Towers can see the Letter Box renovations and exhibits, including mementos from the JFK visit and a display of different artistic renditions of the building. Eventually the display will include select artifacts, including Gifford's canoe, an 1899 map of the United States, original political cartoons related to Pinchot's fight for conservation, and his set of Audubon volumes, all of which are awaiting conservation treatment.



PINCHOT INTERESTS COME “OFF THE SHELF” THROUGH PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Grey Towers’ Off The Shelf program is a popular outreach program that offers events, lectures, presentations, and discussions about any topic from a book taken “off the shelf” of the historic Pinchot library collection. Some programs held this fall included:

- The Gifford Pinchot Chapter of the National Audubon Society hosted a program about the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge. Steve Kahl, acting manager of the wildlife refuge located in Sussex, New Jersey, presented a program on the specific challenges of managing the refuge habitat. He focused his presentation on grassland birds, invasive species, and the unique conflicts and issues of the refuge.
- The Eagle Institute presented a program that illustrated the important role that the Delaware River plays in the comeback and survival of the northeast’s eagle population and explained why more than 150 eagles spend their winters in the region.
- Forest Service staff, as a post-Halloween program, delivered a family program that shared information about bats. Youngsters created bat “skeletons,” while their parents viewed a video that dispelled many bat myths.
- Two public programs on hawk migration helped both the novice and the expert birder during the annual fall hawk migration season. A program entitled “*Hawk Migration: What To Look For and the Tools Available*,” was offered by **Jim Lockyer** of the Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, office. Jim discussed and illustrated through a PowerPoint presentation hawk migration in southeastern Pennsylvania. He also explained how today’s technology is used to monitor hawk migration. The following morning, the Gifford Pinchot Audubon Society led a hawk watch to a nearby mountaintop, where participants witnessed the migratory flight of nearly 500 hawks.

GREY TOWERS CONFERENCE CENTER HAS A BUSY FALL

The meeting rooms and conference facilities at Grey Towers were utilized extensively throughout the fall, with the Forest Service and other government agencies, groups, and organizations meeting on topics ranging from leadership to invasive plants. The conference facility is available to any group or organization with a natural resource mission whose work will help carry on the Gifford Pinchot conservation legacy. Some of the groups hosted at Grey Towers this fall included:

- ❖ National Fire and Aviation Management Directors
- ❖ NA Forest Inventory and Analysis
- ❖ Cooperative Forestry Review Team
- ❖ Forest Service Ranger Training
- ❖ Delaware River Basic Commission
- ❖ The Nature Conservancy
- ❖ SEPA Forest Resource Association and Susquehanna Landowners Association
- ❖ Tongass National Forest Leadership Team
- ❖ Pinchot Institute Board of Directors
- ❖ Green Mountain/Finger Lakes National Forest Planning Team
- ❖ Pennsylvania Forestry Association
- ❖ United Nations International Forestry Foundation
- ❖ Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Conservation Bureau of Forestry



Members of the Tongass National Forest Leadership Team at Grey Towers.



GREY TOWERS OFFERS CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO REGIONAL SCHOOL CHILDREN

Nearly 700 school children visited Grey Towers this fall to take part in conservation education programs. Ranging in age from pre-school to high school, students from the Tri-State area learned about Gifford Pinchot and Forest Service history and experienced hands-on learning about forest ecosystems. Smokey Bear was on hand several times this fall to promote fire safety. All conservation education programs at Grey Towers are aimed at fostering a sense of stewardship in young people that will hopefully continue through their lives.



Students from Delaware Valley High School test water quality in a stream on Grey Towers' property as part of the conservation education program.



Middle school students are instructed on a "Tree Trivia" game that they will "play" along the Forestry Trail at Grey Towers.

Morgantown Field Office Notes

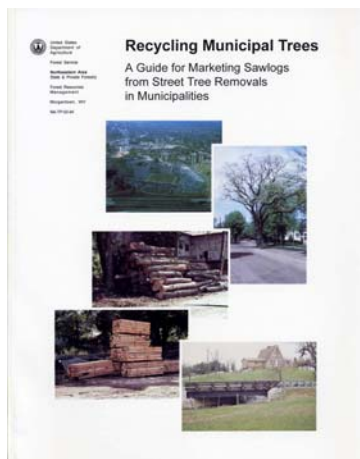
MORGANTOWN SURPASSES CFC EXPECTATIONS

NA and NE employees of the Morgantown Field Office participated in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) from October 6th through November 17th. They raised \$9,188, which surpassed the goal of \$7,500 by 22.5 percent! Campaign activities included several rounds of Bingo, a silent auction that netted over \$300, and a (soon-to-be-held) drawing for a reserved parking space in the visitor parking lot. Campaign co-chair **John Hazel**, **Barb Morgan**, and **Sandy Fosbroke** were the keyworkers who coordinated this year's campaign.

RECENT ISSUE OF CROSSINGS, THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL WOOD IN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, HIGHLIGHTS MICHIGAN'S FIRST TIMBER BRIDGE COMMERCIALIZATION PROJECT

A recent commercialization project in Michigan was described in the feature article in the summer issue of Crossings. The last of five timber bridges, funded through one grant, was completed this summer. Four of the five structures were single-span vehicular bridges constructed from locally available red pine. The fifth bridge was a timber truss pedestrian bridge. **Jeff Bejune** worked with local partners from Michigan to develop the article and a detailed fact sheet about the project. <http://www.fs.fed.us/na/wit/pdf/crossings/cross44.pdf>





POPULAR URBAN WOOD UTILIZATION PUBLICATION UPDATED AND REPRINTED

The publication, *Recycling Municipal Trees: A Guide for Marketing Sawlogs from Street Tree Removals in Municipalities*, authored by **Ed Cesa** and Ed Lempicki, New Jersey Forest Service, was recently updated and reprinted. During this summer, **Jeff Bejune**, Forest Products Technologist, spent a considerable amount of time updating contact and related information in the Appendixes, expanding the portable sawmill list and metal detector list, and developing a new case study that highlights Citilogs, Inc., located in Irwing, New Jersey, (<http://www.citilogs.com/>). This urban wood utilization company processes urban sawlogs from northern New Jersey into high-value products such as flooring, millwork, and wainscoting. Copies of the revised publication are available by contacting Ed Cesa (ecesa@fs.fed.us) or Helen Wassick (hwassick@fs.fed.us).

St. Paul Field Office Notes

HELPING TEACHERS TO BECOME FIREWISE

Teri Heyer, Conservation Education Specialist, coordinated a shared exhibit highlighting “Living With Fire: Making Wise Choices” at the National Science Teacher’s Association regional convention, held October 30 through November 1, 2003, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The exhibit was a joint effort between the Northeastern Area and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). More than 2,000 K-12 science teachers attended the convention. The exhibit featured the Natural Inquirer’s fire issue and the newly printed “Living with Fire: Making Wise Choices” poster. Teachers were enthusiastic about the Natural Inquirer, because it features the scientific method and highlights authentic research and the researcher behind the science. It is also a great way to bring literature to the science classroom. The DNR handed out other posters and information about Project Learning Tree-Fire Ecology workshops, Project Wild, Project WET, and the teacher editions of the Volunteer conservation magazine.

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE IN THE NEWS

There is a great story about smokejumpers assisting in New York and Chicago. Manfred Mielke, Forest Health Monitoring, started this yearly tradition by training and coordinating smokejumpers to climb trees and look for Asian longhorned beetles during their off-season. What do smokejumpers do when the snow flies and the summer wildfires subside? For more of this story, logon to <http://missoulain.com/articles/2003/11/14/news/local/znews02.txt>.

EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE

- **New Hire – Katie Armstrong** -- The Northeastern Area has hired Katie Armstrong as the Emerald Ash Borer Liaison in Michigan. Katie is a southeast Michigan native and has a Bachelor’s Degree in Forestry and a Master’s in Urban Studies and Forestry from Michigan State University. Katie previously served as the Emerald Ash Borer Outreach Coordinator for the Greening of Detroit, a nonprofit urban forestry organization. Katie’s responsibilities will focus on 1) outreach to communities for restoration activities, 2) serving as the USDA Forest Service partnership liaison to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture, and 3) being the USDA Forest Service representative for emerald ash borer in Michigan. Katie can be contacted at: 810-844-2714.



- **Firewood Alert Posters** -- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has a large supply of the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area Firewood Alert posters to help you in your communications efforts. The posters are full-color on 8 ½ x 11 weather-treated paper. These posters are great, not only to hang up inside a building, but also outside a building if necessary. If you would like a supply of posters, please contact Kevin Sayers at 517-241-4632 or SayersK@Michigan.gov.
- **EAB Unwanted Poster**-- The new EAB “Unwanted” poster, produced by Michigan State University (MSU) and the USDA Forest Service, is now available for those needing or wanting educational material to hand out. MSU currently has a supply of 30,000 available. The clever 20- by 26-inch poster looks like an old-fashioned wanted poster except this poster states “Unwanted: Emerald Ash Borer.” Those wanting copies can contact Robin Milsap at 517-432-1555 ext.169 or millsap@msu.edu.
- **Deer Hunting Firewood Outreach** -- The Emerald Ash Borer Communications Committee is once again organizing a firewood outreach and regulatory activity, this time for the opening of (firearm) deer hunting season. This outreach and regulatory event includes:
 1. *Michigan Department of Natural Resources assistance with education.* Firewood/quarantine information will be available at select DNR Operation Service Centers and Deer Hunter Welcome Centers.
 2. *Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA)/USDA regulatory firewood checkpoints.* Field staff from the MDA and USDA will staff firewood checkpoints at select rest stops at the perimeter of the quarantine. Any firewood leaving the quarantine will be seized.

In The News

- **United States Cities Lost 20 Percent of Trees in Last 10 Years** -- According to an analysis of satellite images done by American Forests, United States cities have 20 percent fewer trees than they had 10 years ago. The study looked at 448 urban areas. The worst tree loss occurred in the fastest-growing cities of the American Sunbelt (in the South and Southwest of the country). <http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/22281/story.htm>.
- **Environmentalists Seek to Protect Endangered Dragonfly** -- Environmental groups want the government to designate critical habitat for the Hine's emerald dragonfly. The rare insect lives in fewer than 50 sites in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Missouri, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Those sites include forests, wetlands, and shallow streams that drain into wet meadows and marshes near limestone deposits. The largest population is found in natural areas of Wisconsin's Door County. In Wisconsin, it is also found in Kewaunee and Ozaukee counties. <http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/news/local/states/wisconsin/7159732.htm>.

WISCONSIN SEEKS TO CERTIFY STATE FORESTS

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking Forest Stewardship Council-(FSC)endorsed certification for their State Forest program. During the early and middle 20th century, the Wisconsin State Forests were created from a combination of private donations and public funding to maintain watersheds and unique ecosystems in Wisconsin and manage forests for long-term sustainable use. Currently, Wisconsin State Forests encompass more than 490,000 acres of publicly owned forests, including the following State Forests that fall under the scope of this evaluation: Black River State Forest, Brule River, Coulee Experimental, Flambeau River, Governor Knowles, Kettle Moraine-Northern and Southern Units, Northern Highland/American Legion, Peshtigo River, and Point Beach. Scientific Certification Systems, an FSC-accredited certification body based in Emeryville, California, will conduct this evaluation. Performance will be evaluated against the FSC Lake States-Central Hardwoods Regional Standard, which has been officially endorsed by FSC International.



Editor's Corner

THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick** and **Dan Zimmerman**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Barbara Morgan** and **Sandy Fosbroke**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web; and to **Sandy Fosbroke** for an extra “eye.”

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **December 12, 2003**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Lewis at talewis@fs.fed.us.

