



Northeastern Area News Notes



May 29, 2008



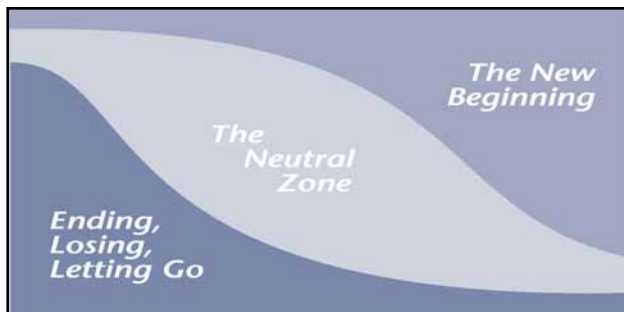
From the Director's Desk

“Change”

This time last year, the title of this piece was **The Constant**. The constant we were talking about was change. And let there be no doubt—change is still happening today. Some would have us get on with it and move on while others may resist change altogether, or be indifferent to it. Each of these reactions is to be expected! Our challenge is to work together to move all of NA to delivering our mission results in new and different ways.

Managing Transitions by William Bridges will give you a little perspective on how the Forest Service is approaching change. There are literally thousands of approaches to managing change, and each of us may have our own ideas about which change model is the best. The model the Agency has chosen to pursue is rooted in Bridges' writings.

The sense of loss associated with movement away from “the way we have always done it” and the sense of excitement associated with the promise of new approaches and successes are real and appropriate. So is the sense of anxiety associated with moving from the familiar to the unfamiliar!



Graphic obtained from <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/change/changeconsultants/resources/TransitionStrategies> (20-slide Powerpoint presentation). This image is also used in *Managing Transitions* (2nd Edition) by William Bridges.

Bridges' book begins with, “It isn't the changes that do you in, it's the transitions.” And that transitional period—the neutral zone—is where we are with many of the changes we are currently experiencing. While the neutral zone seems to be the most turbulent and unclear, this phase provides the most opportunities for achieving results.

Neutral? This is a misnomer for sure! Lots of things happen in the neutral zone. You may try to rush through it, or even ignore it, and in the end become discouraged when it doesn't work out quite the way you had planned. You

may become frightened in the “no man's land” and try to escape or abandon the situation, and risk losing the opportunity to effect a real change.

Bridges provides a path for managing the transition out of the neutral zone, and has defined four rules to help us refocus our energies towards achieving success:

Rule 1: Be Consistent—Every policy, procedure, and list of priorities sends a message, but if you aren't careful, your messages will be conflicting ones.



Rule 2: Ensure Quick Successes—Believers may begin to doubt, and doubters may turn into critics. The doubters then have a field day. Quick successes reassure the believers, convince the doubters, and confound the critics.

Rule 3: Symbolize the New Identity—Symbolism contributes to success. It conveys a message that reinforces the new identity being established in the new organizational beginning. Every thing means something.

Rule 4: Celebrate the Success—Take time to celebrate arriving at your destination. The timing may seem arbitrary, but when you feel that the majority of people have a new sense of purpose, that a new system is in place, or that a new sense of identity is established, celebrate the end of the transition.

Members of the NA Executive Team have perhaps the greatest responsibilities to follow Bridges' rules and are working hard to do so. At the same time, every NA employee, and even our partners, will contribute to our successful changes by greater awareness of the change process and by willingly helping each other through the process.

Economist John Galbraith once said, "Faced with the choice between changing one's mind and proving that there is no need to do so, almost everybody gets busy on the proof." Instead, let's get busy with the change!

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director



Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Facts to Ponder:

While late spring and summer are prime times to enjoy the great outdoors, these are also the seasons when air quality suffers the most. A variety of factors generally affects air quality, including the pollution your community emits (by factories, power plants, cars, trucks, and wildfires, among others), the pollution that wind currents carry into your community, and local weather conditions.

Ozone, the most common form of ground-level pollution (a hazard for everyone, but especially the very young and old, and those with asthma), forms when nitrous oxides (NO_x) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are heated by the sun. NO_x and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) also contribute to particulate formation. So what does this mean for you and your family? Read on...

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>...air quality conditions are:</i>	<i>...as symbolized by this color:</i>
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon

Actions to Take:

- First, reduce your exposure to these harmful air pollutants by exercising or doing yard work early in the morning or later in the evening; air quality improves dramatically when the sun is not baking the pollution into ozone.
- Consult the air quality index, especially if you have asthma or heart or lung disease, to determine daily air quality and plan your activities accordingly. Use the air quality index to determine when you should make changes to your routine (available online at <http://www.airnow.gov/>).
- Keep in mind that energy use is a leading driver of air pollution—electricity often comes from coal-fired power plants. By limiting your energy consumption and taking some other simple actions, you can help reduce ground-level ozone, smog, and particulate formation:
 - Limit your use of air conditioning (keeping it set at a higher temperature will also save you a lot of money).
 - Choose a cleaner commute whenever possible (public transport, carpool, bike, or walk).
 - Use a push (self-powered) lawn mower—great for you and great for the environment (plus the grass clippings are good for your lawn; they are 90 percent water and decompose quickly, returning their nutrients to the soil). Better yet, replace your lawn with trees and native plants that don't need mowing. Or at least mow your lawn in the evening, or on days when air quality is better.
 - Buy low VOC paints for indoor and outdoor painting needs.
 - Keep your vehicle well maintained, keep your tires filled, and replace your car's air filter and oil regularly.
 - Avoid burning leaves and trash.
 - Properly dispose of household paints, solvents, and pesticides.
 - For more tips, check out the EPA's Air Quality Awareness Web site at <http://epa.gov/airnow/airaware/>.



Newtown Square

Postal Service's Stamp of Approval for the Forest Legacy Program



Attendees of the First Day of Sale and Stamp Ceremony could purchase special envelopes with the stamp and special cancellation marks commemorating the event.

The United States Postal Service commemorated the 13-Mile Woods II Forest Legacy Project with an international stamp in the Scenic American Landscapes series. A "First Day of Sale and Stamp Ceremony" was held May 16, 2008, at the Mollidgewock State Park in Errol, NH. **Neal Bungard** attended the ceremony to represent the Northeastern Area and the Forest Legacy Program. The 72-cent stamp was available for sale at the event along with other items depicting the stamp art. The stamp features the sunrise over the Androscoggin River on the property and will cover postage on letters mailed to Canada or Mexico. The 13-

Mile Woods II property joins the scenic and iconic landscapes of Yosemite, Great Smoky Mountains, and Bryce Canyon National Parks in the ongoing series that debuted in 1999. A conservation easement protected the 5,316-acre 13-Mile Woods II property in 2005 with the help of \$1,640,000 from the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program (FLP). The Town of Errol, NH, now owns the property, which is commonly referred to as Errol Town Forest. The 13-Mile Woods II property includes 8 miles of frontage along the Androscoggin River, and is adjacent to the 2,774-acre 13-Mile Woods FLP project, which was protected in 1997. The conservation easement held by the State allows for the continuation of forest management, recreational activities, and the protection of wildlife habitat.

Northeastern Area's Living Memorials Project Garners National Award

The Northeastern Area's Living Memorials Project was one of four recipients of the Arbor Day Foundation's 2008 Project Award. Project Awards recognize outstanding collaborative efforts involving tree planting and environmental stewardship.

The Living Memorials Project honors the losses of September 11, 2001. This congressionally supported initiative invokes the power of trees to bring people together and create lasting, living memorials to the victims of terrorism and their families, communities, and nations. To date, the project has recorded more than 600 Living Memorial sites in all 50 States as well as the United Kingdom, France, Japan, and Australia.



Matt Arnn, Robin Morgan, Kathy Maloney, and Phillip Rodbell display the National Arbor Day Foundation Project Award earned by the Living Memorials Project.

The Living Memorials Project supports a network of people and places dedicated to the heroes and victims of 9/11. The gardens and parks established through this project help restore hope and



foster healing in family, friends, and neighbors. Online tools and resources have been tapped more than a million times, helping project planners, designers, residents, and investors become engaged in local initiatives. These materials have motivated people to create green spaces that draw in visitors, leaving them stronger and more resilient, proud, and forward-looking. This is the power of the landscape—trees, water, stone, and pathways guiding and embracing travelers, slowing them to the point of reflection.

NA's Wood Education and Resource Center Awards Grants

NA Director Kathryn Maloney announced Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) grants totaling more than \$1.5 million for 23 competitively selected projects. The grants encourage innovation and the sharing of processing and marketing knowledge with wood products manufacturers in the Eastern United States. The primary goal of the grants is to keep local wood businesses globally competitive and sustainable.

WERC awarded grants to organizations in South Carolina, Wisconsin, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, Maine, Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Ten projects address increasing the hardwood industry's economic competitiveness, six focus on woody biomass use, four focus on education, and three pertain to urban wood use and invasive species control.

WERC serves the primary and secondary hardwood manufacturing industries of the 35 States in the eastern hardwood forest region. Its mission is to work with the forest products industry toward sustainable forest products production. It provides state-of-the-art training, technology transfer, networking opportunities, applied research, and information.

Durham Field Office

New Hampshire Training Program Participants Attend Final Session



Pictured from left to right are Sara Head (NH PLT) Susan Cox, Erin Hollingsworth (NH PLT), Ina Ahern, Esther Cowles (NH PLT), and Kathy McGlaufflin (PLT).

The fourth and final session of the *Forest for Every Class* (FFEC) training program in New Hampshire was held May 9-10. Lindsay Rustad (Northern Research Station) presented climate change information, and the teachers collected bud burst data and used Hubbard Brook phenology data for a data analysis exercise. The teachers also presented their FFEC projects. Two teams of teachers will be utilizing school grounds and surrounding forests as outdoor classrooms as well as incorporating forest studies into their science curriculum. One teacher has already begun a forestry unit, and his students are working on a white pine regeneration study. The New Hampshire *Forest for Every Class* training program is a partnership between



New Hampshire Project Learning Tree; the U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area, Northern Research Station, and White Mountain National Forest; National Wildlife Foundation; and Hubbard Brook Research Foundation.

***Forest for Every Class* Teacher Wins Award**

Ina Ahern, a participant in the New Hampshire *Forest For Every Class* (FFEC) Institute, is a Project Learning Tree Teacher of the Year. Ina's passion has always been teaching environmental science, but she credits the FFEC with greatly improving her practice. The yearlong format of the institute combined with the partnership with New Hampshire Project Learning Tree and the U.S. Forest Service provided valuable resources and contacts for Ina and her students at Plymouth High School in Plymouth, NH. Ina also just received word that she is the recipient of the Christa McAuliffe sabbatical. Ina will have the opportunity to work with schools in New Hampshire to incorporate GIS learning in social studies and science classes.

NA Employee Attends Project Learning Tree Conference in Mississippi

Susan Cox attended a Project Learning Tree (PLT) conference in Jackson, MS. PLT is investigating using high school modules with adult audiences. Susan joined other presenters in a session on working with adults. She also participated in discussions about revising the Forest Ecology and Forest Issues high school modules. There are plans to enhance the data collection and use of technology software and other tools in the modules. One conference session highlighted a *Forest for Every Class* (FFEC), and Susan made a presentation with Esther Cowles, New Hampshire PLT, and Ina Ahern, FFEC participant.

Durham Field Office Employees Actively Participate in Envirothon

Durham Field Office employees were actively involved with Envirothon competitions in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The Massachusetts competition was expanded to 3 days for the first time. Teams competed for 2 days, and then the top four teams gave presentations on the third day to determine the Envirothon winner. **Anne Archie** and **Susan Cox** served as judges, and **George Saufley** was a presentation moderator on the first day. The Massachusetts teams were charged with conducting research in their own communities and implementing a service project. Participating teams presented impressive projects that ranged from developing and distributing information for outdoor recreation opportunities to assisting towns with planning needs. The New Hampshire Envirothon challenged its teams to develop a plan for a former ski area newly acquired by the State. Students were very creative in their plans, which incorporated community input, natural resources, and the economic impact of the area. **Roger Monthey** co-chaired the forestry section, and **Jane Hislop** and **Susan Cox** were judges.



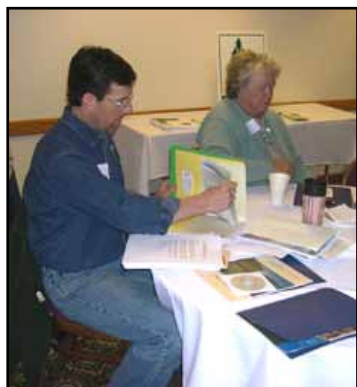
Family Forest Legacies Workshop Provides Return on Investment

Work on the *Next Generation* initiative for today's family forest owners and their heirs continued on May 17 in Maine with the workshop *Family Forest Legacies: Securing the Future of Your Woods*. Landowners from across the State attended to learn how to properly conserve their woodlands by setting conservation goals and backing them up with proper legal, tax, and estate planning. Many consulting and service foresters also attended to learn how they can inform landowners about the need for proper estate planning for family forests.



Jerry Bley, expert in Family Communications, addresses workshop participants.

Roger Monthey, stewardship forester from Durham, and **Bob Fitzhenry** from the Northeastern Area communications group helped host the workshop in cooperation with the Maine Forest Service, Threshold to Maine RC&D, and the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine.



Audience members, including NA employee Bob Fitzhenry, listening to presentations.

"I sat at a table with two generations of a family that owned 1,000 acres of Maine forest," said Fitzhenry. "If even just that one family keeps their land managed and from being subdivided by future owners, we've returned our investment one hundred times and more. That's why the *Next Generation* work is now bringing our message right to the landowners and foresters who advise them."

Maine plans to hold more workshops on land conservation through estate planning. Other States served by the Northeastern Area have requested similar workshops for their landowners and foresters. Procrastination and poor planning regarding the transfer of family woodlands from generation to generation remain a leading cause of the loss of private forests to subdivision and development.

Forest Service Joins Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership in New Hampshire

The Forest Service was one of 11 signatories to sign the New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership (CWIPP) on May 20. The CWIPP's mission is to protect the ecological integrity of the State's coastal region's habitats through activities that reduce the threat of invasive plants.

Its design is based on a Cooperative Weed Management Area, a model popular in the West. Weed Management Areas (WMAs) are local organizations that bring together a variety of landowners and managers in a geographical area to



Florence Peterson signs an interagency partnership agreement on behalf of the Forest Service Durham Field Office.



coordinate efforts and expertise against common invasive weed species. Rick VanBebber of the Forest Service Intermountain Region developed the “CWMA Cookbook, A Recipe for Success,” providing guidelines for groups to follow in establishing partnerships.

The CWIPP geographic area covers New Hampshire’s coastal watershed, an area that encompasses 42 towns in Strafford, Rockingham, and Carroll Counties. The coastal watershed area provides essential habitat for more than 130 rare species, including many species of plants and wildlife that occur nowhere else in the State.

“Our focus is to manage and reduce the spread of invasive plants through working together and sharing common goals,” said Durham Field Office Forest Health Specialist Florence Peterson.

In addition to the U.S. Forest Service, other signatories included the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, New Hampshire Coastal Program; New Hampshire Fish and Game Department; New Hampshire Department of Transportation; New Hampshire Department of Agriculture; New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development; Rockingham County Conservation District; Natural Resources Conservation Service; The Nature Conservancy; Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension.

Several similarly modeled invasive plant partnerships have formed throughout New England, but this is the first time in this locale that such a partnership was formalized with a signed agreement.

NA Forest Health Managers Discuss Firewood Issue on Talk Radio



Durham Field Office forest entomologist Dennis Souto (left) and New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands Forest Health Group Leader Kyle Lombard (right) talk about the firewood issue on WOKQ Radio in New Hampshire.

Durham Field Office forest entomologist Dennis Souto and New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands Forest Health Group Leader Kyle Lombard talked about the firewood issue on WOKQ Radio in New Hampshire. The 25-minute-long talk show was taped May 8 and was scheduled to air Sunday May 25. The popular country music and news station's powerful radio signal can be heard from Massachusetts to southern Canada. The two forest health managers talked at length with radio talk show host Don Briand about why the long-distance movement of firewood poses such a big problem in the spread of invasive insects and diseases. They asked the show's

radio listeners to consider leaving their firewood at home the next time they travel and buying local firewood at their destination instead.

New Hampshire Communities Count Trees—Because Trees Count!

The cities of Laconia and Concord, NH, are the most recent communities to begin urban tree inventories using the iTree software suite. Mary Tebo and Andy Fass of University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension joined Laconia Parks Superintendent Phillip Rowley to work with volunteers in Laconia who have begun training to help conduct the tree inventory. In Concord, Nancy Berliner from Groundworks Concord has also initiated a sample inventory using iTree software, which helps assess the value of street trees. The U.S. Forest Service, Davey Tree



Experts, and other partners developed iTree software to inventory and analyze urban tree populations. **John Parry** from the Durham Field Office is helping with the inventories.

Tenth and Final Sharon Ossenbruggen Award Bestowed

The “rules” were broken for the tenth and final Sharon Ossenbruggen Award winner. Typically, a current employee of the Durham Field Office has received the award. The award committee decided to waive the “employee” requirement and awarded former employee and current volunteer **Edna Tilley** with the coveted award. The Sharon Ossenbruggen Award has been bestowed on a Durham employee who exhibits five characteristics that came to life in Sharon, a former employee of both Research and State and Private Forestry in the Durham Office—creativity, innovation, leadership, diplomacy, and dedication. Sharon, who died after a 6-month battle with cancer, was beloved by her fellow employees who wanted to commemorate her life with this award.

Edna was stunned to silence upon hearing she was the award winner. Upon regaining her composure, Edna said of the comments made about her prior to the announcement of her name, “I thought you were talking about Jesus!” “I am not normally taken aback, but this has left me speechless.” Comments made about Edna included, “This person loves creating harmony in whatever they do,” and “This person effects cultural change within the building through positive attitude and initiating events to bring people in the building together.” Edna, who began work at the Durham Field Office in 1984, was a friend of Sharon’s. Edna’s daughter Jerry, who was in the audience, commented, “This is wonderful. Edna had a close relationship with Sharon, and it is fitting that Edna is the final name on the plaque.”

The annual award ceremony also included other award presentations. **Margaret Miller-Weeks** presented a Spot Award to **Bill Frament** for his technical support to States during aerial surveys. **Robert Fitzhenry**, **Susan Hahn**, **Dennis Souto**, and **Rob Clark** also received awards. Rob Clark acknowledged **Roger Monthey** for hitting the 30-year mark in length of public service.



Edna Tilley (right) receives the coveted Sharon Ossenbruggen Award as the tenth and final award recipient from Deirdre Raimo, who served as master of ceremonies for the occasion. (Photo by Ken Dudzik)

Morgantown Field Office

Spray Advisor Decision Support System Workshop and Technology Transfer Session Held in Canada

The Canadian Forest Service and the Canadian Ecology Centre held a Spray Advisor Decision Support System (DSS) workshop in Ontario, Canada, from May 19 through 23. The Spray Advisor DSS integrates an extensive array of theoretical, scientific, and experiential knowledge to generate spatially explicit predictions of pesticide deposition, efficacy, and potential nontarget effects using graphic representations in ARC-based output formats. The development of Spray Advisor has been a collaborative international effort including the U.S. Forest Service (Northeastern Area, Region 8, and the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team), New



Zealand Forest Research (SCION), West Virginia University, the University of Georgia (Center for Artificial Intelligence), Continuum Dynamics, and the Canadian Forest Service, including the Spray Efficacy Research Group.

Spray Advisor was first introduced to potential Canadian users through this workshop. This 3-day event combined introductory and applied science lectures as well as direct hands-on training with the decision support system. The hands-on training for Spray Advisor took full advantage of the modern computer lab facility at the Canadian Ecology Centre and involved introductory training as well as applications to typical operational herbicide and insecticide case scenarios for eastern Canada.

Amy Onken gave two presentations at the conference: Aircraft and Atomizers for Insecticide Applications, and Aerial Insecticide Validation Case Studies. **Harold Thistle** from the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team gave presentations on Fundamentals of Spray Cloud Dispersal, and Modeling Spray Cloud Dispersal with AgDisp.

Nursery Reviews Conducted in Ohio and West Virginia



The review team traveled to the Marietta Nursery in Ohio on March 13, 2008. Review team members include (left to right) Rich Cappell (OH Div. of Forestry), Joe Myers (Superintendent of the U.S. Forest Service Nursery in Coeur d'Alene, ID), Roger Hendershot (Marietta Nursery Manager), Dan Kincaid (WV Div. of Forestry), Jerry Hopkins (Marietta Operations Superintendent), Ron Overton (NA Forest Regeneration and Nursery Specialist), and Jim Wichman (Indiana Div. of Forestry Nursery Manager, retired).

During the week of March 10, 2008, Northeastern Area Forest Regeneration and Nursery Specialist Ron Overton coordinated reviews of both the Clements State Tree Nursery in West Virginia and the Marietta State Nursery in Ohio. Ron is stationed at Purdue University in Lafayette, IN.

Each State's Division of Forestry had requested indepth reviews of their nursery operations to identify ways to upgrade facilities and equipment, where needed; reduce costs; increase revenues; and modify processes and procedures to increase efficiency. Even though the requests came in separately with different specific needs, Ron proposed doing the reviews during the same week to take advantage of the proximity of the two nurseries and to make better use of the review team's time.

The two nurseries are both located in the Ohio River Valley about 60 miles apart. The review

team included Ron Overton, Team Leader; Joe Myers, Superintendent of the Coeur d'Alene, ID, Federal nursery; and Jim Wichman, retired Nursery Manager for the Indiana Division of Forestry. In addition, Rich Cappell of the Ohio Division of Forestry and Dan Kincaid of the West Virginia Division of Forestry participated in both reviews.

The team will issue final reports in May with recommendations on how to operate the nurseries in a more cost-efficient way. State Foresters Dave Lytle (OH) and Randy Dye (WV) are both committed to this effort and gave overall direction to the review team.



West Virginia Envirothon Competition Held at Canaan Valley

The 2008 West Virginia Envirothon, held April 24–25 at the Canaan Valley Resort, hosted teams of high school students from around the State. This annual competition gives students in grades 9 through 12 hands-on challenges that test their natural resource knowledge, skills, and problem-solving abilities. Tests were conducted outdoors, giving students a chance to work and learn in a real-world setting while being guided by environmental professionals. **Chuck Reger, Karen Sykes, Vicky Evans, Devin Wanner, and Toni Jones** participated in the 2-day event.



The Doddridge County Gold team holds an oversized check for \$5,000 after winning first place in the West Virginia Envirothon competition.

Test topics included aquatics, soil, wildlife, forestry, and this year's featured topic—recreation impacts on natural resources. All teams gave brief presentations based on their response to a hypothetical scenario involving developing a visitor management and education plan for the Dolly Sods Wilderness on the Monongahela National Forest. Following testing and the brief presentations, the five teams with the highest score competed for first place by giving a full presentation on the featured topic.

The Doddridge County Gold team took first place. Each team member won a \$1,000 scholarship. This team also has the privilege of representing West Virginia at the national Canon Envirothon this July at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ. The West Virginia Envirothon is a cooperative effort of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and 10 West Virginia State agencies and associations.

Morgantown Says Farewell to Visiting Researcher



Dr. Almaz Orozumbekov, far left, accepts a West Virginia University sweatshirt from Andrew Liebhold to remember his time in Morgantown.

The Morgantown Field Office held a brunch on May 1 to say farewell to Dr. Almaz Orozumbekov. Dr. Orozumbekov, a Fulbright Visiting Scholar from Osh Technological University, Department of Science in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, spent 5 months with the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station in Morgantown, WV. Dr. Orozumbekov said that he is leaving the United States with a deep respect for the Forest Service, and will share his experiences with his colleagues in Kyrgyzstan.

Dr. Orozumbekov specializes in forest entomology. While in the United States, he attended the 2007 annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in San Diego, CA, and the 2008 Research Forum on Invasive Species in Annapolis, MD, and made several visits to other Forest Service labs within the Northern Research Station.



During his visit, he also authored a publication titled "Gypsy moth (Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae) in Central Asia" with coauthors **Andrew M. Liebhold** and **Patrick C. Tobin** (NRS, Morgantown, WV) and Ponomarev I. Vasily (Ural Division Russian Academy of Science, Botanical Garden Department of Plant Protection, Yekaterinburg, Russia), which will be submitted to *The American Entomologist*. In Kyrgyzstan, Dr. Orozumbekov's primary research focuses on gypsy moth management in walnut-fruit forests, which are unique to Central Asia and comprise an important cultural, ecological, and economical resource.

Gypsy Moth Suppression Projects Conducted in D.C. and Maryland

Rod Whiteman, Karen Felton, and Bill Oldland conducted gypsy moth suppression projects at Andrews Air Force Base and the National Arboretum on May 1. In addition to supervising the actual treatment, the three were responsible for pre-suppression activities—work and safety plans, calibrating the aircraft spray system, scheduling the treatment, and coordinating with the contractor and the Transportation Security Administration to conduct flights within the District of Columbia's flight restricted zones.

From there, the Morgantown crew moved to Harpers Ferry and Catoctin National Park to coordinate suppression efforts. Whiteman served as the contracting officers' representative and project coordinator for these National Park Service suppression projects involving multiple applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* and the Gypchek virus. A total of 8,103 acres was treated for the Park Service.



A helicopter flies over Andrews Air Force Base in the early morning to spray trees for gypsy moth control.

Go West, Young Man



Joe Cook thanks everyone at the luncheon for his years at Morgantown.

The Morgantown Field Office held a potluck lunch to say farewell to **Joe Cook** on Monday, May 19. For the last 4½ years, Cook has been the Project Leader for the Gypsy Moth Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Cook has accepted a position with the Department of Defense–Marines as Director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Division at the Logistics Base in Barstow, CA. His colleagues at the office gave him a good sendoff with a West Virginia University shirt and autographed pictures of the Morgantown Field Office building.



Earth Day/Arbor Day Activities Held at Dover Air Force Base

Delaware State Forester Austin Short presented Dover Air Force Base Wing Commander Col. Steven Harrison with the base's 16th Annual Tree City USA award on May 2. In honor of the presentation, the base planted a Kwanzan Cherry tree at the Child Development Center for 2- to 5-year-old children. The children created a time capsule by writing comments on index cards that were placed in a small jar.

After the tree planting, the children made pine cone bird feeders using honey and bird seed, and made refrigerator magnets of butterflies, lady bugs, leaves, and honey bees. Everybody had a great time and the kids just loved it!



Three children from the Development Center help plant a tree during Earth Day/Arbor Day activities at Dover Air Force Base.

Pennsylvania Holds Spring EAB Task Force Meeting

Pennsylvania held its spring emerald ash borer (EAB) task force meeting in Carlisle, PA, on May 1. Entomologist **Rick Turcotte** represented the Morgantown Field Office. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture updated the group on EAB detection surveys in 2008. The surveys will be conducted in 35 counties throughout the State. The agency has hired survey crew members to set the panel traps and conduct the surveys. Survey crews received training at Slippery Rock University from May 19 to 22. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has established new protocols for trapping, sweep net samples, and visual surveys.

The Division of Forestry plans to conduct surveys outside the 35 counties designated by the Department of Agriculture. They will conduct surveys primarily in State parks with campgrounds and at rest areas. The U.S. Forest Service will conduct surveys on other Federal sites in those counties covered by the Division of Forestry and with additional firewood surveys on the Allegheny National Forest.

USDA APHIS plans to distribute several media messages about the detection survey and traps throughout the State. In addition, Pennsylvania will prepare a statewide press release about EAB outreach efforts and enforcement personnel hired for quarantined counties.

Faith Baptist Academy Students Learn about Forest Ecosystems

Toni Jones and **Mike Effinger** from the Northern Research Station joined **Frank Cromer** and **Rick Turcotte** from the Northeastern Area to make science day presentations at the Faith Baptist Academy in Morgantown, WV. Students from the second through eighth grade spent about 30 minute each on forest products, forest ecosystems, and forest arthropod activities. Information was provided about forest products and the use and value of forest ecosystems, along with live forest arthropods and pinned insect specimens. A video camera and monitor were used to provide a closeup look at the interesting and strange world of forest arthropods. The presentations were well received by the students and staff, and a large number of them asked questions about forest products, trees, and arthropods.



West Virginia University Entomology Class Visits Field Office

An entomology class from West Virginia University visited the Morgantown Field Office on Friday, April 25, 2008. **Heather Smith** from the Northern Research Station joined **Ann Steketee**, **Bill Oldland**, and **Rick Turcotte** from the Northeastern Area to give a short presentation about the U.S. Forest Service and provide a tour of the office and overview of some of the ongoing projects. Information was provided about the history, structure, and program areas within the different branches of the Forest Service. Each of the presentations was well received by the students and staff, who asked questions about job opportunities and other Forest Service projects.

Elementary Students Attend Conservation Education Program at Timber and Wood Products Show

Elementary students from schools throughout Braxton County, WV, came to the Timber and Wood Products Show on May 9 to learn about the importance of trees. As part of the show, the West Virginia Forestry Association opened the event on Friday to students from schools in the area to learn about trees. Students rotated through six stations that had different activities related to forests. Some of the stations included how paper is made, meeting Smokey Bear and the dangers of wildfires, and learning about the different properties of wood such as red and white oak.

The Northeastern Area was invited to have a station at the event to talk about all the different products that trees provide. **Devin Wanner** conducted an activity where students determined whether a product is made from trees. The students always correctly identified obvious products, such as paper and things made out of wood, but other products were not as easily identified. This year, all teams except the last two said that oranges did not come from trees. They also did not know where chocolate comes from. After the exercise, Wanner explained that in addition to wood fiber, products are made from the saps and resins of trees. He also noted that more than 10,000 products contain ingredients from trees.

Morgantown Entomologist Gives Guest Lecture at West Virginia University

Morgantown Field Office entomologist **Rick Turcotte** gave a lecture about the U.S. Forest Service and emerging forest insect and disease issues to an entomology class of about 25 students. The lecture focused on current Forest Service organizational structure and the methods used to detect and evaluate insect and disease populations.

St. Paul Field Office

Teri Heyer Completes USDA Executive Leadership Program

Watershed forester **Teri Heyer** from the St. Paul Field Office successfully completed all requirements and graduated from the USDA Executive Leadership Program. As part of graduation week, Teri's team presented a project titled "Forgotten Civil Servants—A Better Prepared Federal Workplace." This project explored issues concerning Federal employees who return to work after being injured during military deployment. The team studied the resources available to Federal managers regarding accommodations and employee rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, and made recommendations about how this legislation can be administered more effectively.



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, Monday, June 23, 2008. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us.**

Please remember:

- **Send text separate from photos and graphics.**
- **Include captions for all images.**
- **Do not place images in Word or PowerPoint.**

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