



Northeastern Area News Notes



October 23, 2006



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Northeastern Area Presentation to WO Highlights Invasive Species

On October 10, Forest Health Assistant Director Jerry Boughton and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Liaison Katie Armstrong made a presentation at the Washington Office (WO) to Chief Dale Bosworth, members of his Executive Leadership Team, and about 20 WO staff. The presentation, entitled *Emerald Ash Borer: The Poster Child for the Northeastern Area Invasive Species Response Team*, highlighted the challenges faced by the Northeastern Area (NA) in confronting EAB and other unwelcome invasive insects and diseases that affect our 20 States. It also provided an opportunity to highlight the crucial role the Forest Service plays in addressing these threats to our Nation's forests, and how the Northeastern Area is living up to that role.

The region served by the Northeastern Area contains 43 percent of the Nation's population and 25 percent of its forest land. Much of the population is concentrated in urban and suburban areas, which are more likely to receive the foreign imports that contain these pests as "hitchhikers" on wooden packing materials. More people also mean more opportunity to spread the infestations through the movement of firewood or woody materials.

At first glance, the little emerald ash borer does not seem like a deadly killer. Its slender body is only ½-inch long. Underneath the insect's metallic green wings is a golden-green or bronze body with a metallic purplish-red area at the top of the abdomen, seen only when its wings are spread. But the emerald ash borer's ability to quickly kill even healthy ash trees is ferocious. Since it was identified near Detroit in 2002, EAB has been responsible for the death of an estimated 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Canadian officials have also been waging a battle with the insect since it was found in Ontario in 2003. During summer 2006, EAB was discovered in two Illinois counties in the Chicago area and one county in Maryland.

In the eyes of many forestry professionals, EAB is the most dangerous invasive insect to ever hit North American shores. A national EAB economic analysis identified the potential economic risk to urban trees alone as \$20–\$60 billion.

Early detection is one of our best weapons in the fight against EAB and other invasives, but early detection depends on the success of our efforts to mobilize informed and motivated citizens who will recognize and respond to the threats. All of us in the Northeastern Area have a role to play in spreading the word.

Emerald ash borer is only one of the several invasive species threatening the forests of the Northeast and Midwest. Others include Asian longhorned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid and, most recently, Sirex woodwasp. Addressing these threats is a long-term challenge that requires a cooperative and coordinated effort with partners such as the Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS) and the State departments of agriculture and natural resources.



To consistently and effectively coordinate our efforts, the Northeastern Area developed an Invasives Response Plan in 2005 that describes our role and puts forward a modified Incident Command System to implement that role. This plan provides for Area-wide leadership through an invasives coordinator, with field office linkage through a management team that includes field office group leaders and key staff. Information development and distribution is accomplished in cooperation with APHIS and our State partners through an invasives information coordinator and enhanced by a local liaison position.

The recent presentation on invasive species was one in a series of WO seminars. We have successfully presented two seminars, with more forthcoming. The purposes of the seminar series are to share with the WO the work ongoing in NA and to build awareness of its importance in protecting a quarter of the Nation's forests. The seminar PowerPoint presentations can be seen via a link on the NA homepage (<http://www.na.fs.fed.us>).

— Kathryn Maloney

NEWTOWN SQUARE

NA Assists in the Organization and Delivery of the Combined National Forest Legacy/Landowner Assistance Program Meeting



Mark Buccowich and Scott Stewart (foreground) joined other participants on a field trip during the National Landowner Assistance meeting in Charleston, SC, to see a complement of land protection and conservation along the shores of the Cooper River.

a Stewardship or multiresource plan in place, and the possible connection between those plans and third-party certification as a possible alternate method for meeting that requirement. Tormoehlen's panel, which served as a preview for the National Spatial Analysis Summit (April 2007), included a number of State partners who described their progress in adopting and adapting the spatial analysis tool to help them deliver the Stewardship Program in a more strategic way. Barbara was

Taking a new approach, the annual meetings for the National Forest Legacy and Landowner Assistance Programs were combined this year, with the joint meeting held in Charleston, SC, October 3–5. This year's meeting was also different in that a significant number of State partners attended the Landowner Assistance Program portion. States served by the Northeastern Area in attendance included Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, and West Virginia.

Deirdre Raimo, Barbara Tormoehlen, and Mark Buccowich each moderated panels they had organized for the meeting. Raimo's panel on Stewardship, Conservation Easements, and Certification focused on questions surrounding the need for Forest Legacy properties to have



also a speaker on a separate panel addressing Integrated Program Delivery at the landscape scale. Buccowich's panel on Carbon Markets and NIPF Forestry provided the audience with a macro-to-micro update on the potential for carbon sequestration and carbon trading markets to play a role in helping private forest landowners make land ownership and management a more economically viable proposition. A project currently underway in Michigan was highlighted, drawing particular audience interest.

This was a great opportunity for the two programs to glean from one another and build on their commonalities in integrated program delivery.

Regional Planning Comes of Age Conference

The "Regional Planning Comes of Age" conference was a chance to explore regional land use planning in the Northeastern United States on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of New Jersey's Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. The conference, held September 28–29 in New Brunswick, NJ, included plenary addresses and seminars on regional land use planning. **Edward Boyer**, Highlands Coordinator, and **Martina Barnes**, Regional Planner, attended to learn about New Jersey's experience, and what other tools and methods planners in the Northeast are experimenting with.

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan was created primarily to preserve open space and protect resources, not to manage growth. Measured by the priorities of those who run it, the Pinelands Commission has largely succeeded, not by applying a vision of sustainable human development, but through zoning restrictions and regulations that shifted development to other locations.

Like the Pinelands, the Highlands Planning and Protection Areas were carved out because the State considered them more valuable by remaining undeveloped. Both areas are sources of water that are vitally important to New Jersey's well being. New Jersey has put 59 percent of its land area under regional authorities such as the Pinelands and the Highlands. Programs such as Green Acres have increased the State-owned portion of lands within these regional authorities to above 40 percent; farmland easements and the work of private land trusts have removed thousands more acres from the path of development. It is hoped that growth management, smart or otherwise, will enable New Jersey to grow and thrive on its remaining land.

For more information about the conference, go to <http://www.regionalplanningcomesofage.org/conference/>.

Inaugural "What If" Workshop Held in Indiana

Watershed Program Leader **Al Todd** and Landscape Architect **Matt Arnn** initiated the first *Watershed Health Applications Technology—Innovating Forestry (What If) Workshop* in Indianapolis on September 20. Sponsored by the State of Indiana and hosted by Pam Louks, Indiana Urban Forestry Coordinator, the workshop drew over 40 professionals in engineering, planning, development landscaping, and conservation, as well as a local mayor.

The "What If" workshops use the Northeastern Area's three-part Urban Watershed Forestry



(left to right) Matt Arnn, Pam Louks, and Al Todd coordinated on the first "What If" workshop, held recently in Indiana.



Manual series (now available in hard copy and on the NA Web site at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed>) to educate users in watershed forestry concepts, planning, design techniques, and best management practices. The unique workshop title allowed the team to pose a number of questions to participants, such as “What if you received a property tax credit based on the services provided by trees on your property?” and “What if tree benefits were included in stormwater calculations?” The team is now exploring options to continue and expand this train-the-trainer approach to technology transfer through on-line and in-person workshops. Team members are developing new modules and technologies to deliver similar trainings via net meetings and other cost-saving venues.

Green Solutions for a Blue Planet



Former BLM Chief Landscape Architect Brad Cownover (second from right) stopped by to visit Midwest Center for Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator Jill Johnson (second from left) at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie display.

The first joint American Association of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Annual Meeting/EXPO and International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) World Congress was held in Minneapolis October 5–11, drawing over 2,000 participants.

The gathering's theme of “Green Solutions for a Blue Planet” focused on global efforts at sustainability and covered issues such as smart urbanization, community health maintenance, water resource management, and open space preservation through an assortment of field sessions, education panels, and workshops. Keynote speaker Jean Michel Cousteau discussed environmentally responsible and culturally appropriate ocean-oriented landscapes.

As an invited speaker, Landscape Architect **Matt Arnn** presented on the rapidly changing urban-to-rural forest landscape continuum and highlighted several State and Private Forestry innovations, including Living Memorials, watershed forestry, and Inner City Technology Exchange.

On the EXPO floor, Midwest Center for Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator **Jill Johnson** shared the latest in the Northeastern Area's technology transfer catalog, including new information on UFind, ITree, and Forest Health Monitoring.



University of Maryland Landscape Architecture Students Visit NYC



Matt Arnn (left) toured New York City with landscape architecture students from the University of Maryland.

Fourth-year and graduate students in the University of Maryland's Landscape Architecture and Urban Design Programs came to New York City October 13–14 to tour parks and open spaces, and to experience first hand their value to Gotham residents. Department Chair Jack Sullivan has been using New York City as a living laboratory for several years, but this was the first opportunity for students to learn about the role of the Northeastern Area in greening urban communities. Landscape Architect **Matt Arnn** organized a Saturday tour that included Forest Service Living Memorials, city and State parks, and Partner Gardens. He stressed the Forest Service's contribution to improving tools and practices, and

connecting people and partner groups to landscapes and to each other. He is proud to say he has yet to lose a student on his urban green infrastructure excursions.

New Publication: *Northeastern Forest Regeneration Handbook*

The Northeastern Area recently released the *Northeastern Forest Regeneration Handbook: A Guide for Forest Owners, Harvesting Practitioners, and Public Officials* (NA–TP–03–06). An earlier version of this publication, produced in Connecticut, focused primarily on that State, but it soon became apparent that the document's scope and usefulness could easily extend to the 7 Northeastern States. Original authors Jeffrey Ward (The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station) and Thomas Worthley (University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension) were joined by Karen Bennett (University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension) and Peter Smallidge (Cornell University Cooperative Extension) to update and expand the publication's focus, resulting in a publication that promotes the management of forests for long-term sustainability throughout the Northeast.

Topics addressed in the publication include the history and current status of northeastern forests; the influence of environmental factors and disturbance on growth and regeneration; a description of various methods of regeneration, including advantages and disadvantages of each; and general requirements for successfully regenerating select species and species groups. It also includes contact information for each of the Northeastern States and a list of additional resources for readers wishing to pursue particular topics.

The *Northeastern Forest Regeneration Handbook* will soon be available for download on the NA Web site (<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>). Limited hard copies may be obtained by contacting Jane McComb at jamccomb@fs.fed.us or 603-868-7693.



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Storms Over the Urban Forests Workshop

Trees are an integral part of a community's environment, but when a natural disaster such as a wind or ice storm strikes, damage to trees can be severe. The result is not only a loss of tree canopy cover, but also increased damage to property and infrastructure, and public safety concerns. The recent Storms Over the Urban Forest workshop in Providence, RI, was intended to help communities prepare for natural disasters, respond appropriately when a disaster occurs, and help the urban forest recover from the damage. Speakers covered administrative and planning issues, as well as tree care techniques that will help communities be better prepared when a storm strikes. Paul Dolan from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and John Campanini from the Rhode Island Tree Council worked with **John Parry** in hosting the workshop. Over 60 people attended, including municipal staff, arborists, tree wardens, and volunteer group leaders from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

Smokey Makes Them Smile and Helps Them Listen

Assisted by **Sherri Wormstead** and her husband, Justin, Smokey Bear visited 30 preschool children in Dover, NH, on October 12. In a unit about forests, the children had painted a large tree and brought forest friends (stuffed animals and pictures) from home to "live" there. When Smokey entered the room to the tune of his song, the preschoolers' faces lit up with smiles and interest. Eager to hear about Smokey, the kids fully engaged in a discussion about forests and fire safety. Smokey also brought some forest items for the children to explore and touch, including pinecones, seeds, a wood cookie, and a wooden toy snake. Smokey was impressed that several of the preschoolers were correctly able to identify two reasons why the toy snake was related to forests: some snakes live in forests and the toy was made out of wood.



Smokey Bear made lots of new friends at a New Hampshire preschool.

New Hampshire's Forest Health Is in Good Hands

Bernie Raimo, Margaret Miller-Weeks, and Dennis Souto reviewed New Hampshire's forest health program October 16–17. They learned about the excellent work that Kyle Lombard and Jen Weimer of the Division of Forests and Lands are doing to document and improve the health of New Hampshire's forests. Kyle's supervisor, Brad Simpkins, and State Forester Phil Bryce also participated in the review. The critique acknowledged the considerable productivity and improvements that Kyle and Jen have generated in the program.



MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Coordination Meeting With Ohio Division of Forestry and Wayne National Forest

Ohio Division of Forestry Chief John Dorka, Deputy Chief Andy Ware, and Land Management and Recreation Specialist Chad Sanders met October 3 with Wayne National Forest Supervisor Mary Reddan and Partnerships Coordinator Jarel Bartig. They were joined by Field Representative **John Hazel** to discuss how to coordinate programs and activities administered by the Ohio Division of Forestry, the National Forest System, and State and Private Forestry. The meeting in Columbus provided Wayne National Forest personnel with a better understanding of how the Ohio Division of Forestry and State and Private Forestry work together. It also identified activities in urban and community forestry, and landowner assistance programs taking place on the Wayne National Forest that provide opportunities for cooperation.

MacKenzie Presents at WVU Fall Semester Seminar Series

Martin MacKenzie presented "Beech Bark Disease: A Multifaceted Complex," the second seminar in the West Virginia University fall semester seminar series. Although the seminars are sponsored by the Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology Department, students and professors from both entomology and forestry also attended to hear the extended version of the talk MacKenzie gave in Quebec City earlier this year.

Morgantown Hosts Invasive Plants Planning Meeting



(left to right) Dick Reardon, Tom Rawinski, Connie Ranson, Heather Fowler, Karen Sykes, Dennis McDougall, Don Dagnan, and Rod Whiteman gather in front of the Morgantown office during the recent Invasive Plants Coordinators meeting.

The Morgantown Field Office hosted the annual Invasive Plants Coordinators meeting on September 27.

Rod Whiteman and **Karen Sykes** hosted **Dr. Dick Reardon** (Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team), **Dennis McDougall** (St. Paul Field Office), **Tom Rawinski** (Durham Field Office), **Don Dagnan** (Newtown Square), and guests **Connie Ranson**, Natural Resource Manager from the Fort Necessity National Battlefield, and **Heather Fowler**, Fayette County Conservation District Watershed Coordinator. The

group discussed projects, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and invasive plant councils that are active in each field office area. All shared success stories and viewed a presentation on the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. The concern is that out-of-state hurricane cleanup volunteers may be bringing invasive species back home on vehicles and other equipment.



Second Annual State of Caring Event Launches Local Combined Federal Campaign

The second annual State of Caring event invited Federal employees to donate baby items to support the youngest segment of Monongalia County's population—infants and toddlers. Items such as diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, bibs, and other baby essentials were collected from 13 Federal work sites and distributed to the pantries of Scotts Run Settlement House, Rock Forge Neighborhood House, and Christian Help. The baby item drive officially kicked off the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) in Monongalia and Preston Counties in conjunction with United Way's annual campaign drive. Last year, the Federal campaign raised over \$167,000 from 525 Federal donors.

The Federal agencies participating in the event and the CFC in Monongalia and Preston Counties include the Forest Service, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Federal Corrections Institute of Morgantown and Hazelton, Air Force ROTC, Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management and National Energy Technology Laboratory, Mine Safety Health Administration, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Postal Service, Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Army Corp of Engineers.

In the Morgantown Field Office, the individual CFC campaign began on October 2 and will conclude on November 10. Under Field Representative **John Hazel's** leadership, Morgantown employees pledged over \$11,000 last year and increased employee participation significantly. "It's been a pleasure working with such generous and caring people," he remarked.



Forest Service employees (left to right) Gino Luzader, John Hazel, and Janice Gottschalk display some of the baby items collected during the second annual State of Caring event.

Smokey and Woodsy Appear at the 19th Annual Mountaineer Balloon Festival



Morgantown held its 19th annual Mountaineer Balloon Festival October 5–8. **Toni Jones, Frank Cromer, Joseph Shupp, and Adam Cumpston** appeared with Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl to help deliver their message of wildfire prevention and land stewardship. Kids loved getting their picture taken with Smokey and Woodsy, and receiving the educational materials that were distributed. Forest Service personnel also answered questions about forest fire prevention.

Woodsy Owl poses with some new friends at the Mountaineer Balloon Festival.



Hemlock Condition Discussed at Annual Coordination Meeting

Bill Oldland gave a presentation at the annual coordination meeting of the USDA Forest Service and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The meeting was held on October 10 in Snowshoe, WV. Oldland spoke about the hemlock woolly adelgid, current hemlock condition, and the threats to hemlock resources. Personnel from the Monongahela, George Washington, and Jefferson National Forests attended.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

For current and past issues of the NA News Notes, visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>.

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, November 22, 2006**. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us. **Please send final edited text separate from photos and graphics, and include captions for all images.**

