

Northeastern Area



News Notes



Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

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GETTING TO KNOW URBAN FORESTRY AND NUCFAC

Urban forestry is a relatively new term, not commonly heard at the time many of us began our careers with the Forest Service. Urban forestry has become one of the largest State and Private Forestry programs, recognizing the importance of urban landscapes to regional, national, and global ecosystems. Here in the NA, more than 40 percent of the

Nation's population lives in close proximity to nearly a quarter of the country's forests. The Urban and Community Forestry Program has developed into one of the more challenging State and Private Forestry programs bringing the science of forestry and the needs of many people together.

The urban forestry program has four main components. First, the State Program provides funding and technical assistance to communities through the State Foresters' offices. Second, the Northeastern Area has expanded the Urban and Community Forestry Program to include three Urban Forestry Centers to support development and transfer of technology in urban forestry. The Centers are located at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul (serving the Midwest), Keystone College near Scranton, PA (serving the Mid-Atlantic), and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (serving the Northeast). Third, through the Area's Metropolitan Initiatives in Philadelphia, New York, District of Columbia, and Chicago, urban forestry assistance is targeted to older and more densely populated centers in which low-income, often minority groups, predominate. And finally, there is an array of special initiatives with urban forestry focus such as the Northeast Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program, New York City Oasis, Chicago Wilderness, and Revitalizing Baltimore. You have likely heard of some of these efforts, but "NUCFAC" is one component of the Urban and Community Forestry Program that may be new to you!

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) works to establish sustainable urban and community forests by encouraging communities of all sizes to manage and protect their natural resources. NUCFAC is a 15-member advisory council created in 1990 to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on urban and community forestry. Council members include representatives from communities, universities, non-profit forestry and conservation citizen organizations, landscape and design consultants, the forest product and nursery industry, professional natural resource organizations, and USDA. The council maintains a national competitive Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program to fund nationally-significant projects in three categories - minority and underserved populations, communication programs, and research and technology development.

On July 2, the Forest Service announced the award of more than \$502,000 in Forest Service grants through NUCFAC. "This year's awards once again highlight the opportunity for us to partner with the private sector to work together to establish sustainable urban forests for all communities," said Chief Dale Bosworth. More than half of the awards are to organizations within the Northeastern Area. The recipients include Eagle Eye Institute, Inc., in Sommerville, MA; American Forest Foundation in Washington, DC; Chicago Botanical Gardens in Glencoe, IL; University of Maryland Cooperative Extension in Derwood, MD; and Davey Resource Group in Kent, OH. Additional information about NUCFAC is available online at www.treelink.org/nucfac.

— Kathy Maloney



MINNESOTA RECOGNIZED FOR ECOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION AND MAPPING EFFORT

NA Director **Kathy Maloney** has formally recognized the State of Minnesota for its significant work in ecological classification and mapping. This work includes the development of a statewide Land Type Association (LTA) map, which is a versatile tool for implementing ecologically based management approaches and provides a useful framework for applying research results in the rapidly evolving field of landscape ecology. A publication titled *Landtype Associations of the Lake States* was also prepared, which is the first popularized publication in the region to focus on the use of USDA Forest Service land type association ecological units.

Certificates of Appreciation have been presented to 49 individuals who contributed to the effort. These individuals, representing 11 agencies and organizations, comprised 7 teams that worked over a period of 2 years to develop land type associations in Minnesota. Good Neighbor Awards have been presented to those deserving special recognition for their leadership in the project: Dan Hanson, Tim Loesch, Sandra Paddock, and Bryan Hargrave of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Marc Diers of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

HERTEL STUDIES AFRICAN VIOLET HABITAT IN KENYA

Gerard “big bug” Hertel (NA-retired) has just completed an African violet habitat project in Kenya that was funded by the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Hertel, along with Kamau Wakanene Mbutia of the National Museums of Kenya (working on his PhD at the University of Miami-Ohio), worked in the Mbololo Forest located in southeastern Kenya in June. Mbololo is the largest indigenous forest block left in the Taita Hills, the most northern part of the Eastern Arc Mountains. Looking east from Mbololo, you can see Tsavo National Park and look out over the area where the famous Man-Eaters (lions) of Tsavo did their damage during the building of the Kenyan-Ugandan Railway. On a clear day, looking northwest, you can see Mount Kilimanjaro.

Mbololo is 162 hectares in size. This mountain cloud forest is the only forest in Kenya that contains the African violet. One (*Saintpaulia tietensis*) of the 22 species of violet occurs here and nowhere else in the world. The terrain is very steep (often + 60 degrees). The ridge of Mbololo runs north and south with the forests on east- (wet) and west- (drier) facing slopes. Moist clouds hit this ridge as they move inland from the Indian Ocean. The violets grow on cliffs and large rocks free from any plant competition. The violets love the dense shade of the forests and the moisture that the forests capture from the clouds on their behalf.

The results of Mbutia’s and Hertel’s work seem to speak well for the violets. Prior surveys indicated only one population of violets in the forests. Eight have now been located and they think more could be found with more intensive surveys. The forests growing around the violets are healthy and intact with little sign of natural (blow down by wind) or man-caused (selective felling of preferred species) disturbances.

The indigenous people, the Taita’s, who live around the forest boundary, are very poor. Their daily income could be from \$0 to \$.50! They depend on trees and forests for many things. Fuel wood and water are the most important. Fuel wood can come from trees outside the indigenous forest. The indigenous forest serves as a catchment for water used by most people in the highlands, including the nearby town of Voi. So, people and the violets need the forest.

The West, with its interest in the African violet, must help the people protect the forest. Hertel’s efforts will now concentrate on how to provide the necessary assistance to the people of Mbololo Forest.

CAROL SEVERANCE TEACHING IN CHINA

Carol Severance is taking a 1-year leave of absence to teach English in China. She and her family depart the U.S. on August 12th for Shanghai. Carol and her husband will teach at the Gold Apple Bilingual School, a private boarding school for grades K-12. Their two sons will attend the same school.

The opportunity for Carol to become enmeshed in another culture so completely different from her own will broaden her perspectives and knowledge and help her to serve an increasingly complex and diverse American public when she returns to the agency.



Army Environmental Center Notes

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

“Proactive Planning for Mission Support” was the theme of the Department of Defense (DoD) Conservation Conference held the week of June 16 in Tucson, AZ. More than 400 managers from U.S. military installations around the world heard senior administration officials, high-ranking military personnel, and DoD environmental representatives discuss the overall trends affecting DoD and what the future may bring. Conference speakers discussed how forest and grassland fragmentation and urban sprawl are affecting natural and cultural resources and military training environments. As part of the proactive planning effort, DoD is encouraging installations to be a part of regional planning efforts. One such effort is the Onslow Bight Partnership (in North Carolina) that involves Marine Corps Camp Lejeune, the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state and local agencies, and conservation organizations. Kim Kennedy, previously with NA and now the forest planner with the National Forests in North Carolina, gave a presentation on Forest Service assistance in developing Camp Lejeune’s natural resources management plan and how the plan helped in the regional partnership.

Several DoD speakers also touted the Private Lands Initiative as a valuable tool in sustaining the mission and conserving forestland. The Private Lands Initiative is similar to the Forest Service’s Forest Legacy program and has conserved several thousand acres around Fort Bragg, NC. **Eric Wolters** of NA assisted the Army Environmental Center in developing the Initiative.

During the evening receptions, **Mark Cleveland** and **Helene Cleveland** of NA and John Bardwell (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service liaison) staffed the Army of Partnerships booth. The booth advertises information about the seven federal agencies that are partnered with the Army Environmental Center whose services are available to all branches of the military. Three of those agencies are in USDA – the Forest Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. Numerous contacts were made with installation and Pentagon personnel.

Durham Field Office Notes

DFO ATTENDS DEDICATION OF NH HISTORIC FIRE LOOKOUT TOWERS

Field Representative **Karen Mollander** and IMA Group Leader **Bob Fitzhenry** visited Concord, New Hampshire, on July 12 for the dedication of 13 New Hampshire fire towers onto the National Historic Lookout Register. State Forester Phil Bryce and George Bald, Commissioner of the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, opened the ceremonies. Later in the program, Phil thanked Karen for the focused funding grant from State and Private Forestry that facilitated the work to get the New Hampshire towers recognized. A complete listing of the 424 fire lookouts on the National Historic Lookout Register can be found at <http://www.firetower.org/>.





Bernie Raimo speaks at a press conference on the release of predatory beetles to prevent the establishment of hemlock woolly adelgid in Maine.

MAINE DEPLOYS TINY TROOPS IN BATTLE AGAINST HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID

Maine became the fourteenth state to release *Pseudoscymnus tsugae* (*P.t.*) beetles in hopes of minimizing hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) damage. The release of this poppy seed-sized adelgid predator in Maine is unique because the release will be made **before** the HWA becomes established in the State. HWA, an insect native to Asia, was first discovered on the East Coast in Virginia in the 1950s. It is responsible for the death and decline of millions of hemlocks in the eastern United States. By establishing the *P.t.* beetles on pine bark adelgids and balsam woolly adelgids — relatives of HWA already present in large numbers in Maine — the State hopes to create a line of defense against the hemlock pest.

On June 26, **Bernie Raimo** represented the USDA Forest Service at a press conference in Portland with State Forester Tom Doak and other members of the Maine Forest Service (MFS) announcing the *P.t.* releases. The next day, **Dennis Souto** accompanied Tom Doak and Charlene Donahue (MFS) to release the State's first shipment of beetles in Alfred, ME. Both events

were well covered by Maine's broadcast and print media. If raising awareness among Maine's citizens will help the State manage HWA, a giant step was taken last month!

CRITERIA AND INDICATORS SOURCEBOOK NOW AVAILABLE

The *Sourcebook on Criteria and Indicators of Forest Sustainability for the Northeastern Area* (NA-TP-03-02) has just been released in hard copy and on the sustainability Web site (<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability/sourcebook.htm>). The publication, developed by the Northeastern Area and the Northeastern Forest Resource Planners Association, provides an introduction to ongoing sustainability projects in the Northeastern Area. It also contains comparisons among indicator monitoring projects and the Montreal Process criteria and indicators, as well as some lessons learned for those contemplating similar projects. The hope is that people newly interested in this work will be able to build off the information provided and quickly enter the dialogue on how to use this framework effectively. Please contact Jane McComb at (603) 868-7693 or jamccomb@fs.fed.us to request a copy.

REINVENTING NEW YORK'S FORESTS

New York ReLeaf held its annual conference July 11 through 14 at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in New York City. Despite the beautiful location — far from the devastation of September 11 — a major theme was how the City's green spaces have aided in the process of recovery. These green spaces served as an invaluable respite to both residents and rescue workers in the aftermath of the disaster.

The Northeastern Area was a conference sponsor but its most valuable assistance in making this conference a success was the hard work of its employees. **Matt Arnn** worked closely with the planning committee, gave an excellent presentation on the role of urban forests in the wake of September 11, and organized field tours to two of the most important 9/11 green spaces (City Hall Park and Battery Park City), as well as ground zero itself. **John Parry** was called upon to give opening remarks on behalf of the Northeastern Area, and **Dennis Souto** spoke about hemlock woolly adelgid in an exotic pests workshop.



REINSTATING THE FOREST INDUSTRIES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The prestigious Forest Industries Award for Excellence, honoring an individual or group for significant contributions toward improving sawmill or panel-plant efficiency, was established in 1979. Recipients constitute a virtual “who’s who” of leaders in a rapidly changing wood products industry, epitomizing:

- Those who proclaimed that changing technology was needed,
- Those who responded with the fundamental and applied research behind the changing technology,
- Those who were the technology transfer agents of change, and
- Industry leaders who were the early implementers of change.

Presentation of the award has lapsed for the past 2 years due to a change in ownership of the sponsoring company; however, there is renewed interest in reinstating it. **Dean Huber**, who received the award as an individual in 1983 and as part of a group in 1992, has been asked to take the lead in accomplishing this objective.

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT GETS INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE

The NA/NAASF sustainability project is one of several case studies being exhibited by the United States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Sustainable forest management is one of five themes being highlighted by USDA at the summit. Other sustainable forestry projects highlighted include the National Sustainable Forest Roundtable, the Four Corners Sustainable Forest Partnership, and International Paper’s Fire Program.

The Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry

CURRENT TRENDS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY WORKSHOP

A daylong workshop, sponsored by the Massachusetts Community Forestry Council, was recently held in Boylston, Massachusetts. The workshop, titled “Community Forestry: Current Trends and Town Forest Management,” featured a presentation by **David Bloniarz**, Center Director, who discussed use of personal digital assistants (PDA’s) for tree inventory and data collection activities. Other speakers included staff from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association, and the City of Brookline, Massachusetts. The workshop provided an opportunity for classroom and field exercises.

HAZARD TREE TRAINING FOR NEW YORK STATE PARKS

A training workshop focusing on hazard tree identification and management was recently conducted for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, at the Norrie Point Environmental Center in Staatsburg, NY. Attended by 50 staff members from the agency’s Taconic Region, the workshop included instruction on tree growth, defects, policy, and inventory and assessment procedures. **David Bloniarz** and Dr. Dennis Ryan of the University of Massachusetts/Amherst provided the instruction, with assistance from Garrett Jobson, Senior Landscape Architect for the Taconic Region. The workshop included classroom instruction and field exercises.

UTILITY LINE CONSTRUCTION MANUAL UNDER DEVELOPMENT

The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, in cooperation with NStar Electric, which serves the metropolitan Boston area, has recently begun the development of a guide that will outline the implications of installing new overhead electric distribution lines in a community. The guide, which will provide graphic



illustrations of the potential impacts of overhead utility line construction to street trees, is intended to assist city foresters, tree wardens, planners, and municipal officials in the establishment of new utility lines in a community. Bill Hayes and Paul Sellars, Nstar System Arborists, are working with the Northeast Center to develop the guide, which is expected to be published later this year. For more information, please contact **David Bloniarz** at dbloniarz@fs.fed.us.

TREE INVENTORY TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS IN MASSACHUSETTS

David Bloniarz recently led a training program for community volunteers who will be conducting a street tree inventory in Williamsburg, MA. The inventory, funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, will include mapping and assessment of trees growing along the community's streets. Paul Jahnighe, Community Involvement Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management's Urban Forestry Program, assisted with the training curriculum. The program included classroom and field instruction, covering topics such as tree condition assessment, tree identification, and data collection procedures that will be used in conducting the inventory.

Grey Towers Notes

GREY TOWERS STAFF SHARES PINCHOT LEGACY AT PINCHOT PARK

Grey Towers I&E staff recently participated in the annual Lake Festival at Gifford Pinchot State Park, Lewisberry, PA. This annual event attracts thousands of visitors. Grey Towers staff provided a campfire program on Gifford Pinchot's Conservation Legacy and staffed an interpretive display that illustrated Pinchot's contributions to the USDA Forest Service and to conservation in America. While many Pinchot Park visitors are aware of the contributions Pinchot made as Governor of Pennsylvania, most are not aware of his conservation career and the role he played in forming the Forest Service and introducing forestry to America. The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Grey Towers staff plan to collaborate on additional interpretive opportunities in the future, including a display for their new nature center and a script for the interpretive boat tours. Gifford Pinchot State Park, a 2,338-acre full service park, is in northern York County along PA Route 177 between the towns of Rossville and Lewisberry. The park consists of reverting farm fields and wooded hillsides with the 340-acre Pinchot Lake serving as a prime attraction.

Question: Do you know why Pinchot Park is named after Gifford Pinchot? (See answer at the end, page 8)



Dr. James Finley, wearing hat, addresses workshop participants in the woods at Grey Towers. Peter Pinchot, in green shirt, or fourth from right edge of picture, helped facilitate.

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS LEARN ABOUT FORESTRY AT GREY TOWERS

“Planning for Your Forest’s Future: Understanding Forest Ecology” was a 1-day workshop held at Grey Towers in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, The Penn State School of Forest Resources, and regional land trusts and conservation districts. Private landowners learned about forest ecology, developing a forest stewardship plan for their lands, understanding how harvesting affects the forest and how to find the right resource professional to help manage their lands, and planning for the future. Dr. James Finley of Penn State led the workshop and used the forested areas of the Grey Towers landscape to illustrate how to evaluate forests and to discuss how forests change with time and management. The unique historic context of Grey Towers was a bonus for all who attended.





The volunteer committee that put together the Chamber Music series at Grey Towers includes Nancy Pinchot, second from left, and Yosif Feigelson, center, artistic director.

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES AT GREY TOWERS CARRIES ON PINCHOT LEGACY OF ARTS & NATURE

The “towers” are alive with the sound of...music! The Pinchot Institute for Conservation has launched its first Chamber Music series, part of a creative arts and humanities program at Grey Towers that is intended to illustrate the connection, first conceived here by Gifford Pinchot’s father James, between art and nature. “Kindred Spirits,” a famous painting by Asher Durand depicting Thomas Cole, father of the Hudson River School of Painting, and William Cullen Bryant, whose writings of nature have inspired its conservation, was chosen as the signature piece of the Music Series. James Pinchot was a leader in translating artistic insight into a scientific understanding of the problem of natural resource

depletion. The Pinchot Institute Music Program at Grey Towers carries on this aspect of the Pinchot legacy by combining an appreciation of the arts and humanities with an atmosphere of creativity, innovation, and openness at Grey Towers, so that difficult environmental issues can more openly be addressed.

RECENT CONFERENCES AND PROGRAMS HELD AT GREY TOWERS

R-9 Management Team Meeting: Regional Forester Randy Phillips and his leadership team, including all the R-9 Forest Supervisors, recently met at Grey Towers to discuss management and leadership issues within the region.

PA Partnership for Conservation, a new not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing awareness, knowledge, and skills in natural sciences, conservation, and outdoor leadership, recently held their board meeting at Grey Towers and worked on partnering with Forest Service staff to develop conservation education programs in northeast Pennsylvania. Board members include Peter Pinchot and State Forester James Grace. Lori McKean, Information and Education Specialist for the Forest Service at Grey Towers, serves in an advisory capacity.



HE’S BAAAAACK.....

Ed Brannon is back! Grey Towers Director Ed Brannon has completed a special assignment working with Forest Service leaders and the Pinchot Institute for Conservation exploring how to most effectively advance leadership in natural resources.

Alice Carlton, Deputy Forest Supervisor of the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests in Virginia, was acting director of Grey Towers during this assignment.

During the assignment, Ed explored Leadership Program opportunities designed to build upon the successful programs and strengths of the Forest Service and the Pinchot Institute. For example, a recent meeting at Grey Towers explored how the Forest Service can more effectively involve retirees in furthering its mission. Leadership programs will hopefully be able to stem the potential loss of knowledge and wisdom when, within the next 5 to 10 years, a large portion of managers will be eligible to retire. The retreat explored a range of options to establish working relationships between active and retired leaders.



Some other proposals include: working with Forest Service mid-career employees and state foresters, bringing together people from the private and public sector to improve natural resource leadership, and enhancing and “growing” the Pinchot Institute’s lecture and workshop programs at Grey Towers. Brannon’s assignment and the programs that developed from it will carry forward the tradition of how Grey Towers was historically used, including Gifford Pinchot’s use of the idyllic and natural setting of Grey Towers to pioneer his groundbreaking conservation philosophy. Gifford Pinchot’s idea of conservation was new and different at the time he introduced it. The new programs will build on the past and bring the Forest Service at Grey Towers into the new century.

Answer to Pinchot Park Question: In 1930, Pinchot was elected to a second term as governor and labored for employment improvements during the Great Depression. Pinchot set up work camps throughout the state that became the models for the Civilian Conservation Corps of President Franklin Roosevelt. Pinchot’s work camps built 20,000 miles of paved roads to “get the farmer out of the mud.” These paved country roads made it easier for farmers to get from the farm to the market. The first “Pinchot Road” crosses the park, now PA 177.

Morgantown Field Office Notes

MORGANTOWN EMPLOYEES ASSIST WITH NATIONAL FIREFIGHTING EFFORTS

Several employees from both NA and NE have been involved in June and July with the national firefighting efforts:

Dan Kincaid – Served as a Fire Information Officer in Castle Rock, CO, for the Hayman Fire on the Pike/San Isabel National Forest.

Melissa Emerson – Served as a Timekeeper in Walker, CA, for the Cannon Fire on the Humboldt/Toiyabe National Forest.

Karen Felton – Served as a Timekeeper near Nogales, AZ, for the Walker Fire on the Coronado National Forest; and on both the BMG Fire and the Trampas Fire on the Sante Fe National Forest in New Mexico.

Rod Whiteman – Served as a Helicopter Manager near Show Low, AZ, for the Rodeo/Chediski Fire on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, and at Lake George, CO for the Hayman Fire on the Pike/San Isabel National Forest.

Georgia Beal – Served in Expanded Dispatch at the National Interagency Coordination Center in Boise, ID.

Tinathan Cogger – Served as a Dispatcher at the Eastern Area Coordinating Center in St. Paul, MN.

Toni Jones – Served as a Dispatcher at the Eastern Area Coordinating Center in St. Paul, MN.

Roxane Palone – Served on a Fire Rehabilitation Planning Team for the Regional Office, R-2, focusing on efforts to rehab private lands affected by the summer fires in both Wyoming and Colorado.



St. Paul Field Office Notes

EMERALD ASH BORER DISCOVERED IN MICHIGAN

In late June, an exotic buprestid was found infesting ash trees in the Detroit metropolitan area. It has been identified as *Agrilus planipennis* and has been assigned a common name of emerald ash borer. This insect is associated with dying and dead ash trees throughout a five-county area, and appears to be a major factor in the mortality of thousands of trees. All species and cultivars of ash appear to be affected. The impact of this infestation could be devastating, as green ash is very prevalent as a landscape tree and is also common in local woodlots. This infestation was apparently present for some time, but was overlooked because ash decline and ash yellows were thought to be the cause of widespread local ash mortality. A pest alert is available on the web at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/eab/pubs/pa/emeraldashborer.pdf>. A web page will be up and running soon at: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/eab/>. Entomologist **Steve Katovich** is the main point of contact in the St. Paul Field Office (SPFO) for more information on this pest, the Michigan infestation, and the Forest Service response.

PREMIER EDITION OF CENTRAL STATES FOREST HEALTH WATCH

Land managers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri have a new source for forest health information. The premier edition of the Central States Forest Health Watch was distributed electronically to the forest health specialists in these States on July 15th. **Linda Haugen** worked with the Central States to develop the newsletter, which they will in turn send out to landowners and managers within each state. The newsletter will provide updates three times per year on forest health issues of regional interest. The July 2002 edition included information on emerald ash borer, regional weather patterns, current pest conditions, oak decline, sudden oak death, Asian longhorned beetle, and gypsy moth activities. It can be viewed on the Internet at www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/newsletters/csfhw/. SPFO began distributing a similar product, the Lake States Forest Health Watch, to National Forests in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan in 1996.

AERIAL SURVEY NEARS COMPLETION

Staff foresters from the Saint Paul Field Office have completed aerial pest detection surveys on the Chippewa, Superior, Chequamegon-Nicolet, Ottawa, and Hiawatha National Forests. Flights over the Huron-Manistee NF will be completed soon. Again this year, the forest tent caterpillar (FTC), *Malacosoma disstria*, has been the most widespread and significant agent affecting the forests of the upper Midwest. This insect prefers aspen, but has also caused extensive defoliation of oaks and to a lesser degree other hardwood trees throughout the region. Heavy defoliation was found in the forests of Minnesota and Wisconsin, with light to moderate defoliation found across Michigan's Upper Peninsula. While the numbers are not in yet, it is likely that acres affected by FTC will be down from 2001. This is about the fourth year of a major outbreak of this native cyclic pest in the Lake States. Other forest pests observed include building populations of spruce budworm, primarily on the Superior NF, and jack pine budworm. Once again quite a bit of larch defoliation was observed across the Lake States region due to the larch casebearer. Larch casebearer defoliation continues to be under reported in our aerial surveys due to our difficulty in detecting this damage from the air. Staff members who conducted this year's survey included **Marc Roberts**, **Dennis McDougall**, and HACU intern **Luis Rivera-Gonzalez**.



SPFO STAFF MEMBER MAKES HEADLINES IN WESTERN FIRES

Gina Childs of the SPFO was quoted in the July 19th Montana Gazette about the status of the Broad Fire in Yellowstone National Park. Gina is serving on a fire detail in Wyoming as an information officer. The Broad Fire, which is located 6 miles northeast of Canyon Village, began on June 27th from a lightning strike. As of July 20th, it had burned 9,000 acres and was 45 percent contained. Rains during the week of July 14th have helped firefighters bring this wildfire under control.

Editor's Corner

THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helene Cleveland**, AEC; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Dan Kincaid**, Morgantown; **Linda Haugen**, St. Paul; and **Gerard Hertel**.

For her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web, **Helen Butalla**.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be **August 16, 2002**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Coger at tcoger@fs.fed.us.

