



Northeastern Area News Notes



January 25, 2007



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Another Challenging Year Ahead

"Change is inevitable, except from vending machines."—Unknown

The end of 2006 did not bring an end to the changes that have been taking place in the Forest Service and the Northeastern Area. Rather, we can expect even more change in the coming year—new Field Representatives in the Durham and Morgantown Field Offices, even more self-serve Human Resources functions as the move to the Albuquerque Service Center is completed, and a decision on competitive sourcing for Web work and photography—to name a few.

"It's not so much that we're afraid of change or so in love with the old ways, but it's that place in between that we fear. . . . It's like being between trapezes. It's Linus when his blanket is in the dryer. There's nothing to hold on to."—Marilyn Ferguson

Each of us is "in between" to some extent. Hang in there. This unfamiliar and sometimes uncomfortable place is not permanent. There will be something new to grab hold of—for example, the direction that will be provided by the new strategic plan and the results of the organizational design study. Each of these efforts is underway, and Northeastern Area employees, as well as key partners, will have the opportunity to influence the outcomes.

The Northeastern Area's uniqueness in the Forest Service organization may draw attention and scrutiny, as from the current study of State and Private Forestry at the national level. The closer view will no doubt reveal the unrivaled services and expertise we provide and the valuable contributions being made by the Northeastern Area and its partners to healthy forests across the Northeast and Midwest.

So, for the coming year, be sure to communicate who we are and what we do, even to others in the Forest Service.

- When you address people outside our organization, don't tire of using our full name—Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. It is only a few words that speak volumes about us.
- Mention to others the quarter of the Nation's forests we care about in the 20 States we serve and the 43 percent of the Nation's citizens who live here.
- Use the new tools at our disposal, such as our new Intranet site, which can be accessed by the rest of the Forest Service.



- Call on the Public Affairs Team and the Information Management and Analysis Staff to help you convey your message more effectively and according to agency guidelines.

“Learn from the wisdom of a seedling. A seedling which is never hardened off through stressful situations will never become a strong productive plant.”—Stephen Sigmund

I wish all of you a productive year, one that you will look back on with pride and a sense of accomplishment. Be healthy, happy, and prosperous throughout 2007. Happy new year. I'll see you on the other trapeze!

—Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

NEWTOWN SQUARE

Civil Rights Diversity Committee Honored for Community Service

The Northern Research Station and Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Civil Rights Diversity Committee (CRDC) was recognized by the Philadelphia Federal Executive Board Partner in Equality Council for community service in the group category. The committee was honored for its outstanding achievements, contribution, and effectiveness in promoting Equal Employment and Diversity Programs at the 10th Annual EEO/Diversity Day of Training Awards Luncheon on November 20, 2006. The 25-member committee all received certificates of achievement in the presence of the more than 700 Federal employees in attendance.

The CRDC advises and counsels management, through the Station and Area Directors, in devising, improving, and carrying out continually effective civil rights policy and program activities. The committee serves as a sensing body for the work environment by addressing civil rights issues and concerns, and helps to identify barriers in the workplace and foster positive relationships among employees, management, and the community. Projects the CRDC has been involved in include the following:

Dialogue on Diversity—workshops entitled “A Recipe For Reaching Out” conducted in various units to broaden the voices in urban and community forestry.

Universal Access on Trails—a workshop that helped communities design, build, and maintain recreational trails that increase access to the natural environment for all people.

Community Involvement Through Baltimore Tree Inventory—worked with inner-city youth in outdoor activities to introduce more city residents to the values of trees.

Training Hispanic Workers—developed a training program for Hispanic arboricultural and nursery workers to identify emerald ash borer (EAB), which enabled Hispanic arborists to have the necessary information and materials to identify EAB when encountered.

Disability Mentoring Day: Career Exploration for the 21st Century—a career development day for students and other job seekers with disabilities.



Disability Mentoring Day 2005—used funds to hire a college student with a physical disability to assist with planning and public relations for Disability Mentoring Day.

The Neighborhood Tree Project on Staten Island—provided exposure of underserved youth and their families to the urban forest and the value of trees by having hands-on contact with trees and collecting data about them.

The mission of the Philadelphia Federal Executive Board Partner in Equality Council is to be a catalyst to affect change towards organizational excellence through periodic educational forums that can assist in the development of a diverse workforce able to achieve its highest potential. The Partners In Equality Council is resourced with approximately 25 voluntary employees representing 14 agencies. One of the major functions of the council is the planning and execution of the EEO/Diversity Day of Training.

The following Civil Rights Committee members shared in the award:

Mark L. Godwin, Chairperson	John P. Brown
Joseph J. Charney, Vice Chairperson	Robert Fitzhenry
Mary Beth Adams	Zaneta Hammond
Tom Dilley	Barb Johnson
Phyllis Grinberg	Peter Knopp
John Hazel	Mara Meyers
Sheree Johnson	Michael Olson
Víctor Mercado	Joanne Rebbeck
Keith Nislow	Susan Stout
Patricia Purnell	Mark Twery
Rose Sook	Judity Terrell
Devin Wanner	Lynn Weldon
Una Wiegand	

Presidential Management Fellow on Rotation With Trust for Public Land

Becca Madsen, Presidential Management Fellow with the Northeastern Area, is on a part-time rotation with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) in Washington, DC, through March 2007. During her rotation, Becca will be conducting research, writing, and analyzing case studies related to TPL's joint study with the Forest Service on forest cover and treatment cost, a statistical assessment of the impacts of declining forest cover on the cost of treating drinking water. Two preliminary TPL studies on this topic found that the cost of treatment for utilities using surface water supplies varies depending on forest cover in the source area—the less forest cover the more expensive the water treatment. This project is well underway; results will be available in the spring or early summer.

Presidential Management Fellows Team Up on Water Quality Trading

Presidential Management Fellows from the Forest Service, NRCS, and EPA are investigating water quality trading in an independent "Action Learning Team." The team was formed in response to a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and EPA signed on October 13, 2006, which committed the agencies to supporting water quality trading and choosing a pilot watershed in the Chesapeake Bay (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/trading/tradelinks.html>). Presidential Management Fellows are in the process of cataloging their agency's involvement in water quality trading and



will then determine the goal and scope of the Action Learning Team project. Forest Service team members include **Becca Madsen** from the Northeastern Area, and Amanda Cundiff, Stephanie Bertaina, and Alex Sienkiewicz from the Washington Office. Input and ideas on this project are welcome! Contact Becca Madsen at romadsen@fs.fed.us.

Emergency Preparedness Plans for 2007

Bob Hartlove represented the Northeastern Area at the FEMA Region III Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) Meeting in Philadelphia in November. Revisions to both the National Response Plan and the National Incident Management System are underway for 2007. Bob is making the consolidated response for the Northeastern Area. He will also be working with the Washington Office on the Forest Service response for both documents. The revisions are to be completed by June 2007.

State emergency operation centers have been tasked to update their individual response plans. A reoccurring issue in the State plans concerns mass evacuations from metro areas. All States in the Mid-Atlantic region would be seriously impacted by a decision to evacuate any of the major metropolitan areas (e.g., Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Harrisburg, Trenton). States outside the evacuation area would be impacted either by absorbing the evacuees or by trying to assist them as they migrate through the State. State emergency management agencies are making plans to be able to rapidly move traffic through their respective State.

To bring the issue closer to home—this is an ideal time to remind Northeastern Area employees that they should be prepared to respond in the event of an emergency evacuation. How would that affect you? Could you get home tonight if your city or town were evacuated? What are your alternative options? Do you have an emergency evacuation kit at home or in your car? We've all heard the warnings, but what have *you* done to be personally prepared? For information on how to prepare for an emergency, visit <http://www.ready.gov/>.

Aviation Contract Administration Oversight Capabilities Enhanced

During the week of January 8, Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR) capabilities in the Northeastern Area were increased. Four employees—Aviation Officer **Dan Zimmerman** and Field Aviation Officers **Rod Whiteman** (Morgantown), **Marc Roberts** (St. Paul), and **Bill Frament** (Durham)—received training to assist the Contracting Officer in administering aviation contracts at the headquarters office and all three field offices. The training, which took place at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Fort Snelling, MN, was conducted by Jack Sater of Northwest Procurement Institute (NPI), Inc. of Edmonds, WA. The attendees received certification in COR/COTR Levels I, II, and III to improve the oversight and administration of aviation contracts, which comprises 96 percent of all aviation missions and activities nationwide.

Staff Assists in Connecticut Volunteer Fire Chiefs Workshop

Connecticut's Rural Fire Council and Department of Environmental Protection jointly sponsored a workshop in November for fire chiefs to learn more about the Insurance Service Office's (ISO) Public Protection Classification (PPC) Rating System. **Maureen Brooks** and **Jan Polasky** assisted in developing a workshop that would provide an introduction to the ISO, the PPC rating system, and opportunities available to communities to fund fire protection improvements. Approximately 70 fire chiefs participated in the discussion on how the PPC rating system is



developed for communities, the services of ISO, and how they can utilize the information available from ISO and local, State, and Federal agencies to bring about improved fire protection for their communities.

ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMAND

Cleveland Completes International Forestry Detail

In mid-January, **Helene Cleveland** completed a 5-week detail with the Forest Service International Program's Disaster Assistance Support Program (DASP). Based at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC, Helene substituted for the regular detailer coordinator. She was briefed on how to activate Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees to respond to an international disaster if requested by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). OFDA coordinates the U.S. Government's response to any international disaster. Fortunately, things were quiet, so Helene revised the detailer program's standard operating procedures. These procedures will help new personnel involved with the program to activate Forest Service and BLM employees for assignments with the OFDA in Washington, DC, or at a disaster site.

Forest Service and BLM employees have long been valued for their incident management skills, and the DASP offers another outlet for employees to hone their skills while providing assistance to other agencies. For more information on the DASP, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/aboutus/dasp/welcome.htm> or send an e-mail to DASPdetail@usaid.gov.

DURHAM FIELD OFFICE

Nobel Peace Laureate Challenges Boston to Continue "Planting Peace"

An enthusiastic crowd cheered Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Wangari Maathai with multiple standing ovations when she spoke at Faneuil Hall on October 24, 2006, on behalf of Boston's Urban Forest Coalition's *Planting Peace* program.

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino welcomed Dr. Maathai, the first environmentalist and first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and encouraged the Boston Public School students in attendance to learn from her inspiring message, noting that, "This evening is an extension of your classroom work." Menino confessed, "I'm a fanatic for trees." He explained that, "Trees do so much for the way we look at our neighborhoods. Boston is blessed with a wonderful array in our tree canopy, with 29 percent of the city boasting tree coverage."



Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Wangari Maathai speaks on behalf of Boston's Urban Forest Coalition's *Planting Peace* program.



The event was sponsored by the Boston's Urban Forest Coalition (BUFC), comprised of many local, State, and Federal organizations, including the Urban Ecology Collaborative, UMASS Cooperative Extension, Boston Parks Department, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the USDA Forest Service. The goal of BUFC is to transform the city's urban forest in order to improve the quality of life for Boston residents. Sherri Brokopp, Chair of BUFC, thanked Dr. Maathai for coming to Boston to support the coalition and for her work, which earned her the Nobel in 2004 for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy, and peace."

Bill Frament from the Durham Field Office provided aerial photography that has been used for a citywide tree inventory and was featured prior to the lecture, and **John Parry** assisted with the event planning.

***Phragmites*, Good and Bad**

Common reed (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*) is one of the worst invasive plants in the Northeast. This import from Europe can form large, dense stands. But many people might not realize that a native subspecies of common reed exists here as well. This plant was recently named subspecies *americanus*. Unlike the European plant, the *americanus* subspecies does not form dense stands, and grows sparingly in fens and brackish marshes. In September, **Tom Rawinski** collected data from a fen in Maine supporting native *Phragmites*, and in December he annotated several specimens at Harvard University to subspecies *americanus*. This information was forwarded to the botanical community so that botanists and land managers can be better equipped to differentiate native from introduced *Phragmites*. Also, several States are now considering adding subspecies *americanus* to their rare plant lists. Information about these two subspecies can be found at <http://www.ou.edu/cas/botany-micro/ben/ben366.html>.



Well-behaved, native *Phragmites* inhabit this Maine fen.



Dense, aggressive growth of introduced *Phragmites* has overwhelmed this site in Rhode Island.



Training on Guidelines for Nonformal Environmental Education Programs

In December, the first of three workshops on the North American Association of Environmental Educators (NAAEE) guidelines for nonformal environmental education programs was held at the Agro-Forestry Center in Acra, NY. The participants, from New York, Connecticut, and the USDA Forest Service, are now qualified to conduct workshops on the nonformal guidelines. Future workshops are scheduled for Portsmouth, NH, in February and Milwaukee in April. Contact Susan Cox (Durham Field Office) or Don Howlett (Eastern Region) if you'd like more information on the train-the-trainer workshops or would like training in the guidelines. The nonformal guidelines, which are one component of NAAEE's Guidelines for Excellence, can be viewed [at http://www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org).

New Hampshire Offers Community Tree Stewards Volunteer Programs

University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension and the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands offered their award-winning annual Community Tree Steward training in Goffstown and Portsmouth in October and November. This comprehensive training program covers how to care for community natural resources and how to participate in community projects. In return for participating in the training, Community Tree Stewards apply their knowledge to their local communities, promoting the benefits that trees and natural resources provide as part of healthy communities. In 2006, more than 80 Community Tree Stewards volunteered over 5,000 hours assisting 93 New Hampshire communities by serving on tree committees, working on landscape projects, doing tree evaluations and inventories, and helping fundraising efforts. Mary Tebo, Community Volunteer Coordinator with UNH Cooperative Extension, heads up this very successful program in the Manchester-Nashua area, assisted by A.J. Dupere, Community Forester with the Division of Forests and Lands—Urban Forestry Center, in Seacoast communities. Both **Dennis Souto** and **John Parry** from the Durham Field Office assisted as instructors this fall.

Community Tree Inventory Workshop in New York

West Chester County Cooperative Extension Agent Rick Harper hosted a tree inventory workshop on December 12 in Mt. Kisco, NY. This workshop provided an introduction on how to conduct community tree inventories and focused on the use of personal digital assistants (PDAs) and free software called MCTI (Mobil Community Tree Inventory). MCTI allows users to conduct a tree inventory in the field using a small handheld PDA and then transfer the data collected to a personal computer. About 30 attendees from area municipalities received resources and hands-on instruction during the workshop, which will assist them in conducting inventories in their communities. Mary Kramarchyk from New York Department of Environmental Conservation, and **Dave Bloniarz** and **John Parry** from the Forest Service conducted the training.



MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE

Morgantown Says Goodbye to John Hazel



John Hazel (left) receives a retirement gift from former colleague and long-time friend, Dan Kincaid.

On Thursday, January 4, the Morgantown Field Office surprised Field Representative **John Hazel** with a retirement party and dinner at the St. Mary's Catholic Church Peace Hall in Star City, WV. John's wife, Jonienne, managed to get him there without too much suspicion on his part. We think he was not totally surprised, however. A wonderful catered meal was enjoyed by about 45 people, and many remembrances and gifts were presented to Hazel following the dinner. Out-of-town guests in attendance included **Kathryn Maloney, Kathy Duran, Jerry Boughton, Robin Morgan, Noel Schneeberger, Nancy Martin, and Betsy Hannigan** from Newtown Square; **Steve Bratkovich** from the St. Paul Field Office; **Lew McCreery** from the Durham Field Office; Dan Kincaid, representing the West Virginia State Forester; and Dr. Ken Carvell, one

of John's forestry professors from West Virginia University. The Morgantown Field Office will miss John and hopes that he truly enjoys his retirement, including all the time he'll have for hunting and fishing!

Inaugural Northeastern Urban Research Organizational Network Conference

Boston College hosted the first annual Northeastern Urban Research Organizational Network (NEURON) conference in January. The NEURON conference focuses on urban and community forestry issues and associated research and applications. A central goal of NEURON is to articulate and share research findings and managers' research and application needs. By design, the conference was relatively informal but sufficiently structured to be productive. NEURON's objective is to promote increased awareness and collaboration among researchers and managers within and among States, focusing on but not restricted to the Northeast and Midwest.

This year's conference focused on urban tree canopy goals. Research techniques and findings were presented and discussed. Time was allowed for participants to fully probe and understand how these technical issues could be integrated into citywide policies. Presentations by Morgan



Eric Strauss, Director of Environmental Studies at Boston College, Director of Science at the Urban Ecology Institute, and host of the first annual NEURON conference, welcomes participants. (Photo credit: M. Aucoin, Boston College)



Grove, David Nowak, and Jarlath O'Neill-Dunne (USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station) and Mike Galvin (Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service) on the technical issues of determining and setting urban tree canopy goals were well received. The nearly 50 attendees from 14 States represented a variety of entities, including nonprofit organizations; city, municipal, State, and Federal agencies; and universities. **Anne Cumming** and **John Parry** represented the Northeastern Area.

The afternoon poster session allowed more groups to share successes and offered a forum for discussions and networking. A group dinner was capped off with keynote speeches by James W. Hunt, Chief of the Environment and Energy for Boston, and Dr. Tom Schmidt, Assistant Director of the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station. Mr. Hunt addressed the importance of urban tree canopy goals for the city of Boston and shared successful environmental efforts the city has initiated. Dr. Schmidt spoke about the role the Forest Service can play in assisting with research and technologies to increase the quality and quantity of the urban forest.

Plans have already begun for NEURON's next conference in 2008.

Monongahela National Forest Employee Receives Conservation Education Award



Jo Santiago (far right) accepts the Best of the Best Award for her conservation education efforts at the 2006 Honors Awards in Milwaukee.

The Forest Service Eastern Region held its 2006 Honor Awards on November 28 in Milwaukee. Monongahela National Forest Cranberry Mountain Nature Center Director Jo Santiago was honored with the *Best of the Best Award*. The award citation reads “*For sustained achievement in creating the initiative ‘Flying High Conservation Education Outreach Program’ with the assistance of the raptors.*” This program has touched more than 150,000 people.

The Flying High Conservation Education Outreach Program brings wildlife, live birds of prey, and snakes into the classroom for the benefit of students in both urban and rural settings who cannot otherwise experience the wonders of wildlife. The program nurtures an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the essential interrelationships between people and the natural systems of the environment. This is effectively done with the help of a red-tailed hawk, several owls, a variety of species of nonpoisonous snakes, and two species of poisonous snakes. The birds of prey used in the program are permanently injured, nonreleasable raptors. All of the snakes are collected from the wild and then returned safely and well fed to their capture site following a brief stay at the nature center.

Morgantown Pathologist **Martin MacKenzie** has assisted Santiago on a number of occasions because of the unique situations that can arise when traveling with raptors.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Surveys Conducted on Monongahela National Forest

Adam Cumpston and **Joseph Shupp** of Forest Health Protection in Morgantown joined **David Amrine** and **Adam Plauger** of West Virginia University (WVU) to conduct hemlock woolly adelgid surveys on the Monongahela National Forest in November. These surveys are part of a sampling plan developed by Forest Health Protection and Monongahela National Forest personnel to assess hemlock woolly adelgid presence and impacts on high-value areas (campgrounds, threatened and endangered species habitat, fishing areas, and trails) of the forest.

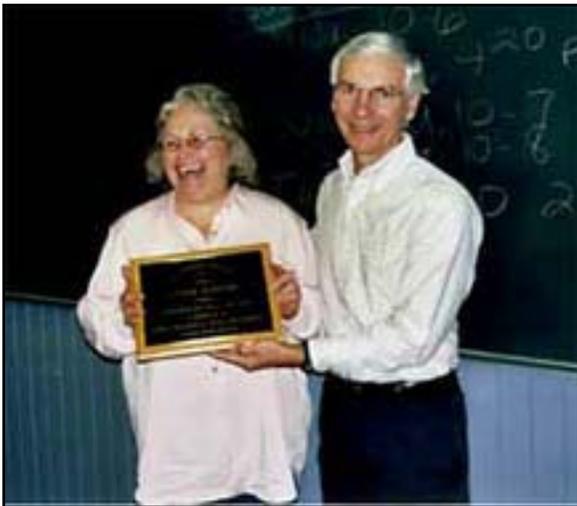


Adam Cumpston inspects a survey sample for hemlock woolly adelgid on Monongahela National Forest.

The crew returned to the Monongahela National Forest during December along with **Norman Montoy** and WVU student Chelsea Gibson. The surveys were conducted using a hemlock woolly adelgid sampling protocol developed by Dr. Scott Costa from the State of Vermont. Hemlock woolly adelgids were observed in several areas of the forest. The crews also had an opportunity to visit a helicopter logging operation on the Monongahela National Forest near Richwood, WV.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE

Field Office Recognizes Valuable Partnership



Steve Bratkovich presents a recognition award to Pam Creager of Luther Seminary.

For many years, the St. Paul Field Office has sponsored a summer intern through the HACU (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities) program. As in most programs, partnerships are a key to success. One of the partnerships developed through the HACU program has been with nearby Luther Seminary. The seminary, located a short walk from the St. Paul Field Office, has worked with our staff to secure housing and meal services for numerous HACU students. In recognition of the ongoing partnership between the field office and Luther Seminary, **Steve Bratkovich** recently presented a recognition award to Pam Creager, Office of Financial Aid and Housing at Luther.

PLT Module Examines the “Places We Live”

Project Learning Tree (PLT), the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation, has developed new supplementary education materials for students in grades 9–12 to develop their sense of place and to provide opportunities for community investigations that focus on environmental, social, and economic issues. PLT’s new secondary module, *Exploring*



Environmental Issues: Places We Live, connects students to the places they live so that they will care about and influence the decisions being made about those places. Eight inquiry-based activities help students explore their own neighborhoods, learn about their community's development and appearance through time, and get involved in local community action projects. For example, in the activity "Mapping Your Community Through Time," students use GIS data and aerial photographs from past and present to analyze the changes in their community. Support for the module was provided by the American Planning Association, Dunn Foundation, Ford Foundation, National Park Service, Urban Land Institute, and USDA Forest Service. Educators can obtain a copy of PLT's *Places We Live* module by attending a professional development workshop. For information on workshops in your area, visit <http://www.plt.org/>.

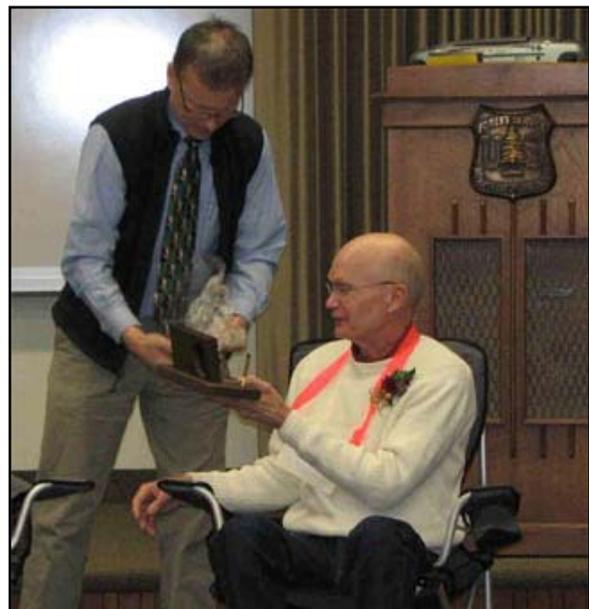
Majeski Retires After Long Career With the Northeastern Area

January 3, 2007, was the last day on the job for a St. Paul Field Office icon. **Mike Majeski** said goodbye after more than 33 years of Federal service. Mike arrived in St. Paul after a few years in the military and a brief stint at the Durham Field Office (then located in Portsmouth). He worked on various assignments and wore many hats during his tenure here. Watershed Forester, Forest Stewardship Coordinator, and Hydrologist are among the many titles that have hung on his door over the years.

One of Mike's greatest accomplishments was initiating, coordinating, and co-authoring the popular *Backyard Woods* publication. This publication was written for a national audience and is being distributed in partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation. It targets forest landowners who own 10 or fewer acres, a land ownership category often overlooked in traditional outreach efforts. We will all miss Mike but wish him and his wife Cathy the very best in their retirement years.



Gina Childs provides advice and some special gifts to help Mike Majeski and his wife prepare for their retirement trip to Florida (including this cardinal cap in lieu of a parrot head).



Mike Prouty presents Mike Majeski with a desk clock for his retirement.



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 COB **Wednesday, February 21, 2007**. 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 the Word document.**

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