



Northeastern Area News Notes



Monday, May 24, 2004



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Nurturing the Northeastern Area Safety Culture

The recent safety stand-down directed by Chief Bosworth reminded us to be attentive in all aspects of our work. It gave the Northeastern Area an excellent opportunity to share techniques and ideas on how to ensure a safety culture. These messages and techniques for safety need to be delivered in short and simple ways on a recurring basis. This is the model that impacts learning and behavior and drives us to the culture we insist upon.

Rob Clark, Forest Resources Group Leader from Durham, New Hampshire, shared a story of his experiences and I pass it along to you, with his permission. Rob is a veteran of the Forest Service and fire assignments. He served as an interagency representative last year on the Boles Meadow fire. Rob had the sad responsibility of coordinating actions after the death of a crewmember from Massachusetts. Despite the tragedy, his work eased the stress felt by the victim's family. While I mourn this death, I take solace in knowing that it was not the result of a firefighting accident and that an NA professional of Rob's character and experience was on hand to help.

I must stress another lesson from this case: Rob likely prevented a future accident, because his initiative removed pressure from the command team and the crew still at work on the fire. That freed them to concentrate on making clear-headed and deliberate decisions. Fostering good decisions is the essence of a safety culture, whether at a fire or back at the office.

While I know our standards to be high, the Northeastern Area is not immune to poor personal decisions. They reaffirm that most accidents are not accidents, but the result of choices that increase individual risk or risk to those nearby. You are empowered—entrusted—to take a proactive, inclusive approach on safety issues. If something seems not right, do something about it, because there are expectations in a safety culture:

- Everyone feels responsible for safety and does something about it.
- People go beyond the call of duty to identify and intervene when witnessing unsafe conditions and risky behavior.
- People actively care for the safety of themselves and others.

No work is so important that you end up a Darwin Award winner. Whether on the road for travel, in the field on assignment, or in the office stacking something on a shelf, take the time to consider the risk involved. Ask your coworker to take over the driving duty if you are tired or to help out when lifting something heavy. Ask me for a hand if I am the only one nearby. I insist. My promise is I'll lend it, while your promise to me is to take care for yourself and each other.

— Kathryn Maloney





AMERICAN FORCES INFORMATION SERVICE
NEWS ARTICLES

Congress, Nation Designate Military Appreciation Month
By Gene Harper
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 30, 2004 – Both chambers of the U.S. Congress have adopted a resolution calling for Americans to recognize and honor U.S. service members during **May's National Military Appreciation Month**.

Virginia Rep. Tom Davis, along with 16 cosponsors, introduced Concurrent Resolution No. 328 in the House in November. The Senate agreed to it without amendment and by unanimous consent April 26.

The resolution states that the House, with the Senate concurring, "supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month." It also "urges the president to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, localities, organizations and media to annually observe" the month "with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Finally, the resolution urges the White House Commission on Remembrance to "work to support the goals and objectives" of the month.

The Senate first passed a resolution in 1999 designating National Military Appreciation Month. That declaration summoned U.S. citizens to observe the month "in a symbol of unity, ... to honor the current and former members of the armed forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace."

Traditionally, May has focused on the military in many ways. For example, Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW), celebrated the first full Monday through Sunday in May since 1985, recognizes the roles of public servants, including the military, at local, State, regional, and Federal levels. As a part of PSRW, communities across America showcase military equipment and service members from U.S. installations. The largest PSRW event takes place on Washington's National Mall, where more than 100 Federal agencies, including the military services, put their activities, people, and equipment on public display. This year's mall event was May 6-9.

Armed Forces Day, created in 1949, is an annual event held on the third Saturday in May, with activities at U.S. military bases around the world. This year's celebration occurred May 15.

The month culminates with Memorial Day, a Federal holiday on the last Monday in May. The day, dating from the Civil War era, traditionally has marked recognition of those who have died in service to the Nation. Each year on Memorial Day, the White House Commission on Remembrance promotes one minute of silence at 3 p.m. local time to honor the military's fallen comrades and to pay tribute to the sacrifices by the Nation's service members and veterans.

http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2004/n04302004_200404304.html



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Helen Thompson Takes Sixth Annual Sharon Ossenbruggen Award

Helen Thompson received the sixth annual Sharon Ossenbruggen Award, which recognizes an outstanding Durham Field Office individual. At an awards event on May 6, last year's winner **Sherri Wormstead** presented Helen with a plaque and certificate. Helen will also receive a cash award. Master of Ceremonies



Helen Thompson (center) holds the Sharon Ossenbruggen Award plaque. Sharing her moment are (left to right) **Bob Neville**, **Sherri Wormstead**, **Roy Thompson**, and **Paul Ossenbruggen**.

and Forest Service retiree **Bob Neville** conveyed anonymous testimonials about Helen, including *“The recipient comes close to walking on water”* and *“This person conducts their work in such a highly professional manner and with so much finesse that you are completely sucked into their way of getting the work accomplished.”* A stunned Helen said, *“Thanks to everyone who said those kind things about me. I’m honored.”* Helen commented that she marked the event by wearing a T-shirt formerly belonging to Sharon, one of many given away at a memorial ceremony a few years ago. The award is named after Sharon Ossenbruggen, who worked for both Research and State and Private Forestry at the Durham Field Office before her

untimely death from cancer in 1998. Employees from Durham or any of its satellite offices may nominate fellow employees for the award. A committee of peers reviews the nominees for five attributes that Sharon exhibited: creativity, innovation, leadership, diplomacy, and dedication. Included in this year's awards ceremony audience was Paul Ossenbruggen, Sharon's husband, and Roy Thompson, Helen's husband and a former Durham employee.

The annual awards ceremony includes Durham Field Office employees' length-of-service awards. The longest service recognition this year went to **Paul Sendak**, research economist, at 35 years. A peer award was presented to **Ken Dudzik** by **Florence Peterson** and **Margaret Miller-Weeks** for “All of the technical assistance he has provided us in a friendly manner. We're really glad he is here!”



Ken Dudzik accepts his peer award from **Margaret Miller-Weeks (left)** and **Florence Peterson**.



Afterwards, the Durham Arboretum Committee and employee volunteers took advantage of a beautiful spring day to spruce up the grounds around the office. According to **John Parry**, arboretum impresario, the work consisted of mostly mulching, but also included weeding and pruning.



Cynthia Ash mulches a thriving young fir.



Sherri Wormstead, Dennis Kathios, and Meg Roessing (left to right) spread mulch around a snowdrift crabapple tree.

Sudden Oak Death Training From Coast to Coast



Live oak in California's Big Sur region are succumbing to Sudden Oak Death.

Cindy Ash attended the California Oak Mortality Task Force Training Session on Sudden Oak Death, in Felton, California, on April 22. Arborists and other interested parties spent the morning listening to leading officials address historical, regulatory, and management issues associated with Sudden Oak Death. In the afternoon they visited field sites; one stop included demonstrations of fungicide application to protect individual trees. Two additional days were spent hiking through several coastal State parks with infected oak trees. Before returning to New Hampshire, Cindy's boots were sanitized—several times!

The following week, a training session for the upcoming Sudden Oak Death survey was held in Rhode Island for participants from State forestry and agriculture agencies in New York and New England. This survey is part of a national effort involving States, the Forest Service, and APHIS to determine the extent of the disease in the United States. Steve Oak, a pathologist from the Forest Service's Asheville (NC) Field Office, provided the training, with assistance from Cathy Sparks, RI Division of Forest Environment, and **Margaret Miller-Weeks** and **Cindy Ash** from the Durham Field Office. The field practice,

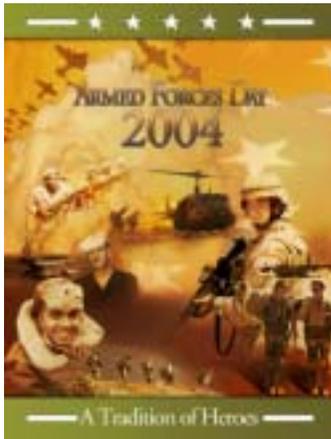


Steve Oak leads participants in the Sudden Oak Death field practice at the University of Rhode Island Nursery.



illustrating the methods for inspecting nursery forested perimeters, was conducted at the University of Rhode Island Nursery at East Farm.

Sudden Oak Death, also referred to as Ramorum blight, is caused by a pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. It has been found in nurseries and forested areas on the west coast, and most recently in nurseries in the East on infected plants that were shipped from California. It affects a variety of shrubs, such as camellias, viburnum, and rhododendron that in turn provide the inoculum for the fungus to infect nearby oaks, causing tree mortality. Northern red oak, a prominent tree in eastern forests, has been tested and found to be susceptible to the disease. The survey will be challenging, since many different diseases cause similar symptoms on shrubs, and the presence of the fungus can only be determined through laboratory confirmation. For further information, visit www.fs.fed.us/na/durham and go to the Sudden Oak Death Resources page.



Support for Our Troops at New Hampshire Armed Forces Day

Debbie Muccio attended the Armed Forces Day celebration on Saturday, May 13, in Rochester, New Hampshire. Governor Craig Benson spoke about the importance of our support for Armed Forces personnel and their dedication in serving and protecting this Nation all across the world. There were several troops in attendance who had recently returned from Iraq, as well as Debbie's husband who had recently served in Turkey with the NH Air Guard 157th refueling wing. After his speech, Debbie spoke with the Governor, thanking him for his support and his presence at the celebration. She shared with him that she is a retired Navy veteran working for the Forest Service and serves as a veteran's representative on the Durham Civil Rights Committee.

* * * * *

**We plan to include other articles to
"Support Our Troops."**

**Please submit them to Nancy Lough at:
nlough@fs.fed.us**



GREY TOWERS NOTES

Chestnut Tree Restoration at Grey Towers

Restoration of the American chestnut in Pike County was the focus of a workshop held at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark recently with leading chestnut researchers and practitioners, landowners, and conservation educators. The purpose of the seminar was to review research, the latest developments in restoration science and practices, and explore actions the Milford Experimental Forest (MEF) could take to encourage landowners to participate in restoration efforts.



Peter Pinchot, Milford Experimental Forest (MEF) Director, on left, and Josh Flad, MEF assistant forester, listen to ideas for an American chestnut restoration project during a workshop breakout discussion session at Grey Towers.

Peter Pinchot, MEF director, and his daughter Leila Pinchot, MEF chestnut program coordinator, planned and facilitated the meeting. Peter, who is Gifford Pinchot's grandson, gave a brief history of the research that had been conducted on the family property over 100 years ago. Leila discussed the future program, explaining how 100 chestnut trees that she raised are to be planted within the MEF sometime this summer as part of the restoration project.

Also participating in the program were Dr. Gary Alt, Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) Deer Management Section supervisor, who illustrated the severe impacts of

deer overpopulation; Ann Leffel, board member and tree breeding coordinator at The American Chestnut Foundation, who gave a presentation on restoration as a long-range program; Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis, agricultural scientist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Connecticut, who talked about biological control for chestnut restoration; and Alex Day, Pennsylvania DCNR nursery operations manager at Penn Nursery & Wood Shop in Spring Mills, who discussed the importance of soils and described site preparation to plant tree seedlings and the benefits of mechanical weeding. He demonstrated with a nearly 7-foot-tall American chestnut tree from the nursery that had 3 years of growth, which he considered one of the smallest trees from the nursery.

Other participants included Chandis Klinger, private landowner, who described several methods of planting seeds to encourage growth and how to protect young trees from wildlife with wire cages to keep deer from browsing on the trees; **Dr. Susan Stout**, project leader at the USDA Forest Service Warren Forestry Science Lab, who reviewed a case study and sustainable management of a deer-impacted area where there were 40 to 60 deer per square mile; and Lori McKean and Daniel Banks from Grey Towers, who shared information on how to design and facilitate conservation education programs for different target audiences.



Alex Day, DCNR nursery operations manager at Penn Nursery & Wood Shop, on left, and David Armstrong of Hanover, operations coordinator at The American Chestnut Foundation, examine the roots of a 3-year-old American chestnut tree nearly 7 feet high.



Grey Towers Hosts ICT3 Evaluations



Role players and evaluators re-enact an emergency situation on the sand table set up at Grey Towers.

A team of U.S. Forest Service evaluators recently spent 2 days at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark assessing the incident management skills of specialized Forest Service personnel from national forests in the Northeastern U.S. Grey Towers is one of five U.S. Forest Service Incident Command Type 3 (ICT3) evaluation sites identified in the Eastern Region. Each site hosts simulation exercises intended to test, evaluate, and certify current ICT3s. The objective is to ensure that all ICT3s are able to perform to expected professional safety and operational standards under stress.

The team of evaluators at Grey Towers used two tools to evaluate the incident command leaders. The first, a sand table, is similar to military-style field training. Using a 4' x 8' plywood setup,

evaluators created a mock forest with typical terrain features and simulated a forest fire scenario using real, national fire emergency scenarios. Through role playing, participants were required to react to such things as the fire “blowing up,” personnel issues, medical emergencies, and more.

“The issues and problems they encounter are typical of wild land fire situations,” said Bill Reynolds, the Eastern Region Fire Safety, Training, and Prevention Officer for the U.S. Forest Service. “These evaluations are designed to help each ICT3 meet responsibilities with firefighter and public safety as their number one objective.”

The other tool used in the evaluation is a computer simulation, using similar scenarios as the low-tech, sand table. “We mix them up,” explained Reynolds. “The candidates never know which one we are going to be using.”

In addition to Reynolds, Evaluation Team members include Jim Grant, Fire Management Officer from the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest, Wisconsin; Ralph Winkler, Fire Staff Officer from the Hiawatha National Forest, Michigan; “Nort” Phillips, Fire Management Officer from the Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont; and Tim Tevebaugh, Fuels Specialist from the Superior National Forest, Minnesota.

Chuck Croston, Interpretive Specialist from Grey Towers, assisted with the role-playing exercise.

Lecture Expands Arts & Conservation Program

The Arts and Conservation Program at Grey Towers is expanding this season to include lectures that explore the connection between the arts and natural resource conservation. These lectures are linked to the existing Kindred Spirits Music Program and are sponsored by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers.

For the first lecture, Dartmouth professor Robert L. McGrath discussed the connection between the Hudson River School of landscape painting and the emergence of the American Conservation Movement. In a lecture titled **Art and Actuality: Landscape Painting and Public Policy in 19th Century**, he explored what prompted many artists of the Hudson River School to advocate conservation, and whether this advocacy contributed to the creation of actual conservation practices. He also illustrated the important role



that the Pinchots played in this process. Grey Towers was built by Gifford Pinchot's father James Pinchot, who came to understand the need for conservation through collecting the paintings of Hudson River School artists in the nineteenth century. As a friend and patron of such painters as Worthington Whittredge, Eastman Johnson, and Sanford Gifford, James Pinchot cultivated a sensitive eye to the landscape by commissioning and buying the paintings that celebrated our unique American landscape. As these same landscape features, especially the forests, began to disappear, James Pinchot and others alerted the public to the loss of these treasures through art. James also encouraged his son Gifford to travel to France to study forestry and, upon his return, Gifford eventually founded and served as the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Conservation policies that were instituted by Pinchot and then-President Teddy Roosevelt are still in existence today.

A second lecture, *Can Art Influence Nature in the 21st Century?*, is planned for October 9, 2004. Chicago Art Institute professor Claire Pentecost will address this question and hopefully begin a dialogue among participants.

Grey Towers Hosts National Forest Service Law Enforcement Conference

About 30 law enforcement leaders for the U.S. Forest Service recently met at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark for their annual National Law Enforcement Leadership meeting and strategic planning session.

The April meeting was the first time that Forest Service law enforcement used Grey Towers for their annual session. "Grey Towers offers such a unique experience and provided an appropriate setting for our National Law Enforcement meeting, at the origins of the conservation movement and our agency, as we are forward looking and strategic thinking," said Richard Glodowski, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Forest Service-Region 9.

In addition to the work at hand, the law enforcement officials learned a lot about the history of the Forest Service and Grey Towers by taking an interpretive tour of the mansion and grounds. Director Ed Brannon shared an hour-long presentation with the group. They also learned about the influence the Pinchot family had in the community when they took a walking tour of downtown Milford. Some meeting participants gained a special knowledge during their meeting. For example, the newly appointed Director of Law Enforcement & Investigations recently was hired from the U.S. Secret Service, and he gained additional historical knowledge and a new perspective about the Forest Service.

"These types of meetings really help Forest Service employees from across the Nation connect with their conservation roots," said Brannon. "At the same time, these sessions help us at Grey Towers fulfill our conservation mission as a natural resource education center and furthering the Gifford Pinchot legacy."

Grey Towers Forestry Trail Gets Spruced Up, New Signs

Junior Girl Scouts from Milford Troop #229 are volunteering their time at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark working toward earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award – the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn.

Meagan Boccio, Michele Buccine, Sarah Thatcher, and Bree Anne Willette recently completed work on the Grey Towers Forestry Trail. They also assisted in the gardens by creating potting soil and helping to "deadhead" thousands of daffodil blooms.



To earn the award, the girls must complete a project that demonstrates leadership skills and show commitment to the community and self. The project must provide a community service and take 7 to 8 hours.

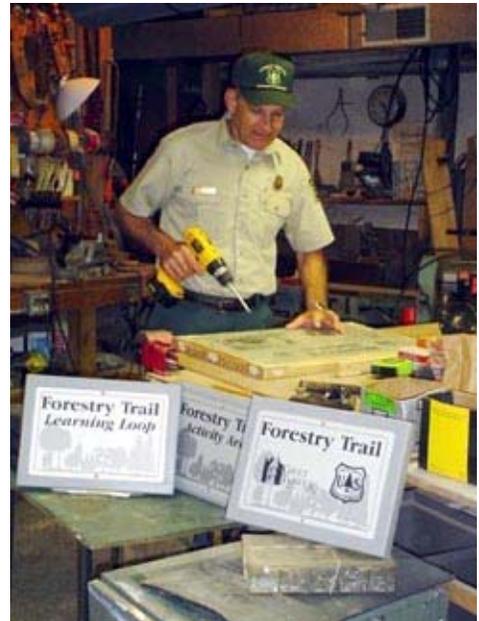


Girl scouts clean the Grey Towers Forestry Trail.

The girls worked with U.S. Forest Service Conservation Education Specialist Daniel Banks and Horticulturist Elizabeth Hawke to clean up the Forestry Trail to ready it for springtime visitors. They raked, picked up downed branches, and planted tree sprouts in the Chestnut Tree educational area. The girls also made potting soil by screening compost and adding organic materials. The soil will be used for all the annual flower containers throughout the historic landscape. Finally, the girls spent several hours removing the heads of thousands of spent daffodils that line the historic Black Locust Allee.

The improvements made by the girls will benefit the students and visitors who hike the trail and will help provide a visibly beautiful and manicured landscape throughout the season.

Richard Gilbert with the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers also recently put the finishing framework on new signs that are now installed on the Grey Towers Forestry Trail, an interpretive trail through the woods that provides hands-on education about forest ecosystems. The trail includes activity boxes and is designed to be self-guided or used for naturalist-led group programs.



Rich Gilbert of Grey Towers gets the signs ready.



MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Secretary Veneman Visits Allegheny National Forest

John Hazel represented the Northeastern Area during a visit by Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman to the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) on April 22. In recognition of Arbor Day, Secretary Veneman was invited to tour activities that included shelterwood silviculture, deer fencing, herbicide treatment, and salvage sale activity. A group of approximately 50 participants included Congressman John E. Peterson (PA 5th District), Deputy Chief Joel Holtrop, R9 Regional Forester Randy Moore, NE Assistant Director Roy Patton, NE Project Leader Susan Stout, Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliott, and a significant number of ANF staff handling logistics, as well as representation from the NRCS, Wild Turkey Federation, Ruffed Grouse Society, media, the local forest industry, and others. One important focus of the tour was the July 2003 windstorm that damaged more than 10,000 acres across 23 miles of the Allegheny National Forest and salvage sales being completed through Limited Timber Harvest Categorical Exclusion (LTHCE) authority. NA is coordinating with the ANF in this effort to provide aerial survey, photography, and forest health assistance. The group completed the tour with a visit to the Kane Hardwood Mill, which purchased the first salvage sale conducted with LTHCE, providing a good look at the stump-to-product concept.

NA Adopts “Managing For Results”

John Hazel and **Chuck Reger** participated in a *Managing for Results* workshop conducted by Weidner Consulting in the Area Director’s Office on April 20. Other NA Executive Team members and staff participated as a first exposure for most to the process adopted by the Forest Service to restore credibility and performance accountability. The process, led by the Washington Office, is intended to address how our agency needs to change in strategic business planning, execution, and evaluation of the work that we do. The consultant shared that as an agency we are known to be good at planning and execution. However, our weakness has been linking outcomes to our budgets and describing benefits to our customers. The process adopted by the Forest Service, now being developed in the Alaska Region as the national model, will link outcomes, outputs, efficiency, and demand as measures of performance. The Forest Service is moving ahead with plans to have the process in place for FY2007.



Montgomery County Arbor Day Fair

On Sunday, April 25, **Anne Cumming** represented the USDA Forest Service’s Urban and Community Forestry Program at Montgomery County, Maryland’s, Annual Arbor Day Fair in Derwood, Maryland. Located at the county’s Agricultural History Farm Park, activities included environmental entertainer “Billy B,” “Johnny Appleseed,” live music by the Cider Press Boys, free tree seedlings, a treasure hunt, games, prizes, story time, and displays from local, State, and national

environmental groups. Montgomery County received its Tree City USA award during the festivities.

This year, the USDA Forest Service’s display focused on invasive species that are threatening our forests, both urban and rural. With informative and eye-catching posters designed by **Vicky Evans**, nearly 800 people were exposed to the important topic of controlling the spread of invasive species.



All ages found interesting information about invasive species at the USDA Forest Service display at the Montgomery County Arbor Day Fair.





Arbor Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 17, at the Morgantown Arbor Day celebration, **Martin MacKenzie** and **Rick Turcotte** from the Forest Health Protection (FHP) office in Morgantown set up an insect and disease display table featuring some of the best known and a few not-so-well-known and recently introduced insects and diseases. The public expressed interest in the gypsy moth, Asian longhorned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, Sudden Oak Death, and emerald ash borer.



2004 Ohio Forest Health Conference

The 2004 Ohio Forest Health Conference was held Wednesday, April 21, and Thursday, April 22, at Canters Cave 4-H Camp in Jackson, Ohio. **Rick Turcotte** with Forest Health Protection (FHP) in Morgantown presented a 1-hour program on native defoliating insects, including information on their identification, biology, and impacts on forests. Approximately 150 private and public foresters and silviculturists from throughout Ohio attended the conference.

Technical Assistance Visit to Delaware, April 23, 2004

A sunny spring day was the backdrop for a technical assistance visit from the Morgantown Field Office to the Delaware Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator. **Anne Cumming** met with Bryan Hall for a tour of some recent urban and community forestry projects underway in Delaware.

The first stop was at the new Environmental Education Center at Blackbird State Forest. Blackbird State Forest, located on the border of New Castle and Kent Counties, is Delaware's northernmost State forest. It is only a 30-minute commute from Wilmington and Newark. Renovations are almost complete at the center that was once a residential house. The interior reconstruction of the building has completely transformed the house to a state-of-the-art interactive museum/learning center. With displays on the life of a forest, tree identification, fire and forests, invasive species, local fauna, and urban forestry, the center is a wealth of information that is sure to engage students of all ages.

One room is dedicated to urban and community forestry. Interactive displays will teach visitors about the benefits of planting trees, the importance of planting the right tree in the right place, and general principles of urban and community forestry.



Bryan Hall shows off the new urban forestry display at Blackbird State Forest's Education Center. Other exhibits included a tree ID room and extensive information about urban forestry.



The second stop of the morning was a drive through the St. Andrew Academy in Middletown, Delaware. Established in 1929, this private school enlisted the help of the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forest Service's urban foresters for recommendations and technical assistance to add younger trees to their mature landscape. The project will entail the use of parent volunteers and donated trees to plant and restore trees on the grounds in addition to establishing an arboretum onsite.

The final visit of the morning was to St. Anne's Episcopal School. This Delaware Charter Public School, also in Middletown, is the recipient of an urban forestry grant from the State of Delaware. The \$1,400 grant has been matched with \$5,000 of direct and in-kind support. The project will include the creation of an outdoor classroom and the addition of trees near a stormwater retention pond and at the edge of a meadow. During April 2004, students were invited to plant more than 1,000 native tree seedlings, including oak, sycamore, and Eastern redcedar. After the seedlings were carefully planted, the students were treated to an instructional program with Judith Leith of the Delaware Department of Agriculture. Parents were an integral part of the project and also joined in to plant 30 larger-diameter native trees.



(L.) A recently planted redcedar seedling at St. Anne's Episcopal School in Middletown, Delaware. (R.) Bryan Hall and a St. Anne's School parent discuss the planting project at the site.

Tree Keepers Talk

On Thursday evening, April 22, 2004, **Anne Cumming** (USDA Forest Service, MFO) and Bryan Hall (Consulting Arborist) presented a lecture series on *Tree Biology* and *Caring for Mature Trees* at the Easton Historical Society facility in downtown Easton, Maryland. Hosted by the nonprofit community forestry group Tree Keepers, the audience of about 40 heard the fundamentals of tree biology, how a tree grows, and what a tree needs to thrive. After a short break, the group was presented with the theories and practices of mature tree care employed by European arborists. These techniques differ slightly from the standard practices currently used in the United States, but were a thought-provoking topic that generated discussion on tree growth and management.

Digital Aerial Sketch Mapping (DASM) Training Session

Rod Whiteman hosted and coordinated a digital aerial sketch mapping (DASM) training session in Columbus, Ohio, from April 13 to 15. This "hands-on" training session included classroom instruction, demonstration, and actual in-flight usage of two DASM systems. Personnel attended the training session from both the Ohio Division of Forestry and Ohio Department of Agriculture. All attendees gave positive feedback on DASM. Ohio is now planning to purchase a system in the near future.



Allegheny Aerial Survey Flight

On Wednesday and Thursday, April 28-29, **Rick Turcotte** from the Forest Health Protection (FHP) office in Morgantown and Lauren Miles from the Marienville Ranger District of the Allegheny National Forest flew an aerial survey flight over the Allegheny National Forest to map blowdown caused by an extensive windstorm event that occurred on July 21, 2003. This storm caused scattered blowdown and branch breakage on an estimated 13,000 acres throughout the forest. This flight was coordinated with an aerial photo mission being conducted by Region 8 FHP, in coordination with Morgantown FHP and the Allegheny National Forest, to map and identify blowdown areas and evaluate the effectiveness of aerial sketch mapping.



Predatory Beetles Released Against Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on the Monongahela National Forest

On Friday, April 30, **Rick Turcotte** from Forest Health Protection (FHP) in Morgantown and Lewis Blodgett from the Gauley Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest released approximately 2,500 predatory beetles (*Pseudoscymnus tsugae*) in the Hills of Falls Creek Scenic Area. The Hills of Falls Creek is a popular area for forest visitors and local residents. The area has a ¾-mile trail and boardwalk, providing visitors with access to see three waterfalls. Hemlock woolly adelgid is present and represents a serious threat to the hemlock trees within the scenic area. Predatory beetle releases are one of the control strategies being employed to fight this introduced pest within the Monongahela National Forest.



Shadowing an Entomologist

On the 8th of April, Derek Gabreski, a student at Warren High School, Warren, Pennsylvania, was able to shadow an entomologist. In fact, he was able to shadow three professional entomologists and one amateur entomologist. **Dr. Susan Stout** of the Irvine lab arranged for a student in a high school entomology class to spend the day with forest entomology professor Douglas Allen, extension entomologist Kim Adams, NA's entomologist **Dr. Robert Acciavatti**, and amateur entomologist **Dr. Martin MacKenzie**. The team established Lindgren funnel traps in an area of black cherry blowdown on the Kane Experimental Forest. The project will assess the impact that the peach bark beetle might have on the black cherry resource.

National Technology Transfer Team

The National Technology Transfer Team, established to strategically integrate activities promoting research and information exchange in urban and community forestry, met in New Orleans April 14-16 to review technology transfer projects underway and identify needs and opportunities for the coming year. The integrated planning team is in the process of developing a national, online database resource (UFIND) that will share resources from nine major urban and community forestry (U&CF) databases across the country. The project team includes the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, Midwest Center for U&CF, **Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry**, Center for Urban Forest Research, and TreeLink.



Michael Lester and Vincent Cotrone pose for a picture after discussions at the Mid-Atlantic Center for U&CF. Discussion centered on the NEPA program, center activities, Growing Greener Bond Issue, and the new DCNR-EPA TreeVitalize Initiative.

On Thursday, May 6th, the NEPA Community Tree Association held a luncheon seminar at Keystone College. The association is comprised of Shade Tree Commission and municipal representatives from throughout NEPA. Featured speakers included Michael Lester, Assistant State Forester, and Attorney Gilbert High, who specialize in tree-related law. Assistant State Forester Lester provided an overview of the Pennsylvania U&CF Program and spoke of the challenges facing urban and community forestry. His remarks focused on funding issues, insect and disease pests, lack of trained professionals, population decreases in our cities, and sprawl in our countryside, while stressing the critical need for partnership building in all aspects of urban and community forestry delivery. **Donna Murphy** provided an overview of the NEPA Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry.

Gypsy Moth Silviculture Workshop

On Wednesday, May 5th, Kurt Gottschalk from the Northeastern Research Station, along with **Rick Turcotte** from Forest Health Protection (FHP) and **Ann Steketee** from the Information Management and Analysis group, presented a daylong workshop covering the current and historical status of gypsy moth infestations, population dynamics, ecological and socioeconomic effects, forest management, and silvicultural guidelines. The workshop was composed of morning lectures and an afternoon field tour. Silviculturists and foresters attended the workshop from the Allegheny, Daniel Boone, George Washington/Jefferson, Monongahela, and Wayne National Forests.



ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Welcome Bill Green to the Northeastern Area

Bill Green, the new Office Automation Assistant for the St. Paul Field Office, is the new voice behind the phones and the publications coordinator for the Field Office. A native Minnesotan, Bill was formerly a Control Analyst for Health Partners. In a past life, Bill was the Crew Chief on an F-4 fighter jet in the Air Force. Bill is an avid bicyclist as well as a husband, father, and grandfather. Next time you call the St. Paul Field Office, welcome Bill to the Area!

Jim Hanson Retires

Jim Hanson, Deputy Field Representative and Entomologist for the St. Paul Field Office, retired April 30. With more than 39 years with the U.S. Forest Service, Jim had a long history with the Forest Health Program as well as the St. Paul Field Office. He will be greatly missed by everyone. A retirement party is being planned for June.

Chief Bosworth Offers Support for Improved Research Program Delivery

Lisa Burban, Group Leader for Forest Resources Management, designed and facilitated the April North Central Research Station Management Team meeting in Columbia, Missouri. Chief Bosworth and Deputy Chief Bartuska participated in the strategic discussion and dialogue and shared their thoughts regarding program delivery and customer relevance related to research and development. **Gina Childs**, Group Leader for Information Management and Analysis, was the State and Private Forestry representative at the meeting.

Lisa Burban Keynotes Massachusetts Annual Tree City USA Forum

Lisa Burban delivered the keynote presentation at the recent Massachusetts Tree City USA Forum. Over 120 community forestry professionals and community leaders participated in this annual conference and awards ceremony. Lisa's presentation was very well received and James DiMaio, Chief Forester for Massachusetts, recently expressed his appreciation to Lisa in a letter.

Emerald Ash Borer Poster Wins Award

The emerald ash borer "Unwanted" Poster, developed by Michigan State University, the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other partners received a bronze award from the Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Services. **Teri Heyer**, Conservation Education Specialist, assisted with the design and technical review of the poster. The poster has been a popular method to disseminate information about the emerald ash borer in Michigan and has been duplicated in Ohio as well.



Prescribed Burning in Illinois

In mid-April, the Cook County Forest Preserve took advantage of great weather and completed a prescribed burn at the Crab Tree Nature Center on Palatine Road near Barrington, Illinois. Prescribed burns are essential to maintaining the health and vitality of oak woodlands. The burning of vegetative fuel assists in promoting native plant growth due to the nutrient deposition in the soils and reducing invasive shrubs, plants, and trees such as buckthorn and garlic mustard. With the assistance of **Tom Dilley**, Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, as well as funding from the Northeastern Area, the Cook County Forest Preserve will upgrade their program and equipment with some of the latest fire technology.



Cook County Forest Preserve employees monitor the backfire.

Arbor Day at the Morton Arboretum



The Illinois Lieutenant Governor plants a tree at the Morton Arboretum.

Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn from Illinois joined children and adults in a celebration of Arbor Day at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. **Tom Dilley**, Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, assisted with the event. The Morton Arboretum has historical connections to Arbor Day. Not only is the arboretum famous for its historical and unique trees, but the land is the former home of the founder of the Morton Salt Company, who also happens to be the brother of J. Sterling Morton – the founder of Arbor Day.

Forestry Innovation Grant Kicks Off in Indiana

Tom Dilley, Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, assisted with the kickoff of the 2004 Forestry Innovation grant, “Gary Brownfield’s Job Training Program.” This innovative project is supported by the U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area, the United States Steel Corporation, the City of Gary Department of Environmental Affairs, the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center, the Talltree Arboretum and Gardens, and the Wildlife Habitat Council of Indiana.





The first day consisted of an introduction to the ecological and industrial landscape of the area and mapping, while the second day focused on tree trimming and invasive control as well as erosion control and trail building in the restoration area.

Gary, Indiana, Urban Forester William Tillman instructs trainees in safety techniques and how to trim invasive plants away from native trees.

Michigan Requests Emergency Funding to Remove Trees Killed by Ash Borer

Governor Granholm of Michigan has requested that President Bush declare the emerald ash borer's damage a major disaster in Michigan. Granholm made the request due to the large number of dead and dying trees in very close proximity to homes, businesses, schools, and other facilities. The trees present a huge human health and property hazard in the event of a storm or fire. In a letter to the President, the Governor stated that the costs of removing trees and debris, and reducing the threat of future infestations were expected to exceed \$163 million. The Federal government provided \$29 million in ash borer eradication assistance to Michigan through early this year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture approved an additional \$28.2 million to fight the pest; this money will be divided among several States. **Lisa Burban**, Group Leader for Forest Resources Management, and **Katie Armstrong**, Northeastern Area Emerald Ash Borer Liaison, will be assisting the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with preparing the needed documentation for the request.

Northeastern Area's Projects Featured in Recent Journal Article

John Dwyer, North Central Research Station Project Leader, and **Gina Childs**, Group Leader for Information Management and Analysis, co-authored an article, "Movement of People Across the Landscape: a Blurring of Distinction Between Areas, Interests and Issues Affecting Natural Resources Issues." The article was published in the Journal of Landscape and Urban Planning in their special issue, "The Social Aspects of Landscape Change: Protecting Open Space Under the Pressure of Development." The article features some of the collaborative work between the North Central Research Station and the Northeastern Area in Chicago.

Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Indiana

After receiving lab results from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Indiana Department of Natural Resources officials confirmed that the emerald ash borer had infected a tree in Steuben County. This is the first confirmation of the ash tree-killing pest in Indiana. The ash tree-eating pest was discovered recently at the Yogi Bear Jellystone campground on Barton Lake in Steuben County about 40 miles north of Fort Wayne. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has quickly mobilized to survey and remove infested trees in Indiana.



Forest Management and the Mississippi River to Benefit from McKnight Foundation Grant

Robert Hoefert, Chair of the Onanegozie RC&D Council, is pleased to announce a McKnight Foundation award of a 2-year grant for \$130,000. Funding from the Foundation is earmarked to encourage more sustainable forestry practices that protect and improve water quality within the watershed of the Mississippi River.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Nancy Martin**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Anne Cumming**, **Rick Turcotte**, **Martin MacKenzie**, **Donna Murphy**, **Amy Onken**, and **Rod Whiteman**, Morgantown; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web; and to **Sandy Fosbroke** for her proofreading skills.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **June 18, 2004**. Please mail articles to Nancy Lough at nlough@fs.fed.us.

