



Northeastern Area News Notes



May 24, 2005



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Century of Service

Five years ago, the Forest Service set up the New Century of Service Team to prepare for the agency's Centennial in 2005. The team name reflected how the agency wanted to celebrate this significant event, acknowledging our past service and committing to the next century of service. Chief Bosworth stated this well when he said, "We can be proud of what we have achieved—but not complacent. We face daunting challenges ahead . . ." Yes, we do, but I am optimistic that just as in the last century, with the help of our partners, we will meet these new challenges.

It is often said that the wealth of a nation is vested in its natural resources, including its people. This holds for our region as well. With nearly 40 percent of the U.S. population and nearly a quarter of the Nation's forests, there is tremendous value in what we and our partners do, especially as we work to sustain the public benefits provided by private forest lands. The globalization of the marketplace, as well as the influence of China and other world suppliers, affects our challenges and choices. While we continue to address the biophysical issues of forest health, invasive species, and fuels and fire, perhaps the greatest challenges we face are on social and economic issues. What role must we play in helping forest landowners participate in changed or new markets, including environmental services markets? What tools do we have to employ for this purpose? What new or different tools or programs are needed to serve the people's interests and ensure success? Is there a strong business case for what we do?

These and a host of other questions must be addressed as we begin this new century. While the answers are not apparent, it is perhaps obvious that genuine cooperation among Federal, State, and private interests will be essential to finding the answers. The public values associated with well-managed forests depend on such cooperation. The niche of State and Private Forestry—building effective partnerships, collaborating with diverse interests, and sharing analyses, technology, and process tools needed to sustain healthy forests for all the benefits they provide, for landowners and the public—positions us to play a significant role in the future. Continuous improvement and excellence in the things we already do in these regards will be important in the future.

As we begin this new century of service, we have many examples of collaborative partnerships, emerging tools, and new efforts we can reasonably expect will be effective in sustaining the public benefits associated with private forests. For example, in the Highlands region, we are called upon to do a comprehensive analysis of forest resources, beyond what was previously done. This time our focus is in the Highlands of Connecticut and Pennsylvania. While continuing existing partnerships with Rutgers University and the Regional Plan Association, we are now developing



new Highlands partnerships with Penn State University, the University of Connecticut, and numerous Highlands Coalition members in these two States. Each successive study finds us using new tools and techniques that were not available during the previous two studies in New York and New Jersey.

In partnership with the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters, we will use our previously completed *Sustainability Assessment Highlights for the Northern United States*, along with information updates and discussion of selected issues, to communicate important information to a number of audiences. Our expectation is that this assessment will build understanding about the condition of forest resources and the relationship of our forests to the valuable environmental services they provide to people throughout the Northeast and Midwest, and beyond.

Other examples include the Spatial Analysis Project (SAP), in conjunction with the States, designed to map and track our work spatially on the landscape so that analysis can be done to allow better priority setting and decisionmaking. A Web-based data entry system is being developed so that SAP data can be effectively entered and maintained by the States. In the upper Mississippi River watershed, the SAP is being used to support a new partnership and efforts to employ forestry to restore the watershed. Notably, the SAP was recognized by Congress in recent appropriations language, directing a greater share of funds to units using this tool. The SAP team will receive a Chief's award next month for their efforts as well!

In each of these examples, we are engaged with more Federal and State agencies, communities, and nonprofits as true partners, and we recognize their importance to having the most effective and efficient programs possible. Is this new? Well no, in that we have been doing a lot of this for years, but the variety and number of partners, plus the depth of their roles continues to increase to meet new challenges. This is what is new and essential to our success and relevance in this next century of service.

— Kathryn Maloney

Honor Day in Newtown Square Recognizes Our Centennial

The Northeastern Area and Northeastern Research Station held a National Honor Day celebration on May 3 at the Drexel Lodge Park in Newtown Square. Over 80 employees and partners participated in a combined public service project and recognition ceremony. Activities included a community planting of 345 plants and flowers, removal of invasive weed species, length-of-service and centennial awards, a visual display of the Centennial poster, and plenty of Centennial pins for employees.



Rose Sook and retiree Clyde Hunt plant an ash tree donated by Clyde.





A Centennial disk and plaque were mounted on the work site stating, “A cooperative planting project in recognition of the USDA Forest Service Centennial, May 3, 2005.”

Joe Connolly from U.S. Representative Curt Weldon’s office presented a proclamation saying that the Forest Service is the “hidden jewel” of the Seventh District. The participants enjoyed a lunch and Centennial cake, and each employee received a 20-month Centennial planner and special Honor Day polo shirt as a souvenir of this momentous occasion. Smokey Bear and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry fire crew made a special appearance. Newtown Township Supervisors John Custer and Linda Houldin, Township Manager Jim Shelldrake, representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Forest Service retirees were on hand to participate in the day’s program. Afterwards, participants were invited back to the office for a moment of silence in honor of deceased employees and to attend a 2-hour showing of *The Greatest Good*, a documentary chronicling the Forest Service’s 100 years of “Caring for the Land and Serving People,” from 1905 to 2005.



Michelle Frank works to eliminate invasive plants.



Mike Gilmore and Lloyd Casey give instructions on the finer points of wheelbarrow use to Kathy Maloney.



Sally Claggett drives a wheelbarrow for mulch.



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Honor Day Takes on Special Meaning in Durham Remembering Sharon Ossenbruggen's Legacy



(left to right) Helen Thompson, last year's recipient, presents the 2005 Sharon Ossenbruggen Award to Dennis Souto as his wife, Ann, looks on.

Each year in May, the Durham Field Office gathers to remember the legacy of Sharon Ossenbruggen and honor an employee with an award in her name. This year's event took on special meaning as it was combined with activities recognizing Forest Service Honor Day.

Employees and guests gathered in the conference room on May 3 to hear **Bob Neville**, Forest Service retiree and Sharon's former supervisor, talk about Sharon's life and work, cut short in 1998 when she died after a bout with cancer. Sharon began her Forest Service career at the Northeastern Research Station, later transitioning to State and Private Forestry as an urban forester. She quickly developed a network within the Federal and State urban forestry organization and earned a reputation for expertise beyond her training. Sharon left a positive and lasting impression on those who knew her. In her memory and honor, the Durham Field Office established the Sharon Ossenbruggen Award, officially recognizing exceptional employees by their peers.

Attendees viewed the preview of *The Greatest Good*, then took time to remember Sharon and other colleagues who have passed away and observed a moment of silence in their honor. Afterwards, nearly a dozen employees received length-of-service awards. Among them, **George Saufley** received an award for 40 years of service to the government.

Bob Neville then read excerpts from testimony provided about this year's Sharon Ossenbruggen Award recipient, including "This person puts things into real perspective as to why we are doing our job—to serve the public and protect the environment" and "This person exhibits creativity through simplicity in a day of technology, bells, and whistles." Last year's recipient Helen Thompson came forward to present the 2005 award. And the winner is . . . **Dennis Souto**. Dennis was cited for best exhibiting the five characteristics that exemplified Sharon's work ethic: creativity, diplomacy, innovation,



John Parry chips in, shoveling mulch to spruce up the grounds outside the Durham Field Office.



dedication, and leadership. *“I am humbled by this award,”* said Dennis. *“But if you want to know what I’m really like, just ask my wife!”*

As has become tradition, the awards presentation and luncheon were followed by a field office work day, where employees join forces to pull weeds, spread mulch, and plant trees and shrubs to help spruce up the building’s landscaping.

Sirex Woodwasp Surveys Continue in New York

The Forest Service, the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets, and APHIS continue to work cooperatively to survey for sirex woodwasp in and around Fulton, NY. During the week of May 9, a team of 18 personnel from these agencies met in Fulton to conduct a ground survey of the pine areas that were mapped during last month’s aerial detection survey. The large Forest Service contingent included **Dennis Souto** and **Kevin Dodds** (Durham), **Dennis Haugen** (St. Paul), **Bill Oldland** (Morgantown), and **Paul Merten** and **Jim Smith** (Southern Region). Dennis Haugen, who has vast experience with sirex woodwasp in Australia, conducted a 45-minute training that covered the biology of the woodwasp, its symbiotic fungi, biological control methods and symptoms of attack. Afterwards, the crew surveyed 15 areas around Fulton and found no sign of sirex woodwasp. Many of the pines in the area were dead or dying from a combination of factors, including bark beetle attacks and severe ice damage. On the last day of the survey, the team went to Oswego, NY, to survey four pine stands that showed signs of stress or mortality. In two of these areas several scotch pine were found that showed possible signs of sirex woodwasp infestation. These trees were flagged and then cut down during the week of May 16. Entomologists will examine the trees for signs of the woodwasp. Any suspect material will be sent to a quarantine facility for further study.

State Work Highlighted at National OHV Collaboration Summit

Early in 2004, the Forest Service put out a national call for examples of successful management of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. The examples would be evaluated by the National OHV Policy Implementation Team and a certain number selected for development into case studies. **Bob Fitzhenry**, IMA Group Leader, knew from his experience as a trail guide author that New Hampshire had excellent multiuse trail networks in place. **Karen Mollander**, Field Rep, and Bob worked through the New Hampshire State Forester to reach the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails, part of the State Department of Resources and Economic Development.

“We hoped a State example would offer the implementation team a different perspective to consider,” explained Fitzhenry. *“The team was truly focused on diversity of ideas and innovative approaches that could be shared. As it turned out, we sent in two examples from New Hampshire, and the implementation team asked us to develop both into case studies.”*

The first New Hampshire case study focuses on the Hopkinton-Everett (Hop-Ev) Reservoir Multiuse Trail Network, a system of trails managed by the State on Federal property owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This example highlights a State and Federal partnership in the well-populated southern part of the State, where the pressure for all forms of recreational opportunities is the greatest.

The second example was the Perry Stream All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Trails. The State has worked in collaboration with a private landowner to develop ATV trails on 8,000 acres of timberland that serves as the gateway to the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Forest Legacy land. The goal at Perry Stream is to create a summer tourism economy, with ATV opportunities and trail



networks between Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Canada, similar to those enjoyed by snowmobilers.

“The State suggested the Perry Stream case study,” Fitzhenry noted. *“Whereas Hop-Ev had a 20-year history and is running at a steady state, the second example was a fairly new project. The northern part of the State survives on winter snowmobile tourism, but the summer economy needs a desperate boost. From what I learned of the Perry Stream ATV network, other OHV trails under development in the region, and the ATV trail network in Quebec, there’s a promising future.”*

In all, 11 case studies were developed by the implementation team. The case study effort was capped by the National OHV Collaboration Summit, sponsored by the Forest Service in San Diego. The national OHV program manager flew Chris Gamache, Trails Program Manager for New Hampshire, and Warren Chase, Perry Stream Land Manager and ATV Club Trail Boss, to present at the national summit. Fitzhenry moderated the presentations on the New Hampshire case studies, which were held twice. Many of the 150 attendees considered the New Hampshire examples to be the most valuable in terms of lessons learned and new approaches to collaboration between private, State, and Federal landowners. For more information, visit <http://www.cce.csus.edu/cts/ohv05/index.cfm>.

Assessing Tropical Forest Health in Malaysia



Students examine roots for symptoms of disease during the recent training session in Malaysia.

Pathologists **Cindy Ash** (Durham) and **John Kliejunas** (Southwestern Region) spent 3 weeks this past April in Malaysia presenting a weeklong training course on assessing the health of tropical forests. Dr. Su See Lee at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia provided laboratory facilities and on-site coordination. Students attending the course were early-career researchers and forest pathologists from the Philippines, the People’s Republic of China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia. After the workshop, Cindy and John spent several days in Malaysia’s higher elevation oak and ericaceous forests looking for plants potentially infected with *Phytophthora* species. The origin of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the organism responsible for sudden oak death and ramorum blight, is unknown but may have come from that part of the world.

Remembering the 1915 Armenian Genocide

On April 25, the Durham Civil Rights Committee hosted a presentation by **Bob Cooke** in remembrance of the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide as well as Bob’s recent trip to Armenia. During World War I, the Ottoman Empire conducted what is considered the first genocide of the 20th century, an ethnic cleansing in what is currently western Turkey and Armenia. Bob gave a background of Armenia’s history and the genocide, handling this difficult and serious subject with sensitivity. He then shared his experiences during his recent trip to Armenia with Habitat for Humanity, chronicling how the trip came about and his work there. He also shared his impressions of the Armenian people and their culture. Bob brought maps, books, and photos about the country, as well as some items from his trip—a rug sample, a duduk (flute), a coffee pot, jewelry, and other artifacts—to help enlighten attendees on the Armenian way of life.



Pathways to the Future

Pathways to the Future, an environmental careers exploration program for high school students, was held in Franklin Park, Boston, on May 21. Students learned about the Forest Service and other environmental organizations, and the types of career paths they could follow. **Dennis Souto** conducted a workshop for budding entomologists and surveyed the park for insects. **John Parry** and **Susan Cox** assisted in planning and coordination. Inspirational talks were given by Jim DiMaio, Massachusetts State Forester; Garin Veris, Boston Recreation Director and former New England Patriot; and Barney Gyant, Deputy Supervisor for the White Mountain National Forest. The event was a collaborative effort with the White Mountain and Green Mountain National Forests, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Franklin Park, the Durham Field Office, and others.

Teaching Students About *The Greatest Good*

Susan Cox presented Part I of *The Greatest Good* to environmental science classes at McIntosh College in Dover, NH. The focus of the conservation movement and Gifford Pinchot's vision of the Forest Service prompted discussion about the effects 100 years later. Students expressed a better understanding of the Forest Service and forestry.

Students at the Cooperative Middle School in Stratham, NH, were treated to Part I of *The Greatest Good* as an introduction of their studies of the Progressive Era in American history. Susan Cox talked with the students about the concept of Pinchot's phrase "doing the greatest good for the greatest number for the long run" and what that means to them presently and in the future. The discussion evolved into looking at how environmental issues can impact and influence social and economic issues.

Conservation Ed Field Coordinators Meeting

Susan Cox (Durham) and **Chuck Reger** (Morgantown) attended the Conservation Education Field Coordinators Meeting in Rosslyn, VA. The focus of this year's meeting was to develop a draft 5-year strategic plan. Chuck and Susan both received awards for their support and delivery of conservation education.

Tree Inventory in Boston

A coalition including Boston nonprofit organizations, the Boston Parks Department, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Durham Field Office staff have been working together to plan an inventory of Boston's public trees and urban woodlands. **Tom Luther, Roger Monthey, Bill Frament, Dennis Souto, and John Parry** have participated in a series of meetings with the Boston Urban Forestry Coalition and the Franklin Park Coalition to provide technical assistance on GIS mapping, aerial photography, and tree inventory work. The inventory work, which will begin this summer, will lead to improved management of this valuable urban resource.

Vermont Tree Wardens Annual Conference

Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator Danielle Fitzco hosted the annual meeting of the Vermont Tree Wardens in April. Over 50 tree wardens attended the event to improve their expertise on the planting, care, and protection of the city and town trees for which they are responsible. **John Parry** attended and gave a presentation on evaluating risk trees in urban areas.



GREY TOWERS NOTES

Grey Towers Staff Helps Plant Trees in Milford

Forest Service employees from the Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford recently lent a hand—and shovels and rakes and a little bit of sweat—to the Milford Shade Tree Commission as they planted 14 trees in the borough.

In part to celebrate Arbor Day and in part to volunteer for a community project, the Grey Towers team helped plant seven London plane trees, three elms, and four swamp white oaks in front of and alongside the Grand Union parking lot on Harford Street. The site was chosen because it is considered a gateway to the community, which is a focus of the Shade Tree Commission and the Milford Enhancement Committee.

The Grey Towers staff agreed that the trees will be around “long after we’re all gone,” and that the project is a fitting legacy for the work they do at Grey Towers.



John LoDolce and John Wicksnes were among a crew of Grey Towers employees who planted trees in Milford recently.

Honor Day Celebrated at Grey Towers

It was business as usual at Grey Towers on May 3, the nationally designated Honor Day for Forest Service employees, retirees, volunteers, and partners, but that didn’t stop the staff from taking time to honor their colleagues. In fact, having two Forest Service groups attending sessions at Grey Towers on that day enhanced the event and further drove home the fact that we all work for the same agency.

The Forest Supervisors Leadership Forum and the Natural Resources Information Systems Leadership Team were holding separate meetings at Grey Towers that day and were invited to join the Honor Day activities, including an outdoor luncheon at the Fingerbowl, complete with a sheet cake adorned with a Forest Service shield. The two groups also were invited to participate in the national moment of silence, held to honor those colleagues who had died in the line of duty.

The Grey Towers staff and volunteers enjoyed some ice-breaker activities, and length-of-service awards were given to **Joy Tormos** (5 years), **Richard Gilbert** (5 years), **Paul Ubaldini** (5 years), and **Charles Herne** (30 years).

Children Learn Pinchot Garden History in Planting Program

A unique hands-on planting program at the Grey Towers National Historic Site recently introduced children to some planting basics and the history of the site’s beautiful gardens. Each participant took home a mixed annual flower container.

Grey Towers Horticulturist **Elizabeth Hawke** re-created some container gardening history as youngsters made potting soil from compost and planted annual flowers similar to those Cornelia Pinchot had used in her beautiful gardens. Mrs. Pinchot enhanced the Grey Towers property with



her colorful gardens and creative landscape design. The program was one in a series of public programs that enable the Forest Service to share the Pinchot legacy with the public.

Grey Towers Interpretive Assistant Wins Award

Lynn Dennis, Interpretive Assistant, recently received a Civil Rights Achievement Award in recognition of her “commitment, dedication, and support” as a Zone Representative for the Northeastern Area and Station Civil Rights Committee. As Zone Representative, Lynn prepares a report of all civil rights activities in the zone, completes all pre- and post-work associated with semiannual meetings, and networks with local Civil Rights Committee chairpersons.

Grey Towers in the News!

Grey Towers figured prominently in a travel piece that appeared in the Friday, May 13 edition of the *New York Times*. The writer waxed poetic about the work the Forest Service is accomplishing at the historic site, enticing visitors to travel to Milford to have a look for themselves at the beautiful house and grounds and to learn more about Gifford Pinchot and his contributions to conservation in America.

Congressman Donald Sherwood Visits



Congressman Don Sherwood recently attended a meeting at Grey Towers to learn more about the USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program. Hosted by the Delaware Highlands Land Conservancy, the informational session was intended to educate the Congressman and about 30 other interested parties about the application that was submitted for Forest Legacy consideration, which included lands surrounding Grey Towers and owned by the Pinchot family, as well as lands owned by two nearby sportsman’s clubs.

Congressman Donald Sherwood and Peter Pinchot discuss the Forest Legacy Program in the woods surrounding Grey Towers, also known as the family-owned Milford Experimental Forest.



MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Battling Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on the Monongahela National Forest

The hemlock woolly adelgid has made its way to the Monongahela National Forest and represents a serious threat to hemlock trees. The Forest Service is trying to fight this invasive pest on two fronts.

Predatory beetle releases are one of the control strategies being employed. On May 5, **Karen Felton** and **Matt Seese** released approximately 2,500 predatory beetles, *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* (formerly *Pseudoscymnus tsugae*), at the Blue Meadow Campground and 2,500 beetles at the Blue Bend Campground. The two campgrounds are popular areas for forest visitors and local residents. This is the first release of beetles at these sites. It is hoped that these beetles will become established and provide a measure of control against hemlock woolly adelgid.



A trunk injection system for imidacloprid is inserted at the base of an eastern hemlock tree on the Monongahela National Forest.

The following week, **Brad Onken, Rick Turcotte, Rod Whiteman, Karen Felton, and Matt Seese** began treating 129 eastern hemlock trees with the systemic insecticide imidacloprid at the same two campgrounds. This is the first insecticidal treatment at these sites as part of an effort to preserve the hemlock canopy. The imidacloprid treatment is expected to reduce hemlock woolly adelgid populations on treated trees and provide up to 3 years of protection.

Feathers and Fangs Induce Thrills and Chills at the Anacostia River Environmental Fair



Roy Moose shows fair attendees a corn snake and an ear of Indian corn, explaining how the snake came to be named.

Over 500 elementary and middle school students from Washington, DC, school districts attended this year's Anacostia River Environmental Fair. This annual fair is coordinated by the DC Department of Health Education and Community Outreach Program. Presentations by USDA Forest Service personnel about raptors and snakes were the highlight of this year's program.

Martin MacKenzie, Vicky Evans, and Devin Wanner from the Morgantown Field Office; **Jo Santiago** from the Monongahela National Forest; and **Roy Moose**, a contractor who assists Santiago, made several presentations to school children as they rotated through stations at the fair.



Santiago talked about raptors and the unique adaptations they possess. She brought a red-tailed hawk that has been in her care for about 8 years. The hawk was injured in an accident and can no longer fly. The bird's very presence, however, drew people to listen and ask questions.

The snakes were also a huge favorite with fairgoers, although some were happy to keep their distance. Moose introduced snakes common to the Eastern United States, including two rattlesnakes. Everyone was allowed to handle the nonpoisonous snakes; those who did received a sticker stating, "I touched a snake today."

USDA Forest Service participation in the Anacostia River Environmental Fair was an action item identified last fall when the Morgantown Field Office conducted a review of the District of Columbia's Education and Community Outreach Program.

Tree Autopsy Workshop Held in Morgantown

Martin MacKenzie hosted a 1-day tree autopsy workshop at the Morgantown Field Office on May 3, attended by employees from the Wayne, Monongahela, and Allegheny National Forests and the Asheville, North Carolina, Field Office. MacKenzie stressed that, unlike wounds in people, tree wounds do not heal. Once a tree is damaged, the evidence of wounding remains in the hardwood and subsequent growth patterns. The participants spent the morning looking at specimens and slides that illustrated different types of wounds and structural failures. The class went to Coopers Rock State Forest in the afternoon to practice their skills on freshly cut trees. MacKenzie had previously chosen several trees that **Tom Elliot** then cut down and dissected once everyone was on-site.



Martin MacKenzie (right) shows workshop attendees evidence of tree wounds at Coopers Rock State Forest.

Frank Cromer videotaped both the morning and afternoon sessions. MacKenzie is working on using the footage to develop a PowerPoint presentation that can be used as a Web-based tool so that more people can have access to the training material.

Groundwater Festival Held in Washington County, Pennsylvania

The 10th Annual Washington County, Pennsylvania, Children's Groundwater Festival was held at California University of Pennsylvania on May 11. Over 900 sixth graders from 9 public and private schools participated in this year's festival. **Roxane Palone** and **Norm Montoy** of the Morgantown Field Office staffed the Forest Service exhibit, "The Streamside Forest," which described riparian forest buffers and their functions and values.

Each student was given a quiz to complete as they made their way through the 26 displays in the exhibit hall and listened to demonstrations. Palone and Montoy used an experiment to demonstrate to students how forest buffers help filter water before it enters a stream, keep soil in place, and keep sediment out of the stream. Two streamside pans were set up—one with a growing buffer and one containing bare soil. Using sprinkler cans, students made it "rain" and watched as the water ran out of the pans and into the "stream," represented by large buckets. The students had a good time while learning valuable lessons about water resources. The festival is organized by the Washington County Watershed Alliance and Penn State Cooperative Extension.



West Virginia Holds Ninth Annual Envirothon Competition



Participants stop at the aquatics station at West Virginia's Envirothon competition.

High school students from across the State of West Virginia gathered at Jackson's Mill on April 28 to compete in the ninth annual West Virginia Envirothon. Forty-two teams representing 29 schools tested their knowledge of West Virginia forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soils, and this year's special topic, managing cultural resources.

A number of Morgantown Field Office employees assisted at this year's event: **Chuck Reger, Vicky Evans, Toni Jones, and Devin Wanner** gave logistical support; **Karen Sykes and Roxane Palone** helped staff the aquatic station; and **Al Steele** served on the panel of judges for the oral presentations.

All of the teams came prepared to give an oral presentation, but only the five teams with the highest composite scores from the written tests gave their presentation to the judges. The scenario for the presentation was rainwater collection and storage. The teams had 10 minutes to showcase how they would collect and use rainwater while preserving the cultural resources at Jackson's Mill, the boyhood home of Stonewall Jackson. The judges then had 5 minutes to ask questions.

At the closing ceremony, an award was presented to Vicky Evans for all the hard work she put into the National Envirothon that was held in West Virginia last year.

PA DCNR Secretary Discusses Agency's Priorities with Stakeholders

On April 26, **Anne Cumming** joined other stakeholders at the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center to hear Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Michael DiBerardinis discuss the agency's priorities as outlined in the new action plan, *Shaping a Sustainable Pennsylvania: DCNR's Blueprint for Action*. The plan unveils four goals that build upon the agency's mission, seeking to improve stewardship and management of State parks and forests, promote statewide land conservation, build and maintain sustainable and attractive communities, and create outdoor connections for citizens and visitors. Mr. DiBerardinis presented the new action plan to begin the 2-hour session and discussed how it was created and how the DCNR is starting to implement the plan's goals and recommendations. Breakout sessions followed, and each group was given trigger questions to discuss. The afternoon concluded with the groups presenting their most pressing idea or concern. Issues and concerns that were voiced included the sheer number of communities within the State and how to reach consensus among them, the long-term nature of accomplishing these goals that will require commitment from the DCNR and its partners, and ideas for integrating economic growth with natural resource management.

Honor Day Held at Morgantown

May 3 was designated as the day the Forest Service would celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the agency. Offices across the country were to mark this historic event. The office in Morgantown celebrated with a potluck luncheon and a showing of *The Greatest Good* documentary. Field Representative **John Hazel** handed out several length-of-service awards prior to showing the documentary. Many employees who did not have an opportunity to see the documentary at a previous viewing were glad that it was being shown again.



Smokey Bear Makes an Appearance at Head Start

Smokey Bear visited a Head Start class with **Vicky Evans** and **Devin Wanner** in Fairmont, West Virginia, to talk about the importance of trees and fire safety. Wanner and Evans told the children that trees provide a lot of benefits, from shade on a hot summer day to homes for wildlife and all the products we make from wood. The most important thing for the children was that they could climb trees. Smokey wanted to make sure that the kids knew how dangerous fire can be and that they should never play with matches. He also told the kids that they had a very important job to do when they went camping—to remind their parents to make certain the campfire was out before leaving.

As a symbol to remember the evening, each of the children was given an eastern white pine seedling to plant in their yard. The tree will remind them of the importance of trees and their role in ensuring a supply of trees for the future. Then all the children gathered around Smokey for a group photo.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Northeastern Area and Michigan DNR Assist EAB-Afflicted Communities

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has awarded grants totaling \$538,505 to 38 communities and nonprofit organizations for tree planting projects. The emerald ash borer grant program, with funding from the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, was established to help communities in southeastern Michigan replace trees lost due to the emerald ash borer (EAB).

“Trees play a vital role in the health and beauty of Michigan’s communities,” said Lynne Boyd, DNR’s Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Chief. “Through this grant program, communities will be able to replace trees lost to the emerald ash borer and take steps toward creating a healthy community forest through diversity.” Affected communities and nonprofit organizations within the 20 quarantined counties in Michigan were eligible for financial and technical assistance in support of tree planting projects through this grant program.

Greater Attention Dedicated to the Mississippi Blufflands

Teri Heyer, Watershed Specialist, and about 75 other leaders in land conservation attended the “Blufflands on the Edge” conference held April 22, in Red Wing, Minnesota. The conference was hosted by the Blufflands Alliance, a consortium of lands trusts from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa, and was sponsored by the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. Participants were challenged to confront the many threats to the Mississippi River blufflands. Dan McGuinness, representing the Audubon Society’s Upper Mississippi River campaign, defined the threats as “narrow thinking, limited identity, and misguided spending.” He challenged the public to “Join the 1% Club” by allocating 1 percent of their income towards some kind of conservation project or organization. Rip Rapson, President of the McKnight Foundation, defined success as “when the Army Corps of Engineers is known as the Army Corps of Restoration, when farm payments are linked to pollution reduction, when the Mississippi is known as the nation’s fourth coastline, and when the ‘dead zone’ in the Gulf disappears.”



Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week

Katie Armstrong, Emerald Ash Borer Liaison, will be working extra hard to promote emerald ash borer awareness and education in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana during the week of May 23—the first officially designated “Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week.” This tristate awareness effort will include a “Firewood Blitz,” a campaign designed to inform homeowners, landowners, and campers about the dangers of moving ash firewood.

Minnesota Arbor Day Event Highlights Forest Service Research on the Value of Trees

Jill Mahon, Midwest Urban Forestry Center Coordinator, **Gina Childs**, IMA Group Leader, and **Ken Holman**, Minnesota DNR, used Minnesota Arbor Day events to promote recently released research from the Pacific Southwest Research Station. “Trees Pay Us Back” was the theme for the promotional campaign; the purpose was to create an awareness of the dollar value trees provide us in ecological services. CEL Public Relations, a Twin Cities based public relations firm, assisted with the events. The story was featured in both major daily newspapers—the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* and the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*—as well as broadcast on the Twin City affiliates of CBS, NBC, ABC, and Fox, and local news radio programs. In all, the USDA Forest Service-Minnesota DNR partnership was featured in 7 newspaper articles and columns, 3 radio programs, and 23 television teases and segments.

Chicago Goes Native

Tom Dilley, Metropolitan Initiative Coordinator, is assisting Eden Place Nature Center (featured in the recent PBS documentary *Eden Place Lost and Found*) with planting native tree species at the inner-city nature center. Cooperators on this project include the Illinois Department of Conservation, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the city of Chicago. The project received funding from the Northeastern Area through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Exploring Partnerships

Tom Dilley, Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, was one of the Northeastern Area representatives at the USDA Forest Service Second Annual National Partnership Meeting in Chicago during the week of May 16. Approximately 50 Forest Service representatives and partners from across the country attended. The purpose of the meeting is to highlight effective partnerships and share information on how to make creative partnerships in natural resources more effective. Tom Dilley and **Lynne Westphal**, North Central Research Station, helped coordinate a daylong field trip designed to give attendees a better understanding of natural resource partnerships in urban areas.

University of Minnesota Reorganizes College of Natural Resources

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruinicks has proposed to merge the College of Natural Resources with the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Science. According to Bruinick, “*Consolidation would strengthen the colleges and allow them to offer more to students while saving money.*” Bruinicks has emphasized that many of the existing programs will continue under the new college, and much of the ongoing research and research facilities will remain unchanged. Deans of both colleges have endorsed the proposal in written statements.



Welcome Back—the American Elm

Linda Haugen, Plant Pathologist, will be working with **Jim Slavicek**, Northeastern Research Station, to plant disease-tolerant American elms in several locations throughout the Midwest. The planting sites include Luther College in Decorah, Iowa; the Carpenter Nature Center in Hastings, Minnesota; and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. American elm is an important component of Midwest urban and riparian forests. These plantings will demonstrate the potential as well as the growth characteristics of disease-tolerant American elms in the Midwest landscape.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square, **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Devin Wanner**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul.

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DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, June 22, 2005**. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us. Please send text separate from photos and graphics, and include captions for all images.

