



Northeastern Area News Notes



January 24, 2006



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

A Salute to Your Service

As this year draws to a close, the celebrations and cherished visits with family and friends provide needed distraction from what is really on my mind. My thoughts are very much on the contributions made by individuals throughout the past year, and for many previous years. I salute the dedication of all who have worked to advance NA's efforts. In particular, I salute the contributions of two who will leave the Northeastern Area and the NA Executive Team as we begin the New Year. John Nordin and Karen Mollander will be missed as they depart NA for the joys of retirement and of new challenges, respectively.

Karen's work in the Durham Field Office spanned 5 years. While she has contributed in many ways to NA's work, her success in building an effective team in Durham and in strengthening the partnership between and among NA and the States of the Durham service area are most notable. Why? These successes are mostly about relationships and provide a strong foundation for our future. I hope you will join me in a virtual salute to Karen as she moves to new challenges in Region 6, as Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

John's work in NA headquarters spanned 5 years as well. My guess is the job done by the Deputy Director is sometimes under appreciated, as much effort goes into quietly working to keep other efforts on track and moving in an appropriate direction. John has performed exceedingly well, establishing expectations and norms that have helped NA not only get work done, but get it done well! He has freely shared his insights and wise counsel with me, positively influencing many decisions and directions. John's contributions to NA's relationships with State Foresters and other partners are significant as well, providing a certain credibility and integrity for us to maintain in the future. I hope you will join me in a virtual salute to John as he joins the ranks of the "retired" and enjoys every holiday throughout the year, all 365 of them!

So, as the rest of us begin the New Year, let's learn from and build on the efforts of the past year(s). The challenges ahead will be easily met if we recall how Karen, John, and others routinely contributed to teamwork, mutual trust, and shared expectations for NA and our partners.

Best wishes for the New Year!

— Kathryn Maloney



NEWTOWN SQUARE OFFICE NOTES

Rotor and Wing Conference: The Pulaski Conference Series

The Rotor and Wing Conference is the second in the Pulaski Series of Conferences to develop doctrine for Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management. **Dan Zimmerman**, Area Aviation Officer, attended the 6-day conference in Stevenson, WA, January 22–27. He was joined by 39 Forest Service colleagues from across the Nation to collaborate during an exciting week of fast-paced intense work. Professional facilitators guided the group through activities and exercises in developing Forest Service aviation doctrine. Dan was chosen as one of six participants as a Subject Matter Expert in aviation management as this group will provide the knowledge of guidelines, policies, and principles involved in aviation operations. The facilitators reported that the significance of the work accomplished at this conference will likely endure well beyond the careers of many of those involved.

Article Highlights State Forest Resource Planning

An article entitled “State Forest Resource Planning Programs in the Northeast United States” is featured in the December 2005 issue of the *Northern Journal of Applied Forestry*. The article points out that State forestry agencies may manage as few as one or as many as five different planning efforts at one time. The most common planning types are planning for State-administered forest land and comprehensive statewide forest resource planning for all forest lands. State agencies also led or contributed to plans to address select topics such as old growth, water quality, and wildlife. In addition, they develop agency work plans and assist in local land use and miscellaneous other planning activities. The article was written by Mike Kilgore and Raintry Salk, Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota; **Constance Carpenter**, USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, and Teague Prichard, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

International Criteria and Indicators Meeting in Chile

Albert Abee, WO Ecosystem Management, and **Constance Carpenter**, NA Information Management and Analysis, served as the USDA Forest Service representatives to the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators Technical Advisory Committee meeting held in Santiago and Malalcahuello, Chile, November 28–December 2, 2005. The meeting included representatives from 8 of the 12 countries working toward common indicators. U.S. input was developed from a series of three workshops held last year. Constance shared information on the NA indicators Web site, which will debut in February 2006. The Web site was viewed as a good product to help link program management and monitoring. Key emerging issues on the international stage include the need to look more closely at the value and techniques available to monitoring ecosystem services, community resiliency, social equity, and urban forests. The recommendations from the advisory committee are being passed up to the Montreal Process Working Group. The U.S. State Department represents our country’s position on the working group.



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES



An outdoor enthusiast, Rebecca looks forward to New England's wide range of recreational opportunities.

New Addition to the GIS Staff

Rebecca Whitney is the newest member of Durham's Information, Management, and Analysis group, joining Tom Luther as a GIS Specialist. Rebecca brings a broad knowledge of GIS analysis and mapping from the private sector, where she used GIS to support fire management planning, watershed planning, and NEPA documentation for Federal clients, including the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A native of New England and a recent Washington, DC area resident, Rebecca is a graduate of Syracuse University with B.S. degrees in Geology and Biology. *"I am looking forward to employing my skills to NA projects, and welcome the challenge of new subject matter such as source water protection, Sirex threats, and forest sustainability,"* she commented.

Lunchtime Videos Mark MLK Holiday

The Durham Civil Rights Committee marked the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday with a pair of lunchtime videos. On January 17, it presented Dr. King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech on the Mall in Washington, DC, in 1963. This was the third annual showing of this video. Some in attendance have returned each year, while others were new to the event. All were struck anew by the power of King's words and oration. The following day, the committee presented *In Remembrance of Martin*. This PBS documentary highlights celebrations around the country on the first Federal holiday to honor Dr. King, including interviews with former associates and notable admirers, such as Jimmy Carter, Jesse Jackson, Bill Cosby, and Bishop Desmond Tutu. The film also traces Dr. King's pivotal role in the civil rights movement and includes footage of landmark events such as his arrest during the Montgomery bus boycott, his seminal speech on the Mall, and his acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Earth as a System for Educators Course

The course "Earth as a System for Educators" was offered for the first time at the University of New Hampshire in the fall of 2005. The course was developed as a partnership with the UNH Department of Natural Resources, NH Project Learning Tree, NH Fish and Game, NH Department of Environmental Services, the GLOBE program, and the Forest Service. Teachers learned content on biotic and abiotic factors of ecosystems and how factors are linked. Training in Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Project WILD, and Project HOME were incorporated into the classes. Guest speakers allowed students to meet scientists working in the different environmental disciplines. Lab time was spent with teachers learning GLOBE protocols for land cover, soils, hydrology, and atmosphere. For their final project, teachers demonstrated how they will use earth



as a system in their classroom. Feedback from the course was very positive. The teachers have asked to have follow-up classes so they can continue with their learning. For more information on the course, contact Susan Cox.

Forest for Every Class

Forest for Every Class (FFEC) is a professional development program for educators focused on place-based education. Teachers who participate in FFEC develop curriculum that fosters student understanding of and appreciation for the public lands in their communities. The teacher-developed curricula integrate hands-on natural and cultural explorations that address concepts in ecology, sense of place, stewardship, and civics. The program began in Vermont several years ago as a partnership between the Green Mountain National Forest, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Shelburne Farms, and National Wildlife Federation. This program is being considered by the Park Service as a model for all parks nationally.

There is interest in expanding the program, and NH Project Learning Tree and the Forest Service are hoping to bring it to New Hampshire with help from the Vermont partners. Partial funding has already been obtained through NH Project Learning Tree. Hopes are to begin the program in late spring or early summer. Teachers who are interested in utilizing any public land—Federal, State, or municipal—will be encouraged to participate.

Vermont Forest Pest Workshop

On January 4, the 23rd Vermont Forest Pest Workshop was held at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Sponsored by the Department of Forestry, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, this unique workshop brings together personnel in the State of Vermont, as well as others from the region who have an interest in forest pest management and research. **Kevin Dodds** gave the keynote presentation, “*Sirex noctilio* in North America,” and **Cynthia Ash’s** poster “Exotic Invasive Tree Diseases” won second prize.

New Hampshire Forest Health Meeting

New Hampshire held its forest health meeting at the Forest Service’s Hubbard Brook facility in December to a packed room of 95 attendees. Pests of 2005 included forest tent caterpillar, lecanium scale, gypsy moth, pine needle scale, birch decline, tar spot, anthracnose, hemlock borer, *Caliciopsis* canker, and hemlock woolly adelgid. Several specialists from the Durham Field Office made presentations, including **Dennis Souto** and **Cynthia Ash** from State and Private Forestry and **Bill Leak** from the Northeastern Research Station.

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Wood Education and Resource Center Leases Rough Mill Facility

The USDA Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) entered into an agreement with businessman Robert Kincaid to lease a rough mill facility located at the center. Kincaid will use the facility to manufacture shutter and venetian blind components using poplar and basswood lumber. Kincaid’s new business, Accurate Millworks, Inc., will begin commercial production by the end of January. Accurate Millworks anticipates up to 30 new jobs in the Princeton area by the end of 2006.



The WERC advertised to lease the rough mill facility in mid-2005 under a USDA Forest Service Special Use Permit. Four proposals were received and considered by an evaluation team. Under the terms of the agreement, the WERC will maintain the ability to use the rough mill for industry-oriented tours, demonstrations, and research.

NA Director Kathryn Maloney stated, *“The Wood Education and Resource Center’s mission includes promoting and developing sustainable forest products industries in the eastern hardwood region. The location of a new wood products business in conjunction with the WERC facilities enhances local economic development and provides opportunities for enhanced educational and research activities at the center. The creation of up to 30 new jobs is a real boost to the local economy. The Forest Service is pleased that in combination with other partners, such as the West Virginia Development Office, the Development Authority of Mercer County, and the West Virginia Division of Forestry, it was able to bring this exciting opportunity to the WERC.”*

Kincaid has been involved in the wood products industry for more than 30 years. He joined the American Hardwood Company in 1973, serving as president from 1985 until he sold the business in 1989. The company specialized in custom machining domestic and imported hardwoods and softwood lumber. During this period, Kincaid served on the Board of Directors of the National Hardwood Lumber Association for 6 years.

In 1990, Kincaid started Lumber Products, Inc., a wholesale lumber distribution business that he still maintains. In 1991, he started Craftsman Millworks, Inc. in a 40,000-square-foot facility, milling basswood and poplar into wood window coverings. This successful business was sold in 1999. He is currently a partner in WoodMart Window Coverings, based in Van Nuys, CA.

It is expected that the new business will fit into a cluster model of economic development centered around the WERC. This cluster concept integrates education, training, technology transfer, raw material and labor resource availability, and value-added manufacturing in order to promote sustainable and profitable resources, communities, and businesses. Industry clusters may help the U.S. hardwood industry become more globally competitive.

Testing Log Debarkers To Treat Trees Affected by Emerald Ash Borer

The USDA Forest Service and several State and private agencies took part in a demonstration and applied research project to evaluate using commercial log debarking equipment to reduce the costs of emerald ash borer (EAB) eradication and the disposal of EAB-infested trees. The debarking equipment removes the bark and about 1 inch of the outer portion of the log, interrupting the EAB life cycle. Following debarking, scientists examined the logs to determine if any EAB remained. While results are still being analyzed, the potential benefits could translate into millions of dollars in savings during the disposal of infested trees.



A pen used for scale reference shows how much of the bark and outer log are removed by debarking.

If scientists find that debarking infested ash trees is a viable option, trees can be debarked on-site and transported outside the quarantine zone to be processed into lumber, furniture, and other wood products. Currently, infested ash trees and all other ash trees within ½-mile radius of the infested trees are completely destroyed on-site or are utilized within the quarantine area, often in low-value applications.



The idea to experiment with debarking came about as a result of conversations between USDA Forest Service Morgantown Field Office Utilization Specialist **Al Steele** and Andy Sabula from the Ohio Division of Forestry. Noting that EAB lives only in the bark and outer portion of the tree, they wondered whether a portable version of standard debarking equipment used at sawmills could be utilized to remove the infected material on the outside of the log, allowing the remaining portion of the log to be safely transported anywhere and processed normally.

Ohio Department of Agriculture officials estimate that 75 percent of the entire EAB program cost is associated with the disposal of infested and potentially infested trees.



Mary Ann Fajvan (left), Anne Cumming, Ann Steketee, and Amy Onken participated in the Snowflake Sprint.

Team of Morgantown Employees Participates in Snowflake Sprint

On December 4, 2005, four employees from the Morgantown Field Office participated in the 15th Annual Snowflake Sprint 5K Run held at Krepps Park in Morgantown. **Mary Ann Fajvan** organized a team that included **Ann Steketee, Amy Onken, and Anne Cumming**. Evan Lynn Fajvan, Jack Steketee, and Margo Cumming also participated with their mothers. Proceeds from the event benefit Stepping Stones, an organization that provides integrated recreational opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to help them achieve their maximum level of independence.

Approximately 200 people participated in the race.

Runners, friends, and family were served hot soup

and sandwiches after the race courtesy of Back Bay Seafood Restaurant, a sponsor of the race.

Awards were given to the top three overall male and female finishers as well as the top three finishers in various age groups. Mary Ann Fajvan received an award for finishing third in her age group.

Group Recommends a Canopy Cover Goal of 46 Percent to Baltimore Mayor

On January 5, 2006, **Anne Cumming, Al Todd, Morgan Grove (NE), and Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne (NE)** attended a meeting of the Baltimore Urban Tree Canopy working group. Meeting participants included representatives from the city (parks and forestry), the State (Maryland DNR Forest Service), and three nonprofit urban greening organizations (Jones Falls Watershed, Herring Run Watershed, and the Parks and People Foundation). The purpose of the meeting was to reach consensus on an urban tree canopy cover goal to recommend to the mayor. Based on research conducted in Baltimore by Forest Service researchers, the group will recommend a canopy cover goal of 46 percent to be achieved over a 30-year period.

A recent study by the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station determined that Baltimore's tree canopy benefits the city by doing the following:

- Reducing building energy use with a net energy savings of \$3.3 million per year.
- Avoiding carbon emissions from power plants as a result of reducing building energy use at an estimated rate of 9,300 metric tons of carbon per year.
- Storing approximately 527,300 metric tons of carbon at an estimated total value of \$10.7 million. This amount of carbon is equivalent to the amount emitted from Baltimore's population in about 54 days, based on average per-capita carbon emissions.



- Removing about 10,800 metric tons of carbon per year at a value of \$219,000 annually.
- Removing about 700 metric tons of air pollution per year at a value of \$3.8 million annually.

Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Imidacloprid in Eastern Hemlock

Rick Turcotte from the Forest Health Protection staff gave a presentation to attendees of the 17th USDA Interagency Research Forum in Annapolis, MD, on the design, sampling, and analysis phases of an ongoing imidacloprid project. Imidacloprid is currently the primary insecticide used to control the hemlock woolly adelgid, which is impacting eastern and Carolina hemlocks throughout the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic regions.

Laricobius nigrinus Sampling on the Monongahela National Forest

Thomas Elliott and **Samantha Bennett** from the Forest Health Protection staff sampled eastern hemlock trees on the Monongahela National Forest on December 1. They sampled trees on the forest where the predatory beetle *Laricobius nigrinus* had previously been released, as well as 10 neighboring eastern hemlock trees at the Devils Garden off Douthat Creek Road. Predatory beetle releases are one of the control strategies being employed to fight hemlock woolly adelgid within the Monongahela National Forest. This is the fifth sampling conducted at this site. It is hoped that beetles from the release will become established and provide a measure of control for the hemlock woolly adelgid; however, the survey did not detect any beetles from the previous release. The hemlock woolly adelgid is still present. The adelgid infestation seems to have decreased, although it still represents a serious threat to hemlock trees at these sites.



Samantha Bennett studies a sample looking for the presence of *Laricobius nigrinus*.



Crew members work on preparing rearing cages with new material to collect insect samples.

Morgantown Team Evaluates Ice Damage on the Wayne National Forest

Thomas Elliott, Samantha Bennett, Adam Cumpston, Joe Shupp, and Norman Montoy from the Forest Health Protection staff evaluated ice damage on the Ironton Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest in Ohio in December. They located 10 trees that had died over the summer and marked them for examination. They also removed insect samples from 15 rearing cages at the site and prepared the cages for new material.

The next day, the crew began examining the recently deceased trees. Trees that could be felled were cut and examined using the “Capp-Stick” method. Trees that couldn’t be felled were examined in the lower section only. Information was recorded and insect samples were collected. The lower, middle, and upper sections of five of the dead trees were placed in rearing cages.



Trees Less Susceptible to Asian Longhorned Beetle Attack Planted in New Jersey

Karen Felton, Rod Whiteman, and Bill Oldland visited with Pam Zipsie of the New Jersey Forest Service and Barry Emmons of APHIS in New Jersey in December to monitor a tree planting grant that resulted from an Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) infestation. The grant was given to the New Jersey Forest Service, Community Forestry Program for coordination and monitoring of the restoration phase of the ALB eradication project. Replacement trees are being planted in the communities of Carteret, Linden, Rahway, and Woodbridge. Previous statewide urban street tree assessments showed that 47 percent of the street trees within these four communities consisted of tree species susceptible to ALB attack. Trees were planted on both private and public property. Planting costs are approximately \$300 per tree.

The replacement trees were selected by the homeowner or city with guidance from the New Jersey Forest Service. Tree species available included ginkgo, Kentucky coffeetree, Douglas fir, littleleaf linden, blue atlas cedar, Turkish filbert, magnolia, serviceberry, eastern redbud, dogwood, American holly, Japanese tree lilac, and American arborvitae. A few additional tree species may be available for planting in the spring. Spacing, height, and crown size were used to determine which species was best suited to the site. Other factors taken into consideration included susceptibility to ALB, bacterial leaf scorch, and emerald ash borer as well as effects on urban life.

In addition to trees, shrubs and ground cover will be planted along the affected streambed in Woodbridge to mitigate wildlife, soil erosion, and water quality concerns.

Other issues discussed at the grant monitoring session included providing training and technical assistance for the care of the newly planted trees and early detection of ALB; developing a reforestation packet that includes a cover letter, tree planting agreement, 3-year tree maintenance guidelines, and tree selection lists; and investing in GIS and GPS technology to efficiently track the replanting effort, maintain a database of replacement tree species and specific address locations, and develop current maps of quarantine areas for public outreach, education, and statewide distribution.

Squeezing More Value from Hardwood Resources

The Ohio Forestry Association (OFA) is implementing a 3-year training program to improve hardwood log bucking value recovery in 28 States. The Hardwood Value Improvement Program is utilizing funding provided by the Wood Education and Resource Center. The OFA assembled a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in December to review the proposed organization and content of the train-the-trainer program. The TAC includes representatives from a regional logging association, USDA Forest Service forest engineering research staff, a professional logger/Game of Logging official, and State utilization and marketing personnel from Ohio, Wisconsin, Georgia, and New Hampshire.

Al Steele is the liaison to the Hardwood Value Improvement Program. Steele said that the program builds upon many years of effort by Dr. Jim Pickens of Michigan Tech to develop computer software to simulate hardwood log bucking for research purposes. Steele worked with Pickens, retired Northeastern Research Station Project Leader John Baumgras, and others to develop a prototype log bucker training program that incorporates the simulator and other information into a comprehensive 2-day program to help loggers produce higher-value hardwood logs. According to Pickens, results of evaluations indicated that hardwood log value increased by more than 30 percent.



Pickens and codeveloper Scott Noble presented the essential elements of the training program in December to TAC members for their review. Because log value improvement is heavily dependent upon the identification and removal of log defects, the program includes a thorough treatment of these and related subjects using slides of defects for many tree species. *HW Buck*, the Windows-based software developed by Pickens, is intuitive, and the training program is designed to accommodate varying levels of computer familiarity. The software, defect training materials, and other information provided during the classroom component of the program reinforce the field instruction received. Although there is a classroom component to the training, the program emphasizes on-the-ground application of principles learned.

The conclusion of the December meeting was a structured opportunity for TAC members to provide input on a range of issues related to implementing the training program, including preferred locations, program duration, “institutionalizing” the program, and credentialing, among others.

“We share the Training Advisory Committee’s enthusiasm for getting the log bucking program on the ground,” said Bob Romig, executive director of the OFA. “Having now gone through the program myself, I can understand how the loggers were able to quickly achieve such significant improvements in log value. As for the next step, we have hired a project manager and identified four regional coordinators who will be responsible for locating and working with partners in 28 States,” said Romig.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Katie Armstrong Receives Award From Region 9

The Eastern Region of the Forest Service (Region 9) presented **Katie Armstrong**, Urban Forester, and other members of the Urban Connections team with its 2005 Windows on the Past Award as a part of the Eastern Region Honor Awards. Urban Connections is an effort to enhance connections between urban people and national forests. In 2005, Urban Connections partnered with Greenfield Village to host a 6-month celebration of the Forest Service Centennial that included special events and educational programs designed to inform the public about the Forest Service. Greenfield Village, the living history museum associated with the Henry Ford Museum located in Dearborn, Michigan, is a popular destination for tourists, schoolchildren, and classroom teachers.

GIS Mapping Capability Added to Emerald Ash Borer Web Site

The official Web site for the emerald ash borer (<http://www.emeraldashborer.info>) has a new mapviewer feature that allows users to quickly determine how close the nearest emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation is to their present location. USDA APHIS and Michigan State University used GIS technology to develop the mapviewer to locate EAB infestations on the Web. The Web site, hosted by Michigan State University, is a cooperative effort of APHIS, the Forest Service, and the States of Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.



Invasive Species Workshop at College of Menominee Nation

Mike Dockry coordinated a workshop on invasive species with an emphasis on the emerald ash borer for the USDA Forest Service and College of Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute Partnership–Center for First Americans Forestlands on November 15. Mike is the recently named Forest Service Liaison to the Sustainable Development Institute. Over 70 participants from different tribes and State and Federal agencies as well as College of Menominee Nation students attended. The workshop included presentations by Forest Service research scientists on an introduction to invasive species biology and the global nature of the problem.



The Center for First Americans Forestlands Invasive Species Workshop was held at the College of Menominee Nation on November 15, 2005.

Katie Armstrong, NA's Emerald Ash Borer Liaison, presented an introduction to the emerald ash borer, including the insect's biology, its impact on the ash resource, and management strategies for its control. The black ash tree is of significant cultural importance to Midwest tribes and is used in basketry as well as in religious and ceremonial traditions. Unfortunately, black ash is susceptible to emerald ash borer. The potential loss of black ash has huge implications for tribes in the Lake States and this workshop provided a forum to identify concerns and the steps necessary to protect the black ash resource. For more information on the significance of the black ash to the Anishinabe, visit: <http://susinuss.tripod.com/legend.htm>.

Other presentations included management experiences from Walpole Island First Nation in Ontario, Canada, and current planning for the State of Wisconsin. The workshop concluded with an interactive discussion focused on unique tribal issues related to emerald ash borer management and responses. The meeting was a great success and could lay the groundwork for future meetings between the Forest Service and tribes. Workshop materials, PowerPoint presentations, and streaming video of the presentations can be found under "What's New" at www.SustainableDevelopmentInstitute.org.

Exotic Forest Pest Workshop for the Midwestern States

Dennis Haugen, Entomologist, coordinated the program content for the Ninth Annual Exotic Forest Pest Workshop for the Midwestern States. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources hosted the workshop in Indianapolis November 30–December 1, 2005. The workshop targets professionals working specifically with exotic insects and pathogens in the Midwest. The meeting fosters the sharing of information and the coordination of efforts across state lines on these issues. This year the program included information on butternut canker, sudden oak death, emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, sirex woodwasp, and Asian longhorned beetle. Workshop participants included representatives from the USDA Forest Service, APHIS, State Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture, and university extension. The workshop's geographic area covers the seven Midwestern States and the Great Plains States.



Minnesota Governor Announces State Forests Certified As Sustainable

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty announced that Minnesota's State forest lands have achieved an economic and environmental milestone through certification as sustainable forests. These certifications make Minnesota the largest certified forest land base in America. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently manages over 4.8 million acres of State forest lands for multiple uses, including recreation and timber production. Certification as a sustainable forest involves a rigorous on-the-ground review by independent third-party auditors on all aspects of the forest management practices used by the DNR. Examples of the practices include reforestation, harvesting methods, maintaining water quality, and managing for a wide variety of wildlife and plant species. Once the standards for long-term sustainability are met, certification can be awarded.

The certifications were issued by the two leading independent forest certification organizations in North America—the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). With this effort, Minnesota now becomes a leader in managed acreage according to the best conservation practices required for certification. As a result, forest products generated from these lands will enter the marketplace with a unique credential, allowing conservation-minded consumers to select these products and providing premium pricing to the producer. In Minnesota, timber-related industries are estimated to employ over 30,000 workers, with total wages over \$1.4 billion annually. Approximately 60 percent of forest land (10 million acres) is owned and managed by county, State, and Federal governments; the remaining 40 percent (7 million acres) is privately owned.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick** and **Maureen Brooks**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Devin Wanner**, Morgantown; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; and **Mike Dockry**, Keshena, WI.

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

DEADLINE!

With the upcoming holidays, the deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, February 22, 2006**. 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.

