



# Northeastern Area News Notes



December 20, 2004

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES



### Traditions

We keep them and they sustain us as well! This is the time of year when, among the many traditions we keep, we traditionally look back on the year that has passed and look with hopeful anticipation to the year ahead.

In the workplace, accomplishment reports for last year are being prepared and expectations are being set for this fiscal year. The Northeastern Area has accomplished much—a credit to every employee as well as to each and every one of our partners and cooperators. And there is much to do in the year ahead as well. I'm proud of our record of making a difference to the country's natural resources, and in the process serving all Americans who rely on the sustained management of their natural resources. Our tradition of good public service continues!

This past year and the next are notable for the changes occurring in government, in our workforce, and in the expectations for our organization. There are traditions we must turn to in times of change as well. I want to acknowledge the uncertainty and anxiety that changes within the Forest Service have caused many employees. Through competitive sourcing and business reengineering processes, employees face significant career decisions and choices they might prefer to defer, but cannot. The traditions of helping others, being empathetic, and sharing the gift of compassion for those most affected will sustain us. These may go a long way to ease anxiety, brighten someone's day, or affirm the self worth of those who might question it.

My hope and expectation is that the Area and the agency will emerge anew, with enthusiasm and optimism for the future. The purposeful changes affecting us today should yield opportunities for greater contributions and value in the years ahead. We need to continue to work hard and stay focused on delivering our mission results. That, too, is a tradition in the Northeastern Area!

With every expectation of the New Year and what it may bring, take time for yourself, your family, and your friends this holiday season. Your health and happiness are most important. Yes, they are more important than work and a host of other things!

Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year!

*3/4 Kathy Maloney*



# DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

## Maine's First Summit on Sprawl and Smart Growth

Maine held its first-ever summit on sprawl and smart growth at the Civic Center in Augusta on December 10. The summit's attendees, including Governor John Baldacci, former Governor Angus King, and Christine Todd Whitman, former Governor of New Jersey who most recently served as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, reflected the importance of this issue in Maine. The people of Maine are increasingly aware that sprawl is a threat to the State's communities, uniqueness, quality of life, and economic health. This summit represents another step toward better understanding this new challenge and taking practical actions at the local and State level to help rein in sprawl and plan for responsible growth.

**Roger Monthey, Tom Luther, and John Parry** compiled a display for the summit

exhibiting some of the Forest Service's efforts to address the problem of sprawl at the regional and local level, including the Spatial Analysis Project, the Forest Stewardship and Forest Legacy Programs, and advice on protecting trees during home construction. Roger participated in a panel discussion on "Forest Landowners' Responses to Fragmentation and Parcelization Wrought by Sprawl," joining Tom Doak, former Maine State Forester and current Director of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine, and Marc Johnson, a Maine landowner.



**John Parry, Tom Luther, and Roger Monthey (left to right) stand proudly behind their display for the recent GrowSmart Maine summit.**

## Distance Learning Workshop on NH Forest Insect Pests

**Susan Cox** conducted a virtual workshop on forest insect pests for the Granite State Distance Learning network. Susan focused on New Hampshire forest pests, highlighting historically important insects like gypsy moth and spruce budworm, and ending with information on the State's newer invasive insect concerns. **Dennis Souto** and Jen Bofinger (Forest Health Specialist, NH Division of Forests and Lands) also attended and helped field questions from the participants.

Susan's presentation was part of a series of workshops coordinated by New Hampshire Fish and Game and targeted to teachers and natural resource docents throughout the State. Participants attended the program at one of six sites, where they could see and hear the broadcast and interact with each other.



## May I Take Your Pledge, Please?



Karen Mollander takes a pledge while Cindy Ash looks on.

Employees from the Durham Field Office joined forces with Durham NRCS to support New Hampshire Public Television's winter pledge drive. Volunteers staffed the phones the evening of December 8 during a broadcast of concerts by violinist André Rieu, the "waltz king" of Europe. Pledge drive veteran **Deirdre Raimo** organized the effort, recruiting **Karen Mollander**, **Cindy Ash**, **Helen Thompson**, and **Harry Valentine** (NE) and his wife Joan, as well as Janet Boduch, Lynn Howell, and Gary Domain from NRCS. The station was so pleased with the team that it promised to recruit them again for their spring auction.



Deirdre Raimo (second from left) joined Harry Valentine (second from right), Harry's wife Joan (far right), and NRCS's Lynn Howell, Gary Domian, and Janet Boduch (upper row, left to right), as well as other New Hampshire Public Television volunteers during a recent pledge drive.

## Joining Forces to Battle Asian Longhorned Beetle

Forest health specialists from New York and New Jersey met in Newark on December 7 to address issues common to both States regarding Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). This was the first time these staffs, who are responsible for reforestation in ALB eradication areas, have met face-to-face to share information and find ways to cooperate for the benefit of all. Jerry Carlson (NY Department of Environmental Conservation) and Megan Seremata (ALB Program Community Forester) represented New York. New Jersey's Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator Mike D'Errico attended with



Neither rain nor darkness of night kept Rosa Yoo, Mike Stephan, Dennis Souto, and Pam Tappen (left to right) from their appointed rounds while visiting a recent ALB infestation site in Carteret, New Jersey, following the ALB meeting in Newark.



fellow staffmembers Pam Tappen, Rosa Yoo, and David Johnson. Federal representatives included Mike Stefan of APHIS, **Mike Bohne** (NA's ALB Coordinator), as well as **Dennis Souto, John Parry**, and **Anne Cumming** (Morgantown Field Office), who all helped coordinate and facilitate the meeting.

### Regional “Building Effective Partnerships” Workshop

The Northeastern Area coordinated and hosted three “Building Effective Partnerships” workshops this fall, one in each field office subregion. The Connecticut Division of Forestry hosted the workshop for the Northeastern States in November. The workshop offered an excellent opportunity to learn and share techniques that can be used to influence public policy, improve urban forestry program visibility, and develop new and creative partnerships. Through lectures from national and State resource conservation leaders, group exercises, and local case studies, attendees from all seven Northeastern States became familiar with effective methods for increasing the profile of urban and community forestry programs.

Thanks to Bob Ricard (Connecticut Cooperative Extension), Chris Donnelly (Connecticut Urban Forestry Coordinator), Frank Dunstan (New York Department of Environmental Conservation), and **Dave Bloniarz** and **John Parry** for their help in planning, presenting, and facilitating the Connecticut workshop.

## GREY TOWERS NOTES

### ‘Tis the Season . . . Visitors Flock to Grey Towers for Seasonal Programs

Thousands of additional visitors are expected to tour Grey Towers this month as Forest Service staff open the big front door (literally!) to welcome guests to view all three floors of the Pinchot mansion, beautifully decorated by the local Garden Club with all the seasonal trimmings. Grey Towers staff uses this time of year to introduce people to the work of the Forest Service at Grey Towers and to thank the community and volunteers for their support and effort throughout the year. In addition to the decorations, special public programs, such as the Gifford Pinchot Audubon Annual Holiday Tea and a dramatic reading of “A Christmas Carol,” are offered. Local artists’ works that interpret the landscape and unique architecture of Grey Towers are on display.

**The local Garden Club decked the halls of Grey Towers for the holidays, including this beautiful Christmas tree in the library.**





## **Grey Towers Hosts Centennial Regional Forum on “The Greatest Good” History, Philosophy**

More than two dozen hand-picked individuals representing all facets of forestry in America gathered at historic Grey Towers recently to celebrate and analyze the conservation philosophy of Gifford Pinchot. These representatives, drawn from the USDA Forest Service and other Federal and State agencies, leading universities, and nonprofit, forest-related organizations, participated in the Grey Towers Centennial Regional Forum to discuss how one man’s ideas and leadership altered the American landscape in the past and might guide the management of its forests in the future. The forum was 1 of 12 such events held throughout the Nation, and delegates will report their findings to the Forest Service’s Centennial Congress in Washington, DC, in January 2005.

*The Greatest Good: A Centennial Forum on the Organizational History and Philosophy of the USDA Forest Service* celebrated and analyzed the vision and leadership of Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service, at Grey Towers, Pinchot’s ancestral home. Thoughtful presentations of the past and creative scenarios about the future helped participants consider the definition and impact of his “Greatest Good” philosophy on the 100-year history of the agency, and looked to those ideas for guidance in the future.

Speakers included historian Dr. Char Miller, Professor of History at Trinity University in Texas and a noted authority on Pinchot, who reminded the participants that Grey Towers was the appropriate place for this conversation because “this is where it all started.” Miller also gave a 1-hour evening presentation with a heavily illustrated history of the Forest Service.

Other speakers included Dr. Dennis LeMaster, the former Head of Purdue University’s Department of Forestry and Natural Resources; past Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson; attorney Ann Forest Burns, a member of the Council of the Society of American Foresters; and Roger A. Sedjo, a Senior Fellow at Resources for the Future. The 2-day event was facilitated by Dr. Ross Whaley, chair of the Adirondack Park Agency.

Following the formal presentations, participants engaged in a 2-hour roundtable discussion focused on the future. Topics discussed included the importance of identifying, building, and working with constituencies for the Forest Service; the need to improve the agency’s planning and decisionmaking processes; and the difficulty—and necessity—of operating effectively on both a global and local basis. Participants noted that better communication, even marketing, of the agency and its mission was essential and that finding the right balance between caring for the land and serving people was a continuing challenge that must be met.

The Forest Service partnered with the Forest History Society, Pinchot Institute for Conservation, and American Recreation Coalition to plan and implement the forum. A complete report on the forum, including papers delivered and summaries of the sessions, will be available on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/centennial/>

## **Grey Towers Conference Center**

Recent meetings held this past month at the Grey Towers Conference Center included the following:

- National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, planning meeting
- Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) State Forest Landowners Management Meeting and annual meeting
- Northeastern Area Forest Inventory and Analysis Management Team, annual meeting
- Penn State Cooperative Extension, Leadership Forum
- The Nature Conservancy (regional) planning retreat



## Grey Towers CE Specialist Receives Interpretive Award



**Daniel Banks**, Conservation Education Specialist, recently earned the Northeastern Area's 2004 Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education Award. He joined regional winners from across the country as well as the national winner at the National Association of Interpreters annual conference, where each was honored for their achievement. Banks' citation particularly noted his research and professionalism and his work toward expanding the Conservation Education Program at Grey Towers. Banks has increased the number of classroom visits and is developing a curriculum-based program on the history of forestry education in America, focusing on the former Yale School of Forestry camp at the adjacent Milford Experimental Forest.

**Daniel Banks' exemplary work at Grey Towers earned him the Northeastern Area's 2004 Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education Award.**

## MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

### Atlanta Hosts Conference on Sudden Oak Death in Eastern States

**Al Iskra**, Forest Health Protection, and **Margaret Miller-Weeks** (Durham Field Office) attended a conference in Atlanta on the threat of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) in the eastern United States. Sudden Oak Death was not a concern in the East until recently, when hundreds of plants suspected of being infected with the pathogen causing SOD were inadvertently shipped from California nurseries to many Eastern States.

The primary cause of SOD is a fungus-like organism called *Phytophthora ramorum*. Thousands of oaks have died in central California from SOD. The disease may be hastened when understory species like rhododendrons also become infected. Understory species act as reservoirs for increased spore production in forested areas.

Laboratory experiments have shown that eastern red oaks can be susceptible to *P. ramorum*. The concern now is how best to measure the disease potential and incidence as it might impact oaks here in the East. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and State departments of agriculture and forestry are inspecting all nurseries that received rhododendrons and camellias from California suspected of having SOD. In addition, nursery perimeters and general forested areas were also inspected for SOD disease symptoms as part of a national survey conducted by the Forest Service and State cooperators. Symptoms on oaks include bleeding cankers that eventually girdle and kill trees, and dark discolored leaf lesions appear on infected understory species. For more information and links to a wealth of resources, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/na/durham/foresthealth/sod/index.shtml>.



## **Smokey and Woodsy Help Santa Usher In the Christmas Season**

For the second year, the Morgantown Field Office participated in the Morgantown Jaycees Christmas Parade. Smokey and Woodsy led the Forest Service contingent, accompanied by **John Hazel, Anne Cumming, Devin Wanner**, and by the Northeastern Research Station's **Toni Jones and Mary Ann Fajvan** and her son. Smokey and Woodsy are popular with both children and adults wherever they go. One person did have a little difficulty identifying Woodsy at first. When she saw Woodsy she told her children that it was Big Bird, but she quickly corrected herself.

While Smokey and Woodsy, escorted by Anne, waved to everyone in attendance, Toni and Mary Ann handed out Smokey and Woodsy education material to children in the crowd. John and Devin brought up the rear in a Forest Service truck. A banner on the truck reminded those at the parade that Christmas trees are a forest product.

All the Forest Service employees were glad that they were able to participate in the parade again this year and look forward to doing it again next year, except maybe Woodsy who dressed a little too warmly even for a December evening.

## **Morgantown Conducts Maryland Conservation Education Review**

Field Representative **John Hazel** and IMA group members **Chuck Reger, Vicky Evans, and Devin Wanner** met with Maryland State Forester Steve Koehn and Maryland Forest Service conservation education team members Dave Reinecke and Maureen Brooks to review the State's conservation education program. Steve Koehn spent part of the first day discussing issues facing the conservation education team, such as budget cuts that forced forestry education program delivery changes in the State. After a recent reorganization and reassignment of duties, the remaining education team still plans to maintain Project Learning Tree (PLT), Envirothon, and Arbor Day programs, and continue participation in the Mid-Atlantic Conservation Education (MACE) cooperative. They are also making plans for the future.

One area in which the Maryland Forest Service wants to expand its current capabilities in program delivery is Web-based technologies. They plan to use the Internet to do e-hearings instead of live public meetings by loading all pertinent documents to the Maryland Forest Service Web-site along with Web-enabled forms for public comment and contact information for technical questions. They are also working on developing Arbor Day forestry education resources for teachers to access on-line and tree seedlings order forms on the Web.

The review team also visited the Pickering Creek Environmental Education Center to meet with the center director and talk about Maryland Forest Service educational programs conducted in partnership with the center. The Audubon Society operates the and offers programs throughout the year to children and adults in the Chesapeake Bay area that provide learning opportunities about the bay watershed. The center helps the Maryland Forest Service reach every school child from a three-county area on the Eastern Shore at least once a year with a forest experience and educational opportunity.

At the conclusion of the review the team commended the Maryland Forest Service for their continued commitment to educating Maryland's students and adults on the wise use of the State's natural resources. The team also provided suggestions and recommendations to the Morgantown Field Office for technical assistance and support of the Maryland Forest Service conservation education program.



# ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

## Chicago vs. the Asian Longhorned Beetle: A Portrait of Success

**Judy Antipin**, Forest Health Protection Public Affairs (Newtown Square), and **Tom Dilley**, Chicago Urban Initiatives Coordinator, recently released a case study of Chicago's triumph over the Asian longhorned beetle, "Chicago vs. the Asian Longhorned Beetle: A Portrait of Success." This case study documents the partnerships and strategies that led to the cohesive and cooperative effort to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle from Chicago. It is hoped that the lessons learned in Chicago will help other cities and communities in the event of an invasive insect infestation.

## Exotic Forest Pest Workshop for Midwest States

**Dennis Haugen**, Entomologist, coordinated the program content for the annual Exotic Forest Pest Workshop for the Midwest States. The workshop targets professionals working specifically with exotic insects, diseases, and plants in the Midwest. The Missouri Departments of Conservation and Agriculture hosted this year's event. The meeting fosters the sharing of information and the coordination of efforts across state lines on exotic forest pest issues. This year the program included information on Sudden Oak Death, emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, giant hogweed, and Asian longhorned beetle, as well as the joint Forest Service/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service effort: Early Detection Rapid Response Project/CAPS. Workshop participants included representatives from the USDA Forest Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, State departments of natural Resources, conservation, and agriculture, and university extension. The workshop targets the geographic area covered by the seven Midwest States plus the Great Plains States.

## Building Effective Partnerships Workshop

**Lisa Burban**, Group Leader for Forest Resources Management, along with colleagues from the Northeastern Area and the National Arbor Day Foundation, designed and coordinated the "Building Effective Partnerships" workshop for the Midwestern States at the Morton Arboretum in Illinois. The target audience included State urban and community forestry coordinators, volunteer coordinators, State urban and community forestry chairs, and members of the Midwest Urban Forestry Center Technology Transfer Team. **Jill Johnson**, Midwest Urban Forestry Center Director, assisted with the development of the agenda as well as a presenting part of the program. The purpose of the workshop was to provide urban and community forestry professionals with additional training and skill development in communications and partnership building. The workshop received excellent reviews from the attendees.

## USDA Forest Service Research Develops Logic Model for Program Delivery

**Gina Childs**, Group Leader for Information Management and Analysis, has participated on a national team to develop a "Logic Model for Program Delivery." The Logic Model is a strategic planning tool designed to link program activities to organizational end outcomes. It is particularly effective at helping organizations articulate and develop intermediate outcomes that help an organization move from performing and measuring activities to achieving larger organizational goals. This Logic Model focuses on the improved delivery of scientific information. Research and Development will use this model to influence future program delivery efforts.





## **Gypsy Moths Found Near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness**

In October of this year, very high numbers of male gypsy moths were found in traps near Tower, Minnesota. Subsequent surveys documented a single egg mass at the site. The Superior National Forest manages most of the land surrounding the site, which is less than 1 mile from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. **John Khyl**, Entomologist, will work with representatives from the Superior National Forest, the city of Tower, St. Louis County, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop the environmental assessment as well as to develop training sessions and public meetings for the affected communities.

## **Wisconsin DNR to Purchase Paper Company Lands**

The Natural Resources Board is expected to approve two land acquisitions that will add more than 5,600 acres of public land in central and northern Wisconsin, including miles of frontage on remote rivers and streams. The largest of the two transactions is a \$4.4 million purchase to buy 2,821 acres of assorted parcels across northern Wisconsin from Plum Creek Timber Co. The second transaction calls for Mead Witter Foundation of Wisconsin Rapids to donate just over \$2 million for the purchase of 2,804 acres for the Mead Wildlife Area in Portage and Marathon Counties.

## **Hootin' It Up in Minnesota**

A large influx of owls into northwestern Minnesota this winter has made owl watching a popular lunchtime activity for the St. Paul Field Office. A great gray owl has taken up temporary residence a few blocks from the office. This large owl can be found hunting squirrels and other wildlife in the neighborhood alley. Apparently the owl is not bothered by human activity and is very active during the day. Great gray owls are showing up in unusual numbers this winter because of an apparent food shortage in their normal winter range in the boreal forests of Canada. Bird watchers call such influxes "irruptions," which happen every few years.

## **"One Hundred Years of Wisconsin Forestry"**

This new hardcover book chronicles one of Wisconsin's most important resources—forests. Most of the State's forests were clearcut in the late 1800s and early 1900s, but then rebounded to cover nearly half of the State and provide important cultural, economic, and ecological benefits. This story details the long journey and dedication of many people who have helped to bring Wisconsin forests back to life. Take a walk through the past hundred years in this 176-page book with many photos and a 16-page full-color insert that provides insights into the past and future of Wisconsin's forests. For information on ordering the book, contact the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association at 715-346-4798 or email [nbozek@uwsp.edu](mailto:nbozek@uwsp.edu).

## **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; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; and **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web.

### **DEADLINE!**

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB Wednesday, **January 19, 2005**. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at [dmuccio@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmuccio@fs.fed.us). Please send text separate from photos and graphics, and include captions for all images.

