

Northeastern Area



News Notes



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Area Director

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THE SEASON OF PREPARATION

Autumn is upon us, a remarkable time of year. The constellation Orion, the hunter, is prominent in the autumn night sky. The full moon in October, the harvest moon, glows orange like at no other time of the year. The hardwood landscape is dominated by hues of yellow, orange, and crimson. Evening and morning air is cool and brisk. Daylight is noticeably shortened. These changes in nature signal a time

of change for forest wildlife, and their foraging activity increases dramatically as they move into a season of preparation for the coming year.

This, too, is our season of preparation. The Northeastern Area Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2004 through 2008 was released on September 5, 2003. It was timely because the new Strategic Plan is our guide for preparation for the new year. The Strategic Plan provides the framework for our unit programs of work, operating plans, and individual performance plans. All of our work and activities must focus on meeting our stated mission to “Lead and help support sustained forest management and use across the landscape to provide benefits for people of the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern States and the District of Columbia.”

How we are preparing for the new year has changed. Although we have been directed by previous strategic plans, typically our work planning efforts were largely based on a general sense of what we should be doing and on a history of what our work has encompassed in the past. If there was a tie to the Strategic Plan, it was, for the most part, an afterthought to see where the work that we planned to do could fit under a particular goal and objective. This has changed. The new Strategic Plan provides strategic goals and objectives that must be considered first, before we decide on specific work activities and actions.

The new Strategic Plan is a first step for the Northeastern Area in the development of the Forest Service-wide Performance Management Plan, linking our performance to our budget. Our work will be defined in terms of accomplishments and achievements that support quantifiable objectives. These accomplishments and achievements will be tracked in the national Performance Accountability System. How well we do in terms of meeting the goals and objectives of our Strategic Plan will have an influence on our budgets. We will be developing performance measures that will be carried forward to our annual performance plans, for the first time providing a link between the Strategic Plan and our individual and group performance.

As we move through the year, we will get caught up in the day-to-day routines of work. It would be good, however, not to lose sight of what it is we are trying to achieve in our work in terms of meeting the goals and objectives specified in the Strategic Plan. Rather than “shelving” the Strategic Plan once our initial FY2003 work planning is completed, it should be reviewed throughout the year, preferably when we conduct performance reviews throughout the year. This step will help keep us focused on how we work, as stated in our Northeastern Area Vision, to “Make principled decisions that help sustain natural resources and maintain public trust. We will honor existing partnerships and nurture new relationships dedicated to the needs of society and the land.”



So as we move into this autumn season of preparation, make good use of the new Strategic Plan and refer back to it throughout the year as a guide in conducting our work activities and actions. The work that we are doing on a daily basis should be grounded in the Strategic Plan. We should be able to specifically state how our actions are contributing to healthy forests. It is our responsibility as Forest Service employees to ensure that we are accountable with taxpayers' dollars, providing them with values and benefits from our work.

— Kathy Maloney

NEW HAMPSHIRE NOW HOME TO LARGEST FOREST LEGACY PROJECT IN THE COUNTRY



U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, cochair of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Partnership Task Force, addresses guests at the closing ceremony.

The Forest Legacy Program recently celebrated the closing of the largest Forest Legacy project to date. On October 10, the Trust for Public Land transferred ownership of the 146,000-acre Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Forest Legacy Project to the Lyme Timber Company, while a conservation easement was sold to the State of New Hampshire to protect this vast forest tract. Guests and project supporters, including U.S. Senators Judd Gregg and John Sununu, U.S. Representative Charlie Bass, New Hampshire Governor Craig Benson, New Hampshire State Forester Phil Bryce, and NA Deputy Director **John Nordin**, gathered at Lake Francis State Park for a ceremony celebrating this remarkable achievement.

Efforts to preserve this large tract, encompassing nearly three percent of the State's land area, began in July 2001 when International Paper announced its plans to sell the property. Senator Gregg and then-Governor Jeanne Shaheen established the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Partnership Task Force, comprised of local residents, North Country leaders, and State and nonprofit organizations, to examine the effects of land ownership change. NA Forest Legacy Program Manager **Deirdre Raimo** served on the task force's technical committee. The task force recommended a conservation strategy that protects the land as well as permits timber production and recreational activities.

The Trust for Public Land had purchased the property and sold 25,000 acres to the State of New Hampshire as a nature preserve in December 2002 before transferring ownership to the Lyme Timber Company. The Forest Legacy conservation easement, valued at \$15 million, is held by the State of New Hampshire. The Forest Legacy Program contributed \$11.44 million towards the purchase of the conservation easement.

With the completion of this project, the State of New Hampshire has protected 193,769 acres of forests on 21 tracts to date, benefiting from \$19,128,000 of Forest Legacy Program funds. Since April 1993, 579,615 acres of forest in 179 tracts have been protected in 25 States using \$121,735,000 in funds from the Forest Legacy Program.



The 146,000-acre property includes pristine lakes and towering peaks.



Durham Field Office Notes

USDA AGENCIES JOIN FORCES AT THE “BIG E”



Woodsey Owl and Susan Cox make the rounds at the Big E.

For the second year, the USDA Forest Service participated in the USDA exhibit at the “Big E”—the Eastern States Exposition Fair for the six New England States held each September in Springfield, Massachusetts. The exhibit is a collaborative effort of USDA agencies in New England, including the Farm Service Agency, National Agriculture Statistics Service, Food and Nutrition Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, and the Forest Service. In keeping with this year’s theme “Working in Your Community, Careers in USDA,” a variety of positions were highlighted, including forester, technician, and biologist. The exhibit also featured a special teacher table and packet containing Woodsey Owl activities, a copy of the *Natural Inquirer*, and the “Life, Death and Rebirth of a Tree” poster. Woodsey Owl made an appearance on opening day to encourage children to “Lend a hand, care for the land.” Of the 1 million attendees at the fair, over 10,000 visited the USDA exhibit. Susan Cox served on the USDA planning committee, and she and Bob Fitzhenry helped staff the exhibit during the 17-day event.

ATLAS OF MISSOURI ECOREGIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The Missouri Department of Conservation has released an Atlas of Missouri Ecoregions. The atlas provides maps and descriptions of 4 ecological Sections, 31 Subsections, and 264 Landtype Associations (LTA’s) identified using the USDA Forest Service guidelines from the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. Information on hydrology, soils, topography, current and historic natural communities, natural disturbances, rare and endangered species, natural areas, public land, population, economics, land use, and conservation challenges is placed on the landscape for the reader using maps with recognizable landmarks such as State and county roads, rivers, and streams. The purpose of the atlas is to provide a tool for understanding Missouri ecosystems and to provide an ecologically based spatial framework for natural resource inventory, planning, and management. The Missouri Ecological Classification System Project is an interagency sponsored project begun in 1995 under the auspices of the Missouri Resource Assessment Partnership. Over the past several years, they have used ecological classification in combination with other newly developed data layers to conduct regional assessments and planning. For more information about the atlas and its use; the associated CD-ROM with the atlas’ text and figures; or coverage of the ecological units, diagnostic layers, and databases associated with each LTA, contact the Missouri Department of Conservation ECS Project, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, or Connie Carpenter at (603) 868-7698 or conniecarpenter@fs.fed.us.

TREE STEWARDS TRAINING IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation held a successful Tree Stewards training session at the Harvard Forest October 3 and 4, 2003. More than 35 volunteers attended to learn skills in protecting and maintaining urban forests in their communities. The volunteers are asked to donate time to use their new skills in improving the urban forest. Dave Bloniarz provided training on hazard tree awareness and designing tree planting projects. John Parry gave a presentation on the costs and benefits of the urban forest.



TEACHER INSTITUTES IN NEW YORK AND NEW HAMPSHIRE



New York teachers learn how to measure trees with a Biltmore stick.

Two teacher institutes were conducted this summer to help educators understand the dynamics of natural resources and how to transfer their learning into their curriculum programs.

For the fifth year, teachers from New York City and the New York City Watershed region in the Catskills learned about the watershed and how best management practices help keep the water supply clean. Teachers toured the watershed, conducted stream quality measurements, learned how to identify and measure trees, and received curriculum resources from Project Learning Tree and Project WILD.

In New Hampshire, Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project WET, Project HOME, GLOBE, and the USDA Forest Service Conservation Education Program collaborated to develop a teacher institute focused on integrating science with language arts and math. With pressure from the No Child Left Behind initiative, teachers have been struggling with how to keep a science focus while meeting other curriculum requirements. Teachers were treated to a tour of managed areas on the White Mountain National Forest from retired Forest

Service employee John Lanier and received information on natural history as well as curriculum materials from all the projects. Followup with teachers will be done throughout the school year.

TEACHING ADULTS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Susan Cox and Kevin Doran (Maine Forest Service) developed a workshop for the Minnesota Department of Environmental Assistance titled "Effective Strategies for Teaching Adults About the Environment." More than 100 people attended workshops held in St. Paul and Duluth. The workshops addressed people's different learning styles, multiple intelligences, and the different stages of adult development. Susan and Kevin are both finishing master's degrees in adult education and were able to put their work to good use.

SHARON OSSENBRUGGEN'S LEGACY LIVES ON

The Durham Field Office Arboretum Committee continued its efforts to improve the urban ecosystem in one little corner of the world. NE and NA volunteers landscaped the front of the Louis C. Wyman Forestry Sciences Laboratory by planting more than 100 shrubs and plants. The committee has been working over the past 3 years to gradually implement a landscape plan developed for the property in memory of Sharon Ossenbruggen.



Sherri Wormstead gets a little landscaping help from her husband Justin and son Indiana.



Arboretum Committee members enjoyed a beautiful fall day during a recent landscaping project at the Durham Field Office.



Morgantown Field Office Notes

FOREST POLICY LECTURE AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Harry Wiant, Ibberson Chair, Penn State School of Forest Resources, invited **Roxane Palone** to be a guest lecturer to his policy students on September 9 in State College, Pennsylvania. Approximately 50 forestry students listened to the lecture from the point of view of a policy implementer and a policy maker. Roxane spoke about the various Chiefs of the Forest Service under whom she served, as well as the impacts that Gifford Pinchot had on forest policy. Forest policy has become people policy, and little forest policy is actually made by foresters. Roxane was invited to return next year.

PENNSYLVANIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (PFA) MEETS AT GREY TOWERS

The annual PFA meeting was held in Milford, Pennsylvania, from September 11 to 13. Lloyd Casey, retired USDA Forest Service employee, is the current President of the PFA. Northeastern Area employees who attended included **Roxane Palone** and **Helen Wassick** of Morgantown, and Terry Hoffman of Newtown Square. The meeting featured a field trip to the Grey Towers National Historical Site, where Chuck Croston led a tour in the summer home of Gifford Pinchot. Peter Pinchot, grandson of Gifford, led a tour of the area around the home and presented a history of the Pinchot Institute of Conservation Studies. PFA members also had a tour of the Promised Land State Park and Delaware State Forest, where Tim Karr explained the use of deer exclosures to promote the regeneration of hardwood species.

St. Paul Field Office Notes

SMALL NATURE MAGAZINE TAKES HOME BIG HONORS: CHICAGO WILDERNESS MAGAZINE WINS LISAGOR JOURNALISM AWARD

The Chicago Headline Club honored *Chicago WILDERNESS Magazine* with its first Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism during its annual awards banquet on April 25. The club, a chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, honored *Chicago WILDERNESS* Editor Debra Shore with the award for best magazine editorials in 2002. Commenting on entries titled "Everyday Heroes," "First, Do No Harm," and "Vacant Land," the judges said, "These editorials have a wise and lovely voice." "Since this is the first year we even entered the competition," said editor Debra Shore, "we are especially elated to receive this kind of recognition."

AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Linda Haugen (SPFO) recently completed her tenure in the office of the "previous past chair" of the Forest Pathology Committee of the American Phytopathological Society. As part of her duties, she assisted the society with their annual conference and their "forest pathology field trip" that featured many speakers from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, including **Martin MacKenzie** (MFO), who spoke on beech bark disease; Steve Oak (Southern Region FHP), who organized the field trip and spoke on oak decline and sudden oak death surveys; and Rusty Rhea (Southern Region FHP), who talked about hemlock woolly adelgid. Other sessions at this year's meeting were full of current information on sudden oak death, movement of exotic pathogens, and new technologies in forest health. Linda will continue to be the Web coordinator for the committee's Web page. The Forest Pathology Committee recently posted a new Web page that contains useful resources for the professional community of forest pathologists, as well as information about committee activities. The St. Paul Field Office hosts this Web page--check



it out at: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/aps_forestpath.

OAK WILT 101 FOR FOREST MANAGERS

"Oak Wilt: People and Trees, A Community Approach to Management" is a self-paced short course on CD-ROM designed as a learning tool for urban and community foresters, city administrators, tree inspectors, parks and recreation staff, and others involved in oak wilt management in the North Central United States. Dr. Jennifer Juzwik of the North Central Research Station and **Linda Haugen** of the St. Paul Field Office collaborated to develop this technology transfer product. The CD includes:

- three PowerPoint slideshows (*Oak Wilt* [the main presentation—presents background, symptoms, and management options], *Management Scenarios* [demonstrates how prescriptions are developed for specific situations], and *Oak Wilt Look-A-Likes* [describes problems often confused with oak wilt disease]);
- an oak wilt image collection;
- printable electronic oak wilt publications written by leading disease experts;
- resources for further assistance and information (including a list of other sources of information, a list of labs that process samples, and additional information on handling diseased wood); and
- all software needed for viewing slideshows, documents, and other files on the CD.

This approach of combining many resources into one CD is a powerful tool to provide targeted information to land managers.

TREE TRUST/MINNESOTA DNR RECEIVE NATIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT

USDA Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the awarding of \$1,047,000 in Federal grants to 15 organizations for use in our Nation's urban and community forests. The organizations will match those funds with an additional \$1,374,000 for research and education projects for urban forests. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota-based nonprofit Tree Trust received \$120,366 for their "Asian Initiative for Urban and Community Forestry." This project is designed to reach out to the large Hmong populations residing in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area with information about tree care and forest stewardship.

REIMAGINING COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

If you are interested in finding out more information about forest cooperatives and how to make them work, attend the 9th Annual Cooperative Development Forum of the National Cooperative Business Association November 5 through 7, 2003, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Training sessions will focus on cooperatives as a vehicle for a variety of initiatives, including sustainable forestry, value-added agriculture, coffee co-ops and fair trade linkages, affordable housing, and urban cooperative development.

NEW BOOK ABOUT RURAL IOWA OFFERS "SCRIPTURE FOR THE FUTURE"

Written by Iowans about Iowans, "Renewing the Countryside: Iowa" is a collection of 38 stories and 8 essays highlighting those who have found a way to make a living in the countryside while supporting their communities and protecting the environment. *Time* magazine writer Hugh Sidey comments, "Every American worried about the planet should use this as scripture for the future." The 160-page book with more than 120 full-color photographs (hard cover ISBN 09713391-2-0, \$39.95; soft cover ISBN 0-9713391-3-9, \$24.95) is available at bookstores nationwide or can be ordered online at <http://store.rtcmarket.org>.



Editor's Corner

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DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be **November 14, 2003**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Lewis at talewis@fs.fed.us.

