



Northeastern Area News Notes



April 26, 2005



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Invasive Species: Our Unwelcome Guests!

Like an uninvited guest at a party, invasive species in our forest ecosystems are unwelcome due to the trouble they can cause! Invasive species are one of four recognized threats to the Nation's forests. The other threats of concern are fuels and fires, unmanaged recreation, and loss of open space.

Throughout the Northeastern Area, recent newspaper and other reports have noted the presence of emerald ash borer (EAB) and Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) insects, sudden oak death (SOD) disease, and other undesirable intruders. The EAB and ALB have caused significant amounts of tree damage and mortality in both our rural and urban forests and have burdened us with associated high socio-economic costs, including the loss of valuable timber resources and of tree cover in urban settings. Unfortunately, pests that became invasive during the 20th century (such as hemlock woolly adelgid, beech bark disease, gypsy moth, and dogwood anthracnose) no longer make the headlines. They are now firmly entrenched in our forest ecosystems and have altered their health. By the way, have you noticed all the English ivy in our urban forests?

The problems with invasive species are not new. In the past, the Forest Service and others with responsibilities in this arena reacted to newly-discovered invasive species, dealing one-by-one as they appeared. Each represented its own "emergency" or crisis! While we have been successful in many cases slowing (gypsy moth), controlling, or eliminating (ALB in Chicago) the threats, the costs are high and we face sobering challenges in the near future. Today, there is an onslaught of new pests, many arriving at our ports in wood-based products and packing materials. Detection when pests arrive is difficult and their escape into our forest environment is often inevitable. Add to this the prospect of tight budgets in coming years and the challenge is apparent!

So where do we go from here? While there is no easy solution, a more deliberate and business-like approach to managing will help. The basis for future decisions must be relevant technical information helping us pursue tangible goals, objectives, and expected results. A plan that considers known and anticipated invasive species problems and matches them with economically feasible management objectives will move us from a reactive to a deliberate mode. Greater attention to prevention and early detection is likely, along with focused efforts to rehabilitate and restore affected areas. Considerations influencing priority management and control choices will include known and potential: 1) ecological effects, 2) socio-economic impacts, 3) geographic extensity and 4) costs of treatment.

Federal agencies, including the Forest Service, and all their programs are confronted with such challenges. In forest health and other areas, it is necessary to critically look at how we manage.



The goal of our Forest Health Management Program, to prevent the spread of invasive species and inhibit their changes to the diversity and structure of our forest ecosystems - regardless of how long ago a particular pest was introduced, is unchanged. What has changed is how we view the need to carefully consider the expected net benefits of our actions and how that should influence our decisions. Our team effort with our state partners, Forest Service Research, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and research institutions will also continue. Our partners face the same challenge of tight budgets and increasing threats from invasive species.

We have started to develop an invasive species plan to provide both strategic and tactical guidance regarding existing problems as well as anticipated new ones. Strategies and tactics will be more anticipatory and deliberate. Management responses will be selected from a suite of options, each built to address anticipated situations, with considerations of ecological, social, and economic effects. Past experiences, successes and failures, will inform these considerations, along with information provided through new tools, like the National Risk Map of Tree Mortality from Insects and Diseases, and other work.

Going back to the uninvited guests at the party, anticipating their arrival and predetermining criteria to evaluate how much trouble they might be will help with the decision about what to do when they show up. The same is true in addressing the threat of invasive species; we will be more consistent, predictable, and efficient in how we address invasive species if we recognize that every one is of concern, but not necessarily of equal concern. We look forward to our upcoming plan for invasive species, with the expectation that it will help us and our partners. We will be more effective, despite the challenging paradox of tightening budgets and increasing numbers of and demands to treat invasive species!

— Kathryn Maloney

DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

The Greatest Good Shown at UNH

A showing of *The Greatest Good* was held at the University of New Hampshire for Durham employees and retirees as well as UNH staff and students on April 7. Several people had positive comments on the information and the quality of the movie. As a result of the show, one professor is incorporating parts of the movie into his conservation issues class, a general education science class that enrolls about 1,200 students per year.

Souto Goes Ivy League

Dennis Souto made a return visit to the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies on April 5. He visited Dr. Ann Camp's graduate Forest Health to talk about exotic forest insects and their management. This is the third year in a row that Dennis has worked with Ann's class. The students ask excellent questions and freely participate, so it is much more of a discussion rather than a lecture. Dennis observed, "*It is always a pleasure to be there and I hope my participation will continue in the future!*"



New Hampshire Environmental Educators Conference

Susan Cox attended the New Hampshire Environmental Educators Conference on March 9. The theme of this year's conference was "Fire and Ice: Exploring Global Climate Change." Session topics included green building projects and climate change in central New Hampshire, presented by Steve Hamburg of Brown University and a Hubbard Brook cooperator. Keynote speakers were Barry Rock and Cameron Wake of the University of New Hampshire. Barry was instrumental in the start-up of the GLOBE Program, and Cameron presented information from his recent publication, *Indicators of Climate Change in the Northeast 2005* (<http://cleanair-coolplanet.org/information/pdf/indicators.pdf>).

Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) hosted the conference at its Energy Park facility in Manchester and offered a tour for conference participants. PSNH was so impressed with the conference that it will be highlighted in the company's next bill insert, which goes out to 450,000 customers. PSNH provided funds for the "Environmental Educators of the Year" awards and will include the names of this year's recipients in the insert.

Woodwasp Survey in New York

Kevin Dodds traveled to Fulton, New York, during the last week of April to begin surveying for a newly detected exotic insect. *Sirex noctilio*, a woodwasp native to Europe, Asia, and northern Africa, was recently detected in Fulton. This insect has the potential to cause widespread mortality to pine species in areas where it becomes established. The USDA Forest Service, APHIS, and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets are working cooperatively to determine the extent of the *Sirex noctilio* population in New York. A survey of local businesses that ship materials using solid wood packing material has already been completed; no evidence of *Sirex noctilio* was found.

Now that local businesses have been surveyed, efforts will concentrate on detecting *Sirex noctilio* in forests in and around Fulton. **Bill Frament** and Kyle Lombard of the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands conducted an aerial survey of 36 square miles of forest surrounding Fulton. Based on their findings, the cooperating agencies will ground survey pine stands that were mapped by air and visit other pine stands in the area looking for signs of *Sirex noctilio* infestation, including resin running down tree boles, round exit holes, and pines with drooping needles. A large-scale detection effort, incorporating traps and lures targeting *Sirex noctilio*, is planned for the summer.

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Forest Service and Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service Discuss Caldwell Reservoir

Karen Sykes and **Roxane Palone** recently met with Wes Beery, John Gerken and other Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees to discuss Caldwell Lake. The Reservoir, located in the West Fork Duck Creek Watershed, was built in 1965. It is 44 acres and serves as the principal drinking water source for the Village of Caldwell and portions of Noble County. Caldwell Reservoir was designed to store 50 years of sediment, but has filled in only 25 years. As a result, engineers are planning to raise the height of the dam between five and seven feet. The discussion of the group centered on ways to accurately predict the amount of erosion



coming from forests in the watershed and the amount of sediment actually delivered to the Reservoir. Soil loss models, including the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation II and the Forest Service Water Erosion Prediction Project were discussed. Sykes and Palone will continue to work with the NRCS on the project.

Forest Service Participates in Morgantown Arbor Day Celebration

Rick Turcotte from the Forest Health Protection (FHP) office in Morgantown setup an insect and disease display at the Morgantown Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, April 16. The display featured information on well known introduced insects and diseases and a few not so well known or recently introduced. The public expressed interest in the gypsy moth, Asian long horned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, sudden oak death and emerald ash borer.

Predatory Beetles Released on the Monongahela National Forest to Control Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

On Monday, April 11, **Rick Turcotte** from Forest Health Protection (FHP) in Morgantown released approximately 7,500 predatory beetles, *Sasajiscymnus tsugae*, formerly *Psuedoscymnus tsugae* at the Bird Run Campground and 2,500 beetles at the Falls of Hills Creek Scenic Area. The campground and scenic area are two popular areas for forest visitors and locals. This is the second release of beetles at these sites. Surveys at both sites did not detect any beetles from the previous release. It is hoped that beetles from these releases will become established and provide a measure of control against the hemlock woolly adelgid. The hemlock woolly adelgid is present and represents a serious threat to the hemlock trees at these sites. Predatory beetle releases are one control strategy being employed to fight this introduced pest within the Monongahela National Forest.



A Forest Service employee places fresh hemlock boughs infested with hemlock woolly adelgid for *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* prior to their release on the Monongahela National Forest.

The *Greatest Good* Shown at West Virginia University

Employees of the Morgantown Field Office and West Virginia University students gathered at the Erickson Alumni Center for a showing of the Forest Service documentary, *The Greatest Good*. Dr. Char Miller, history professor at Trinity University in Texas and a Pinchot Institute Senior Fellow, gave a brief introduction on the incredible foresight, vision, and drive that led to the establishment of the Forest Service. After viewing the documentary Dr. Miller then led the audience on a discussion on what is the meaning of the greatest good.

This was the first public showing of the documentary in West Virginia. The Morgantown Field Office is contacting other colleges with forestry schools to make arrangements to show the documentary and have discussions on their campus.



Gypsy Moth Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Presentations Given at Three Meetings

Joe Cook the team leader for the National Gypsy Moth Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was invited to give presentations on the SEIS at both the Eastern Plant Board meeting in West Atlantic City, NJ and the Southern Plant Board meeting in St. Augustine, FL. Cook did a SEIS presentation at the end of January at the Central Plant Board meeting in Indianapolis, IN, along with SEIS Team Entomologist **Bill Oldland**. Department heads from many state offices of the Department of Agriculture, their staffs, and regional and state representatives from the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service attended the meetings.

Oldland and Cook also gave a presentation to the Virginia Gypsy Moth State Cooperators Meeting in Luray, VA, in February. The VA state cooperators meeting had representatives from the state of VA and many counties and cities in VA.

Morgantown Kids Learn About Clean Water at Health Fair



West Virginia University hosted their 7th annual Children's Health Fair at the Morgantown Mall on April 9th. **Vicky Evans, Devin Wanner**, and **Mary White** were there with Woodsy Owl to talk to children about the importance of clean water. They demonstrated to kids how rains wash trash and pollutants into streams by using cool-aid to simulate pollutants, and spray bottles to make it rain. All the kids enjoyed making it rain on the model town, but no one like the idea of drinking or swimming in water that looked like the model town's reservoir. They then explained how important it was for the kids to properly dispose of trash so that it does not get washed away into out drinking water.

Devin Wanner shows children at kids fair how rain washes pollutants into our drinking water, and tells them how they can help keep our water clean and health.

Linda Wilson-Singleton Registers in New Leader Program

Linda Wilson-Singleton, Management Analyst at Morgantown was one of 116 attendees at a week-long New Leader Program held in Lancaster PA. The program uses an integrated approach to develop public service leaders. It includes an assessment of participant's needs as well as experiential learning and individual development assignments.

The week-long program was the orientation and assessment portion of a six-month program. During April, Wilson-Singleton will participate in a job shadowing as a part of the program. She will spend a week shadowing **Kathy Maloney**, Area Director and **John Nordin**, Deputy Area Director at the Newtown Square office. In addition, she will do a shadowing assignment in the Office of the Associate Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry in DC. In May, she will perform



the individual development assignment portion by working with the Forest Legacy Program in Atlanta, Georgia.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

New Research Reveals that Trees Put Money in Our Pockets

This Arbor Day 2005, Minnesotan's learned the value of urban trees when the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, The Minneapolis Park, and Recreation Board, the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture joined forces to promote new Forest Service Research that places a dollar value on the environmental benefits trees provide homeowners. According to research conducted by the Center for Urban Forest Research at the Southwest Research Station, properly placed trees provide (on average) a 3 to 1 return on their investment. Properly caring for trees when they are young may cost money, but that investment of time and money pays for itself over time, with large trees providing close to 4 times more than the amount of dollar investment to the landowner. Of all the benefits that trees provided, the money gained from energy savings and from increased property values were the most significant. **Jill Mahon**, Urban Forester, and **Ken Holman**, MN DNR Forester, were instrumental in promoting these new research findings.

Chicago Deregulates Asian Longhorned Beetle in Ravenswood Neighborhood

Just in time for Arbor Day, the Illinois Agricultural Director Chuck Hartke, joined by **Mike Prouty**, USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, and Al Sanchez, City of Chicago Streets and Sanitation Commissioner, and Gene Shulter, Chicago Alderman, and Thomas Chanelli of USDA APHIS, officially deregulated several Asian longhorned beetle quarantine zones in the Ravenswood neighborhood. The beetle was first detected in Ravenswood in 1998, and although there will be continued monitoring efforts; this is one of the best examples of eradication of a non-native forest insect in our geographic area.

Chicago Goes Green

Tom Dilley, Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, along with the City of Chicago Bureau of Forestry, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Openlands Project TreeKeepers and Region 9, have assisted numerous public schools within the City of Chicago with Arbor Day tree planting celebrations. Each school received a landscape-sized tree for the schoolyard and each student received a seedling and a history lesson on Arbor Day as well as the US Forest Service and received information on the multiple benefits of trees.

Logging Group Certified Green

Forest Management Systems Cooperative, a northern Minnesota logger's coop, has received certification from the Smartwood Program. The cooperative appears to be the first of its kind to receive certification that their forests are managed and trees are harvested in a sustainable manner. Forest Management Systems Cooperative hopes to set a new standard for loggers and share their commitment to sustainable forestry with other logging groups and individuals. The certification will likely increase trust between loggers and private landowners assuring landowners that they are getting a fair price for their wood. In Minnesota, a majority of the timber that goes to mills comes off of private land, so certification is critical to the health and sustainability of all forestlands in the



state. In addition, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is working hard towards attaining both SmartWood as well as Sustainable Forest Initiative certification for the states' 4.7 million acres of forest. They expect to receive certification for both later this year.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson** and **Glenn Rosenholm**, Durham; **Devin Wanner**, Morgantown; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; and **Helen Butalla** for posting the NA News Notes on the Web.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, May 18**. 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.

