



Northeastern Area News Notes



June 30, 2006



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

One Day, One Tree, One Area

The region served by the Northeastern Area stretches across half a continent, yet on any given day NA personnel are connected by their work on common issues and interests in caring for a quarter of our Nation's forests. Our work with Native Americans, States and other partners, and citizens recently was focused on concerns about the emerald ash borer, on the same day and in places distant from one another! So, what was happening on May 24, 2006?

In Chicago that Wednesday, the Northeastern Area worked with the world-renowned Morton Arboretum and other partners to host the Firewood Forum, a continuation of our work against emerald ash borer (EAB) in the Midwest. In Maine that same day, Durham Field Office (DFO) Forest Stewardship Coordinator Roger Monthey was a guest of the national Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, serving as a session speaker at their annual conference. The session focused on NA's work with respect to emerald ash borer in the seven States served by DFO.

The forum in Chicago represents the immediacy of our business climate. EAB is a ruthless tree killer, and NA has rallied with partners in the Midwest to fight it. We've joined together in a relatively short time to communicate the threat of EAB and to take action in the field. Ash trees were also central to NA's invitation to the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society conference, though there the coalition and partnerships around ash go back farther in time.

In the mid-1990s, Native American tribes in Maine became very concerned about the health of brown ash, the tree used for the ancient art of basket weaving. More than 50 percent of these culturally important trees in Maine had significant crown dieback. The Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance, along with natural resource professionals from the Maine Forest Service and USDA Forest Service, formed a brown ash task force.

With financial support from the Northeastern Area, the task force engaged the University of Maine to investigate the cause. Emerald ash borer was not yet known as a threat in North America, but everyone on the project worried that a pest or disease with the destructiveness of EAB had slipped into the woods of Maine.



Thankfully, a catastrophic threat wasn't found in Maine a decade ago. If it were, the Northeastern Area would have carried Maine's lessons to the Midwest, rather than the other way around as it is with EAB today. Maine's brown ash were simply predisposed to drought, and they eventually rebounded from the decline. What is remembered, though, by Maine tribes in the basketmakers alliance and by the State is that NA's people and resources were needed to get to the bottom of things. We solidified relationships and established our relevance.

The relationships formed 10 years ago in Maine are as strong as the ones formed in recent years in the Midwest around EAB and brought to bear May 24 in Chicago. The tribes of Maine remember brown ash decline. They also know about EAB and don't consider it a Midwestern threat—they consider it a threat to their heritage. They asked for our help in educating national tribal leaders at the conference they hosted. NA was the one organization they knew could bring lessons from the Midwest more than a thousand miles east to Maine, to share with local tribes and decisionmakers who journeyed in.

After Roger Monthey spoke on ash and EAB at the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society conference, he delivered an EAB identification kit to Theresa Gardner, President of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance. The kit included materials for the identification of EAB and educational material distributed at the Firewood Forum.

With that hand off, the Northeastern Area bridged half a continent to deliver the same message on the same day to the very people who needed to know. Theresa accepted the kit with excitement, Roger reported. "She said to me, 'This is exactly what we needed!'"

"Exactly what we needed" is a result we hear often. It was the sentiment of participants at the Firewood Forum in Chicago and of those at the conference of national tribal leaders in Maine. That's a result I like to hear and let others know about as well, though it's not just one day I'm talking about, or just one tree or just one set of partners. It's these timely examples of the relevance of the Northeastern Area to Federal, State, and tribal leaders across the country that impresses me about this organization. I'm talking about the relevance and the relationships that help us pull representation from 14 States and Canada to the Firewood Forum in Chicago, and the relevance and relationships that, on the same day, see us invited—virtually implored—to speak at the annual national conference of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.

Though the synergy isn't always this clear, these successes are replicated daily with other partners, programs, and issues. It's a very powerful and, I think, privileged thing to do this kind of work on the geographic and social scale of the Northeastern Area. Sometimes, the successes happen overnight, but more often they come from seeds planted long ago. Sometimes, our work coalesces around one day and one tree. Always though, it is about the forests and people of one Area.

— Kathryn Maloney



NEWTOWN SQUARE OFFICE NOTES

Northeastern Area All Pathologists Meeting



Meeting participants included (seated, left to right) Martin MacKenzie, Michael Connor, Linda Haugen, and Matt Arnn; (standing) Jill Pokorny, Joe O'Brien, Noel Schneeberger, Bernie Raimo, Cynthia Ash, Alan Iskra, Margaret Miller-Weeks, Manfred Mielke, Jim Steinman, and Jerry Boughton. Not pictured: Nancy Martin, Dan Twardus, and Kerry Britton (WO).

All Forest Service Northeastern Area Pathologists, Field Office Forest Health Group Leaders, and key Newtown Square staff met for the first time in Mendenhall, PA, in early May. The discussions were well facilitated by Matt Arnn, who stepped up with little advance notice to assist with the meeting, along with Nancy Martin. Kerry Britton, Pathologist on the Washington Office Forest Health Staff, joined the group to provide input from the national perspective. The objective of the meeting was to share ongoing and planned project information and

discuss the goals of the pathology program in the Northeastern Area. The discussion resulted in several tangible action recommendations, including increasing communication internally and with partners, developing early detection rapid response surveys and diagnostic tools, establishing pest specific working groups, and enhancing available educational information.

Big Rivers Compact Holds Academy

The Big Rivers Fire Academy, supported by the Northeastern Area, was held June 8–11 in Springfield, MO. The academy provides wildland fire training through a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Fire School. Enrollment at the academy has grown steadily in the last 5 years; this year, 478 individuals attended. For the first time, more people attended the wildland component than the structural component. The fire compacts in the Northeast and Midwest have adopted the academy model for delivery of fire training courses because it is cost effective and efficient. **Gloria Pellin, John Grosman, and Bob Hartlove** served as instructors at the Big Rivers Fire Academy.

Fire and Aviation Staff Members Recognized

Northeastern Area's Aviation Officer **Dan Zimmerman** was recently recognized with a plaque in appreciation for his efforts and leadership in developing partnerships to help save a local Pennsylvania airport. In an effort to save the Kutztown Airport, the Maxatawny Township Supervisors have authorized their solicitor to prepare an intermunicipal agreement to create the Maxatawny-Kutztown Joint Airport Authority. The purpose of the authority is to provide a vehicle for eligibility to receive State funds for the airport. The historic 60-year old, 70-acre airport has a 2,400-foot paved runway and a grass strip, and is strategic to the Federal, State, and local governments in fire management, forest health protection, business aviation, and community commerce. The airport also supports medical evacuation units, Civil Air Patrol, and general and business aviation needs.



John Grosman, Fire and Aviation Management Training Officer, was recognized by both the Forest Service Eastern Region and the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) for his exceptional efforts in the organization and coordination of an all-hazard S420–Command and General Staff Course held in New York City in May. John’s efforts in this course support a cooperative agreement between the Northeastern Area and FDNY to help the fire department develop all-hazard Incident Management Teams to increase its capacity to respond to future acts of terrorism and other forms of mass casualty disasters.

The Northeastern Area Multicultural Committee’s Diversity Award was recently presented to **Jan Polasky** for her efforts to establish an initiative to develop future diversity in the Forest Service through a summer intern program and a wildfire training program at the Delaware Community College. Jan’s undying desire to improve diversity and provide career opportunities for youth is deserving of this recognition.

In 2005, Jan worked with Penn State University to locate diverse students interested in natural resource management. As a result, Taiyyibah Malik was hired as a summer intern in 2005 and has returned this summer. She has proven to be a valuable asset to both the Cooperative Fire staff and the State fire agencies.

In winter 2006, Jan took the initiative to contact Delaware Community College (DCC) to discuss the possibility of establishing a wildfire training component within the structural fire component that currently exists at the college. The DCC program has many diverse students who could be potential future Forest Service employees should they decide to seek a career in wildfire. These individuals could be hired by the Forest Service into Student Career Equivalent Positions (SCEP) and would then be eligible to attend the National Interagency Joint Wildfire Apprenticeship Academy in California. Upon their graduation, they would be fully certified wildland firefighters working for the USDA Forest Service. At present, she is working with the college to outline the wildfire curriculum and determine how best to ensure the training program’s success.

Length of Service Awards Presentation

Kathy Maloney presented Length of Service certificates and pins to the following employees during an award ceremony in Newtown Square on May 24.

40 years: George Saufley and David Welsch
30 years: Stephen Bratkovich and
 Roberta Burzynski
25 years: Victoria Evans and Joanne Fuss
20 years: Rodney Whiteman
10 years: Richard Marino and Phillip Rodbell
5 years: Maureen Brooks, Amy Hullett,
 Lori McKean, and Donna Murphy



Present for the Length-of-Service awards were (left to right) Joanne Fuss, Kathy Maloney, Roberta Burzynski, and Richard Marino.



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS NOTES

End-of-Fiscal-Year Printing Alert

If you plan to have any publications printed this fiscal year, please take note... Your publication needs to be edited, designed, finalized, approved by the Director, and submitted with the completed Information Product Request Form to Patty Dougherty in Newtown Square by August 21. Contact your editor, graphic designer, or both, to work out a reasonable schedule. Contact Patty by e-mail or at 610-557-4225 if you have questions.

DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Future Pathways to Conservation Careers



Perhaps this student is destined for a career in wildlife biology.

Future Pathways to Conservation is an annual event that introduces urban youth in the Boston area to careers in natural resources. Initiated 2 years ago by the Eastern Region National Forests Urban Connections program, the event is hosted by a coalition of nonprofit, Federal, State, and city conservation organizations in Boston, including the City Parks Department, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and UMass Cooperative Extension. About 60 high school students from public schools and community organizations attended this year's event on June 16 at Boston's Franklin Park and participated in 18 different hands-on sessions with natural resource professionals. The event gives students an opportunity to learn about careers they might not normally be exposed to in a metropolitan area. Topics included wildlife biology, forestry, tree climbing and care, urban forestry, soil science, hydrology, landscape

architecture, recreation management, entomology, adventure skills and leadership, and conservation education. Durham staff members **Glenn Rosenholm, Susan Cox, Bob Fitzhenry, Kelley Koulalis** and **John Parry** from the Northeastern Area assisted, and **John Janelle** and **Mariko Yamisaki** from the Northeastern Research Station conducted a session on raptor research.

Durham CRC Recognizes Gay and Lesbian Pride Month

The Durham Civil Rights Committee presented two powerful videos to mark June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. *Sticks and Stones* combines interviews, documentary footage, and animation to encourage discussions about families, gender stereotypes, and name-calling. *Out of the Past* draws on the history of gay and lesbian individuals and issues from the 1600s to today to chronicle the efforts of a student to start a gay and straight alliance at her Salt Lake City high school in 1995. In the words of one interviewee, "To create a place for ourselves in the present, we have to find ourselves in the past."



New England Ag Teachers Conference

Susan Cox and **Kevin Doran** (Maine Forest Service) presented a session on forest ecology to high school agriculture teachers at the New England Ag Teachers Conference in Rockland, ME. Several of the attendees teach forestry or landscape design and were interested to learn about New England's forests. Discussion included project ideas for students to work on in their school or community forests.

Women and the Woods at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP

Bob Cooke and **Susan Cox** worked with **Karen Bennett** (University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension) and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park staff to pilot the "Women and the Woods" program developed for the Maine and New Hampshire stewardship programs. The program was delivered as a series at the park in Woodstock, VT. Karen Bennett taught "Discovering the Wonders of Your Woodlands" and "Caring for Your Land," and Susan Cox and **Clare Long** (White Mountain National Forest) taught "Getting Lost and Found in the Woods." The program was attended by women who own or co-own forest land and wanted to learn about managing their property. The series was well received, with potential plans to continue.

Training the Trainers



Walter Shortle dissects a tree to look for defects after participants estimated its risk based on external observation.

John Parry, **Susan Cox**, and **Dennis Souto** worked with **Danielle Fitzko** (Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation) and **Kate Forrer** (University of Vermont Cooperative Extension) to organize and conduct a risk tree workshop. Sixteen attendees from five Northeastern States attended the workshop in Fairlee, VT on June 6–7. The goal was to provide enough information and resources (references, PowerPoint presentations, and examples of tree defects) so each attendee can conduct similar sessions in the future. The cadre of instructors included **Martin MacKenzie** (Morgantown Field Office), **Walter Shortle** (Northeastern Research Station), and **Mark Duntemann** (private consultant). **John Janelle** (Northeastern Research Station) assisted with a tree autopsy field exercise. The contributions of all the instructors were much appreciated by the attendees. This is the first risk tree train-the-trainers workshop held in the Durham Field Office service area since 1998. NA staff members look forward to supporting the attendees as they begin to plan their own sessions.

Connecticut Promotes the Development of Urban Forest Management Plans

Chris Donnelly, Connecticut Urban Forestry Coordinator, developed a 1-day training session to help communities take steps to develop management plans for their urban forests. Over 15 individuals from 5 communities attended to hear presentations on new tools and techniques and to take part in a facilitated discussion on challenges and successes they have encountered in conducting urban tree inventories and putting them to use. **Rob Rock** and **Fred Borman** from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and **Dennis Souto**, **Dave Bloniarz**, and **John Parry** from the USDA Forest Service participated and will provide ongoing assistance.



The result of the day was an action plan in which the DEP, the Forest Service, and communities will work together to complete management plans, a critical tool in efficient management of the urban forest.

Urban Tree Inventory Training

USDA Forest Service Urban Forestry staff worked with New York Department of Environment Conservation staff to deliver two daylong workshops on how to conduct community tree inventories with an emphasis on using new software and technology. A portion of the workshops focused on the use of personal digital assistants (PDAs) and Mobil Community Tree Inventory (MCTI) software. The software allows users to conduct tree inventories in the field using small handheld PDAs and then transfer the data to a desktop computer, greatly simplifying both the collection and use of the data. Attendees received hands-on instruction in using PDAs.

The workshops, designed as a basic introduction for first-time users, included State staff, community volunteers, parks and public works staff, arborists, and foresters. Over 30 people attended the workshops in Cortland and Fishkill, NY. **John Parry** from the Northeastern Area and **Dave Bloniarz** from the Northeastern Research Station worked with State Urban and Community Forestry Program coordinators **Frank Dunstan** and **Mary Kramarchyk** to deliver the training.

The MCTI software, developed by Dave Bloniarz in his former post as Director of NA's Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, can be downloaded at no cost at www.na.fs.fed.us/urban. An updated version of MCTI is being developed by the Northeastern Research Station as part of the new iTree Software suite (visit www.itreetools.org).

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Elementary School Students Learn About West Virginia Forests

Third grade students from North Elementary in Morgantown, WV, headed up to Chestnut Ridge Regional Park on June 1 to enjoy one of the final days of school in an outdoor classroom. When the approximately 100 students and their teachers arrived at the park, they were met by Research and State and Private Forestry employees from the Morgantown Field Office. **Vicky Evans** welcomed the group and briefly discussed the three branches of the Forest Service and the variety of jobs conducted by Forest Service employees. Following this introduction, the students split into groups and rotated among four learning stations.

Sandy Fosbroke and **Mike Effinger** talked about tree species that commonly grow in West Virginia and used a white oak tree cookie to show the kids how foresters determine a tree's age and how trees grow. Fosbroke had also prepared a booklet of pictures of



Sandy Fosbroke indulges in a white oak "cookie" snack following the day's activities.



scanned leaves for students to take home. Fosbroke and Effinger then took a nature walk with the students to look at trees in the park and compare actual tree leaves with the images in their booklet. Evans led a Project Learning Tree activity called “Every Tree for Itself,” which taught kids that trees compete for the resources they need to survive and stay healthy. The students pretended to be trees by standing on a plate from which they could not move while pieces of colored paper representing water, sunlight, and nutrients were scattered around them. Students then gathered the resources (papers) they could reach from the spot where they were standing. **Devin Wanner** and **Toni Jones** talked about the different products that are derived from trees. Many common, everyday products ranging from wooden spoons to cough syrup were placed on a table. Students then identified all products that come from trees. Wanner also discussed the many different items that contain either oils or resins that are derived from trees. **Chris LeDoux** and **Norman Montoy** talked about both the importance of trees for providing habitat for animals and animal food webs.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Presentation and Training Session

Rick Turcotte from the Forest Health Protection Staff led a 2-hour presentation and training session on the hemlock woolly adelgid on May 22 at the Supervisor’s Office of the Allegheny National Forest. The presentation was part of this year’s forestwide survey for this insect and included information about the identification, biology, and potential impacts of the adelgid on the Allegheny. The session was attended by summer interns and national forest personnel.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatments on the Monongahela National Forest



Eastern hemlock trees on the Monongahela National Forest received injections of imidacloprid in early June.

Brad Onken, Karen Felton, and Rick Turcotte from Forest Health Protection traveled to the Blue Bend Campground on the Monongahela National Forest near Lewisburg, WV, on June 7. They injected the insecticide imidacloprid into the stems of 26 eastern hemlock trees. The imidacloprid treatment is expected to reduce hemlock woolly adelgid populations on treated trees and provide up to 3 years of protection from this introduced pest. Trunk injections are one of the control strategies being employed to fight the adelgid within the Monongahela National Forest. The hemlock woolly adelgid is present and represents a serious threat to the hemlock trees at this campground, which is popular with forest visitors and local residents. This is the last insecticidal treatment scheduled for this spring on the Monongahela National Forest. Treatments are expected to continue on the national forest this fall.

Forest Service Radio Training

A radio use refresher session for Forest Health Protection personnel was held in Morgantown on June 7. Bruce Cross, Service Area Team Leader for the Information Solutions Organization from Region 8, presented the training session on the proper use of Forest Service radios.



ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Emerald Ash Borer Found in Illinois

On June 13, an emerald ash borer infestation was confirmed in Kane County, IL. The infestation is less than 60 miles from the Wisconsin border and is the first infestation found outside of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. It is believed, but not confirmed, that the infestation was the result of firewood being moved to Illinois from Michigan. The neighboring homeowner called in the infestation after seeing billboards and newspaper articles related to emerald ash borer. After USDA APHIS confirmed the insect as emerald ash borer, they hosted a press conference with the Kane County Forest Preserve District, the Morton Arboretum, the USDA Forest Service, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and other partners. **Tom Dilley**, Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, participated in the press conference as the Forest Service representative.

Vital Forests/Vital Communities in Minnesota

Mike Majeski, Forest Stewardship Coordinator, participated in the Blandin Foundation's Vital Forests/Vital Communities Initiative for Minnesota. The purpose of the combined training and conference was twofold: (1) to introduce forestry professionals and woodland owners to tools for fostering sustainable forestry practices via training on Community-Based Social Marketing and (2) to achieve consensus among participants on the strategic vision and action plan to increase the number of acres of family forest land under Forest Stewardship Plans from 1.3 million today to 2.3 million by 2015.

The Blandin Foundation received the consensus it needed to continue their action plan for adding 1 million acres under new Forest Stewardship Plans by 2015 as well as maintain the existing plans. Their goals include (1) prepare Forest Stewardship Plans on 1 million acres by 2015, (2) update the existing Forest Stewardship Plans on 1.3 million acres, (3) enroll 1.2 million acres of family forest land in sustainable certification programs by 2015, (4) ensure that 80 to 100 full-time equivalent foresters and other natural resource professionals in both the public and private sectors are available to plan and implement Forest Stewardship Plans by 2015, (5) establish a dedicated, self-sustaining Family Forest Initiative with stable annual revenues via the following: a property tax surcharge on woodland property, collecting a \$1.25 per cord surcharge on wood harvested from family forest land, and requesting that a portion of the proposed 3/8 percent sales tax increase be dedicated to natural resources management and conservation.

Monitoring Ash in Michigan

Pathologists **Manfred Mielke**, **Joe O'Brien**, and **Cindy Ash** provided crown evaluation training for Michigan crews involved in the Rural Ash Monitoring Project (RAMP) and the newly awarded Ash Decline Evaluation Monitoring Project. The objective of the session was to standardize crown evaluations by crews involved in each of these ash projects and to better coordinate field activities among these projects and others in the Durham Field Office service area. Wayne Sinclair (Retired Professor of Pathology, Cornell University) provided an excellent seminar on ash yellows epidemiology, and field and laboratory diagnoses, which is a significant part of the Ash Decline Evaluation Monitoring Project.



Forest Inventory and Analysis of the Urban Forest

Dan Twardus, Entomologist, and **Manfred Mielke**, Pathologist, conducted urban Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) crew training in Denver as part of the Quality Assurance/Quality Control program to standardize data collection between Tennessee and Colorado FIA crews.

Manfred and Dan have been involved in the urban forest monitoring effort in the Northeastern Area and nationally since its inception. They started with an effort in Indiana that evolved into the Wisconsin and New Jersey full implementation pilots. Last year, Tennessee and Colorado were selected by FIA as additional national pilot States. Dan and Manfred trained both Colorado crews and the State field crew supervisor in all the procedures unique to the urban inventory program, as well as the new modifications made to the FIA tree crown measurements.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, **Roberta Burzynski**, **Nancy Martin**, **Maureen Brooks**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Sandy Fosbroke**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul.

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

DEADLINE!

The **deadline** for the next issue of NA News Notes will be **COB Monday, August 14, 2006** (July and August will be combined). 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.

