



Northeastern Area News Notes



June 25, 2008



From the Director's Desk

Keeping NA's Workforce on the Cutting Edge

When Louis Pasteur stated, "Chance favors a prepared mind," he recognized that individuals possessing the right frame of mind are most likely to make the most of new challenges and opportunities that accompany unforeseen events. Change is all around us and seemingly occurring at an ever-increasing pace. In this environment, we need to be flexible and prepared to embrace new ideas and innovation.

How do we keep pace in this changing environment? One way to ensure NA is prepared for the future is by investing in our workforce. Quality formal or on-the-job training, for example, positions employees to take advantage of future opportunities. A prepared and trained workforce is one that is competent, confident, and flexible.

Whether the subject is fire behavior, entomology, urban forestry, sustainable forest management, budgeting, public affairs, or grants management, to name a few, we all need to remain skilled in our field and able to provide quality technical assistance to our customers. Continual learning is a critical component of a competent workforce, but we need to go beyond that. To stay "on the cutting edge" we need to stay connected with colleagues and engaged with our respective professional communities. We also need to learn how to use new tools to accomplish our work more efficiently and more effectively!

With a skilled, competent, and confident workforce, we will be well prepared to deliver high-quality public service and achieve our mission. NA will have the flexibility to take advantage of emerging opportunities and changing resource needs as well. This is a powerful position for any organization to attain.

What can you do to be "prepared?" I encourage every NA employee to be thoughtful about your Individual Development Plan. Discuss both your current training needs as well as your long-term career goals with your supervisor. NA's strength and ability to be an excellent partner depends on each of us being skilled, competent, and confident. With your help, and that of our partners, private woodlands will be well managed and will continue to provide their many public benefits!

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director



Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Carbon Cookout?

Barbecuing, as anyone grilling a rib-eye steak will tell you, is as much about process as product. Using gas versus charcoal to grill food is typically a debate about flavor and ease of use, not carbon dioxide emissions. But with barbecue season upon us, let's ask anyway. Which is greener? Probably charcoal, according to Tris West, a scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratories, who last year calculated emissions from the two grilling methods. He says that since charcoal is derived from wood—and thus trees that took in atmospheric carbon as they grew—burning it on the grill is pretty close to a “net zero” in terms of carbon emissions. Propane, by comparison, is a fossil fuel that adds to greenhouse gas accumulations. West cautions, however, that it gets a little more complicated than that. Even if burning charcoal is technically greener, it may release particulates into the atmosphere. It is good to know that your choice will not effect any significant change in mass carbon emissions. By West's estimation, the total amount of carbon dioxide released from barbecue grills on July 4 is approximately 0.003 percent of the annual United States total.

[Adapted from the New York Times, April 2008]



Newtown Square Headquarters Office

Collaborative Suppression Efforts to Help Slow the Spread of Gypsy Moth

The Northeastern Area and State and Federal partners collaborated this spring in a large-scale effort to address outbreaks of gypsy moth across the area.

The Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, provides technical and financial assistance to State agriculture and forestry agencies and Federal land managers to help reduce impact from the gypsy moth. This support is applied in various ways to reduce damage to trees caused by the feeding caterpillars (suppression); to eliminate isolated infestations of the insect that occur outside of the known infested areas (eradication); and to help slow the natural and short range artificial spread of the insect into uninfested areas (Slow the Spread).

Officials in 7 States and from various Federal agencies including the Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and one tribal government proposed plans to treat more than 500,000 acres on State and local, private, Federal and tribal lands to address



As dawn breaks over Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, a helicopter swoops down to release insecticides that will suppress a gypsy moth outbreak.



gypsy moth outbreaks. The treatments were applied using aircraft specifically designed for and certified by FAA for aerial application of insecticides.

The approved treatments included application of the microbial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* or *Btk*, the gypsy moth-specific viral insecticide Gypchek, and the insect growth regulator, diflubenzuron. Suppression projects were completed safely without any incidents or accidents in May and early June. Approximately 549,000 acres in total were treated.

Almost half of the total treatments, about 221,000 acres, occurred on non-Federal public and private lands in Pennsylvania. This is the largest gypsy moth suppression project in Pennsylvania since 1992. Treatments began on May 5, and over the course of the month 140 Bureau of Forestry personnel were involved in completing suppression activities in 27 counties.

Pennsylvania Division of Forest Pest Management Chief Don Eggen said it was a complex program with 14 aircrafts involved this year. The process of air traffic coordination went extremely smoothly this year, thanks in large part to Gary Jewett, with whom the Northeastern Area contracted to provide air space management, including coordination with FAA and the Department of Defense, and communication between all the different agencies. Gypsy moth suppression projects in Maryland and New Jersey were also the largest that those States have administered since 1991.

The gypsy moth Slow the Spread (STS) Project proposed to treat more than 300,000 acres of Federal, non-Federal public and private lands across the project area in 7 States. The approved treatments in STS included the use of *Btk*, diflubenzuron, Gypchek and a mating disruption pheromone, disparlure. Like suppression activities, the treatments were applied aurally with specially designed and approved aircraft. STS activities are about 75 percent completed. In the Midwest most of the insecticide application has been completed with the exception of an area in northern Wisconsin along Lake Superior. "It has been an unusual spring, and that part of the State is far enough north that phylogenically it develops at a later dates. As a result we are still conducting *Btk* applications up there," said St Paul Forest Health Group Leader Mike Conner. A single gypsy moth eradication project on the Hoosier National Forest in Indiana was also completed in June.

Weather conditions hampered treatment projects in other areas as well. Wind and rain were the main weather conditions affecting the ability to apply insecticides. Optimal spraying conditions exist when wind speeds are less than 10 mph. Higher wind speeds cause the insecticide to drift off target before it settles on the foliage. Relative humidity is also an important weather factor that must be monitored. Low humidity will cause spray droplets to evaporate before settling on the target foliage.

Gypsy moth suppression, eradication and STS projects are highly coordinated and cooperative efforts between the Forest Service, other Federal agencies and the State forestry and/or agriculture agencies. These projects are complex and require highly trained and skilled personnel on the ground to choreograph the timing of applications and the management of aircraft over congested areas.

Gypsy moth outbreaks do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. The Forest Service role has been to coordinate the gypsy moth treatments within and between States and Forest Service regions, in order to deliver the most effective and cost-efficient treatments possible, using the least amount of insecticide necessary. Cooperative Forest Service-State gypsy moth projects are an enduring example of a Federal, State and local partnership that works.



Durham Field Office

Northeastern Area Hosts Tour for Congressional Staff

Field Representative **Anne Archie** and Legislative Affairs specialist **Bob Fitzhenry** hosted a family-owned woodland tour on June 13 for staff members from Maine's U.S. Congressional delegation. The tour highlighted on-the-ground results of State and Private Forestry programs and partnerships in America's most densely forested State. The Maine State Forester, members of his staff, and members of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM) also participated.

The Northeastern Area's upcoming report, *Forests, Water, and People*, was among the topics discussed. The report ranks the Portland, ME, watershed as the Area's most at-risk watershed for degradation of water quality due to loss of private forests. The property used for the tour, which is owned by Everett Towle (U.S. Forest Service, retired), is within the watershed and managed for multiple benefits. Overall, family and individual woodland owners conserve one-third of Maine's 17.7 million acres of forest.



Pictured from left to right are Gordon Stuart, forest hydrologist, SWOAM; Carol Hurley, staff assistant, Congressman Allen; Dennis Brennan, District Forester, Maine Forest Service (MFS); Jamie Brennan, staff assistant, Senator Collins; Dave Struble, State Entomologist, MFS; forest owner Everett Towle, President, SWOAM; Dot Mozden, Southern Maine chapter representative, SWOAM; Anne Archie, Field Representative, U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry; Alec Giffen, State Forester, MFS; and Don Mansius, Director of Policy and Management, MFS.



Maine State Entomologist Dave Struble (cap) speaks about invasive species with Jamie Brennan, staff to Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine).

"We wanted the Congressional staff to know that partnerships with State forestry agencies are strong and working hard to help family woodland owners conserve their forests," said Archie. "I believe the staffs have a much better understanding of the importance of private, working woodlands to drinking water quality, economics, and traditional way of life in Maine."

The Maine Forest Service used posters to convey the urban forestry work going on in the State. Messages about fire, forest health, and invasive species were woven throughout the tour.

"The State foresters with whom I work want to meet with Congressional staff, and they want to

show and talk about the good work that is happening on the ground," said Archie. "We've got our tour template now, with strong prospects for the future."

Great Meeting Held on a Great Lake

Thought-provoking presentations facilitated excellent discussions among participants at the Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program meeting. The meeting, held in Traverse City, MI, on



May 20 and 21, had a very full agenda and covered a variety of topics. Forest Legacy Program Coordinators from 14 States attended.

Among the highly rated speakers were Doug Fuller of the Little Traverse Conservancy and Vic Lane from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. Doug spoke about the Little Traverse conservation easement monitoring program, and included a number of anecdotes that brought the topic alive. Vic picked up the monitoring topic and shared lessons learned about stewardship funding and landowner relationships. Vic's presentation on the impressive records database created by the Little Traverse Regional Land Conservancy was very engaging. Following these excellent presentations, attendees participated in a facilitated discussion about conservation easement stewardship. NA States are making progress in addressing this topic, but we as a group have identified some areas that need improvement. Following the session on conservation easement stewardship, Cindy Burkhour from the Kellogg Foundation Access to Recreation Initiative challenged meeting attendees to give thought to designing recreational opportunities. Cindy led an excellent exercise that highlighted understanding universal design.

Ken Daw, R9 Regional Appraiser, and Susan Waller, Senior Review Appraiser, met individually with each State coordinator to discuss upcoming and ongoing appraisals. Feedback from meeting participants indicates that they appreciated the opportunity for face-to-face meetings with the Forest Service Review Appraisers.

WOOD EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

Northeastern Area Woody Biomass Business Plan Approved

Northeastern Area Director Kathryn Maloney officially signed the *NA Woody Biomass Business Plan* (WBBP) at the April Executive Team Meeting held in Newtown Square. This plan identifies a series of multi-year actions the Northeastern Area will take to meet national and State renewable energy goals through the sustainable use of woody biomass. Actions within the WBBP are directly tied to the NA Strategic Plan, in particular *Objective 2B – Help the Northeast and Midwest meet its need for renewable energy and greenhouse gas reductions through the sustainable utilization of woody biomass*, and will serve as a framework for prioritizing biomass actions in NA's annual strategic business planning processes.



Pictured from left to right are Steve Milauskas (WERC Director), Kathryn Maloney (NA Director), Jerry Boughton (Assistant Director, Forest Health & Economics), and Lew McCreery (NA Biomass Coordinator).

The WBBP focuses on working with partners to maintain and promote the sustainable use of woody biomass in the Northeast and Midwest. The identified strategies and actions help States, businesses, entrepreneurs, the public, and other organizations understand and develop a successful woody biomass utilization pathway that contributes toward renewable energy and climate change goals. Together, these plans help the diverse set of individuals, businesses, communities, and governments within the Northeastern Area determine how they can beneficially utilize woody biomass.



This WBBP and the NA annual business plan processes also provide the foundation for integrating contributions from Forest Health, Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, and Cooperative Fire Management into the overall effort. The Wood Education and Resource Center provides program leadership with Biomass Coordinator Lew McCreery actively involved in implementing the plan.

Morgantown Field Office

Forest Inventory and Analysis Training Conducted for Tennessee Division of Forestry

Dan Twardus conducted training for Tennessee Division of Forestry crews from June 10 through June 12. The crews are taking measurements on urban forest inventory and analysis (FIA) plots throughout Tennessee. This is the fourth year of the urban FIA project in Tennessee. All FIA plots falling within Census-defined urban areas are included in the project. Within urban areas, crews are inventorying the plots similarly to a forest plot with the addition of several key measurements that enable the data to be analyzed using the Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE). This includes estimates of carbon storage and sequestration, air pollution filtration, and pest risk. Colorado is also participating in the urban FIA project. Information about the urban FIA projects and a recent report for Wisconsin can be found at http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/fhm/pilot/pilot_study_wisconsin_02_lr.pdf.

Sudden Oak Death Detection Surveys Conducted in New Jersey



Jon Klischies, New Jersey Division of Forestry, Forestry Area Supervisor, is pictured following deployment of a sudden oak death stream-baiting trap.

On May 28, New Jersey Forest Service and Morgantown Field Office personnel deployed sudden oak death (SOD) traps in three locations throughout New Jersey. Jon Klischies, Jim Dunn, and George Koeck from the New Jersey Division of Forestry joined **Alan Iskra** to re-establish plots in three watershed areas for the second field season. The three watersheds represent areas within the State with local nurseries that have possibly received plants infected with the SOD fungus from California nursery distributors.

The SOD fungal contaminant is *Phytophthora ramorum*, which is responsible for widespread oak tree death in California and parts of Oregon.

Because environmental conditions are quite similar within the Mid-Atlantic States and because it has been shown that the SOD pathogen can infect our oaks, a great concern exists that SOD may spread from contaminated plants acquired from California and be establishing here. Early detection to recognize and control this pathogen using established stream-baiting techniques has been effective in California. These same techniques are being used in New Jersey as well as other States within the Northeastern Area.

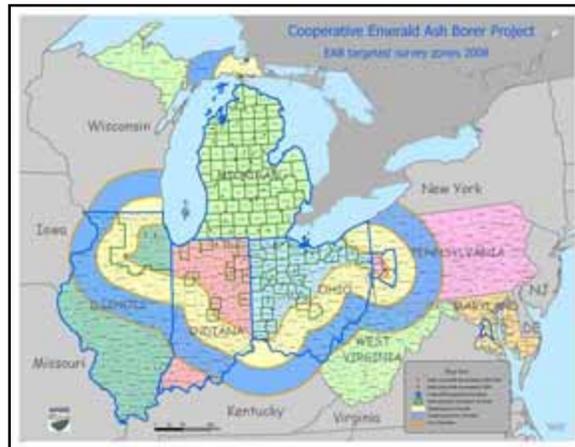
Traps using rhododendron leaves are very effective when capturing spores of *Phytophthora* species, including *P. ramorum*. Symptomatic leaves are sent to two independent laboratories where culture and PCR/DNA diagnostics are routinely made. If the pathogen is found, protocols



have been established to notify State and Federal authorities and follow pathogen confinement procedures.

Morgantown Employees Support States Conducting Emerald Ash Borer Surveys

Chelsea Gibson, Dan Snider, Nathan Sites, and Rick Turcotte began setting out emerald ash borer (EAB) panel traps at the end of May as part of the 2008 emerald ash borer survey. This survey has two goals: conduct a nationwide survey to determine whether additional pocket infestations exist outside known infested areas, and conduct a grid-based survey within a 100-mile band of known EAB infestations. This survey is a multi-state, multi-agency partnership with participation from numerous State agencies and universities, including State Departments of Agriculture and Divisions of Forestry, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Forest Service, and other Federal agencies.



Map of 2008 cooperative emerald ash borer targeted survey zones.

As part of the Northeastern Area's role of providing insect and disease support to Federal agencies, the Morgantown Field Office has been setting up traps on Federal lands throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. Employees hang the purple traps in host ash trees and bait them to attract adult borers. The traps are covered in a sticky material to catch the flying adults. These traps will remain in the field for the summer when emerald ash borer adults feed on ash tree leaves.

Forest Health Staff Provides Assistance at a Variety of Venues

Dan Snider and **Nathan Sites** traveled north to the Alleghany National Forest on May 16 to assist Katherine Piantek with a research project. They collected soil temperatures and PH on sample plots.

Sites and **Chelsea Gibson** visited Oak Hill, WV, the following week to help APHIS employees identify emerald ash borer (EAB) in the area and sample trees to determine whether they should be treated with imidacloprid or peeled for EAB identification. They discovered that EAB was in a different part of the ACE Adventure Center area than where it was originally found. The infested site was located in a remote area of the Rock Lick Road community located approximately 0.5 miles away from the original outbreak.

That same week, Snider, Sites, and Gibson joined **Bill Oldland, Rod Whiteman, and Melissa Emerson** in Point Marion, PA, to work on a Tree of Heaven eradication project at the Friendship Hill National Historic Site. This eradication project began last year with personnel from both State and Private Forestry and the U.S. Department of Interior Park Service. The long-term goal is to eradicate Tree of Heaven from the midstory and overstory, and determine how many treatments are necessary to achieve full eradication. The study is also looking at the cost effectiveness and the total effectiveness of the spraying containers used.

Sites and Gibson traveled to the Washington, DC, area on May 22 to hang EAB traps. They contacted the National Park Service's Monocacy National Battlefield, Kenilworth Park and



Aquatic Gardens, and Rock Creek Park; and the U.S. National Arboretum, among other locations. This trip provided a great opportunity to build relationships with these organizations.

On May 27, Sites and Snider traveled with **Brad Onken** and **Karen Felton** to Williamsport, PA, to sample hemlock woolly adelgid for a spray study.

Third Grade Students Learn About Natural Resources in the Woods of West Virginia

On May 21, **Sandy Fosbroke**, **Toni Jones**, and **Devin Wanner** hosted four third grade classes from North Elementary School at Chestnut Ridge Regional Park east of Morgantown, WV. The classes rotated through four stations. Fosbroke talked about tree growth and led nature hikes to help students identify some of West Virginia's most common tree species. Jones led an activity about how trees compete for sunlight, water, and nutrients for growth. She told the children to think of her as Mother Nature as she spread the yellow, blue, and green squares that represented each of these three resources that trees need to grow. Wanner helped the students create a natural resource web to show how everything in a community is connected by interrelationships. After Wanner assigned an organism to each student and included all students in the web, Wanner asked the class if any of the plants or animals they represented were unimportant. After an "unimportant" resource was identified, that student was instructed to let go of the web to demonstrate how their disappearance from the community weakened the web.

Five Cheat Lake Elementary Classes Attend Science Day Activities



Toni Jones and Bobbi Jo Alkire show first and second grade students how to make leaf rubbings.

Morgantown Northeastern Area employees **Devin Wanner** and **Rick Turcotte** joined **Mike Effinger** and **Toni Jones** (assisted by George A. Plava Elementary fifth grade student Bobbi Jo Alkire) from the Northern Research Station and West Virginia University students **David Amrine** and **Chelsea Cook** to make science day presentations at Cheat Lake Elementary in Morgantown, WV. Five first and second grade classes each spent about 30 minutes engaged in forest and forest animal activities. Activities involved leaf rubbings, aging trees, forest products, and both pinned and live forest insects. A video camera and monitor were used to provide a closeup look at the interesting and strange world of insects. The science day involved approximately 160 students. The students and staff enjoyed the presentations, and a large number of them asked questions about forest trees, animals, and insects.

Morgantown Employees Participate in Two Summer Learning Series at Local Libraries

June 17 was a busy day for conservation education in north-central West Virginia as four Morgantown NA employees presented two programs at area libraries. **Devin Wanner** and **Rick Turcotte** traveled to Point Marion, PA, to talk about forest insects and other arthropods as part of the library's summer learning series. About 18 children and their parents attended the program. Wanner and Turcotte shared live forest insects and arthropods along with pinned



insects to introduce the children to the strange and wonderful world of these small animals. The children really enjoyed the presentation, and many of them shared stories and asked question about insects and other arthropods. In the afternoon, **Sam Forbeck** and **Chelsea Cook** gave a similar presentation at the Morgantown public library to approximately 35 children and their parents who attended to learn about the fundamentals of forest insects.

Morgantown Employee Recertified as Tree Climber

Entomologist **Brad Onken** of the Morgantown Field Office and former NA employee Tom Elliot (now with APHIS) were recently recertified as tree climbers by NA tree climbing coordinator and instructor **Manfred Mielke** of the St. Paul Field Office. Ordinarily, tree climbers use rope and saddle climbing techniques exclusively to avoid injury to the tree. The climbers used spurs during this training, however, because the trees were scheduled for removal.



Brad Onken climbs trees to monitor hemlock woolly adelgid and predator populations.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is **noon, Wednesday, July 23, 2008**. Please e-mail articles to **Deborah Muccio** at **dmuccio@fs.fed.us**.

Please remember:

- **Send text separate from photos and graphics.**
- **Include captions for all images.**
- **Do not place images in Word or PowerPoint.**

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