



Northeastern Area News Notes



Monday, April 26, 2004



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The Upper Mississippi River Partnership: Taking the Next Step

America's greatest river, the "mighty" Mississippi River, is the world's third largest drainage basin, exceeded in size only by the watersheds of the Amazon and Congo Rivers. The Mississippi drains more than 1,245,000 square miles, including all or parts of 31 States and two Canadian provinces. This great river is truly one of the Nation's outstanding assets and challenges. The Mississippi, and everything it carries as it drains this vast area, funnels directly into the Gulf of Mexico. Ensuring the quality of the water flowing in the river and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico challenges multiple political entities and involves a host of different land uses.

The Northeastern Area is working with State partners and others to consider how forests and forestry can become more of an effective tool in enhancing and protecting the water quality of the Mississippi River. This effort, called the "Upper Mississippi River Partnership," offers promise and opportunity to make a real difference in this important watershed. The Area hosted a regional sustainability roundtable meeting last month on the banks of the Mississippi River – in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Attendees at this meeting represented a wide range of interests and included private landowners, loggers, forest industry, interest-based organizations, and local, State, and Federal government. Participants discussed international measures of forest sustainability and how they applied to the Upper Mississippi River Partnership's goal of using forestry to help improve water quality on the river.

The Partnership is currently doing the tough work of developing a plan to address the needs of the Upper Mississippi River. This entails creating an organizational framework, and assessing the condition of the resource and the capabilities of our partner organizations to address the challenge. The recent regional roundtable helped focus attention on and increase understanding of the objectives of the Upper Mississippi River Partnership. One take-away message from this meeting was that more partners need to be engaged in this effort, including the agricultural community, to provide a concerted and well-coordinated approach to the challenges.

So, the work of the Partnership continues with renewed focus and energy. I'm confident the forthcoming plan will lead to implementing actions on the ground that will add value toward sustainable land uses and a healthier river. The challenges posed by the Upper Mississippi River are huge and compelling. USDA Under Secretary Mark Rey spoke to participants of the recent roundtable and reminded us that our Nation is at war and budgets are tight. However, I'm confident that the values associated with sustainable forests and agriculture and their relationships to clean water will attract support for action in this important watershed. Stay tuned!

— Kathryn Maloney



ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER NOTES

Region 2 Provides Hands-On Training for Marines in Okinawa

Three Region 2 employees conducted global positioning system (GPS) and road construction training for Marine Corps Camp Butler in Okinawa, Japan, during March. Doug Marah, from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, and Tom Effinger, Jr., from the Medicine Bow-Rout National Forest, conducted basic and advanced GPS courses for military and civilian personnel. Training revolved around using GPS for soil stabilization activities.



Ray Langstaff, White River National Forest, speaks to Marines about controlling erosion on dirt roads.

Ray Langstaff, from the White River National Forest, taught a Low Volume Road Construction and Maintenance Course to Marines from the 9th Engineer Support Battalion and 3rd Transportation Support Battalion. The course gave Marine heavy equipment operators, who maintain the dirt roads in their training areas, improved methods to construct and maintain roads, reducing soil erosion. Soil erosion has multiple consequences since the soil eventually gets washed into the ocean where it can settle on the coral and kill it.

Publicizing Good Work

Getting the word out about our work is important and Larry Soenen hit pay dirt in March; Larry is NA's soil scientist at Marine Corps Camp Butler. The *Okinawa Marines* newspaper highlighted Larry's efforts to reduce soil erosion. The March 5th issue focused on water quality monitoring and complying with environmental laws. The March 19th issue talked about hydroseeding eroded areas and the proper mix of plant species.

To read the articles, copy the following Web address and then click on the March link:

<http://www.okinawa.usmc.mil/Public%20Affairs%20Info/Archive%20News%20Pages/Archive%20Home%20Page.html>.



Larry Soenen explains to Kanenao Heshiki, soil erosion control specialist, how the durable Wedelia plant will help prevent erosion.

Eric Wolters Turns A Different Shade of "Green"

Eric Wolters, a planning and NEPA specialist for NA, switched Federal departments when he became a Department of Army civilian employee on April 4th. Eric's new job at the Army Environmental Center will focus on conserving forest and farm land around Army installations through conservation easements, very similar to the Forest Legacy Program. He will be working with numerous nongovernmental organizations and local and State officials as well as other Federal agencies.



Living Memorials Project

On March 18-19, Living Memorials Project community partners from throughout the Northeastern Area gathered at September Space in New York City, New York, to share stories, technical advice, and information about local efforts to create enduring places for healing and remembrance following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Over 40 attendees participated in exchanges on topics covering planning, planting, design, communication, education, programming, funding, and outreach. Written and Web-based materials on grants, social and site analysis, design, and technical resources were provided for ongoing reference.

Living Memorials Project partners from year one, including Lisa Simms of New Jersey's Grove of Remembrance, Liz Sulik of the Far Rockaway Tribute Park, Joanne Dolan of Sterling Forest, and Barry Goodinson of Washington, DC's Memorial Groves, added first-hand testimony to the complexity and reward of creating a living memorial project. In addition, William Kelley, Planning Project Manager at the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, provided a thoughtful presentation on the World Trade Center Memorial and tree grove design process.

The workshop was organized and managed by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with New Haven's Urban Resources Initiative. Lindsay Campbell, **Matt Arnn**, Erika Svendsen, **Phil Rodbell**, Colleen Murphy-Dunning, and Chris Marchand all presented and contributed to this event.

DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

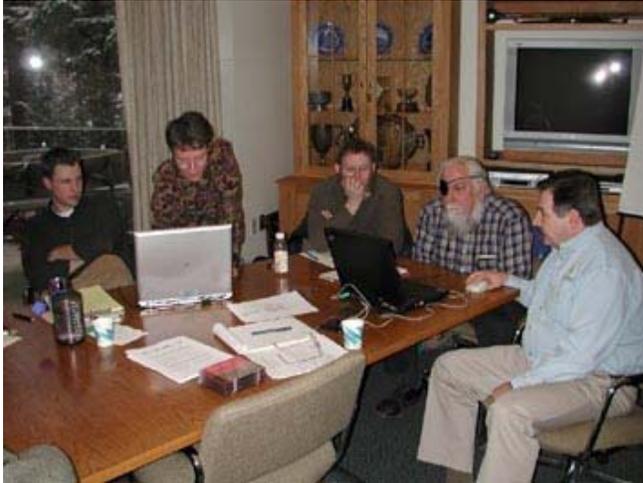
Promise of Place Conference

Susan Cox attended the second Promise of Place Conference in Bethel, Maine. The conference focus was on place-based education in the Northern Forest region: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and northern New York. Over 150 teachers and resource professionals were in attendance from across the region, as well as from Massachusetts, West Virginia, Minnesota, and California. Sessions included a talk from David Sobel, author of the new book, *Place-Based Education: Connecting Classrooms and Communities*; assessment and evaluation of programs; linking schools with community organizations; and service learning opportunities. Also attending were employees from the Green Mountain and White Mountain National Forests. For more information on the sessions, visit <http://www.northernforest.org/events.htm>.

Economic Action Program Annual Winter Meeting

Inclement weather aside, the New England and New York Economic Action Program annual winter meeting went on as scheduled in Durham on March 16 and 17. The 14 attendees included State cooperators and USDA Forest Service program staff. Although the first day's meeting was held on the UNH campus, a snow closure on the second day forced the group to move down the road to the Forest Service office. Dr. Jan Wiedenbeck, a Research Forest Products Technologist from the Northeastern Research Station in Princeton, West Virginia, was the meeting's featured speaker. Jan presented training in the use of several computer software programs available to utilization and marketing specialists in their service to the wood products industry, including the last version of SOLVE 2003 and COST (Cost of Sawing Timber). **Lew McCreery** (Morgantown Field Office) discussed the latest in budget conditions and changes affecting the Economic Action Program. An informative discussion arose as the State program specialists presented current and changing conditions in their areas.





Jan Wiedenbeck (second from left) demonstrates the use of the SOLVE 2003 software to (left to right) Colin Miller (NY Watershed Agricultural Council), Bob DeGeus (Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation), Dean Huber, and Rob Clark.

Urban Orchards

Earthworks, Inc., a nonprofit group in Boston, is continuing its efforts to develop urban orchards in inner-city areas. **John Parry** met with Earthworks Director Maurice Louisell on March 15 to hear about the progress of this Urban Forestry Inner City grant funded in 2003. Earthworks works with neighborhood organizations to establish and maintain fruit and nut tree orchards. The “fruit of their labor” is ultimately harvested and used by the neighbors involved in the project.

New Hampshire’s Tree Stewards

New Hampshire continues efforts to involve volunteers in improving urban forests through its Tree Stewards Program. Led by Mary Tebo of UNH Cooperative Extension and A.J. Dupere of the Division of Forests and Lands, this year’s classes of about 35 volunteers are learning how to plan, plant, and care for the trees in their communities. **Dennis Souto** and **John Parry** provided instruction on public speaking and conducting tree inventories, while Matsuye Mairs of the Northeastern Research Station in Durham is a volunteer receiving training. Graduates are required to donate 40 hours of public service to utilize their new skills.

Teachers Learn to Map

Dave Welsch, **Tom Luther**, and **Susan Cox**, along with staff from the University of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Fish and Game, and New Hampshire Project Learning Tree, conducted a mapping workshop for eight teachers as a followup to the New Hampshire Teacher’s Institute last August. Teachers learned how to use a compass and pacing, then moved on to plane-table mapping with Dave and Susan, and wrapped up the afternoon learning how to use GPS units with Tom. The teachers had identified mapping skills as a topic they needed more training on and were excited to meet and work with resource professionals who apply these skills in their work.



New England SAF Winter Meeting

Members of the Durham Field Office Forest Fragmentation/Urban Sprawl working group assisted in developing the session “Forestry on the Fringe: Stewardship of Urbanizing Woodlands” for the winter New England SAF meeting held in Quebec City on March 24-26. About 50 participants heard speakers from the New England States give presentations on *Forest Management Techniques on Small Woodlots*, *Aesthetic Values Associated With Logging in Urbanizing Areas*, and *Group Certification Program for Small Woodlot Owners*. **Roger Monthey** spoke on the *Ecological and Natural History Values of Woodlands in Urbanizing Areas*. **Tom Luther** served as moderator and **John Parry** and **Deirdre Raimo** helped to plan and coordinate the session.

NORTHEAST CENTER FOR URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Utility Lecture Presented at National Arbor Day Foundation Conference

David Bloniarz, Director of the Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF), recently delivered a feature presentation at the National Arbor Day Foundation’s Trees and Utilities Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Attended by over 240 participants, the 3-day conference focused on trees and utility arboriculture. David’s presentation, titled “Resolving Municipal-Utility Tree Conflicts,” outlined a case study in Sandwich, Massachusetts, in which the Northeast Center worked with the town of Sandwich and NSTAR Gas and Electric to develop a model methodology for tree valuation relating to the removal of public trees during new utility construction. The valuation protocol is currently being utilized by NSTAR in several communities within its service area, which includes the greater Boston area. Paul Sellers, Senior Arborist for NSTAR, was a co-presenter with David. The valuation protocol can be used as an Excel[®] spreadsheet and utilizes personal digital assistants (PDAs) for data collection. For more information, please contact David Bloniarz at dbloniarz@fs.fed.us.

Personal Digital Assistant Presentation Delivered at UMass/Amherst

David Bloniarz recently delivered a presentation on the use of personal digital assistants (PDAs) as a management tool for foresters, arborists, and building professionals to students at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst. Over 25 seniors from the Building Materials and Wood Technology Program in the Department of Natural Resources Conservation attended the presentation.

Storm Preparedness and Damage Estimating at NE-SAF

David Bloniarz delivered a presentation on “Storm Damage Preparedness and Damage Estimating” at the recent winter meeting of the New England Chapter of the Society of American Foresters in Quebec City. The talk was one of several delivered during an afternoon session focusing on urban forestry issues. David introduced the Storm Damage Assessment Protocol for Urban Trees developed by the Northeast Center for U&CF and discussed important steps to take in preparing for storms in the Northeast. Other presenters in the session included Dr. Morgan Grove, USDA Forest Service, and Dr. William Elemendorf, Penn State University.



MCTI-3 Street Tree Inventory Software Available

A revised version of the Mobile Community Tree Inventory (MCTI) has been released by the Northeast Center for U&CF. The software program, which operates on the Windows and Palm OS PDA platforms, is a complete inventory software package that can be used to evaluate and map trees growing along streets, in parks, on golf courses, and in other urban settings. The latest release includes the ability to record location information based on landscape type, allows for the compiling of more detailed reports that include graphs and charts, and includes the ability to import street names from an Excel® spreadsheet. Additionally, the Palm OS version of the software has been updated to fully function on the latest PDA operating systems. For more information, visit <http://www.umass.edu/urbantree/mcti> or contact David Bloniarz at dbloniarz@fs.fed.us.



MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

National Economic Action Program Coordinators Meeting Held in Washington, DC

Economic Action Program (EAP) coordinators and managers met in Washington, DC, on March 9-11, 2004, with the WO EAP staff to discuss the current and future status of the Economic Action Program. A major part of the discussion pertained to Section 202 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. This part of the act emphasizes the use of biomass and small-diameter trees. Attendees from the Northeastern Area included **Ken Knauer**, **Lew McCreery**, **Al Steele**, and **Ed Cesa**.

Cross Border Pathology, or “What’s Buggin’ Your Tree?”

The Virginia Western Community College (Roanoke, Virginia) hosted a successful training session for 100 to 115 arborists on March 10, 2004. The high turnout in Region 8 reflected the reputation that NA’s arboriculture training has developed. USDA Forest Service entomologist Bill Jones of Asheville, North Carolina, is a graduate of West Virginia University and was partially trained in the Morgantown Field Office. Since moving to Asheville, Bill has maintained his cross-border links. Bill was asked to be a speaker, but was receiving GPS/GIS/Arc training that will be used to build an improved Cross-border/East-Wide BBD map. Thus, **Martin MacKenzie** was asked to be a replacement speaker for Bill. There were four speakers on the roster. The program began with Professor Seiler of VPI & SU, followed by entomologist Tim Tigner of the VA Department of Forestry. Dr. MacKenzie made a presentation on rots,



decays, CODIT, and a few well-known pathogens, followed by Professor Jay Stipes of VPI & SU. In addition, the session enabled 100+ practicing arborists to obtain copies of NA publications on SOD, HWA, ALB, and GM. All in all, the session was a great success and another example of cross-border cooperation, since it must be remembered that insects and pathogens do not respect regional boundaries.

Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Hosts Calibration and Characterization Services for Aerial Applicators

During the week of April 5th, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) hosted the calibration and characterization services for aerial applicators that will be conducting gypsy moth suppression and eradication activities in the 2004 season. The work was conducted at Al's Aerial Spraying in Ovid, Michigan, using the calibration trough system designed and maintained by the MDA.

Contractors present at the calibration were Al's Aerial Spraying, Vaughn's Flying Service, Lutes Flying Service, Maurice's Flying Service, Prime Air, and Earl's Flying Service. These contractors will be conducting gypsy moth treatments in North Carolina Eradication and STS, Tennessee Eradication, West Virginia STS, Ohio Suppression and STS, Indiana STS, Michigan Suppression, and Wisconsin Suppression and STS.

The calibration and characterization trials provide a unique opportunity for State and Federal agency personnel to meet with their contractors prior to treatment and provide assistance to the MDA. State and Federal agency personnel present were:

USDA Forest Service – **Amy Onken** and **Jan Hacker** (Morgantown FO)
John Ghent, Derek Puckett, and Ken Klein (Asheville FO)
VA Dept. of Agric. – Larry Bradfield
WV Dept. of Agric. – Butch Sayers and Jerry Judy
IN DNR – Phil Marshall, Zack Smith, and Gayle Jansen

84th Annual Winter Meeting of the New England SAF

The 84th Annual Winter Meeting of the New England SAF was held in conjunction with the Northeastern Pest Council in Quebec City on March 24-25, 2004. Two Morgantown Field Office State cooperators gave reports from their States (Mike Blumenthal, Pennsylvania, and Bob Rabaglia, Maryland). While both Mike Blumenthal and Dennis Souto (Durham Field Office) moderated sessions, Mike Bohne (DFO in NY) and **Martin MacKenzie** made presentations. Discussions of exotics, in particular the hemlock woolly adelgid, dominated the forest health concerns of both sessions with Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer getting honorable mention. In the session dedicated to beech bark disease (BBD), Martin MacKenzie took the opportunity to describe the current episode of the disease on the Tionesta Scenic Area of the Allegheny National Forest. This forest is experiencing BBD *sans* the *Neonectria* fungus. In less than 2 years, 30 percent of the beech died without there being a "full-blown" BBD. This episode was mediated by several years of drought, a high scale population, an out-of-season frost, and a massive background population of ambrosia beetles. At every opportunity, the upcoming NA-sponsored BBD symposium was promoted. Martin was the only speaker to use 35mm slides, and after the cascade of problems accommodating him caused, this is the last time he will use this techno-fossil.

West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Council Planting Activity

A rainy April day greeted the members of the West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Council as they arrived at their project site, a rest area on northbound Interstate 79 near Clarksburg, West Virginia. Despite the weather, several members of the council were on hand to plant 35 trees at the rest area as part of



the State's "Mountaineer Treeways Program." The program provides seedlings for volunteer groups that wish to plant trees on public property. This program is a joint effort between the West Virginia Division of Forestry, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, the West Virginia Division of Highways, and the Turnpike Authority.

West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Council members plant trees at the Meadowbrook Rest Area of northbound Interstate 79. American Electric Power, West Virginia University, and the USDA Forest Service all provided shovel power to assist the West Virginia Division of Forestry plant 35 trees!



Bobtown Elementary Celebrates Earth Day 2004

Bobtown Elementary School, in Greene County, Pennsylvania, was bustling with visitors, along with butterflies, animal pelts, tree seedlings, houseplants, and giant pinecones, as the students celebrated Earth Day on April 22. **Roxane Palone**, of the Morgantown Field Office, was invited to speak to 65 second graders about being a forester and how trees grow. Each of the children made their own tree cookie and learned how to count rings to determine how old a tree is. They also played a game to show that trees need water, sunlight, and nutrients to grow and thrive. Unlike people, they make their own food and are not able to move about to get what they need. The children also learned about fire prevention and were given gift bags featuring Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl. Roxane was invited to return next year. Bobtown Elementary School is part of the very rural, small Southeastern Greene School District.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Upper Mississippi River Regional Sustainable Forestry Roundtable

The Upper Mississippi River Partnership hosted the very successful Upper Mississippi River Regional Sustainable Forestry Roundtable on March 23-24, 2004, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Over 100 representatives from six Midwestern States and beyond participated. Private forest landowners, nongovernmental organizations, and State and Federal agencies heard presentations and participated in breakout sessions.

Mark Rey, Under Secretary for Forests and Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture; **Joel Holtrop**, Deputy Chief for State & Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service; **Kathy Maloney**, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry Director, USDA Forest Service; Kurt Bobsin, IL State Forester; Mike Carroll, MN State Forester; Lawrence Pedersen, Representing MI State Forester; and Paul DeLong, WI State Forester, spoke on the importance of criteria and indicators to manage forests in the Upper Mississippi River Watershed.



Participants used information presented at this roundtable to identify issues and concerns as well as develop a vision for the Upper Mississippi River forests. **Samuel Osinde**, Upper Mississippi River Forestry Partnership Coordinator, and **Mike Majeski**, Forest Stewardship, will use the information gathered at this meeting to augment the existing action plan for the Upper Mississippi River Partnership.

Tribute to Sacajewa

“Celebrating our History While Looking Forward” was the theme of a presentation by **Teri Heyer**, Conservation Education, at the Eastern Southern Region University Women’s History Month celebration in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. Teri compared the forests of the Northeast and Midwest today to the forests that Lewis and Clark traveled through 200 years ago. To celebrate Women’s History Month, Teri emphasized the significant role that Sacajewa played in making the expedition a success. In addition, Teri covered the threats to our forests today and how homeowners can help address these threats.

Conservation Educators Meet to Discuss Education

Approximately 150 people attended the biennial Forest Service Conservation Education meeting. A highlight of the meeting was the unveiling of a new Woodsy Owl book, “Woodsy’s ABCs,” written by **Roberta Burzynski** of the Northeastern Area and illustrated by Joe Kulka. Roberta and Joe were on hand to sign copies of the book. **Joel Holtrop**, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, also attended and affirmed the importance of conservation education in helping the public, especially the K-12 youth audience, understand their role in taking actions to promote forest sustainability.

WI DNR Investigates Third-party Forest Certification Viability

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) is investigating the viability and costs of achieving third-party forest certification for the State Forest, County Forest, and Managed Forest Law (MFL) Programs. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) accredited auditors have completed a full assessment of the State Forests. Preliminary feasibility assessments of the County Forest and MFL Programs are also available. The reports show that all three WI DNR forest management programs appear to be well positioned for certification. The reports and an opportunity to comment are at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/certification/index.html>

Megacities, Climate Change, and Biodiversity: Challenges for the Environment

Tom Dille, Chicago Metropolitan Initiative, attended the Megacities conference hosted by the University of Illinois in Chicago. The conference drew participants from a wide range of disciplines and included environmental scholars, researchers, and students focusing on the complex issues of climate change and urbanization in Illinois’ ecosystems. One of the breakout sessions focused on "Developing a Research Agenda for Chicago Wilderness," a project funded by the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area. The session addressed concerns relating to the community, ecosystem, and landscape level and looked at possible hypotheses related to each one of these complex concepts. The end product will be a document summarizing research ideas for the future.



Emerald Ash Borer Updates:

Michigan State University Helps Homeowners Save Ash Trees

Homeowners in southeastern Michigan wanting to protect their ash trees from emerald ash borer themselves should do so by the end of April, advises Michigan State University (MSU) entomologist David Smitley. “Homeowners in the infested area must now make a difficult choice: treat their ash trees each year with insecticide or let them succumb to attack and eventually pay for their removal,” Smitley says. “Those choosing to protect one or more ash trees can either hire a professional arborist or apply the insecticide themselves. Now until the end of April is the best time for homeowners to treat ash trees against the pest themselves.” Bayer Advanced Garden™ Tree and Shrub Insect Control is the only systemic product on the market that is easy for homeowners to use. Other products must be injected into the trunk or sprayed on, and for large trees these types of applications are best done by certified applicators, such as tree care companies. Other options for protecting ash trees include hiring an arborist to inject ash tree trunks in late May or spraying the trunk and foliage with insecticide in early June and again in early July.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Allocates Tree Planting Funds

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that grants totaling \$855,404 will be awarded to 54 communities suffering tree loss related to emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation. The emerald ash borer grant program, funded by the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, was established to provide financial and technical assistance to communities within the 13 quarantined counties of southeastern Michigan. The grants allow eligible communities to begin planting projects to replace trees lost to EAB infestation. **Katie Armstrong**, Emerald Ash Borer Liaison, has been working with Kevin Sayers and others at the Michigan Department of Agriculture on this project.

EDITOR’S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Anne Cumming**, **Melissa Emerson**, **Martin MacKenzie**, **Amy Onken**, and **Chuck Reger**, Morgantown; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; and to **Helen Butalla** for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web and **Sandy Fosbroke** for her proofreading skills.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **May 17, 2004**. Please mail articles to Nancy Lough at nlough@fs.fed.us.

