



Northeastern Area News Notes



Wednesday, October 27, 2004



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Do you have a favorite season of the year? Mine is autumn, especially October! The splendid show of fall colors, the harvest of pumpkins and apples, and the crisp air each contribute to our enjoyment as well as to our sense of the transition that is in full swing. The loss of summer and the uncertain expectations of the winter to come, however, can take some of the shine off the season.

Today, the environment within the Forest Service is in some ways similar to the fall season. Change is in the air. The transition to the new Information Solutions Organization, or ISO, the coming centralization of financial services, and the phased implementation of centralized Human Resources services—each represents many uncertainties of the future. I know those directly affected by these changes are challenged to deal effectively with them. I also know that everyone in the Area and the agency will be challenged to adjust to the season ahead. The coming adjustments will touch each one of us, regardless of current or future job responsibilities, as we learn to work differently and rely more on state-of-the-art information technologies.

Before getting caught up in that swirling breeze of change, we should first recognize and celebrate the successes we have shared (that “summer” just passed). We met or exceeded our performance expectations in FY 2004, providing services to the States and other partners, developing strategies and protocols that will improve program delivery in the future, and contributing to agency commitments to reduce hazardous fuels in support of the healthy forests initiative. These things could not have been accomplished without the help and support of folks in IT, finance, and HR! My hat’s off to you and to the program folks for delivering on NA’s promises in a professional, high-quality manner. Thank you for a job well done!

The transitions we face are driven by expectations of cost savings and the opportunities to invest those savings in our mission-focused efforts to protect and conserve the Nation’s forests. That is the purpose of competitive sourcing and business process reengineering—to gain and use administrative efficiencies for the benefit of productive forests, clean water, and the like. I believe this purpose is noble and, at the same time, I understand the anxiety individuals may feel during this transition.

The seasons ahead will reveal themselves, some more or less to our liking. Just as you would prepare your car for the winter or your garden for the spring, prepare too for the changes occurring at work. I encourage you to take the time to assess your individual situation, get in touch with what is most important to you, and be proactive in considering those options and opportunities that make sense to you. Seek the information you need, the advice useful to you, and the help of others as well. There will be choices ahead and you will be prepared to make the choices that serve you best! Just as surely as nature springs back to life after winter, I believe the agency will be renewed by this time of transition. Prepare, take care, and look hopefully to the transformation that is to come.

Autumn is a gift of nature, enhanced by your hard work and dedication to protecting and conserving our Nation’s forests. Enjoy and appreciate the season!

— Kathy Maloney



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

USDA-Durham “Doing Well by Doing Good” at the Day of Caring



Roger Monthey loads another wheelbarrow full of stonedust for its trip into the refuge’s wheelchair accessible nature trail.

For the third consecutive year, NA and NE Durham joined with the NRCS State office to volunteer at the Greater Seacoast United Way Day of Caring on September 15. This annual event brings out 1,600 volunteers from government and private industry throughout the seacoast of New Hampshire and Maine. These corporate citizens work on projects, both big and small, for the benefit of others.

Team USDA-Durham returned to the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, where it had volunteered in 2002. The nature trail at the refuge needed general maintenance and repair to keep it wheelchair accessible. With beautiful weather on their backs, the USDA crew threw their spirit and muscle into the effort. From hauling 4 yards of stone dust to various spots along the half-mile trail, to removing and replacing warped boards on the foot bridges, Team USDA-Durham pulled a full shift and then some.

“The Durham team is greatly appreciated,” said an enthused Jimmie Reynolds, manager of the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. “We’re entirely dependent on volunteers to fulfill a variety of needs, and the United Way Day of Caring has again been a great resource for us. We sincerely appreciate the Durham team’s efforts. Thank you.”

As pleased as the Forest Service and NRCS are to help, there are other benefits that carry over when back at work.

*“For 3 years we’ve teamed NA, NE, and the State NRCS office,” reminds **Bob Fitzhenry**, Forest Service lead on the effort. “We’ve made new friends regionally, but just as importantly, our volunteers get to know each other on a personal level that can’t be replicated in everyday work. It’s a community building exercise as much as anything.”*

Lynn Howell, NRCS coordinator for the effort, agrees, adding that, *“The expectation for ‘doing well by doing good’ is more and more important in the public eye. The Day of Caring provides a great match with the USDA mission in natural resources and builds relationships that can only help in our day-to-day work.”*

The Durham team consisted of **Bob Fitzhenry, Florence Peterson, Roger Monthey, Roy Thompson, John Campbell, and Donna Bungard.**

The Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1992 and is located along the eastern shore of New Hampshire’s Great Bay. For more information please visit <http://refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=53570> or call 603-431-7511.



The many footbridges over wet areas were in need of repair. Sledgehammers and 4-foot long pry bars became the tools of choice for pulling out the old, warped boards.



Dialogue on Diversity

Lisa Burban from the St. Paul Field Office and **Maureen McDonough** from Michigan State University conducted workshops entitled “Dialogue on Diversity” in Providence, Rhode Island, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in September. The goal was to help natural resource professionals create more opportunities for involvement, and recognize and identify ways to allow for greater access to programs. Attendees included over 40 participants from Federal and State agencies, municipalities, and nonprofit groups. The workshops were sponsored by the USDA Forest Service NE/NA and Durham Field Office Civil Rights Committee, the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, the Rhode Island Division of Forest Environment, and the Rhode Island Tree Council.

Pesticide Use Coordinators Meet in Chicago

Dennis Souto (Durham) and **Amy Onken** (Morgantown) attended the annual Pesticide Use Coordinators meeting in Chicago September 21–23. **Michelle Frank** (Newtown Square) did a superb job of organizing and leading the meeting. Dennis and Amy met regional coordinators from the West and South—many for the first time. The highlight of the meeting was a field visit to the Forest Service’s Medway National Grasslands, where invasive plants are a major concern in restoring the once-flourishing tall prairie ecosystems. In fact, tall prairie grasslands are considered the rain forests of North America because an acre can contain as many as 300 plant species!

USDA Joins Forces at the “Big E”

For a third year, the Forest Service has participated in the USDA exhibit at the “Big E,” otherwise known as the Eastern States Exposition, a fair for the six New England States held each year in Springfield, Massachusetts. The exhibit is a collaborative effort of a number of USDA agencies, including the Farm Service Agency, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Food and Nutrition Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, and the Forest Service. This year’s theme was “Where did your breakfast come from?” The USDA exhibit highlighted New England breakfast products, including maple syrup. One day was set aside to highlight Smokey’s 60th birthday. An activity for school-aged students on where New England wildlife species get their food was provided. Later that day, Smokey rode in the afternoon parade and attended a party in his honor with cake and a reading of “The True Story of Smokey.” Over 1 million people attended the fair, and over 10,000 visited the USDA exhibit. **Susan Cox**, who served as a committee member, helped to staff the exhibit along with **Sherri Wormstead** and **Clare Long** (White Mountain NF) during the 17-day event.

Linking Science with Math and Language Arts

The third institute sponsored by the New Hampshire Education and Environment Team (NHEET), a collaborative of NH Project Learning Tree, NH Project WET, NH Project WILD, the NH Fish and Game Department’s Project HOME, the GLOBE Land Cover Program, and the USDA Forest Service, was held at the Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin, New Hampshire. Teams of teachers from five schools around the State attended the weeklong training, which focused on the integration of New Hampshire’s rich natural landscape into each teacher’s math and language arts curriculum. **Susan Cox** and **Clare Long** (White Mountain NF) helped staff the institute, which was funded by the NA Conservation Education Program.





Teachers examine a topographic map during New Hampshire's "Linking Science With Math and Language Arts" Teacher Institute.

"I was given a new lens with which to view the natural environment around me," states Mark Woodcock, a kindergarten teacher from Plainfield School. Working with natural resource professionals and teachers from across the State, Woodcock and his fellow teachers participated in sessions focused on New Hampshire geology and soils, wildlife, biodiversity, wetlands, forests, and landscape changes over time. "I found [institute staff] to be incredibly knowledgeable and helpful with integrating what we learned in the field and how to translate it into meaningful lessons in the classroom."

Watershed Forestry Institute For Teachers

Twenty teachers attended the sixth institute held for teachers from New York City and the city's watershed region. The focus of the institute is for teachers to learn about the watershed, how it came to exist, and how New York City and other partners are working to keep the water supply clean. One of those efforts includes promoting best management practices (BMPs) in forestry. The teachers learn about forestry, management, and BMPs and are also trained in the Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, and A Sense of Place curriculums, which provide lessons and activities the teachers can do with their students. **Susan Cox** was among the staff working with the teachers.

"GPS for Landowners" Workshop

On Saturday, October 2, **Tom Luther** conducted a workshop titled "GPS for Landowners" at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont. The workshop, part of the Working Woodlands educational series organized and coordinated by **Bob Cooke**, was presented to 14 very enthusiastic private landowners who were interested in using inexpensive GPS technology to help manage their woodlots. Through classroom lecture, software demonstrations, and hands-on field exercises, participants learned how to use GPS to navigate and map points of special interest, trails, and boundaries in their woodlots. "This workshop sure helped to take the mystery out of this technology" and "Wow! GPS is FUN!" were just a couple of the positive comments made by attendees.



GREY TOWERS NOTES

Peter Pinchot Wins Award for Work with Forest Service, Others

Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell was among the many on hand recently when Peter Pinchot, grandson of Gifford Pinchot, received the Tenth Annual Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award for serving as Pike County, Pennsylvania's "advocate general" in partnering with the Forest Service and others to promote sustainable forestry, ecological conservation, and sound land use planning.



Peter was nominated for the award by the Forest Service at Grey Towers for his work not just with the agency, but with the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and other partners. His volunteer efforts are focused on promoting and building on the conservation legacy that his grandfather introduced into America 100 years ago. In addition to Gov. Rendell, who spoke about the Commonwealth's Growing Greener initiative, the audience of about 400 heard from Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Smokey Bear's 60th Birthday Celebrated at Grey Towers

Visitors to Grey Towers recently helped celebrate Smokey Bear's 60th birthday and learned about fire prevention and forest management programs. On display was the new Forest Service interpretive exhibit that features key fire prevention messages from six decades, including a collection of Smokey posters and memorabilia patches. A special children's program included the reading of Smokey's story, making birthday cards for Smokey, and of course a visit from Smokey. Participants received a free Smokey "care package" filled with Smokey Bear mementos. In addition to the birthday program and the exhibit, Grey Towers continues to offer the popular Hike With Smokey backpack program, a self-guided program that involves borrowing a backpack filled with Smokey activities that can be done while hiking on the grounds.

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Dan Twardus Attends Annual Cooperative Forest Health Protection Meeting

Dan Twardus attended the annual Cooperative Forest Health Protection (CFHP) State Cooperators meeting held September 28-30 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The meeting, hosted by the New Jersey Forest Service, was attended by Forest Health Program leaders from the mid-Atlantic States and USDA Forest Service personnel from Morgantown and Newtown Square. Agenda topics included updates on Asian longhorned beetle and hemlock woolly adelgid in New Jersey, an overview of the New Jersey Highlands project, and reports from each State about forest health issues. A field trip included Atlantic white-cedar restoration and New Jersey efforts to control southern pine beetle in the pinelands of southern New Jersey. Jon Klischies, New Jersey Forest Service, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Forest Service for his leadership in responding to the southern pine beetle infestation.



Morgantown Field Office Conducts District of Columbia Conservation Education Review

John Hazel, Chuck Reger, Vicky Evans, and Devin Wanner conducted a Conservation Education Program Review for the District of Columbia on September 29 and 30. The review was held in the District of Columbia Department of Health, Environmental Health Administration office with Team Leader Gilda Allen and Environmental Education Specialist Bonita Johnson. The agenda included reviewing conservation education goals, program administration, grants, technical assistance, and a field trip.

Gilda Allen explained that the District of Columbia Conservation Education Program is managed under the Department of Health, and that funding from the State Forester is transferred through a Memorandum of Understanding. After discussing the organizational structure, Gilda gave a PowerPoint® presentation on the educational programs and partnerships they have.

A recent program started by the States surrounding the Chesapeake Bay is the “Meaningful Bay Experience.” The objective is to have every school student experience the bay at least once before graduation. The District of Columbia Conservation Education Program uses a camp, Camp Riverview, to conduct several programs on invasive species and silviculture. The camp is owned by the State of Maryland and provides many opportunities for the “Meaningful Bay Experience” Program. The team discussed the idea of a multi-State Forestry Innovation Grant (FIG) and provided a copy of the FIG announcement to the Department of Health staff.

Gilda Allen took the review team to visit a schoolyard conservation program on the second day of the review. The school received a grant through the Conservation Education Program to create natural areas in the schoolyard. At the time of the visit, a class was preparing an area for fall planting of bulbs. At one point, John Hazel had an opportunity to speak with one of the seventh grade students. John learned that the boy was excited about his work and had a vision of future work in natural resources.

The review team returned to the Department of Health office after the site visit to close the review with recommendations and commendations for the District of Columbia’s Conservation Education Program. The entire review team felt that the Department of Health is conducting a significant conservation education program with the staff they have.

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell Reappoints Ed Cesa to the Pennsylvania Rural Development Council

On Friday, October 8, 2004, **Ed Cesa** attended a quarterly meeting of the Pennsylvania Rural Development Council (PRDC) at the Governor’s residence in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. During this meeting, 30 individuals became official members of the PRDC. Governor Ed Rendell reappointed Ed Cesa as a member. The board consists of 30 members representing Federal, State, and local governments; nonprofit organizations; and private industry. The council serves as a voice for rural Pennsylvanians in an effort to ensure that adequate resources and assistance are provided to rural residents. Ed has been a member of the council since 1993. He has been chairman of the Forest-Based Economic Development Committee and the Timber Bridge Working Group. Additional information about the council can be viewed at: <http://www.ruralpa.state.pa.us/ruralpa/site/default.asp>.



Wood In Transportation Program Produces Conceptual Drawing of Pedestrian Bridge for Walk-Bike Morgantown Town Meeting

Chris Grant, from the Wood In Transportation (WIT) Program, attended the Walk-Bike Morgantown Town Meeting on Wednesday, October 13. The meeting was planned by two volunteer groups—The Greenspace Coalition and West Virginia Walks. Greg Good, with The Greenspace Coalition, organized the meeting, and the Morgantown Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners (BOPARC) provided the Marilla Park Center for the meeting site.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather information regarding the concerns about the nonmotorized transportation system in the greater Morgantown area and Monongalia County. Greg Good's goal was to create a "multivoiced brainstorming session" with nine information gathering stations. Facilitators at each station had a flip chart to capture concerns and ideas relating to a particular category of trail user. The categories included those with ADA and accessibility concerns, pedestrians, street and road cyclists, trail users, public transportation users, motorists, and wellness walkers. Other topics included school access for pedestrians and bicyclists, trails in the parks, and pedestrian and bicycle bridges. Facilitators encouraged attendees to list problems and suggest solutions.

Chris provided handout information and displayed a conceptual drawing for a timber pedestrian bridge, 290 feet in length, that would link two trail systems separated by a fourlane highway near Morgantown's Monongahela River waterfront. The WIT program provided funding for the architectural and engineering assistance needed to develop the conceptual plans.

An estimated 50 people participated in the discussions. In a party-like atmosphere, flip chart pages filled rapidly with comments and ideas. The information gathered will be compiled, along with information gathered on Walk-Bike Questionnaires, in a report that will be presented to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Advancing the Fundamental Sciences



About 450 people gathered for a USDA Forest Service conference for physical scientists held in San Diego, California, on October 18-22, 2004. This was a national assembly of Forest Service practitioners in the hydrology, soils, air, and resource geology fields. One of the major goals of the conference was to strengthen the interdisciplinary watershed culture and recognize the work accomplished by watershed pioneers. **Karen Sykes** was selected as a speaker and presented a paper on the NA Regional BMP Protocol. Al Todd, NA Watershed Program Manager and one of the conference organizers, was on a panel that discussed historical and contemporary contributions of the Forest Service to the fundamental sciences.

Georgia-Pacific Hosts Riparian Buffer Training

Georgia-Pacific, one of the nation's largest forest products companies, provides landowners with markets for timber and wood fiber. Staffed with professional foresters, GP's wood and fiber procurement group provides landowners expert timber valuations, environmentally sound advice, and formal landowner assistance to qualifying landowners. To maintain expertise, the West Virginia Division of GP provides training to its field foresters in many aspects of natural resources. Stacy Jiles, the Environmental Support Forester at the GP facility in Richwood, West Virginia, asked **Karen Sykes** and **Roxane Palone** to develop a training session on stream assessment, riparian buffer management, and stream channel delineation.





Roxane organized the training, and on October 26 she and Karen were joined by NE research forest hydrologist Dr. Pam Edwards and DEP Citizen's Monitoring Program Coordinator Tim Craddock for a full day of indoor presentations and outdoor hands-on training. After the indoor presentations were complete, the group traveled to the South Fork of the Cherry River, a near pristine trout river surrounded by lands owned by Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc. Foresters performed a stream assessment using the West Virginia Save Our Streams manual and collected aquatic macroinvertebrates for a biological assessment. Fun was had by all.

EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue of the NA News Notes was delayed to include the information from the meetings in Morgantown and the 2004 Canon Envirothon, due to their regional and national scopes.

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Devin Wanner**, **Ed Cesa**, **Chris Grant**, and **Karen Sykes**, Morgantown; **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web; and to **Sandy Fosbroke** for an extra proofread.

PLEASE NOTE!

The Durham Field Office will be doing the NA News Notes starting with the November issue. Instructions for submitting articles will be sent out shortly.

