



Northeastern Area News Notes



June 28, 2007



From the Director's Desk

NA Leads the Way in Meeting Safety and Technology Challenges

In the last two issues of the News Notes, I addressed safety and change. I am proud of the track record of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA) in safety and in productivity improvement. For example, NA's aviation program has received national recognition for its contribution to safe and effective efforts to protect the health and well-being of our Nation's forests. Overall, NA has demonstrated excellence in many programs and is delivering a disproportionately large share of the agency's accomplishments compared with its share of funding and staffing. Keep up the good work, within NA and with our partners!

It is important for each of us in NA to stay focused on our work to accomplish our goals and responsibilities. We must not be distracted by concerns about changes that may or may not materialize, or that are beyond our influence or control. Our collective work is important to the sustained well-being of a quarter of the Nation's forests and affects 43 percent of the U.S. population.

An example of our continued focus on our work and our careful attention to safely delivering our programs is the NA 2007 gypsy moth aerial treatment program. This program delivers one of the major Forest Service accomplishments that are reported to Congress. In fiscal year 2007, the Forest Service is supporting treatment of nearly 700,000 acres to prevent damage from outbreak populations of gypsy moth, eliminate isolated infestations of the insect outside of the generally infested area, and slow the natural spread of the insect along the leading edge of the infested area. As of June 22, gypsy moth treatments within the States served by NA have exceeded 600,000 acres. Gypsy moth slow-the-spread treatments will continue over the field season, with safety and effectiveness the top priority.

What does it take to accomplish our gypsy moth aerial treatments? NA staffmembers are attending to the protection of project personnel, the environment, and the public. What's involved? NA (1) supports and provides pesticide application training leading to certification for personnel working on gypsy moth control; (2) provides leadership and oversight on aircraft safety; and (3) develops safety procedures and guides project planning. The proper handling and use of pesticides, the safe condition of aircraft, and plans that address the work and the public's concerns are essential to our success. These are by no means small tasks in an activity that involves aircraft flying at treetop levels coupled with the aerial application of insecticides. NA works cooperatively with State agriculture and forestry agencies, as well as other Federal land



management agencies, and provides crucial planning and onsite assistance to ensure that safety and effectiveness are the top priorities.

I know there are other great examples of NA employees focused on and doing excellent work. I commend all of you for your efforts and thank those working in the gypsy moth aerial treatment program for demonstrating safe and effective program delivery. As I suggested in our recent all-employee conference call, stay focused, do your best work, and put safety first!

—Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Newtown Square

Forest Sustainability Assessment Released

The *Forest Sustainability Assessment for the Northern United States* (NA-TP-01-07CD) was released on June 12. This report is a comprehensive analysis of the forest resource situation, drawing on data from a wide range of sources and developed with input from multiple natural resource specialists. It uses the national sustainability criteria and indicators as a framework for identifying forest sustainability trends in the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern States. The information presented provides a regional perspective that State and local governments can link to for their own forest assessment and planning activities. It is also a useful tool for encouraging discussion among forest stakeholders, forest managers, and policymakers.

The Forest Sustainability Assessment is part of the Northeastern Area's efforts to monitor forest sustainability. The baseline information it contains is a complement to the online indicators information system that will soon be available. The assessment, as well as other sustainability-related publications and resources, is available on our Forest Sustainability and Planning Web page at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability/>.

The effort to develop this assessment was spearheaded by **Constance Carpenter**, former NA Sustainability Coordinator. She worked with over a dozen authors representing State and Private Forestry, Research, and the Forest Products Laboratory, and called upon many technical specialists to help complete the project. Key contributors in pulling this large, complex document together include **Margaret Miller-Weeks**, **Tom Luther**, **Helen Thompson**, **Roberta Burzynski**, and **Sandy Fosbroke**.

Limited copies of the report are available on CD. To request a copy, please contact Jane McComb at (603) 868-7693 or jamccomb@fs.fed.us. If you have any questions regarding the assessment, please contact Sherri Wormstead at (603) 868-7737 or swormstead@fs.fed.us.



Revitalizing Baltimore Extends to City Schools

For over 10 years, the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry has worked with the Parks and People Foundation to “revitalize” the City of Baltimore. This work has focused on helping to bring trees and green space back into the city and to improve the quality of local parks and open spaces.

“Revitalizing Baltimore” has also been about connecting city residents with the natural world around them, to the watershed in which they live, and to the Chesapeake Bay downstream.

In recent years this work has turned its attention to the city’s schools—a key part of revitalization. Working with the city, the Parks and People Foundation and other partners, including the Maryland Port Administration, are implementing an aggressive plan to remove asphalt and to “green” schoolyards to improve water quality, reduce the urban heat island and energy consumption, and improve air quality. But beyond these ecological improvements, trees and green spaces are also becoming living classrooms.

Recently, NA and the Parks and People Foundation received a grant from the inaugural “More Kids in the Woods” program. This grant program was inspired by Richard Louv’s book, *Last Child in the Woods*. The grant will initiate a “Schoolyard Habitat and Education Program” to build on the benefits of each new schoolyard through field trips, hands-on inquiry-based activities, student-directed restoration projects, and teacher workshops on outdoor experiences for their students. The program will provide Baltimore City youth with opportunities to explore the local environment, teach an appreciation for the natural world, record and share their experiences in nature, and promote environmental stewardship—experiences many of these disadvantaged students do not receive from traditional school curricula or other support systems.



Al Todd, Watershed Team Leader, speaks at a ceremony in Washington, DC, announcing the recent grant from the “More Kids in the Woods” program.

Durham Field Office

“Don’t Move Firewood” Initiative Makes News Worldwide

A coordinated NA invasive insect public awareness initiative made a big splash with news media and on the Web recently.

The Durham Field Office staff worked with State agencies, local APHIS representatives, and NA leadership in May to develop, coordinate, and communicate a “Don’t Move Firewood” media advisory in time for Memorial Day weekend. The article discussed how people unintentionally spread tree-killing invasive insects by moving infested firewood. It concluded that campers



should buy their firewood locally at their destination instead of hauling it from home, to avoid possibly spreading invasive insects.

Forestry agency representatives from all seven Northeastern States strongly supported the initiative and worked with the NA staff to provide media coordination in their respective locations. The Associated Press's Concord, NH, bureau picked up the story and put it on the national news wire May 24, just before the holiday weekend. An AP photographer shot photos of NH State Entomologist Kyle Lombard hanging "Don't Move Firewood" posters, designed by NA's own **Debbie Muccio**, to accompany the story.

Since then, two original AP articles by David Tirrell-Wysocki—"Campers Asked to Leave Firewood at Home" and "Billions in Forest Damage Caused by Campers Transporting Insect-Infested Firewood"—generated widespread media and Web interest on five continents.

The AP stories have appeared on more than 700 media outlets and Web sites across the globe to date, among them CNN Headline News, Fox, ABC, MSNBC, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Miami Herald*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Chicago Tribune*, and many others. Both stories also received a tremendous amount of TV and radio coverage on local stations across the United States. Hundreds of camping, environmental, news, and blogger sites picked up on the story as well. The articles prompted a fair amount of blogger discussion, nearly all of which was in support of the initiative. A few newspapers ran editorials discouraging campers from hauling firewood. Some Web sites, such as Yahoo, Fox, and the Environmental News Network (ENN), posted the stories hundreds of times throughout their Web sites on their news pages.

Though the stories proved to be an extremely effective tactic for communicating the issue of invasive species, there is still a long way to go toward changing firewood-hauling camper behavior. Only 4 of 20 States served by NA have posted "Don't Move Firewood" warnings on their respective forestry agency Web sites to date. There is also still the unresolved issue of providing convenient, low-cost firewood locally as an alternative to hauling it from home. Much room for progress also remains in building support within the camping community through Web sites, magazines, and contact with campgrounds, associations, and firewood dealers. The NA Public Affairs Team met in Newtown Square June 25–27 to review the firewood media efforts to date and map out additional steps for the invasive insect media strategy.



Protecting and Enhancing Watersheds Workshop

Northeastern rural and urban forests are facing increased risks and impacts from proliferating housing developments. As more homes are built in these forests, public water supplies and aquatic ecosystems are at greater risk. The Durham Field Office chose to raise awareness of and offer options to address this issue at its biannual, multidisciplinary, State and partner workshop: “Protecting and Enhancing Watersheds.”

The workshop, held June 5–7 in Portland, ME, was hosted by the Maine Forest Service and the Threshold to Maine Resource Conservation and Development Council. A joint State-Federal planning team composed of members from Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont designed the 3-day program that attracted over 40 participants from New England and New York. A broad spectrum of resource professionals attended from State Foresters offices, Federal agencies (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service), and local watershed groups (Casco Bay Estuary Partnership [Maine], White River Partnership [Vermont], Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve [Maine], and Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve [New Hampshire]).



Workshop attendees work on a watershed planning exercise.



The workshop field trip included a stop at the East End Community School in Portland to view this example of a “green roof.”

Keynote speakers Dr. Paul Barten of the University of Massachusetts and Thom Kyker-Snowman of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation set the theme of the workshop by introducing the interrelationships between “Forests, Water, and People.” The Northeastern Area’s **Al Todd** and **Matt Arnn** provided training on the newly released *Urban Watershed Forestry Manual* published by the Center for Watershed Protection. Learning continued outside the classroom as participants took a field trip to the Presumpscot River Watershed, where they visited forest lands managed by the Portland Water District. All learned firsthand how forest management is conducted in

municipal watersheds, including the use of best management practices, riparian buffers, and other conservation and education measures. The final stop of the field trip was to view an example of a “green roof” at the East End Community School. The green roof demonstrates an alternative storm water management technique for storing water and reducing peak runoff, improving water quality, and reducing the heat island effect from black roofs.



The workshop received high marks from those who attended; however, a challenge we continue to face is outreach to those unable to attend. Given today's technological advances, several watershed workshop presentations were professionally videotaped and edited. They will be used as distance-learning modules the Durham Field Office Staff is developing. When completed, they may be available as Internet streaming video or CDs.

Aerial Detection Survey Season Off to Positive Start

The aerial detection survey season in the Durham Field Office got off to a whopping start the week of June 11. **George Saufley** took advantage of the good weather, flying his way over 10 national parks, seashores, and wildlife refuges; 3 Indian Nations' lands; and 2 military installations, including West Point. The following week he flew the White Mountain National Forest and then proceeded to the Green Mountain National Forest. **Garret Dubois** assisted with flights over the national forest sites and is gaining some valuable experience flying with George, a 40-year flying veteran. Ground checks are underway and Forest Health staff are out surveying the flown sites and meeting with land managers. Although pockets of activity are evident, the damage mapped has been considerably less than last year, and defoliators seem to be less active across New England. There was adequate spring rain but not an overabundance, so foliage growth in general seems to be vigorous and healthy, and defoliation and foliage diseases are at a minimum. Reports will be sent out to each site that include a summary of the forest conditions, maps and tables of the data, and appropriate pest alerts and information.

Meeting the EAB

Six States (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, and Missouri), the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, and the Morgantown Field Office sent attendees to an emerald ash borer (EAB) clinic held in Brighton, MI, June 20–21. Elizabeth Pentico (USDA APHIS) organized an impressive cadre of instructors to talk about EAB biology; identification; survey techniques; mapping; State, Federal, and municipal management; and public awareness and information. Classroom instruction was integrated with field tours and hands-on experience with establishing and evaluating detection trees. Attendees felt the training was useful and of high quality, and strongly recommend it to any jurisdiction concerned about EAB.

Morgantown Field Office

Emerald Ash Borer Data Standardization Meeting

On May 30, **Noel Schneeberger**, **Steven Katovich**, and **Rick Turcotte** joined Judy Adams and Jim Bunch from the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET) and Doug Bopp from APHIS to discuss the continuing effort to standardize data collection on emerald ash borer (EAB) surveys between the two agencies. Jim Bunch presented the Web-based database and some of the potential features that this system can provide. The group discussed the types of data that could be collected, validations that the new Web-based system could have on data quality, and the need for greater standardization of data collection. This effort will continue with a useable Web page planned for this fall. This system is modeled after the Web-based early detection, rapid response system developed by FHTET and shows great promise for allowing coordinated exchange of information among States and Federal agencies. The need to develop a



standardized data form for all groups involved arose from discussions by the Pennsylvania EAB task force. This was preceded by the need to develop a central location for the data so that all groups could share data.

West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Council Tree Planting Event



Stan Wegeman (left) and Larry Elliott of American Electric Power assist with the annual spring tree planting event.

The West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Council held its annual spring planting event on April 11. Each year, the council chooses a planting site as part of the Mountaineer Treeways program. This year, the council planted 10 trees near one of the I-68 exit ramps in Morgantown. The West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOF) will donate a sign to designate the planting site as part of the Mountaineer Treeways program.

Members of the West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Council include Forest Service employee **Anne Cumming**; Bob Hannah, Jennifer Brashears, Andy Sheetz, and Juergen Wildmann from the WVDOF; Dan Brown from West Virginia University; Larry Elliot and Stan Wegeman from American Electric Power; and Almeshia Brown from West Virginia State University.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Site Treated for Gypsy Moth

Forest Health Protection staff member **Karen Felton** worked at Raystown Lake, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers site near Huntingdon, PA, May 19–22. Felton was there to monitor gypsy moth larval development and weather conditions during aerial spraying for gypsy moth control. The treatment of the Raystown Lake site was included in the Pennsylvania 2007 gypsy moth spray contract. A single application of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* was aerially applied to 1,063 forested acres. **Rod Whiteman** from Forest Health Protection in Morgantown and **Dan Zimmerman** from the headquarters office in Newtown Square, PA, were also on site on the last day of spraying to provide assistance at the loading zone.



Morgantown Students Attend Conservation Education Programs

Three Morgantown schools contacted the Morgantown Field Office to request presentations about trees and a visit from Woodsy Owl during the final weeks of school. **Devin Wanner** and **Bill Oldland** gave the first presentation to the third grade classes at Mylan Park Elementary. Woodsy stopped by first to visit with the children and share his message about caring for the land. Wanner and Oldland then told the students how important trees are for providing shelter for birds and discussed other resources birds need to survive. They then compared that to the resources needed by trees and played the game

Every Tree for Itself to demonstrate what happens when a tree does not get all the water, sunlight, and nutrients it needs. The following week, Wanner gave the same presentation to the pre-K classes at Mountainview Elementary School.



Vicky Evans prepares students from North Elementary School for an activity about different products derived from wood.

On June 1, **Sandy Fosbroke, Toni Jones, Vicky Evans, Chuck Reger, Chelsea Gibson,** and **Devin Wanner** hosted four third grade classes from North Elementary School at Chestnut Ridge Regional Park. The classes rotated through four stations. Fosbroke led nature hikes and taught the children how to identify some of West Virginia's most common tree species. Evans led an activity about different products people use every day that come from trees, and Jones and Gibson led the *Every Tree for Itself* activity. Wanner and Reger discussed the unique properties of many trees and illustrated some of those properties by having children blow soap bubbles through red and white oak dowels as well as chew on twigs. Nearly everyone liked chewing on sweet birch twigs best!

Mini Project Learning Tree Workshops Held for West Virginia Educators

Eighty teachers from across West Virginia will return to their classrooms next fall with new conservation education ideas after attending the Summer Agricultural Institute for Educators June 14–15 in Morgantown. **Vicky Evans** and **Devin Wanner** conducted four “mini” Project Learning Tree educator workshops. Project Learning Tree is an award-winning, multidisciplinary environmental program developed by the American Forest Foundation for students in pre-K through high school. Evans and Wanner worked through two activities in the program workbook and emphasized the correlation between Project Learning Tree curricula and national educational standards, the program's adaptability to a variety of audiences and settings, and the program's low-tech, hands-on lessons that challenge students in problem-solving situations and encourage environmental awareness. The West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service; West Virginia University Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Science; and the West Virginia Farm Bureau sponsored the institute.



Forest Products Equipment and Technology Exposition

Ed Cesa set up a Wood Education and Resource Center exhibit at *Timber 2007*, a biennial forest products equipment and technology exposition held June 1–2 at the Penn State Ag Progress Days site in Rock Springs, PA. The timber show targeted loggers, sawmill operators, value-added processors, and forest landowners in Pennsylvania and surrounding States. Exhibitors included organizations that showcased equipment and services that focus on serving the needs of the forest products industry.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Viburnum Leaf Beetle Training on the Allegheny

On June 4, **Rick Turcotte** provided training about the hemlock woolly adelgid and Viburnum leaf beetle for summer interns and personnel at the Marienville Ranger District on the Allegheny National Forest. The training was part of this year's forest-wide survey for these insects and included information about their identification, biology, and potential impacts on the forest.

St. Paul Field Office

New Solutions for Storm Water Management Using Trees

Teri Heyer, Northeastern Area Watershed Planner, met with approximately 60 local foresters, engineers, and public works staff to discuss new solutions for storm water management using trees, during a conference in Andover, MN, June 21. The conference was hosted by Tree Trust, the Bonestroo engineering firm, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

As municipalities comply with the Clean Water Act, the volume of water that flows into the storm water system is a key factor in determining nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The group discussed how to incorporate trees into existing storm water practices, as well as how to make a tree planting area function as a storm water infiltration area.

Lessons Learned in Biomass Utilization

Steve Bratkovich, Forest Products Specialist, presented “Lessons Learned on Biomass Utilization in Emerald Ash Borer Eradication Areas” at the Forest Products Society 61st Annual Convention in Knoxville, TN, June 10–13. The presentation, co-authored by Anthony Weatherspoon, Forest Products Specialist for the Michigan DNR in Lansing, and Jessica Simons, Natural Resources Specialist for the Southeast Michigan RC&D Council in Ann Arbor, focused on the lessons learned in utilizing the woody biomass from ash trees removed owing to emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations and included discussion on biomass markets, biomass utilization strategies for exotic pest outbreaks, and an economic comparison of biomass utilization options for EAB eradication areas.

Steve Bratkovich Retires

Congratulations to **Steve Bratkovich**, Forest Products Specialist in the St. Paul Field Office, who retired July 3 after more than 30 years with the Forest Service and cooperative extension work with State governments. Steve describes his retirement as “re-careering,” because he plans to continue teaching, writing for forestry and wood products publications, and consulting. In addition to his membership in numerous forestry and forest products societies, Steve is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota, Department of Bioproducts and



Biosystems Engineering. Steve earned a bachelor's degree in Forest Science from The Pennsylvania State University in 1973, a master's in Forest Resources from the University of New Hampshire in 1975, and a doctorate in Extension and Adult Education from Ohio State University in 1991.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

DEADLINE!

The **July/August editions of the NA News Notes will be combined**. The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is **noon, Tuesday, August 14, 2007**. 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.**

The Northeastern Area news notes are published monthly by:

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610-557-4103

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>

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