



Northeastern Area News Notes



August/September 2004



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

On behalf of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, I want to introduce and welcome the new Civil Rights Director, Sheree Johnson.

Ms. Johnson has over 20 years of civil rights experience. She recently served as the Equal Employment Manager for the United States Mint. And, in her own words, "I am looking forward to continuing to administer a results-oriented Civil Rights Program and working with everyone for its continued success." Ms. Johnson will participate as a member of the NA Executive Team and provide advice and counsel to us. She has expressed the following expectations regarding the Civil Rights Office:

- Continuing commitment and support for a diverse workforce;
- Respecting individual differences;
- Focusing on common business goals and objectives;
- Making certain that employees are not discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or sexual orientation;
- Providing an environment free of unwanted sexual advances; suggestive comments; and sexist, racist, religious, and ethnic remarks; and
- Ensuring full and fair opportunities for all employees, applicants, and customers.

I encourage you to help Ms. Johnson become familiar with our organization. I know she is excited about her role in helping us and ensuring our continued reputation for fairness and respect for every employee, partner, and customer of the Northeastern Area.

—Kathy Maloney

To get up-to-date information on the Fall Colors for 2004, check out the USDA Forest Service Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/fallcolors/>



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Seeing Wood Technology Advancements Firsthand

A contingent from the Durham Field Office ventured north on August 10 to the **Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWC) Center** at the **University of Maine** at Orono. The visitors—**Karen Mollander**, Field Representative; **Bob Fitzhenry**, IMA Group Leader; **Dean Huber**, EAP Program Coordinator; and **Orlando Rivera**, HACU Intern—were greeted by Dr. Robert Lindyberg, AEWCManager of Technical Services. He presented some history and background information before taking the group on a tour of the research facility, which is a globally recognized leader in the research of advanced wood engineering through structural property enhancements with hybrid composites.



Dr. Robert Lindyberg (center, facing), Manager of Technical Services at AEWCM, discusses design of the municipal pier in Millbridge, Maine, with (l-r) Dean Huber, Karen Mollander, and Bob Fitzhenry. This pier is a demonstration site for use of composite-reinforced laminated beams.

The tour culminated with the group observing the destructive testing of a 37-foot-long glue-laminated beam reinforced with top and bottom layers of fiber reinforced polymer (FRP). It took 47,000 pounds of vertical force to break this single beam! After the tour, discussions focused on the future of advanced engineered wood composites, and the role of government in promoting that effort. The next day the group visited four demonstration sites to see AEWCM technology in use, including a vehicular bridge stress-laminated with fiberglass tensioning rods, and a boating pier incorporating parallel glue-laminated beams with FRP enhancement.

The AEWCM and the USDA Forest Service have a longstanding working relationship via the Wood In Transportation (WIT) Program. The AEWCM received a series of eight demonstration grants through the WIT Program, providing them the opportunity to test new ideas, develop “real world” experience, validate innovative concepts, and gain confidence in their work. According to Dr. Lindyberg, “If it were not for the WIT Program, the AEWCM Center would not exist today.” His

confidence in this statement reflects the fact that these grants resulted in securing additional and larger grants from a variety of sources. Lindyberg went on to state, “Those early WIT grants have leveraged a research facility with a \$30 million annual budget.”

New Invasive Plant Field Manual

“Invasive plant species are one of the greatest threats to native biodiversity and natural systems.” This bold statement opens the newly published *Field Manual of Invasive Plants for the Northeast* and confirms the inclusion of invasive species as one of the four threats to the health of the Nation’s forests and grasslands identified by the USDA Forest Service.

Not only are invasive plants nonnative to the particular habitat or ecosystem in which they reside, they also grow and spread unchecked since they have not evolved with native diseases and predators. New and small infestations are easier to control than those that are well established, and one effective way to stop their continued spread is to train people to identify infestations in their infancy.



In support of this effort, the New England Wild Flower Society, with funding and assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, has developed the *Field Manual of Invasive Plants* to help landowners, land managers, and natural resource professionals identify the most common invasive plants in the Northeast. Copies are currently limited, but a second printing is planned for this fall. For more information, contact Florence Peterson at (603) 868-7714 or fpeterson@fs.fed.us.

Orientation for White Mountain National Forest Staff

The Durham Field Office hosted a visit by four staff members from the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) on August 2. The visit was an opportunity for the WMNF staff to become familiar with the people, programs, and projects at the Durham Field Office—both Research and State and Private Forestry. Positive feedback following a similar orientation last year led to the request for this year's visit. The NFS attendees included new Deputy Forest Supervisor Bernie Gyant, NEPA Coordinator Rob Fallon, and two summer interns from Southern Louisiana University, Keylonda Armwood and Wilicia Blount. Six NA staff and three research staff made presentations to the group.

Smokey on Board to Discover New Trails and Celebrate Reading



On August 20, **Sherri Wormstead** and her husband Justin helped Smokey Bear share his message with over 900 participants at the Southern Maine Library annual reading celebration. The end-of-summer festival for participants in summer reading programs from libraries across southern Maine was hosted by the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport. This year the event theme was "Discover New Trails" and, along with Smokey, featured exhibits from the Appalachian Mountain Club, Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge, and local conservation commissions and trail organizations. Sherri joked that Justin learned two valuable lessons about being Smokey Bear: (1) he has some big pants to fill (both literally and figuratively), and (2) he has a built-in weight loss plan (especially on a hot, humid day)!

Indiana Wormstead keeps Smokey company on a trolley ride at the Southern Maine Library annual reading celebration in Kennebunkport.

Taking Risk Tree Training to the Roadways

Dennis Souto, Cindy Ash, John Parry, and Susan Cox worked with Urban Forestry Partnership Coordinator Mary Kramarchyk of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation to conduct a risk tree workshop in western New York for the State Department of Transportation (DOT). Approximately 25 DOT employees learned how to assess and treat risk trees on road rights-of-way. The workshop included field exercises in which attendees got hands-on practice with the process. The New York DOT was so pleased with this and previous risk tree workshops that they have requested the training for each of their regions across the State.



Vermont's Got SOUL

Vermont Urban Forester Danielle Fitzco is conducting SOUL (Stewardship of the Urban Landscape) training for 22 volunteers. The training, which includes 11 evening sessions and a Saturday field trip, covers basic techniques in tree care as well as leadership skills. The intent is to enable participants to promote urban forestry enhancement efforts in their communities. **John Parry** was on hand September 14 to teach a session on tree growth.

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Hazel Visits MD State Forester

On September 2, **John Hazel** stopped by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Tawas State Office Building in Annapolis, Maryland, for a quick visit with Maryland State Forester Steve Koehn. It allowed the two to “catch up” on activities, personnel and staffing changes, and budget outlooks in the Maryland Forest Service and Morgantown Field Office.

WV DOF, WVU, and MFO Meet

John Hazel, **Chuck Reger**, and **Ed Cesa** met with West Virginia University (WVU) Director of Forestry Joe McNeel and West Virginia State Forester Randy Dye and their faculty and staffs on September 7 at WVU to introduce new faculty and staff and to explain programs. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss programs and projects in which the units could work together. Hazel used the meeting as an opportunity to promote the Forestry Innovations request for proposals.

EAB Coordination Continues

John Hazel and **Bob Acciavatti** met with APHIS, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), and Ohio Division of Forestry (DOF) staff on September 8 in the ODA Reynoldsburg, Ohio, headquarters to discuss the Ohio Emerald Ash Borer Eradication Strategy and coordination of the agencies in dealing with this pest. Phil Bell and Rick McCay represented APHIS; Dave Schleich, Tom Harrison, Melissa Brewer, Lucia Hunt, and Annicca Brumbaugh represented ODA; and Dan Balser and Andy Sabula represented the DOF. Lucia reported on the ODA's “Labor Day Weekend Blitz” conducted on highways leaving Michigan and entering Ohio during which vehicles were stopped, drivers questioned, and searches were conducted for materials, primarily firewood, in which emerald ash borer could be transported. The activity resulted in seven seizures of materials and warnings written in violation of the Michigan quarantine. The activity also generated short articles of interest in newspapers as far away as Florida. The DOF provided input to ODA for additions to the draft eradication strategy that included guidance on restoration, forest management assistance to private woodland owners, ash utilization, and municipal ash reduction. Hazel offered assistance in ground truthing aerial photography taken within the Reduced Ash Zone.



Pesticide Efficacy, Application, and Fate Working Group Meeting

On August 17 and 18, **Harold Thistle** (WO-FHTET, Morgantown) hosted a Pesticide Efficacy, Application, and Fate Working Group meeting in Wheeling, West Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the urgent need for coordinating pesticide technology development activities and technology transfer nationally between USDA FS-Forest Health Protection and FS-Research. Colleagues from the USDA Forest Service nationwide attended the meeting, which included: WO-Research, WO-FHP, NE, R8-FHP, R4-FHP, R6-PNW, PSW, and NA-FHP. **Dan Twardus** and **Amy Onken** represented the MFO. Representatives from private industry were also present, including Valent BioSciences, Libertyville, Illinois; and REMSpC Spray Consulting, Ontario, Canada. At the conclusion of the meeting, attendees identified the needs and knowledge gaps in the area of forest pest control agents, including application technologies, management methodologies, efficacy, drift control, and regulatory issues. These needs and issues will be forwarded to the WO to help provide direction to meet the future challenges of managing exotic invasive pest threats, technology gaps, and expertise shortfalls.

MFO IMA Support To GM SEIS

On September 9, Gypsy Moth Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) team members Joe Cook (Leader), Bill Oldland (entomologist), Derek Handley (public affairs specialist), Mary White (writer/editor), and Norm Montoy (secretary) met with **John Hazel**, **Chuck Reger**, and **Vicky Evans** to discuss Information Management and Analysis (IMA) support needs for the project in FY 2005. This meeting followed a briefing given by Joe Cook on September 8 in the Washington Office for Deputy Chief Joel Holtrop, Forest Health Protection Director Rob Mangold, Pesticide Specialist Jesus Cota, and Noel Schneeberger to update them on the status of the project. With a better idea of the timeline expectations for the project, the GM SEIS team was able to project assistance needs from MFO IMA to complete writing, editing, and design and layout tasks for the draft document in FY 2005. The meeting was timely because the MFO IMA group was in the process of developing its annual plan of work.

Public Meetings to Discuss Asian Longhorned Beetle Infestation

The city of Carteret, New Jersey, in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), held the first of four public meetings to discuss the Asian longhorned beetle infestation found in the Carteret area earlier this month. Representatives from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Forest Service were on hand for the meeting to discuss with local citizens the impact that the invasive species has on the health of the urban forests in New Jersey and how they, in cooperation with State agencies, will combat the outbreak.

During the meeting, visual presentations and speeches about the beetle's lifespan, graphs of the quarantined area, and indicators of the beetle's inhabitation on a tree gave the residents a lesson in how they might help in the search.

USDA Forest Service entomologist Michael Bohne told residents they may use a pencil test on holes found on trees to determine whether they were created by the burrowing of an Asian longhorned beetle. The test may be done by sticking the eraser of a pencil inside the hole. Sawdust or oozing sap may also appear in or around the tree.

Don Base, the Elm Street resident who placed the first call about the beetle, said he saw it at the base of a silver maple in his yard. "I saw it a couple years ago and vividly remember it," he said. "It was one of those things I just remembered ... it was very exotic looking."



Barry Emens, director of the New Jersey Asian longhorned beetle program for the USDA, said he received Base's call in early August. He said he remembers Base telling him that the news was not good.

Emens said there are plans to begin removal of the trees in mid-October, after the frost kills most of the beetles. The infested trees will be shredded and possibly used as mulch. Rosa Yoo, a forester with the State Forest Service, Community Forestry Program, said her department will help the borough replant the trees.

Mayor Daniel Reiman said the removal of the trees will be at no cost to the residents. He said residents were sent letters and informational packets prior to the meeting. He plans to have two additional meetings, on September 16 at 1:30 p.m. and October 20 at 7:00 p.m., in order to reach all residents within the community.

Wanner Joins MFO Team



Devin Wanner joined the Information Management and Analysis Group at the Morgantown Field Office in September. Devin came from the Prescott National Forest in Arizona where he has worked in public affairs for the past 12 years. Prior to working with the Forest Service he was a student at Colorado State University where he earned a B.S. degree in wildlife biology.

During Devin's 12 years on the Prescott he has worked on many projects. Devin's first assignment on the forest was to coordinate the Prescott National Forest's participation in Smokey Bear's 50th Anniversary. He was the Persons with Disabilities Special Emphasis Program Manager for 6 years. Devin did special event planning for the forest dedication of the Great Western Trail and did details with the National Roadless Team in DC. For the past 4 years Devin was the forest webmaster, in addition to his public affairs responsibilities.

Devin's main responsibilities at the Morgantown Field Office will be to increase public awareness of Forest Service programs in the mid-Atlantic States and coordinate conservation education programs in the mid-Atlantic States with State forestry agencies. Devin will also work on the Morgantown Field Office Activity Report to communicate information internally and to external cooperators on Forest Service and Northeastern Area programs.

Devin grew up on a farm in north-central Pennsylvania knowing that he wanted a career working with natural resources. "Growing up, I always felt a closeness and appreciation for the woods. I knew that I wanted a job that would provide for the continued existence of our natural resources," said Devin.

Devin was born with Arthrogryposis, a condition that limits the amount of flexation and rotation in most of his joints. But it has never stopped him from accomplishing his goals. Two years ago, after 20 years of working with different agencies, Devin bought a truck specially modified for his needs and passed the drivers test. Devin's vehicle was the first truck in the United States to be modified with joystick controls that are usually installed in vans.

EAB Aerial Photo Ground Truthing

On September 2, **Rod Whiteman** and **John Hazel** participated in a teleconference arranged by **Dan Twardus** to discuss procedures that would be followed by crews that would be ground truthing photo plots associated with evaluating ash composition in the emerald ash borer Reduced Ash Zone. Bob Heydm, Michigan DNR, discussed the procedure to collect data on 100 plots in Ohio. One- to two-person crews will begin collecting data over the next 2 weeks before leaf fall.



ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Michigan is planning a Labor Day firewood blitz designed to inform people not to move firewood that could possibly be infested with emerald ash borer. The State Police will have increased involvement in the blitz. **Katie Armstrong** has been assisting with the coordination of the Midwest Emerald Ash Borer Symposium to be held in Novi, Michigan, October 14-15. This meeting is designed specifically to target managers currently impacted by the emerald ash borer and also those interested in better preparing their community in the event of a non-native forest insect infestation.

The Green Menace

Detroit Public Television will air a special documentary on the emerald ash borer titled “The Green Menace” during four timeslots in August and September. This documentary, sponsored in part by the Northeastern Area, describes the biology of the insect as well as its damage and encourages citizen participation in detection, control, and replanting efforts. Four additional Michigan public television stations as well as one in Toledo, Ohio, will also run this documentary. For more information about the documentary, contact Katie Armstrong.

Wisconsin Hosts Governor’s Conference on Forestry in November

The Wisconsin Governor’s Office and the Wisconsin Council on Forestry are hosting “A Governor’s Conference on Forestry” November 9-10 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. This conference is the capstone event of the Year of Wisconsin Forestry. The conference will focus on action issues identified in Wisconsin’s Statewide Forest Plan, such as conservation of biodiversity, threat of invasive exotic species, need for private forestry assistance, impacts of changes in land use and ownership, maintaining a forest-based economy, importance of urban forests, and conflicting recreational uses in forests.

Minnesota Metro Watershed Partners Receives Statewide Award

The Minnesota Metropolitan Watershed Partners received a Minnesota GREAT—“Government Reaching Environmental Achievements Together”—Award for their stormwater education collaboration. This education project, titled “Minnesota Water—Let’s Keep it Clean,” is a collaborative effort between Federal, State, and local units of government. The purpose is to deliver quality stormwater education. This effort placed clean water action messages in local mass media, something ordinarily out of the reach of individual cities; provided cities with readily adaptable stormwater education materials; and achieved a consistent message across the region. Teri Heyer, conservation education specialist, assisted with the collaborative effort and acted as a liaison to the KARE-11/Stormcenter “Water for Life” education effort. For more information, go to the Let’s Keep it Clean Web site at: <http://www.cleanwatermn.org/>.

Upper Mississippi River Watershed Project Receives \$300,000

The Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana State Foresters have joined in partnership with the USDA Forest Service’s Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry to build a watershed-wide approach to forestry in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Because the Upper Mississippi River Basin is a flyway for 60 percent of all North American bird species, the USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry has allocated



\$300,000 for demonstration projects that will improve migratory bird habitat. A request for proposals is now open and proposals are due by September 30, 2004. For more information, contact Teri Heyer of the St. Paul Field Office.

Jill Pokorny Receives Prestigious Minnesota Arborist Award

The Minnesota Society of Arboriculture, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the professionalism of arborists and tree care workers, bestowed their highest recognition on Jill Pokorny, plant pathologist, for her efforts as coordinating author of *Urban Tree Risk Management: A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation*. Jill received their “Award of Merit” for making a “major contribution to the field of arboriculture and urban forestry.” Congratulations, Jill!!

St. Paul Field Office Welcomes John Kyhl

If you have an insect problem, or if you need a center for your basketball team, give John Kyhl a call. John (who stands about 6' 8" tall) accepted the position of entomologist with the St. Paul Field Office. John previously worked as an entomologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and coordinated the gypsy moth suppression project for the southeastern counties of Wisconsin. As a part of his job responsibilities, John worked on many public outreach projects related to gypsy moth, general forest health, and management implications. He is in the process of completing his Master's degree from the University of Minnesota (his thesis is on oak wilt insects) and he holds a Master's degree in botany and a Bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Iowa. In addition to mastering a new job, John is mastering his new role of being a father—Graham Frederick Kyhl was born August 30!

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **John Hazel**, **Chuck Reger**, **Devin Wanner**, and **Amy Onken**, Morgantown; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web; and to **Sandy Fosbroke** for proofreading.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **October 20, 2004**. Please mail articles to Devin Wanner at dwanner@fs.fed.us. Devin will be compiling the articles for the next issue of News Notes.

