



Northeastern Area News Notes



February 18, 2005



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Making the Connection...

How do we connect people and land conservation? Hollywood is one answer! Over the years the Forest Service has been featured in many films and television. *Red Skies Over Montana* (1950, Richard Widmark), the television series *Lassie* (1964–1969, Lassie and Ranger Corey Stuart), and *Always* (1989, Richard Dreyfus and Holly Hunter) come to mind. Good stories, quality characters, some drama, and a bit of natural resource stewardship thrown in for good measure provided good entertainment.

In the January News Notes, I mentioned that I participated in the Centennial Congress celebration of the Forest Service, which included the premier showing of *The Greatest Good*. If you haven't seen it yet, look forward to it. It is entertaining and, best of all, the stories, characters, drama, and resource stewardship are all real! The rich history of the Forest Service is portrayed in a compelling manner. No doubt many viewers will be surprised at the variety of things that we do to protect natural resources and serve people.

Hollywood can't do it all. A recent memo from Chief Dale Bosworth, signed as well by our Associate Chief and all five Deputy Chiefs, urges our support and participation in conservation education to help connect people to conservation. The experiences and lessons of the past century inform in a substantial way our conservation education focus in this century. The urgency 100 years ago was to protect our Nation from a timber famine. Today's urgency is perhaps more complex, as more people are less connected to their natural resources and our Nation's forests are threatened by the effects of fire, invasive species, unmanaged recreation use, and fragmentation.

How can conservation education help? It can increase awareness and understanding of the connections between people (how we live) and natural resources (what sustains us). Conservation education can empower people to make better choices to conserve where they are—at home, at work, and at play. The Northeastern Area has a role to play, as we implement our programs. In particular and in everything we do, we must take advantage of opportunities to include appropriate information and messages. We must also work to focus and concentrate any separate conservation education efforts, seeking the greatest possible impact (effective message, reaching more people, for example).

Conservation education is about helping the people we serve, through awareness and understanding of the role natural resources play in their daily lives and by providing information to help them make better choices. The young people who spoke at the Centennial Congress in early



January implored us to help them know how to make a difference **where they live!** Our conservation education effort is about those we serve—the generations of today and those to come. Our successes in conservation education may, as a side benefit, enhance the credibility of the Forest Service and we will feel good about our contribution. Let's keep things in perspective—it's about public service first!

— Kathryn Maloney

Hertel Goes to Armenia as a Forest Service Volunteer

Submitted by Cynthia Snyder, Forest Health Protection, Alaska Region



Gerard Hertel (retired Forest Service) and Cynthia Snyder (Forest Health Protection, Alaska Region) traveled to Armenia to help with that country's forest health and management issues.

From May 31 to June 13, 2004, at the request of the Armenian government, the Forest Service sent a team to evaluate insect and disease problems in the forested regions of Armenia, assess the organization for how these problems are currently evaluated, and make recommendations for how best to deal with future problems. The team consisted of Cynthia Snyder (Forest Health Protection, Alaska Region), volunteer Gerard Hertel (retired Forest Service, currently with the Department of Biology, West Chester University), Armen Gevorgyan (World Bank Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction Project, Ruzanna Martirosyan (translator), and Artashes Manaseryan (Hayantar SNCO [State Noncommercial Organization], the Armenian equivalent of the Forest Service).

The forests of Armenia are composed primarily of oak, beech, and hornbeam, with assorted conifer plantations. Although fuel and some wood products, such as parquet flooring and furniture, are derived, the primary goal of forest management is ecological benefits, including soil and water conservation,

climate regulation, wildlife habitat, recreation, and harvest of traditional foods and medicines. The importance of forests to the Armenian people can be seen by the many religious sites scattered throughout the landscape.

Armenian forests are concentrated in the north and far southeast regions of the country. Since the beginning of the 20th century, forest cover has decreased dramatically, from 25 percent of the country's land area to barely 9 percent. This has been a result of industrial growth from 1930 to 1950, the energy crisis of 1991–1994 following the Soviet collapse, and the energy blockade as Armenian people relied on wood for heating and cooking. Seventy percent of the wood harvested in Armenia continues to be used for fuel. The World Bank estimates that at the current rate, Armenia's forests will be eliminated in 20 years. This seems to be an exaggeration considering the remoteness and inaccessibility of many of the forests; however, it does not minimize the serious impacts people are having on the forests.



Little forest management activity takes place. Forests exist to protect various ecosystem functions, not for sustainable tree harvesting. At present, sanitation cuttings (removal of dead trees) are the only accepted forest management practice. Both legal and illegal cutting exert pressure on the forests—experts estimate that 346,000 cords are harvested legally and illegally each year in Armenia. Livestock grazing prevents forest regeneration in many locations. Tree nurseries are few and little tree planting is done by Hayantar. (The Armenia Tree Project, a Yerevan-based nongovernment organization, has tree nursery and planting programs for selected community lands.)

Many sources refer to the poor condition of Armenia's forests; however, they do not point out the impacts of insects and diseases. It is believed by local specialists that unless due consideration is given to pests, efforts at forest management will result in the devastation of the remaining forests by insects and disease.

The team conducted interviews with Hayantar officials and foresters at 10 Forest Enterprises (the equivalent of national forests), as well as with nongovernmental organizations, universities, and local pest specialists, and reviewed current publications dealing with Armenian forests and their associated problems. From these sources the team arrived at the following conclusions:

1. There are insect and disease problems that will require control actions.
2. Integrated pest management (IPM) specialists are needed to provide technical expertise in dealing with these problems.
3. There is a need for better documentation of insect and disease conditions, control actions, and the success or failure of actions taken.
4. Educational materials are needed for foresters in each Forest Enterprise so that accurate insect and disease identifications can be made.
5. A more comprehensive evaluation should be done using Armenian IPM specialists working side-by-side with international experts.

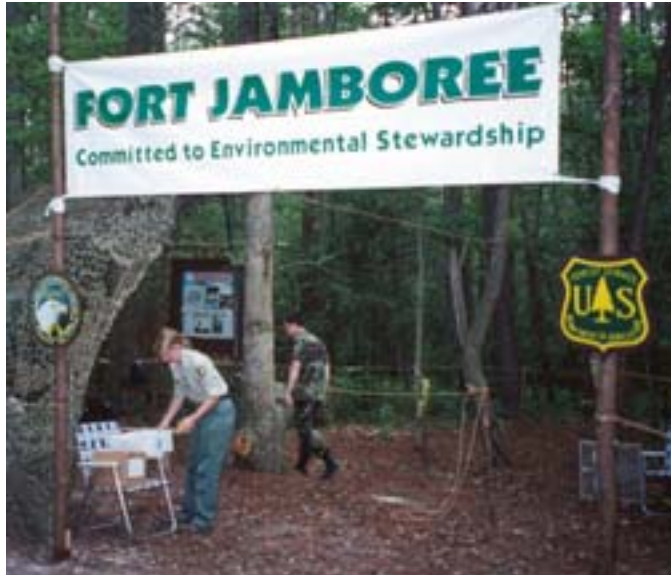
The Republic of Armenia is located in the southern Caucasus Mountains in southwestern Asia and is the smallest of the former Soviet republics (11,506 square miles). Since its independence in 1991, Armenia has emerged as a strategically important country in the Caucasus region. U.S. ties to Armenia are many and varied, ranging from the cultural bond of the large Armenian-American Diaspora community, to diverse commercial interests and political relationships.

Prior to the 1992 opening of the first U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, Armenia suffered a number of devastating incidents, including a major earthquake in 1988 that killed over 25,000, a trade embargo imposed by neighboring Turkey because of the conflict with Azerbaijan, and total economic collapse following independence in 1991. To address these combined crises, U.S. programs from 1992 to 1995 focused on humanitarian assistance through the U.S. Agency for International Development. Since 1995, U.S. assistance has increasingly emphasized systemic reform and institution-building.



ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER NOTES

Mark Your Calendars for Jamboree 2005!



Forest Service and Army Environmental Center personnel set up for another day at the 2001 Boy Scout Jamboree.

The 2005 Boy Scout Jamboree will be held July 25–August 3 at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. The 10-day event will draw over 100,000 people, including Boy Scouts from around the globe. In addition to other Forest Service attractions, the Northeastern Area will again partner with the U.S. Army Environmental Center to host an exhibit. Fort Jamboree will explain how the Army is using data from the Forest Service’s Forest Health Monitoring Program to care for the land. More than 19,000 people came through this exhibit in 2001.

You can be a part of the events. The Chief’s staffing letter is out requesting volunteers. If you specifically want to be part of the U.S. Army Environmental Center exhibit, please note that on your volunteer request and also

send Helene Cleveland an e-mail (hcleveland@fs.fed.us or helene.cleveland@aec.apgea.army.mil). See you at the Jamboree!

Improving Communication for Better Working Relationships

Improving communications between military training range managers and the Forest Service was the topic of **Steve Davis’** presentation at the Department of Defense’s Southeast Sustainable Ranges Workshop. Held in Mayport, Florida, on February 15–17, the workshop’s primary purpose is to identify regional sustainability issues, focus on successful strategies, and explore ways the military can work more efficiently with other agencies. More than 200 people from the Defense Department, other Federal, State, and local agencies, and nongovernmental organizations participated.



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

States Showcase Biomass Utilization for Britain's Leading Foresters



Foresters from the United Kingdom learn how wood pellets are made at New England Wood Pellet, Inc., Jaffrey, NH.

An expert team of 10 foresters from the United Kingdom's Forestry Commission arrived in Boston on a blustery January day to begin a 10-day exploration of biomass utilization in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. The United Kingdom's Department of Trade and Industry sponsored the trip; Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland, and Virginia served as hosts.

The trip held international significance for the United Kingdom, which currently realizes the lowest production of renewable energy in Europe and must work to improve its placing. It has until 2010 to meet the 12.5 percent reduction of carbon dioxide called

for by the Kyoto Protocol Agreement and knows that biomass energy can help achieve that success.

Planning for the visit began last July, when Dr. Geoff Hogan of the Forestry Commission contacted **Rob Clark** (Forest Resources Group Leader). Dr. Hogan asked Rob if there were opportunities to visit industry in New England and the Mid-Atlantic regions to learn about biomass energy utilization. Rob networked with State utilization and marketing partners and discovered a clear willingness to share the biomass work being piloted and put into practice.

Rob Rizzo, Associate Director for the Forest and Wood Products Institute at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, MA, headed up the planning team for the visit. Rizzo is a key leader in Massachusetts' biomass efforts. His team included State utilization and marketing specialists **Charlie Becker** (Virginia), **Dan Ryder** (Maryland), **Paul Frederick** (Vermont), **Sarah Smith** (New Hampshire), and **Gordon Boyce** (Massachusetts).

"The tour covered the pros and cons, cradle to grave, of biomass," observed Clark. "We looked at sourcing of fuel, processing, transport and utilization, and regulatory concerns with the smoke and ash generated. Our State partners' enthusiasm for the technology showed, and I'm very pleased with how smoothly the whole event turned out."

Despite the severe winter weather, the State team succeeded in showing the visitors American techniques and procedures under development or in use for harvesting and utilization of hardwood biomass that closely relate to their situation "across the pond."



“The range of different activities and organizations we saw gave us an excellent overview of how the various elements of timber harvesting and the woodfuel supply chain fit together in New England,” stated Dr. Hogan in his thank you remarks prior to the team’s departure home.

Meet Tom Rawinski, Botanist

The Durham Field Office welcomed Tom Rawinski as the new botanist on February 7.

Tom is keenly interested in plant life, and his career to date has focused on protecting, understanding, and managing plant communities and natural areas throughout the Northeast. His new responsibilities will help address the threat to such areas posed by invasive plants.

Tom is from Grafton, Massachusetts. He received a B.S. from the University of Massachusetts and an M.S. from Cornell. While both degrees are in wildlife biology, his favorite subjects were always botany and plant ecology. Tom’s master’s thesis, completed in 1982, was the first detailed ecological study of purple loosestrife in North America.



Tom Rawinski confirmed the presence of the rare orange sallow moth on this fern-leaf false foxglove in Worcester, MA, while with the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

After college, Tom spent 7 years as The Nature Conservancy’s regional ecologist, based in Boston. He classified natural communities, discovered hundreds of rare plant sites, and was involved in a great many conservation successes. In 1990, Tom and his wife, Caren Caljouw, were both lured away from TNC by the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. Seven years ensued, spent traveling across Virginia and working ultimately to protect the best Virginia had to offer. While in Virginia, Tom was active with the Virginia Academy of Science and the Virginia Natural History Society. He also worked on several landscape classification projects for the Forest Service at the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. But family ties can be strong, and when son Peter was born, the Rawinski-Caljouw family returned to their native Massachusetts where Tom began work for the Massachusetts Audubon Society as their director of ecological management, a stint of another 7 years.

It’s been hard for Tom to separate work from pleasure, and as you might expect he enjoys all aspects of the outdoors. *“I’m thrilled to be on board with the Forest Service, and look forward to applying my all to its conservation mission.”*

Testing Techniques for Managing Invasive Plants

Michelle Frank (NA-FHP) and **John Taylor** (Region 8-FHP) enlisted **Dennis Souto** (Durham Field Office), **Dennis McDougall** (St. Paul Field Office), and **Paul Merton** (Asheville, NC) to test a hands-on, field-oriented training workshop of techniques to manage invasive plants. The training



took place on January 11–13 in Athens, Georgia. The goal is to develop a training session appropriate for both pesticide applicators and forest landowners. Techniques demonstrated included bush saw, chain saw, backpack mistblower, backpack spraying (thin lining), and cut (frill) and squirt, among other methods. The volunteers used each method until they were familiar with its use, advantages, and limitations. They were then assigned a 1-acre forested parcel with multiple invasive plant problems and had to design and execute a strategy to resolve them. Dennis Souto observed, *“It was an excellent training session because Michelle and John are top notch instructors, the weather was excellent, and the barbecue was delicious!”*

Vermont’s Brent Teillon Retires

A retirement luncheon was held for Brent Teillon on January 7 at the Town and Country Inn in Stowe, Vermont. Brent worked for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for over 36 years. As the Chief of Forest Protection for most of that time, he built one of the finest forest health and fire protection programs in the country. **Dennis Souto** and **Dave Houston** (former FS researcher and current Vermont resident) represented the Forest Service at this moving tribute to a revered member of the forest community. Brent’s fine staff will carry on the wonderful legacy that he left to Vermont. Brent can now devote his full time and considerable energy to enjoying life with his wife Bev, his children and grandchildren, and trapping! We wish Brent health and fulfillment in this next chapter of his life.

HWA Symposium Well Attended

Over 250 people attended the third symposium on hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) held in Asheville, North Carolina, February 1–5. Presentations were given on balsam woolly adelgid (a close relative of HWA) and elongate hemlock scale. The Durham Field Office was well represented, with **Bernie Raimo**, **Kevin Dodds**, and **Dennis Souto** in attendance. Speakers included NE-Durham researchers **Rich Hallett**, **Jennifer Pontius**, and **Kevin Smith**.

Asheville was a perfect venue for this meeting because HWA has been causing massive tree mortality in neighboring Virginia and was recently found in North Carolina. Both the National Forests in North Carolina and Great Smoky Mountains National Park were interested participants.

Massachusetts Tree Wardens Annual Conference

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association held their annual conference in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, January 19–20. Over 250 arborists, foresters, and tree wardens attended to improve their skills in forest management. **Dennis Souto** spoke on Sudden Oak Death and **John Parry** gave a presentation on new tools in urban forestry. **Dave Bloniarz** (NE) provided training on the new iTree inventory software.



MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Red-Tailed Hawk Provides Learning Opportunity at Centennial Congress



Regional Forester Randy Moore(right) joins Center Director Jo Santiago and Anastasia at the Centennial Congress in Washington, DC.

Over 600 participants attended the recent Forest Service Centennial Congress, including high-level officials, such as current and former Forest Service chiefs, the secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, congressionals, and governors. Among the attendees was Anastasia, a 24-year-old red-tailed hawk who, although she cannot speak, was able to articulate the importance of the Forest Service and the role of conservation education and interpretation in the next century.

Anastasia is under the care of the West Virginia Raptor Rehabilitation Center in Morgantown. The center has a partnership with the Monongahela National Forest Cranberry Mountain Nature Center. Center Director Jo Santiago also volunteers for the

rehab center. *“The Cranberry Mountain Nature Center is unique in the Forest Service. It is the only facility using live animals in its education programs, and we travel outside Region 9 to conduct programs. With our partnership with the rehab center, we have presented programs in 30 West Virginia counties, 7 States, and the DC area. While we serve all audiences from kindergarten through universities and special interest groups, we are committed to reaching underserved youth, including urban, minority, delinquent, hospitalized, and disabled youth,”* said Santiago.

*“I contacted the Morgantown Office of State and Private Forestry and specifically requested **Martin MacKenzie**’s assistance after Centennial planners asked me to bring our program to the congress. Martin has worked with me for 15 years doing programs and was the liaison between the Washington Office and the program. Martin is comfortable around the animals and knows how to communicate to people the importance of caring for all our natural resources,”* continued Santiago. The three were present at the reception that was held the first night and at the exhibit area the following 2 days.

“At first, people could not understand why we had brought the hawk, and a few asked what it had to do with the Forest Service. We explained that Anastasia is the hook to get a dialog started about environmental issues,” said MacKenzie. This point was driven home to other attendees on numerous occasions as they watched hotel staff approach the exhibit.

Santiago has heard many comments from participants that Anastasia’s presence was one of the highlights of the Centennial Congress.



Monongahela National Forest Briefed on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

The Monongahela National Forest Leadership team invited **Rick Turcotte** of the Forest Health Protection staff in Morgantown to speak on the issue of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Rick gave a presentation on the biology, ecological impact, current distribution, and control methods available for HWA. He stated the Forest Health Protection position that *“without intervention, hemlock woolly adelgid will eliminate hemlock as a major forest component across the Monongahela National Forest in the next 10 to 30 years.”*

The Monongahela National Forest is currently experiencing decline and mortality of the hemlock resource due to HWA. All of the forest’s districts are within counties that are now infested. Forest Health Protection highly recommends that a comprehensive hemlock management plan and forest-wide environmental document be written and suppression dollars be applied for to control HWA populations in suitable forest areas, viewsheds, and high use recreation areas. Chemical and biological treatment of HWA in such areas is possible in most instances and will help to maintain the hemlock component in these areas. The treatment of identified areas would minimize the HWA impact and clarify a direction for Forest Health Protection staff. In recreation areas it would serve to curtail expenses associated with hazard trees. If treatment is not implemented, the hazard tree issue will require tree removal, tree replacement, closure of the area, or movement of the area to a new site, depending on the percentage of hemlock in the recreation area. Several areas have been identified for treatment and have been treated, and these efforts should continue. A more thorough evaluation of what is needed to maintain eastern hemlock as a viable species on the forest is recommended.

Legislative and Public Affairs Directors Gather in DC

Chuck Reger represented the Northeastern Area at the Forest Service Legislative Affairs and Public Affairs Directors meeting in Washington, DC, in January to discuss the Forest Service agenda for 2005 and beyond. The Washington Office of Communications expects to see implementation of the strategic plan, business operations transformation, the four threats, and the Centennial Celebration as communications focal points for the coming year.

The group held discussions with senior leadership members of the executive branch, including Dale Bosworth, Dave Tenney, and Mark Rey. Congressman Tom Udall (D-NM) represented the legislative branch, along with staff members of the key congressional committees.

The 109th Congress is working on the Forest Service Partnership Enhancement Act. When passed, this legislation will improve the agency’s ability to work with partners. Key components of the bill include an emphasis on partnerships, mutual benefit agreements, clarified authority for educational and interpretive cooperation, credit for recruited volunteers, advancement of funds to cooperators, and promulgation of regulations to implement the act.

The legislation is expected to move through Congress quickly as it had cleared all committee steps during the 108th Congress.



Mid-Atlantic Conservation Education Developing Cooperative Forestry CD

John Benton with the New Jersey Forest Service hosted a meeting at the Forest Resource Education Center in Jackson, NJ, to discuss production of a forestry CD for the Mid-Atlantic States. The product would be marketed to educators for use in classrooms and with programs such as the Envirothon, Science Olympiad, 4-H, and FFA. The Mid-Atlantic Conservation Education (MACE) Cooperative has \$10,000 available for this project.

Forest Fever is an interactive, multimedia teaching tool for high school educators that presents a balanced approach to forest management, helping students to understand how to manage different forest types while challenging them to apply science, math, language arts, and critical thinking skills. The program uses technology to promote interactive teaching and learning, incorporates versatile classroom applications (individual, group, competitive events), emphasizes forestry career opportunities, and includes a supplemental Web site with additional forestry information, a teacher's guide, and correlated education standards by State. The product can also be updated via the Internet so additional information can be added to the CDs that have already been distributed. There are also pre- and post-assessment tools for teachers to evaluate the effectiveness of the materials for increasing forest management knowledge.

This project will utilize the framework of the Forest Fever CD and adapt it to the Mid-Atlantic region. Changes to text and video will make the product more applicable to the Mid-Atlantic region. The next step in production is for program specialists to review the text and images, and provide text corrections and substitute images. A draft CD will be available for comment at the March MACE meeting.

Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup Meets in DC

Roxane Palone represented the Morgantown Field Office at the Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup meeting held on February 2 at the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Council of Governments. The group meets regularly and provides an effective vehicle to address issues and disseminate information related to forests and forestry practices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The workgroup is chaired by Michael Foreman of the Virginia Department of Forestry.

During the meeting, Ray Crew of Penn State University presented preliminary results of the Chesapeake Bay riparian buffer inventory he has been developing. Karen Cappiella of the Center for Watershed Protection updated the group on the urban forestry manual she is preparing. Steve Talley of the Canaan Valley Institute discussed the Mid-Atlantic Highlands action plan with the group. The institute is looking for ways to effectively partner with the Chesapeake Bay Program. The workgroup is also working to create a network of riparian forest demonstration sites, an effort spearheaded by Sarah Weammert, the nutrient fellow with the EPA at its Chesapeake Bay office. **Jennifer Curkendall** (NA) presented a summary of the *Guidelines for Implementing the Chesapeake Bay Program's Urban Tree Canopy Goals* and the final draft of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forestry 2004 Annual Report*, and **Sally Claggett** (NA) presented the final draft of the *Forestry for the Bay* proposal.



Hazel Participates in West Virginia All Agency Meeting

Cameron Crisp (Monongahela National Forest), **Kurt Gottschalk** (NE), and **John Hazel** represented the Forest Service at an All Agency Meeting in Morgantown February 8–9. It was an opportunity for information sharing and making new contacts for future working relationships. Hosted by West Virginia University Extension, the meeting pulled together State and Federal natural resource agencies in West Virginia, including WV Department of Agriculture, USDA NRCS, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, USDA APHIS Plant Inspection, USDA Rural Development, WV Conservation Agency, WV Division of Natural Resources, WV Department of Environmental Protection, WV Division of Forestry, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Agency representatives spoke on their programs and responsibilities. Crisp, Gottschalk, and Hazel each spoke on the mission area of their respective Forest Service unit. Assistant State Forester David Lilley represented the WV Division of Forestry. Many of the agencies attending are now or have been partners with State and Private Forestry.

Hazel Addresses County Board of Education

The Morgantown Field Office has a longstanding relationship with Monongalia County education leaders through cooperation with West Virginia University, the Monongalia County Technical Education Center, the General Advisory Council, and the Local School Improvement Council. Work with these groups offers great exposure for the Forest Service and provides recognition in the community. Field Representative **John Hazel** was invited to address the Monongalia County Board of Education on February 15, representing the Forest Service as a member of the Local School Improvement Council. The topic of discussion at the board meeting was promotion of meaningful school-community relationships. Hazel spoke about personal experiences with educational leaders in Monongalia County. His presentation was received well by the Board of Education, who expressed appreciation for the Forest Service presence in the community and our interest in education in Monongalia County.

Cumming Gives Presentation at Ohio Tree Care Conference

Anne Cumming gave a presentation at the Ohio Tree Care Conference on Sunday, February 13. Sponsored by the Ohio International Society of Arboriculture Chapter, the full-day program was an arborist certification course. Anne spoke for 2 hours and reviewed tree anatomy and physiology with an audience of more than 100 people. Other speakers for the short course included Stephanie Miller and Alan Siewert, both of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Cumming Visits with School Children About National Arbor Day

Arbor Day is just around the corner! To prepare Miss Garrett's fifth-grade class to participate in the National Arbor Day Foundation's 2005 Arbor Day Poster Contest, **Anne Cumming** spoke to students at Mountainview Elementary School about trees and the role they play in capturing, providing, and conserving energy. On February 15, students learned about community planning and trees using the foundation's guidelines for 2005 activities.



Twardus Attends Forest Health Monitoring Working Group Meeting

Dan Twardus attended the 11th annual Forest Health Monitoring Working Group meeting held January 24–27 in Miami. The agenda focused upon discussions of invasive plant problems, including the Forest Service invasive species strategy presented by Forest Health Protection Director Rob Mangold. Additional topics included the development of the National Insect and Disease Risk Map, urban forest health monitoring, sudden oak death, and the analysis and reporting of forest health data. States throughout the country were represented at the meeting, which was hosted by the Florida Division of Forestry. The agenda also included a field trip to the Everglades to see firsthand demonstrations of invasive plant control.

Cumming Discusses Urban Trees with Officials in St. Clairsville, Ohio

On February 8, **Anne Cumming** met with Drew Todd in the St. Clairsville, Ohio, Municipal Offices to discuss program progress and questions. Afterwards, Anne and Drew met with Dennis Bigler, St. Clairsville Service Director. He showcased a low-income housing development being constructed in St. Clairsville. Inner city funds were granted through the Division of Forestry to plant street trees in the development. Landscape designs and tree selections were reviewed. Dennis and his staff will be implementing the plans this spring or fall.

Maryland Cooperative Management Review

A Cooperative Management Review team led by **John Nordin** met with Maryland State Forester Steve Koehn and his staff February 1–3 in Annapolis to review the State's programs, financial management and grants administration, civil rights compliance, and working relationships. Other review team members included **Victor Mercado, Kathy Duran, Terry Lopez, and John Hazel**. The State is doing well across all programs, a noteworthy accomplishment during a period when the State is faced with significant budget reductions. The Maryland Forest Service is planning for its 100th anniversary in 2006, and has asked the Northeastern Area for support in this effort.

Conference Call on Emerald Ash Borer in Ohio

A conference call on February 10 led by **Noel Schneeberger** pulled together State agencies to discuss coordination efforts needed to address emerald ash borer (EAB) in Ohio. Staff from OH Department of Agriculture, Ohio State University, and OH DNR Division of Forestry were on the call. **John Hazel** participated from the Morgantown Field Office. The status of the beetle, priorities, a project proposal submitted by OH Division of Forestry, and the draft Emerald Ash Borer Science Advisory Panel Report were discussed.

Hazel followed this with a call on February 11 with the OH Division of Forestry that included State Forester John Dorka and his staff who will have a role in the State's EAB program. The Division of Forestry program staff will work closely with Morgantown program staff in preparing project proposals and a longer term strategic plan that is tied to the Science Advisory Panel's recommendations. Dan Balsar and **Dan Twardus** are the leads for the Division of Forestry and the Morgantown Field Office in this coordinated effort.



Urban and Community Forestry Council Meets to Discuss Mid-Ohio Valley Tree Commission Roundtable

On February 9, **Anne Cumming** attended a meeting of the West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Council in Bridgeport, WV. The meeting was well attended, with representatives from West Virginia University, West Virginia State University, two utilities, and a resident from the city of Charleston, WV, as well as all three staff from the WV Division of Forestry Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Highlights from the meeting include information on the upcoming Mid-Ohio Valley Tree Commission Roundtable. Hosted in alternate years by West Virginia and Ohio, this year's event will be in Marietta, OH. Also discussed was the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. This meeting will be held in Morgantown September 26–28, 2005.

The council is planning another group event and will be planting and maintaining trees as part of the Mountaineer Treeways program.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Bratkovich Appointed to *Journal of Forestry* Editorial Board

Steve Bratkovich, Marketing and Utilization Specialist, will serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Forestry* for a 3-year term. The Society of American Foresters selected Steve specifically for his expertise in utilization and engineering. As a member of the editorial board, he will be responsible for assisting the editors in soliciting and developing reviews of assigned papers, and ensuring that the topics covered in the *Journal of Forestry* are balanced across discipline, employment, and membership categories.

Burban To Serve as Advisor for Urban Forestry Leadership Training Program

Lisa Burban, Forest Resources Management Group Leader, will serve on the advisory board for the development of a Leadership Training Program for nonprofit and community professionals working in the field of urban and community forestry. The principal partners on this project are the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Alliance for Community Trees, with grant support from the USDA Forest Service. The goal of the project is to provide a national training and certification program for nonprofit and community organization professionals working in the field of urban forestry. The role of the advisory committee is to assess needs, develop the training curriculum, and suggest speakers and other information providers. The Leadership Training Program will be held February 27–March 1, 2006.

Building Effective Partnerships

The fourth and final *Building Effective Partnerships* workshop was held in St. Louis, Missouri, January 24–25. The workshop series was a joint effort between the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Northeastern Area. The planning team included **Lisa Burban** (St. Paul),



Anne Cumming (Morgantown), **John Parry** (Durham), **Phillip Rodbell** (Newtown Square), and **Jill Mahon** (St. Paul). The purpose of the workshop series is to provide a training opportunity for State urban and community forestry coordinators, volunteer coordinators, council representatives, and grassroots activists and volunteers to assist them in building capacity for urban and community forestry efforts at the local level. A series of four well-attended workshops were held across the geographic range of the Northeastern Area.

Wisconsin DNR Conducts Forest Health Checkup

The Wisconsin DNR has initiated a study to assess the ability of its Forest Health Protection Program to respond to critical needs within the State. It is considering program mandates, customer needs, current and future staffing, emerging issues, and other factors. Jane Cummings Carlson, DNR Forest Health Coordinator, is leading the study. The study team also includes representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection, forest industry, private landowners, University of Wisconsin Extension, USDA Forest Service, and various administrative levels within the Wisconsin DNR. **Linda Haugen**, Plant Pathologist, is representing the Northeastern Area, and **Frank Sapio**, Director of the Forest Service's Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team, is also serving on the team. Outcomes will be recommendations and an implementation plan to address potential adjustments.

Upper Mississippi Watershed Forestry Partnership Awards Grants

The Upper Mississippi Watershed Forestry Partnership has awarded \$300,000 in grants to improve migratory habitat in the Upper Mississippi watershed. Ten projects were funded in five States. In addition to increasing and enhancing habitat for migratory birds, the grants have created new partnerships and will likely strengthen existing partnerships within the watershed. Nontraditional partners who will be participating on these projects include the Natural Land Institute, the Audubon Society, the Iowa Natural Heritage and Blufflands Alliance, and Ducks Unlimited. **Teri Heyer**, St. Paul Field Office, **Samuel Osinde**, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and **Denny Michael**, Iowa DNR, were instrumental in coordinating and evaluating the project proposals.

Conservation Education Taking a New Approach to Program Delivery

Conservation education was an important component of the recent Forest Service Centennial Congress. In response, Chief Bosworth recently mailed a letter to all regional foresters, station directors, and the area director stating, "*As our second hundred years begins, we recognize that conservation education is more important than ever in increasing the public's understanding of the Nation's resources.*" The Northeastern Area is currently developing a conservation education strategy focusing on integrating Conservation Education into all Northeastern Area programs.

Haugen Attends Central Plant Board Meeting

Dennis Haugen, Entomologist, recently participated in the annual meeting of the Central Plant Board. The Central Plant Board consists of the Department of Agriculture Plant Health Directors and State Plant Regulatory Officials from the seven Midwest States, the four Great Plains States, and Ohio. In addition, they invite participants from cooperating agencies such as APHIS and



Forest Service. The purpose of the meeting is to share information, discuss common issues, and coordinate efforts. Although each State sets independent regulatory controls, the departments coordinate across State lines to assist in the control of agriculture and forest pests. This year's meeting included discussions on emerald ash borer and gypsy moth.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square, **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Devin Wanner** and **Chuck Reger**, Morgantown; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; and **Helen Butalla** for posting the NA News Notes on the Web.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, March 23, 2005**. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us. Please send text separate from photos and graphics, and include captions for all images.

