

Northeastern Area



Monday, March 22, 2004



THE BETTER HALF OF OUR MISSION

People who work for the Forest Service may understand, better than many, the value of long-term investment, planning ahead, and perseverance. Seedlings can take decades to grow sufficiently to meet a landowner's objectives or to transform a stark city street. Planting is not enough, however; seedlings must be watered, fertilized, weeded, thinned, and protected in order to meet the desired objective or to reach maturity.

This analogy of planting and tending a seedling can be applied to building public knowledge and understanding about natural resources through continuing efforts to provide information. And educating youth may be compared to planting the seedling in the first place — without that initial step, no amount of nurturing will produce a mature tree.

At the recent national meeting of Conservation Education and Interpretive Services in the Forest Service, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry Joel Holtrop shared that he decided at the age of 11 to work in natural resources, after spending just a couple of hours with a park naturalist. The naturalist probably never knew that he changed Joel's life, just as we may never know the ultimate result of our efforts to communicate with the public.

Apparently the naturalist did know how to talk to a boy, how to get and hold his interest, and the type of information that a boy could take in. Just as study and experience are behind successful seedling care, knowing a little about the background and interests of a particular audience creates the foundation for conveying information that the audience can relate to and use.

Even when it's based on knowledge of customers, one effort to communicate information is not enough. Repeated exposure to ideas is necessary for learning to occur. People learn best in different ways — some by reading a brochure, some by listening to a talk, some by seeing a demonstration, and some by being actively involved.

The Art of Teaching Adults by Peter Renner states that the time required to learn new things increases with age. He also refers to Robert Gagne's theory that different domains, or types, of learning are necessary to learn how to do something physical, to be able to recall information, and to experience a change in attitude and values.

The State Foresters point out the lack of public awareness about forestry issues. Joel mentioned in his talk that many people do not understand that threats to forests and ecosystems are also threats to their quality of life. He said even fewer people understand how their behavior affects healthy ecosystems.

Get to know your customers. With the same faith and persistence it takes to plant and tend a tree, do what you can to educate children and to inform adults. Relate an idea more than once and in more than one way. Use the tools offered by conservation education, interpretation, public affairs, information, and communications staffs.

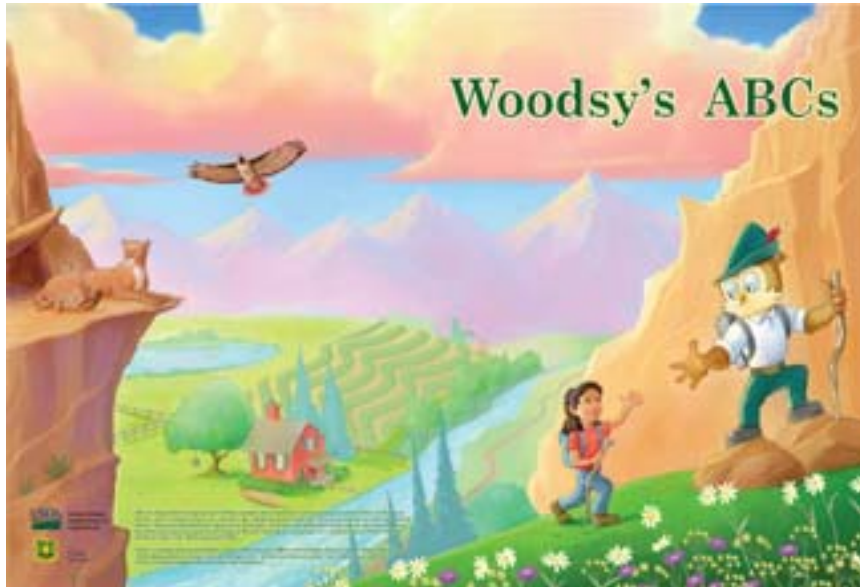


Joel Holtrop's talk also alluded to forest sustainability as something that lasts forever—longer than a Congress, a career, and a lifetime. As he put it, good public will and public understanding are needed to sustain the resource.

Just caring for the land is not enough. Do what you can to create good will and understanding. Serving people may be the better half of our mission.

—Kathy Maloney

CONGRATULATIONS, ROBERTA!



Roberta Burzynski, a writer-editor for NA in Newtown Square, has written and published a children's book titled *Woodsy's ABCs*. This book helps children learn the alphabet along with environmental messages such as "Lend a Hand-Care for the Land." The colorful and ecologically diverse illustrations were created by local artist Joe Kulka.

The book debuted during a festive celebration at the National Conservation Education meeting on March 1, 2004, in St. George, Utah, where Roberta and Joe signed copies for meeting participants.

Roberta now has her teaching certification and is working towards certification as a reading specialist. Her interaction with other teachers and elementary school students contributed to the development of this excellent publication.

Woodsy's ABCs is a wonderful book for parents and teachers to read to and share with their children and students. If you are interested in obtaining copies, contact the NA headquarters in Newtown Square.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS FOR YOU TO USE

To help you convey the four threats to forests and grasslands identified by Chief Bosworth, the Office of Communication in the Washington Office has made a variety of products available. Background information on (1) fire and fuels, (2) invasive species, (3) loss of open space, and (4) unmanaged recreation is given in speeches by the Chief, factoids, and news clips. Documents that are ready for your use include a PowerPoint presentation, questions and answers, briefing papers, and talking points. For access to these documents and more on the four threats, logon to this Intranet page: <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/four-threats/>.



FOREST SERVICE WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES IN A BIG WAY



NA's latest recruits: Melissa Frey, Michael Bohne, Kathy Duran, Cindy Ash, and Sherri Wormstead

"Fired up by new knowledge, great interactions with attendees, and excellent presentations," is how **Cindy Ash** describes the New Employee Orientation, held the second week of February. More than 600 USDA Forest Service employees hired within 3 months to 3 years gathered in Salt Lake City, Utah, for this national training session. The Northeastern Area's attendees included **Melissa Frey** and **Kathy Duran** from Newtown Square, **Cindy Ash** and **Sherri Wormstead** from Durham, **Daniel Banks** and **Marie Chambers** from Grey Towers, and **Michael Bohne** from the Asian Longhorned Beetle Program in New York.

brimming with information about Forest Service traditions and values, organizational structure, agency issues and priorities, civil rights, occupational safety and health, ethics and conduct expectations, employee benefits, the role of unions, and motivational presentations on networking and customer service. **Kathy Duran** noted, *"I thoroughly enjoyed the presentations and learned quite a bit about the Forest Service. This orientation opened my eyes to the vast array of programs and overall challenges the Forest Service faces every day."*

Kicked off by the Fiddlin' Foresters interpretive program on the Four Threats, the 3-day session was



Daniel Banks and Marie Chambers

The jam-packed agenda featured Associate Chief Sally Collins; the deputy chiefs, including State and Private Forestry's own Joel Holtrop; the regional foresters; Gary Hines with his portrayal of Gifford Pinchot; and Smokey Bear (Woodsy must have been molting!). *"Seeing the organizational structure and hearing from the various deputy chiefs was quite an honor. They all gave wonderful presentations that helped in understanding the structure and function of the various offices within the Forest Service,"* commented **Melissa Frey**. On Tuesday evening a Forest Service expo with over 40 exhibitors provided the chance to explore and learn about different parts of the agency.

Throughout the session there was ample time for networking with fellow new employees from across the country representing all disciplines within the agency. As a tiny fraction of attendees swimming in the ocean of National Forest System employees, the NA employees took on the challenge of explaining the role and importance of the



Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry to fellow attendees. In the future, NA could help with the task of raising awareness by having a presence at the New Employee Orientation expo.

Sherri Wormstead summed up her experience: *“It was a great opportunity to reflect on the mission of the Forest Service, gain a greater appreciation of our history, learn about our challenges ahead, and network with fellow employees. The New Employee Orientation helped me connect with the big picture of why I started with and love working for the Forest Service, and enhanced my enthusiasm!”* The NA attendees are grateful for the opportunity to attend this session and appreciate the investment that was made by NA and the work by the organizers, which made the session a success. As **Marie Chambers** put it, *“What a fantastic experience the orientation was. I think the committees did a splendid job.”*

Durham Field Office Notes

DURHAM CRC CLAIMS CONSECUTIVE WINS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

It was tough to pick the better-received civil rights program in Durham during February and March. Both brought packed houses to the conference room.

Regional historian Valerie Cunningham was welcomed for Black History Month, when she presented ***Black History in New Hampshire***. She covered everything from the history of slavery in the region, to the growth and strength of Portsmouth’s black churches and community over the decades. A topic of particular local interest, the audience gleaned much from the talk and ensuing discussion.



Valerie Cunningham, who has spent years studying New Hampshire’s black history, stands before some of the visual biographies she has compiled.

Women’s History Month brought an equally valued program to Durham, as State partner Sarah Smith from University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension shared ***They Sawed Up a Storm: The Women’s Sawmill at Turkey Pond***. Sarah’s research and presentation centered on this Rosie the Riveter-type operation near Concord, New Hampshire, during World War II. It featured the prominent role of State and Private Forestry during the era. The mill’s work helped the war effort by sawing up logs the Forest Service bought as salvage from the 1938 hurricane that devastated the Northeast.

“I thought Sarah’s talk was a great historical tale. The 1938 hurricane is still referred to, and Sarah showed us that



State and Private Forestry's response to it was an enterprise of incredible scale," noted Sustainability Specialist Sherri Wormstead. Writer-editor Helen Thompson added, "I am fascinated by what these women accomplished at a time when women weren't supposed to do 'men's work.' Sarah really drove home the feeling of pride and camaraderie among the women as they shouldered the war effort."



When most of the Nation's "manpower" was focused on the war effort, this group of women operated a one-of-a-kind sawmill at Turkey Pond near Concord, New Hampshire. The mill was specially designed to accommodate the women's smaller frames and minimize heavy lifting.

For retiree and volunteer Edna Tilley, the presentation brought back many memories, both good and bad, of being a young woman during a time of war. *"Having experienced that time in history firsthand, I am amazed at how these women stepped out of traditional roles and performed hard, physical labor — at equal pay, no less! They took on this daunting task, not as a challenge in the battle between the sexes, but to contribute to the war effort in their own way and to honor their husbands, fathers, brothers, and friends who were serving their country overseas."*

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IN QUEST OF INVADERS

Entomologist **Dennis Souto** and State partners were prominent contributors to the most recent episode of *Quest*, the PBS science program dedicated to "investigating our world." The "Bioinvasion" episode featured the many professionals who protect our lands, forests, and waters from invasive plants and pests.

"Working with Dennis, speaking with the States he serves, and being an entomologist myself, I know that he's one of the top experts in the Northeast," said Bernie Raimo, Forest Health Group Leader. "That scientific knowledge lends credibility, but the public needs to know how much one cares before they lend their trust. More than anything else, the work Dennis and our State partners did for Quest showed the public that caring, committed human beings are at work on these issues. It's their quality as people that shined for me."

Quest producer Laura Schenck agreed, revealing that the Biovasion episode didn't happen just by luck: *"Back in May [2003] I had one extra shooting day left on a totally unrelated show topic. Dennis was referred to in your press material and he kindly found time without much notice to allow me to do an interview. By the time I finished that interview, I knew without a doubt I had a show that could easily sustain an hour. He was so incredibly articulate on the issues and complexities of both the problems and the solutions."*

This is the second contribution to science knowledge that the Durham Field Office has made via *Quest*. Last year, GIS Specialist **Tom Luther** and Remote Sensing Specialist **Bill Frament** were key contributors in an episode on the Northeast's '98 Ice Storm. Tom was also a featured scientist on the *Quest* Web site, which boasts up to 58,000 hits per month and includes lesson plans for school and home school educators. The contributions of Bill, Tom, Dennis, and our State partners reach more than 150,000 people per episode across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.



Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry

RISK TREE TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, in cooperation with the New England Chapter –of the International Society of Arboriculture and UMass Extension, recently held a “Risk Tree Awareness, Identification, and Management” training workshop in Marlboro, Massachusetts. Almost 90 participants, including town arborists, tree wardens, and planners, attended the workshop, which introduced the new Forest Service publication *Urban Tree Risk Management: A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation* developed by the St. Paul Field Office. **David Bloniarz**, Center Director, and **Dr. Dennis Ryan**, University of Massachusetts, provided instruction for the workshop.

ARBORICULTURE AND THE INTERNET PRESENTATION

David Bloniarz recently delivered a presentation to urban forestry students at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst on the value of the Internet as a tool for arborists and urban foresters. David discussed useful Web sites, including Forest Service locations, as well as links to commercial and nongovernment organizations. More than 20 students from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the University of Massachusetts attended.

PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT TRAINING HELD IN NEW YORK STATE

The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), conducted a workshop introducing the use of personal digital assistants (PDAs) as an organizational and management tool. The daylong workshop included step-by-step instruction on using PDAs and provided an overview of several software packages that can be used in urban forest management situations. **David Bloniarz**, Center Director, served as an instructor for the 18 participants, including NYS DEC and municipal urban foresters. Additional workshops in New York State are planned this spring.

RISK TREE WORKSHOP FOR COOPERATOR COMMUNITIES

“Urban Tree Risk Management” was the title of a daylong workshop recently conducted for urban forestry staff from the newly designated “Cooperator Communities,” part of a new initiative established by the Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry. City forestry staff from Burlington, Vermont; Portland, Maine; and Worcester and Springfield, Massachusetts, attended the workshop held in Brattleboro, Vermont, which outlined the latest protocols for the identification and management of risk trees in a community setting. This was the first opportunity for personnel from the Cooperator Communities urban forestry staffs to attend a joint training program. It is anticipated that additional workshops and “technical showcases” will be delivered to the Cooperator Communities over the next 2 years. **David Bloniarz** is coordinating this pilot initiative, in cooperation with the State U&CF Coordinators in Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

STORM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND PREPARATION

David Bloniarz recently delivered a presentation on “Storm Preparation and Damage Assessment in Urban Areas” at the Annual Conference of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association, held in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. More than 125 conference participants attended the session, which included information on the latest tools related to storm preparedness and recovery in urban settings.



URBAN FOREST INVENTORY LECTURE DELIVERED AT UMASS/AMHERST

David Bloniarz, Center Director, recently delivered a lecture to 25 urban forestry students at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst on “Techniques for Conducting Urban Forest Inventories.” The lecture outlined various inventory types, methods, and computerized data collection and management tools and included an introduction of the latest revision of the Mobile Community Tree Inventory (MCTI) software.

BETA VERSION OF MUNICIPAL TREE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE AVAILABLE

A beta version of the Street Tree Electronic Management System (STEMS) — developed by the Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, and Bluejay Software — has been released and is available for use and testing in pilot communities. The software program, which operates on the Microsoft® Windows platform, provides a simple-to-use interface for tracking work orders, staffing needs, and scheduling of maintenance tasks related to municipal street and park tree management. The software, developed under a grant to the City of Springfield, is designed as an introductory tool for communities that would be otherwise unable to afford implementation of a computerized maintenance program for the care of public trees. For more information, please contact **David Bloniarz** at dbloniarz@fs.fed.us.

Grey Towers Notes

ARTISTS, CONSERVATIONISTS COME TOGETHER AT GREY TOWERS

It was meant to be an experiment, and no one knew what the outcome would be. But participants of the first gathering of artists and conservationists at Grey Towers all agreed that they learned a lot and would want to take part in future sessions.

Conservation and the Arts at Grey Towers is an evolving program that is poised to grow from the current music and arts offerings. The recent session, which brought a half-dozen artists and a half-dozen natural resource professionals together for a day, was intended as a way to share knowledge, visions, thoughts, and talents. The artists were introduced to a variety of topics ranging from the history of the Forest Service to the effects of deer overpopulation to forestry terms and tools. The conservation “crowd” learned about different art mediums and how individual artists can depict and translate the environment through art.

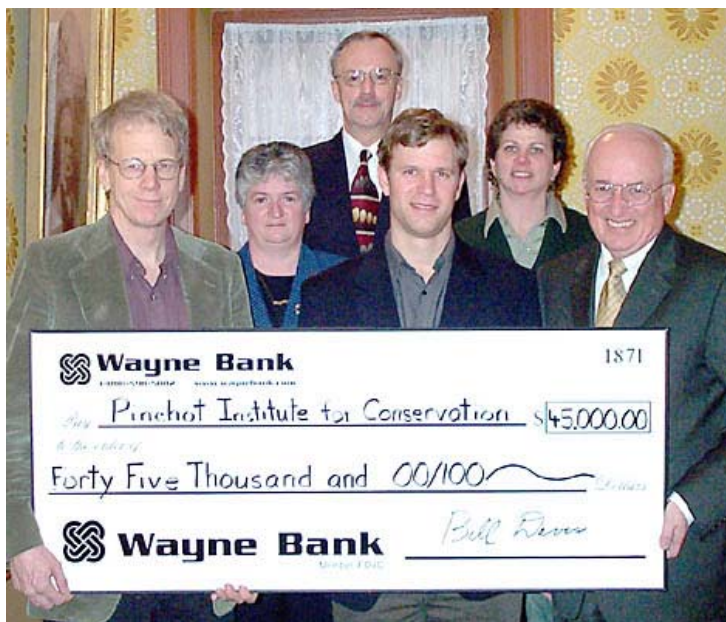
The Pinchot Institute for Conservation helped organize the workshop with the aid of a Milford-based art gallery. Participants plan to get back together in 2 months to discuss how to make the connection between the arts, humanities, and nature, and how best to share that message with the public.

PINCHOT INSTITUTE RECEIVES FUNDS FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT GREY TOWERS

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark, Milford, Pennsylvania, has received \$45,000 from Wayne Bank to help fund its conservation education and outreach programs at Grey Towers.

The contribution, facilitated by the Wayne County Community Foundation, is earmarked for programs at Grey Towers that enhance the classroom work and curricula of Pike and Monroe County school students, specifically the Delaware Valley and Stroudsburg school districts. Institute staff and Forest Service staff will work together to deliver a conservation education program that focuses on the history of conservation in America, specifically the contributions made by Gifford Pinchot and the work that was done in the early 1900s at Grey Towers and the adjoining Milford Experimental Forest.





From left, Peter Pinchot; Wayne Bank Milford Community Office Manager Mary Alice Petzinger; Wayne Bank Commercial Lender Bill Kerstetter; Pinchot Institute Program Associate Will Price; USDA Forest Service Public Affairs Officer Lori McKean; and William Davis, Wayne Bank President and CEO.

Pinchot Institute President V. Alaric Sample acknowledged the donation by noting, *"It appears that you are insightful people who understand that children are the caretakers of this Nation's future. The Commonwealth's pristine natural resources are a rare gem offered to the American landscape. To teach children the value of this resource, and the importance of conserving it for future use and enjoyment, is a legacy that both Wayne Bank and the Wayne County Community Foundation are contributing to our youth, and ultimately, the American public. Thank you for your interest, generosity, and confidence in our ability to enhance the educational opportunities for Pennsylvania youth."*

SAF CHAPTER MEETS AT GREY TOWERS

The Gifford Pinchot Chapter of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters (SAF) recently held their annual meeting at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark.

The meeting focused on invasive species and included several presentations. Guest speakers discussed the threat that such invasive species as *multiflora rose* and *Japanese honeysuckle* pose to native plants and animals. They emphasized how foresters who work with timber companies and small private landowners can play an important role in controlling the spread of invasive plants.

The group also discussed plans for its 2005 annual meeting, when the Gifford Pinchot Chapter of SAF will host a larger, regional session.



Robert LaBar, outgoing chair of the Gifford Pinchot Chapter of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters, holds up a piece of artificial greenery during a discussion about cell towers that are constructed to look like trees. LaBar discussed this latest landscape trend during a recent meeting of the SAF at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark, Milford, Pennsylvania.





Richard Gilbert with the USDA Forest Service at Grey Towers puts the finishing framework on new signs that will be installed on the Grey Towers Forestry Trail.

GREY TOWERS GETS NEW FORESTRY TRAIL SIGNS

New interpretive and directional signs for the Forestry Trail are being readied for a busy spring season at Grey Towers. The trail, an easy-to-hike half-mile interpretive loop, introduces visitors to the forest ecosystem, fire management, and some forestry terms. It is designed to be self-guided or used by school groups for conservation education programs. The activity boxes and educational signs are appropriate for all ages.

Morgantown Field Office Notes

WERC REPACKAGING

Ken Knauer, Al Steele, Lew McCreery, Gail Michaels, and John Hazel met February 10 and 11, 2004, at the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, West Virginia, to discuss plans for this facility and the program component of NA's Economic Action Program. As a followup to a January meeting, the group verified the WERC vision, mission, and goal statements; established focus areas of work; and developed alternatives to implement the focus areas. The alternatives consist of contracting and internal operations of the information technology, subject matter, and operations of the facility and program. The alternatives were developed in response to not being able to successfully contract for the complete facility operation and program implementation package. Representatives from industry and the West Virginia Forestry Association met with the group briefly to learn more about WERC.

CAHR PROGRESS

On February 12, 2004, **Karen Sykes** and **John Hazel** met with Jim White, Director, and Marie Sullivan, Community Involvement Coordinator of the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP), at the Hines Farm near Peninsula, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting was to monitor the grant with the Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization (CRCPO) for administering the Cuyahoga American Heritage River Project. Possible funding and narrative development for a FY2004 grant were also discussed. Beginning in FY2003, the CRCPO, a coalition of several nonprofit organizations, provided the River Navigator and leadership for the program as Forest Service funding was reduced or curtailed. The project is thriving under CRCPO leadership. There is greater awareness of the American Heritage River Program and the need to provide stewardship for river corridor resources. The CRCPO has helped local officials and citizens increase their awareness and understanding of watershed and restoration issues. The number of effective and sustainable tributary watershed organizations has increased, as has the number of remediation and restoration projects underway and completed.



ENVIROTHON WORKSHOP FOR TEAM ADVISORS



Over 15 high school team advisors took part in a March 6 workshop designed to assist West Virginia students in learning how to compete in the State's upcoming Envirothon competition. The Envirothon exposes students to diverse environmental issues, ecosystems, and topography, and tests their knowledge of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils, and wildlife. **Vicky Evans**, Education Chairperson of the State Envirothon Council, lead the session, which included presentations by **Karen Sykes** on Aquatic Ecology, **Roxane Palone** on Forestry, and other presenters on soils and wildlife. Vicky and the presenters also covered the special issue topic, *Natural Resource Management in the Urban Environment*. Presenters discussed learning objectives and study materials for this topic as well as for the four main environmental issues.

URBAN WOOD UTILIZATION AND MARKETING MEETING IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Staff members of NA's Urban and Community Forestry and Economic Action Programs, as well as several other partners, met in Baltimore on February 12 and 13, 2004, to discuss urban wood utilization and marketing. Discussions centered around past and current activities, the identification of various goals and objectives that NA could emphasize in this area, and the initial groundwork for a Wood Education Resource Center project focused on wood availability. The first day was spent with Baltimore's Parks and People Foundation. The second day was spent touring Baltimore's wood yard and visiting a local wood products manufacturer (Edrich Lumber) that uses urban logs as a raw material. Attendees included: Phil Rodbell and John Parry from NA's Urban and Community Forestry staff; Lew McCreery, Steve Bratkovich, Al Steele, Ken Knauer, and Ed Cesa from NA's Economic Action Program staff; Rob Clark from NA's Forest Management staff; Jan Wiedenbeck, Northeastern Research Station; Ed Lempicki, New Jersey Forest Service; Mike Galvin and Dan Rider, Maryland Forest Service; Stubby Wormbold, Citilog Inc.; and Guy Hager, Parks and People Foundation. Al Steele organized the meeting, and Guy Hager hosted the meeting.



FOREST SERVICE REPRESENTED IN LOCAL EDUCATION

The Forest Service has a long-standing relationship with the Monongalia County Technical Education Center (MTEC) through the national Partners In Education Program. **John Hazel** represents the Forest Service as one of the supporting business partners and is a member of the MTEC Advisory Council and the Local School Improvement Council. Hazel spoke with the Monongalia County Board of Education on February 17, 2004, to explain the benefits of the Partners In Education Program and the Forest Service and the working relationship between the Forest Service and the MTEC.



3RD ANNUAL MID-OHIO VALLEY TREE COMMISSION MEETING HELD

The 3rd Annual Mid-Ohio Valley Tree Commission Meeting was held in Parkersburg, West Virginia, on March 10, 2004. The informal and informative meeting included tree commission members from Parkersburg, Morgantown, and Lewisburg, West Virginia, as well as Marietta, Belpre, Crooksville, and Portsmouth, Ohio. The mayors from Parkersburg, Crooksville, and Belpre joined the discussion, as did many city employees from a variety of departments, including Planning Director, Public Works Director, Economic Development; Safety Officer, Zoning and Planning Officer, and Public Service Director.

Each city was able to present their urban forestry issues, successes, and challenges to the group. All of the cities attending have been awarded Tree City USA status for their programs. Successes shared with the group included many successful inventories, arboreta established and maintained, and contract arborists hired. Many successes have been the result of grants awarded through the States. These grants include WV Division of Forestry Demonstration City and Inner City Grants (both are a pass-through of USDA Forest Service UCF program dollars), block grants, and Ohio's Bicentennial Tree Planting Grants. Challenges faced by the tree commissions included limited funding, both at the city and State level, maintaining tree health through pruning and removals as needed, encouraging interest and involvement by leaders of local government units, and threats to community trees caused by insects and diseases. Dr. Brent Bailey, Ph.D., WV UCF Council & Morgantown Tree Board, commented that although urban forestry may be a hard "sell" in West Virginia, our cities face the same urban woes and issues as larger cities in more populated States.

*Participants of the
3rd Annual Mid-Ohio
Valley Tree
Commission Meeting
listen to Dr. Enrico
Bonello of Ohio
State University.*



DC CMR FOLLOWUP

A followup to the District of Columbia Cooperative Management Review conducted February 28, 2002, was held February 20, 2004, in the Reeves Center in Washington, DC. State Forester Ainsley Caldwell assumed responsibilities since the last review in 2002; changes to the DC urban forestry program and the development of new partnerships made it timely for a followup meeting. Mari Claire McCartan (DC UF specialist) and Ainsley represented the DC Urban Forestry Administration. John Nordin, Robin Morgan, Phillip Rodbell, and Kathy Duran represented the Area headquarters office and **John Hazel** represented the Morgantown Field Office. Partners of DC Urban Forestry that met with the group include Dawn Gifford (DC Greenworks), Gilda Allen (DC Department of Health), and Jim Lyons (Casey Tree Foundation). Ainsley has made significant improvements for the better within the urban forestry program in the year that he has been there. Organizational changes, a new tree advisory board, and new partners should result in a stronger program.

DC TREE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Anne Cumming attended the District of Columbia Tree Advisory Board (TAB) meeting on February 17, 2004, at the Reeves Center in DC. The newly formed TAB has assembled representatives from many DC tree organizations, including the Casey Tree Foundation, Metro DC Council of Governments, DC Greenworks, and Green Spaces for DC. The TAB is currently planning for their Arbor Day Celebration on April 30, 2004. Other topics at the meeting included the regulations pertaining to the DC Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002, the application process for the



2004 DC Green Grants Program, and a new initiative for utilizing urban waste wood. The next meeting of the TAB will be June 23, 2004.

PA URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

The Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council met on February 4, 2004, at the Olewine Nature Center in Harrisburg. **Donna Murphy** reports that the meeting agenda was quite full. Discussion centered on a number of initiatives currently underway by the council. John Smith, ISA, presented a draft plan for a member's handbook that will provide direction and leadership to council members. Patrice Carroll, PA DCNR, presented general goals currently being discussed in the planning of the Southeastern Tree Cover Project, a cooperative partnership between the DEP and the PA DCNR that is expected to be launched through the governor's office this Arbor Day. Technology transfer efforts include a project with PennDot to develop two technical manuals for roadside planting and a PSU factsheet on utility planting considerations. Projects in partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Center for U&CF include a PowerPoint presentation on directional pruning and conversion of landscape tree factsheets to a CD-ROM format.

FAREWELL TO JEFF BEJUNE

The Morgantown Field Office and the National Wood In Transportation Program held a farewell break for Jeff Bejune on February 19. Jeff came to the WIT program in August 2002 as a term Forest Products Technologist. Under the supervision of Ed Cesa, Jeff stated that he "loved it here." During his appointment, Jeff developed the publication "Portable Timber Bridges as a Best Management Practice in Forest Management." Jeff also updated the very popular publication "Recycling Municipal Trees: A Guide for Marketing Sawlogs from Street Tree Removals in Municipalities." Jeff served as the WIT Webmaster and redesigned the program's interactive Web site. His latest project was a customer needs assessment of the West Virginia Division of Forestry State nursery. When Jeff wasn't busy writing, he served as the Vice-President of the Courtesy Committee and was instrumental in the printing of an employee cookbook. A native of Massachusetts, Jeff will be missed. On his last day, he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by John Hazel, Field Representative.

COOPERATIVE FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAM REVIEW

Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Cooperative Forest Health Protection Program Review was conducted on February 26, 2004. Daniel Twardus, FHP Group Leader, Morgantown Field Office, conducted the review. Participants included Don Eggen, Forest Pest Management Division Director for the Pennsylvania BOF; Mike Lester, Assistant State Forester; Noel Schneeberger, Program Manager, Forest Health Protection, USDA Forest Service; Clark Haynes, Assistant Director, Plant Protection, West Virginia Department of Agriculture; and Bureau of Forestry Forest Pest Management staff. The review included aspects of program delivery, targets, and USDA Forest Service - Bureau of Forestry cooperation.

GYPSY MOTH WORKING GROUP MEETS

Amy Onken, FHP entomologist, met with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Gypsy Moth Working Group in Flatwoods, West Virginia. The purpose of the working group is to provide a forum for agencies and interested parties within the State to discuss gypsy moth management plans for the coming year.



St. Paul Field Office Notes

UTILIZING URBAN TREES IN THE NEWS

The Los Angeles Times recently interviewed and quoted Marketing and Utilization Specialist **Steve Bratkovich** for a front-page article "No Safe Arbor in the City" published March 8, 2004. The article describes the importance of urban trees and highlights the work of the California Department of Forestry and their Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, Eric Oldar. The article references information presented in Steve's publication, *Recycling and Utilizing Municipal Trees*, and highlights Eric's efforts to incorporate the wise utilization of urban wood in community forestry programs.

ON THE HOUSE

On the House With the Carey Brothers, a nationally syndicated home improvement radio program out of California, recently interviewed **Steve Bratkovich**, Marketing and Utilization Forester, for their Saturday radio program. Steve had contacted them regarding an article that appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune and referenced incorrect statistics regarding the amount of trees harvested and grown in the United States. The Carey Brothers asked Steve to be a guest on their show and feature interesting facts about forestry and the forest industry.

DO URBAN FORESTS CONTRIBUTE TO FITNESS?

From the Minneapolis Star Tribune -- Does your address make you fat? Does it make you lean? That is what University of Minnesota researchers hope to find out through a \$600,000 study looking at the relationship between how neighborhoods are designed and built and how much walking people do.

MINNESOTA MOVES TO DUAL-CERTIFY FOREST LAND BY 2005

Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources plans to gain certification for its forests by the end of 2005 under the SFI® Program as well as the Forest Stewardship Council system. Forest certifications require forest managers to plan, implement and document management goals to meet various ecological and social criteria.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER FOREST PARTNERSHIP REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE

Foresters and natural resource agencies working along the Mississippi River will have the opportunity to speak with USDA Under Secretary **Mark Rey**, USDA Forest Service Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry **Joel Holtrup**, and Northeastern Area Director for State and Private Forestry **Kathy Maloney**, as well as exchange information with other agencies, organizations, businesses, and communities who are already working on projects to enhance sustainable forest management and water quality in the Upper Mississippi River basin. For agenda information and registration: <http://www.lsfa.org>.

FOREST CERTIFICATION IN MICHIGAN

From the Cadillac News -- Trees in Michigan's State forests may soon grow up with a new green "brand." Businesses, environmental groups, and lawmakers support certification, but have yet to agree on the type. The certification program proposed by Rep. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, would be an auditing system with the Department of Natural Resources setting standards to measure whether forests are being managed in a sustainable manner. The bill is one of three new proposals aimed at changes in Michigan's 19 million acres of forested land, 3.9 million of which are owned by the State.



FOREST HEALTH COOPERATORS GATHER IN MINNESOTA

The St. Paul Field Office Forest Health staff organized and hosted the annual meeting for the State and Federal forest health specialists within the seven Midwestern States. The meeting featured updates on emerald ash borer, Sudden oak death, the National Tree Failure Program, the Urban Tree Risk Management Guide, and risk mapping, along with information sharing and exchange among all of the specialists present.

EMERALD ASH BORER NEWS

Katie Armstrong, Northeastern Area Emerald Ash Borer Liaison, has contributed the following information:

Possible FEMA Request -- The Michigan Governor's office is requesting six counties in southeastern Michigan to thoroughly evaluate the damage done to millions of ash trees in their communities by the emerald ash borer (EAB) exotic insect and consider declaring local emergencies if warranted. The local evaluations and emergency declarations will be used by the Granholm Administration to request federal disaster assistance to help fund the removal and disposal of millions of dead and dying ash trees that pose a threat to public health and safety.

Eradication Update -- Eradication cutting has begun at the northernmost outlier site (Saginaw/Shields). So far, this has taken place without incident. Residents are aware of the program and have not protested removals. Cutting is expected to continue for at least 2 weeks.

Research -- Researchers have completed their peeling activities at the Saginaw site. Researchers from Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and APHIS performed the activities cooperatively. One hundred forty trees were peeled on a 1/16-mile grid. In total, eight positive trees were found. All positives were within 3/8 of a mile from the point of introduction. None of the positive trees had evidence of emergence holes.

Editor's Corner

THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick** and **Susan Lacy**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Ed Cesa**, **Karen Sykes**, **Melissa Emerson**, **Roxane Palone**, **Anne Cumming**, and **Dan Twardus**, Morgantown; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web; and to **Sandy Fosbroke** for an extra proofread.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **April 16, 2004**. Please mail articles to Nancy Lough at nlough@fs.fed.us.

