



Northeastern Area News Notes



September 25, 2006



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Integrating Practices To Produce Efficiencies

It is apparent that the forest resources of the Northeast cannot be separated from the people or vice versa; they are intertwined. With 25 percent of the Nation's forests and 43 percent of its population, this concentrated arrangement of forest and people provides an incentive to look for efficiencies that provide multiple resource benefits through a single action. I believe a change in perspective on management practices is necessary to meet the social and resource demands in years ahead. This change in perspective will be essential, too, as we craft a new Northeastern Area Strategic Plan that is focused on results rather than activities and outputs.

I envision opportunities where managers integrate various State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs to produce results that are not necessarily aligned with individual program objectives. Such results, for example, may produce improved watersheds, habitat, vistas, and stewardship; reduce fire hazard; produce biomass; and enhance social values by conducting one resource practice that provides multiple outcomes. Many times, these chances to "design a package" to broaden the end results are missed. As students of conservation, we are taught that producing a multifaceted result by the application of a management practice is simply good forestry. Yet the tendency of many professionals and landowners is to concentrate on the use of a single tool to obtain a single outcome without giving consideration to what additional benefits might be produced.

During the recent review of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry conducted by the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters, the subject of watershed management and the need to provide adequate water in the future was discussed at length. "Watershed Management" is not a budgeted line item in the S&PF program; it is implied within every area of the S&PF program. Watersheds must be considered and protected through Forest Management, Fire, Forest Health, Stewardship, Urban Forestry, and every other budgeted program. Without managers taking the time to step back and ask questions like, "Can I obtain a watershed result from this hazardous fuel treatment?", only a single outcome may result when it was possible to attain more. Alternatively, our singular focus may fail to recognize and take credit for other additional outcomes!

Now and for the foreseeable future, S&PF is being required to produce more results with the funds available. Budgets and line items may diminish or disappear, but the expectation from our clients and the government is for relevant resource management results. Within the bounds of program and financial authorities, we must work toward getting the most accomplished with our programs, individually and in combination.

The challenge for each NA employee is to conduct every S&PF program in a way that allows program dollars to produce multiple beneficial outcomes. We, as professionals, must look at the



practices normally conducted in the respective program areas, see where multiple benefits can be efficiently produced, and help our clients and partners have the same vision. It is all about developing a new perspective on programs and the results they deliver.

— Kathryn Maloney

NEWTOWN SQUARE

Saving Time, Money, and Greenhouse Gases With Net Conferencing

Arranging a meeting between representatives from four States and the District of Columbia is usually a logistical feat, but not in the virtual realm. On September 19, **Sally Claggett**, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forestry Coordinator, hosted the first-ever net conference for the Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup. This particular conference was an ideal candidate for the Internet-based format because the workgroup had an established working relationship and the primary subject matter was the presentation of a new report. The group did comment, however, that face-to-face meetings were a better format when the group needed to generate a work product. One group member remarked that the relationships formed during in-person meetings are “the glue that makes the group stick together.” The workgroup will consider the use of the net conference format for future meetings as appropriate.

Estimated savings from the net conference:

- 76.5 hours of travel time
- \$284 in gasoline costs
- 2,225 pounds of greenhouse gases

(Contact Rebecca Madsen at romadsen@fs.fed.us or 410-295-1357 for details on how the savings figures were calculated.)

Childs Selected as New Leader for Public Affairs Team

On October 1, **Gina Childs** will replace **Mike Prouty** as leader of the Northeastern Area’s Public Affairs Team for FY 2007. As such, Gina will serve as NA’s Public Affairs Director, serve on NA’s executive team, and report to Director Kathy Maloney. Gina, a communication specialist, is currently Group Leader of the Information Management and Analysis Staff in the St. Paul Field Office.

One of the team’s projects this year was to develop a series of seminars for presentation in the Washington Office. The first seminar—Woody Biomass: Making Wood WERC for Us—was presented on September 5 by **Steve Bratkovich**, Forest Products Technologist in the St. Paul Field Office, and **Steve Milauskus**, Director of WERC (the Northeastern Area’s Wood Education and Resource Center) in Princeton, WV. The next topic—the emerald ash borer and the Northeastern Area’s invasive species response plan—will be presented on October 10 by **Jerry Boughton** and **Katie Armstrong**. **Billy Terry** will present a November seminar featuring NA’s volunteer fire program.



The Public Affairs Team was established last October by Director Maloney to strengthen NA's public affairs function. Other Public Affairs Team members are **Chuck Reger** and **Devin Wanner** from Morgantown, **Bob Fitzhenry** and **Glenn Rosenholm** from Durham, **Lori McKean** from Grey Towers, and **Keith Tackett** and **Judith Antipin** from Newtown Square.

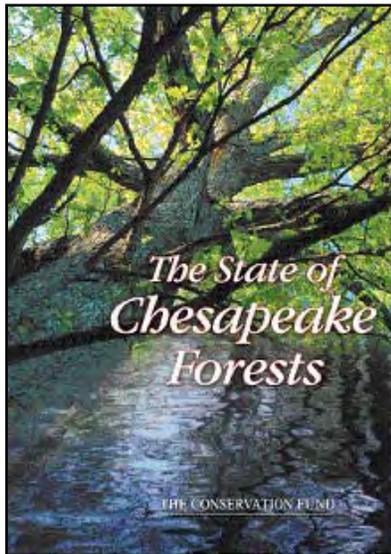
Forest Management Team Plans Ahead for 2007

The Northeastern Area's Forest Management Team gathered in Oxford, Maryland, August 23–25 for its annual work planning and strategy session. Led by Assistant Director **Robin Morgan**, representatives from Watershed, Legacy, Stewardship, and Urban and Community Forestry came together to review the past year and look ahead to collaborative opportunities for 2007. The team also brainstormed on Bold Goals and Key Messages for Cooperative Forestry Programs as delivered across the Northeast and Midwest. **Sally Claggett** and **Al Todd** of the Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Programs hosted the gathering for the second year running. Their local knowledge and genuine hospitality ensured a welcoming environment for focused work and productive fun. Joining the team was Presidential Management Fellow **Rebecca Madsen**, who is putting her advanced degree in environmental economics from Duke University to work on several watershed and Area-wide analyses. **Constance Carpenter** represented the Information Management and Analysis staff. A special thanks goes out to **Betsy Hannigan** for keeping everybody in line.



NA's Forest Management Team recently gathered in Oxford, Maryland. Front row (left to right): Sally Claggett, Martina Barnes, Betsy Hannigan, Robin Morgan, Al Todd, Deirdre Raimo, and Rebecca Madsen (Presidential Management Fellow); back row: Scott Stewart, Phil Rodbell, Constance Carpenter (Information Management and Analysis), Ed Boyer, Ron Overton, Matt Arnn, Mark Buccowich, and Neal Bungard.

The State of Chesapeake Forests Report



The Chesapeake Executive Council unveiled a comprehensive report entitled *The State of Chesapeake Forests* at its annual meeting on September 21. This report, shaped over a 2-year span, was prepared by The Conservation Fund and the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, with guidance from over 200 individuals from academia, research, government, environmental organizations, and the timber industry. The report calls attention to the value of forests to the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the threats to their sustainability. The report was unveiled in conjunction with the Chesapeake Executive Council's signing of a new Chesapeake Forest Conservation Directive that resulted from the report's findings. Representatives of the Northeastern Area, State forestry agencies, and The Conservation Fund were on hand to discuss *The State of Chesapeake Forests* with media and interested groups.



Managing Fuels on the Northeast's National Forests

Fire Field Rep **Tom Brady** reports that the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests (GMFL) and the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) continue their almost decade-long cooperative relationship with the Department of Defense in helping them meet their fuels management goals. With the expert help of **Helene Cleveland** of the Army Environmental Center, the forests are able to develop the proper plans and funding mechanisms to accomplish the work. During spring 2006, the GMFL conducted prescribed burns on 216 acres at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts and 1,295 acres at Fort Drum in upstate New York. The WMNF burned 60 acres at the New Boston Air Tracking Station in New Hampshire. With the help of the **Steve Davis**, Military Liaison, the WMNF is developing an agreement that would allow the placement of two Forest Service employees at the New Boston location.



Fire personnel from the White Mountain National Forest assist with a prescribed burn at the New Boston Air Tracking Station in New Hampshire.

Jan Polasky Receives Meritorious Service Award

In August, **Jan Polasky**, Program Manager for Volunteer Fire Assistance and Federal Excess Personal Property Programs, received the Meritorious Service Award from the Users and Screeners Association/Federal Excess Personal Property, Inc. (USA). This award recognizes Jan for her outstanding contributions to the field of Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) and for her commitment to American taxpayers, volunteer fire departments, and the Users and Screeners Association.

Under the FEPP Program, property originally purchased for use by a Federal agency but no longer needed by that entity is acquired by the USDA Forest Service for loan to a State or Territory for use in its rural or wildland fire protection program. As a result, the equipment stays in service to America, protecting lives and property across the Nation. The Northeastern Area administers this program through cooperative agreements with the 20 State forestry agencies. The program provides trucks, heavy equipment, and aircraft to support State and local fire agencies. Over 13,000 pieces of equipment valued at more than \$253 million have been recycled for public service through the Northeastern Area's FEPP Program.

Jan's efforts in the field of FEPP and in support of the association were recognized for having resulted in millions of dollars in taxpayer savings and for supporting numerous volunteer fire departments across the country. Jan developed a New Member Orientation program for new users and screeners in the program, which she presents each year at the annual workshop. She has also mentored and supported numerous new users and screeners over the course of her involvement in the Users and Screeners Association and the Federal Excess Personal Property Program.

Forest Service Supports Fish and Wildlife Service's "Cradle of Birding" Event

On Saturday, September 16, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held the Third Annual "Cradle of Birding" Wildlife and Conservation Festival at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Tinicum, PA. **Patty Reiff** and **Steve Davis** from Fire and Aviation Management represented the



Northeastern Area with an exhibit and handouts. Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl greeted the more than 700 visitors who came to participate in workshops, programs, and conservation exhibits.

ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Fire Details—a Win-Win Situation



Christy Behm, a smokejumper from McCall, ID, enjoyed her detail at Avon Park Air Force Range in Florida.

Forest Service firefighters have once again proven their mettle. Smokejumpers from McCall, ID, and firefighters from the Sawtooth National Forest in Idaho and the Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming worked at Florida's Avon Park Air Force Range south of Orlando on 2- to 4-week details during the spring 2006 fire season. By the end of the details, the firefighters had assisted on 13,600 acres of prescribed fires and 17,400 acres of wildfires. Everyone on the base is extremely pleased with the results, including the base commander, who recognized the firefighters for their contributions. The base ecologist said he "would write a personal check to the detailer account next year."

Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City, FL, is currently requesting firefighters for FY 2007; this is the third year for

such a request. The Tyndall fire management officer expects to burn 9,000 acres—the same amount as in FY 2006—with a crew of six Forest Service firefighters.

These fire details are also good for the Forest Service—the firefighters gain a great deal of experience in prescribed burning and they can work before the fire season starts at their home units. The Air Force bases' fire management officers are grateful that the firefighters' respective home units have leaders who encourage and actively seek opportunities for their personnel to practice their craft and develop their talent. The bases reimburse the Forest Service for all costs related to these details.

GREY TOWERS

State Officials Help Kick Off Grey Towers Programs

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and his staff helped kick off the opening of the new Visitor Pavilion and parking facility at Grey Towers at the same time that they announced \$3.8 million in grants to help protect Milford Experimental Forest property. The 1,108-acre forested tract adjacent to Grey Towers is currently managed by Peter Pinchot for forestry and wildlife research, conservation education, and passive recreation.

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis motions toward the new Grey Towers parking lot from the Visitor Pavilion during a recent dedication ceremony.





Cutting the ribbon: (left to right) Richard Paterson, Grey Towers Director; Michael DiBerardinis, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary; Joe Fabricatore, field representative for Congressman Donald Sherwood; Sue Currier, Director of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy; and Dennis Giordano, Assistant Director for Maintenance Engineer for Region 4, PennDOT; all help do the honors.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis was on hand at Grey Towers earlier this month at a celebratory event for the official opening and ribbon cutting of the new Visitor Pavilion and parking area. He also announced the Governor's support for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to use grant money from Growing Greener II and the USDA Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program purchase a conservation easement on the Milford Experimental Forest property.

"As the ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot, former Governor and the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Grey Towers is a testament to the value Pennsylvanians place on conservation," Governor Rendell said in a prepared statement. "The protection of this nearby property will increase the opportunity for Grey Towers to teach people about the history and best practices in forestry."

The new Visitor Pavilion and parking facility was needed in order for the Forest Service to better utilize Grey Towers as intended—for public visitation, education programs, and recreation, and as a working conference center. The cost of the project was shared by the Federal government, PennDOT, and the Commonwealth.

"Grey Towers has played such a vital role in the histories of Pennsylvania and the Forest Service that it is especially fitting that we have collaborated on a project that we can both be proud of, and will help our conservation futures as well," Grey Towers Director **Richard Paterson** said.

Teachers "Go Wild" at Grey Towers Workshop

More than 40 educators from the Delaware Valley School District participated in a Project WILD workshop at Grey Towers. The goals of the workshop were twofold: (1) to introduce teachers to Grey Towers and the USDA Forest Service as an educational resource, and (2) to learn how to work with their students to develop awareness, knowledge, and skills in order for them to make informed decisions, and act responsibly and constructively concerning wildlife and the environment. The Project WILD education program, sponsored by numerous wildlife and environmental organizations, is an interdisciplinary curriculum correlated to the State academic standards that classroom teachers are required to meet. Educators who participated in the training received a K–12 Curriculum and Activity Guide for use with their students.



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Staffers Give Back to Urban Forestry Center

Five Durham Field Office staffers volunteered during the Day of Caring to tend gardens, mulch, rake, split logs, and haul firewood at the Portsmouth (NH) Urban Forestry Center. The annual citizenship event, held on September 13 this year, is sponsored by the Greater Seacoast United Way. The Northeastern Area, Northeastern Research Station, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service have participated together since 2002, rolling up their sleeves under the banner of Team USDA–Durham.

Bob Fitzhenry, Florence Peterson, Rebecca Whitney, Roger Monthey and **Glenn Rosenholm** comprised the Forest Service contingent at the event.

“We use the Urban Forestry Center for free dozens of times during the year for meetings and workshops,” explained volunteer coordinator Bob Fitzhenry. “A.J. Dupere, J.B. Cullen, and the other staff at the center go out of their way to welcome us. It just makes sense to give back. They work us hard, but it’s always worth it.”

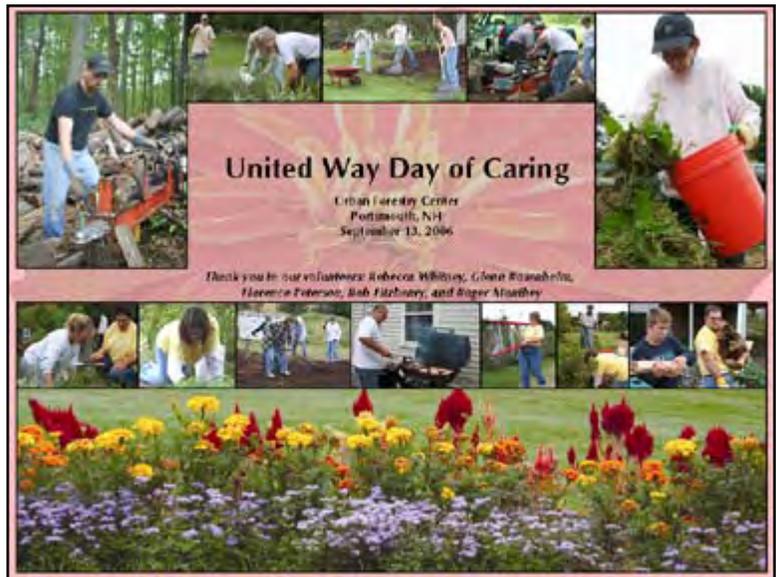
Keeping up the grounds at the forestry center is no small task. The facility encompasses more than 180 acres of pristine woodlands, meadows, and gardens just outside of Portsmouth’s downtown area. The Urban Forestry Center is funded and staffed by the State of New Hampshire and is a Northeastern Area partner organization.

In all, 45 volunteers from several organizations and businesses helped spruce up the facility during the daylong event. The United Way sponsors the Day of Caring each year, connecting volunteers with important projects in the community. The volunteer work of Team USDA–Durham is always mission-centered, working with local partners in conservation.

Urban Connections Wins 2006 Chief’s Multicultural Award

The Urban Connections Program, led by **Daryl Pridgen** and **Tonika Goins** of the Forest Service Eastern Region, has been selected as the 2006 group recipient of the Chief’s Multicultural Award. Urban Connections seeks to involve under-represented urban groups in Forest Service activities, therefore building relationships with our urban neighbors. The program has three simple messages with clear objectives:

- Increase awareness and information sharing of national forest activities and opportunities with urban residents
- Increase awareness and understanding within the Forest Service of its urban constituents



- Expand employment opportunities for urban neighbors

Northeastern Area staff from the Durham and St. Paul field offices, as well as staff from the White Mountain, Green Mountain, and Huron National Forests, have helped to support Urban Connections projects.

Plants on the Move



Firewheel (*Gaillardia pulchella*) has escaped cultivation in Rhode Island, but has not yet become a troublesome invasive there.

From herbarium records and written accounts, we know when many of our most troublesome invasive plants arrived on our shores. Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), for example, was first noted as an escape in 1838. Fast forward to the present day and think of the strange new plants that continue to expand their ranges. Some of these may become the problem invasives of tomorrow. The sooner we discover them, the sooner we might be able to control their spread.

Like most botanists, **Tom Rawinski** of the Durham Field Office has been keen on discovering new plants on the landscape. This summer he was particularly successful in Rhode Island, where four possible State-record discoveries were made, all exotic species. Sand plantain (*Plantago psyllium*)

and New England hawkweed (*Hieracium sabaudum*) had been spreading rapidly in Massachusetts and evidently crossed the border into Rhode Island. Firewheel (*Gaillardia pulchella*) probably escaped from a homeowner's garden and has colonized a sandy roadside in East Providence. How linearleaf snapdragon (*Misopates orontium*) arrived in Rhode Island remains a mystery.

“Find them, and nip them in the bud” might be an appropriate mantra for early detection–rapid response actions on the botanical front.

National Dialogue on Children and Nature

Susan Cox attended the National Dialogue on Children and Nature held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The focus of the dialogue was the book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder*, by Richard Louv, which claims children are disconnected from nature. The results of this disconnect include medical, social, and educational issues, as well as the concern that if the next generation is disconnected from nature, it will not care for nature, either.

Highlights of the event included presentations by the following:

- Michael Suk, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., who served as a White House Fellow to the Department of the Interior and spearheaded an initiative to develop the link between public health and recreation
- David Orr, Chair of Environmental Studies at Oberlin College and a pioneer in environmental literacy and ecological design
- Stephen Kellert, a professor at Yale whose work has focused on biophilia and harmonizing nature and the built environment



- Gina McCarthy, Commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, who spoke about efforts in Connecticut to get families outside through its Leave No Child Inside initiative

Discussions included identifying opportunities to build on the buzz of Louv’s book to enhance environmental recreation and education. More about the event can be found at <http://training.fws.gov/history/childrenandnature.htm>.

2006 Teacher Institutes

Susan Cox assisted in conducting three teacher institutes this summer: New York City Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers, New Hampshire Forest For Every Class, and New Hampshire Education and Environment Team–Curriculum Connections Through Schoolyard Investigations.

All three incorporate the importance of forest management for healthy forests, water, and habitats. Over 50 elementary and secondary teachers, with the potential to reach over 3,000 students, participated in this year’s institutes.



NYC Watershed forester **Tom Pavlesich** (right) talks with teachers about options for managing northern hardwood forests.



Susan Cox (left) shows teacher **Mary Maxfield** how to use a compass for laying out study plots.

The “Big E”

The Forest Service is once again participating in the USDA exhibit at the “Big E,” the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, MA, which began September 15. This year each USDA agency is promoting three key programs and is hosting an agency day when the agency will highlight a program or topic. **Tom Rawisnki** will represent the Forest Service by presenting “The Bittersweet Story of Invasive Plants” on September 22. For more information, visit <http://www.thebige.com/agriculture/usda.html>.



The USDA exhibit at the “Big E” is a collaborative effort among USDA agencies throughout New England.

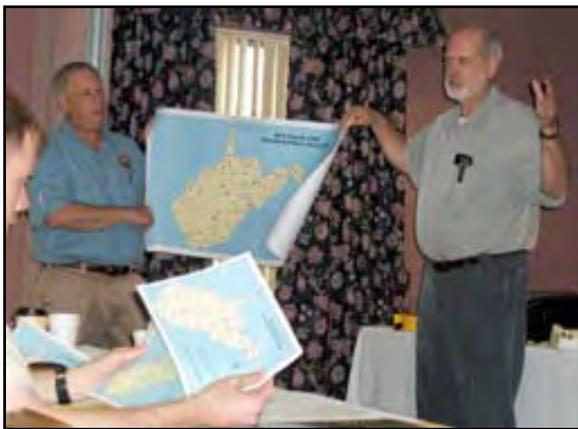


Master Plan Completed for Durham Park

A master plan was recently completed for Jackson's Landing Park in Durham, NH. This town park, located on the Oyster River, is a key hub for recreational waterfront activities. The new plan proposes a variety of activities, including increased green space and the use of surface water drainage BMPs to help reduce soil erosion into the river. It is hoped that grant funds will be acquired to undertake some of the proposed activities. **John Parry**, Urban and Community Forester, participated on the master plan committee.

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

West Virginia Agencies Come Together to Discuss Emerald Ash Borer



West Virginia Department of Agriculture Plant Industries Division Director Gary Gibson (right) and Assistant Director Clark Haynes (left) talk about the 2006 West Virginia CAPS Emerald Ash Borer Survey.

The Morgantown Field Office hosted an informational meeting about emerald ash borer (EAB) in Flatwoods, WV, on September 6. The meeting provided information about the educational resources available to inform the public about the threat that EAB poses to West Virginia residents and the strategies that Michigan and Ohio have used to deal with EAB. Although it has not yet been detected in West Virginia, EAB has killed more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, and has recently been discovered in Illinois.

Craig Kellogg of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service summarized the situation by stating that it is not a matter of whether or not the emerald ash borer will be detected in West Virginia, but *when* it will arrive. Director Gary Gibson, director of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Plant Industries Division, presented information about the 2006 EAB detection surveys.

Attendees included representatives from the West Virginia Division of Forestry, West Virginia Department of Agriculture Plant Industries Division, West Virginia University Division of Forestry and Division of Plant and Soil Sciences, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Monongahela National Forest, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, and Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry.

Radio Station Conducts Interview About Living Memorials Project

Anne Cumming and Tom Grote, Project Manager for the Legacy Groves of Somerset County, met with Doug Oster, host of KDKA's *Organic Gardeners* radio show. Doug's interview with Anne and Tom about their involvement with the Legacy Groves aired on Sunday, September 10, as part of the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The Legacy Groves of Somerset County project was funded through the USDA Forest Service Living Memorials Project in 2002 and 2003.



Cumming Guest Lectures at West Virginia University

West Virginia University Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources Professor Steve Selin hosted **Anne Cumming** as a guest lecturer for the “Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management” class. Anne addressed the “human dimensions” aspects of urban forestry and engaged the students to consider the issues surrounding urban forestry and its stakeholders.

NA Staff Meet With Key Pennsylvania Partners in Philadelphia

John Hazel, Phillip Rodbell, Matt Arnn, and Donna Murphy met with key Pennsylvania partners at the Awbury Arboretum in Philadelphia August 29–30. The meeting was the result of a recommendation made in the 2003 Urban and Community Forestry Program review. Assistant State Forester Mike Lester from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) discussed our need to better communicate with elected officials in Philadelphia and leverage our efforts to reach them. Team members Gene Odato, Rachel Billingham, Bill Elmendorf, and Julianne Schieffer provided in-depth overviews of how the PA DCNR Rural and Community Forestry Sections and the Penn State School of Forest Resources assist in program delivery. Highlights included presentations about the Fairmount Park Commission’s Street Tree Inventory work, the city of Philadelphia Managing Director’s GreenPlan Philadelphia Initiative, and projects of both University City Green and the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society. The meeting ended with an in-depth presentation by PA DCNR staff about their \$4 million TreeVitalize Initiative.



USDA Forest Service review team members and partners tour the Village of Arts and Humanities in Philadelphia, where outreach, art, and positively focused use of limited open space have improved the quality of life for inner-city residents in Philadelphia.

Two Coordination Meetings Held With Wayne National Forest Personnel

In recent weeks, **John Hazel** and **Donna Murphy** met twice with Wayne National Forest Supervisor Mary Redden and executive team members Carleen Yocum, Ann Grasso, Phil Sammon, Devela Clark, and Jarel Bartig to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration with the Morgantown Field Office.

Donna Murphy presented an overview of the Northeastern Area, focusing on the importance of our efforts because of the high population densities and the high percentage of privately owned forested lands in the States that we serve. In a brief overview of the Urban and Community Forestry Program, Donna shared the following: how the Morgantown Field Office manages more than 80 urban forestry grants with our partners, technical assistance approaches that have been successful, cross programming highlights, and technology transfer efforts that have helped build very active and successful urban forestry programs across the Mid-Atlantic States and Washington, DC. The meetings are part of a continuing effort in strengthening our working partnership with the Wayne National Forest and our Ohio partners.

One idea that came out of the meetings was for the Wayne National Forest, the Northeastern Area, and the Ohio Department of Forestry to jointly develop a project centered on the theme of the Underground Railroad. Historical documentation shows that routes through areas now under management by the Wayne National Forest were heavily used by individuals escaping slavery in the 1800s.



West Virginia Urban Forestry Meeting Held in Bridgeport

The West Virginia Division of Forestry and the West Virginia Urban Forestry Council held their September meeting in Bridgeport, WV. Topics discussed included the following:

- Scholarships were awarded to four West Virginians to attend International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist training sessions and an exam in October. The scholarships are a joint project of the USDA Forest Service and the ISA to encourage professionalism in arboriculture. Recipients are required to participate in community service activities as part of the program.
- The Municipal Tree Restoration Program is continuing in 2007, with trees in more than 20 cities scheduled for pruning by Allegheny Power. Funding from the utility to remove and replace trees under utility lines will exceed \$60,000.
- Plans are being made for a winter hazard tree workshop. Jennifer Brashears of the WV Division of Forestry will be leading the effort.
- West Virginia has a new tree board—in Athens, WV, near Bluefield. Jennifer Brashears and Bob Hannah, WV Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, are working with the community.
- *Choosing and Planting Trees for Cities and Communities*, a guide to tree selection, site selection, and planting, has been completed and is being distributed to municipalities around the State. The full-color, glossy handbook, completed with the help of West Virginia State University, will be a great resource for tree managers throughout West Virginia.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Richard G. Lugar—Purdue University Summit on Energy Security

Steve Bratkovich, Utilization and Marketing Specialist, attended the invitation-only Richard G. Lugar—Purdue University Summit on Energy Security in West Lafayette, IN. This bipartisan event—with Senator Lugar, a Republican, serving as the cosponsor of the summit and keynoting the morning session, and Representative Pete Visclosky, a Democrat, providing the luncheon address—featured expert speakers from across the United States.

The focus of the summit was on near-term strategies to produce liquid fuels from biomass and coal, two resources abundant in and around Indiana. Speakers from industry and academia presented compelling cases for acting *now* to move the United States away from depending on foreign sources for the bulk of our energy. The Senator, along with many other speakers, quoted numerous facts about the amount of oil we use in this country (25 percent of world production), the pollution we're creating, the role that oil plays as a magnet for international conflict, and the likelihood that the world is reaching peak oil production.

Since Indiana is in the heart of the corn belt, corn-based ethanol was presented as one solution to our liquid-fuel energy crisis. Although trees and forests were not prominent in the presentations, a shift to cellulose-based ethanol production (which includes woody biomass) was acknowledged by all as the next important step in developing a renewable energy source. Listed below are a few interesting factoids presented by the cross section of speakers.

- The country of Brazil has declared energy independence this year (using ethanol plus their domestic supplies).



- Corn-based ethanol plants can be easily retrofitted to use cellulose (wood or plant fiber).
- Current gasoline prices do *not* reflect the national security cost of imported oil, which ranges between \$1.70 and \$3.40 per gallon (this is in addition to current gas prices!).
- The United States needs an Apollo- or Manhattan-type project for biomass liquids.
- The ethanol goal is 50 billion gallons by the year 2020 without using land in the Conservation Reserve Program.
- In 1925, Henry Ford declared, “The fuel of the future is ethanol.”
- World oil production could peak between the years 2010 and 2020.
- State-run companies or “regimes” control 79 percent of the world’s oil supply.
- If we don’t act now, the United States will need *more* oil from OPEC in future, not less.
- Between 2003 and 2030, world energy consumption will likely increase by 71 percent.

As a result of the summit, Federal legislation will likely be introduced to address some of the projected energy problems and may emphasize ethanol as a solution.

Indiana Forest Stewardship Program Review—An Emphasis on Operational Efficiency

The Indiana Forest Stewardship Program and Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resources combined review was conducted on September 13–14. **Barb Tormoehlen, Ron Overton, and Mike Majeski** served as Northeastern Area review team members. Jack Seifert (State Forester), Brenda Huter (Forest Stewardship Coordinator), and Zack Smith (Forest Programs Coordinator) represented the Division of Forestry on the review team. Indiana’s State Stewardship Program is implementing a number of new strategies for improving efficiencies and streamlining service.

The Classified Forest (CLF) is Indiana’s forest property tax law. A Forest Stewardship Plan is required for a landowner to enter into the CLF program. About 90 percent of landowners who have Forest Stewardship Plans also participate in the CLF program. The program has grown consistently since 1921; a record was set in 2005 with the enrollment of 23,106 acres. Over 3,000 landowners are assisted annually through CLF. Classified Forest lands will soon be certified by the American Tree Farm System certification process. Recently, the CLF and Classified Wildlife Habitat merged under Division of Forestry leadership as the Classified Forest and Wildlands program. Both programs were fine tuned by streamlining administration, encouraging more resource management, and discouraging participation solely for property tax benefits.

Indiana is concentrating on landowners with larger forests and is ceasing service to small landowners (< 10 acres). They have developed a small woodlot tool box on their Web site by taking Backyard Woods tip sheets and customizing them to suit Indiana situations.

The Indiana Forest Restoration Fund is the State’s new nonindustrial private forest landowner cost-share program. The fund is supported by a 17-percent assessment from State forest timber sale proceeds, CLF fees and penalties, forest mitigation funds, donations, and other sources as may be identified. Forest restoration, timber stand improvement, reforestation tree plantings, forest erosion control, and program administration are eligible practices. In June 2006, the State made \$200,000 available to landowners. As State forest harvests increase, the cost-share fund is predicted to rise to \$500,000 annually.

The Division of Forestry has also realigned and relocated forestry districts. It used the Spatial Analysis Project priority forest map to determine workload for the districts. The redistricting plan



was approved in February 2006; 11 of the 18 current districts were affected. Two new districts were created and new foresters have been hired. At the same time, the Division of Forestry streamlined field operations by using a computer-aided rapid woodland assessment and prescription type plan for initial forest inspections.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

For current and past issues of the NA News Notes, visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>.

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, October 18, 2006**. 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.**

