



Northeastern Area News Notes



May 30, 2006



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Transporting Firewood—A Threat to Our Forests

It's the "all-American" experience—in summer we load up the family and head out to enjoy the great outdoors, complete with marshmallows toasting over the crackling campfire. How could this innocent activity endanger our forest resource? When we move the sticks of wood for our campfire, we also potentially move several serious forest insects and pathogens. Many of these insects and diseases weaken and kill trees. In some cases, such as emerald ash borer and butternut canker, they threaten to wipe out an entire genus and species of tree.

Let's take a look at who some of these sinister hitchhikers are, what can be done about them, and what larger efforts are being taken across the Northeast and Midwest to spread the word.

- Emerald ash borer—This exotic beetle is wreaking havoc across Michigan and has been discovered at locations in Indiana, Ohio, and Canada. Over 15 million ash trees have died in the United States alone. Many of the new discoveries have been associated with the movement of wood from infested areas. A single stick of firewood can carry enough beetles to establish a new infestation.
- Gypsy moth—This notorious hitchhiker has been moving around the United States for over 50 years on items transported by people. In late summer, the female moth lays its egg masses in hidden places and on surfaces. A nice pile of old firewood is an ideal spot for a gypsy moth to lay an egg mass. The eggs hatch in spring, and the tiny caterpillars disperse to find nice green hardwood leaves to chew.
- Dutch elm disease—This disease has been around for a while, but this villain doesn't act alone. It relies on a get-away vector—elm bark beetles—to transport it to new trees. The bark beetles live under the bark of dying and dead elms. They pick up the spores of the fungus from their galleries and move them to new trees. The bark beetles can have multiple generations per year, so infested beetles can emerge from elm wood throughout the summer camping season.
- Oak wilt disease—Oak wilt also relies on insects to transport it to new locations, but its mode of movement is a bit more specific than Dutch elm disease. The oak wilt pathogen, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, kills oak trees and then produces spore-bearing mats of fungus under the bark of recently killed trees. These mats of fungal tissue smell fruity and attract sap-feeding beetles, which pick up spores of the fungus from the mats and then go visit fresh wounds on oak. Oak wilt mats can form on firewood that has been cut from diseased oaks.



- Sirex woodwasp—*Sirex noctilio* is a new player in our woods. The females lay eggs in pine trees, especially stressed ones, and the larvae bore deep into the wood. The larvae can tunnel around in the wood for over a year, giving ample opportunity for the infested wood to be cut for firewood or made into pallets, which can then be shipped all over the world. Sirex and its associated fungus kill trees. Sirex woodwasp was first discovered in North America in 2005 and has been found in parts of New York State and across the border in Canada. The actual extent of distribution in North America is still unknown.

The list also includes beech bark disease, pine wilt disease, hemlock woolly adelgid, butternut canker, and Asian longhorned beetle. In addition to these known insects and pathogens of concern, there are any number of other unknown villains out there that can be moved in firewood or other wood products.

A common practice among car and RV campers, cabin owners, hunters, and other outdoor recreationists is to pack their firewood from home for use while camping or staying at their cabins. One easy thing that we can all do this summer is to leave our firewood at home and purchase or obtain it from sources close to our camping or recreation destination. We can also inform others of the forest health impacts of transporting wood from one location to another.

Since the introduction of emerald ash borer, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio have developed “Stop Moving Firewood” strategies in their respective States. These outreach strategies are enhanced by Federal and State regulations banning the transportation of ash firewood because of emerald ash borer. Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, and Illinois are all gearing up for independent firewood strategies; for the most part, the transportation of firewood is not regulated in these States. Wisconsin recently passed a law regulating the transportation of out-of-state firewood into State parks and forests (http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/firewood/firewood_greensheet.pdf). The Northeastern Area has developed a “Don’t Move Firewood” poster appropriate for posting at campgrounds and other recreational sites to inform recreationists about the dangers of moving firewood.

On May 24, the Northeastern Area hosted a “Firewood Forum” at the Morton Arboretum outside Chicago. The forum provided an opportunity for States to coordinate efforts, strategize together, develop consistent messages, and share resources and networks to raise public awareness about transporting firewood as well as improve public understanding of their role in the prevention and detection of invasives. We anticipate that the energy and ideas shared at this forum will help minimize the unknowing spread of these forest-threatening insects and diseases.

To borrow a slogan from APHIS, one of our important partners in the fight against invasive forest pests, “*This summer, pack your clothes, pack your flip flops, and pack your gear . . . but leave your firewood at home.*” Please do your part, and encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to do theirs, and leave your firewood at home this summer!

— Kathryn Maloney



NEWTOWN SQUARE OFFICE NOTES

Northeastern Area Participates in Hurricane Response Exercises With FEMA

In preparation for the upcoming 2006 hurricane season, which officially begins on June 1, the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is in the process of conducting full-scale tabletop exercises entitled "Hurricane Response TTX" in each of its regions along the east and gulf coast areas of the country. The exercises bring together all of the Federal agencies charged under the National Response Plan with primary responsibilities for 1 of the 15 Emergency Support Function (ESF) roles so that they can interact with one another as well as with their State and local agency counterparts and representatives from the private sector. Under the plan, the Forest Service is charged as the primary (lead) agency for ESF-4 (Firefighting).

On May 2-3, the first exercise was conducted by FEMA Region III based in Philadelphia, which covers the States of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Forest Service ESF-4 function was staffed by Newtown Square employees **Robert Hartlove** and **Alan Zentz**. During the week of June 19, FEMA's Region I (Boston) and Region II (New York) will conduct a joint tabletop Hurricane TTX exercise, and the ESF-4 function will be staffed by **Kathryn Duran** (Newtown Square) and **Steven Davis** (Army Environmental Center).

Smokey Bear Visits the Head Start Program in Shippensburg

Jan Polasky and Smokey Bear recently presented a fire prevention program to the Shippensburg Head Start Program located on the Shippensburg University Campus. Jan's daughter, Sarah, was completing her student teaching at the school during the spring semester. The teacher, Gail Gardner, and 18 students had a great time meeting Smokey and hearing his message about preventing wildfires and not playing with matches.



Gail Gardner and her Head Start students enjoyed a recent visit from Smokey Bear.



Don Dagnan (far right) worked with community volunteers on an invasive plant removal project at Drexel Lodge Park during an Arbor Day event.

Drexel Lodge Park Clean Up Day

Community volunteers removed invasive weeds from Drexel Lodge Park, just a few miles from the Northeastern Area headquarters office in Newtown Square, on May 6. **Don Dagnan** presented the *Dangerous Travelers* video covering best management practices for vegetation maintenance. Items highlighted included plant identification, inventory systems, mapping, mechanical control, herbicide treatments, weed-free products, maintenance techniques, and cleaning of equipment. Jim Sel Drake, Newtown Township manager, brought a truck that volunteers piled high



with weeds. Similar efforts took place at many other area parks to celebrate Arbor Day. Afterwards, hundreds of volunteers gathered at nearby Rose Tree Park for a picnic lunch. Newtown Square resident Dave Allen, who sits on the township's Environmental Advisory Committee, said *"We need to continue to encourage volunteerism and appreciate the great resource we have with the Forest Service in our own backyard."*

IMA NOTES

Data Call Not Just for the IMA Staff

Regardless of your staff area, series, or grade, you may need to respond to the data call for the competitive sourcing study of communications by June 7. Do you perform, manage, coordinate, supervise, or administer contracts for any of the following activities?

- Nonscientific writing
- Editing
- Designing, printing, or distributing communications products or tools
- Creating or distributing graphic artwork and other visuals
- Creating, distributing, or managing photography
- Creating, designing, or distributing audiovisual, video, and multimedia
- Developing and maintaining Web site content

If your answer is yes to any of these activities, contact your supervisor, group leader, field representative, or assistant director for more information about participating in the data call. For general information about the data call or for detailed definitions of the above activities, contact Gail Michaels (gmichaels@fs.fed.us).

ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Hot Topics at the Army National Guard Conservation Conference

More than 250 natural and cultural resource managers attended the Army National Guard Conservation Conference held May 1–5 in Traverse City, MI. Conference sessions are designed to update managers in laws, policies, and successful management activities. **Helene Cleveland** conducted two presentations on implementing the Army's Wildland Fire Management Policy, including developing fire management plans for national guard installations. **Bill Jackson**, Forest Service Air Quality Specialist based in Asheville, NC, gave a well-received presentation on managing smoke from wildland fires. The presentations were timely, as all Army installations with burnable vegetation need to develop wildland fire management plans by October 2007.



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES



Ken Dudzik (left) received the eighth annual Sharon Ossenbruggen award from last year's winner Dennis Souto.

Ken Dudzik Bestowed Eighth Annual Sharon Ossenbruggen Award

A tradition at the Durham Field Office continued when **Ken Dudzik** of the Northeastern Research Station was awarded the Eighth Annual Sharon Ossenbruggen Award on May 4, 2006. Bob Neville, retired Northeastern Area employee and one-time supervisor of Sharon Ossenbruggen, served as master of ceremonies. He was impressed as he read some of the comments about the yet-to-be announced award winner such as, *"This person is more diplomatic and positive than anyone in this building; in fact, this person's diplomatic responses are legendary."* Last year's award winner **Dennis Souto** announced Ken Dudzik as the winner. Ken, who has photographed many of the previous

winning moments, was prepared to capture the surprise of this year's awardee when his own name was announced. Ken's reaction was restrained as he lowered the camera and sat back in his chair. Ken said as he accepted the award, *"I worked with Sharon quite a few years and this is a great honor."* Ken was congratulated by employees and guests, including Sharon's husband, Paul. Ken received an award certificate and an award check, and his name has been engraved onto a plaque along with the previous award winners. The plaque is displayed in the lobby of the Durham office.

In addition, Length-of-Service Awards were presented. Of note were awards for 40 years of service to two Northeastern Area employees: **George Saufley** and **Dave Welsch**.

Durham Celebrates Asian Pacific Heritage Month

The Durham Civil Rights Committee presented a talk on May 23 in honor of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. Thad Gulbrandsen, Ph.D., spoke on "Reflections on Long-Distance Families and Global Security." His talk was based on his work with the Vietnamese communities in Manchester, NH, and elsewhere while he was a Research Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of New Hampshire. He shared his findings on the various ways immigrants maintain family ties with relatives overseas. A key issue is the influence that money immigrants send to their families "back home" has on not only the families' well being, but the local economy as well.



Thad Gulbrandsen discussed various facets of how immigrants maintain family ties during his recent talk in Durham.



Thad, who is currently the Director of the Center for Rural Partnerships at Plymouth State University (NH), took a few minutes to talk about the center's work with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and other community leaders to preserve the rural character and promote a greater quality of life in rural communities. He is working with **Roger Monthey** and representatives from a number of State agencies and nonprofit organizations on an agroforestry conference to take place next year. The focus is on highlighting alternative ways to derive income from small private forest lands.



Clayville Elementary School third graders help plant a paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*) at the RI Division of Forest Environment headquarters.

Rhode Island Celebrates Arbor Day and 100 Years of State Forest Service

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Division of Forest Environment celebrated 100 years of State forestry service on Arbor Day, April 28, 2006. The event included an open house at the Chopmist Hill fire tower, a tree planting, and a display of historical posters, pictures, and articles of forestry in Rhode Island. **Neal Bungard** represented the USDA Forest Service at the ceremony. Rhode Island officials in attendance included Acting State Forester Catherine Sparks, RI DEM Director W. Michael Sullivan, RI State Senator Leo Blais, RI Tree Council Chairman Frederick Stolle, RI Tree Council Technical Advisor John Campanini, and Gentian Garden Club President Caroline

Sieczkiewicz, as well as Paul Dolan, representing RI Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). Also participating in the festivities was the third-grade class from Clayville Elementary School; the students all received white spruce seedlings from the RI SAF. The tree planting was held on the grounds of the RI Division of Forest Environment headquarters in recognition and honor of division employees, past and present, and the division's partners and cooperators who have served a vital role in protecting and conserving forests in the State over the past 100 years.

Forest Service Outreach in Mozambique

Scott Stewart, Forest Legacy Specialist, Newtown Square, delivered a brown bag presentation at Durham in April on his recent 2-week trip to Mozambique as a community forestry consultant on a Forest Service International Programs Team. The request for a Forest Service team came from the Global Development Alliance, which is working with the Church of Sweden on developing two forest concessions in Mozambique. Concessions are long-term lease agreements with the government that allow the concessionaire to utilize the land. An important goal of concession management is improving the lives of residents of the communities associated with the forest involved in the concession. Scott was asked to provide input on how this goal might be addressed. Scott was joined on the team by **Bill VanBruggen**, Fire Management Officer on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Uncontrolled fire typically related to agricultural clearing or hunting is a significant obstacle to forest management. Bill was asked to give input on fire prevention and control.



International Project Learning Tree Coordinators Conference

Susan Cox and **Devin Wanner** (Morgantown) joined **Safiya Samman** and **Sue Cummings** from the Washington Office to represent the Forest Service at the Project Learning Tree (PLT) International Coordinators Conference held in Virginia Beach, VA, the week of May 8. The environmental education organization is celebrating its 30th year of existence.

The Mid-Atlantic Conservation Educators (MACE) group held a working lunch meeting before the conference began. Members from Ohio, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey met to elect officers for the next year and discuss events in their States. John Benton of New Jersey is the MACE president for the next year.

Carl Garrison, Virginia State Forester, spoke at the PLT conference about the State Forester perspective of the Conservation Education (CE) Program, and Forest Service CE Director Safiya Samman presented on the progress of the agency's CE strategic plan. The conference highlighted the new K–8 guides, high school modules on places we live and world forests, and teaching English language learners.

A special presentation was held at the PLT conference to recognize the 2006 National Project Learning Tree Outstanding Educators. One of the recipients was Barbara Cook, a teacher at Greenfield (OH) Middle School who has been involved in environmental education for more than 20 years. She has been a member of the Ohio PLT State Steering Committee for 10 years and is currently an executive officer. A second recipient was Anne Bohnet, director of the Science and Technology Enrichment Program at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center in South Carolina. Bohnet develops a wide variety of natural resource education programs for approximately 2,700 students in grades 3 through 12 each year. Bohnet is a former Forest Service employee who managed the summer intern program out of the NE/NA headquarters office.

The PLT also announced this year's Gold Star Awards, which are presented to State coordinators and partners of PLT who have provided outstanding support and leadership in the promotion of PLT. The Forest Service received a Gold Star Award for being a major partner with PLT and to recognize the contributions the Forest Service and its employees have made to PLT over the years. Other recipients included Lisa Deaton (Virginia Coordinator) and Mary Ann Halsey (Arkansas Coordinator).



New Hampshire Launches Forest for Every Class Institute

Forest For Every Class (FFEC), a place-based environmental education program for high-school and middle-school teachers, was launched in New Hampshire May 5–6. During the first day, which was spent learning about place-based education, the group was joined by **Safiya Samman**, Director of the Forest Service Conservation Education Program. The second day was spent learning about some of the research findings from the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest and reading the forested landscape at the Discovery Trail on the White Mountain National Forest. The program will continue in August, October, and February with sessions on forest ecology, logging site and sawmill tours, and contact with natural resource professionals. FFEC is jointly sponsored by New Hampshire Project Learning Tree, the Hubbard Brook Foundation, the White Mountain National Forest, and both State and Private Forestry and Research in Durham. FFEC began in Vermont through a partnership between the Green Mountain National Forest, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Shelburne Farms, and the National Wildlife Federation.



In attendance at the Forest for Every Class institute were (left to right) Clare Long (White Mountain National Forest), Safiya Samman (Forest Service CE Director), Susan Cox (Durham Field Office), and original FFEC partner Kathleen Diehl (Green Mountain National Forest).

Sudden Oak Death Survey Training

The Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) Survey training for New England and New York State forest health personnel was held in Sturbridge, MA, May 3–4. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation hosted the training, with instruction provided by **Steve Oak** (Southern Research Station), **Florence Peterson**, and **Margaret Miller-Weeks**. Participants were provided information on the status of the pathogen nationwide, potential impacts, survey methodology, host identification, symptoms, and sample collection. Karen Snover-Clift of the National Plant Diagnostics Lab at Cornell University, where the samples are submitted, described the diagnostic laboratory process used to determine the presence of the pathogen in samples. This is the third year of the survey in the Northeast; so far all of the results have been negative for trees and plants in the nursery perimeters and in the general forest. This year's survey is scheduled to begin in mid-June.

Massachusetts 2006 Tree City USA Awards

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) presented 80 Massachusetts communities with 2006 Tree City USA Awards in a ceremony at the Worcester Ecotarium in April. DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Berrington presented the national awards, sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, in recognition of communities of any size that are making a commitment to community and urban



forestry. Tree City USA awards recognize communities that meet four standards: having a tree board or tree department, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, enforcing laws that protect public trees, and holding an annual Arbor Day celebration. The cities of Worcester and Springfield each received special recognition for receiving their 20th Tree City USA Award. Massachusetts has the largest number of Tree City USA communities in all of New England and New York.

In addition, three Massachusetts utility companies—NSTAR, Chicopee Electric Light, and National Grid—received 2006 Tree Line USA Awards for meeting standards in quality tree care, ongoing worker training, and tree planting and education programs.

Trees Count in Boston

The Urban Ecology Institute is working with a coalition of city agencies, nonprofit organizations, the Boston Parks Department, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the USDA Forest Service to improve the urban forest in the Boston area. One major effort that will culminate this summer is a tree inventory, a citywide effort to inventory every tree on the streets of Boston using volunteer tree evaluators. The volunteers will be supervised by Elizabeth Walsh and Sherri Brokopp of the Urban Ecology Institute. A series of three workshops was held this spring, with the inventory work to take place throughout the summer. The workshops provide training in tree identification, evaluation, and computer use. Following the training, the volunteers are asked to provide at least 10 hours of service. **John Parry** (Durham) and **Dave Bloniarz** (Northeastern Research Station) are assisting the coalition in this effort. **Bill Frament** (Durham) has provided aerial photos of Boston to enable an analysis of the city's entire tree canopy.

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Arbor Day Event Held at Sisters of St. Francis Motherhouse

An Arbor Day celebration was held in Sylvania, OH, on April 28 at the Sisters of St. Francis Motherhouse. This event included a welcome by the hosts, a discussion of Federal involvement in emerald ash borer containment and eradication by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, presentation of an Arbor Day message and actions concerning the emerald ash borer by Ohio Division of Forestry Chief John Dorka, and a tree planting ceremony lead by Congresswoman Kaptur and Sister Jeremias Stinson. The Ohio Division of Forestry had displays and handouts about the emerald ash borer and reforestation



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (Ohio 9th District) speaks at the Sylvania Arbor Day celebration at the Sisters of St. Francis Motherhouse. Seated behind her are (left to right) Ohio State Forester John Dorka, two Sylvania Girl Scouts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Mark Rey.



efforts, and also distributed 500 white pine and 200 pin oak seedlings to those attending. USDA Under Secretary Mark Rey attended the event and presented American chestnut trees to the Sisters of St. Francis Motherhouse in recognition of Arbor Day.

The American chestnut was once the dominant tree species in eastern woodlands and was widely known in its heyday as the “redwood of the East,” covering over 200 million acres from Maine to Florida and from the Piedmont west to the Ohio Valley. The species was nearly wiped out by chestnut blight, an invasive forest pest that was introduced into the United States in the early 1900s. After years of research, the American Chestnut Foundation has produced a strain of American chestnut that is resistant to chestnut blight. The American chestnut provides a living tribute to the role that scientific research plays in solving threats to our native forests.

WERC Awards Grants Towards Sustaining Forest Products Industry

The Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) awarded more than \$1 million in 19 matching grants to spur innovation and applied research focused on maintaining a sustainable forest products industry. USDA Secretary Mike Johanns announced the awards at a news conference in Washington, DC, on April 27. This is the second year that WERC has awarded grants under this program.

“An important component of improving the health of hardwood forests is research to promote a greater variety of sustainable forest resources,” said Johanns. “These grants will help advance the adoption of new forest products from our eastern hardwood forests.”

Grant selections are based on a number of factors, including whether a project will help maintain the economic competitiveness of hardwood industries, bring information and technology to existing and emerging businesses involved in the development and manufacturing of wood products, bring marketing and business-related skills to existing and emerging wood products businesses, and address global issues and assist communities and industries facing threats from invasive species such as the emerald ash borer.

Gypsy Moth Projects Conducted in Mid-Atlantic States

Entomologist **Amy Onken** helped conduct gypsy moth suppression projects in several Mid-Atlantic States this spring. As part of the suppression efforts, Onken wrote environmental assessments and decision notices, and reviewed and approved aviation safety plans, work plans, and security plans for work in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, and West Virginia. In April, Onken and **Jan Hacker** provided technical assistance to the Michigan Department of Agriculture to calibrate and characterize aircraft. The calibration involved aircraft that will be used to spray pesticides during suppression and Slow The Spread (STS) projects throughout the areas served by the Northeastern Area and the Southern Region. Hacker and Onken provided on-site technical assistance during the Ohio suppression and STS projects.

Starting June 6, about 430,000 acres will be treated with pheromone flakes within the Gypsy Moth STS Project Area in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Aerial treatment using pheromone flakes will be conducted under a USDA Forest Service contract that is divided into three bid items. Onken will serve as the Contracting Officer Representative for Biditemone treatment of approximately 120,000 acres in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and central Wisconsin. Hacker will serve as the inspector on this contract.





Seminar participants inspect the best management practices at an active logging operation.

West Virginia Forest Stewardship Committee Hosts Seminar for Consulting Foresters

Approximately 70 service and consulting foresters attended the latest seminar sponsored by the West Virginia Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee. The “Forestry and Water” seminar offered presentations on the latest forestry best management practices (BMPs), and water quality laws and problems as seen by foresters, loggers, landowners, and regulators. There was also a discussion on what is involved in inspecting a logging operation while it is active and at close out. The participants, including **Karen Sykes**, took part in a field exercise to inspect the BMPs at an active logging operation. Participants critiqued BMPs and determined their effectiveness at preventing sedimentation from discharging into nearby streams.

Children Explore What Their Parents Do For a Living

The Morgantown Field Office hosted a “Bring Your Child to Work Day,” organized by **Ann Steketee**, on April 27. Nine children participated in activities led by various staff members. The children collected insects with bug nets and viewed insect collections and hissing cockroaches, saw a demonstration on the characteristics of different species of wood, participated in a flower walk, learned how to mount and view microscope slides, found their homes using Google Earth software, and made customized business cards. The event concluded with a pizza lunch.



Children listen to Rick Turcotte talk about his work with insects.

Forest Service “Bugs” Students at Cheat Lake Elementary Science Day

Rick Turcotte, **Bill Oldland**, and **Tom Elliott** from Forest Health Protection joined **Toni Jones** from the Northern Research Station to make entomology presentations at Cheat Lake Elementary on May 12. Three 40-minute sessions about insects were presented to approximately 45 kindergarten students. The presentations included a discussion of what insects are, where they live, and how they grow. Activities included coloring, viewing live and pinned insect displays, and using a video camera and monitor to show the interesting and strange world of insects up close.



The students enjoyed the presentations and many of them asked questions about insects. **Vicky Evans, Nancy Lough, and Helen Wassick** provided assistance by gathering handout materials and life cycle pictures.



One of the many participants at the Derwood Arbor Day Event learns more about the negative impacts of topping trees and the proper way to prune trees.

Annual Arbor Day Festival in Derwood, MD

Derwood, MD, held its 12th annual Arbor Day Festival on April 30 at the Agricultural History Farm Park. The weather cooperated this year by providing a beautiful spring day that encouraged many to participate in the day's activities. About 30 exhibits from State agencies, organizations, and nonprofit groups shared information about the importance of sustaining healthy forests. Exhibits included a display on invasive plants, information from the American Chestnut Foundation, and a booth where employees of a tree nursery handed out free trees.

The Morgantown Field Office State and Private Forestry staff has had a booth at the Arbor Day

Festival for the past 6 years. Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator **Donna Murphy** and Public Affairs Specialist **Devin Wanner** staffed this year's exhibit, which explained the practice of topping trees and how this practice actually does more harm than good. Murphy and Wanner talked about the importance of planting trees in proper locations so that overhead lines and other obstacles will not necessitate topping in later years. Murphy also shared information about how to properly prune trees and shrubs, and used tree clippings to demonstrate the proper techniques.

Sixth Graders Learn About the Importance of Groundwater

Sixth graders from throughout Washington County, PA, spent a day on the campus of California (PA) University at the Washington County Children's Groundwater Festival. The students attended a classroom presentation and viewed approximately 25 different exhibits in the gymnasium on topics ranging from stabilizing streambanks to

groundwater recharge. Students were required to visit at least five exhibits and answer questions about specific information at each exhibit. Personnel from the Morgantown Field Office had a station with information about riparian buffer zones and aquatic insects. At this station, students discovered the function of a riparian zone and drew one of the aquatic insects. **Karen Sykes** and **Regis Young** had previously collected live specimens of crayfish, salamanders, freshwater mussels, damselflies, caddis flies, and mayflies to show to the students. Sykes and **Devin Wanner** also used mounts of adult specimens to show students what the larvae turn into. The live specimens were released back into their natural environment at the end of the day.



Devin Wanner shows students aquatic insects at the Groundwater Festival.



AgDisp Steering Committee and USDA Aerial Application Research Planning Meetings

Amy Onken and **Harold Thistle** attended the AgDisp Steering Committee and USDA Aerial Application Research Planning Meetings in College Station, TX, March 28–30. Onken's involvement with AgDisp, a computer modeling program to predict aerial spray deposition and drift, includes identifying software glitches and interpreting data results. Other topics discussed included a regulatory perspective of using AgDisp, technical development efforts, and technical development needs. The application of pheromone flakes is a relatively new technology to people involved in aerial application in forestry and agriculture.

The aerial application research session ended with a group discussion of the research needs in aerial application for both forestry and agriculture. The meeting was very well attended, with representation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, the USDA Forest Service, universities, private industry, and representatives from regulatory agencies in agriculture and forestry in New Zealand and Canada.

Ohio Division of Forestry Demonstrates Accomplishments in EAB Quarantine Zone

The Ohio Division of Forestry hosted a field tour in the emerald ash borer (EAB) quarantine zone to demonstrate what is being accomplished to slow the spread of this devastating forest pest. The Morgantown Field Office EAB team—**Bob Acciavatti, Al Steele, Karen Sykes, John Hazel,** and **Rod Whiteman**—visited small pre- and post-harvest private landowner woodlots and discussed issues and concerns raised by the Division of Forestry about the ability of landowners to sell their timber. Also in attendance were representatives of the Northern Research Station, APHIS, Ohio State University Cooperative Extension, and the West Virginia and Michigan departments of agriculture. Hazel and Steele met with Ohio State Forester John Dorka to discuss utilization issues, while Acciavatti visited the Maumee State Forest with West Virginia Department of Agriculture representative Karen Kesh to see post-infested stands.

Tenth Annual West Virginia Envirothon Held at Jackson's Mill

The 10th annual West Virginia Envirothon was held on April 27 at Jackson's Mill. Thirty-three teams participated in this year's event. Teams are tested on their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soils, and a fifth topic that is chosen by the national committee each year. The five teams with the highest scores from a written test then gave oral presentations to a panel of judges on this year's chosen topic: Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate.

This year's winning team was the Shady Spring High School Biology Club from Raleigh County. Team members will share a \$3,000 college scholarship donated by the Weyerhaeuser Company. Shady Spring will also represent West Virginia in the Canon International Envirothon that will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in July.

The Ripley High School Environmental Science I team from Jackson County took second place, and team members will share a \$2,000 college scholarship donated by the West Virginia Farm Bureau. Team members from Ripley High School Environmental Science II placed third and will share a \$1,000 college scholarship donated by American Electric Power.

Chuck Reger, Vicky Evans, Karen Sykes, Toni Jones, and Devin Wanner worked with the West Virginia Conservation Agency and others to hold this competition.





Norman Montoy releases predatory beetles in the Blue Bend Recreation Area as part of an ongoing effort to protect hemlock trees from hemlock woolly adelgid.

HWA Control Efforts on the Monongahela National Forest

Rick Turcotte and **Norman Montoy** from Forest Health Protection recently released approximately 500 *Scymnus sinuanodulus* predatory beetles to combat hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) at the Blue Bend Recreation Area (BBRA), northwest of White Sulphur Springs, WV. The recreation area, which was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, offers family recreation and solitude under the canopy of many tall hemlock trees. The BBRA encompasses 41 acres of hemlock, white pine, and mixed hardwoods. It features two camping loops and two hiking trails. This is the first release of beetles at this site. It is hoped that beetles from this release will become established and provide a measure of control for this pest. The

hemlock woolly adelgid is present and represents a serious threat to the hemlock trees at this site. Predatory beetle releases are one of the control strategies being employed to fight this introduced pest within the Monongahela National Forest.

Turcotte and Montoy also treated 15 eastern hemlock trees with the systemic insecticide imidacloprid at the Blue Meadow and Falls of Hills Creek Scenic Area. The campgrounds and scenic area are popular with forest visitors and local residents. The imidacloprid treatment is expected to reduce hemlock woolly adelgid populations on treated trees and provide up to 3 years of protection. Trunk injections of systemic insecticides are one of the control strategies being employed to fight this introduced pest within the Monongahela National Forest. The hemlock woolly adelgid is present and represents a serious threat to the hemlock trees at these sites.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Firewood Forum

Judy Antipin, Forest Health Public Affairs Specialist; **Katie Armstrong**, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Liaison; **Tom Dilley**, Chicago Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator; and **Gina Childs**, IMA Group Leader, coordinated the recent Firewood Forum at the Morton Arboretum outside of Chicago. **Steve Katovich**, Entomologist, presented on the risks associated with moving firewood and the impact on the overall health of the forest. The purpose of the Firewood Forum was to



Participants at the Firewood Forum attend a breakout session entitled “Getting EAB in the News and Keeping It There,” facilitated by Robin Usborne from Michigan State University.



provide an opportunity for natural resource professionals interested in protecting forest health by limiting the movement of firewood to network and share information on this very important issue. The idea for this forum was conceived at an EAB preparedness meeting in Wisconsin on March 30. Representatives from 15 States and Canada participated. The forum evaluations are overwhelmingly positive regarding the quality of the presentations and the amount of knowledge shared.

Chicago Arbor Day 2006

Tom Dilley, Chicago Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, participated in the 2006 Chicago Arbor Day program at Ganty Elementary School in Chicago. Chicago's annual Arbor Day Program is a celebration of both Arbor Day and the city's recognition as a Tree City USA. Tom presented Mayor Daley with a plaque from the Northeastern Area recognizing him for his support for urban forestry and his contributions to Chicago's urban ecosystems.

Lisa Burban Receives Prestigious Grant Monitor of the Year Award

Lisa Burban, Group Leader for Urban and Community Forestry, received the second annual Grant Monitor of the Year Award. The award goes to the St. Paul Field Office employee who has done the best job of tracking their grants, including calling grant recipients, and filling out and filing monitor reports. The recipient receives a cash award as well as a life-size (and lifelike!) replica of a monitor lizard to be prominently displayed in his or her office. **Dennis McDougall**, Forester, is the previous and first recipient of this important award.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick, Maureen Brooks, Don Dagnan, Roberta Burzynski**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Devin Wanner**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul.

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DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, June 21, 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.

