



Tuesday, January 22, 2002

“GENTLE LOGGING” DEMONSTRATION SATELLITE CONFERENCE

The results of a “Gentle Logging” demonstration will be interactively broadcast via satellite on March 20, 2002, between 9:30 and 11:30 eastern standard time. We are looking for downlink hosts across eastern North America. The demonstration evaluated cut-to-length harvesting systems on a productive northern hardwood site with highly moisture-sensitive soils. These soils and forest types are common throughout temperate forest regions of eastern North America and present timber harvest challenges throughout the year. New harvest system technologies may provide increased access while minimizing the potential for negative environmental impacts.

This conference will have particular applicability to sites common across the Northeast, Midwest, and eastern Canada. Conference organizers are encouraging local Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) committees, public agencies, logging councils, universities, and others to incorporate this satellite broadcast into a local conference scheduled on March 20. SFI continuing education credits can be arranged through local SFI partners.

Satellite Conference Format

The satellite conference format will consist of two parts. The first part will involve several presentations of project background, methods, and results, including video footage and interviews recorded during the demonstration. The second part will be a “question-and-answer” session. During this part, members of a studio audience and participants at downlink sites will be able to ask questions of the panel of presenters via telephone, fax, or email. Project information is/will be published on the website: [<http://forestry.msu.edu/msaf/WERCdemo/MainPage.htm>].

Currently, the field part of the project is described and PDF versions of three reports are available.

The Demonstration Project

The field portion of the “Gentle Logging” project occurred May 9-10, 2001, at a location in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The Wood Education & Resource Center (WERC), a program of the USDA Forest Service Institute of Hardwood Technology Transfer & Applied Research [<http://www.werc-hdw.com/>], provided a grant to fund this project. Additional resources were contributed by numerous collaborators, including the Michigan Association of Timbermen, Shelter Bay Forests, Inc., Michigan State University, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Mead Papers, NRCS Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council, and Northern Initiatives. Equipment manufacturers included Fabtek, Harvest Systems, Partek-Valmet, Ponsse, Timberjack, and ATV-based trailers by NovaJack, Remorques, and Robinette Iron Arm.

Project Objective

This project evaluated the suitability of several low-impact logging systems for use on sensitive but highly productive northern hardwood sites, and demonstrated these systems in May 2001 to about 400 members of the logging and forest management communities.



Project components include:

- on-the-ground demonstration and evaluation of five ground logging systems.
- monitoring and evaluation of environmental impacts and cost-effectiveness of alternative systems.

Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits

- increase and/or maintain the availability of sensitive, but highly productive hardwood sites to sustainable timber production.
- increase awareness by public and private landowners and managers, non-industrial private landowners and loggers of suitable and practical logging systems for use on moisture sensitive hardwood sites.

Satellite Conference Contacts

Agencies and organizations interested in incorporating this 2-hour conference into a local educational event can contact Bill Cook, Michigan State University Extension, at cookwi@msu.edu or 906-786-1575 or Robin Hatcher, with the U.S. Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center in Princeton, West Virginia, at (304) 487-1510 or rhatcher@fs.fed.us. Links with C-Band and KU-Band will be available. This broadcast will be professionally produced through the public television studios at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. There will be no charge to downlink sites for participating in this conference.



1ST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SIMULATION CONFERENCE

The Maine Forest Protection Division and the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission sponsored the 1st Annual International Simulation Conference in South Portland, Maine, on October 16-18, 2001. This conference was held to share information about simulation hardware and software currently in use, as well as future products that are on the horizon. Experiences with actual operation of simulator packages were shared, and each agency attending left the conference with new ideas and product information for use back in their individual agencies. Several agencies actually

ran simulation exercises to show techniques and products that they are currently using, as well as problems they have encountered while developing their simulation exercise. A roster of conference participants was produced and shared with all participants as a networking, problem-solving tool. The 60+ attendees were from various state agencies, Federal agencies, and both hardware and software product vendors. There is a 2nd conference being planned for 2002 that will take simulation to the next level of information sharing. Thanks to all who helped to make this a huge success.





CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT — NOT JUST A SURVEY

Happy New Year! As you know, we've just completed our Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) survey. I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to those of you who took the time to complete the CIP survey. Letting your voice be heard through this survey is a great way of highlighting areas for improvement. Our response rate of 65 percent was identical to last year's and provided a solid basis for continuing improvements.

As you know, CIP solicits employee feedback on how we function as an organization – with the intent of helping us work more effectively and harmoniously – and in so doing, we provide better service to our partners. Continuous improvement in this area is something we all must contribute to and work towards.

While we most often think of “continuous improvement” as referring to our annual survey, in a broader sense, it is also appropriate to think about continuous improvement in the context of how we deliver our programs. We owe it to our Nation's land and resources, for which we claim the title of stewards, and to the American taxpayer, who deserves to know that we are maximizing the return on their dollar, to strive for continuous improvement. “Where are our programs having a positive effect?” and, “How can we enhance that effect and measure the improvement?” are questions that we all should be constantly trying to answer. This perspective is shared by the Bush administration, which has made a particular goal of government programs working towards more “results based and citizen centric” accomplishments.

One of three Special Emphasis Areas for NA, the *Stewardship/GIS Special Initiative*, has embraced this philosophy. In a nutshell, this 4-state pilot project (Maryland, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Missouri) seeks to:

- Identify (in a GIS) where stewardship plans have been implemented, and determine what has been accomplished under those plans,
- Assess the spatial relationship between those properties and critical lands and resources,
- Make the connection between work done under those plans and improvements or enhancements to the resource base, and,
- Provide baseline information essential for evaluation of where to focus future work and effectiveness of those efforts.

This project, conducted in partnership with those we serve, is a wonderful example of efforts to continually improve. We believe this effort will better position the Landowner Assistance program to affect more significant on-the-ground results, in terms of resource conditions and situations. The President, the Congress, and the American people expect us to accomplish such improvements and to report on the performance of our programs.

In mentioning this particular effort, I want to acknowledge that other programs are also working to develop innovative ways of serving the land and the people. Together, through innovation and continuous improvement, we will make a difference and achieve the results we seek.

With this first newsletter of the New Year – I want to thank you all for your hard work in 2001, and express my excitement at the opportunity to continue to improve in 2002. May we all have the best of New Year's.

Kathy Maloney



ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

AWARD FOR CIVILIAN SERVICE GOES TO HELENE CLEVELAND

Colonel Stanley H. Lillie, US Army Environmental Center Commander, awarded **Helene Cleveland** the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service in December 2001. Colonel Lillie commended Helene's leadership efforts in the joint US Army Environmental Center/Forest Service 2001 Boy Scout Jamboree exhibit. This award is the fourth highest Department of the Army honorary award and is comparable to the military Army Commendation Medal. The award is given for performance of duties in an outstanding manner, demonstrating initiative, skill, and leadership in performing assigned duties, and rendering service resulting in favorable local publicity.



Durham Field Office Update



Paul O'Conner and Steven Harris from Cornell Cooperative Extension at Shove Park, a community forestry demonstration site in Syracuse.

ENGAGING CITIZENS IN ONONDAGA COUNTY, NY

Onondaga County Cooperative Extension Service in Syracuse, New York, is working to engage citizens in community forestry stewardship. The project, funded with \$27,000 from urban and community forestry Title VIII funds, will develop a training program for citizens to enable them to become involved in local community forestry projects. Several demonstration sites will be established with tree planting as an integral activity. **John Parry**, urban forestry specialist, visited Syracuse in December to meet with project leaders Paul O'Conner and Steve Harris and to tour some of the project sites.

MEDIA TRAINING FOR U&CF STATE STAFF IN THE NORTHEAST

The Durham field office conducted a 1½-day workshop for the State Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) staffs in November. More than 20 people attended the training, conducted by the public relations firm Jackson Jackson & Wagner. Topics included developing relationships with the media, working with reporters, interviewing techniques, and writing news releases. Also included was a half-day business meeting that allowed the States and the Forest Service staff to share recent activities. Forest Service

employees **Cindy Chojnacky** (WO), **Matt Arnn** (New York City), **Rob Clark** (Durham), and **Dave Bloniarz** (Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry) served as presenters at the workshop, and **John Parry** (Durham) coordinated the training and meeting.



Grey Towers Update

COMINGS AND GOINGS

GARY HINES, KNOWN FOR PINCHOT ROLE, RETIRES

Grey Towers Deputy Director **Gary Hines**, perhaps best known throughout the professional forestry community for his role as Gifford Pinchot in the theatrical production, “Gifford Pinchot, From the Other Side,” retired recently and went back home to the Cascade Mountains of northern California. Gary had been at Grey Towers for 10 years, where he did all of our audio-visual productions, web page design and construction, administrative and visitor information activities, writing and public relations, and literally took on the role of Gifford Pinchot.



Many who saw Gary in “Gifford Pinchot, From the Other Side,” witnessed him transform himself into Pinchot and share with his audience the story of the beginnings of forestry in America and the Forest Service. It was broadcast on the PBS Television Network in 1993. He has received many awards, including the Department of Agriculture’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

Throughout his career, Gary focused much of his energy on the arts, particularly writing, songwriting, and music. After several years with an acoustic folk group in San Francisco and composing a film score for the 1974 Spokane World’s Fair, he accepted an interpretive specialist’s job on the Stanislaus National Forest in California. Throughout this period, he also freelanced as an audio-visual consultant, which included sound design for professional theatre productions and some acting opportunities.

Gary left behind his own legacy at Grey Towers: excellent interpretive material, Power Point presentations, his McGeary book, half a box of popcorn, and lots of AV equipment.

You can reach Gary via email at gary@aghines.com or via regular mail at P.O. Box 1456, 46800 Bodhi Tree Lane, Gualala, CA, 95445.

NEW HORTICULTURIST HAS “ROOTS” AT GREY TOWERS

Elizabeth Belcher, the newly appointed Horticulturist, is a familiar face around Grey Towers. Commonly known by her alias Beth, she was the 1997 Elisabeth Mortimer Garden Intern. In 1998, after receiving her BS in Environmental Planning and Design from Cook College, Beth was appointed the seasonal Horticulturist. Beth is excited about the upcoming Spring season and is looking forward to a productive 2002!



RECORD-BREAKING VISITATION FOR “CHRISTMAS AT GREY TOWERS”

More than 2,100 visitors came to Grey Towers during December, to enjoy our beautiful holiday decorations, Joe Plummer’s “Christmas Carole,” Gifford Pinchot Audubon Society Christmas Tea, a visit from Santa, demonstrations by the Lost Art Lacers, and our Open House. Visitors were impressed with the renovation work and commented on how much they missed having Christmas at Grey Towers while we were closed. Visitors were thrilled to be able to visit all three floors of the mansion, and this gave the staff an opportunity to explain how the conference facility will be used.

Kudos to the Milford Garden Club, whose members spent countless hours planning and decorating for the holidays. They were especially challenged this year by the mandate to use all artificial materials and to provide decorations to



all three floors, which included more than 50 wreaths and 20 floral arrangements. The themes on all three floors were reflective of the Pinchot heritage, using natural themes from Grey Towers and the grounds. The Garden Club worked to enhance, rather than compete with the renovation, opting away from the traditional red and green and going with more neutral colors.



NAPOLEON UNVEILED AT GREY TOWERS

About 75 visitors helped officially unveil the Napoleon statue during a December ceremony that included guest speakers and an Open House. During the month-long Christmas at Grey Towers celebration, the 2,100+ visitors had an opportunity to look closely at this highly acclaimed piece of art work, on loan to Grey Towers from the Smithsonian Institute, and other items in the Napoleon collection, originally belonging to the Pinchot family.

In addition to the statue, there is an interpretive exhibit that explains the Pinchot family French heritage, describes the “French Connection” in Milford, points out some distinguishing French architectural features at Grey Towers, and gives a history of the statue and its sculptor, Launt Thompson.

Seventh and eighth grade French students at Delaware Valley Middle School added to the display with individual projects, which ranged in creativity and diversity from an original poem about Josephine to a clay bust of Napoleon to a rubbing of a headstone at nearby Frenchtown Cemetery.

The statue and display will be at Grey Towers for an undetermined amount of time.

Morgantown Field Office Update

KINCAID COMPLETES TEACHING ASSIGNMENT

Dan Kincaid, Information Management & Analysis Group Leader in Morgantown, WV, recently finished teaching a semester-long class to students in the West Virginia University Division of Forestry. The class, Public Relations and Media Relations for Natural Resource Managers, was taught as an upper level class and consisted of primarily seniors majoring in forest resources, wood industries, and parks & recreation. The class was geared toward preparing students for the public relations, communications, media outreach, and community relations activities which are so very important for today’s forestry and natural resource professionals. Only a handful of college forestry or natural resource programs in the country offer instruction in these areas. Speakers, classroom examples, the textbook, and assignments were selected and designed for forestry and natural resource students specifically. Based upon feedback from the students and other school faculty, WVU Forestry hopes to offer this class as a regular part of its curriculum.

PANEL MEETS TO INTERVIEW ENTOMOLOGIST CANDIDATES

On January 10, 2002, a panel consisting of Don Eggen (PA DCNR BOF FPM), **Brad Onken**, **Bob Acciavatti**, and **John Hazel** met in Morgantown to interview prospective candidates for the entomology position vacated by John Omer. The interviews were preceded by intensive reviews of applications, a meeting to rank applicants to determine those who would be interviewed, and discussions with the applicants’ supervisors. Competition was keen, and Morgantown will be getting a good addition to its staff as a result of this process. Hazel will be forwarding the panel’s recommendation to Ken Knauer and the Area Director soon.



FEATURE ARTICLE IN SYLVAN COMMUNITIES APPEARS

Sylvan Communities is an excellent quarterly magazine published by the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Council. The Winter 2002 edition features an article written by **Tinathan Coger** titled "Urban Forestry: The Focus of the USDA Forest Service Mid-Atlantic Center" that discusses State and Private Forestry and the role of the Urban and Community Forestry program. It explains that the Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban Forestry is a key component of the program, and describes the great partnership that has developed between the Forest Service and Keystone College at La Plume, PA, under leadership of Keystone College President Edward Boehm, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, Professor and Coordinator of the college's Environmental Science and Forestry Program with the Forest Service under the leadership of **Donna Murphy**, Center Coordinator.

BALTIMORE ECOSYSTEM STUDY'S SCIENCE MEETING

On January 8 - 9, 2002, **Anne Cumming** was invited to attend the Baltimore Ecosystem Study's quarterly science meeting. 2002 will be a critical year for the Baltimore Ecosystem Study since its major funding source, a grant from the National Science Foundation, will be up for renewal. During this recent meeting, the partners of the BES (USDA Forest Service, University of Maryland, Institute for Ecosystem Studies, and others) summarized their findings from the last 6 years and brainstormed about new directions and projects for the new grant proposal. It was an honor and very exciting to have State and Private Forestry asked to participate in this process.

NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

Freehold, New Jersey, is the site for the monthly New Jersey Community Forestry Council meetings. The Council was celebrating the soon-to-be signed legislation authorizing a commercial license plate for the community forestry program. As with the non-commercial plates, these generate revenue for the State's urban forestry program. The bill was signed into law on Friday, January 11, 2002, and was the third piece of legislation the NJ Community Forestry Council had successfully supported during 2001. The others included laws dealing with oak disease and No-Net tree loss during development of State land. **Anne Cumming** was on hand to provide a federal update to the Council. As always, it is a pleasure to attend their meetings and hear about their current successes.

NORTHEAST AERIAL APPLICATORS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Amy Onken, MFO entomologist, attended the Northeast Aerial Applicators Association meeting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on January 14th. The Association represents agricultural and forest aerial spraying entities throughout the Northeast and normally attracts 75 to 100 aerial spraying company owners and their employees, including pilots. Pesticide company representatives often attend as well. Amy presented information about the upcoming gypsy moth suppression projects. For 2002, gypsy moth aerial suppression is expected to total about 300,000 acres in 10 states, and about 12,000 acres on seven Federal sites. Proposed treatments include single and double applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis*, Dimilin®, and the gypsy moth virus Gypchek®. Spraying will take place in highly urbanized areas as well as rural areas. Amy also discussed Forest Service spray characterization trials in Michigan. These characterization trials, led by John Ghent (Region 8) and Amy (NA), are designed to confirm spray swath characteristics for specific spray aircraft used in gypsy moth management. The results are incorporated into Forest Service guidelines issued to State and Federal gypsy moth management personnel planning projects. These guidelines help insure consistent use of spray aircraft, which is particularly important to aerial contractors bidding on spray projects, as well as, insuring proper use of the aircraft in order to accomplish project objectives.



St. Paul Field Office Update

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Steve Bratkovich (Utilization and Marketing) authored the recently published *Utilizing Municipal Trees: Ideas from Across the Country*. This 90 page, color booklet provides inspiring stories from entrepreneurs, tree-care firms, city foresters, and sawmill operators that see opportunities for making fine furniture, unique woodcrafts, and other lumber products from otherwise wasted urban trees. For more information about the publication, or to order a free copy, contact Steve.

IN THE NEWS...

In Business, a nationally distributed magazine designed to create sustainable businesses in communities, will include a feature story on “Utilizing Municipal Trees: Ideas from Across the Country” in their February issue. They asked **Steve Bratkovich** (Utilization and Marketing) to submit the article, which is a summary of his publication.

STORK MAKES RETURN VISIT TO THE HAUGEN’S

Dennis (Entomologist) and **Linda Haugen** (Plant Pathologist) are the proud parents of **Trish Marie Haugen**, born January 7, 2002. Trish weighed in at 7 lbs 4oz. Mom and baby are home and doing well. The father reports that the baby is very cute.

TREES ARE COOL

Don't use the commercial break during the Olympics to stock up on snacks, watch for the new commercial “Trees are Cool!” The USDA Forest Service is a member of the Coalition of United Green Partners, an organization dedicated to promoting responsible tree care. As a result of this partnership, two high-quality, professional commercial spots were created to advertise the importance of trees. The advertising campaign “Trees are Cool” is scheduled to run during Olympic programming on NBC and was developed in cooperation with the 2002 Winter Olympic Organizing Committee. In 1994, the ‘environment’ joined ‘sport’ and ‘culture’ as the third governing principle of the Olympic Movement. The Coalition of United Green Partners hopes that Olympic support, as well as the opportunity for prime airtime, will help promote the importance of trees. **Gina Childs**, IMA Group Leader, assisted in the distribution of the commercial to networks in the Twin City Area.

COMMUNICATING ABOUT CARING FOR TREES

Gina Childs, IMA Group Leader, has accepted the position of Communications Chair for the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture. The Minnesota Society of Arboriculture is a statewide organization dedicated to promoting the benefits of trees and proper tree care. The 300+ member organization is a chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

EXPLORING URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Teri Heyer (Conservation Education Specialist) is providing technical assistance to Project Learning Tree as they create a new conservation education module “Exploring Environmental Issues in the Places We Live.” This ambitious project is designed to provide educators with a useful tool for place-based education that can help create a bond between young citizens and their communities. This is the first time a Project Learning Tree module will include a web-based component, to assist students in exploring their environment. In addition, Project Learning



Tree is taking a broad definition of the urban environment and recognizing that all communities – urban, suburban, small town, and rural – are experiencing growth and change, and these changes impact a community's environment. They hope the module will help students understand the impact of these changes and explore solutions for growth and the environment.

INVASIVE BIOLOGY RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

Mike Connor (Entomologist) provided an overview of Northeastern Area's Forest Health Program at a recent research symposium of the University of Minnesota's Invasive Biology Research Consortium. His presentation highlighted the type of expertise the Forest Health Staff provides, as well as an overview of exotic species of concern. The symposium included presentations by other Federal and State natural resource agencies, as well as several presentations on current research and applied research by the University of Minnesota and their cooperators. **Steve Katovich** (Entomologist) is the USDA Forest Service representative on the Invasive Biology Research Consortium.

Editor's Corner

THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Dianna Johnson**, Newtown Square; **Lori Danuff McKean**, Grey Towers; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Melissa Emerson**, Morgantown; **Dan Kincaid**, Morgantown; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Al Steele**, Princeton, **Mickey Coonrod**, Newtown Square, and **Helene Cleveland**, AEC.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be February 15, 2002.

