



Northeastern Area News Notes



January 25, 2005



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Already Poised for the Next Century

Earlier this month I had the privilege to attend the Centennial Congress, a celebration of the Forest Service's first 100 years and an opportunity to consider its next century. In addition to the celebrations of our past and the premier showing of "The Greatest Good," participants met in small groups to consider our future as well. Chief Bosworth summed the input from a variety of breakout sessions into three themes for the future:

1. Valuing ecological services—the need to recognize the value of services such as clean water and air and the need for incentives for private forest owners to provide them.
2. Engaging the public in conservation—reaching youth and citizens to enable their actions to conserve resources where they live.
3. Partnerships—the Forest Service must be a good and true partner with others, sharing decisions, resources, and credit with others in the pursuit of shared goals.

It is clear to me that we, the Northeastern Area, have experience with and are working on each of those themes. We are well poised, leading the Forest Service into its new century.

The New York City watershed offers a prime example of valuing ecological services provided by working private forest lands. In this case, New York City is investing about a billion dollars to avoid the higher costs of building filtration plants. In the future, private markets rather than governments will be involved to solve such challenges.

Our work to transfer technical and other conservation tools and information to schools, organizations, and communities helps to engage the public. Our role supports and enables communities to conserve and enhance their forest and other natural resources. Efforts, including OASIS, Project Learning Tree, and many others, reach citizens across the Northeast and Midwest.

Of course, partnerships are the essential operating mode for us. Our partnerships in program delivery with the State Foresters and our collaboration through grant funding and technical assistance to a host of other partners is the way we operate day to day. We will continue to look for opportunities to improve the delivery of our programs, the effectiveness of our investments, and the strength of our partnerships.

So what's the challenge for the Northeastern Area in the Centennial Congress' three themes? I think it is to keep up the work we are doing, to reach more broadly to the people we serve, and to share the approaches we take and the successes that follow with the rest of the Forest Service.

— Kathryn Maloney



DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Meet Kevin Dodds, Forest Entomologist



Kevin Dodds joined Durham's Forest Health staff in January.

The Durham Field Office welcomed Kevin Dodds as the new forest entomologist on January 10.

Kevin grew up in Annapolis, Maryland. He moved to western Maryland to pursue his undergraduate degree in wildlife biology and to live in an area that had more trees than sailboats. While at Frostburg State University, he became interested in the role insects played in forested ecosystems. After finishing his degree, he went on to complete a master's degree in entomology at the University of Arkansas. Kevin spent several summers studying southern pine beetle and woodboring beetles in Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas. He then headed west to work on Douglas-fir beetle biology in the western States, spending almost 4 years in Oregon. After finishing school in Oregon, he moved to northern

Minnesota where he worked on a recent bark beetle introduction into native forests. Although moving to different parts of the country offered a variety of experiences and opportunities, Kevin is happy to finally be settling down in one location.

Kevin's many moves allowed him to pursue one of his favorite hobbies—spending time in the outdoors. He's an avid hiker and spent much of his time in Oregon exploring the Coast Range and Cascade Mountains. He looks forward to exploring the trails of New England, especially the White Mountains. If he's not outside, Kevin enjoys listening to many types of music (both live and in the comfort of his own home), reading, and cooking and eating new foods. Kevin adds, *"I'm excited about being back East and look forward to working on forest health issues with the people in Durham and the greater Forest Service community."*

Lights, Camera, Action!

State transportation departments may be able to identify risk trees along their roadways more effectively if the Durham Field Office can perfect its video windshield survey technique. **Dennis Souto, Susan Cox, John Parry, and Cindy Ash** have been working with the New York DOT to improve the identification and assessment of risk trees along their roadways using video they shoot for general maintenance purposes. Although not as accurate as on-the-ground surveys, the video survey technique can serve as a first-line effort to identify risk trees that may otherwise be missed due to limited resources and staffing. A training video that is being developed will be used along with risk tree assessment training as a pilot program in several districts of the New York DOT.

Massachusetts Proposes Federal Forest Designation

On December 16 and 17 in blustery Boston, a Forest Service working group including representatives from the Washington Office, Region 9, the Northeastern Area, the Northeastern Research Station, and the Office of the General Counsel joined Commonwealth of Massachusetts officials to hear and discuss their draft proposal for a new model of Federal forest land designation in northwestern Massachusetts. Massachusetts has identified fragmentation as a major threat and focused on its goal to conserve a landscape-scale working forest in the northern Berkshires in perpetuity. **Ted Beauvais** of the Washington Office attended to provide



a national cooperative forestry view. Field Representative **Karen Mollander** represented the Northeastern Area, while **Chip Scott** represented the Northeastern Research Station. Ellen Roy Herzfelder, Secretary of the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, briefly addressed the group, speaking on the current mix of fee simple and conservation easement lands Massachusetts manages.

Next steps include a briefing for Forest Service executives on the issues the working team discussed with Massachusetts and the proposal the Commonwealth is considering. Both State and Federal legislation would likely be required before any Federal forest designation could be made.

Northern Forest Lands 10th Year Conference

Over 10 years ago, the Northern Forest Lands Council developed 37 recommendations to preserve the character of the forested region in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York in the face of ownership transfers of large holdings of industrial timberlands. With grants from NA, the Northeast State Foresters Association (NEFA) has undertaken an effort to analyze and evaluate the current conditions in the northern forest region and the validity of the 37 recommendations today.

NEFA sponsored a public conference that drew 150 people to the Mt. Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, on December 10, 2004. In well-facilitated breakout groups, attendees scrutinized and commented page by page on the draft report. The group that created the 2004 draft report meets again January 20–21, 2005, to consider and incorporate the public's comments. This group includes members appointed to the task by the governors of each of the four States; Charlie Levesque, executive director of NEFA; and Federal liaison **Karen Mollander**. The final report will then be published, posted on the NEFA Web site (<http://www.nefainfo.org/>), and distributed in limited hard copy form. The report is intended to inform the debate and actions as next steps to maintain the unique character of the region's forest lands and the people who live within them.

Mollander Details on the Chequamegon-Nicolet

Karen Mollander, Field Representative, served a 1-month detail last fall as acting deputy forest supervisor on northern Wisconsin's Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, enjoying her brief return to the National Forest System. Karen participated in an on-the-ground timber sale review, forest leadership team meeting, personnel issues, and a field review with Wisconsin's DNR. She reported that NA's **St. Paul Field Office** was much appreciated on the Chequamegon-Nicolet for the forest health expertise they provide.

GREY TOWERS NOTES

Breakthrough Women in the Forest Service: A Cooperative Project

In a special detail assignment coordinated by the Forest Service, Grey Towers, and the Forest History Society, Louise Odegard of the Southwestern Region is continuing a project begun several years ago to interview "breakthrough" women in the Forest Service in an attempt to capture their stories and experiences. As an important part of Forest Service history, these women were the first in their fields. Louise plans to interview at least 25 individuals, including past and present regional foresters, deputy regional foresters, deputy forest supervisors, associate deputy chiefs, the associate chief, women who have been in more than one line position, and some of the mentors of these women. Several products, including CDs, a video, articles for magazines, recruitment materials (including posters and brochures), a Centennial series of stories, and much more will come from the project. Very fitting for our Centennial year!



Grey Towers Festival of Wood: Call for Artists

Are you an artist who works with wood? Would you like to share your work with others? Plans are underway at Grey Towers for the first annual Festival of Wood, scheduled for August 13–14, 2005. A large part of the educational event will be the “Out of the Woods” artist and craftsman exhibit and demonstration, intended to illustrate the variety of goods that come forests. Forest Service employees and retirees who work with wood and wood products are encouraged to contact Lori McKean at Grey Towers at (570) 296-9672 or lmckean@fs.fed.us.

Grey Towers Designated a National Historic Site

Legislation recently passed by Congress officially provided Federal National Historic Site designation to Grey Towers. Sponsored by Representative Donald Sherwood in the House and Senators Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter in the Senate, the bill sets into law the guiding principles that have been in place since the Pinchot family donated Grey Towers to the Forest Service in 1963. Language in the bill gives the Forest Service more flexibility to accomplish goals and enhances the site as a public resource.

Grey Towers had been operating as a National Historic Landmark, a Federal status that is concerned with historic preservation but does not spell out any additional mission. The legislation makes clear that the mission of Grey Towers includes education, research, leadership development, public recreation and enjoyment, and the preservation of the buildings, grounds, facilities, and archives associated with Gifford Pinchot. *“The designation of Grey Towers as a National Historic Site and the formal authorization of its mission will increase its status as a national asset, and help to better promote its history and its work,”* said Sherwood.

Visitation Escalates During Seasonal Programs

Grey Towers opened its big front door to more than 2,300 visitors in December, the highest number in the history of the annual Celebration of the Season. The Holiday Open House is one of the few times when visitors can view all three floors of the historic mansion, beautifully decorated by the Milford Garden Club. In addition to the open house, events and programs during the month-long celebration included a recognition reception for our supporters and volunteers, readings, an art exhibit, a children’s program, and an Audubon presentation.



Luminarias light the way to the Grey Towers recognition reception for supporters and volunteers.



MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

WERC Receives International Award for Communication Excellence

The Wood Education Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, West Virginia, received the Crystal Award of Excellence for its role in the creation of the Spanish/English Wood Products Terminology audio glossary. Al Steele, Interim Director, accepted the award on behalf of the center. The glossary is a Web-based list of common phrases in the wood industry translated into Spanish and English. A person can click on any of the phrases to open an audio recording in either language. The glossary was one of seven information products created as a result of a 3-year project.

The project began when the Indiana Hardwood Lumberman's Association (IHLA), along with a number of other industry groups, approached WERC to see if the Forest Service could provide assistance in helping the industry identify means of more effectively integrating Hispanics into the workforce. *"Recognizing the trend toward an increasingly diverse workforce, a number of regional and national wood industry associations felt an urgent need to begin a process of developing more effective relationships with their Hispanic employees. The development of information resources and tools was seen as an important step toward that goal,"* said Steele. As a result, the Forest Service and IHLA developed a cooperative agreement focused on devising ways to improve understanding and communication between Hispanics and their employers. The IHLA then contacted D.J. Case & Associates (DJCA) to implement the project.



WERC Interim Director Al Steele proudly displays the center's Crystal Award of Excellence.

The project was conducted in three phases. In the first phase, DJCA developed an assessment by conducting a survey that asked industry participants to discuss issues related to Hispanic workers. They also conducted focus groups with Hispanic laborers to obtain their perspective on issues related to employment at wood products industries and to ensure that their interests would be reflected throughout this effort. Phase 2 consisted of analyzing the data from phase 1 to determine what resources were needed and to develop those resources. In phase 3, DJCA pilot-tested the products and made revisions to them where necessary.

DJCA developed six hardcopy publications in addition to the audio glossary. *Working with Hispanics* is a resource designed to help supervisors understand the culture of the Hispanic ethnic group. The *Small Guide for the Hispanic Immigrant* was written especially for the immigrant to offer a summary of useful information in American life. The *Handbook Template* has everything a company needs to create a customized employee handbook in Spanish. *Company Orientation and Employee Motivation* is a 12-page handbook on how to orient and motivate employees. *Achieving Quality Through Teamwork* can help management develop effective teams and increase productivity and quality. The *Assessment Results* is a compilation of the surveys and focus groups that were conducted at the beginning of the project.

"Much of the success for the project can be attributed to D. J. Case and the Lumberman's Association. They had a way of attracting talented people to work on the project, people who had a clear understanding of the community to be served and a sensitivity to some of their unique needs," said Steele.

The Communicator Awards is an international awards program founded by communications professionals to acknowledge excellence in print, video, and audio media. Its Crystal Award of Excellence recognizes products whose ability to communicate puts them among the best in the field. This is actually the second



award bestowed upon the products created through the study. The *Small Guide for the Hispanic Immigrant* won a 2004 APEX Award for publication excellence.

All of these resources are available on the Web at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/wihispanic/>.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Emerald Ash Borer Case Study Presented at Fire and Fuels Meeting

Katie Armstrong, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Liaison, gave a presentation entitled “Case Study: EAB—Status and Working in Partnership With Other Agencies” at the Region 9 Renewable Resources, Fire and Fuels Meeting on January 12 in Milwaukee. Many of the approximately 120 people in attendance are employees of the National Forest System. The purpose of the presentation was to heighten awareness within the National Forest System of the threat of emerald ash borer and to inform attendees of the current status. In addition, Katie established numerous contacts that will be helpful in moving the eradication efforts forward.

Gypsy Moth in the News

Gypsy moth recently landed headline news in northern Minnesota where the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area and Region 9 are working together to eradicate an infestation of gypsy moth near the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area. **John Khyl**, Entomologist, and **Kristina Reichenbach** of the Superior National Forest have been working closely with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to inform residents and businesses and prepare the plans for eradication.

Remember the Northeastern Area Chief’s Review of 1995?

If you remember the Chief’s Review of 1995, you might want to read chapter 6 of *Jack Ward Thomas: The Journals of a Forest Service Chief*, edited by Harold K. Steen. In the chapter, former Chief Thomas describes his trip to visit urban forestry efforts in Chicago, stewardship projects in Vermont, the restoration efforts in the Chesapeake Bay, and the Little Blackwater Demonstration Timber Bridge in Dorchester County, Maryland. Although just a page in his memoir, clearly former Chief Thomas was touched by the difference State and Private Forestry programs make in the lives of our constituents.

Northeast Illinois Municipal Foresters Learn More About the Northeastern Area

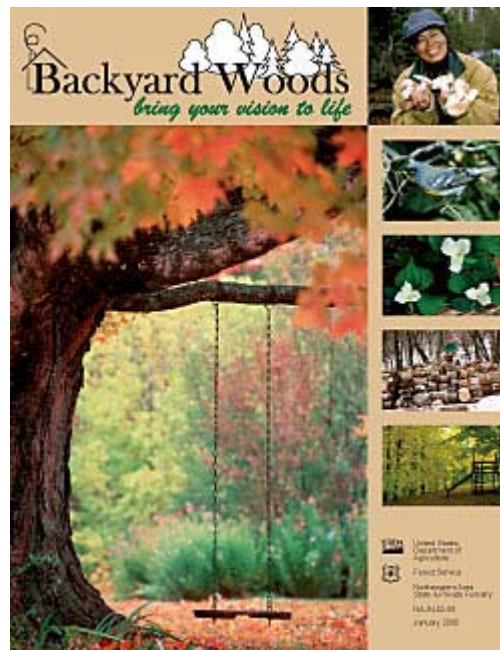
Lisa Burban, Group Leader for Forest Resources Management, was recently the guest speaker at the Northeast Illinois Municipal Foresters Luncheon, where she gave a presentation entitled, “Understanding the Federal and State Urban Forestry Program.” The Northeast Illinois Municipal Foresters is an organized group of over 100 city and municipal foresters who work in Chicago and the northeast suburbs of Illinois. They specifically requested that Lisa give this presentation to gain a better understanding of the Federal and State roles in urban and community forestry and how the Federal program is delivered in Illinois. Many members receive funding and technical assistance through the Federal program and are interested in learning more about program delivery and implementation.



Hot Off the Press—Backyard Woods To Be Launched in February

Backyard Woods, an informational campaign targeted to woodland landowners with 1 to 10 acres of forest, will be launched this February. The brainchild of **Mike Majeski**, Stewardship Coordinator, Backyard Woods is patterned after the successful Backyard Conservation informational campaign completed by the National Association of Conservation Districts. Backyard Woods is designed to inspire landowners to care for their land and provide them with the best “how to” information available. Backyard Woods’ informational materials include an introductory guide, a series of in-depth tip sheets, a Web site, and a source for additional resources.

In addition to Mike, several Northeastern Area employees have been instrumental in the planning, development, writing, photography, layout, and review of Backyard Woods. These people include **Robin Morgan, Nancy Lough, Vicki Evans, Lisa Burban, Teri Heyer, Dennis Haugen, Kathy Anderson, Steve Bratkovich, Jill Pokorny**, and **Gina Childs**, as well as private consultants and representatives of the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of Conservation Districts.



The Backyard Woods campaign targets landowners with up to 10 acres of forest land.

The National Arbor Day Foundation will assist with the launch and promotion of Backyard Woods. They will feature Backyard Woods in the March/April issue of their newsletter, which goes out to their 800,000+ loyal members, and will distribute a press release to newspapers and magazines nationwide. In addition, the National Arbor Day Foundation has established relationships with Lowe’s, National Home Builders, and the National Association of Realtors, and will be promoting Backyard Woods with these organizations as well.

EDITOR’S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Devin Wanner**, Morgantown; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; and **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, February 16, 2005**. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us. Please send text separate from photos and graphics, and include captions for all images.

