



Northeastern Area News Notes



March 24, 2008



From the Director's Desk

The Power of Partnerships

Partnerships are crucial in our efforts to best serve the 20 Northeastern Area (NA) States. They broaden our perspective, keep us from duplicating the efforts of others, and contribute greatly to the energy necessary to successfully tackle important issues that will affect the future of the forests and urban tree canopies we are charged with protecting.

I want to mention a few examples where the genuine commitment to cooperative and collaborative actions by all parties involved has had tremendous results. Over the past few months, a number of NA staff have been working on important issues through partnerships with our allies to address the serious issue of invasive insects and diseases:

- The Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) has partnered with NA since 2006 on “Investing Where it Matters Most” (IWIMM), a group of initiatives identified as those where we can have the most positive impact with our current resources. Among efforts to emerge from IWIMM was the decision to implement a coordinated, high-profile media campaign on exotic and invasive species targeted to forest owners, nurseries, and homeowners. One of the highest priorities within this campaign is to increase public awareness of the threat that firewood poses to the health of America's forests.

Recently, the campaign collaborated with the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds, and developed “Don't Move Firewood” materials for this organization to post on their Web site and distribute to members and campers in general. Similar outreach efforts to Major League Baseball resulted in the posting of firewood safety and emerald ash borer messages on the Louisville Slugger Web site.

- Several NA staff members are working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on its broad-based campaign called the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases. This initiative has assembled participants from the public, nonprofit, and private sectors in an ambitious effort on several fronts—stopping the importation of invasive insects and diseases into the United States, and stemming the continued spread within the country of those already here. The Continental Dialogue also identified firewood movement as a high-priority issue that is a serious contributor to the spread of invasive species.

NA, NAASF, and TNC have now partnered to sponsor an east coast Firewood Forum on April 15 of this year at an arboretum in northern New Jersey. This is an outgrowth of the very successful Firewood Forum organized by NA staff in spring 2006 in Chicago, IL.



State agency staffs and other stakeholders along the east coast who were unable to travel to the Midwest firewood forum event will have an opportunity to meet with their respective colleagues as well as other cooperators. They will learn the latest information on the role of firewood as a vector in the spread of invasive species, and ways to communicate the “Don’t Move Firewood” message to both the broader public and specific audiences, such as campers and firewood dealers. They will also hear how some States and other interest groups are tackling the issue of firewood policy.

These initiatives demonstrate the Area’s commitment to working cooperatively with partners in pursuit of important common goals.

For more information about the 2008 Firewood Forum, visit <http://na.fs.fed.us/firewood>.

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Water Conservation

When attempting to reduce our effect on the environment, our diminishing supply of fresh water should not be forgotten. We should consider this essential natural resource in tandem with all other efforts in reducing consumptive behaviors.

Ground Water Recharging

Urban sprawl and the expansion of paved areas have reduced the natural process of ground water recharging. In those hardscape environments, water from precipitation turns to runoff. This water is diverted to storm drains and waterways, increasing in speed and volume, and causing erosion. This increases sediments and contaminants that become part of the waterways where we live and are passed downstream to others. This can be minimized in the design of new facilities, or when considering improvements to existing facilities.

One method for improving ground water recharge is to use a road surface material called **pervious pavement**. Typical asphalt surfaces are designed to be tightly compressed and bound together with bituminous tar compounds that make them **IMPERVIOUS**. Contrary to most asphalt road surfaces, **PERVIOUS** material is composed of similar-sized aggregate bonded with a polymer to produce a porous surface that produces no runoff. Water disappears into the pavement on contact and is allowed to recharge the soil strata below. Design of the bedding and drainage system below this pervious material is critical to the effective use of a pervious system. The “recharge” bedding and distribution system are carefully planned to accept and properly disperse rainwater from the pervious pavement above, especially during peak rainfall events. This allows water to enter and be temporarily stored while it seeps into the ground below. Pervious pavement has also been used on roadways to prevent hydroplaning and distribute water to the road shoulders and beyond.



Sustainable Operations Efforts at Grey Towers—Examples of Water Conservation Actions

- Used pervious pavement in the new visitor service area parking lots.
- Planted indigenous plants and grasses that require less supplied water at the new visitor service area. Utilized native shrubs that are drought resistant and planted to match their preferred conditions, and native meadow grasses that are hardy and drought resistant. Drip irrigation was supplied until plants took hold and rooted properly.
- Installed drip irrigation beneath the surface of mulch beds to prevent evaporation.
- In 2008, Grey Towers plans to recycle water from various landscape uses into irrigation needs.
- Installed motion detection devices on faucets, toilets, and urinals in the visitor bathrooms
- Domestic water from the municipal water source is pumped for on-demand use by water cisterns. The quantity pumped is now monitored at a pump station on a daily basis by employees. Use is tracked for spikes in consumption. There is an automatic shutoff function when water use exceeds set limit.
- Fire suppression and irrigation needs are designed to be provided by a deep well/cistern system in the future.



Pervious pavement in the new visitor service area at Grey Towers.



Newtown Square

National States Aviation Conference and Workshops Held in New Jersey

The 2008 National States Aviation Conference and Workshops were held in Atlantic City, NJ, March 18–20, 2008. The Northeastern Area States Aviation Committee (NASAC) of the Northeast Forest Fire Supervisors hosted the conference. This annual conference provides critical updates and educational opportunities for those involved in managing aviation resources for fire and forest health programs throughout the Nation. **Dan Zimmerman** of Fire and Aviation Management (F&AM) and Forest Health and Economics (FH&E) coordinated with NASAC's planning committee and served as a moderator for the conference. The Northeastern Area supported this year's conference.

Topics this year included an overview of aviation response and issues in the southern California wildfires of 2007, use of National Guard resources, Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) and Fire Fighter Property (FFP) Programs in relation to State aviation programs, State aviation maintenance standards for FEPP, national airspace issues and updates, and an update on national aviation perspectives and issues from the NAASF and the U.S. Forest Service. Attendees included State cooperators and Federal partners. **Jan Polasky** (F&AM) and **Nancy Martin** (FH&E) also attended and represented the Northeastern Area.

Fire and Aviation Management Participates in Developing New Training Course

Under the National Response Framework, the Nation's plan for coordinated response to disaster, Federal agencies are assigned areas of responsibility based on areas of expertise. There are 15 specialized areas of responsibility known as Emergency Support Functions (ESF), which are activated to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency as needed during national incidents. The Forest Service, Department of the Interior (DOI), and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) are designated as the agencies responsible for supporting ESF-4: Fire Fighting.

Over the last several months, Forest Service employees from the Washington Office and Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry have been working with the U.S. Fire Administration to develop national standard training for personnel involved in the ESF-4 function. Previously, the training has been delivered on an ad hoc basis throughout the Nation without any standardization and was focused mainly on Forest Service participants. This new training is directed toward any ESF-4 agency personnel, including DOI and USFA employees, in support of our mission, which includes wildland fire fighting, structural fire fighting, and administrative support for the ESF-4 functional area.

A walk through of the new training course was held at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD, February 22–24, 2008. **Billy Terry**, **Jan Polasky**, and **Bob Hartlove** participated from the Northeastern Area along with representatives from the Washington Office and other regions. Seven courses are scheduled at locations around the country between April 29 and June 26 to prepare employees for this important task.



Sugar Hills Forest Legacy Project Has Star Power



Minnesota Forest Legacy Program Coordinator Dick Peterson discusses the importance of Sugar Hills.

Unassuming Minnesota foresters are showing that Hollywood movie stars have nothing on them. The Washington Office Cooperative Forestry unit is producing a video about the Forest Legacy Program (FLP.) The video, which highlights the unique aspects and strengths of FLP projects across the country, will be shown at conventions and meetings. Videotaping has been completed for four projects—two in the Northeastern Area (NA), one at Moose Mountain in New Hampshire (in which NA FLP specialist Neal Bungard had a cameo), and one in Sugar Hills in Minnesota.

Nancy Parachini, Washington Office Forest Legacy Specialist, arranged for USDA videographers to be in Minnesota from March 4 to 7, 2008, to interview a number of people involved in the Sugar Hills project. Dick Peterson, State Forest Legacy Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and Dave Epperly, State Forester for the same agency, joined Scott Stewart, NA FLP Specialist, to show that they were as comfortable in front of a camera as they were in the woods. Other people interviewed included partners Jim Hoolihan, president of the Blandin Foundation; Becca Nash of the Trust for Public Land; Art Norton of The Nature Conservancy; and landowner John Rajala. Interviews were conducted onsite at Sugar Hills and at the Minnesota Forest History Museum in nearby Grand Rapids.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources acquired a conservation easement for the 1,600-acre Sugar Hills property in May 2007. A family-owned forest products company that is actively managing the land for hardwood saw log production owns the land. This working forest is not only an important aquifer recharge area and recreational resource, but is ecologically and geographically unique within the region. The property contains about 12 miles of cross-country ski trails and draws visitors from as far away as the Twin Cities who come to use the trails. One skier visiting Sugar Hills during the video shoot described the trails as the best they had ever experienced. Hunting is also allowed on the property, and local sportsmen have been strong advocates of the project.

Northeastern Area Well Represented at New Employee Orientation Exhibit

A New Employee Orientation course was one of the offerings at this year's U.S. Forest Service Eastern and Southern Regions University, held in Columbus, OH, from March 10 to 21. The orientation course provides new employees with resources for successfully beginning a career in the Forest Service.

The New Employee Orientation course included a career expo to introduce new employees to the many organizations within the Forest Service. Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry had two booth spaces. **Devin Wanner** from the Morgantown Field Office displayed a brief overview of the Northeastern Area. The display had information about the program areas within the Northeastern Area as well as talking points about the percentage of private land that exists in the 20-State area.

Chuck Croston represented Grey Towers, ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the Forest Service. The Grey Towers exhibit also included a video. The career expo was open to



all participants of the University from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on March 12. Hundreds of Forest Service employees took the opportunity to network with others from around the country.

Durham Field Office

'Don't Move Firewood' Exhibit Popular with Northeast Campground Owners

NA staff members and forest health managers from member agencies of the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) worked side-by-side recently to communicate a major forest health issue to a target audience.

Volunteers from the Northeastern Area Office of Communications and State agencies across the Northeast collaborated to design, produce, and staff a "Don't Move Firewood" exhibit for the Northeast Campground Association (NCA) Conference. The NCA comprises 11 State associations representing more than 1,200 member campgrounds throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States. The conference was held in Springfield, MA, March 14 and 15.



Staffing the exhibit were (from left to right): Charlie Burnham and Danielle Johnson (MA DCR), Glenn Rosenholm (NA), Colleen Teerling (ME Forest Service), and Rose Hiskes (CT Ag. and Experiment Station).

Invasive species are a top Forest Service concern and are responsible for about \$120 billion in expenses and lost revenues and resource values each year. Recent studies indicate firewood movement is a major vector in the spread of invasive insects and diseases.

Maine Forest Service Entomologist **Charlene Donahue** helped make the exhibit possible. She spoke weeks earlier about the firewood issue at the Maine Campground Association Conference. There, an NCA representative offered her a free booth space at the upcoming regional conference to help the message reach a wider audience. She contacted the Durham Field Office about the offer, and the DFO Forest Health and Communications staffs welcomed the opportunity to do outreach to this important audience.

The NA/NAASF firewood exhibit proved to be surprisingly popular at the conference. Hundreds of campground owners and association members visited the space during the 2-day event. Several visitors said they were impressed to see State and Federal agency officials working so closely together on the issue. The display featured an assortment of firewood-related communications materials from NA, APHIS, and several States across the Northeast. Within just a few hours, campground owners across the Northeast grabbed hundreds of "Don't Move Firewood" posters, bookmarks, factsheets, cards, and other materials to help communicate the message to their campground visitors. Many of them said the communications products helped convey an important message from credible, authoritative sources.



A few of the many positive outcomes from the exhibit included:

- Important face-to-face communications with association leadership and campground owners
- Offers to help convey the firewood message in national campground directories and newsletters
- Additional opportunities to discuss the issue in major forums

Durham, NH, Receives Grant For Urban Watershed Improvements

The Town of Durham, NH, has received a grant of over \$350,000 from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The funding will be used to make improvements to Jackson's Landing, a town park, which will result in reduced stormwater flow and erosion problems into the adjacent Oyster River. The work will include turning a waterfront parking area into green space, turf, and trees. Other improvements will include constructing stormwater control structures, reconstructing a boat ramp, relocating parking areas, and adding universal access walking trails. The grant was a result of a 2-year master planning effort by the Jackson's Landing Committee led by Department of Public Works Director Mike Lynch and citizens Robbi Woodburn (landscape architect), Dwight Baldwin (water resource specialist), and Mike Sievert (engineer). **John Parry** from the Durham Field Office assisted the committee.

Vermont SOUL Training

The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program used distance learning to get its annual SOUL Training (Stewardship of the Urban Landscape) out to almost 100 new citizen volunteers. The SOUL training is a 12-session course that teaches urban forestry and leadership skills to citizens, enabling them to start urban forestry programs and projects in their communities. Graduates are asked to donate a specified number of hours towards a project. Kate Forer, a University of Vermont Cooperative Extension employee who coordinates the training, worked with the Vermont Interactive Television system to telecast the training to seven different sites around Vermont, allowing interested residents to attend the training without having to travel large distances. **Dennis Souto** from the Durham Field Office taught a session on identifying tree problems, and **John Parry** presented training on conducting tree inventories.

New Hampshire Urban and Community Tree Workshop

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and Division of Forests and Lands collaborated to conduct an Urban and Community Tree Workshop for municipal tree workers and community leaders. County Forester Fred Borman organized the workshop to introduce basic skills such as pruning, planting, and tree biology, and to get people involved in managing community trees. **John Parry** from the Durham Field Office provided training on evaluating risk trees.



Morgantown Field Office

Forest Service Spray Advisor Model Presented at Spray Efficacy Research Group (SERG) International Workshop

The Spray Efficacy Research Group (SERG) International Workshop was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from February 18 to 21. Amy Onken attended and gave a presentation about the U.S. Forest Service Spray Advisor Model.

The U.S. Forest Service Spray Advisor ArcGIS 9.x Extension was developed to provide spray managers with a comprehensive decision-support toolbox that works within widely available GIS software. The Spray Advisor helps program managers plan and assess aerial spraying programs. The system provides a user interface and a means of visualizing spatial outputs based on the ESRI ArcGIS software platform.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to Nova Scotia pest management and forestry issues, pest monitoring and decision support, the use of buffer zones in forestry, and forest pest management products (e.g., using B.t. for sawflies, Baculovirus to control forest pests, and pheromones for spruce budworm).

As part of the conference, SERG asks each Province to submit a forest pest conditions report to include in the workshop proceedings. Onken prepared a report for the United States.

SERG International is an association of forest management, regulatory, and research agencies as well as pesticide suppliers interested in forest pest management. The primary goal of SERG is to improve application technology and pest management methods associated with the use of pest control products in the context of integrated forest pest management. Members of SERG include the Provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan; the Canadian Forest Service; and the U.S. Forest Service. Approximately 80 people attended the meeting.

Onken always finds that the workshop is an educational experience that provides her with the opportunity to collaborate and share knowledge with others in forest pest management on the latest developments and advances of new technology.

Pesticide Stewardship Conference Held in Asheville, NC

Amy Onken attended the 8th Annual Pesticide Stewardship Conference in Asheville, NC, from February 25 to 27. A portion of the conference was dedicated to pesticide spray drift mitigation programs. A workshop on presenting and reviewing pesticide drift models was conducted on the second day. These models are currently available worldwide.

Jay Ellenberger from the WO Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) explained how EPA will address spray drift since pesticide labels once stated “do not allow drift,” which is impossible. EPA has established a workgroup that is focusing on label language to mitigate drift, education and training, and implementing current technology and equipment to reduce drift. Speakers from Australia, Europe, and Canada presented their drift mitigation measures that are currently being implemented. Onken noted that aerial spraying is prohibited in Europe unless there are no other alternatives.

Spray droplet size is the number one factor that influences drift. An afternoon session was devoted to pesticide spray quality and droplet size for stewardship and efficacy. Andrew Hewitt presented droplet size calculators for application support and product-specific models for label



compliance. This session also emphasized the need to educate applicators about the potential for drift regardless if they are farmers with their own ground spraying equipment or aerial applicators that treat thousands of acres a year.

After the modeling session, **Harold Thistle** (U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team) led the group in an open discussion to review issues, data gaps, and general needs in regard to existing models. The two major issues discussed were (1) establishing a “valid” model for predicting drift for ground treatment applications, and (2) getting these models into the hands of users with an understanding of how the models should be used. Predictions of spray drift from models are only as good as the quality of data entered into the model.

Forest Health Protection Staff Member Gives Presentation at 4th Annual Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Symposium

Rick Turcotte gave a 20-minute presentation on arthropods associated with eastern hemlock at the 4th Annual Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Symposium. This work is part of a project with Dr. Linda Butler at West Virginia University that is funded by the hemlock woolly adelgid initiative to look at insects associated with eastern hemlock. Included in the presentation was an announcement of two previously unknown mites collected from the branches of eastern hemlock. The mites are believed to be detritus feeders that make up part of a complex food web that uses the sweeping branches of hemlock as collectors of leaf litter and other debris falling through the canopy of the forest. In addition, Turcotte presented two posters: Improving the Accuracy of Crown Volume Estimates in Eastern Hemlock, and Spatial Distribution of Fine Roots and Soil Carbon Beneath Eastern Hemlock.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Presentation Made at West Virginia Botanic Garden

The West Virginia Botanic Garden held a monthly meeting at the Morgantown Chamber of Commerce on March 9. **Rick Turcotte** was invited to provide an hour-long presentation on eastern hemlock and the hemlock woolly adelgid, which was attended by approximately 10 to 15 West Virginia Botanic Garden personnel.

St. Paul Field Office

Digital Aerial Sketchmapping Training at Grand Rapids, Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Health group received two new digital sketchmapping systems this year. **Bill Frament** of the Durham Field Office delivered those units and led a training session for the Minnesota DNR with the assistance of **Marc Roberts, Quinn Chavez, and Dennis McDougall** of the St. Paul Field Office. The 2-day session provided Minnesota sketchmappers a hands-on lesson in the setup and use of both the hardware and software components of the system. Due to poor weather conditions, a scheduled test flight to use the systems was postponed, but ground-based simulations left the crew confident in their ability to use the systems this field season. The St. Paul Field Office and Minnesota DNR will reschedule the test flight and provide system support prior to and throughout the coming sketchmapping season.

National Forest Health Monitoring Working Group Meeting Held in Texas

Marc Roberts and **Manfred Mielke** of the St. Paul Field Office attended the 2008 National Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Working Group meeting in San Antonio, TX. The FHM



program reports on forest conditions using data from ground plots and surveys, aerial surveys, and other biotic and abiotic data sources. FHM also develops analytical approaches to address forest health issues that affect the sustainability of forest ecosystems, covering all forested lands through a partnership involving the U.S. Forest Service, State Foresters, and other State and Federal agencies and academic groups. Manfred gave a presentation on the history and status of the National Sudden Oak Death Detection Program. Other highlights included a presentation by James B. Hull, State Forester and Director of the Texas Forest Service, and a discussion of health issues in oak woodlands that included presentations on sudden oak death, gypsy moth, and oak wilt.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is **noon, Wednesday, April 23, 2008**. Please e-mail articles to **Deborah Muccio** at **dmuccio@fs.fed.us**.

Please remember:

- **Send text separate from photos and graphics.**
- **Include captions for all images.**
- **Do not place images in Word or PowerPoint.**

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