



Northeastern Area News Notes



November 23, 2004



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

What Does Forest Management Have to Do With Markets?

Forestry professionals talk frequently about management of our forests, focused on best management practices, sustainable forestry, and the many benefits healthy forests provide. Thoughtful landowners actively manage their forests for their objectives. In recent times, the talk has turned to concern about forest products markets, or the lack of them. Why? The simple reality: having viable markets (willing buyers and willing sellers) for the wood and fiber from the forests makes it economically feasible to manage forests in many cases. Recent trends indicate forest product markets are moving out of the Northeast and Midwest, often to foreign countries. As markets leave our region, landowners bear more or all of the full cost of management treatments, and the wood and fiber values may be lost as well. In many cases, landowners cannot afford to manage their forests without markets to support their activities.

At the 2004 NAASF summer meeting, Eric Kingsley, former director of the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association, described the state of the forest products industry in the Northeast and Midwest. Eric highlighted the challenges and opportunities facing these industries due to globalization. He encouraged attendees to reach out to forest industries, help them engage with other agencies, provide a climate for innovation, and be an excellent source of information. He emphasized that sustainable forest management *requires* (his emphasis) a variety of markets for forest products, and without those markets, we have a tool box with no tools.

How important are forest product markets to the USDA Forest Service? From a national perspective, forest product markets impact our efforts to effectively address the Four Threats to the Health of the Nation's Forests and Grasslands (Fire and Fuels, Invasive Species, Loss of Open Space, and Unmanaged Recreation). For example, forest pests like the hemlock woolly adelgid, the emerald ash borer, the red oak borer, and various bark beetles can only be managed in forest situations through removal of the infested material and/or improvement of stand health. Over large areas, the cost of tree removals is staggering. However, forest products businesses can provide the infrastructure for the treatment of large areas and make disposal of the infested material more cost effective.

Many believe diverse markets for forest products will always be available here in the Northeast and Midwest. However, Eric Kingsley pointed out the challenges facing forest-based businesses today. While demand for wood products continues to grow worldwide, other sources of these products are developing. These new sources of both materials and manufacturing capacity are already impacting our industries and markets in the Northeastern Area. We are losing businesses and markets.

Why does that matter? In the West, lack of diverse and strong markets is hindering our efforts under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. We are unable to treat extensive areas of fire-prone forest without markets for those trees. Interestingly, in the past year and after the tremendous fires of 2003, a number of business ventures and markets have returned to southern California to take advantage of the situation. It would be



most desirable to have markets help reduce hazardous fuels and the risk of damage from catastrophic fires, as well as being available to salvage what remains after a fire!

In the Northeastern Area's Strategic Plan we describe our commitment to maintain forest products markets in the Northeast and Midwest. In the past, we pursued these objectives primarily through the Economic Action Program (EAP). Our goal was to *"promote innovative and entrepreneurial community-based approaches to the sustainable use of forest resources."* However, the EAP was essentially eliminated in the President's budget. Many people are now engaged in dialogue about why and how to regain support for the EAP. The need for forest products markets is widely recognized. How to sustain our markets is the real concern, given the importance of markets to forest management.

The EAP provided a helpful tool and the praises have been sung for various projects supported with EAP funds. Unfortunately, in the highly competitive environment for Federal funds, project-based case examples are not enough. The challenge, represented by the loss of the EAP, is to make the business case for supporting forest product markets, whether through the EAP or any other tool. Within the Northeastern Area and the Nation, it is important for us to consider development of other tools, as well as to develop a compelling business or general case for the EAP, if possible.

Discussions are ongoing at all levels of the Forest Service, working to address this concern. The Northeastern Area will work to maintain the sustainable use of forest resources through efforts within our existing programs as described in our Strategic Plan. The technical assistance we have provided to States and landowners regarding forest products and their markets will continue as an integral part of our work. In many ways, markets make forest management possible!

¾ Kathy Maloney

Chicago Forum Launches Centennial Celebration in the Northeast

Over 100 invited cooperators, customers, and employees gathered at the Morton Arboretum in Chicago November 8–9 to celebrate the Forest Service's first 100 years of caring for the land and serving people. Chief **Dale Bosworth** welcomed the attendees at the Centennial Forum and invited them to participate in celebrating our accomplishments and looking to the next 100 years to identify new issues and possible ways for us to respond in meeting the challenges in natural resources management.

Within the forum theme "Healthy Forests and Healthy Communities in the East—Connecting People to the Land," five focused topics were selected for presentations and small group discussions: (1) restoring and managing the land, (2) retaining open space, (3) dealing with invasives, (4) connecting urban and rural communities to the land, and (5) building a commitment to a land ethic.

The Executive Team of **Randy Moore**, **John Nordin**, **Chris Risbrudt**, **Linda Donoghue**, and **Michael Rains** were active throughout the forum in introducing speakers and summarizing the recommendations from the five focus topic groups. **Lisa Burban**, Forest Resources Management Group Leader in St. Paul, served as the lead facilitator for the session and for overseeing the small groups and group facilitators.

Chief Bosworth presented awards to 11 individuals and organizations that have been important cooperators during our first 100 years. Wood plaques with a Forest Service shield and a slate taken from the Grey Towers roof during restoration were awarded to the following recipients:

- Gerald W. Adelman for Chicago open space preservation
- Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters for sustained leadership
- Pinchot Institute for Conservation for sustaining Pinchot's legacy of conservation



- The Nature Conservancy for restoring natural systems in the East
- Morton Arboretum for conservation through education
- Eastern National Forest Interpretive Association for quality interpretive programs
- The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests for leadership in establishing national forests in the East
- Student Conservation Association for building young conservation leaders
- American Forest and Paper Association for sustainable forest management
- Engineered Wood Association for sustainable forest management
- CenterPoint for environmental education and stewardship of prairies and savannas

Teri Heyer, Upper Mississippi River Watershed Coordinator, arranged for Susan Fowler's lunch performance of "With Every Leaf a Miracle." Susan involved all of the award winners and Chief Bosworth in the performance, along with the audience in sign language, poems, and stories. All attendees agreed that the Chief's performance as a ginkgo tree was excellent and admired his willingness to become a part of the program.

Five individuals were identified to represent the regional forum participants at the Centennial Congress to be held January 4–6, 2005, in Washington, DC. These delegates will play a special role, which will include full participation in the 3 days of panels, discussions, and evening events. At least two of the delegates will be responsible for sharing their perspectives on the key findings and highlights from the forum they are representing at the Regional Report Out Sessions. The five delegates for the Centennial Conference are Gerald Adelman, Executive Director, Open Lands Project, Chicago; John Rogner, USF&WS and Chair of Chicago Wilderness; Buddy Huffaker, Executive Director, the Leopold Foundation; Debby Blomberg, Lake States Women in Timber; and a high school student from Greenfield Village School, Michigan.

Two excellent field trips were conducted for participants the day before the forum. **Logan Lee**, Supervisor of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, led an all-day trip to view the restoration work that is being done on this unit. **Tom Dille**, Chicago Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, led an urban forestry tour that included visits with Federal and city staff to review the success of the Asian longhorned beetle eradication effort, a tour of Mayor Daley's rooftop garden atop Chicago's City Hall, and the new Millennium Park.

Possibly the biggest reward of the forum was the strong working relationship of the planning team made up of representatives of the Eastern Region, the North Central Research Station, the Forest Products Laboratory, the Northeastern Research Station, and the Northeastern Area under the leadership of Donna Hepp of the Eastern Region.

NA/NE Hosts Philadelphia Centennial Forum



After months of preparation, the Northeastern Area and Northeastern Research Station hosted one of eleven national events to commemorate the Forest Service Centennial, this one in association with the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The unique theme of the exhibition and forum, held November 14–15, was "Open Spaces to Crowded Places: Landscape Change Along the I-95 Corridor." More than 200 participants joined Forest Service staff in a day of reflection and exploration—past, present, and future—all documented

Visitors stop at Exit 9–Invasive Insects along the I-95 "Highway of Education" at the Centennial Forum in Philadelphia.



on video and DVD. In addition, the innovative exhibit staged by the Academy and designed with leadership from NA Landscape Architect **Matt Arnn** attracted more than 1,300 museum-goers along a “highway of education” with 13 “exits” documenting Forest Service investments in Research and State and Private Forestry partners along the I-95 corridor from Washington to Boston. Participants included State and private organizational representatives, local government, academia, and retired Forest Service employees.

President Teddy Roosevelt (performance artist Keith McGough) made an appearance to mark the historic event. Associate Chief **Sally Collins** keynoted the forum alongside Academy President **James Baker** and Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Director **Mike Groman**. Twelve additional speakers lead thoughtful discussions with participants on the topics of landscape change, urban ecosystems, backyards and main streets, and urban environmental awareness. Observers included State and Private Forestry Deputy Chief **Joel Holtrop** and his Washington Office staff, as well as executives from NA and NE. Input from participants will be compiled into summary proceedings that will be presented at the national Centennial Congress in January. Special thanks go to the more than 60 Forest Service staff who volunteered to organize and stage the event, officially designated as an incident command operation lead by **Bob Hartlove** of the Fire and Aviation Staff. For more information, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/centennial/>.



An appearance by Teddy Roosevelt, portrayed by Keith McGough of Pittsburgh, brought a touch of nostalgia to the Centennial Forum.

ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER NOTES

Partnering to Reduce Fuels; a.k.a. Have Fire, Will Travel

The Green Mountain/Finger Lakes National Forests in Vermont and New York, in partnership with the U.S. Army at Fort Drum, New York, have purchased a Terra Torch and H-1 Hummer pickup to enhance their ability to support their fire and fuels programs. The primary purpose is to use the Terra Torch (flame-throwing device) to treat hazardous fuel accumulations of brush and slash in the wildland/urban interface (where homes and improvements intermingle with forested lands) and maintain wildlife habitat. Additionally at Fort Drum, military readiness will be enhanced by



maintaining open space for troop training. This equipment allows fire to be used to meet burn objectives in weather conditions that preclude prescribed fire.



Development and purchase costs were shared between Fort Drum and the Forest Service. Ownership will be retained by the Forest Service and project costs will come from the benefiting partner. The Terra Torch is available to work on projects on other Federal or State lands. If you have further questions, please contact either Nort Phillips (802) 362-2307 x223 or Brad Bernardy (802) 767-4261 x518.



Forest Service Assists Tyndall Air Force Base

Seven Forest Service fire technicians from Regions 1, 2, 4, and 8 will be working at Tyndall Air Force Base, near Panama City, Florida, for the next 6 months. The technicians will be working on prescribed fire projects, weather permitting. At other times, they will assist with forestry and wildlife program activities. This project allows many of the technicians to stay employed during the winter season (most are permanent part-time employees) and will expand their knowledge of an ecotype not found on their home units. The experienced fire fighters will help Tyndall meet its wildland fire and fuel reduction program goals. Costs are paid for by Tyndall Air Force Base.

DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Fostering a Local Economy

Dean Huber joined over 70 landowners, business owners, and government personnel at a recent workshop entitled, "Small Forest-Based Businesses as Conservation Strategy for the Region's Woodlands," presented by the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute. The conference examined the many ways that small forest ownerships contribute to the local economy in creative and ecologically sustainable ways.

Conference topics included (1) highlighting small forest-based entrepreneurs from western Massachusetts; (2) discussing community resource economics and forest sustainability; (3) advancing the knowledge and development of small, entrepreneurial businesses; (4) strengthening support for small forest-based businesses; and (5) recognizing the contributions small forest-based businesses make to conservation and the regional economy. A highlight of the conference was a panel of current business owners whose form of commerce ranged from consumptive (e.g., custom wood worker, herbalist, mushrooms) to nonconsumptive (e.g., guest lodge, cross country skiing).

The Massachusetts Woodlands Institute provides its members the skills and resources necessary to be good stewards of their land, thus ensuring sustainable forestry and supporting local economies. The institute received a grant from the Northeastern Area to present the workshop, as well as to produce the publication *Profiles from Working Woodlands: Exploring Forest-Based Enterprises in Western Massachusetts*, by Susan Campbell. The publication is available from the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute, PO Box 301, Montague, MA 01351, 413-397-8800.

Medicinal Mushrooms of the Northeastern Woods

Roger Monthey, Forest Stewardship Coordinator, and **Ken Dudzik**, Northeastern Research Station, recently collaborated on an article on medicinal mushrooms that appeared in *Massachusetts Wildlife* magazine (Vol. LIV, No. 3, Fall 2004).

Use of these mushrooms for medicinal purposes has been widespread for centuries, especially in Asia. They are less used for these purposes in the United States, possibly because of cultural differences and concerns for mushroom poisoning. All of the mushrooms can be prepared as teas, and some can be used in soups or sautéed. These mushrooms are commonly found in many woodlots owned by small nonindustrial private landowners.



Marcus Phelps Honored by New York's Watershed Agricultural Council



Marcus Phelps (2nd from right) is joined by (left to right) Kevin Brazil, WAC Forestry Program Manager; Marcus' wife, Barb; and Karl Connell.

In early November, **Marcus Phelps** was presented the "Karl Connell Watershed Forestry Award" by the New York Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC). Marcus and his wife, Barb, were guests of honor at the 2004 Annual Forestry Dinner Meeting. Over 150 people came to celebrate Marcus' contributions to the WAC Forestry Program. The award recognizes Marcus for his wisdom, guidance, and leadership in the development and support of WAC's Forestry Program to promote forest stewardship, working forest land, and water quality protection within the New York City Watershed. Marcus served as the Northeastern Area's liaison to the WAC from 1997 until his retirement this past June.

Rob Clark, Forest Management Group Leader, and **Bruce Williamson** and **Sloan Crawford** from the NY Department of Environmental Conservation were among

the attendees at the annual meeting and award ceremony. Following the formal program, they had a chance to catch up with Marcus and hear how he is adjusting to retirement. Marcus is busy as ever. He and Barb reside in Southwick, Massachusetts, in a Phelps family home built in 1820. His days are now filled with tending his 10-acre wooded property, building a new timberframe addition, and riding his BMW motorcycle when the weather permits. And from all of us here in the Northeastern Area, CONGRATULATIONS MARCUS!!

Forest Tent Caterpillar



Both old (above) and new (below) forest tent caterpillar egg masses are used to predict defoliation.

Dennis Souto worked with Les Benedict of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and Paul Zang at Fort Drum, both in New York's north country, and Barbara Burns of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation in southern Vermont to evaluate 2004 forest tent caterpillar defoliation and forecast 2005 defoliation. This year many damaged maples did not produce a second set of leaves (common after early season defoliation). Our cooperators are concerned about the resulting impacts on trees and forest stands. Vermont is now evaluating conditions to anticipate what will likely occur in 2005. No defoliation is predicted on St. Regis Mohawk lands, but Fort Drum expects significant defoliation again in 2005 and, therefore, is planning a spray project for next spring.

Update on Best Management Practices Protocol

Dave Welsch reports that the Best Management Practices (BMP) Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Protocol continues to move towards full completion of the pilot testing phase. The goal of this regional protocol is to develop a standardized, effective monitoring system that can objectively display BMP effectiveness in protecting water quality during timber harvests. The protocol is on target to be fully tested and ready for field use in all NA States by summer 2005.



- West Virginia has completed data collection and, with assistance from **Helen Butalla** and **Cindy Barnett**, is in the process of uploading data.
- Vermont is also nearing completion of the data collection phase, having received assistance with equipment problems from **Bill Frament**.
- The New York City Watershed Team has also collected significant numbers of samples, in spite of the fact that they joined the project later than the others and received less field training.
- In Massachusetts, Tom Ryan (Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation) has nearly completed data collection and has assisted in troubleshooting the protocol program for PDA equipment.
- Massachusetts, Vermont, and the New York City Watershed team have cooperated to collect quality control samples for one another.
- Maryland has overcome jurisdictional difficulties to assemble the population of harvest operations and choose an appropriate sample. Data collection, which has focused in the western mountains, is moving eastward ahead of the onset of cold weather.
- Indiana will hold a training session and begin collecting field data in early December.
- Statistical analysis of quality control samples will be performed by the WET Center at the University of Massachusetts.

Shaping the Future of the Vermont Division of Forests

Vermont's Division of Forests will soon celebrate its first 100 years, and State Forester **Steve Sinclair** is busy working with his staff to prepare for a second century of extraordinary service. Steve, known for his creative, outside-the-box planning techniques, invited every member of his division to participate in an organizational change summit, entitled "Our Future—Your Experience." Steve chose to use the *Appreciative Inquiry* methodology to ensure the organization will continue to provide exemplary stewardship in the future. Over 70 percent of the division's employees accepted Steve's invitation and attended the 2-day summit in late October.

Rob Clark, Forest Management Group Leader, attended the summit and asked Steve why he thought the *Appreciative Inquiry* method will work for Vermont. Steve responded, "Most everyone has participated in a planning effort that has not had a successful outcome. One reason for this is that these efforts concentrate on identifying problems within an organization that need to be fixed. *Appreciative Inquiry*, on the other hand, is a positively based approach. It focuses on what works well, what it is that makes an organization a positive force, and identifies ways that these positive forces can be carried forward into the future."



Vermont State Forester Steve Sinclair gets into the spirits of things to prepare the Division of Forests for the next century.

Vermont forester **Jeff Briggs**, project leader for the planning effort, adds, "Roughly 70 percent of our organization will retire (or has) over a 10-year period. We would like to capture the input of our long-time employees before they retire, and also give those who may be starting out a chance to shape their career. We aren't entering into this process because there is a problem to be fixed, but because we have an opportunity to do this."

Judging by the large turnout and enthusiasm of all involved, "Our Future—Your Experience" is off to a very good start. The group discovered common values and vision, and identified possibilities for the future along with strategies to achieve this future. The group will meet again in early December to review action plans and agree on a final implementation plan that includes accountability, measurements, and a timeline.



GREY TOWERS NOTES

Fall Is Field Trip Season at Grey Towers



Students and their teacher examine a decomposing log.

Autumn was busy at Grey Towers with more than 1,500 area youngsters visiting the site for their annual fall field trips. Students in grades K–12 from schools in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey visited the Grey Towers Forestry Trail, where they participated in hands-on activities that focused on the forest ecosystem and tree identification. Students also learned about Gifford Pinchot and his impact on the early conservation movement in America through interpretive tours of the Grey Towers mansion and adjacent gardens.

The Grey Towers Conservation Education Program was expanded this year to include classroom visits. An additional 2,000 area youngsters have participated in programs about fire safety, water conservation, mammals and adaptations, trees, and recycling. Using widely accepted programs such as Project Learning Tree and Project Wild, staff can provide curriculum-based programs that address State-mandated academic standards and learner guidelines.

State Forestry Professionals Get Leadership Training at Grey Towers

A leadership course for State forestry agency professionals was held at Grey Towers earlier this month and featured educational modules on conflict management, collaborative decisionmaking, leadership, and policy analysis.

Cosponsored by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and the Forest Service, the session was attended by participants from Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Dr. Janet Ayres, professor and extension specialist at Purdue University, taught the module on conflict management, and Dr. Linda S. Prokopy, assistant professor in natural resources planning, taught collaborative decisionmaking. Dr. Al Sample, president of the Pinchot Institute, taught the policy portion, and Edgar B. Brannon, Jr. and Dr. Dennis Le Master taught leadership.

Initial feedback from the participants was favorable, with suggestions for future continued education programs on such topics as team building, mentoring, communications, emerging public policy issues, ethics, management and supervision, long-term planning, and facilitating meetings.

Pinchot Institute Announces Conservation Fellows Program at Brannon Send-Off

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation formally announced a new initiative for Grey Towers that will help perpetuate the Pinchot conservation legacy while commemorating the work of Edgar Brannon, who will retire at the end of 2004 after serving 15 years as Director of Grey Towers.





Ed Brannon listens to Pinchot Institute President Al Sample and Ross Whaley, former PIC Chair and past director of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

The Edgar Brannon Conservation Fellows program will enable natural resource decisionmakers and leaders in the public sector to pursue short-term study, idea development, and personal reflection at Grey Towers. Participants will have access to Pinchot Institute offices both at Grey Towers and in Washington, DC. Individuals can pursue study in a particular interest area, record experiences, conduct policy research, or further develop a personal idea or program, while enjoying an atmosphere that fosters creativity, learning, and personal development. The program is endowed through charitable contributions to a fund established by the Institute.

The Fellows program commemorates Brannon's work in natural resource conservation and leadership development. It was announced recently at an event at Grey Towers that also served as the Institute's send-off for Brannon, who was instrumental in securing and overseeing the recent \$12 million historic renovation of Grey Towers.

Grey Towers Art Exhibit Opens

A collection of artwork depicting a variety of different landscape features of Grey Towers is currently on display in the Gifford Pinchot sitting room at Grey Towers. The works were created this summer by regional artists who participate in the Grey Towers' *Come Paint With Me* program, an Arts and Conservation program that invites artists to interpret the Grey Towers landscape and buildings through artistic expression. The exhibit will remain in place throughout December.



One of the many paintings of Grey Towers currently on display.

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Beech Bark Disease Discussed on Monongahela and Allegheny National Forests

Rick Turcotte, Martin MacKenzie, and Al Iskra of the Forest Health Protection Staff and **Mary Ann Fajvan** of the Northeastern Research Station in Morgantown met with Glen Juergens and Jane Bard from the Monongahela National Forest on October 27. The group met and visited several stands in the Marlinton and Gauley Ranger Districts to discuss hemlock woolly adelgid and beech bark disease and their potential impact and silviculture treatment strategies in both pre- and post-affected stands. Two weeks later, Rick and Mary Ann went to the Allegheny National Forest to visit stands in the Bradford and Marienville Ranger



Districts with identical problems. They met with Andrea Hille and Jerry Jordan, and talked about potential impacts and treatment strategies.

Disability Awareness Program Features Modified Truck

October was Disability Awareness Month. The Morgantown Field Office held a program on October 29 on some of the assistive technologies available that give those with disabilities the ability to drive.

Morgantown employee **Devin Wanner** showed about 15 employees his specially modified truck. Devin has arthrogryposis, which restricts his range of motion in many of his joints. After years of hard work, Devin was able to get a truck specially modified to meet his needs; he obtained his drivers license 2 years ago.

Devin drives the truck using a joystick. The joystick controls the steering wheel by moving it from side to side, while braking and acceleration are controlled by moving the joystick backward and forward. All secondary controls and gear shifting is done from a push button screen that is mounted on the door. Two other buttons are also mounted on the door. One controls a series of secondary controls such as turn signals through a tonal system. When the button is held it cycles through a series of tones. Each tone will activate a different command. The second button activates the voice recognition system to give verbal commands. All of these systems run through two computers that constantly check each other to verify they are getting the same command.

Morgantown Veterans Day Program



Roxane Palone holds the poster honoring the employees of the Morgantown Field Office who served their country in the armed forces. Behind Roxane are a few of the people named on the poster, along with members of the John L. Frazier VFW Post 9916.

To honor our veterans and to remember those veterans who have passed away, the Morgantown Field Office held a special program on November 10. Guest speakers Bob Doyle, Larry Bowser, and Steve Pukansky spoke about folding the flag and flag etiquette. All are members of the John L. Frazier VFW Post 9916 in Westover. Bob Doyle served in the Korean War in the Air Force, Larry Bowser is a Marine Vietnam veteran, and Steve Pukansky served as an army corporal in Korea. They gave a moving presentation about the folds of the flag and the meaning of each fold. They also spoke about the proper ways to display and dispose of the flag. If anyone has a flag that is no longer usable, it can be taken to the VFW post, where all old flags are burned in a private ceremony each year on Flag Day, June 14. After burning, the ashes are ceremoniously buried.

Following the flag presentation, the new 2004 field office Honor Roll was unveiled and each person's name was read. The veterans present at the program each received a small gift. Refreshments were provided by the Courtesy Committee. Each year, in time for Veterans Day, the Honor Roll is updated and displayed in the lobby.

Wood in Transportation Program Holds National Timber Bridge Competition

The Wood In Transportation Program (WIT) recently announced a National Timber Bridge Awards Competition for 2005 sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the American Institute of Timber Construction and APA-The Engineered Wood Association. Bridges eligible for nomination must be open to use before December 31, 2004. There are five categories of nominations for bridges: pedestrian/light



vehicular bridges, vehicular bridges with main span greater than 40 feet, vehicular bridges with main span less than 40 feet, covered bridges, and other bridges, including rehabilitation. Nominations must be postmarked by April 30, 2005. The nomination application is available at <http://www.aitc-blulam.org/entry.pdf>. Similar competitions were held in 1992, 1995, and 2002. The 2002 winning nominations were published and can be viewed at <http://www.fs.fed.us/na/wit/pdf/WIT-01-0045.pdf>.

IMA Group Holds Meeting at Grey Towers



Some of the Information Management and Analysis group gather in front of Grey Towers during the all IMA meeting.

The Northeastern Area's Information Management and Analysis (IMA) groups gathered at Grey Towers in Milford, Pennsylvania, for a meeting October 19–21. The IMA groups from Newtown Square, St. Paul, Durham, and Morgantown provide service to NA programs and cooperators in budget and grant management, GIS, public affairs, congressional operations, information systems and development, database management, Web-site development, graphic design and desktop publishing, and conservation education.

The group discussed issues facing IMA and the Forest Service, including the IT Study and its ramifications, the future of conservation education in the Forest Service and the Area, revised policies and procedures for publication production, and how the IMA groups can work collaboratively to provide services more efficiently. Many great ideas surfaced, and plans were made for continued communications and interaction among the various IMA components.

Grey Towers. Brannon also presented an entertaining program on leadership that was filled with useful information. The group agreed the meeting was very beneficial, and decided to make it an annual event. The Morgantown Field Office volunteered to host the next meeting in fall 2005.

For many, it was their first visit to Grey Towers. Grey Towers Director Ed Brannon gave a wonderful presentation about the history of the conservation movement, the Pinchot family, and

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES

Steve Bratkovich Elected to Forest Products Society Board

Steve Bratkovich, Forest Products Marketing and Utilization Specialist, attended his first meeting as a Board Member for the Forest Products Society. Steve has been elected to represent the Upper Midwest on a 3-year term. The mission of the organization is to promote the use and sustainability of forest products. Their goal for this year is to increase their technology transfer capabilities. In addition, Steve will serve as a liaison between the international office and the local chapters.

Forest Products Manufacturing Aids Local Economies

Steve Bratkovich, Forest Products Marketing and Utilization Specialist, gave a paper titled "Contributions of Forest Products Manufacturing to Local Economies" at the recent *Manufacturing Competitiveness of the Forest Products Industry Conference*. One of the case studies Steve shared with attendees is how FIA and Census data can be used to document the importance of forests and forest industries within a region. As an



example, Steve highlighted the Northeastern Area publication, *Forests of Indiana: Their Economic Importance*. The presentation generated interest in other States and regions for developing similar products.

Spruce Decline in Wisconsin

Joe O'Brien, Plant Pathologist, recently worked with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests to determine the extent and cause of significant white spruce mortality on the forests. The trees have succumbed to “decline”—a combination of environmental factors as well as insects and pathogens. Over 8,000 acres of plantation white spruce are affected so far. The St. Paul Field Office and the Chequamegon-Nicolet developed a joint news release regarding spruce decline, and Joe O'Brien attended the public meeting on the forest. As a result, Joe was interviewed by Wisconsin Public Radio to further inform the public about the problem.

Foresters and Natural Resource Managers Learn the Fundamentals of Public Relations

Gina Childs, Group Leader for Information Management and Analysis, worked with her counterpart at the Canadian Forest Service, Francois Miville-Deschenes, to develop a pre-conference workshop on communications for the Society of American Foresters/Canadian Institute of Forestry joint conference in September. Their full-day, pre-conference workshop titled “Communications Skills for Natural Resource Managers” received high reviews from workshop attendees. The workshop covered the basics of public relations and gave attendees practical experiences in everything from working with the media to designing public meetings. Dan Kincaid, District Ranger, Eastern Region; Bruce Palmer, Fire Training Coordinator, Missouri Department Conservation; and Jeff Ghannam, Society of American Foresters, were part of the planning team as well as presenters at the workshop. Plans are underway to duplicate the workshop at regional and State Society of American Forester gatherings.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, **Terry Hoffman**, and **Phillip Rodbell**, 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, December 16, 2004**. 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.

