



Northeastern Area News Notes



November 30, 2006



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Updating the Northeastern Area Roadmap

As you know, the Forest Service in general, and State and Private Forestry in particular, is in the midst of a time of significant change. What are some of the changes we are facing? The rapid development of information technology has dramatically improved society's ability to gain knowledge quickly and easily, and globalization, in its many forms, has changed markets and their competitive forces—to name just two. There is also a perception that lingers—that State and Private Forestry is just a bank for State forestry organizations. While that perception is not entirely accurate, for the Northeastern Area (NA) to change it and remain relevant, we must take a close look at ourselves and ask whether we are doing all we can to be effective and responsive to the public and our partners in all the services we provide. Some things must change—doing the same old things the same way will lead to failure. This is why I believe it is time to update the Northeastern Area's Strategic Plan as our "roadmap" for the period 2008–2013.

To accomplish this task, I have appointed a core team led by Terry Gross, Acting Assistant Director for Information Management and Analysis. He is supported by Gina Childs, Constance Carpenter, Sherri Wormstead, Rebecca Madsen, and Deirdre Raimo. Paul Wright, a retired Strategic Planning and Resource Assessment Analyst from the Washington Office, is leading the plan analysis. I expect that the update effort will be completed in approximately 4 to 5 months.

Although we will produce a strategic plan document, it is not the most important aspect of this effort. Rather, I view strategic planning as a management tool that we will use to help inform our decisionmaking and the actions that shape and guide what the Northeastern Area is, what it does, and why it does it—with a focus on the future. It will be used to help the Northeastern Area to focus its energy, to ensure that all NA employees are working toward the same goals, and to assess and adjust the Area's direction in response to a changing environment. Because it is impossible for an organization to do everything, to satisfy everybody, or to afford everything, strategic planning implies that some decisions and actions are more important than others. Much of the strategy lies in making the tough decisions about what is most important to achieving organizational success. Strategic planning is only useful if it supports strategic thinking and leads to strategic management.

It is also important to understand what strategic planning is not. Although strategic planning is about fundamental decisions and actions, it does not attempt to make future decisions. Strategic planning involves anticipating the future, but decisions are made in the present. This means that over time, the Northeastern Area must stay abreast of changes in order to make the best decisions at any given point—it must manage, as well as plan, strategically. Strategic planning is a tool, but it is not a substitute for the exercise of judgment by leadership. Our strategic plan should provide a



framework and support the intuition, reasoning skills, and judgment that we as employees, along with our key partners, bring to the agency.

We will carry forward the current plan's goals and objectives based upon their continued relevance to the mission of the Northeastern Area, as well as the goals of the National Strategic Plan. The members of the Executive Team will determine which ones are most relevant and are encouraged to request input from their staff. In this way, we will develop outcome-based goals and objectives that will drive the business of NA through 2013. The plan update effort will also focus on establishing actionable strategies or "tools" to achieve the goals and objectives. The strategies will be directly tied to the NA budget. This will require the active involvement of our program managers and budget coordinators, to ensure that our budget is in alignment with our strategic plan.

Our strategic plan is an important tool for conveying our priorities to our agency as well as to our partners, and it serves as the roadmap to drive the Area's annual program of work. Through our strategic plan, we should be able to invest where it matters most. By identifying strategic objectives and measuring our progress towards them, we will show that we are attaining our goals and, in turn, contributing to the mission of the Forest Service.

— Kathryn Maloney

NEWTOWN SQUARE

Leveraging Investments in the Electronic Commons

Ever associate the word "institution" with the word "dynamic"? No less than one of our Founding Fathers did. Thomas Jefferson once said, *"With the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."*

Regardless of organizational affiliation or expertise, all natural resource professionals recognize that effective communication and collaboration with diverse and sometimes geographically distant partners, publics, and customers is now a critical part of our jobs. Not only does it have to be better, it has to be faster and cheaper. Despite these realities, an earlier review conducted by the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) indicated that the means by which we routinely communicate and collaborate, both internally and externally, hasn't kept abreast with relatively low-cost, ubiquitous, and powerful communication technologies. We have failed, as Jefferson admonished us, to fully "keep pace with the times."

To both demonstrate the possibilities and better understand the challenges, Northeastern Area Director Kathryn Maloney and Eastern Region Regional Forester Randy Moore agreed to a collaborative project, which ultimately became known as the Electronic Commons. A cooperative agreement was established with Northern Initiatives, a nonprofit community development organization, to identify and fund eight training, technical assistance, and natural resource-related community building projects using advanced communications technologies (e.g., Web pages, videoconferencing, video streaming, chat rooms) to share information and solutions on topics of concern to national forests and nearby communities.



Funded projects ranged from a series of “Webinars” for wood technologists and engineers on the preservation of historic wooden structures, to a series of electronic presentations by The Nature Conservancy on efforts to combat exotic invasive plants. To assist the grantees as they developed and implemented their projects and to ensure that the lessons learned in the Electronic Commons weren’t lost in the digital dust, the Center for Technology in Government (CTG) was engaged to provide ongoing assistance via teleconference to grantees throughout the duration of their projects. The CTG also conducted a post-project meeting to document the experiences of each project team and collectively engage them in an examination of the factors most relevant to project success. This lessons learned meeting, including representatives from all the funded projects, Northern Initiatives, the Center for Technology in Government, and the Forest Service, occurred on November 9–10 at CTG’s headquarters in Albany, New York.



Participants at the lessons learned meeting included representatives from the Forest Service, the Center for Technology in Government, Northern Initiatives, and the funded projects.

The Forest Service representatives to the Electronic Commons Project—**Al Steele**, Physical Scientist with the Northeastern Area, and **Don Howlett** of the Hiawatha National Forest—report that the Albany meeting was a great success. Steele said, “When organizers of Electronic Commons decided to include the post-project meeting, we had a sense it would be valuable to everyone, but we had no idea of how right we were. Not only were lessons learned captured, but there was a huge amount of peer learning that went on during the meeting.” Apparently grantees attending agreed. In a note to project organizers, Lisa Niemi of The Nature Conservancy said, “I have been to a number of workshops and conferences where, at the end, I have second-

guessed my attendance and participation; however, the evaluation workshop was a polar opposite experience. Not only did I learn a great deal through the evaluation activities, the interaction and information exchange among all of us project team participants was invaluable!”

While the lessons learned report won’t be out for a few months, it was clear from all attending that the overall intent of the project was achieved. Measures of success include the number of audiences that likely wouldn’t have been engaged without this effort, the large volume of information that flowed to and from sources of knowledge, and the nearly “viral” means by which communities of interest from across the Eastern United States became involved and participative.

Howlett noted that project organizers hope that the Electronic Commons project will create the foundation for ongoing collaboration between State and Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and others with an interest in improving the methods by which natural resource information and ideas are exchanged.

The lessons learned report will be prepared by CTG and will be available on CTG’s Web site, as well as at the Wood Education and Resource Center in the spring. To be notified when the report is available, contact Don Howlett (dhowlett@fs.fed.us) or Al Steele (astele@fs.fed.us).



For more information on the primary partners in the Electronic Commons, visit the following Web sites:

Wood Education and Resource Center <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/>
USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/>
Northern Initiatives <http://www.northerninitiatives.com/>
Center for Technology in Government <http://www.ctg.albany.edu/>

Community Greening Initiative Grant Program

The goal of the Community Greening Initiative Grant Program, sponsored by Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Trust, is to increase the percentage of tree canopy and expand green cover in urban areas. It emphasizes encouraging communities to integrate trees and natural areas in stormwater management strategies and to connect green spaces in order to maximize community and environmental benefits. This program directly supports the Chesapeake Bay Program's Urban Tree Canopy Goals

([http://www.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/Guidelines for Urban Tree Canopy Goals 11 2004.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/Guidelines%20for%20Urban%20Tree%20Canopy%20Goals%2011%202004.pdf)).

The trust provides up to \$300,000 in funding annually for individual grants of up to \$50,000 to help cities and communities do the following:

- Implement community greening plans, including plans designed to increase urban tree canopy
- Demonstrate green approaches to managing stormwater runoff
- Build and strengthen community coalitions that will sustain community greening activities in the future

To qualify for grants, a community must have completed an assessment of tree canopy and green space, adopt a goal for expanding canopy, and develop a community greening plan. In 2006, grants were awarded to the cities of Baltimore, Laurel, Rockville, and Annapolis, and to the Herring Run Watershed Association. **Al Todd**, Watershed Program Leader, worked with the trust to establish the program and was on hand for the grant announcement.



Maryland State Senators Michael Busch (second from left) and John Astle (fourth from left) joined Chesapeake Bay Trust board members and grant recipients at the award ceremony at the State Capitol.



Chesapeake Executive Council Meets



Participants at the Chesapeake Executive Council meeting included (left to right) Roy Kienitz, Deputy Chief of Staff (representing Edward Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania); Anthony Williams, Mayor of the District of Columbia; Emmett Hanger, Chesapeake Bay Commission; Steve Johnson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Tim Kaine, Governor of Virginia; and Robert Ehrlich, Governor of Maryland.

On September 22, leaders from around the Chesapeake Bay watershed gathered for the annual Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting. As part of the meeting, the Northeastern Area joined with the Conservation Fund in releasing the *State of Chesapeake Forests* report. This report is the first of its kind, summarizing more than a decade's worth of data from public and private sources highlighting current forest conditions, future trends, and key goals and strategies necessary to conserve and restore the forests surrounding America's largest estuary. The report can be found on-line at www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/.

The findings of the report captured the attention of the members of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council, who signed a new Forest Conservation Directive that calls upon the signatories to identify where forests are most needed for water quality and to establish a numeric goal for conservation by 2007. The directive further calls for a framework for achieving the goal that addresses the loss of forests during development, incentives for conservation, private partnerships, and integration of forests in stormwater management. Currently, the Executive Council is comprised of the following members:

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Chair—State of Maryland

Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.—Senate of Virginia, Chesapeake Bay Commission

Stephen L. Johnson—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Timothy M. Kaine—Commonwealth of Virginia

Edward G. Rendell—Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Anthony Williams—District of Columbia



Forestry partners gather at the Chesapeake Executive Council meeting.



Assisting the States in fulfilling the commitments made in this directive will be a major objective of the Northeastern Area's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forestry Program over the coming year. **Robin Morgan, Sally Claggett, and Al Todd** participated in the meeting with other partner organizations.



(Left to right) Sally Claggett, Becca Madsen, and Al Todd staff an exhibit for the Restoration Fair, held in conjunction with the meeting.



Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich addresses meeting attendees.

Volunteer Fire Departments—An Overlooked Opportunity

Billy Terry, Assistant Director for Fire and Aviation Management, and **Jan Polasky**, Volunteer Fire Program Manager, recently presented a seminar entitled “What if a Wildfire Happens in Your Backyard? Volunteer Fire Departments—An Overlooked Opportunity” to the National Leadership Team and Washington Office staff. The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Fire and Aviation Management Program provides training, fire-fighting vehicles, and personal protective equipment to the volunteer fire departments located within our 20-State service area. This assistance has saved countless lives and homes, and has resulted in over \$687 million of savings to Federal, State, and local governments. Assistance to volunteer fire departments is critical to the mission of the Forest Service. Volunteer fire departments are the first responders to the majority of wildfires across the country, extinguishing most of these fires before Federal teams need to be dispatched. This seminar was the third in a series designed to share information about Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry priorities and conservation opportunities with Washington Office staff. The PowerPoint presentations for the seminar series may be found on the NA Web site at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>.



(Left to right) Jan Polasky, Volunteer Fire Program Manager; Sally Collins, Associate Chief of the Forest Service; and Billy Terry, Assistant Director for Fire Management and Aviation, pause for a break after the Washington Office seminar.



Employees Volunteer at Philabundance to Support 2006 Combined Federal Campaign



NA and NRS employees volunteered an afternoon at Philabundance, packing boxes for the holiday season: (left to right, back row) Richard Marino, Steve Cohen (Southeastern PA CFC), Dianna Johnson, Patty Reiff, Linda Haenn, Dan Golub, Rose Sook, Elena Blanco, Joe Thompson; (left to right, foreground) Martina Barnes, Paul Polasky, Sokjae Cho.

The event opened the participants' eyes to how hunger affects our fellow citizens. The afternoon began with an orientation at the Philabundance headquarters, where the participants watched a video featuring families with children who live with the threat of hunger every day, if not for the assistance of the employees and volunteers at the Philabundance Food Bank. The group toured the warehouse and was assigned the duty of packing and stacking pasta for shipment during the holiday season. All were thrilled to have been a part of such a worthwhile cause.

The NA/NRS 2006 Combined Federal Campaign is now underway. Pledge cards can be submitted to Rose Sook or Martina Barnes through Friday, December 8.

On November 16, several Northeastern Area and Northern Research Station employees volunteered to assist at Philabundance, a nonprofit organization located in downtown Philadelphia. Philabundance's mission is to end hunger and malnutrition in the Delaware Valley by rescuing surplus food and distributing it to local organizations serving people in need. Participants included **Martina Barnes, Elena Blanco, Sokjae Cho, Daniel Golub, Linda Haenn, Dianna Johnson, Richard Marino, Paul Polansky, Patricia Reiff, and Rose Sook**. Also participating was Steve Cohen, a loaned executive to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) in southeastern Pennsylvania. At the end of the afternoon, the Director of the Southeastern Pennsylvania CFC arrived to congratulate the participants from the Forest Service for making history—this was the first time a Federal agency performed such a volunteer activity as a group!



Dianna Johnson (left) and Rose Sook (right) seal pasta boxes for distribution to southeastern Pennsylvania charities.



ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMAND

Department of Defense Forestry Workshop

The Department of Defense held its annual forestry workshop in conjunction with the Society of American Foresters conference in Pittsburgh, PA. More than 70 installation and higher headquarters foresters were briefed on global and domestic forestry issues and implications for installation management. The opening speaker, Mr. Alaric Sample of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, discussed the future of forestry in the United States. Woody biomass utilization was a common thread in several presentations, including **Al Steele's** presentation on opportunities in the Northeast. **Helene Cleveland** updated the foresters on wildland fire policy, management plans, and qualifications. Other Forest Service personnel presenting were Steve Reutebuch from the Pacific Northwest Research Station on LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) and its uses in forest inventory; and John Shaw of the Rocky Mountain Research Station, who explained the longleaf pine growth model in the FSveg computer program. Forest Service publications on forest health, crop tree management, urban tree risk management, and other forestry-related materials were provided to the participants.

DURHAM FIELD OFFICE

IMA Annual Meeting Focuses on Specialty Areas

The Northeastern Area's Information Management and Analysis (IMA) group met Durham November 14–16 to review the past year, discuss collaborative efforts within the organization and with partners, and look ahead to tasks assigned by the Area Director for 2007.

Led by Acting IMA Assistant Director **Terry Gross**, much of the time was spent in breakout sessions for the IMA specialty areas of public affairs, creative services, and Web and database information technology. Attending from the Public Affairs team were **Chuck Reger, Gina Childs, Keith Tackett, Bob Fitzhenry, Glenn Rosenholm, Devin Wanner, and Judy Antipin**. Creative Services was represented by **Juliette Watts, Vicky Evans, Patty Dougherty, Helen Thompson, Sandy Fosbroke, Roberta Burzynski, and Debbie Muccio**. Information Technology and Database Specialists **Peter Bedker, Cindy Barnett, Frank Cromer, and Terry James** met on their collaborative projects.

Discussion topics included the Area contacts database and communications strategy, the Washington Office seminar series, media relations, maximizing the effectiveness of the Internet and Intranet, net meeting capability, the Web and printed product processes, the publications database, and Investing Where It Matters Most. Terry Gross summed it up the best by stating, "This was one of the most productive IMA meetings that I have attended. I came away with the satisfaction that we met our goals and look forward to implementing the improved processes in the future as we continue to produce outstanding products in support of our mission."



Poster Selected as People's Choice

Rebecca Whitney, GIS Specialist, presented a poster entitled "Ability to Produce Clean Water" at NEARC 2006, the 21st Annual Northeast Arc Users Group Meeting, on November 13. The poster was selected as the People's Choice and received an Honorable Mention from the conference judges.

The poster highlights the importance of forests in protecting water quality and relates it to an assessment currently underway in the Northeast. Step 1 of the assessment describes the existing biophysical conditions of each watershed to determine its ability to produce clean water, and creates an index of water quality and watershed integrity using six attributes: forested land, agricultural land, road density, riparian forest buffer, soil erodibility, and housing density. The result will generate a defensible and understandable description of current conditions in the watershed. Steps 2–4 of the assessment will be released in 2007 and will expand on the relationship between forests, water, and people by incorporating private forest land subject to conversion, water demand, and development pressure into the index.



Towards Control of Large Gray Willow on Cape Cod



A grove of rusty willow invades the shore of Mystic Lake in Barnstable, MA.

Large gray willow and the closely related rusty willow have invaded ecologically significant pond shore habitats throughout much of southern New England. Many rare plant populations are at risk because of the shade cast by the willows. Botanist **Tom Rawinski** and Massachusetts's Restoration Ecologist Tim Simmons were recently asked by members of the Indian Ponds Association to assess the willow problem in the Indian Ponds area on Cape Cod. The invasive willows were certainly abundant, and the association is planning an aggressive control program once all the necessary wetland permits have been obtained. See the complete story at [http://www.indianponds.org/2006 Fall Newsletter.pdf](http://www.indianponds.org/2006%20Fall%20Newsletter.pdf).



Nontimber Forest Products Workshop in Maine

A workshop on nontimber forest products (NTFP) was held at Telstar High School in Bethel, ME, on October 21. It was the result of a partnership between member organizations of Maine's Forest Working Group, including the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM), the Maine Forest Service, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the State of Maine RC&Ds, and the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry. Similar workshops have been conducted throughout Maine and in other States over the past few years with a two-fold objective: (1) to provide basic information to landowners so that they can better enjoy and appreciate their woodlands, and (2) to educate landowners about the NTFPs that can be derived from their woodlands in addition to timber. The morning included sessions on an introduction to the type of NTFPs that are marketed in Maine, identification and selection of specialty woods, and how to market NTFPs with a specific case study (potted cranberry plants with their brilliant red fruits attached). **Roger Monthey**, Forest Stewardship Coordinator, presented a session on woodland ecology with specific information on plants and mushrooms that can be utilized as NTFPs. In the afternoon, the group adjourned to the nearby woodlot of Ernest and Alberta Angevine to learn about their efforts to manage their woodlots for both timber and NTFPs.

Fall BMP Monitoring Protocol Training Sessions and Assistance

Dave Welsch, Watershed Specialist, continues to provide training and technical assistance on the BMP monitoring protocol. Audiences at training sessions this fall included New Hampshire loggers and foresters in the Long Pond area of the White Mountain National Forest, 50 foresters and loggers at two Vermont skidder bridge workshops, and Plum Creek Corporation staff foresters at their Marshall Yard Facility and on company lands in the Bingham and Jackman, Maine area. **Bill Frament** and **Teri Heyer** assisted Dave with a training session for 20 members of the Wisconsin DNR BMP monitoring team. Dave also provided BMP monitoring protocol quality control assistance to the Maine Forest Service Southern Team at the request of the Maine watershed program leader.

MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE

Effective Responses to Exotic Pest Infestations: Real World Requirements

At the recent Society of American Foresters Conference in Pittsburgh, **Al Steele**, Physical Scientist/Forest Products Specialist, organized and presented at a panel entitled "Effective Responses to Exotic Pest Infestations: Real World Requirements," which used emerald ash borer (EAB) as a case study. Research Entomologists Dr. Deborah McCullough (Michigan State University) and Dr. Therese Poland (Northern Research Station, Lansing, MI) provided a comprehensive summary of their research efforts examining the biology, development, population dynamics, host range, treatments, and biological controls of EAB. Gregg Maxfield, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manager responsible for the delivery of programs in northwestern Ohio, an area heavily impacted by EAB, provided an update on the DNR's multi-faceted approach to EAB containment and unique insights into the adaptations necessary as the outbreak evolves. Steele's presentation included results of applied research focused on ash utilization conducted in collaboration with Michigan State University, the Northern Research Station, the Ohio DNR, nongovernmental organizations, wood processors, and equipment manufacturers. In his talk entitled "A Critical Role for Industry in Addressing Exotic Pest



Infestations,” Steele underscored the economic imperative of developing cost-effective means of utilizing infested trees versus the more typical disposal methods currently employed.

Panel attendees included a diverse mix of State and Federal agency personnel, academia, and private sector interests. The wood buyer for wooden baseball bat manufacturer Louisville Slugger was a particularly engaged and appreciative participant.

Detection Surveys Come Back Negative

Forest Health Protection staff in Morgantown conducted an emerald ash borer (EAB) detection survey in September and October on the Wayne and Allegheny National Forests. **Jan Hacker** surveyed 19 sites in Hocking, Lawrence, Monroe, Perry, Scioto, and Washington Counties in Ohio, while **Tom Elliott** surveyed 7 sites in McKean, Forest, Warren, and Elk Counties in Pennsylvania. Though trap trees are now generally used for EAB surveys, visual inspections were used in this survey. Emerald ash borer was not detected at any of the sites.

Between May and September, Nick Bohurjak and Tom Hebda of the Allegheny National Forest conducted hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) detection surveys in 92 hemlock stands throughout the forest. In 2005, HWA was reported in Elk County (Benezette Township) approximately 25 miles from the Allegheny National Forest. The impact of HWA on eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is severe; significant tree mortality usually occurs within 4 to 7 years after infestation.

The EAB survey sites on the Wayne and Allegheny National Forests, which were chosen by forest personnel, are all recreational sites used for overnight camping. Since firewood is considered the primary mode of movement for this insect, these types of sites were seen as the most likely location for introduction. Future assessments will center on targeted surveys of other potential points of introduction. The selected sites were visually surveyed by walking transects through the areas as well as a 50-foot buffer around them. In addition, 10 ash trees (declining trees if found) at each site were selected for close inspection. Since traps and attractants for adult EABs are not yet available, this method will continue to be used until other nondestructive methods are developed.

The purposes of these detection surveys were as follows:

- Locate any existing EAB or HWA infestations
- Identify and survey the most likely areas for EAB introduction and establishment
- Provide a format for reporting and recording both positive and negative EAB detections
- Provide a minimum detection threshold whereby HWA can be detected with 75-percent reliability in hemlock stands where at least 2 percent of the trees are infested
- Make an efficient determination of the percentage of trees infested with HWA within a stand

Even though neither EAB nor HWA has been detected on either forest, it is important that field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of these and other insect and disease organisms, and report this information to the Morgantown Field Office. As part of continuing monitoring efforts for next year, Forest Health Protection staff members plan to identify new sites and revisit sites that have the highest likelihood of becoming infested. These areas will include campgrounds, trailheads, and other highly visited areas.



Amy Onken Presents at the Western North American Defoliator Working Group Meeting

On October 17–18, **Amy Onken** attended the Western North American Defoliator Working Group (WNADWG) meeting in Albuquerque, NM. During last year’s meeting, attendees had expressed concern about a lack of aerial application expertise and available aerial application training sessions in the West.

WNADWG chair Iral Ragenovich asked Onken to give a presentation on application project planning and execution, and future application training. The presentation was well received, with a lot of questions and discussion. State entomologists are receiving requests from private landowners for aerial application assistance and advice. Most of the State and Forest Service

entomologists who attended the meeting felt that there is an urgent need to resurrect an advanced training session for the aerial and ground application of pesticides. The group requested Iral to bring this issue to the Forest Health Protection Directors meeting the following week.

A field trip was conducted to view Douglas fir tussock moth (DFTM) defoliation on the east slope of the Sandia Mountains, the first time DFTM defoliation has been recorded in this area. Extensive mortality is expected owing to a 10-year drought.

Onken found the meeting very informative and enjoyed meeting her western Forest Service counterparts and their State cooperators. She has a much greater appreciation for the many insect defoliator problems the West has and the subsequent mortality on hundreds of thousands of acres across all land ownerships. “After listening to the presentations given by the States, it makes the damage we experience from our one major defoliator here in the East seem trivial,” said Onken.



Douglas fir tussock moth defoliation is evident on the east slope of the Sandia Mountains, located east of Albuquerque NM.

Municipal Arborists and Utility Arborists Find Common Ground



Anne Cumming (standing) facilitated the 2-day summit at Casey Trees Endowment in Washington, DC (photo by Andy Hillman).

A 2-day summit was held in Washington, DC, to discuss the common issues between municipal and utility arboriculture. **Anne Cumming** facilitated the meeting between the Utility Arborist Association (UAA) and the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA). Hosted at Casey Trees Endowment, the 13 attendees represented both organizations, as well as the Federal government and nonprofit organizations. The group was very focused and accomplished their goals, which included drafting a memorandum



of agreement between the two organizations. The agreement states their support for International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification for arborists, upholds professional and safety standards outlined by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and promotes the concept of “right tree, right place.” The group agreed to hold another summit next fall and will work on joint projects in the meantime. These projects include articles in each other’s publications to increase understanding of both disciplines, beginning an arborist exchange program between municipal and utility arborists, and a pilot study to look at the efficiency of doing a “one-stop” pruning cycle for both utility clearance and any other pruning requirements that a municipality may require.

Northern Research Station Holds Disability Mentoring Day

About 40 high school students from the Princeton, WV, area attended Disability Mentoring Day 2006, hosted by the Northern Research Station and the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, Division of Rehabilitation Services. Students spent the morning with motivational speakers, who each talked about their disability and how they succeeded in entering the job market. Afterwards was a job fair featuring many area employers with displays and employment information. Also on hand were two vehicles with assistive technology to give students a sense of the adaptive equipment available to give disabled people the independence of greater mobility.



Devin Wanner speaks to students at Disability Mentoring Day, while Jan Wiedenbeck holds the mike and an interpreter signs for those with a hearing impairment.

The first speaker was Public Affairs Specialist **Devin Wanner** from the Morgantown Field Office. Wanner told students about his first day at school, when the teacher told his parents not to bring him back the next day. Ten years later, though, he was expected to go to college. Wanner encouraged the students to take all the math and science classes they could in high school. Wanner then spoke about the USAjobs Web site, the many different agencies and job series, and the Schedule A hiring authority. Wanner drove to the event in his specially modified truck and had the truck on display to talk about the modifications that give Wanner the freedom to go anywhere he desires.



Second Generation of *Laricobius nigrinus* Found on the Monongahela National Forest



Tom Elliott surveys for the presence of the predatory beetle *Laricobius nigrinus* in a stand of hemlock trees on the Monongahela National Forest.

On November 6, **Thomas Elliott, Karen Felton, and Norm Montoy** from Forest Health Protection sampled eastern hemlocks for *Laricobius nigrinus* at the Sherwood Lake release area. This is the first time this site has been monitored after the release of 300 *L. nigrinus* on 5 hemlock woolly adelgid infested trees in March 2006.

The survey located a single *L. nigrinus* beetle, confirming that the release has resulted in a second generation. It is hoped that beetles from this release will become established and provide a measure of control for the hemlock woolly adelgid. The hemlock woolly adelgid infestation in the area seems to have increased and represents a serious threat to the hemlock trees at this site. Predatory beetle releases are one of the control strategies being employed to fight this introduced pest within the Monongahela National Forest.

Mid-Atlantic Conservation Educators Gather for Annual Meeting

The Mid-Atlantic Conservation Educators (MACE) held their annual meeting at King's Gap State Park in Carlisle, PA, October 23–25. The group meets to highlight accomplishments in conservation education in member States, discuss issues and opportunities, and elect officers for the coming year.

Plant Pathologist **Martin MacKenzie** gave a presentation on invasive insects and diseases that are threatening a number of forest species, including hemlock, ash, beech, and dogwood. Public Affairs Specialist **Devin Wanner** discussed the Conservation Education portion of consolidated grants and the grant monitoring process. Wanner told the group that it was important that they submit a grant narrative for the funds and to include a budget that identifies what the funds will be used for. He explained when a progress report should be sent and gave them a CD and handbook with all the proper forms and templates.

Community Woodlands Alliance—First Meeting of Maryland and Virginia Small Woodlot Owners

On October 11, **Anne Cumming** represented the Forest Service at the first meeting of the Community Woodlands Alliance National Capital Demonstration Program in Gaithersburg, MD. The symposium was cosponsored by the American Institute of Urban and Regional Affairs, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the Society of American Foresters. The group included participation from many sectors of forestry in the Maryland and Virginia region, including private industry, State and local governments, and nonprofits in the disciplines of sawmills, landscape architecture, watershed management, academics, and urban forestry. The all-day meeting, which focused on marketing wood harvested from small woodlots, included panel discussions on Waste Wood Resource Recovery and Utilization, Wood Supply and the Market, and Forest Stewardship and Support Service Programs.



The outcome of the day's discussions was agreement among the group that there were many overlapping interests and that they should convene again to continue the dialog regarding the merits of officially forming the alliance. For more information about the alliance, visit: <http://www.aiura.org/cwa/>.

Morgantown Hosts Certified Arborist Review Course and Exam

During the week of October 16, 11 tree care workers from West Virginia attended a study class given by Joe Murray of Blue Ridge Community College and Joe Murray Consulting. The class was sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (MAC ISA) and the Morgantown Field Office. Several of the participants were municipal workers who were awarded



Students at the certified arborist review class learn about climbing techniques, knots, and safety from instructor Joe Murray (second from right).

grants to support their training. The grant program, a partnership between the Forest Service and the ISA, helps municipalities train city workers on the various aspects of arboriculture and supports the fees associated with taking the ISA certified arborist exam. In return, scholarship winners donate time over the following 2 years to work on their community's trees. Bob Hannah (WV Division of Forestry), Nancy Herwig (MAC ISA), Phil Ross (MAC ISA past president; Appalachian Electric Power), **Anne Cumming**, **Sandy Fosbroke**, **Nancy Lough**, and **Vicky Evans** were instrumental in ensuring the success of the event.

Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear Appear at Mountaineer Week Family Fun Day



Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl make new friends at West Virginia University's Family Fun Day.

West Virginia University sponsored Family Fun Day as part of Mountaineer Week on November 11. **Adam Cumpston** appeared with Woodsy Owl to help deliver the message of caring for the land. Smokey Bear also made an appearance at the event with the West Virginia Division of Forestry. Children were offered educational materials and toys from Woodsy and Smokey. Children delighted in having their picture taken with Woodsy and Smokey.



MacKenzie Seminar in Demand at WVU

West Virginia University forestry students who attended **Martin MacKenzie's** pathology seminar on beech bark disease in October gave a favorable report of the lecture to Professor Eric Heitzman. Dr. Heitzman invited MacKenzie to a repeat engagement on November 6 for his graduate forestry class on Stand Dynamics. The WVU Entomology Department is also interested in having MacKenzie present the entomological aspects of beech bark disease to a graduate class next semester.

Second Policy and Analysis Group Visits Morgantown

On October 30, a second group from the Forest Service Policy and Analysis office in Washington conducted a tour of the different Forest Service units outside the Washington, DC, area. Policy Analyst Denise Ingram led the group, which included four individuals in the Presidential Management Fellow program, a New Mexico State University professor on a 6-month sabbatical, and a Forest Service employee from the Chugach National Forest in Alaska.

The Morgantown Field Office provides a unique opportunity for the group because several Forest Service units are housed in the same facility.

Field Representative **John Hazel** told the group about the functions of State and Private Forestry in the Northeast and Midwest. **Harold Thistle** gave a presentation about the Forest Health

Technology Enterprise Team, which is a

Washington Office unit remotely located in Morgantown. **Chris LeDoux** and **Kurt Gottschalk** briefed the group about the Northeastern Research Station and specific research projects being conducted through the Morgantown office. Wood Education and Resource Center Director **Steve Milauskas** talked about the center, which is located in southern West Virginia.



The policy and analysis group relaxes while **Harold Thistle** explains the role of the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team.

ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE

Michigan Announces New State Forester

Michigan DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Chief Lynne Boyd announced the appointment of Donna M. Perison as State Forester. Perison currently is general manager of forestry services for International Paper's operations in Brazil. She brings to the DNR a great deal of experience in forest land management, including an extensive background in dealing with forest environmental issues. As State Forester, Perison also will serve as the assistant chief for the Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division. She will begin her new post in January.

Chicago Wilderness Congress 2006

On November 15, over 300 participants attended the 2006 Chicago Wilderness Congress at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. **Michael Prouty** and **Tom Dilley** from the St. Paul Field



Office were among the attendees. This biennial event provides an avenue for Chicago Wilderness members from over 190 biodiversity-minded organizations to educate and inform attendees about the current state of biodiversity in the more than 225,000 acres in the Chicago Wilderness region. Twenty sessions covering topics on ecology and restoration, water and watersheds, land management, resource management related to invasive species, regional concerns, and social outreach and education rounded out the event, which included presentations by guest speakers and accompanying award ceremonies. State and Private Forestry has been at the forefront of the Chicago Wilderness movement. For this year's congress, Tom Dilley organized the speakers for the ecology and restoration component. St. Paul Field Representative Mike Prouty continues to provide leadership and support, and serves as a Chicago Wilderness steering committee member.

First-Ever Illinois Wood Utilization Meeting



Steve Bratkovich addresses the group while visiting the Horigan Urban Forest Products Company.

On November 9, **Steve Bratkovich** conducted the first EAB Wood Utilization meeting in Buffalo Grove, IL. After the confirmation of emerald ash borer in Illinois and the establishment of quarantined areas, Steve was asked to bring his expertise to assist participants in readying themselves for the inevitable abundance of ash lumber that will be removed from infested areas. The group—composed of elected officials; State, Federal, and local government; representatives from the green and forest products industries; and wood science professionals—toured a local private sustainable lumber company. The day culminated as the 40 participants, including **Tom Dilley**, Edith Makra (Morton Arboretum), and Rusty Dramm (Forest Products Laboratory),

networked and formed the EAB Wood Utilization Team. A staff representative from Senator Durbin's (IL) staff also attended the meeting.

Northwest Municipal Conference Legislative Roundtable

Tom Dilley attended a legislative roundtable for municipalities hosted by the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) in northeastern Illinois on November 13. Approximately 100 people attended, including three State senators and one congressional representative. Panel members addressed concerns from municipal organizations, including funding and communication, as well as the current and future direction of the Illinois emerald ash borer infestation issue pertaining to the present and expanding quarantines in Illinois. Tom gave an overview of the Forest Service role in this issue, including the reforestation plan being developed by a committee he chairs.



Emerald Ash Borer Training Session

Tom Dilley attended an emerald ash borer (EAB) training session in Western Springs, IL, hosted by the Cook County Forest Preserve District.

Approximately 15 people attended the outing, which included a hands-on training session on how to complete an EAB larvae inspection by bark peeling, provided by Dr. Fred Miller from the Morton Arboretum. Tom provided information related to Forest Service activities and distributed the new “From Sketch to Street” DVDs to several folks involved with urban tree design and planting.



Dr. Fred Miller of the Morton Arboretum demonstrates how to peel bark for EAB larvae inspection.

Northeastern Area-Supported Forestry Innovation Grant Receives Special Recognition



Americorp Team members visit the Gary Ivanhoe Grade School site located within the U.S. Steel Gary Works Wildlife Habitat Restoration project.

The “Restoring Gary, Indiana’s Urban Industrial Forest” Forestry Innovation Grant received a certificate of merit as part of the 2006 Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards Program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project was nominated by Daniel Goldfarb of the Wildlife Habitat Council. A representative from U.S. Steel Gary Works Wildlife Habitat Restoration accepted the award on behalf of the many partners who collaborated on the project. **Tom Dilley** monitored the grant and assisted with its implementation. A presentation about this project was given at the 2006 Chicago Wilderness Congress (see related article).

Energy Independence for Wisconsin’s Campuses

Governor Jim Doyle announced on September 27 that the University of Wisconsin campuses at Green Bay, Oshkosh, River Falls, and Stevens Point will take part in a pilot program to make them completely energy independent within the next 5 years. Upon completion, the schools will be the first State-owned facilities capable of acquiring or producing renewable energy equivalent to their consumption.



Buckthorn Ecology and Management Workshop

Dennis McDougall recently attended the Community Forestry Resource Center's Buckthorn Ecology and Management Workshop in River Falls, WI. The workshop was held at a private residence on the Kinnickinnic River, in an area where the woodlands are heavily infested with buckthorn and the location of some current buckthorn control efforts. Participants included local landowners as well as forestry professionals, land managers, and practitioners. The "practitioners" included a number of people from private companies that specialize, at least in part, in invasive plant control, and a few who manage utility company rights-of-way. Of note, the issue of Stewardship Plans and the importance of recognizing invasive plant problems and including provisions for the management of invasive plants as part of an overall Stewardship Plan was also discussed at this meeting.

Central Region Woodland Owners Hear About Risks to Oak Health

On November 18, Linda Haugen presented information on forest health factors affecting the oak resource to attendees of the Central Region Woodland Stewardship Conference held in Nebraska City, NE. Conference participants included woodland owners and State agency land managers from Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. Many factors have affected oak health in the Midwest in recent years, so participants were eager to learn about the factors involved in oak decline, the current disease agents and insects affecting their oaks, and emerging risks to oak health.

Forest Guild Annual Meeting: "Forestry in the Headwaters—Protecting Water Through Excellent Forestry"

Teri Heyer recently attended the Forest Guild annual meeting in Boulder Junction, WI, which included informative sessions on water- and forest-related issues. The Forest Guild promotes ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry. The guild provides training, policy analysis, and research to support its members and to engage the broader community about the challenges of forest conservation and management. For more information on the Forest Guild, visit their Web site at <http://forestguild.org/>.

Service Project at the North American Association for Environmental Education



NAAEE Conference attendees try to stay warm while planting trees.

For the last 3 years, the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) has incorporated a service project into its annual conference. These projects are supported through a grant from the Dunn Foundation, whose focus includes preserving the visual character of communities. The service project at this year's conference, held in St. Paul, MN, was at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. Many partners were involved in making this project a success, including the Lower Phalen Creek project, the Tree Trust, the Community Design Center—East Side Conservation Corps, the Dunn Foundation, and the USDA Forest Service (represented by **Teri Heyer**).

The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is located just east of St. Paul's downtown district, below scenic limestone and sandstone bluffs. The sanctuary was once a vibrant floodplain where Phalen Creek and Trout Brook entered the Mississippi River and was a focal point for Native Americans.



When Europeans arrived, the wetlands were filled in and the creeks were piped underground. Rail operations and other industry took over the area. By the 1970s, the land was contaminated and littered with debris, but community members saw the area's potential and began to restore the site.

In the 1990s, community members formed the Lower Phalen Creek Project. With assistance from the Trust for Public Land, the National Park Service, and the Minnesota DNR, the land was purchased and cleaned up. The area was opened as a St. Paul city park in 2005 and named after late Congressman Bruce Vento.

About 55 conference participants helped with the NAAEE service project, planting larger container trees (hackberry, basswood, aspen, red maple), shrubs, and smaller oaks that will be transplanted later. All participants learned about proper tree planting techniques and the importance of mulching and invasive species control. The East Side Conservation Corps assisted with planting, mulching, and site interpretation. All participants favorably evaluated the event. Follow-up evaluation will be done by the Minnesota Extension Service.

Minnesota Hosts i-Tree Workshop

Jill Johnson, John Parry (Durham Field Office), and **Donna Murphy** (Morgantown Field Office) were among 30 urban forestry professionals attending an i-Tree workshop in St. Paul on November 15–16. I-Tree is a suite of urban forest inventory and analysis software recently released by the Forest Service and Davey Tree. The workshop included presentations and hands-on experience collecting data in the field and analyzing results in the computer lab. Jill helped host the Midwest workshop and presented an overview of how the i-Tree results from Minneapolis have been used so far. Similar workshops will be hosted by John and Donna in their field office service areas next summer.



Donna Murphy and John Parry (foreground) participate in one of the i-Tree training exercises led by Dave Bloniarz of the Northern Research Station (left).

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

For current and past issues of the NA News Notes, visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>.

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, January 18, 2007**. 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. Please DO NOT place images in the Word document.**

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

