



Northeastern Area News Notes



September 30, 2008



From the Director's Desk

“Change”

Change has been an ongoing topic in the Director's columns. In May's NA News Notes, I talked about William Bridges' book “Managing Transition” to give you perspective on the Forest Service approach to change. Change brings anxiety, but also excitement and hope for the future. The recent Dialogos report on safety within the Forest Service illustrates the urgent need for change within the Agency. The September 5th Transition Talk with Hank, Joel, and Tom mentions that the Agency has moved to embed the concept of continuous change and improvement within our programs. No person, group, organization, or business can permanently avoid change.

There are many examples of exciting changes in NA. One area I encourage everyone to learn about is the work—and change—being pursued by the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC). WERC is engaging a host of partners and contributing to NA's strategic goals and objectives by working with its partners to help them adapt and be successful in conditions dramatically affecting the North American hardwood industry. Critical challenges for the hardwood industries include globalization, environmental realities, energy costs, forest ownership changes, and work force and resource supply issues. Successful sustainable forest products businesses go “hand in hand” with sustainable and healthy forests. A relevant forest industry provides needed management options and flexibility in managing and sustaining healthy forests.

Just as the Forest Service and NA are grappling with issues that were barely visible several years ago, forest industry is contending with issues such as climate change and fossil fuel costs. Industry has come to recognize that it must explore new opportunities in carbon credits, woody biomass utilization, value-added products, certification, chain of custody, and green building, among others, to remain competitive and viable. NA's Wood Education and Resource Center recently funded a project through the Sloan Foundation's Forest Industries Center at Virginia Tech to determine specific and actionable research priorities for the North American Hardwood Industry.



In addition to Virginia Tech, cooperators on this project included the National Hardwood Lumber Association and the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station and the Northern Research Station's Princeton, WV, laboratory. Fifteen indepth interviews with senior executives from hardwood-related companies and associations were used with approximately 300 telephone interviews to determine hardwood industry research priorities. Briefly, the most important priorities were:

- Change in markets and marketing (domestic markets)
- Change in the supply chain (increasing energy and logistics costs)
- Communication with labor (teamwork and meetings)
- Technology issues in manufacturing (customized and flexible manufacturing processes)
- Public policy regarding land (regulations, legislation, environmental)

The research priorities identified in the project will facilitate and encourage the creation of knowledge and practices to support a sustainable forest industry within the hardwood forests of North America. The Wood Education and Resource Center will build on these study results with its partners in academia, industry, government, and other organizations to facilitate adaptation to changes in ways that meet NA's Strategic Plan goals and objectives. Green building, carbon storage, and woody biomass utilization are areas recently identified as high priorities for WERC efforts.

For more information, check out the WERC Web site at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc>.

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director



Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Meetings to Feel Good About!

Environmentally responsible meetings are not only good for the Earth, they're great for business. Planning or supplying a green meeting gives you the competitive edge, a great reputation, and can save you time and money in the process. Being a natural resources agency, the Forest Service needs to be a leader in the pursuit of this goal.



10 Easy Tips

Turning your events BlueGreen all in one brush stroke may seem overwhelming. Here are 10 easy tips you can apply to any meeting to make it more environmentally responsible.

1. **Put it in writing.** Establish an environmental statement or policy for the meeting, and get buy in for it from the meeting host organization's management. Share the policy with suppliers, delegates, and speakers. You'll be amazed at how far they'll go to help you make your event BlueGreen. Click here for a [sample](http://www.bluegreenmeetings.org/HostsAndPlanners/Documents/Sample_Environmental_Policy.doc) (http://www.bluegreenmeetings.org/HostsAndPlanners/Documents/Sample_Environmental_Policy.doc) (DOC file).
2. **Use paperless technology.** Use new media and electronic technology to cut down your paper use. Create a conference Web site, offer electronic registration and confirmation, and advertise using the Web, e-mail, or both.
3. **Meet close.** Reduce distances traveled by speakers and delegates. Choose a host city that's close to as many delegates as possible, and choose a venue and hotel within the city that are close to the airport and within walking distance of each other.
4. **Practice the 3Rs.** Ask your hotel and meeting venue to provide visible and accessible reduction, reuse, and recycling services for paper, metal, plastic, and glass.
5. **Bulk up.** Have your food and beverage service provider use bulk dispensers for sugar, salt, pepper, cream, and other condiments.
6. **Lighten your stay.** Choose a hotel that offers a linen reuse program and bulk dispensers for shampoos and soaps in guest suites.
7. **Eat green.** Include vegetarian meals, and have meals planned using local, seasonal produce.
8. **Close the recycling loop.** Have all printed materials published on recycled paper, using vegetable-based inks, and on both sides of the page.
9. **Save energy.** Coordinate with the meeting venue to ensure that energy lights and air conditioning will be turned off when rooms are not in use.
10. **Spread the word!** Tell delegates, speakers, and the media about your success. You'll be surprised—BlueGreen efforts are contagious.

—Excerpted from the Web site

www.bluegreenmeetings.org owned by the

[Green Meeting Industry Council \(www.greenmeetings.info\)](http://www.greenmeetings.info)



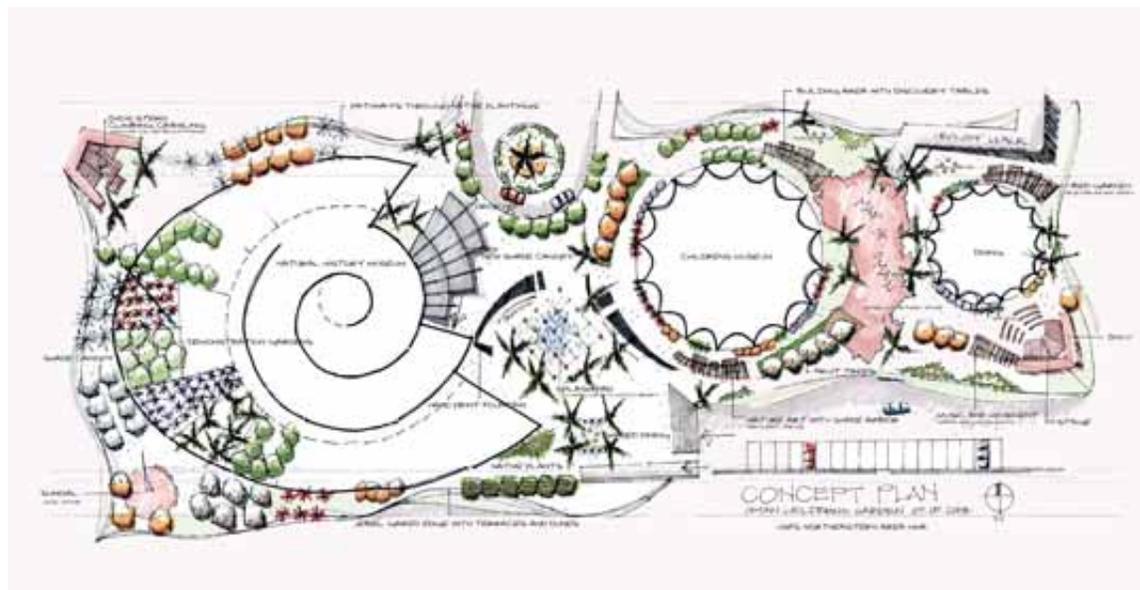
Newtown Square Headquarters Office

Northeastern Area Landscape Architect Provides Design Expertise in Oman

The Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Heritage and Culture is currently designing a new National Children's Library in Muscat in conjunction with the construction of a Museum of Natural History, an existing Children's Museum, and a proposed amphitheater.

In July 2008, at the invitation of the Children's Library Board of Directors, library designers, Vitetta Architects, and the United States Embassy in Muscat, the U.S. Forest Service International Programs sent Northeastern Area landscape architect Matt Arnn to Oman to create conceptual designs for an experiential learning garden connecting these cultural resources. Drawing on research by the National Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation, Matt worked with team members to identify key elements and site opportunities to extend library amenities to the outdoors, celebrate Oman's rich natural heritage, and provide attractive and fun learning environments to connect children to nature.

During the visit, Matt's preliminary concept plan (shown below-click image to enlarge) was presented to the Minister of Heritage and Culture, His Highness Sayyid Haitham, with plans to further develop this plan in partnership with local architects, educators, and native plants experts.



Urban Forestry Team Conducts Management Plan Workshops across NA States

Developing an urban forestry management plan is considered an important step in fostering a sustainable urban forestry program. However, it appears that the majority of communities do not have current or useable plans in place. To help communities begin developing urban forestry management plans, the U.S. Forest Service, State urban and community forestry staff, and the Arbor Day Foundation teamed up to host training sessions in August and September in the three Field Office areas. The training consisted of a 1-day workshop lead by consultant Mark Duntemann, and three supplementary Webcasts conducted by Dr. Chris Luley and other experienced professionals. The Webcasts added valuable training time while keeping travel costs low. Over 100 people participated in the training. A planning committee for this effort included State coordinators Drew Todd (Ohio), Pam Louks (Indiana), and Jane Calvin (Massachusetts);



Arbor Day staff members Steve Pearson and Andy Hermann; and Forest Service employees Anne Cumming, Jill Johnson, Donna Murphy, John Parry, and Phillip Rodbell. Presentations and a resource Web page will be available for viewing on the NA Urban Forestry Web site. Followup will include a 6-month survey to see how the training was used.

U.S. Forest Service Honors Its Service Members

“To date we have collected, packaged, and shipped just shy of 140 pounds of donated items to our troops in Iraq.”



Dan, nephew of Nancy Martin (NA), is pictured on the far right. The Marines of the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron Unit (**MALS-16 AVI WC 650**), Al Asad, Iraq, send the U.S. Forest Service in Newtown Square, PA, their thanks and appreciation for the care packages.

In recognition of National Military Appreciation Month in May 2008, the employees of the Northeastern Area (NA) and the Northern Research Station (NRS) in Newtown Square, PA, initiated a summer donation drive to honor service members abroad.

Employees have shown their appreciation by contributing to care packages sent to troops serving in Iraq. NA and NRS family members serving in Iraq are happy to receive care packages and share them with their service brothers and sisters. Care packages may contain sunscreen, disposable cameras, prepaid international phone cards, travel-size toiletries, nonperishable snacks, playing cards, the donor’s personal notes of encouragement and support, and other items donated or purchased from manufacturers.

Items are collected, organized, packaged, and shipped in U.S. Postal Service “America Supports You” flat rate boxes. Employees have generously supported the Military Appreciation effort. They have not only been thinking about our soldiers, sailors, airmen and women, marines, and guard members but they went the extra step and did something. They donated items generously so that these men and women have their favorite snack, a minor comfort, a basic necessity, or some other piece of home. Others have also volunteered postage or delivered packages to the post office. These efforts are greatly appreciated as expressed in the following note received from one marine:

...I received your first package, it was great! The Frisbee {Smokey Bear} is fun. we still play with it when we are bored... I really appreciate it. We love packages from you... Those care packages help us a lot. The things you guys send are great. They are things we need because the store out here runs out almost weekly so you really have to rely on family and any marine or any soldier for care packages... I'll get the guys to get a group pic for you so you can meet everyone. Thanks so much... Dan

The Military Appreciation effort ran through July 31, 2008. The collection will resume again October 1 through November 30, 2008, so that packages will be received before the holidays. A big thank you is in order for all of the employees of the Northeastern Area and the Northern Research Station for their generous support of this effort.



Specialist Skyler Myers, son of NRS employee Eric Wharton, is pictured in Iraq. The Soldiers of FOB Callahan, Unit 6065, send the U.S. Forest Service in Newtown Square, PA, their thanks and appreciation for the care packages.



We must remember... *It is important that we honor, remember, recognize, and appreciate all military personnel—those men and women who have served throughout our history and all who now serve in uniform and their families as well as those Americans who have given their lives in defense of our freedoms we all enjoy today.*

(Author Unknown)

NA Employee Selected as an Artist in Residence on the San Juan (Colorado) National Forest



Julienne Watts (right) discusses the history of nature journaling, including Gifford Pinchot's use of drawings and photography in his work.

Julienne Watts, illustrator and graphic designer in Newtown Square, was selected for the 2008 Artist-In-Residency Program at the Aspen Guard Station on the San Juan National Forest. Every year, painters, writers, poets, musicians, photographers, and other artists are chosen by representatives from two local art associations. Each artist's portfolio entries are judged for artistic value, uniqueness, and historic or natural resource content and message. The residents stay for 1 or 2 weeks and offer the public a workshop, demonstration, or open house. Each artist donates a finished work of art to the San Juan Public Lands Center, and participates in an annual art show in September of the following year.

During Julienne's stay at the guard station during August, she held a nature journaling workshop, which was filled to capacity by a diverse group of local artists. Julienne's goal was to enable the participants to learn about the art and joy of direct observation, slowing down, and recording one's personal response to the natural world. Keeping a sketch journal helps an artist to take in the surroundings in detail. This activity can help foster an awareness of the environment and its biological diversity.

The group of artists at the guard station spent the afternoon sketching, painting, and observing, followed by a time of sharing their creations and talking about their experience. The array of talent and perspective was vast, and both facilitator and participants learned much from their session at the cabin. Julienne also took photographs and notes, and produced field sketches during her stay. These will enable her to continue to paint and draw the subalpine flora and landscapes of the area.



Some sketching and note taking can be effective when done quickly. This 15-minute watercolor impression of the aspens near the cabin is taken from Julienne's nature journal.



The Aspen Guard Station was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s to serve as a district office for forest rangers. After sitting idle for decades, it was restored, and in 1994 became the home of the Artist-in-Residency Program, sponsored by the Dolores Public Lands Office.

Northeastern Area Employee Attends International Meeting in Colombia



World delegates convened in Bogota to draft a new emphasis area on urban and peri-urban forestry for the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization.

In late July, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager Phil Rodbell represented the United States as a delegate to a United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) meeting on urban and peri-urban forestry in Bogota, Colombia. He was invited to help draft policy and recommendations to the world body on establishing a new emphasis area on this topic within the FAO. The select meeting of 18 countries included representatives from global and national forestry agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and research institutions from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North, Central, and

South America. Results of the meeting included the "Bogota Declaration" that defines the need for this new emphasis, which will be presented at the 4th World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China, in November, and the 13th World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires next year, among other venues.

Confessions on Monitoring Government-held Conservation Easements

An unreconciled violation of a government-held conservation easement affects the ability of other conservation easement holders, such as land trusts, to enforce their conservation easements through the concept of precedence. Hence, the specialists in land conservation—the land trusts—want to assure that government-held conservation easements are monitored. **Scott Stewart**, NA Forest Legacy Specialist, presented "Conservation Easement Stewardship of Government-held Easements" at the 2008 Land Trust Alliance Rally in Pittsburgh, PA, held September 17-21, 2008. The panel also included presenters Elizabeth (Liz) Crane, Easement Specialist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Sarah Mott, Wildlife Administrator with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Panel members discussed how the respective agencies are ensuring that conservation easements acquired with Federal grant dollars are adequately monitored. Forest Legacy Program funds are used to acquire conservation easements or fee title to land. "The NA Forest Legacy staff has convened a Monitoring Task Force, which has assessed the monitoring situation in the 20-State Northeastern Area, and which provided recommendations to assure monitoring occurs on conservation easements in perpetuity," Stewart said. "Some recommendations have been implemented, including the development of a monitoring lesson plan to be produced by States in their States. The situation regarding monitoring is unsatisfactory, but is getting better as the Forest Legacy Program evolves."



AARP Expo 2008 Effort Reaches Owners of 3,200 Acres

The Area recently returned from the annual AARP Life at 50+ Expo held this year in Washington, D.C. NA employees Bob Fitzhenry and Lori McKean joined James Melonas from the Washington Office to staff the Area's Next Generation of Landowners booth on estate and succession planning for family forest owners.

"With more than 27,000 people attending, we had a steady stream of interest in the Forest Service in general and our family forest message especially," Fitzhenry said. "This year's results were our strongest yet."

Outreach to AARP's 50+ year-old population is a key part of the Area's Next Generation of Landowner's Initiative. The Next Generation team spoke with more than five dozen landowners, whose individual ownerships totaled more than 3,200 acres. The common theme among these landowners: too few family discussions and no legal ink completed to address the future of their land even one generation down the road.

Every landowner in the 3,200-acre count took Forest Service information packets and stated their determination to get their conversations and planning done. NA's 2008 Expo participation yielded stronger results overall due to well-honed messages, materials, and the tracking of results.

General notes and outcomes from the Expo:

- Expo attendance of over 27,500 resulted in thousands of people viewing the Next Generation booth as they passed by. Hundreds of attendees stopped to read messages on the display and white boards.
- There were other USDA booths, but this was the only Forest Service booth.
- There were more than 150 conversations with the public on many Forest Service issues. In particular, attendees become more aware of how much private forest land exists nationwide and the trends we see for families and land when open space changes hands.
- Among the States represented by attendees who talked with booth staffers, Texas (800 acres), Pennsylvania (896 acres), Florida (280 acres), and Wisconsin (160 acres) had the most total acreage and average acres owned per landowner. There were a number of owners from Virginia and Maryland that had 20 acres or less.

The Next Generation message will be brought next to the Society of American Foresters national meeting in November, where NA employees will meet with service and consulting foresters who are eager to inform their landowners about the basic estate planning steps necessary to conserve family lands and fulfill stewardship plans.



James Melonas and Lori McKean staff the Next Generation booth at the 2008 AARP Expo.



Durham Field Office

NYC Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

The year 2008 marks the 10th year of the Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers. Twenty-one teachers from New York City and the New York City Watershed region spent 5 days learning about forestry, watersheds, and the collaborative effort to protect the New York City water supply. They also received a learning curriculum to help them take the information back to their students. The teachers' plans range from conducting water quality testing on local water bodies while incorporating the history of the watershed into their social studies curriculum to including tours of a furniture factory as part of a woodworking class.

At the conclusion of the Watershed Forestry Institute, participants celebrated the institute's 10th anniversary, and previous years' attendees shared their stories and experiences with their students. Several teachers take advantage of the bus tour grants and bring their students for experiences in the watershed. Some are working on water quality projects in their communities. All credited the institute with enhancing their teaching. One teacher credited the institute with providing the impetus for their school's curriculum focus on environmental science, which led to a national award.

Big E USDA Exhibit

This year, the USDA theme for its exhibit at the Big E, the largest fair in the Northeast, was water protection and water conservation. The Forest Service piece of the exhibit focused on BMP's, urban watershed management, and the benefit of trees in controlling soil and water runoff. With the Worcester, MA, Asian longhorned beetle outbreak 30 miles away, efforts were made to educate people about the beetle. Charlie Burnham of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation joined NA employees **Susan Cox** and **Judy Antipin** to show people what the beetle looks like and what to look for on their trees. USDA Secretary Schafer also paid a visit to the exhibit as part of his tour of the Big E.

Good Forestry in the Granite State

Susan Cox and Chris Mattrick of the White Mountain National Forest are serving on the steering committee for revisions to New Hampshire's *Good Forestry in the Granite State*. **Roger Monthey** has been tapped for technical advice on nontimber products. The document provides practical recommendations on sustainable management, and is targeted to landowners and the professionals that work with them. The revisions are expected to be completed in spring 2009.

Morgantown Field Office

Northeastern Area Director's Field Office Review and Executive Team Meeting Conducted in Morgantown

The Morgantown Field Office had a large number of visitors the last week of July when Northeastern Area (NA) Director **Kathryn Maloney** conducted a review of the office on Monday and Tuesday, then held the quarterly Executive Team meeting during the later half of the week. The review team consisted of the Director, NA Deputy Director **Larry Mastic**, NA Assistant Director **Billy Terry**, Field Representative **Anne Archie**, and D.C. Urban Forestry Administration Associate Director Monica Lear.





Morgantown Field Office employees and members of the Executive Leadership Team enjoy a potluck lunch.

The purpose of the review was to meet field office staff; discuss key issues, concerns, and approaches for moving forward; and assess issues and projects to make sure they align with NA policy and are effective. In her opening remarks at the review, Maloney stated, “This is not a ‘gotcha trip.’ We are here to share ideas on what works well, and make suggestions and recommendations that can strengthen our relationships with our partners.”

The review team heard presentations from **Bob Lueckel, Karen Sykes, Donna Murphy, Dan Twardus, Anne Cumming, and Sally Claggett**. A number of other Field Office employees attended as well as staff members of the Offices of

Communications and Knowledge Management. Following the final presentation, the review team had an open discussion to develop their findings and an action plan.

The Northeastern Area Executive Team meeting began on Wednesday. Additional NA attendees included **Steve Milauskas, Robin Morgan, Mike Prouty, Gina Childs, Barbara Tormoehlen, Kathy Duran, Dick Paterson, Teri Heyer, and Lisa Burban**. Special guests included Region 9 Regional Forester Kent Connaughton, National Resource Conservation Service National Forester Andy Mason, and new Northern Research Station Assistant Director for Business Operations Sandy Shultis.

The Morgantown Field Office hosted a potluck lunch to give employees the opportunity to talk with executive team members. Retired Morgantown Field Office Representative John Hazel also joined the group.

Gypsy Moth Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Released to the Public

The Morgantown Field Office distributed hard copies of the Gypsy Moth Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (GM SEIS) to recipients across the United States and Canada. **Bill Oldland, Janice Gottschalk, Barbara Morgan, Karen Sykes, Devin Wanner, Rod Whiteman, Karen Felton, Bob Lueckel, and Rick Turcotte** helped prepare the mass mailing (730 U.S. Postal Service pieces plus 6 FedEx shipments). Many others helped unload the truck when the GM SEIS was delivered to the Field Office.



Karen Felton and Janice Gottschalk prepare boxes to ship the Gypsy Moth Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

The Forest Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are seeking public comments regarding the draft GM SEIS during a 45-day comment period. The agencies will use comments received to develop the Final GM SEIS. Comments must be postmarked before November 17, 2008, for consideration in developing the final version. The draft SEIS and other information are available online at www.na.fs.fed.us/wv/eis/.



Teams from 45 States and Nine Provinces Compete in One of North America's Largest High School Environmental Education Competitions



Elizabeth Freeburg and Jennifer Walker test water at the 2008 Canon Envirothon at Cataract Lake near Williams, AZ. Freeburg and Walker were part of the team representing Pennsylvania from Penncrest High School.

Teams from 45 States and nine Provinces competed in the 2008 Canon Envirothon at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ. The Envirothon is designed for high school students in grades 9 through 12 who compete in 5-member teams.

More than 265 high school students studied environmental issues and resource conservation while competing for a share of more than \$125,000 in scholarships and Canon products. The Canon Envirothon tests teams on their knowledge of soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue, which was *Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources* for this year's competition.

Each team's knowledge is tested under the supervision of foresters, soil scientists, wildlife specialists, and other natural resource professionals. Teamwork, problem solving, and presentation skills are evaluated as each team offers a panel of judges an oral presentation containing recommendations for solving the specific challenge that is presented during the competition.

Teams from six States in the Northeastern Area placed in the top 10 of the national Envirothon competition. The team from the Charter School of Wilmington in Wilmington, DE, took first place and received a total of \$25,000 in Canon scholarships along with Canon video equipment for their advisor and sponsoring agency and organizations to use in science education. Other Northeastern Area teams finishing in the top 10 included Parkway North High School in St. Louis, MO (second place); Penncrest High School in Sanatoga, PA (third place); Candor High School in Candor, NY (fourth place); Chardon High School in Chardon, OH (fifth place); and Lexington High School in Lexington, MA (seventh place).

Teams are formed in the fall when classes begin, and team members study material through the winter. States hold competitions in the spring to determine which team will represent the State at the national competition.

The U.S. Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the National Association of Conservation Districts are Canon Envirothon partners.

Visit www.envirothon.org for more information about the Envirothon.



The Top 10 Teams at the 2008 Canon Envirothon

Place	Organization	City/Town	State
First	Charter School of Wilmington	Wilmington	Delaware
Second	Parkway North High School	St. Louis	Missouri
Third	Penncrest High School	Sanatoga	Pennsylvania
Fourth	Candor High School	Candor	New York
Fifth	Chardon High School	Chardon	Ohio
Sixth	Fort Defiance High School	Fort Defiance	Virginia
Seventh	Lexington High School	Lexington	Massachusetts
Eighth	West Johnston High School	Benson	North Carolina
Ninth	Palisades Charter High School	Pacific Palisades	California
Tenth	Gooding High School	Gooding	Idaho

Gypsy Moth Summer Operations Meeting Held in Roscommon, Michigan

Amy Onken attended the 2008 Gypsy Moth Program Managers and Slow The Spread (STS) Summer Operations meeting in Roscommon, MI, August 18-21. Approximately 37 people from various State agencies, the U.S. Forest Service, and private industry from 13 States and Canada attended both meetings. The first day of the program managers meeting was dedicated to State reports where each State provided an overview of their project with discussion of any issues or concerns that surfaced during project implementation. Forestry Manager Steve Nicholson from Valent Biosciences gave a presentation on new Btk label language changes and led a discussion about the new “organic” formulation of Foray 48B. Northeastern Area Aviation Officer **Dan Zimmerman** led a discussion on procedures to deconflict military airspace during spray projects.

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to aviation safety. Retired Forest Service Forest Health Protection Aviation Manager Tim McConnell conducted a “mini-ACE” training session. Aviation Centered Education (ACE) is sponsored through the Interagency Aviation Training System (IAT). The purpose of this training was to help establish minimum training, skills, knowledge, and currency requirements for agency personnel who work with aircraft or have aviation duties in order to accomplish resource (nonfire) missions (for example, aerial application projects). The ACE courses covered during the program managers meeting included Aviation Planning, Human Factors in Aviation, and System Safety Overview.



Additional ACE training is scheduled for the 2009 meeting. Forest Service Forest Health Protection Aviation Manager Jeff Mai wrapped up the aviation safety portion of the meeting by presenting a copy of the Aerial Application Risk Assessment (RA) conducted by the Forest Service. State program managers were invited to provide input since the RA will be a continuous working document to be used for all future State and Federal aerial application projects.

Onken, John Kyhl from the St. Paul Field Office, Entomologist Andy Roberts from Virginia Tech, and Forest Service Research Entomologist **Patrick Tobin** conducted the STS Operations meeting. Topics covered during this session included:

1. Project Status and Funding
2. 2008 Spray Synopsis and Potential Plans for 2009
3. 2008 Trapping Surveys and Data Flow
4. GIS – 2008 Overview and 2009 Roadshow
5. Technical Items:
 - A. Options if Ohio drops out of STS
 - B. Mating disruption update
 - C. Autotrap deployment
 - D. Apostle Islands wrap-up
 - E. Trap lure experiment
 - F. 2009 plan of work activities

Morgantown Field Office Staff Trains Teachers at Keystone College Environmental Education Institute (KCEEI)



A teacher learns to measure the diameter of a tree during Keystone College's recent environmental education summer courses.

Approximately 95 teachers traveling from as far as the Pittsburgh School District participated in weeklong environmental education courses on the Keystone College campus in La Plume, PA. The college is home to the Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry, a satellite office of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry unit of the U.S. Forest Service. Its 160-acre woodland campus provides a wonderful learning atmosphere with five interpretive trails, forests, ponds, streams, and wetlands as well as its own environmental field station and continuous water monitoring station.

During the environmental education course, Landscape Architect **Donna Murphy** and

Entomologist **Bill Oldland** provided training on the impacts of invasive plants and forest pests on forest health. The teachers explored concepts related to forest products, white-tail deer management, forest watersheds, riparian buffers, and urban forestry while enjoying field trips and many hands-on activities to ensure that forest literacy is promoted in schools throughout Pennsylvania. Now in its fourth year, the Environmental Education Institute offers teachers PA



Act 48 credits, 3 undergraduate or graduate college credits, or 3 PA Northeastern Education Intermediate Units (NEIU-19) Continuing Education credits.

KCEEI is made possible through funding from the Education and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas, Inc.; U.S. Forest Service; Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority; and Keystone College.



Bill Oldland provides training on forest pests to the group.

Washington Office Policy and Analysis Group Makes Return Visit to Morgantown



Dr. John Brooks from West Virginia University discusses research projects with interns at the MeadWestvaco Natural Resources Center.

The U.S. Forest Service Policy and Analysis group from the Washington Office returned to the Morgantown Field Office for the third summer as part of a tour that introduces graduate students to the different branches of the Forest Service and the wide array of Forest Service program areas. This year's group of 13 participants was the largest since the tours began. Kate Balet, one of the students from the very first tour, returned this year as tour organizer along with Denise Ingram.

The Morgantown Field Office provided a unique opportunity for the group because several Forest Service units are housed in the same facility. Field Representative **Bob Lueckel** gave an overview of the role of the Northeastern Area

State and Private Forestry unit of the Forest Service. Wood Education and Resource Center Director **Steve Milauskas** talked about the Center, which is located in southern West Virginia. Plant Pathologist **Yun Wu** discussed the role of the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team, which is part of the Washington Office that is remotely located in Morgantown, and gave a presentation about the biological control of invasive species and international cooperation. Research Forester **Kurt Gottschalk** briefed the group about the Northern Research Station and specific research projects being conducted through the Morgantown office.

As an added bonus, the Morgantown Field Office arranged a site visit of the MeadWestvaco Natural Resources Center on the West Virginia University Forest for the visiting students to learn about research being conducted at the center. The group met with West Virginia University Forest Biometrics Professor Dr. John Brooks, who told them about the history of the area and how the center had come about. He then took the group to a small clearcut site to talk about regeneration.

Pennsylvania Emerald Ash Borer Task Force Meeting Held in Carlisle

Rick Turcotte and **Noel Schneeberger** from the Northeastern Area attended the Pennsylvania Emerald Ash Borer Task Force meeting in Carlisle, PA, in July along with agency personnel from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Bureau of State Parks, Department of Transportation, Game Commission, and the State Department of Agriculture. Topics of discussion included surveys, quarantine compliance, data management, and outreach.



The group discussed the new emerald ash borer (EAB) findings in Pennsylvania in Mercer and Beaver Counties as well as the new regional findings in Montreal, Ottawa, Virginia, and Missouri. Individual agencies have and will continue to take down the purple panel traps from across the State. This year, approximately 8,000 traps had been deployed across the State with no EAB detections. Initial discussions about next year's plan were begun, but further direction is needed from the EAB National Program before the scale of the program within Pennsylvania can be finalized.

American Beech—Resistance to Beech Bark Disease

Morgantown Field Office pathologist **Al Iskra** and West Virginia Department of Agriculture pathologist Jill Rose recently surveyed beech stands in West Virginia to locate beech trees resistant to beech bark disease. Work is underway in two regions of North America to develop the protocols and knowledge required to conserve genetic resources and restore populations of disease-resistant beech.



Al Iskra and Jill Rose conduct beech bark disease surveys on Cheat Mountain, West Virginia.

Beech bark disease has been present in the United States since its accidental introduction in the mid 1800s. The disease is caused by the complex interaction of a fungus (*Neonectria coccinea*) and the European beech scale (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*). The limiting factor in the spread of

beech bark disease is the spread of the scale insect that predisposes the tree to invasion by the fungus. It has long been recognized that some beech trees remain either uninfected and free of the disease, or support only low populations of the scale. These apparently resistant trees may offer a key to solving the beech bark disease dilemma.

Management of Potentially Resistant American Beech in Shelterwood Cuts on the Allegheny National Forest

On July 21-25, **Al Iskra, Dan Snider, Nathan Sites, Sam Forbeck, Chelsea Gibson, and Rick Turcotte** traveled to the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania to participate in a silvicultural research project dealing with beech bark disease.

This cooperative research project started in 2005 under the direction of **Mary Ann Fajvan** of the Northern Research Station and the Allegheny National Forest. The objective of this study is to compare beech regeneration characteristics in shelterwood establishment cuts where potentially resistant beech trees are retained and their offspring are either retained or killed with herbicide. This project will test whether herbicides affect the sprouting potential of resistant beech trees, and whether these treatments affect the next generation of beech.

Beech bark disease is caused by a complex consisting of an introduced sap-feeding scale insect and at least two species of fungi. This complex, which can cause significant bole cankering and mortality in American beech, has been present on the Allegheny National Forest since the early 1990s.



The Bizarre World of Bugs Presented at Morgantown Public Library

The Morgantown Public Library hosted a summer education series for children, and invited **Rick Turcotte** to give a presentation on insects. Turcotte, **Devin Wanner**, and West Virginia University students **Chelsea Gibson** and **Chelsea Cook** gave an hour-long presentation to about 20 children. Live forest insects and arthropods along with pinned insects were used to introduce the children to insect biology, including their exoskeleton, body segments, and unusual jaws. A video camera and monitor were used to provide a magnified view of the insects.

Wanner led the children in a Project Learning Tree activity after Turcotte's presentation. The children pretended they were birds looking for insects (tricolored macaroni.) The activity teaches children how animals use camouflage to avoid becoming dinner. The children also learned that some insects do just the opposite by having showy patterns on their bodies to either display a warning or frighten predators.

Field Walk at the West Virginia Botanic Garden

Entomologist **Rick Turcotte** gave a presentation on research and management developments for the hemlock woolly adelgid at the West Virginia Botanic Garden in Morgantown, WV, on Saturday August 16. Nine people from the Morgantown area participated in the field walk. Rick gave a 90-minute presentation on the hemlock woolly adelgid initiative, and presented updates about survey and monitoring, modeling and mapping, biological control, silviculture, and arthropods associated with eastern hemlock.

Allegheny Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Training

Rick Turcotte met with Bradford Ranger District employees of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) in July and provided training on the hemlock woolly adelgid. The training was part of this year's forest-wide survey for this insect, and included information about the identification, biology, and potential impacts on the ANF. The training session was attended by summer interns and Forest personnel.

Old Wing of Morgantown Field Office Undergoing Renovation



Cindy Barnett works at a temporary work station set up in the Annex conference room.

A number of employees at the Morgantown Field Office had to pack up their office and find alternate workstations while the old wing of the main building undergoes renovations. Most employees were able to relocate temporarily in other office space, and the Annex conference room has been converted into office space for six employees. It is anticipated that employees will return to their regular office space in late October.

Problems began in the old wing in February when an overhead pipe broke, resulting in flooding on the first floor. Machines were brought in to reduce the humidity and dry out the drywall before mold could get established. The floor molding was ripped up to speed the process. Work includes replacing the floor tiles and molding on the first story and replacing ceiling tiles on both the first and second stories.



NA Employees Participate in Forest Sustainability Workshops for Chesapeake Bay Communities

The Morgantown Field Office, working through the Chesapeake Bay Program, joined the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Baltimore County to sponsor *Forest Sustainability for Local Governments*, a workshop presented as the fall program of the Mason Dixon Task Force. The workshop was held September 18, 2008, at Oregon Ridge Park in Baltimore County for 109 attendees. It served as a primer for local governments across the Chesapeake Bay watershed to learn about forest sustainability concepts and how to integrate forest sustainability into existing programs, information, and resources that are available to them. It also presented case studies of successful local government forestry programs in the Chesapeake region. **Sally Claggett** and **Sheri Wormstead** of the Northeastern Area gave presentations at the workshop, as did Ruth McWilliams of the Washington Office. A walk through the forest to see the management being done at Oregon Ridge capped the day. A great deal of positive feedback has already been received from attendees, and future workshops that target local governments are being designed.



Attendees participate in the *Forest Sustainability for Local Governments* workshop at Oregon Ridge Park, Baltimore County.

Wood Education and Resource Center

New Report Posted on Wood Education and Resource Center Web Site

The University of Delaware Research and Education Center has submitted the final report for the *Management Strategies for Utilizing Hardwood Sawdust as Poultry Bedding* project (Grant #05–DG–278). The project evaluated management strategies needed to make hardwood sawdust an acceptable bedding material for the poultry industry.

The project compared the use of two species of hardwood sawdust with pine sawdust as poultry bedding. Researchers also looked at the effect of storing the bedding material prior to use on poultry production. They evaluated the merits of treating hardwood sawdust with a mold inhibitor, and provided an outreach program to the forest and poultry industry on the opportunities of using hardwood sawdust as a poultry bedding material.

The final report is posted on the Wood Education and Resource Center Web site and can be viewed at http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/werc/p_details.cfm?ID=WERC%2D011%2D05%2DGRANT.



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, October 22, 2008**. News articles submitted after this time and date will be published in the next month's edition. Please e-mail final 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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