



# Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



## News Notes

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September 30, 2009

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### From the Director's Desk

#### The Power of Technology Transfer

Our ability to transfer new technology to our natural resource partners is a powerful tool we use to achieve our mission of supporting sustainable forest management across the Northeast and Midwest landscape. To ensure that technology transfer is most effective, at least three things should occur.

First, our program staff need to maintain technical excellence in their disciplines. Technical knowledge is fundamental to understanding information so that it can be explained (transferred) to users. In addition, as technical experts, NA staff earn respect and add value to our partners. I know staying on the cutting edge in one's field is a challenge, given all the other mission-critical work we are increasingly asked to deliver. But I am committed to providing the support and training necessary to help our specialists. And technical expertise will continue to be an important criterion as we hire new employees in NA.

Second, I believe in the adage, "The most effective technology transfer occurs at the research planning stage." NA staff have an amazing network of practitioners. These relationships allow us to identify information needs that can be addressed by research. If this early collaboration occurs, we avoid the square peg/round hole syndrome, by knowing that research has been shaped or influenced at the outset to address critical needs, and that corresponding research products have been identified early on to meet specific information needs. Keeping NA staff linked early and continuously throughout the life of a research project—whether it be Forest Service research or university research—is key. I encourage our staff to seek both informal and formal ways of engaging their research counterparts. And I am open to new ideas on how best to make this happen.

Third, our technology transfer efforts need to be focused, well funded, and flexible. Our most successful efforts have occurred when we carefully:

- *analyzed* our audience
- *invested* sufficient resources in their design and distribution
- *tailored* products to maximize their use by specific users
- *marketed* the products well and engaged other partners in doing so

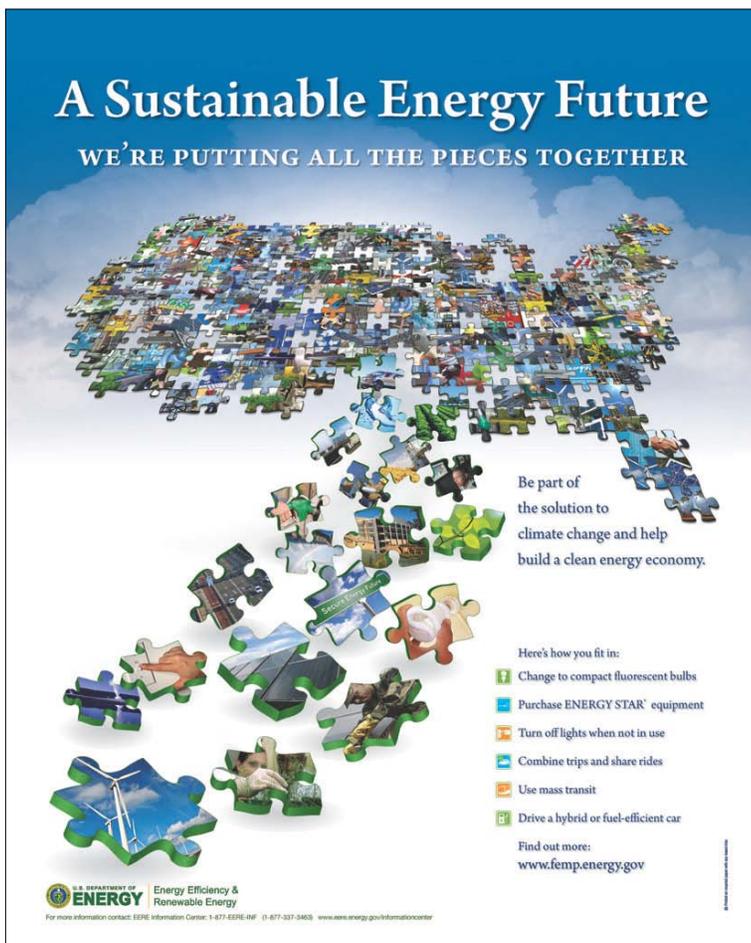


- *adapted* products in response to changing conditions or to take advantage of new media technologies.

Encouraging and promoting sustainable forest management across our large and diverse forests and among forest managers and forest owners is a challenging and rewarding mission. To be successful, we must take full advantage of every tool in our toolbox. I'm committed to ensuring that our technology transfer efforts continue to make a difference and set a high standard of excellence throughout the natural resource community.

— Kathryn P. Maloney  
Area Director

## Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month: October is Energy Awareness Month



This tip of the month contains material and tips adapted from the [U.S. DOE, Federal Energy Management Program Web site](#).

October is national energy awareness month and the theme this year is ***A Sustainable Energy Future; Putting All the Pieces Together***. No matter how large the problem may appear, the fact remains that each of us is a part of the solution. Every day, each of us makes decisions that can stimulate sustainability and a new energy economy. When we put all the pieces together, all of us—the Federal government, private industry, and the public—have the means to shape our energy future and move our Nation toward energy independence.

According to the [U.S. Department of Energy](#), “The Federal government is the single largest domestic user of energy, spending more than \$17 billion to power its vehicles, operations, and approximately 500,000 facilities throughout the United States. Federal agencies impact every energy consuming sector of our economy—commercial, industrial, residential, agricultural, and

*October is Energy Awareness Month. This year's theme encourages everyone to see themselves as a piece of the puzzle fitting into the big picture.*

transportation.” The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires (1) that all Federal buildings be fitted with “energy efficient” lighting fixtures to the “maximum extent feasible” whenever buildings are constructed, altered, or acquired and whenever lighting fixtures are replaced during routine maintenance, and (2) a 30 percent reduction in energy usage in Federal buildings by 2015.



### Here's how you fit in:

- Use your wits, save your watts—turn off lights when not in use and change to compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Unplug that drain—shut off or unplug electrical “drains” such as cell phone chargers, monitors, printers, scanners, and coffee makers when not in use. You can use a powerstrip to turn off all computer peripherals at the flip of one switch.
- Combine trips, share rides, and use mass transit if available.
- Burn carbohydrates, not hydrocarbons—walk or bike to work if feasible.
- **Save paper**—photocopy only what you need and use the second side of paper either by printing on both sides or using the blank side as scrap paper.
- Use coffee mugs instead of disposable cups.
- When purchasing appliances, use energy efficient products with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Find out more at <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/>.

## Newtown Square Headquarters Office

### NAS&PF-Sponsored Roundtable has National Reach

It was 5 a.m. in Alaska on September 22 when Heather Fair called in to the Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) virtual conference being held in East Lansing, MI. Heather, an employee of the Division of Mining, Land & Water in the State of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources, also called in to the Large-acreage Conservation Easement Roundtable on September 23. This is the second year that the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program hosted the roundtable in conjunction with ELRC.

Due to the successful utilization of virtual meeting technology at last year's roundtable and the difficult financial situation this year, the ELRC approached the U.S. Forest Service for help in conducting their conference as well as the roundtable in a virtual mode. In addition to those present at the physical session in East Lansing, MI, more than 30 people were able to participate over the 2 days who otherwise would have missed the opportunity to participate in important discussions.



*Kerry Wieber of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division, discusses managing public access on the Northern Great Lakes Forest, Forest Legacy Program project.*

Ed Meadows, Michigan Department of Natural Resources employee and ELRC meeting host, stated, “This conference may very well not have happened this year without the help of the NAS&PF Forest



Legacy Program staff. We knew of member partner restrictions and worked with Forest Service staff to implement a technological solution to the problem to ensure that important timely information reached our partners.”

The Large-acreage Conservation Easement Roundtable is an initiative launched in 2008 by NAS&PF to provide a forum for the conservation community to share and discuss issues, tools, techniques, and stories related to the unique challenges of monitoring large-acreage conservation easements. This year’s topic discussions included using and adapting databases to address the needs presented by large-acreage easements (presented by Rob Morell, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, and Mike Okma, Grand Travers Regional Land Conservancy); finding and using no-cost remote sensing tools on the Web (**Bill Frament**, U.S. Forest Service, NAS&PF, Durham Field Office); monitoring forest management plan implementation (Dan Kilborn, Vermont Land Trust); and managing public access on large easements (Jeff Knoop, The Nature Conservancy, and Kerry Wieber, Michigan Department of Natural Resources).

NAS&PF Forest Legacy Program Specialist Neal Bungard proved that with good planning and preparation, even the most challenging technological obstacles can be overcome. Nearly half of the participants in the roundtable participated remotely. Perhaps more notable is that half of the presenters delivered their presentation remotely. Representatives from 17 States, including Idaho and Alaska, were in attendance. Multiple land trusts also participated.

When asked what they thought of the roundtable, several remote participants responded with a single word—“excellent.” **Deirdre Raimo**, NAS&PF Forest Legacy Program Manager, declared, “This roundtable is a unique opportunity for all those interested in an open and continuing discussion of the challenges of large-acreage easement monitoring. Unless another party steps in to provide a better forum, we are committed to continuing to convene and host the roundtable discussion.”

## Durham Field Office

### Training Conducted for Urban and Community Forest Disaster Response

Each year, storms and other natural disasters in the Northeast cause significant damage to communities and their urban forests. In many cases, communities lack the staff to evaluate tree damage in a timely way. To assist with this need, the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Center for Urban Forestry Research & Information has developed a process called the Urban Forest Strike Team method.

Qualified urban foresters and arborists who are trained in using the Urban Forest Strike Team method become Strike Team members. The Strike Team’s focus is to evaluate public trees for removal or pruning needs to eliminate risk to the public and reduce the loss of additional trees during the response phase of the disaster.

The U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry is jointly conducting a pilot project with the Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Foresters’ Association (MTWFA) to introduce the Strike Team technique in the Northeast. An initial training program was held in September for 33 foresters, arborists, and FEMA and State Emergency Management staff members from 10 States served by NAS&PF.





*Strike Team trainees practice storm assessments.*

The training involved 2 days of classroom lectures, GPS/computer familiarization, use of training resources, and significant time for field exercises in a nearby urban forest area. Those who helped coordinate and conduct the training included Karen Doherty, MTWFA Executive Director; Tom Chamberland, Army Corps of Engineers; Henry Poole, Delaware Forestry Division; Paul Revell and Dave Stone, Virginia Division of Forestry; Eric Seaborn, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; Eric Kuehler and Dudley Hartel, U.S. Forest Service; Kate Forrer, Vermont Cooperative Extension; Melissa Levangie, Trees New

England; **Tom Luther, John Parry, Rob Clark, Bob Fitzhenry**, Durham Field

Office; **Dave Bloniarz**, Northern Research Station; and **Jill Johnson**, St. Paul Field Office. Additional training opportunities will be conducted in the future.

### Teachers Gain Forestry Knowledge and Skills at Summer Teacher Institutes



*Karen Bennett, UNH Cooperative Extension, talking with FFEC teachers about forest management.*

The summer session of the *New Hampshire Forest for Every Class* (FFEC) program focused on collecting forest data and forest management on the White Mountain National Forest. Fourteen middle and high school teachers were introduced to traditional forestry equipment and measurements, and established permanent plots for conducting their own studies. They toured the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest with scientists and student researchers, and learned about the long-term and short-term research conducted on the forest. They also toured recent harvests on the White Mountain National Forest with the silviculturalist, procurement forester, and University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

forester, and talked about forest management on public and private lands in New Hampshire.



This was the second session of four held throughout the year for the teachers. The next session will be in October. The New Hampshire FFEC program is a partnership between New Hampshire Project Learning Tree, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, the Northern Research Station, and the White Mountain National Forest.

Twenty teachers from New York City and the New York City watershed region also attended the 11th New York City Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers this summer in Phoenicia, NY. Teachers learned how the reservoir system for the New York City water supply was established and about the measures the city, agencies, municipalities, and others are taking to protect the quality of the water for consumers.

The teachers toured the model forest, learned about forest management practices, and were trained in Project Learning Tree and Sense of Place curricula. The teachers are challenged with bringing what they learn back to their classrooms while accommodating their curriculum requirements. Several take advantage of the bus grant program and Green Connections program, which are also part of the watershed education program. **Susan Cox** helped develop the institute agenda and participated in the institute using Project Learning Tree materials.

### **Forest Service Participates in USDA Exhibit at the “Big E”**

The Forest Service joined other USDA agencies as part of a USDA exhibit in the Farm-O-Rama building at the Eastern States Exposition (“Big E”) fair, New England’s largest. This fair building is used to engage children in agriculture and natural resources. The USDA exhibit provides general information about the Departments and Agencies and highlights specific programs.

This year, **Bob Fitzhenry** hosted a focused program on family owned forest estate planning. **Susan Cox** serves on the exhibit committee, and Fred Putnam (Green Mountain National Forest) and Dave Bloniarz (Northern Research Station) staffed the exhibit. Over 1 million people attend the Big E annually. This year, more than 400,000 people attended the first 6 days of the 17-day fair, which will wrap up October 4.



*Forest Service participates in USDA exhibit at the “Big E.”*



*Children enjoying their visit to the USDA exhibit show off their conservation tattoos.*



# St. Paul Field Office

## Mississippi River Visions Conference Includes NA Partnerships Exhibit

The National Great Rivers Research and Education Center and The Nature Conservancy hosted a major conference August 10 to 13. The gathering, “Visions of a Sustainable Mississippi River,” brought together Mississippi River stakeholders, researchers, and natural resource professionals.

The conference was held in Collinsville, IL, and included presentations and discussions about four topics: flood plain connectivity and flood control, ecosystem services and the economic value of the river, ethanol production, and uses of and threats to clean water.



Alexandra Cousteau, granddaughter of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, the world famous explorer, ecologist, and film maker, gave the keynote address at the conference. Her speech detailed her “Blue Legacy” project, a 100-day journey across five continents, exploring the most critical water resources of our time. One of the critical issues Alexandra focused on was the low oxygen conditions in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. She discussed how changes need to be made across the very large Mississippi River basin to keep the soil and nutrients where they can do the most good rather than in the Gulf of Mexico. To view the videos, go to [www.alexandracousteau.org](http://www.alexandracousteau.org).

The conference culminated in a policy discussion hosted by U.S. Congressman Jerry Costello (D-IL 12th), in which recommendations concerning the four topic areas were discussed. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Brigadier General Walsh also announced he was beginning a collaborative process to develop a 200-year vision for the Mississippi River system managed by the Corps.

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry staffed a display at the conference discussing Upper Mississippi forest partnerships. The partnerships’ goals include improving water quality and migratory bird habitats by improving the condition of forests throughout the watershed.



# Editor's Note

**DEADLINE!** The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is Friday, October 23, 2009. News articles submitted after this time and date will be published in the next month's edition. Please e-mail final articles to Nancy Lough at [nlough@fs.fed.us](mailto:nlough@fs.fed.us).

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