



Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



News Notes

October 31, 2009



From the Director's Desk

Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow...With Some Help from NA

A primary aspect of implementing our State and Private Forestry program is providing information and support to natural resource agencies and organizations to help them achieve program goals and objectives. Supporting tree planting programs has been a major aspect of forestry and conservation, and is becoming even more critical as a part of Federal, State, and private natural resource management strategies for dealing with both ongoing and emerging conservation challenges.

For perspective, the total production of reforestation stock in the United States in 2008 was about 1.2 billion seedlings. In the area served by NA, 21 State-owned nurseries in 14 States produced over 60 million tree and shrub seedlings. These seedlings represented 164 species from 59 different genera, plus an additional 40 species of seed or plants from an additional 40 species of prairie forbs and grasses produced by the Illinois DNR nursery. In the Northeast, public nurseries produce more than 70 percent of the material used in forestry and conservation programs, with the remainder coming from private nurseries both within and outside the area.

How is the Forest Service overall, and NA specifically, providing support for these reforestation programs? In 2001, the agency created the National Reforestation, Nursery, and Genetics Resources (RNGR) Program within State and Private Forestry. Today, a handful of technical specialists assigned to RNGR are located across the country and work together to provide these services. Ron Overton, an Area Regeneration Specialist located at Purdue, serves in this capacity for NA.

As with other aspects of natural resource management, RNGR programs are changing in response to shifting environmental issues and landowner demographics. The traditional reforestation objectives—reduced soil erosion, enhanced wildlife habitat, and increased timber production—have expanded to include improved forest health, increased biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability, and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Genetic resource management programs have expanded from developing improved timber varieties to addressing the loss of genetic variability caused by forest fragmentation, exotic invasive species, and climate change. Like other forest management services, providing genetically diverse, locally adapted native plant material to increasingly fragmented private forests is a challenge for nursery programs.



The National RNGR Program focuses on collaboration with other agencies, States, and partners to provide assistance in native plant seed and seedling production where other sources of technical assistance are unavailable. Emphasis areas include:

- adequate supplies of reasonably priced, high-quality, genetically well-adapted seedlings for conservation and reforestation;
- propagation and planting methods that improve seedling survival and growth; and
- cost-effective production and planting techniques.

These activities include providing training and hands-on assistance for nursery management and reforestation, helping conduct regional nursery meetings and workshops, developing and maintaining one of the largest electronic collections of nursery information currently available (www.rngr.net), and cooperating with numerous universities and organizations both nationally and internationally on technology development and technology transfer projects.

Some NA-specific cooperative RNGR program activities include:

- Germplasm collections in ash populations threatened by EAB.
- Butternut germplasm collections.
- Genetic surveys and germplasm collections of hemlock populations threatened by hemlock woolly adelgid.
- Programs on hardwood nursery management and native plant seed conditioning through nursery study tours and workshops.
- Technology development related to more efficient fertilizer use, improved cold storage, and improved field performance.
- Developing alternatives to methyl bromide and meeting EPA requirements for soil fumigants.

The U.S. Forest Service is the Federal agency responsible for helping States produce, distribute, and plant seedlings on private land. Maintaining a supply of low-cost, high-quality, and genetically suitable native plant material for reforestation and ecosystem restoration is essential to meeting the goals and objectives of Federal, State, and private conservation programs. Providing the information and assistance States and other partners need to efficiently and economically produce this material is an important role for NA.

Parvis e glandibus quercus – roughly translated: “Great oaks from little acorns grow.” Not a bad thought to keep in mind when thinking about some of the “infrastructure” support State and Private Forestry provides to help things get done on the ground!

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director



Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month:



Reflections on NAS&PF and NRS Sustainable Operations Accomplishments in FY 2009

Sherri Wormstead, FY2009 NA & NRS Sustainable Operations Team Chair

As we transition to a new fiscal year, the NA & NRS Sustainable Operations Team is reflecting on FY 2009 accomplishments and planning for the year ahead as we welcome the FY 2010 Chair, Monica Tomosy, Assistant Director with the Northern Research Station. This past fiscal year the NA & NRS Sustainable Operations Team focused on encouraging and supporting local efforts to provide a forum for ideas and technology transfer of local solutions.

In FY 2009, NA and NRS offices completed numerous actions to reduce the environmental impact of our day-to-day business, such as installing motion-sensor light switches in common areas, installing timers on appliances, increasing recycling programs, switching to 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper, installing energy efficient lighting, and sharing tips and resources with employees through bulletin boards and e-mail messages. Three NA and NRS co-located sites have active Green Teams that have accomplished the following:

- Durham (NH) Green Team—Conducted an employee energy use survey to help focus future energy conservation efforts and developed a sustainable landscape design that included holding a work day to implement part of the plan.
- Morgantown (WV) Green Team—Hosted an electronics recycling day and worked on sustainable landscaping efforts.
- Newtown Square (PA) Green Team—Held several events to increase awareness of and engage employees in sustainable operations, created notepads using “Good On One Side Paper” (GOOS), and developed a conference room “green meetings” checklist.

The Grey Towers Green Team partnered with Prizim, Inc., an environmental sustainability and energy management consulting firm, to develop a sustainability report for Grey Towers, a National Historic Site. Grey Towers and the NA Wood Education and Resource Center are teaming up to conduct a feasibility study for a biomass heating unit to replace natural gas consumption at this historic landmark.

NA and NRS Environmental Footprint Champions assisted with communicating information for each footprint area:

- Energy conservation—**Sarah Hines**
- Water conservation—Keith Moser
- Waste reduction—Cherie LeBlanc-Fisher
- Fleet and transportation—**Sokjae Cho**
- Green purchasing—**Patty Pierce**

In addition, **Rebecca Lilja** has maintained the content on our sustainable operations Intranet site.



As the NRS & NA Environmental Management System (EMS) representative, **Sokjae Cho** spearheaded a fleet study and discussed the results with leadership to consider approaches for reducing fleet-related petroleum consumption and emissions. Our facilities staffs are compiling utilities usage statistics for 2009, and we look forward to analyzing and sharing the quantitative impacts of sustainable operations efforts over the past couple of years.

Thanks so much to everyone who has contributed to NA and NRS sustainable operations efforts. There are many exciting opportunities ahead of us to further integrate sustainable operations into the way we do business, including guidance in the new Executive Order (see below) and the USDA People's Garden Initiative, for which **Matt Arnn** is NA's representative and Sheree Johnson is NRS's representative. Please let Monica Tomosy, Sherri Wormstead, or your local sustainable operations contact(s) know if you have any questions or ideas for the NA & NRS Sustainable Operations Team. For more information, go to http://fsweb.na.fs.fed.us/staff/BusOps/Sustainability/sustops_naw.shtml.

New Executive Order:

Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance

On October 5, President Barack Obama signed Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance:

“In order to create a clean energy economy that will increase our Nation's prosperity, promote energy security, protect the interests of taxpayers, and safeguard the health of our environment, the Federal Government must lead by example. It is therefore the policy of the United States that Federal agencies shall increase energy efficiency; measure, report, and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions from direct and indirect activities; conserve and protect water resources through efficiency, reuse, and stormwater management; eliminate waste, recycle, and prevent pollution; leverage agency acquisitions to foster markets for sustainable technologies and environmentally preferable materials, products, and services; design, construct, maintain, and operate high-performance sustainable buildings in sustainable locations; strengthen the vitality and livability of the communities in which Federal facilities are located; and inform Federal employees about and involve them in the achievement of these goals.”

Some of the Executive Order Goals for Agencies include:

- Within 90 days of the EO, set an agency target reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (target for 2020 relative to FY 2008 baseline).
- Reduce consumption of petroleum products by a minimum of 2 percent annually through end of FY 2020, relative to a baseline of FY 2005.
- Reduce potable water consumption intensity by 2 percent annually through FY 2020, or 26 percent by the end of fiscal year 2020, relative to the FY 2007 baseline.
- Minimize generation of waste and pollutants through source reduction and divert at least 50 percent of nonhazardous solid waste by the end of FY 2015.
- Ensure that at least 15 percent of the agency's existing buildings and building leases (above 5,000 gross square feet) meet the *Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings* by FY 2015.



- Advance sustainable acquisition to ensure that 95 percent of new contracts are for products and services that are energy efficient, water efficient, biobased, environmentally preferable, non-ozone depleting, contain recycled content, or are nontoxic or less-toxic alternatives.
- Develop, implement, and annually update an integrated Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan to prioritize agency actions based on lifecycle return on investment.

More information about the Executive Order is available at <http://ofee.gov/execorders.asp>.

Newtown Square Headquarters Office

Steve Koehn Elected to Lead the National Association of State Foresters

Maryland State Forester Steve Koehn was elected President of the National Association of State Foresters for 2009-2010 at its recent 87th annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM. According to Steve, "It is a privilege and an honor as well as extremely humbling to be asked by your peers to lead this organization of dedicated and passionate natural resource professionals. I am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead."

Steve will continue to work as the agency head for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service with assistance from Associate Directors Don VanHassent and Kenneth Jolly. Steve is excited about USDA Secretary Vilsack's vision for managing the Nation's forests, including a new emphasis on an "all lands" approach that recognizes the importance of non-Federal forest lands to the health and wealth of the Nation. He hopes this approach will be a way to more fully deploy a non-Federal forest land stewardship vision that includes State and Private Forestry efforts.

NAS&PF Staff Members Provide Assistance for Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategies

State forestry agencies are developing their statewide assessments of forest resource conditions and accompanying statewide forest resource strategies. As States progress and meet with stakeholders to identify priority issues and landscapes, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NAS&PF) has an ongoing opportunity to talk with State planners and State foresters to offer support and assistance as requested; facilitate coordination with other States in determining multistate priority issues and landscapes; and address data needs by convening experts, planners, and GIS specialists through Webinars, conference calls, and meetings.

NAS&PF field office contacts check in with State staff on a regular basis to ensure that the States' needs for assistance and support are met. One such call by **Anne Archie** to Vermont State Forester Steve Sinclair recently resulted in the right people coming together at the right time to address critical needs and identify relevant data sources.

Steve asked Anne if **Sherri Wormstead** and **Tom Luther** could meet with his staff to discuss and review Vermont's approach to developing their assessment and their geospatial analyses. On October 2, Sherri and Tom met with Green Mountain National Forest planner Melissa Reichert and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources staff. Together, they moved significantly further ahead than any of the entities could have progressed separately.



They identified gaps in information and readily available data sources to address those gaps, and validated other processes and data Vermont intended to employ. At the conclusion of the meeting, Steve expressed that he felt much better about Vermont's progress and its next steps than he had going into the meeting. This meeting probably saved considerable time and effort moving forward, and solidified new and existing working relationships and contacts that will be maintained in the future.

Each State forestry agency is in a different phase of assessment and strategy development. In addition, each State's process is unique as it addresses the Farm Bill requirements, its stakeholders, and existing plans and opportunities. One size does not fit all. That being said, however, State Foresters and their staff know they can call upon NAS&PF field office contacts (Anne, **Bob Lueckel**, **Dennis McDougall**, and **Jill Johnson**) as well as Sherri and Tom as Area-wide coordinators for assistance and to help the principal players work together to solve problems and optimize efforts as they progress. NAS&PF efforts and other Forest Service coordination with States continue to build on valued and valuable partnerships as State forestry agencies work to complete their assessments and strategies by the Farm Bill deadline of June 2010.

Maryland Receives National Acclaim for Enacting the Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009

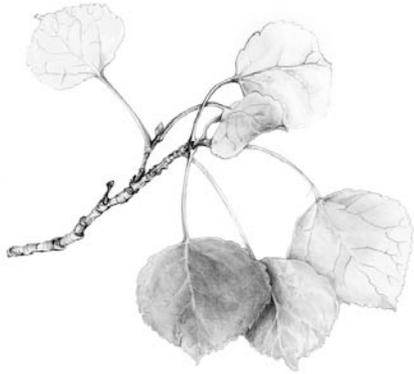
On September 21, 2009, Maryland's Department of Natural Resources Forest Service was honored at the 87th annual meeting of the National Association of State Foresters for having enacted the Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009, which was deemed the "Outstanding Forestry Legislation of 2009." This prestigious award was bestowed upon Maryland by the National Woodland Owner's Association—an award that is not annually given and the one most coveted within the Nation's forest community. Three days later at the same gathering, Maryland State Forester Steve Koehn was elected President of the National Association of State Foresters.

"The honor bestowed upon Maryland by the Nation's forest community is unprecedented. At one time, Maryland is not only recognized for having enacted America's best sustainable forestry law, but its own State Forester (Steve Koehn) is elected by his peers as their new Leader," stated Gary Allen, Chairman of the Partnership for Sustainable Forestry. "Maryland's forest community has cause for celebration of this historic two-fold achievement. It will never happen again in our lifetime."

"On March 4, 2009, before the House Environmental Matters Committee (Maryland General Assembly), I informed the Members [that] the eyes of the Nation were upon Maryland as it deliberated the proposed Sustainable Forestry Act," noted Steve. "When it was enacted, my peers from across the country called to congratulate Maryland for having enacted a sustainable forestry act worthy of national emulation. It was an exhilarating moment and one rivaled only by the honor afforded me by my peers as being elected as the President of the National Association of State Foresters. It is an honor of a lifetime, from both perspectives."



Newtown Square Employee's Art Featured in Colorado Show



Scientific illustrator **Juliette Watts** was one of eight artists whose works were featured at the Cultural Center in Cortez, CO, in September. All artwork in the exhibit was created as the final requirement for the Artist-in-Residence Program on the San Juan National Forest. During the summer of 2008, Juliette spent 2 weeks at the Aspen Guard Station cabin on the Forest and conducted a nature journaling workshop for local artists as described in the [September 2008 issue of the News Notes](#). She also took photographs, notes, and field sketches that enabled her to continue to paint and draw images of the flora and landscapes around the cabin after she left.

The Cortez show included four framed prints from Juliette's journal and two new paintings she did during the year. Juliette also revised the instructional booklet she had created for the nature journaling workshop, drawing on her time with the class participants and the renewed learning and growth she experienced through her own sketches. This booklet was distributed to show visitors and to the Cortez Cultural Center and Bureau of Land Management staffs to use and distribute.



Juliette Watts' artwork was featured at a Colorado Show in September.

Juliette returned to Colorado in September of this year:

"The show opening reception was a perfect ending to an experience which has carried over for me throughout the year. I learned much about the flora and ecosystems of the area, and as I painted I continued to discover more about the subject matter. To then meet with the other artists and see how they were inspired and moved was a deepening of my own experience. It was also rewarding to talk to the judges and the many visitors who attended the opening. Through my work I hope to raise public awareness of the value of getting outside and experiencing the natural world, and to draw attention to the diversity and beauty of this National Forest."

An [article on the show opening in the Cortez weekly paper](#) contained one of Juliette's paintings and information about the Artist-in-Residence Program.



Durham Field Office

Painted Maple Sapling Stands Guard



A 6-foot painted maple tree was planted recently on the grounds of St. Paul's School to provide early warning of an Asian longhorned beetle infestation.

A young tree planted recently at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, has been dubbed a sentinel, a fledgling sapling charged with protective duties on behalf of its fellow trees on the School's grounds and other greenery around the State.

If a certain invasive insect penetrates the New Hampshire border, what happens to this particular tree will serve both as a warning and as a beacon of hope for other nearby hardwoods.

Ben Jorgensen, the School's director of facilities operations and engineering, refers to the 6-foot painted maple planted in the grass adjacent to the White Barn as "the canary in the coal mine." That's a lot of pressure on one little sapling, but one its species has proven it can handle.

"The hope is that if Asian longhorned beetles came along, they would be more attracted to this tree than others around it," said Jorgensen. "It would allow us to carefully watch for more infestations."

Asian longhorned beetles (ALB) have yet to be identified in the Granite State, but their shiny black bodies with white spots have left a trail of devastation from Toronto to West Virginia, with the closest infestation causing Worcester, MA,

officials to cut down and burn nearly 25,000 trees in 2008 to rid the city of the persistent pests.

Through the research of an insect behaviorist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it was determined that Asian longhorned beetles are particularly attracted to painted maples (*Acer mono*). With that information in mind and in response to infestations a little too close to home, this summer the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture launched a pilot sentinel tree project to help with early detection of ALB in the area. St. Paul's School was selected as a site for one of the 32 painted maple sentinels—imports from their native Oregon—after School arborist Larry Collins learned of the project through the State entomologist. Other sentinel trees have been planted in Manchester, Durham, Portsmouth, Nashua, Boscawen, and Littleton.

"Basically, they are planting a specific species of maple around the State that is a favored host of the ALB in the hope of giving early warning of the beetle's arrival here and a better chance to effect control," explained Jorgensen. "It's a slow infestation and it takes years for these bugs to get established. If the trees are put in places where they can be watched for signs, it can help because the public has been instrumental in identifying ALB infestations to date."

Asian longhorned beetles are attracted to many species of tree, including maple, birch, poplar, and elm. Planting painted maples in logical locations increases the likelihood of early detection. Telltale signs of the presence of ALB include a hole in a tree about the diameter of a pencil and wood shavings known as "frass" littering the outside of the hole or the ground beneath the tree.



The beetles are active in warm weather, which is when they bore their holes into unsuspecting trees, lay their eggs inside, and use the trees as hosts during the colder months.

Involvement in the sentinel project is one way the School is working to protect its natural environment. Jorgensen explained that the planting of trees on campus is not random. In fact, there is a conscious effort not to create a “monoculture” of one dominant tree species—a plan put into place to prevent devastation to the campus tree population from something like Dutch elm disease (a fungal disease spread by the ALB cousin elm bark beetle) or another arboreal ailment.

“We’ve been working to mix up the trees we’re planting,” he said. “We are trying to expand our planting strategy.”

St. Paul Field Office

Ash Tree Conservation on Tribal Lands: A Week of Sharing and Learning

Mike Dockry, U.S. Forest Service Liaison to College of Menominee Nation, collaborated with the Center for First Americans Forestlands to organize a week of activities dedicated to ash tree conservation on tribal lands. From September 28 to October 2, more than 60 College of Menominee Nation staff, faculty, students, community members, and tribal foresters participated in one of five workshops held at both the Keshena and Green Bay campuses of the College of Menominee Nation. The workshops focused on the scientific and cultural implications of the emerald ash borer (EAB).

The week started with a daylong workshop on how to collect and handle ash seeds. Instructors Les Benedict (Akwasasne Task Force on the Environment) and Richard Davis (Mohawk Council of Akwasasne) shared their extensive knowledge, demonstrated seed collection techniques, and coached participants as they learned to harvest, process, and store ash seeds.

On Tuesday, College of Menominee Nation Student Intern Leneyea Waupoose screened a 12-minute DVD entitled “Emerald Ash Borer and American Indian Communities” that she produced during a summer internship. Mike facilitated a discussion following the screening.

On Wednesday, Mike presented a talk focused on the scientific aspects of EAB and highlighted the implications of EAB’s recent discovery in Brown County, Wisconsin. Tony Waupochick, a Menominee Tribal Enterprises Forester, presented a fascinating talk on Thursday that focused on ash tree management and invasive species on the Menominee Reservation.

Two Menominee basket makers concluded the week’s activities on Friday by sharing their thoughts about EAB and what it means for their community. The basket makers brought several baskets, tools, supplies, and an ash log that was in the process of being stripped.

A series of educational and outreach materials were unveiled during the week. The DVD about the impact of emerald ash borer on American Indian communities contains general information about EAB and several powerful interviews with prominent American Indian basket makers. On the video, one basket maker reinforces the importance of seed collection by stating, “These little seeds hold so much promise for our people.”





A new brochure entitled “Emerald Ash Borer Impacts on American Indian Communities” was also unveiled during the week. Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry’s **Victoria Evans** and **Juliette Watts** helped with the graphics and layout, and **Sandy Fosbroke** provided editing assistance.

A new Web site dedicated to the impacts of EAB on American Indian communities was also launched during mid-October. The Web site contains the new brochure, the 12-minute video, information, pictures, and extended interviews with American Indian basket makers. The new Web site can be accessed by visiting www.sustainabledevelopmentinstitute.org. To request hard copies of the brochure, please contact Mike Dockry at mdockry@fs.fed.us.

The Center for First Americans Forestlands is a partnership between the College of Menominee Nation’s Sustainable Development Institute and four divisions of the U.S. Forest Service: Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Forest Products Laboratory, Northern Research Station, and the Eastern Region of the National Forest System. Mike Dockry serves the partnership as the U.S. Forest Service Liaison and is located on the College of Menominee Nation campus in Keshena, WI.



Participants of the ash seed collection and handling workshop watch Les Benedict prepare to harvest ash tree seeds.



Instructor Les Benedict (right with pen) helps ash seed collection and handling workshop participants fill out seed collection datasheets.



Editor's Note

DEADLINE! The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is Friday, November 20, 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.

The Northeastern Area News Notes are published monthly by:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4103
<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

