

# Northeastern Area



## News Notes



Kathryn P. Maloney  
Area Director

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Friday, March 21, 2003

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### ADDRESSING EXOTIC SPECIES

Anyone watching the evening news understands how the world is truly interconnected. For those of us who worry about sustainable forests, this point is made again and again as we struggle to deal with the impact of exotic invasive species on our forests.

Our global economy, supported by a complex network of diverse trade, has contributed to an explosion of exotic pests. The tally is sobering: almost 400 exotic insects and 20 exotic diseases already threaten woody plants in the United States and Canada. Exotic weeds are also severely impacting our ecosystems. In fact, for every acre lost to wildfire, two acres are lost to weeds.

The litany of exotic pests is a who's who in agents that have caused widespread damage and change in our forests: Dutch elm disease, white pine blister rust, Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, chestnut blight, sudden oak death, and hemlock woolly adelgid top the list. Perhaps lesser known, but just as serious to our forests, are exotic plants such as buckthorn, garlic mustard, mile-a-minute vine, and purple loosestrife. Just their names are enough to stir concern!

Addressing this onslaught requires a new way of thinking on our part and that of our partners. Our programs and our partners must reach across organizational lines to tap expertise and legislative authority to address detection, control, eradication, and restoration needs. Less than a year ago, the emerald ash borer was detected in the Detroit, Michigan, area. Our headquarters and field office personnel from forest health, urban forestry, utilization, and IMA are working together with our state and federal partners to address the effects of the emerald ash borer. Relatively little is known about this small borer that most likely came here from Asia.

Because of the serious problems with exotic pests, Chief Bosworth has made the issue of exotic species a high priority for the Forest Service. He has asked that a "National Cohesive Strategy" be developed nationwide to serve as our foundation for operations, planning, budget, and priority setting. A final draft of this strategy will be completed later this month. In the meantime, we will be working with our State and Federal partners to rapidly assess new problems, provide early detection, develop information materials, and ensure appropriate work to recover from the effects of exotic species.

Addressing exotic species will challenge the Forest Service – how it is organized, how programs are delivered, how we work with partners, and how to cover the financial costs. Our success will rely heavily on our ability to "think out of the box" -- to creatively, cooperatively, and in cost-effective ways deal with exotic species and the damage caused by them.

— Kathy Maloney



## NEWS CONFERENCE HELD TO ANNOUNCE COMPLETION OF NEW YORK–NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS REGIONAL STUDY



**Eliot Engel speaks to the audience.**

environmental, social, and economic benefits of the New York–New Jersey Highlands. Its 1½ million acres stretch from the lower Hudson River Valley to the Delaware River and serve as the major source of clean drinking water for northern New Jersey and the New York City metropolitan area. Despite its importance, the Highlands are threatened by land use changes that will alter the region’s ability to provide benefits.



**Kathryn Maloney remarks on the importance of the Highlands update.**

policies that balance long-term growth with imperatives regarding water quality and environmental sustainability. The update includes an analysis of projected land use change for the region and the probable impacts of that change on natural resources. It identifies significant areas for preservation and outlines conservation strategies for improved stewardship of Highlands resources.

The New York–New Jersey Highlands Regional Study: 2002 Update is available online at [www.fs.fed.us/na/highlands](http://www.fs.fed.us/na/highlands) or for a CD copy, email [NA\\_HighlandsStudy@fs.fed.us](mailto:NA_HighlandsStudy@fs.fed.us).

More than 60 people joined **Kathryn Maloney**, NA Area Director, and Congressmen **Rodney Frelinghuysen** (NJ), **Scott Garrett** (NJ), and **Eliot Engel** (NY) to announce the completion of the New York–New Jersey Highlands Regional Study: 2002 Update. The event was held at the Carriage House of Skylands Manor in Ringwood State Park, Ringwood, New Jersey, on February 20, 2003. Other Forest Service representatives present were **Terry Hoffman**, **Marcus Phelps**, **Robert Fitzhenry**, and **Martina Hoppe**.

The USDA Forest Service led a 24-month natural resources study of the region that assesses its current condition, analyzes impacts of future change, and provides conservation strategies to guide long-range protection and management efforts. More than 20 million people enjoy the

*“The heritage-rich Highlands contain a diverse mix of forests, farms, and rural and suburban communities which are undergoing rapid land use change,” noted Kathryn Maloney during the news conference. “These changes ultimately affect the environmental and economic factors that sustain a high quality of life for millions of people. That’s why this update on the Highlands’ natural resources will be such a critical guide for our future.”*

At the request of the U.S. Congress, the USDA Forest Service updated an earlier study in cooperation with the Rutgers University Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Regional Plan Association, and state land management agencies in New York and New Jersey. Like the earlier study, the 2002 Update will be a tool for developing local, State, and Federal



## WHOOOO IS WOODSY OWL ANYWAY?

Well, if New Jersey gardeners, landscapers, homeowners, and elementary school students did not know Woodsy Owl and his message “lend a hand care for the land” before, they do now. The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc., built their entire exhibit around two Forest Service symbols, Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear, at the Club’s STANDARD FLOWER SHOW held February 21-24 in Edison, New Jersey.



**Vicky Evans**, the new Woodsy Owl Coordinator for the Northeastern Area, worked with **Onnolee Alliere**, the Youth Program Chair for the Garden Club of New Jersey, to publicize Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear at the event, which was visited by thousands of people. The New Jersey Fire Service and New Jersey Cooperative Extension helped the Club staff the exhibit and escort Smokey and Woodsy during the event.

This event was a great opportunity for Woodsy and Smokey to get out after a long, cold winter, renew old friendships, and make new friends with the folks in New Jersey. It was also an excellent opportunity to strike up a new partnership with the Garden Club of New Jersey. The Club was founded in 1925 and is a federation of individual local garden clubs throughout the State. They have over 5,000 members, ages 6 to adult, including 40 youth groups throughout New Jersey. These youth groups participate in a variety of activities and projects in their communities ranging from after-school programs to community beautification projects to designing and planting schoolyard gardens and outdoor classrooms. The Garden Club of New Jersey also hosts numerous educational conferences and programs for adult members across the State each year.

As you may have noticed, Woodsy Owl has undergone a transformation during recent years. Not only has his physical appearance changed, but his message has also changed to better reflect Forest Service goals and objectives. One of the program’s newest developments is a learning module about invasive plants that is aimed at elementary school teachers and 7-to 10-year-old children. The materials, available in May 2003, will help students and teachers become aware of the problems posed by invasive plant species and provide activities to involve them in detection, prevention, and slowing the spread of invasive species. A second series about invasive insects will be developed in the near future. For more information on the Woodsy Owl symbol and program materials, contact Vicky Evans at 304-285-1529 or [vevans@fs.fed.us](mailto:vevans@fs.fed.us).



## **INCIDENT COMMAND MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

The Northeastern Area's Fire and Aviation Management Staff just completed the first of two 2-week training courses in Incident Command Management with the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) in New York City, New York, on March 7, 2003. The purpose of this course is to better prepare New York City firefighters to respond to terrorist incidents and natural disasters. Personnel from other Forest Service, Federal, State, and local fire departments assisted with this training. Thirty-five FDNY personnel completed the training; another 35 will attend the second session beginning March 24, 2003.

Incident Management is a highly effective structure to manage large-scale incidents and national disasters. In the past three fire seasons, the Forest Service has used dozens of incident management teams to effectively fight history-making blazes that burned more than 7 million acres. Following the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, FEMA dispatched several multi-agency incident management teams to New York City and Washington, DC, and provided support to local and State authorities. Forest Service personnel made up the majority of these teams.

Upon completion of Incident Command Management training, personnel from the FDNY will have the knowledge of incident command techniques and team structure to better respond to complex and long-duration incidents within the City of New York. The FDNY plans to have two incident management teams ready for mobilization by the end of April.



**FDNY ICS Class and the Instructor Cadre.**

# **Army Environmental Center Notes**

## **MISSOULA SMOKEJUMPERS AND THE NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA HELP THE NAVY**

Traveling for fire is what the Missoula Smokejumpers live for. In February, the smokejumpers traveled to northern Florida to conduct a prescribed burn at the Navy's Whitehouse Range near Jacksonville. The smokejumpers developed the burn plan and with the help of fire personnel from the National Forests in Florida, burned approximately 1,000 acres to reduce fuel levels in forested areas. In a separate project, Ocala National Forest fire personnel conducted a 200-acre prescribed burn at the Rodman Bomb Target Range. The Navy is extremely pleased with the Forest Service support in reducing the threat of wildfires at these ranges. These projects were arranged through the Army Environmental Center and Forest Service partnership.



## FIRE PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO THE ARIZONA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

In late February, **Don Dagnan** met with Arizona Army National Guard personnel in Flagstaff to discuss fire and forest management assistance at Camp Navajo. Fire staff from the State Forester's Office, the Coconino National Forest, the Kaibab National Forest, and the Army National Guard attended. The goal of the meeting was to facilitate regional and interagency fire planning. The group agreed to collaborate in sharing GIS information and in completing an interagency agreement for fire management. The Forest Service will also provide fire training.

Before going to the Arizona meeting, Don attended the International Erosion Control Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Don presented a poster on how Viver Grass can be used for erosion control and removal of lead from small arms firing ranges using plants. This presentation was the result of Don's work in Region 8.

# Durham Field Office Notes

## LICHENS IN THE NEWS

The Spring 2003 issue of *Northern Woodlands* Magazine features an article entitled "Gilding the Granite—A Guide to Lichens Found on Stone Walls." The article, written by **Roger Monthey**, Durham's Forest Stewardship Program Representative, and Stephen Sharnoff, a lichenologist from Berkeley, California, discusses the importance of stone walls to the history and character of Northeast woodlands, and presents photographs of some species typically found in the region.

## ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS HISTORY AND FUTURE OF WOOD PROCESSING AWARD

An article authored by **Dean Huber**, Durham's Forest Products Specialist, appears in the March 2003 issue of *Timber Processing*, a national trade journal serving the wood products and processing industry. The article examines the history and evolution of the Wood Technology Award for Excellence, presented each year at the Wood Technology Clinic and Show in Portland, Oregon. Dean, a two-time award recipient, is spearheading the effort to reinstate the award after a 2-year hiatus and heads up this year's selection committee.



**Anthony Sanchez and Melinda Stockman of Eagle Eye Institute speak on connecting urban youth of color to natural resources.**

## EAGLE EYE INSTITUTE BRINGS "ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN BOSTON" TO DURHAM

The non-profit Eagle Eye Institute addresses an undervalued issue by establishing bonds between the environment and youth who might not otherwise grow to appreciate the natural resources in their cities and beyond their borders. Through hands-on educational experiences, Eagle Eye reaches out to urban youth of color, teaches them the interrelationship of all living systems, and equips them to make intelligent, informed resource decisions throughout their lifetime.

The USDA Forest Service enjoys a strong partnership with Eagle Eye. To celebrate this partnership and as a capstone to Black History

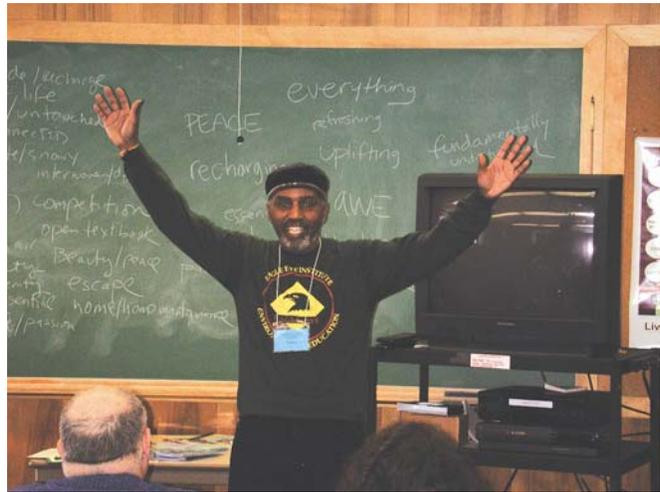
Month, the Durham Civil Rights Committee invited representatives from Eagle Eye to speak about its programs, challenges, successes, and vision for the future. The Civil Rights Committee invites Forest Service partners to speak in real terms about their work to give Forest Service professionals the awareness and perspective to succeed with the diverse public they serve.



Eagle Eye's Executive Director Anthony Sanchez was lead speaker at the event, which packed the Durham conference room with NE, NA, and NFS staff, and students from the University of New Hampshire. Anthony noted the importance of drawing out the knowledge and passion of natural resources professionals in order to reach the hearts and minds of his students. *"It's really a great match,"* agreed Bob Fitzhenry, chairperson of the Durham Civil Rights Committee. *"We're privileged with partners like Eagle Eye."*

Mr. Sanchez and co-presenter Melinda Stockman, Wings Initiative Coordinator for Eagle Eye, took home many new opportunities to expand their partnership with Forest Service scientists and program leaders in Durham. Of particular interest is the teaching forest Eagle Eye owns in western Massachusetts and the potential to introduce their students to the technology side of natural resources planning through a GIS mapping project.

Learn more about Eagle Eye Institute at [www.eagleeyeinstitute.org/index.htm](http://www.eagleeyeinstitute.org/index.htm).



**Anthony Sanchez** praises the audience after a sing-along at the Durham Field Office.

## THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

**Debbie Muccio** served a detail in the Washington office in late January as Executive Assistant to Associate Chief Sally Collins. She collaborated and coordinated Sally's schedule with the Chief's staff and handled a variety of functions from arranging Sally's travel plans to organizing high-profile visitor, phone, and e-mail communications. Debbie observed, *"This was a wonderful opportunity to meet the Chief and Chief's staff and learn about operations at the agency's top level. It was important to be a quick study on issues in the public eye. The organizational and technical skills, as well as friendships, I came away with will be invaluable to me throughout my career."*



**Debbie Muccio** (center) worked closely with both Chief Dale Bosworth and Associate Chief Sally Collins while on a recent detail at the Washington Office.



**Participants at the PDA workshop** used hands-on exercises to learn the use of the new technology.

## The Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry Notes

### PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS (PDAS) WORKSHOP HELD

The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, in cooperation with the International Society of Arboriculture's New England Chapter, National Grid USA, and the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, conducted the first of seven workshops introducing the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) as an organizational and management tool. The first workshop, held at National Grid USA's Service Center in Northboro, Massachusetts, included a full day of hands-on, step-by-step instruction on using PDAs and provided an overview of several software packages that can be used in urban forest management situations. Instructors included David



Bloniarz, Center Director, and Shaun Phelan of the Springfield Parks Department. Twenty-five participants, from every New England State and New York, attended the workshop. Additional workshops are planned this spring.

### TREE TRAINING FOR BOSTON AND BROOKLINE HORTICULTURALISTS



**Over 70 horticulturalists and foresters from Boston and Brookline participated in a recent workshop.**

The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, in cooperation with the University of Massachusetts, conducted a full-day training workshop on tree growth, planting, and maintenance for the horticultural staff of the City of Boston Parks Department and the Forestry Division of the Town of Brookline. The workshop, held at Boston's Franklin Park, included classroom instruction and field exercises for the over 70 employees who attended. David Bloniarz, Center Director, and Dr. Dennis Ryan of the University of Massachusetts led the instruction, which included identification of hazard trees, planting techniques, and basic tree biology.

Stressing awareness of tree health, the workshop was designed to acquaint field workers with techniques to identify unhealthy, dying trees or hazard conditions.

### PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORISTS LECTURE PRESENTED

A presentation on "Personal Digital Assistants for Commercial Arborists" was recently delivered to over 80 members of the Massachusetts Arborist Association at its monthly meeting. The presentation by Center Director David Bloniarz provided an overview of hardware and software that can be applied to uses in commercial arboriculture. The presentation included discussion of the Palm and Pocket PC operating systems, the two most popular platforms in use today, and a demonstration of several software packages that can be used to assist arborists in surveying, managing, and maintaining public and private trees.

# Grey Towers Notes

### DISTINGUISHED PINCHOT LECTURER VISITS GREY TOWERS

Professor Dr. Franz Schmithüsen, of Zurich's Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, chosen as the 2003 Pinchot Distinguished Lecturer, visited Grey Towers after he delivered his lecture in Washington, DC last month. Dr. Schmithüsen wanted to see and experience the historic home where Gifford Pinchot lived and worked.

Dr. Schmithüsen's 1-hour address, "The Global Revolution in Sustainable Forest Policy: A European Perspective," compared and contrasted American and European forest policy development through the lens of common interests in sustainable forest management. In his lecture, Dr. Schmithüsen discussed the major challenges in the development of American and European forest policy, such as developing consistent approaches and solutions to structure adaptive policy and legal frameworks.

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation inaugurated its annual Pinchot Distinguished Lecture series in 1986 to introduce new thinking to the public about the history and complexity of forest conservation. Since then, the lectures have covered such topics as the need for vision in forestry,



**Pinchot Institute Senior Fellow Dr. Dennis LeMaster (left) and Dr. Franz Schmithüsen spent a foggy morning touring Grey Towers.**



historical aspects of conservation, and the history and future of the National Forest System.

For a copy of Dr. Schmithüsen's presentation, contact Lori McKean, Public Affairs Officer, Grey Towers, at 570-296-9672 or [lmckean@fs.fed.us](mailto:lmckean@fs.fed.us).

### GREY TOWERS WINS AWARDS

Grey Towers Site Manager Paul LaBounty and Project Engineer Charles Herne recently received Certificates of Appreciation from the Northeastern Area for "demonstrating extra effort in providing management and technical support for various minor construction and maintenance projects" during FY '02. Some of those projects include renovation of the Farmhouse, construction of a new curatorial storage building, and pre-construction planning for renovation of the LetterBox (currently underway).

Tri-State region residents voted Grey Towers the "Most Attractive Building" in a recent poll conducted by a regional newspaper. The award suggests that more and more people are becoming aware of Grey Towers, the Forest Service, and all we have to offer in the region.



Rich Gilbert, Grey Towers' new permanent gardener.

### MEET GREY TOWERS' NEWEST PERMANENT EMPLOYEE:

Rich Gilbert is the new permanent gardener at Grey Towers and he's anxiously looking forward to spring to start working in those flowerbeds! Rich is already familiar with the grounds and the landscaping history of Grey Towers, having worked as a seasonal employee in the maintenance unit for the past 4 years focusing, of course, on the gardens. In his new position, Rich will work with Horticulturist Elizabeth Hawke on all aspects of the landscape, including the flowerbeds, hedges, lawns and edging, walkways, stairs, trails, and water features. And while he's busy pruning, planting, fertilizing, and watering, Rich will happily be conversing with Grey Towers' visitors, who always have questions about the historic gardens.

# Morgantown Field Office Notes

### NATIONAL FOREST HEALTH MONITORING WORKSHOP

**Anne Cumming**, Randy Morin, and **Dan Twardus** attended the national FHM Workshop in Monterey, California, January 28 – 31, 2003. Randy and Dan presented a poster illustrating monitoring work in progress on the Allegheny National Forest. Anne and Dan participated in the urban forest health monitoring sub-group meeting. Pilot projects in Indiana, Wisconsin, Maryland, and Massachusetts were discussed. An additional pilot is scheduled for summer 2003 in New Jersey. Other Forest Service folks attending the urban meetings included Manfred Meilke, Dave Alerich, Bill Burkman, and Phil Rodbell.



## LIVING MEMORIALS – FLIGHT 93 MEETING

**Anne Cumming** attended a 2-day discussion of the living memorial planned for Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and the victims and heroes of Flight 93. On Friday, January 31, 2003, Anne joined Tom Grote, Erika Svendsen, Matt Arnn, and David Kamp to tour Somerset County and the crash site. On Saturday, the group met with representatives from the Somerset County Commission, Flight 93 Task Force, National Park Service, Firemen's Association, Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, and the Somerset County Technical School to discuss the Living Memorials Program and options for the memorial.

## MAC PARTICIPATES IN MIDWEST PLANNING SESSION



The Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry participated in a 3-day Midwest Urban and Community Forestry planning session in Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 14-16. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the new Midwest Center Coordinator, Jill Mahon; identify opportunities for collaboration between the three centers; and begin a process to identify priorities for the Midwest Center. **Donna Murphy**, Coordinator, delivered a presentation outlining the Mid-Atlantic Center goals, objectives, functioning structure, and projects. Technology transfer projects highlighted included: the Geo-Referenced Spatial Database, National Arboretum Out Planting, Storm Assessment Protocol, and Pruning Standards CD-ROM. Meeting participants included Mike Prouty, Field Representative, St. Paul Field Office; Phillip

Rodbell, NA Federal Coordinator; and urban forestry staff from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin. Lisa Burban, MW Federal Coordinator, facilitated the meeting with assistance from Jill. The presentation can be viewed at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/macucf/ppt/CenterBriefSt.Paul\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/macucf/ppt/CenterBriefSt.Paul_files/frame.htm).

## “ARCVIEW FOR DUMMIES”

The Morgantown Field Office sponsored an "ArcView for Dummies" training session on Feb. 4-5, coordinated by **Amy Onken**. Thirty people attended the training session representing seven states from NA and Region 8 and Forest Service personnel from both the Asheville and Morgantown Field Offices. Jackie Strager from West Virginia University taught the course and was assisted by **Ann Stekete**, Morgantown Field Office, and Al Sior, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. The basics of ArcView were covered with special emphasis on how it can be used for gypsy moth suppression, eradication, and slow-the-spread activities. In addition, "Spray Advisor," which is an ArcView extension that was developed for the Forest Service by Jackie Strager, was covered. "Spray Advisor" is used for the import and export of spray block information to and from aircraft navigation systems (GPS).

## NORTH-CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA: A MODEL FOR MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT

“North-central Pennsylvania: A Model for Multiple Use Management” was the theme of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters winter meeting held in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on February 19 – 21, 2003. More than 150 participants heard presentations about ecotourism; oil, gas, and minerals; and water quality, wildlife, and timber issues. **Roxane Palone** presented a program about Pennsylvania's recent deer management research and policy changes. Will McWilliams, NE, Newtown Square, gave a presentation on the preliminary findings of Pennsylvania's latest forest inventory. **Karen Sykes** won first place in the Reginald Forbes Art Contest, Amateur Category, for a cross-stitched owl creation. Allegany College of Cumberland, Maryland, won the Student Quiz Bowl.





**Marijke Hecht, Executive Director NMRWA, leads a discussion session to review earlier efforts to green Wilkinsburg.**

## **BEAUTIFICATION BEING PLANNED IN WILKINSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (NMRWA) hosted a meeting in Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, to discuss ways in which community forestry can be used as a tool for watershed and community health. Wilkinsburg is a suburb of Pittsburgh with a population of 21,000, 39 churches, and many urban problems. Efforts to green Wilkinsburg have met with both success and failure. To improve on the successes, NMRWA brought local community leaders and forestry agency representatives together to discuss ideas for community outreach and engagement; target locations for tree plantings; and discuss ways to document, monitor, and evaluate a beautification program. **Anne Cumming** and **Karen Sykes** represented the Forest

Service. Other forestry attendees included the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry and Penn State University Extension. Representatives of the Wilkinsburg Shade Tree Commission, Whitney Park Parks Committee, Wilkinsburg School Board, and others formed a Working Group to continue working on a beautification strategy.

## **MALABAR FARM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

**Roxane Palone** visited with Louis Andres, Superintendent of Malabar Farm State Park, in Lucas, Ohio. Malabar Farm is the working homestead of Louis Bromfield, Pulitzer-prize winning author who wrote 30 best-selling novels from 1924-1955. The park raises crops and livestock, has a working sawmill, produces honey and maple syrup, and holds various workshops in arts and crafts. The state park and the Malabar Farm Foundation are in the process of building a new education center that will include 15 permanent exhibits that tell the “Bromfield, Land, and Food” stories. The “Land” story includes natural resource management, native plants and animals, special forest products, and primary wood manufacturing. Mr. Andres is soliciting sponsors for the various exhibits, including the Economic Action Programs of the USDA Forest Service. Roxane informed the staff of the Northeastern Area mission and programs, including the competitive grant process. She will be looking for ways to assist in the development of the “Land” story exhibits. For more information, visit [www.malabarfarm.org](http://www.malabarfarm.org).

## **FORESTRY CONSULTANT TRAINING IN WEST VIRGINIA**

On February 27, over 65 forestry consultants and natural resource planners attended a Forest Health training session sponsored by the West Virginia Stewardship Coordinating Committee and West Virginia Forestry Association. The session covered various forest protection subjects, such as fire, insects, diseases, and invasive plants. Instructors from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture covered many of the insect and disease problems that plague West Virginia today and provided information on other pests that have infested neighboring states, such as the emerald ash borer. One of the main presenters was **Martin MacKenzie**, whose Hazard Tree Identification show was well received. Kurt Gottschalk, of NE Morgantown, also gave a presentation on “Silvicultural Techniques to Improve Health in Northeast Conifer and Eastern Hardwood Forests.” Although not making a presentation, **Karen Sykes** provided information regarding the recent President’s Day Ice Storm to consultants, many of whom are working with landowners to assess the damage.



**Plant pathologist Martin MacKenzie instructs consultants on hazard tree assesment.**



# St. Paul Field Office Notes

## REGION 9 EMPLOYEES LEARN ABOUT NORTHEASTERN AREA FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION

Bill Jones and Mike Ablutz, Silviculturists, and Paul Berrang, Geneticist, from the USDA Forest Service Eastern Regional Office in Milwaukee visited the St. Paul Field Office Forest Health Protection staff on March 5, 2003. The three visitors recently transferred to the Eastern Regional Office from the western part of the country, so this was an opportunity to explain how the Northeastern Area functions and describe the major insect and disease concerns that threaten Eastern forests. The **St. Paul FHP staff** learned about Region 9's plans for their silviculture and genetics programs, and identified ways to work more closely with the Regional Office and National Forests. While in St. Paul, the Region 9 visitors also had the opportunity to participate in part of the SPFO State Cooperators' Meeting and visit other scientists from the University of Minnesota and North Central Research Station.

## EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE

**Steve Katovich**, Entomologist, participated in an emerald ash borer planning meeting with personnel from the North Central Research Station, Michigan State University, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and USDA APHIS late last month, and provided the following update. The Governor of Michigan, Jennifer Granholm, formerly requested federal funding and resources from U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman to help the State combat and eradicate emerald ash borer (EAB). APHIS has confirmed EAB in Lucas County, Ohio; it appears that firewood may have been the cause of introduction. In addition, an infestation has been found in Tipton, Michigan, also outside of the quarantine area. Again, the infestation appears to be the result of transportation of firewood. A high priority for the project will be an intense survey to delineate the edge of the infestation. A big concern will be how to dispose of infested wood. Urban foresters from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Northeastern Area will be meeting in mid-March to further develop the restoration plan for EAB.

## FORESTS FOR HUMANITY

On a bright, sunny day with freshly fallen snow, 30 Society of American Foresters (SAF) members, including **Teri Heyer**, Conservation Education Specialist, and University of Minnesota Forestry students marked a red oak hardwood stand for harvest. The wood harvested will be donated to Habitat for Humanity for use in homes being built around the state of Minnesota. This effort is part of the nationwide "Forests for Humanity" project resulting from a partnership between SAF and Habitat for Humanity. In addition to Teri's assistance, **Rich Wiest**, Forester, provided valuable expertise in terms of road layout. According to Teri, "It was a win-win situation all the way around: the landowners received the satisfaction of donating raw materials for homes and at the same time met their long-term objective of regenerating a future hardwood stand. Those of us who spend way too much time at a desk spent a marvelous day in the woods, and the University students had a chance to gain practical field experience by working alongside 'seasoned' foresters."

## UTILIZING URBAN TREES ON TOUR

**Steve Bratkovich**, Marketing and Utilization Specialist, recently presented "*Utilizing Urban Trees: A National Perspective*," at the Urban Wood Utilization Conference in Bakersfield, California. The conference, sponsored by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the City of Bakersfield, Kern County, and the Tree Foundation of Kern, brought together regional and national experts to discuss the important municipal issue of how to better use urban wood. In addition, Steve developed a 1-hour workshop on the same subject for the Missouri Community Forestry Council Annual Meeting. Steve's presentations are based on the knowledge he gained compiling his recent publication, "Utilizing Municipal Trees: Ideas From Across the Country."



## STORMS OVER THE URBAN FOREST

**Lisa Burban**, Group Leader for Forest Resources Management, presented a 1-hour workshop on *Planning and Preparation: Lessons Learned from Kansas City, Missouri* at the Storms Over the Urban Forest Conference in Texarkana, Texas. Sponsored by the State Urban Forestry Councils, State Forestry Agencies, Cooperative Extension and Emergency Management Agencies of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, the conference chairs took advantage of their location in the heart of 'tornado alley' to attract national experts and develop an urban forestry component in emergency event planning. James Lee Witt, former Director of FEMA, was the keynote speaker. Lisa, author of the publication "Storms Over the Urban Forest," not only provided insight into how to plan for storm events, but also reflected on the growth of urban forestry; "*Urban foresters have really embraced their role in disaster and storm response. Many arborists and urban foresters are the first ones on the scene to help pick up the pieces, restore power, and clear emergency evacuation routes. As a result of training opportunities such as this one, they are better prepared and more efficient when disaster strikes.*"

# Editor's Corner

## THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick** and **Steve Davis**, Newtown Square; **Helene Cleveland**, AEC; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Martina Hoppe**; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Melissa Emerson**, **Karen Sykes**, **Roxane Palone**, and **Vicky Evans**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web; and to **Sandy Fosbroke** for an extra "eye."

## DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be **April 15, 2003**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Lewis at [talewis@fs.fed.us](mailto:talewis@fs.fed.us).

