

Northeastern Area



News Notes



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PERFORMANCE MATTERS!

The season of performance reviews and planning for the year ahead has once again arrived. If you're asking yourself "So what?" please read on. Accountability for results— financial and program, individual and organizational — depends on how each of us performs our duties. When we perform well, those who receive our services, as well as those who pay us to provide services (a.k.a. taxpayers), have an interest in

continuing to support our work. The inverse of this simple concept is true as well!

Take pride in your accomplishments! During this past year, we have revised our NA Strategic Plan, published the first "Sustainability Assessment Highlights for the Northern United States," adjusted our processes to address the auditors' concerns, contributed significantly to the President's Healthy Forest Initiative, provided firefighters and funds to wildfire suppression efforts in the West, and accomplished many, many other things.

How do all the "things" we do relate to "great performance"? There are different perspectives, and my own is that great performance equates to accomplishing important, valued things well (quality products and services, delivered as promised). As we begin a new year, our NA Strategic Plan is intended to guide our choices about what is important and valued. I have directed the members of the NA Executive Team to ensure that their program and unit work plans for next year help us accomplish our strategic goals and objectives. Individual performance standards need to be crafted to directly support program and unit work plans.

Straightforward, yes! Simple, no! We will be challenged to set priorities and select the most valued investments. The effects in some cases will be to take on new work and, at the same time, to curtail or even abandon other work that is perhaps familiar and comfortable. Each of us will be challenged to advocate first for the goals and objectives of NA, aligning program, unit, and individual interests to follow.

NA employees also have the opportunity at this time of the year to look ahead to their own development. Individual development plans, or IDPs, are an important tool for identifying training to enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of our workforce. Investing in NA employees is essential to NA's success! Talk with your supervisor about training and development opportunities that would contribute to your performance.

Performance does matter! Great performance equates to accomplishing important, valued things well and helps ensure continued support for what NA does. Congratulations on the many successes of 2003 and keep up the great performance in the coming year!

¾ Kathy Maloney



CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT



*Born of Dreams—
Inspired by Freedom*

As we continue to celebrate the “Centennial of Flight” and review the advancements in aviation over these last 100 years of powered flight, no one could ever have imagined that such an invention would have been used as a weapon of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists. Only days after the second anniversary involving the tragic events of September 11, 2001, we reflect

upon the many changes in our daily lives and how we conduct our work as a result of these tragic events.

The Northeastern Area quickly assessed the security of our aviation program and the safeguarding measures that have always been a part of project planning and practices regarding personnel, aircraft, support equipment, agricultural materials, and facilities. The aviation program took immediate steps toward enhancing project security and safeguarding aircraft operations, according to Dan Zimmerman, Area Aviation Officer. For all aircraft operations in the Area, a Project & Aviation Management Security (PAMS) plan was developed and implemented in order to safeguard aviation operations. Today, the PAMS plan is a required element in the planning process of all aviation operations in the Area. Many cooperators, partners, and private industry contractors who use aircraft within their organization have adopted the plan. Personnel affiliated with NA aviation-supported, forestry projects at all levels of government and private industry receive pre-work and onsite briefings regarding security and safety throughout the progress of projects. Because safety is everyone’s responsibility, security has reached equal priority, particularly since September 11, 2001.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS RELEASED

The newly released *Sustainability Assessment Highlights for the Northern United States* provides a snapshot of today’s forests and a baseline for tracking future trends. This summary report is based on a comprehensive assessment of forest sustainability organized according to the Montreal Process criteria and indicators. Presented in bullet format to focus on the most critical issues and findings in the comprehensive assessment, the highlights are intended to increase the awareness of forest stakeholders and Federal, State, and local government personnel about current forest conditions in order to sustain forests in the future.

If you would like a hard copy of the publication, please contact Jane McComb at (603) 868-7693 or jamccomb@fs.fed.us. The complete publication is also available on the sustainability Web site at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability/>.



Army Environmental Center Notes

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RESEARCH STATION HELPS OUT IN OKINAWA



Larry Soenen (R) directs construction of a monitoring site.

For the past year, Rand Eads of the Pacific Southwest Research Station has been assisting **Larry Soenen**, NA, who is stationed at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Butler in Okinawa, Japan, to design sediment-monitoring stations. With the help of some Marines from the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, the stations were constructed and equipment was installed in early August. In mid-August, Rand worked in Okinawa to calibrate the two stations. The stations measure the volume of water and amount of suspended sediment leaving military lands. Each of the stations will automatically collect up to 48 water samples. Automation is important

because no one will be able to visit the sites during typhoons.

Both Forest Service and Okinawa scientists will analyze the samples. The resulting data are needed to combat misperceptions that soil erosion primarily occurs on lands managed by the U.S. military. The monitoring stations are just one aspect of the watershed management program that Larry has been managing for Camp Butler.



Larry Soenen (L) and Rand Eads calibrate monitoring equipment at the Kan station using a laptop computer.

Grey Towers Notes

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: JFK VISITED GREY TOWERS



JFK at the amphitheatre at Grey Towers on September 24, 1963.

Forty years ago this week (September 24, 1963), President John F. Kennedy came to Grey Towers National Historic Landmark to dedicate it as the home of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation “*for greater knowledge of the land and its uses.*” The former home of Gifford Pinchot, the Nation’s first chief forester, Grey Towers is fulfilling the intent of the gift from Dr. Gifford Bryce Pinchot, who intended for the family home to become an active conservation center that would carry on the work of his father. Today, the partnership between the Forest Service and the Pinchot Institute enables educational and interpretive programs and projects, forestry research, workshops, conferences, lectures, symposia, and meetings.

The Forest Service and the Pinchot Institute will be marking this historic anniversary with a variety of different programs over the next few weeks. Visitors will be encouraged to record their memories of the Kennedy visit in a guest book. A video of the Kennedy visit, complete with the President’s remarks about Gifford Pinchot’s work and the importance of the Pinchot Institute, will be shown many times. Some memorabilia from that day, including articles from regional newspapers, will be on display. And the Pinchot Institute will be commemorating its 40th anniversary with a special event and program at Grey Towers.



GREY TOWERS GOES INTERNATIONAL

A special program this month brought an international flavor to Grey Towers when the staff of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) spent the day in Milford learning about the history of forestry in America. After an informative tour of Grey Towers and the estate grounds given by Director Ed Brannon, and a thought-provoking presentation by Peter Pinchot that provided an overview of the work of the Pinchot Institute and the Forest Service, the UNFF group “broke bread” with staff from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, who were also meeting at Grey Towers. Both groups shared information about their work during a lively lunchtime exchange. DCNR and Forest Service staff then escorted the UNFF on a field trip to learn about forestry issues, conflicts, and opportunities in the northeastern Pennsylvania region.

PA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION TAKES A STEP “BACK IN TIME” AT GREY TOWERS

Members of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association attended a program at Grey Towers this month that took them “back in time” to when Gifford Pinchot saw the need for and introduced scientific forestry in America. Peter Pinchot, chairman of the board for the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and director of the Milford Experimental Forest, shared his thoughts with the group on what he calls the three conservation revolutions: first during Gifford’s time, second in the sixties and seventies, and the third, today. The group enjoyed a tour of the Grey Towers mansion and grounds and a visit to the nearby Milford Experimental Forest.

CONSERVATION AND THE ARTS: GT GOES TO LA

“Arts and Nature: Making the Connection,” a program designed by Grey Towers staff that illustrates how arts and humanities have played a pivotal role in the conservation of natural resources, will be presented at the upcoming *Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship* conference in Los Angeles, California. The Grey Towers proposal, which will be presented in conjunction with the Earth Arts Institute, Big Sur, located at the Forest Service’s Brazil Ranch, was chosen from the more than 700 proposals submitted. The 4-day conference, coordinated by seven agencies and organizations including the Forest Service, is intended to provide a means to examine and learn from existing partnerships, develop partnering skills, and forge new collaborative efforts.

Durham Field Office Notes

USDA-DURHAM TEAMS UP FOR UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING



Forest Service, NRCS, and Seacoast Land Trust volunteers gather before the day’s trail work.

On September 11, 2003, NA employees joined with their counterparts at NRCS to roll up their sleeves and pitch in at the 12th Annual United Way Day of Caring. More than 1,500 individuals volunteered in a wide range of community service projects throughout the New Hampshire Seacoast region. The USDA-Durham team participated for the second consecutive year, a partnership that is sure to continue for years to come.

This year’s crew, along with a crew from Fleet Bank, tackled a trail clearing and improvement project at the Great Bog in Portsmouth. Under warm, sunny skies, volunteers hacked away at overgrowth to widen an existing trail, collected trash, hung trail markers, and installed stakes to mark the trail through a grassy area. The Seacoast Land Trust, which holds a conservation easement on 200 acres of the bog, was grateful to all the volunteers and their efforts.

“Thanks to all of you for putting your all into the work at the Great Bog. It makes a world of difference and it will add to the value of the bog for all for a long time to come,” commented Danna Truslow, Executive Director of the Seacoast Land Trust.





Bob Fitzhenry and Karen Mollander prune back some of the dense overgrowth.

The Great Bog represents an example of community activism at its best. A few years ago, plans were in place to build a 25-lot subdivision on the site. A group of concerned citizens brought the issue to the attention of Portsmouth's mayor. She appointed a committee to study the situation, eventually resulting in the purchase of the parcel by the city on April 2, 2001. Located right along Interstate 95, the bog offers refuge to migrating and resident birds, and many species of wildlife. It is home to rare plants such as the hairy fruited sedge and Atlantic white-cedar, as well as tufted loosestrife, a threatened plant in New Hampshire.

The Durham Field Office recognizes this year's volunteers for their efforts and dedication: **Karen Mollander, Bob Fitzhenry, Florence Peterson, Roger Monthey, and Helen Thompson.**

STATE FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING: LOOKING IN THE CRYSTAL BALL



The Northeastern Forest Resource Planners Association (NFRPA) held its annual conference in Duluth, Minnesota, August 17 through 20, 2003. This year's theme was "State Forest Resource Planning: Looking in the Crystal Ball." As part of the regular reports to the State forest resource planners, Mike Higgs (Washington Office), Sam Emmons (Eastern Region), **Robin Morgan**, and **Connie Carpenter** each presented updates on their respective program areas. The main sessions focused on the past, present, and future of State forest resource planning, ending with an interactive session challenging participants to consider the tools, support, and role of NA and NFRPA desired for future planning. **Mark Buccowich** gave a presentation on the stewardship spatial analysis initiative. As part of the poster session, **Sherri Wormstead** presented information about the criteria and indicators of forest sustainability initiative. For the field session, the group toured the Crosby-Manitou landscape collaborative management area, comprised of 10,000 acres in the Superior Highlands region of northeastern Minnesota, where county, State, Nature Conservancy, and other partners are coordinating

forest management across the landscape. At the conference's conclusion, the Crystal Ball award was bestowed upon Larry Pedersen, Michigan DNR, by last year's recipient, Connie Carpenter.



Larry Pedersen, Minnesota DNR, accepts the Crystal Ball Award from Connie Carpenter, last year's recipient.



Conference attendees tour the 10,000-acre Crosby-Manitou landscape collaborative management area.



VERMONT PARK MANAGERS VISIT QUABBIN RESERVOIR FOREST LANDS IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Durham Field Office recently coordinated a visit by resource managers from the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Vermont to the Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller differs from other national parks in that it focuses on forest management and stewardship as opposed to strict preservation. The park's resource managers, who will be developing a management plan in the near future, benefited from touring examples of conifer plantation management at the reservoir. Some stands in the park's historically significant pine and spruce plantations are mature with little conifer regeneration in the understory layer, and there is concern about their future status. Forestry personnel at the Quabbin Reservoir have many years of experience working with conifer plantations; their experience and insights were the focus of the visit.

Morgantown Field Office Notes

DC STATE FORESTER VISITS MFO

Ainsley Caldwell, Chief and State Forester for the District of Columbia, visited the Morgantown Field Office on July 28 and 29. The primary purpose of the visit was for him to become familiar with State and Private Forestry programs (in addition to those with which DC is most involved – Urban and Community Forestry, Conservation Education, and Forest Health Protection) and to meet MFO staff. Ainsley participated in the Monday morning MFO Executive Team briefing followed by the NA Executive Team briefing call. He discussed DC forestry programs at an all-office meeting and had an opportunity to meet staff from co-located units (NE and FHTET). During the day and a half visit, Ainsley had a chance to discuss State and Private Forestry program specifics with **Ed Cesa** and **Lew McCreery** (EAP), **Anne Cumming** (UCF), and **Al Iskra** (FHP). John Hazel introduced Ainsley to West Virginia University Division of Forestry Director Joe McNeel on the WVU campus. Ainsley, Joe, and John discussed the possibility of developing a new urban forestry program at WVU with cooperative education students coming from the District of Columbia area.

WASHINGTON OFFICE DETAIL

John Hazel was on assignment to the Washington Office, August 4 through 8, acting as Director for Forest Health Protection. During the week, Hazel represented FHP at the State and Private Deputy Chief's briefings, met with Associate Chief Robin Thompson on the national FHP budget and staffing for fiscal year 2004, and addressed a Secretary of Agriculture request for biological opinions prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service on national forests in Regions 1, 5, and 6.

MONONGALIA COUNTY EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

The Monongalia County Schools and Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce held their annual Partnership in Education Symposium on August 1 in Morgantown, West Virginia. The symposium presentations highlighted Monongalia County Schools' partnerships with private industry and business. The Morgantown Field Office participates in the partners In Education (PIE) program as the business partner for the Monongalia Technical Education Center (MTEC). **John Hazel** attended the symposium, which included planning activities for the coming school year that would benefit both MTEC and the Forest Service. The PIE program provides a good opportunity for the Forest Service to interact with other businesses, including those owned by women and minorities, in the Morgantown area.





NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM RECEIVES CHIEF'S AWARD

The National Technology Transfer Team convened at the Forest Service Washington Office on August 18-19 to accept the Forest Service Chief's Award for Technology Transfer. The award recognizes a "demonstrated and outstanding" level of leadership, creativity, and innovation by creating "a national vision and strategic outlook" for technology transfer in the United States. Assistant Chief Joel Holtrop presented awards to team members present.

Donna Murphy, Coordinator, Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry, accepts a Chief's Award for Technology Transfer in recognition of the efforts of the National Technology Transfer Team.

Although the awards were a highlight, the primary emphasis of the 2-day meeting was work. Mark Buscaino, Director of Urban and Community Forestry, opened the meeting with a discussion of the role of technology transfer in urban and community forestry. Peggy Harwood (WOFS) followed with a two-part presentation addressing the need to incorporate urban forestry into green infrastructure planning. Luz Parris (WOFS)

explained how the Healthy U.S. Initiative could be linked to urban and community forestry, followed by an informative presentation on urban forestry outreach by Lisa Burban (SPFO FS). Immediately following the meeting, the National Technology Transfer Integrated Planning Team (IPT) met for its first Online Resource Database working session. The Resource Database will bring together all the resources of 10 existing databases currently located on Forest Service Web sites throughout the country. Team Leader Gracie Joy, BioScientist with the Washington Office, organized and hosted the meeting. **Donna Murphy**, Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry, is a member of both teams.



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry has entered into a partnership with the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. to field test street tree cultivars more adapted to urban and utility environments. On Wednesday, August 20th, **Donna Murphy**, Center Coordinator, met with Don Hammond of the National Arboretum, Ainsley Caldwell, D.C. State Forester, Dr. Marla McIntosh, University of Maryland, and representatives from the Maryland Electric Reliability Tree Trimming (MERTT) Council to discuss partnership opportunities that will assure long-term support. Ainsley Caldwell will be working with his staff to find suitable planting locations throughout D.C. MERTT representatives; Bill Rees, Baltimore Gas & Energy (BG&E); Steve Genua, and A. Tas Taousakis, Daniel Landy, Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO); and Sandi Patty, Maryland DNR, Transmission Programs, discussed utility planting issues and investigated possible support venues. The group brainstormed potential funding options, toured the soon-to-be-constructed pot-n-pot nursery, and observed some of the new cultivars planted throughout the arboretum. A followup meeting is planned this December.



Representatives from the MERTT Council and District of Columbia Urban Forestry Administration observe cultivars at the National Arboretum that will soon be tested for adaptability to urban environments and utility right-of-ways.





Dr. Martin MacKenzie carefully inspects a tree bole dissected during the recent Tree Autopsy Workshop held in Grantsville, Maryland.

TREE AUTOPSY WORKSHOP

Dr. Martin MacKenzie, Forest Pathologist, delivered a very informative and entertaining morning lecture and outdoor tree autopsy session at Savage River State Forest, August 26, 2003. A cooperative effort of the Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), workshop was coordinated by Becky Wilson, Maryland DNR, with assistance from **Donna Murphy**. **Barbara Morgan**, **Vicky Evans**, and **Nancy Lough** were instrumental in workshop promotion. The morning lecture sessions focused on fungi growth characteristics and compartmentalization responses using more than 30 examples harvested from urban forests across the Mid-Atlantic. The morning session concluded with a demonstration by Mike Galvin, Maryland DNR, on the use of a Digital Microprobe, while the afternoon was spent discussing injury history with followup autopsies and discussion of CODIT

response. Forty participants from Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, and the District of Columbia attended the workshop. A similar workshop is planned in Toledo, Ohio, on September 26th.

Editor's Corner

THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick** and **Dan Zimmerman**, Newtown Square; **Helene Cleveland**, AEC; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; and **Melissa Emerson**, **Roxane Palone**, and **Donna Murphy**, Morgantown;; **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 COB **October 13, 2003**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Lewis at talewis@fs.fed.us.

