



# Northeastern Area News Notes



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March 28, 2006

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

### Making a Difference Where People Live

Often, the most important forest to people is the one they view or experience in their daily lives. With more than 80 percent of the region's population living in the urban forest, conditions are ripe for us to make real progress in affecting the quality of life where people live and to grow an ethic of natural resource planning and management that will sustain our forests for years to come. The 20 Northeastern and Midwestern States and District of Columbia are home to nearly a quarter of the Nation's forests and 43 percent of the Nation's citizens.

With the help of our State and Research partners, the study of urban tree cover and its management is reaching new levels of sophistication. At the same time that we are tracking our annual progress in developing the local capacity to manage and sustain urban trees and forests, we are also fine-tuning the tools that will enable us to set goals and track long-term progress in developing a robust urban forest and the many ecosystem services that forests provide.

One example of this was recently highlighted by our work with the Maryland DNR Forest Service. As a direct result of our shared investment in research and application development, the city of Baltimore has committed to setting a tree cover goal based on an assessment of existing tree cover, available planting space, and community capacity to get the job done. This decision was a vote of confidence that the science and technology we have developed is sophisticated enough to plan for and monitor the outcomes we seek—in this case, an increase in tree cover to reduce the effects of stormwater runoff and the pollutants it contributes to our urban streams.

Urban forests are important to a community's social, economic, and environmental health—they remove airborne pollutants, protect waterways, and provide cooling shade, helping to create more vibrant business districts and more livable neighborhoods. For these reasons, we are working steadily to better define the resource and improve its planning and management. If you have the opportunity in your own community, I encourage you to participate in local actions to care for the trees closest to home. Arbor Day is just around the corner, so check out opportunities where you live to make a difference!

— Kathryn Maloney



# NEWTOWN SQUARE OFFICE NOTES

## Antipin Lectures at the Philadelphia Flower Show

On March 14, Forest Health Public Affairs Specialist **Judy Antipin** gave a lecture on invasive insects and diseases to attendees at the annual Philadelphia Flower Show. The lecture was entitled “Trees in Peril—Invasive Insects and Diseases That Threaten Our Forests and Treescapes.” Judy also had a display with handouts at the “Bartlett Day at the Flower Show” event, which is held in the same building as the Flower Show and features arboriculture-related lectures for green industry hobbyists and professionals.



**Judy Antipin answers questions from the audience after her lecture on invasive insects and diseases.**

The Philadelphia Flower Show is the largest indoor flower show in the world. It is an international tour destination, with annual attendance that reached 250,000 in 2005. The show is produced by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, which has been a valuable partner with the Northeastern Area in educating the public about tree health and care.

## Fire and Aviation Prepares for the Fire Season

Two sure signs of spring in the Northeastern Area are an abundance of spring wildland fires and Wildland Fire Refresher Training. This year, the Northeastern and Midwestern States are experiencing a greater than normal number of fires, reporting that 2,331 fires have burned 31,898 acres. The main cause of wildland fires in the region is humans. The States and Federal wildland fire agencies are assisted at this busy time by the Eastern Area Coordination Center (EACC). Located in Ft. Snelling, MN, the EACC is an interagency dispatch center serving the State and Federal wildland fire fighting agencies in the Northeast and Midwest. The center provides logistical support, resources, and intelligence to the States and Federal agencies before and during wildland fire activity. NA Fire and Aviation employees **Laura McIntyre Kelly** and **Gloria Pellin** are located at the center, along with Anne Stegmaier (Forest Service Eastern Region), Scott Swendson (Forest Service Eastern Region and Fish and Wildlife Service), Steve Marien (National Park Service), and Karma Kanseah (Bureau of Indian Affairs). More information about the Eastern Area Coordination Center can be found at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/predictive/intelligence/intelligence.htm>.

The Fire and Aviation Staff is also busy at this time conducting Wildland Fire Refresher Training and Work Capacity Testing. **Bob Hartlove** and **John Grosman** have conducted two sessions in March: one in Morgantown, WV, and the other in Newtown Square, PA. The training and testing are required for a firefighter to retain his or her qualifications to be dispatched on an interagency assignment. Safety training and updated wildland fire information are provided in the training session. On the second day of the session, firefighters must also pass the work capacity test in order to respond to an incident. In the test, a person must walk 3 miles wearing a 45-pound pack within 45 minutes. Fire and Aviation employee **Michael Gilmore** took part in the training and has requalified as a Firefighter 2. Twenty-two people attended the 2-day sessions.



# IMA NOTES

“IMA Notes” is a new feature that you will see periodically in the News Notes. Our goal for this feature is to improve communication between Information Management and Analysis (IMA) and the program staffs. If you have a particular topic or question you’d like to see in IMA Notes, let one of us know.

Some of the topics we plan to cover in upcoming editions include publication issues, changes in budget and finance, the “WorkPlan” system, and performance accountability.

For starters, this IMA Notes introduces you to the IMA staff members and their areas of expertise. The IMA staff now has members in all of the Area field offices and provides a wide range of services, from managing the budget to maintaining the Web site:

Assistant Director.....	Susan Lacy, Newtown Square
Group Leaders.....	Gina Childs, St. Paul Bob Fitzhenry, Durham Chuck Reger, Morgantown
Budget.....	Terry Gross, Newtown Square Mike Dobrowolski, Newtown Square
Budget and Common Services.....	Vickie Caldwell, Newtown Square Lori Gordon, Newtown Square
Info. Systems and Devel. ....	Helen Butalla, Morgantown Cindy Barnett, Morgantown Frank Cromer, Morgantown
Conservation Education .....	Susan Cox, Durham Devin Wanner, Morgantown Vicky Evans, Morgantown
Database and Applic. Devel. ....	Terry James, Newtown Square Peter Bedker, St. Paul
Editing and Writing.....	Roberta Burzynski, Newtown Square Helen Thompson, Durham Sandy Fosbroke, Morgantown Nancy Lough, Morgantown
Forest Sustainability.....	Connie Carpenter, Durham Sherri Wormstead, Durham
GIS .....	Tom Luther, Durham Ann Steketee, Morgantown
Graphic Design .....	Juliette Watts, Newtown Square Kathy Anderson, St. Paul Vicky Evans, Morgantown Sandy Fosbroke, Morgantown Nancy Lough, Morgantown Debbie Muccio, Durham
Illustration.....	Juliette Watts, Newtown Square
Printing.....	Patty Dougherty, Newtown Square
Public Affairs .....	Keith Tackett, Newtown Square Gina Childs, St. Paul



Technology Transfer.....	Glenn Rosenholm, Durham
Web Site.....	Devin Wanner, Morgantown
	Gail Michaels, Newtown Square
	Terry James, Newtown Square
	Helen Butalla, Morgantown
	Gina Childs, St. Paul
	Kathy Anderson, St. Paul
	Tim Reynolds, St. Paul

## GREY TOWERS OFFICE NOTES



**Marie-Jeanne Lionnet and Francois Le Tacon of Nancy, France, visited Grey Towers recently to research the connection between Grey Towers, Gifford Pinchot, and the practice of forestry in America and France.**

### **French Visitors Research Gifford Pinchot Legacy**

Two French forestry professionals recently spent a week at Grey Towers National Historic Site, culling through books and documents in an attempt to strengthen the connection between the French School of Forestry and the practice of scientific forestry in America.

The link between the two is Gifford Pinchot, who studied forestry at *Ecole Forestiere de Nancy* in 1889. In America at that time there were no forestry schools, no practicing foresters. Forests were being

clearcut for their timber. Pinchot learned in Europe that forests could be managed and utilized at the same time, and he set out to convince America of the same. In 1905, he helped found and served as first chief of the USDA Forest Service.

Grey Towers, Pinchot's ancestral home in Milford, PA, contains numerous textbooks, maps, notes, diaries, and other historical artifacts that "fascinated" the two French researchers. Some of the items, part of the extensive collection now maintained by the Forest Service at Grey Towers, had never been interpreted because they are written in French.

Of particular interest to the researchers was one of Pinchot's original textbooks, *Traite de Silviculture* (Methods of Silviculture), complete with underlined passages and handwritten notes in the margins. The two researchers cross-referenced the materials they found with Pinchot's 1889 diary entries. "It is extraordinary to have such detail," said Francois Le Tacon, Director of Research at France's *Centre Inra de Nancy*. The textbook and Pinchot's notes "fascinate us, because it shows what he thought was important, and this is what he used to introduce forestry in America. This book was the first—and the best—silviculture textbook published in the world," Le Tacon said. "It had a fantastic effect on Pinchot...nobody in America believed the forests could be managed, but he did, and then he came home and did it!"

Pinchot studied forestry in Europe for a year because there was no place to learn professional forestry in America in the 1880s. Upon his return, he teamed up with President Theodore Roosevelt to create the Forest Service, setting aside nearly 200 million acres as national forests.



The Pinchot family then endowed the Yale School of Forestry so that others could be trained professionally. Summer school for the Yale students was held at Grey Towers from 1901 to 1926.

While in Milford, the two researchers also visited Delaware Valley High School and spoke with students in the French classes. Students had an opportunity to converse in French, and to learn more about the researchers' jobs in France and what they were doing in Milford.

The two researchers learned of Grey Towers and the historic textbooks in June 2005, when they visited as part of an exchange program that celebrated the Forest Service Centennial.

### **Garden Internship Available at Grey Towers**

Applications currently are being accepted for the 2006 garden internship program at Grey Towers; the deadline is April 10, 2006.

The Elisabeth S. Mortimer Garden internship, created in 1994 by Elisabeth and Charles "Duke" Mortimer of Westfall Farms, Montague, NJ, is focused on gardening, one of Mrs. Mortimer's greatest passions. Grey Towers, a 102-acre historic site administered by the USDA Forest Service, consists of formal landscaped and wooded grounds created in large part by Corneila Pinchot in the 1920s and 1930s.

The internship provides a valuable, practical experience for a motivated undergraduate college student or recently graduated high school student. The internship offers hands-on experience to challenge and broaden the student's knowledge of practical applications of horticultural theory learned in the classroom.

Past participants in this highly successful internship program have majored in such areas as ornamental horticulture, forestry, landscape architecture, and environmental disciplines.

Successful internship candidates receive a \$2,500 stipend and housing at Grey Towers for the 12-week program. For more information or to apply for the internship contact Elizabeth Hawke, Grey Towers Horticulturist, at 570-296-6061, ext. 162 or [ehawke@fs.fed.us](mailto:ehawke@fs.fed.us).

## **DURHAM FIELD OFFICE NOTES**

### **Molly Ockett, the Last Pequaket**

"MOLLOCKET," her tombstone reads. "Baptized Mary Agatha, died in the Christian Faith, August 2, A.D., 1816. The Last of the Pequakets."

On March 14, Molly came back to life for the Forest Service in Durham through an interpretive presentation of her character and saga by Carl Foord of the Tin Mountain Conservation Center. Dressed in tribal attire, Carol gave a dramatic and emotional interpretive performance of Pequaket history and Molly's personal story. The presentation was sponsored by the Durham Civil Rights Committee in recognition of Women's History Month.

*"Abenaki history, Pequaket history, and Molly's lore are all part of the landscape of New England,"* noted **Bob Fitzhenry**, Durham Civil Rights Committee Chairperson. *"I think those who came to see Carol's interpretation appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the places where they work and the legacy of the people who first lived there."*



Long before European settlement in New Hampshire, a small band of Abenaki Indians known as Pequakets made the Saco Valley their tribal homeland. Their territory reached from the White Mountains to the mouth of the Saco River in Saco, Maine. The Pequakets were nearly decimated in 1725 when Capt. John Lovewell led a 1-day battle against the tribe. Both Lovewell and the Pequakets' chief died that day.

The surviving Pequakets moved to Odanak on the St. Francis River in Canada. Molly Ockett (Marie Agathe) was born 15 years after Lovewell's Battle. In 1755, she watched in horror as Capt. Robert Rogers and his raiders torched her village. Molly escaped and later returned to Pequaket homeland, to the Androscoggin River Valley, where she put her many talents to use in order to survive in the English world. She wove baskets, sewed deerskin, embroidered with porcupine quills, hunted and prepared pelts, and used her knowledge of plants to heal the sick. She was religious, honest, proud, clever, and determined to survive. She was revered by many as a doctress and feared by others as a witch. Her legend carries on today.



**Carol Foord brings Molly Ockett to life for a variety of audiences (photo credit: Donna Marie Dolan courtesy of Tin Mountain Conservation Center).**



**Holly and Marc Johnson shared their passion for their 77-acre tree farm during Marc's recent hospital stay.**

knack for forest stewardship that he wrote an article about them. Next, he came up with an idea to produce a poster highlighting their exemplary work on their land. *"Marc and Holly Johnson were looking at all aspects of stewardship: wildlife, forest management, education, recreation trails, threatened and endangered species, and more,"* said Monthey. *"They love watching the wildlife of their land, particularly the blue heron rookery on their property. I was encouraged by what they were doing. That's what the Forest Stewardship Program is all about."*

### **NA Poster, Visit by Staffer Inspire Forest Landowner To Fight Cancer**

A Northeastern Area poster, of all things, and a visit by a Durham Field Office staffer inspired one notable local forester suffering from cancer to keep fighting the potentially fatal illness. The results speak for themselves.

Marc and Holly Johnson of South China, Maine, are model forest landowners who were previously the subjects of a newsletter article and a poster entitled "Keeping up With the Johnsons." The written and visual works highlighted the couple's exemplary efforts as stewards of their finely managed, 77-acre forest.

Forest Stewardship Coordinator **Roger Monthey** was so impressed upon learning of the Johnsons'



Monthey said he felt that the Johnsons' model progress in managing their forest was so superlative and noteworthy that their example could inspire other landowners to better manage their own forests. He designed the poster with former Visual Information Specialist Carol Lagodich and displayed it at speaking engagements, meetings, conferences, and other gatherings of the forestry community. Wherever it went, the poster was very well received.

Then a few months ago, Roger reported at a staff meeting that Marc, age 62, was in the hospital fighting off cancer. Roger said that Marc, bed ridden and very ill, had asked Holly to bring the poster and hang it in his hospital room. It provided not only an opportunity to talk about forest stewardship with people unfamiliar with the concept, but it also served as an inspiration to Marc, he said. Roger added that he intended to visit Marc in the hospital later on.

Weeks later, Durham staff learned of the inspirational healing effect of the poster and Roger's visit in an e-mail from Marc to Writer-Editor Helen Thompson, who had edited the text for the poster. Marc was apparently recovering and desirous of good Forest Service reading material on—what else—the latest silvicultural practices. Marc requested a copy of the Northeastern Area publication *Diameter-Limit Cutting and Silviculture in Northeastern Forests*. A recent Forest Stewardship newsletter had announced the availability of the publication, written by two well-known silviculturalists, Laura Kenefic of the Northeastern Research Station and Ralph Nyland of the State University of New York at Syracuse.

Marc wrote in his e-mail to Helen, "You may remember me as part of the 'Keeping up with the Johnsons' story and poster that you and Roger did on us. Holly and I were very honored to be a part of the stewardship story and thank you for the great job. I hope Roger told you that I was in the hospital in Portland for 33 days with cancer surgery. I've been home about 3 weeks now."

"The real story is that when I went to the nursing floor, I had Holly bring down the poster, so that nurses could get to know who we were. I noticed that the nurses take care of so many patients and never know anything about them. The poster sure helped in that department. A bonus, and probably more important than just telling the nurses, was when I realized the poster was an inspiration to me.

"I would wake up in the middle of the night and study the pictures to see what we had done and why I needed to get back to Winterberry Tree Farm. Thank you for that poster. I dare say that 90 people—nurses, physical therapists, nurses' aides, doctors, and visitors—all studied the poster. It told them the story of good forestry. Thanks again, Marc and Holly Johnson."

In a later conversation about his hospital stay, Marc said that he was certain the poster had a positive effect on those who viewed it. People who didn't even know who Marc was would stop and read the poster and look at its pictures. Some would ask Marc questions about forest stewardship. "They might look over our poster and see forest stewardship as a positive thing," said Marc. "I hope it would instill in them to do forest management on their lands."

Still recovering weeks later, Marc continues to inspire others.

## Early Detection Arborists

**Dennis Souto** spoke at the annual Maine Arborist Association meeting held in Portland on March 4. He gave an update on the invasive insects hemlock woolly adelgid, winter moth, Asian longhorned beetle, and emerald ash borer (only hemlock woolly adelgid currently occurs in



Maine). He emphasized that arborists are our first line of defense to detect new insect infestations quickly. Since arborists work with trees and see them close up, especially tree crowns, they have the opportunity to see unusual signs and symptoms before anyone else does. Both hemlock woolly adelgid (in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine) and Asian longhorned beetle (in Illinois and New Jersey) are good examples that illustrate how early detection can lead to successful eradication.

### **Take-A-Stand Against Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**

**Dennis Souto** assisted Don Ouellette and Wayne Searles of the Maine Forest Service and Robin Stanley of the Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program in conducting a “Take-A-Stand” joint training and work session on March 18. This novel program taps into the under-utilized and practically unlimited resource of committed volunteers to quickly detect new hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) infestations in southern Maine. Volunteers are taught to survey for and identify HWA in a forested area that they “adopt.” Their survey information is collected and managed by the Maine Forest Service. This program was created by Don Ouellette as a way to continue to conduct the very labor-intensive work of detecting new HWA infestations as quickly as possible despite decreasing State budgets and personnel.

### **New Hampshire Environmental Educators Conference**

The New Hampshire Environmental Educators celebrated their 20-year anniversary at their annual conference at the Massabesic Audubon Center on March 8. **Susan Cox**, Conservation Education Coordinator, accepted the gavel as president of the organization. **Constance Carpenter**, Sustainability Planner, presented at talk entitled “Indicators of Forest Sustainability,” in which she described the objectives of identifying indicators of sustainability for use in the Northeastern Area and demonstrated how easy it will be to get the information when the indicators clearinghouse becomes available on the NA Web site ([www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability)) in April.

### **Acadia National Park Holds Natural Resources Scoping Workshop**

**Tom Rawinski**, Botanist, attended a workshop at Acadia National Park on March 15 designed to help guide Acadia’s research, inventory, and monitoring programs. An outcome will be a “research opportunities catalog. Botanically, Acadia has a documented vascular flora of 1,135 taxa, of which 25 percent are nonnative. The park tracks 24 invasive plant species and 14 State-listed rare plant species.

### **NY Department of Environmental Conservation Staff Visit Durham**

Naja Kraus, Invasive Plants Program Coordinator, and Jason Denham, Senior Forester, met with **Tom Rawinski** at the Durham Field Office on March 16 to exchange information and discuss a wide range of invasive plant topics. Naja’s position is new within the Department of Environmental Conservation. She will be working on many fronts to mitigate invasive plant impacts in the Empire State. Tom is delighted by the prospect of working with Naja and views this development as a major step forward in New York’s invasive plant battle.





**Boston High School students learn about forestry on an Urban Connections trip to the White Mountain National Forest.**

## **Making “Urban Connections”**

**Tonika Goins-Heath**, Manager for the Forest Service’s Urban Connections program in Boston, made a presentation to Durham staff on March 22. Tonka’s visit was sponsored by the Durham Civil Rights Committee.

Tonika spoke about the agency’s efforts to increase the awareness of and interaction with the national forest by engaging urban audiences. Urban Connections has sponsored a variety of projects in Boston, Detroit, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee with the goals of increasing public awareness about the national forests, diversifying the workforce, and increasing the understanding within the Forest Service of its urban constituents.

One project Tonika discussed was the Future Pathways event in Boston, which is an annual outdoor education program to introduce urban high school students to careers in natural resources.

## **Earthworks Urban Orchard Program**

EarthWorks is a nonprofit group in Boston dedicated to the urban environment. It continues to expand its urban orchard program, which works with local groups and residents to improve the quality of urban life by planting and maintaining fruit and nut trees, shrubs, and vines. The program concentrates on neighborhoods with limited resources, where community efforts are easily visible, and a significant and needed improvement in the landscape can happen quickly. The EarthWorks staff works with local communities to design, plant, and care for the urban orchards. The program connects people with the nature in their neighborhood. While working together in the orchards in service to the community, people learn about sustainable natural food growing, plant life cycles, and ecosystems. The harvest is available for everyone to eat.



**EarthWorks Urban Orchard Manager Ben Crouch at one of the orchard sites in Boston.**

EarthWorks recently completed a Forest Service funded grant to expand the program and develop a Web site to promote this unique idea. **John Parry** visited with EarthWorks Executive Director



Roger Stillwater and Urban Orchards Manager Ben Crouch in February to discuss the project and get a site tour. For more information, visit <http://www.earthworksbooston.org/index.htm>.

## MORGANTOWN FIELD OFFICE NOTES

### Globally Competitive Forest Products Manufacturing: The Role of Skills Standards

The issue of access to highly qualified workers has taken on new urgency as the pace of plant closings in the United States has accelerated. In a report in the August 2005 issue of *Wood and Wood Products* magazine, 69 out of 100 wood products business executives interviewed listed employee recruitment and retention, or employee skills as one of their top three concerns.

Recognizing the negative implications of an unskilled workforce on competitiveness, the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) first assembled national leaders from woodworking industries and education in September 2003 to discuss the problem and recommend solutions. Based on that meeting, WERC released a Request for Proposals to assess the potential for developing and implementing national wood manufacturing skills standards. In October 2004, then-interim WERC Director **Al Steele** announced the selection of the Architectural Woodwork Institute (AWI), a national industry trade association, to conduct the assessment. Noting the positive results that other nonwood manufacturing industries have had with skills standards, Steele noted that, *“If skills standards can be developed and accepted by the woodworking community, overall skill levels in the workplace and the efficiency and effectiveness of woodworker training can be markedly improved.”* The utility of skills standards is aptly described by the PMA Educational Foundation: “Skills standards communicate the level of knowledge, skills, and abilities required for successful work performance. Skills standards define a common language of quality and work expectations for employers, employees, job seekers, job advancers, educators, trainers, and labor representatives.”

The AWI assessment project includes an evaluation of “lessons learned” from the skills standards development efforts of other industries; the creation of a model or framework for what should be contained in skills standards; a strategic plan for how a national skills standards program would be organized, operated, governed, and funded; the costs for fully developing national standards; and written letters from key wood industry, equipment manufacturing, and woodworker educators endorsing the approach.

Steele, now WERC’s liaison to the project, reports that interest in the project has been high. An article on the effort appeared in the November 2005 issue of *Wood and Wood Products* ([http://www.iswonline.com/wwp/200511/1on1\\_woodstandards.cfm](http://www.iswonline.com/wwp/200511/1on1_woodstandards.cfm)). Progress to date includes an initial questionnaire to define key issues, the evaluation of “lessons learned” from other industries that have developed standards, and a Skills Standards Summit held in Detroit in late November 2005 to provide AWI with additional guidance. A second summit, to be held in Washington, DC, on June 30, 2006, will provide input on the draft skills standards framework and strategic plan. The final report for the assessment process is expected to be completed by September 2006. Additional information on the WERC/AWI skills standards effort can be found at <http://djcase.com/skillstandards/default.htm>. A compelling argument for skills standards, written by representatives of the metalworking industry, is available at <http://www.metalforming.com/EDUFOUND/Member/SkillStd/SkillStdPaper.pdf>.





**Raymondskill Falls is one of many scenic waterfalls in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.**

## **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area**

**Karen Felton** and **Bill Oldland** from the Forest Health Protection staff conducted a hemlock woolly adelgid survey in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (NRA) February 27–March 2. The survey focused on the Buttermilk Falls and Van Campens Glen Picnic Area on the New Jersey side and on the Raymondskill Falls, Childs Park, and Dingmans Falls areas on the Pennsylvania side of the park. Park Ecologist Rich Evans assisted with the survey. The Delaware Water Gap NRA has had a hemlock monitoring and research program in place since 1993. Hemlock forests are an important component of the forest, and many scenic waterfalls are associated with hemlock ravines in the park, providing the public with many recreational opportunities. Hemlock woolly adelgid was first detected in the park in 1989. By 2002, nearly all hemlock stands were infested with the adelgid. Since 2000, the park has released over 73,000 *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* predatory beetles for adelgid control at 14 sites. Treatment will be recommended for individual high-value hemlock trees in the survey areas that have adelgid populations.

## **Horticulture Advisory Board Meeting Held in Pittsburgh**

On March 8, **Anne Cumming** and **Harold Thistle** (Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team) attended a meeting of the Horticultural Advisory Board for the Bidwell Training Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The Bidwell Training Center is an adult educational facility whose mission is to respond to employment markets in southwestern Pennsylvania by offering training programs that provide career paths and opportunities in the high-tech, culinary, and medical fields. One training option is horticulture, which includes arboriculture and other green industry fields. The Horticulture Advisory Board meets twice a year to review educational objectives, tour facilities, and identify opportunities for the horticulture students at Bidwell. During 2006, the program will add an externship program, increasing the number of “clock hours” required for successful completion of the program.

## **Wood Products Business Opportunities in Asia Briefing Session**

The Appalachian Regional Commission, the Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center, and several other partners hosted a briefing session in Morgantown on March 14 for wood products-based companies on business opportunities in Asian and Pacific Rim countries. Twenty-seven participants from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey attended.

The half-day informational program highlighted the Asian and Pacific Rim markets and showed regional businesses how they can participate in the *Orient Success* regional trade delegation. The program focused on national and international business trends, local exporting success stories, and opportunities and complexities of the Asian marketplace.



The morning session included four presentations: *Running Fast: Positioning for Success in the Global Marketplace of the Twenty-First Century*, *Building Export Opportunities in Asia and the Pacific Rim*, *From Appalachia to the World: A Hometown Formula for Export Success*, and *Challenges and Opportunities in the Chinese Marketplace: An Insider's Perspective*. In the afternoon, participants had an opportunity to talk individually with the presenters.

### **Focus on Education at the Ohio ISA 2006 Meeting**

*Rooted in History and Growing through Education* was the title of the 2006 Ohio Tree Care Conference and Trade Show, sponsored by the Ohio chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) in Columbus, OH, February 12–14. Pathologist **Martin MacKenzie** presented a slideshow on hazard trees, which was well attended.

MacKenzie took the opportunity to talk with Jerry Hopkins from the State nursery in Marietta, OH. MacKenzie relayed his plans to use an air spade to recover root suckers from eight beech bark disease-immune trees and gather beech seed from superior trees. Hopkins indicated interest in involving the State nursery in these efforts. According to Hopkins, many homeowners would pay a premium for a beech bark disease-resistant tree. Hopkins also expressed confidence that once Jennifer Koch of the USDA Forest Service research laboratory in Delaware, OH, has demonstrated that these trees are immune to beech bark disease, the State nursery would be interested in propagating them.

### **Seedling Survival Study Monitored in Ohio**

**Alan Iskra** and **Rod Whiteman** met with Dan Balser, Ohio Division of Forestry; John Sprouse, Ohio Division of Mineral Resources Management; Roger Hendershot, Ohio State Nursery Manager; and Jerry Hopkins, State Nursery Manager, on February 8 to discuss the results of a seedling survival study established during spring 2000.

This study was established to monitor the survival and growth of seedlings planted on eight abandoned mine lands. Planted seedlings included green ash and various oak and pine species. Based on the results of the study, recommendations will be made that will improve the overall success rate of this reforestation program. Seven of the eight sites involved in this study have been reclaimed (regraded, covered with stockpiled topsoil, and planted in a grass and legume mixture), while the other site is an abandoned gob pile and refuse area.

This is the seventh year of the study. If seedling mortality is similar to the level experienced during the past year, the sites may not be revisited until 2009. Invasive species will also be looked at and quantified at all eight sites in 2006 in order to determine if they are impacting seedling survival and growth.

### **Regional Reforestation Technical Information Exchange Held in State College**

**Rod Whiteman** attended the Regional Reforestation Technical Information Exchange session held in State College, PA, on February 22. The purpose of this conference was to promote the exchange of technical reforestation information among professionals working in this field. One of the main focuses was the reforestation of riparian buffers. The exchange was attended by representatives of the USDA Forest Service; the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Fish and Boat Commission, and Department of Environmental Protection; the Chesapeake Bay Foundation; the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; consultants; and private individuals.



## ***Laricobius nigrinus* Beetles Released on the Monongahela National Forest**

On March 6, **Thomas Elliott** and **Norm Montoy** from the Forest Health Protection staff released 300 *Laricobius nigrinus* predatory beetles (60 per tree) on hemlock woolly adelgid-infested eastern hemlock trees in the Sherwood Lake area of the Monongahela National Forest. Trees that received released beetles were marked with flagging and a numbered tag on the southern side of the stump. Each limb that received *L. nigrinus* beetles was also flagged and marked with a zip tie. The trees will be revisited in October to monitor the release. It is hoped that beetles from this release will become established and provide a measure of control for the hemlock woolly adelgid, which is present on the Monongahela National Forest. Predatory beetle releases are one of the control strategies being employed to fight this introduced pest on the Monongahela.



**Tom Elliott releases predatory beetles after flagging a branch.**

## **ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE NOTES**

### **Northeastern Area Continues to Assist Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts**

**Katie Armstrong** is on a temporary detail to the Gulf Coast where she will be coordinating professional arborist volunteers who will be assessing the risks associated with storm damaged trees. The Gulf Coast Tree Assessment is a cooperative effort that includes the USDA Forest Service, the Mississippi Forest Commission, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, local municipalities, community groups, the Davey Resource Group, the Society of Municipal Arborists, the International Society of Arboriculture, the Environmental Systems Research Institute, and the Geospatial Information & Technology Association. Katie will return to her position as the Emerald Ash Borer Liaison in early April.

### **Upper Mississippi River Forest Partnership Stakeholders Forum**

The Northeastern Area and the Midwest State Foresters hosted a Stakeholders Forum for the Upper Mississippi River Forest Partnership in Dubuque, IA. **Sally Collins**, Associate Chief, kicked off the meeting with the presentation, “Restoring Natural Capital on the Upper Mississippi,” highlighting the potential role ecosystem services play in providing incentives for forest stewardship and restoration. Attendees participated in discussion groups to develop action strategies on migratory bird habitat, conservation of priority forest areas, establishing forest buffers, and regeneration of bottomland hardwoods. At the meeting’s end, Neal Feeken, Assistant Director of the Midwest National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, announced the creation of an Upper Mississippi Watershed Fund to implement projects identified by the partnership. **Teri Heyer**, Upper Mississippi River Watershed Specialist; **Lisa Burban**, Forest Resources Management Group Leader; **Mike Majeski**, Stewardship Coordinator; and **Michael Prouty**, St. Paul Field Office Field Representative, assisted in the development and coordination of the forum.



## **The Next Generation**

**Linda Haugen**, Plant Pathologist, and **Stephanie Berkland** of the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) participated in the University of Minnesota's 2006 Environmental Career Fair. The purpose of the career fair is to introduce current and future university students to the wide variety of careers in natural resources as well as potential employers. Linda, Stephanie, and employees from the North Central Research Station staffed an information booth on the Forest Service and answered questions from interested students.

## **Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Chicago Wilderness**

Chicago Wilderness celebrates its 10-year anniversary on May 17 at The Field Museum in downtown Chicago. This celebratory event will include presentations and networking, as well as recognition for the past 10 years' urban conservation achievements. Chicago Wilderness is a regional nature reserve that includes more than 225,000 acres of protected natural areas. It stretches from southeastern Wisconsin, through northeastern Illinois, and into northwestern Indiana. The protected areas of Chicago Wilderness are forest preserves, State parks, Federal lands, county preserves, and privately owned lands. There are also many unprotected natural areas that offer refuge to native wildlife. The Chicago Wilderness Consortium is an alliance of more than 180 public and private organizations working together to protect, restore, study, and manage the natural ecosystems of the Chicago region, contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity, and enrich local residents' quality of life. **Mike Prouty**, Field Representative, is the Forest Service representative on the Chicago Wilderness Steering Committee.

## **Wisconsin Ranks Third in the Nation With the Number of Tree City USAs**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Program and the National Arbor Day Foundation recognized 162 Wisconsin communities as Tree City USAs and 12 utility companies as Tree Line USAs. To be recognized as a Tree City USA, a community must have a designated tree board or forestry department, an annual forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and a tree care ordinance. The community also must host an Arbor Day celebration and proclamation. Tree City USA is an important recognition of a community's commitment to conservation and community forestry.

## **The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and the Izaak Walton League Challenge Forest Certification of DNR Lands**

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and the Izaak Walton League are challenging whether the forests managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources qualify for the forest certification recognition received last year. Both groups feel that not enough is being done to prevent damage to the forests from off-highway vehicles. As a result, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources might be required to conduct an analysis to determine if they have enough staff to complete their trail designation process, as well as propose a stronger enforcement strategy to reduce ATV damage to their forests.



## EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick, Judy Antipin, Maureen Brooks, and Roberta Burzynski**, Newtown Square; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Devin Wanner**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul.

For current and past issues of the NA News Notes visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>.

### DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **Wednesday, April 19, 2006**. Please e-mail articles to Deborah Muccio at [dmuccio@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmuccio@fs.fed.us). Please send text separate from photos and graphics, and include captions for all images.

