



Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



News Notes

March 31, 2009



From the Director's Desk

How We Do Our Work!

I'm pleased to report that we've recently released a Unified Program of Work Guide that will direct how we do our work in Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. This document is the result of many efforts and discussions over a number of years regarding the roles and responsibilities of NA employees, and it provides guidance on working relationships between and among NA staff. We are now training all NA staff about the significance and consequences of the decisions contained in this document. In the weeks and months ahead, we'll be working through the "nuts and bolts" of how this guidance affects the many processes within NA.

Perhaps the most significant changes in the guide have to do with the NA executive team's role in considering and recommending to me how NA funds will be directed to achieve NA's mission. As a leadership team, we will be more engaged in allocating our resources and looking for opportunities for cross-program integration.

I believe in continuous improvement! With that in mind, this Unified Program of Work Guide will be reviewed, evaluated, and refined over time as necessary. We'll conduct a formal annual review for the first few years to ensure the guide is achieving the results we intended.

Many of the changes in this document may not be evident to our partners. However, my hope is that by making our internal operations more efficient and effective, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry will continue to add value to our partners as we work together to ensure healthy forests for today and for future generations.

The guide can be found at: http://fsweb.na.fs.fed.us/staff/BusOps/PBA/docs/Final_UPOW_NA_2_19_09.pdf.

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director



Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Why conserve water? By W. Keith Moser

Many of us in the Northern Research Station and Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry are fortunate enough to be located in areas with abundant water supplies. Even in major metropolitan areas, water availability never seems to be an issue. Yet, the supply of fresh water is finite, while our population is growing. By reducing our per-capita use of water, we can postpone the day when water scarcity becomes an issue. Procuring fresh water and disposing of used water is costly. Wells and reservoirs are not cheap to build or maintain and wastewater treatment plants are expensive and difficult to locate in our increasingly occupied landscape. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, water used by humans is water that is (at least temporarily) unavailable for our fellow inhabitants of Earth. Fisheries, riparian ecosystems, avian populations—they all require fresh water to maintain healthy populations and ecosystems. We are all aware of water wars out west, where municipalities fight with environmentalists who fight with farmers who fight with industry to maintain adequate water supplies for their desired uses. Water conservation by all of us can help “keep the peace.”

What can we do?

In reviewing many sources of information, I found websites from Alberta (Canada), Michigan, Florida, and Arizona¹ provided similar recommendations.

Indoor Usage: “Repair, Replace, and Displace”

- The first suggestion is to repair the dripping faucet, which can waste 20+ gallons per day. Fixing faucet leaks usually requires no more than replacing a washer. The ALB website points out that another source of water waste is the leaky toilet, which is not as obvious but even more destructive, potentially wasting hundreds of gallons per day. MSU suggests testing for leaks by putting food dye in the tank and seeing if any shows up in the bowl without flushing. Toilet leaks can be repaired by adjusting the float arm or plunger ball.
- The classic water reduction technique promoted back at the original Earth Day was to put a brick in the tank of the toilet. These days, the use of bricks is discouraged as the particles from them can collect in traps and harm plumbing. Sealed plastic containers containing rocks or sand are the recommended technique.
- Low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators can significantly reduce water use.
- Although teenagers are apparently unaware of the fact, it is possible to reuse a glass! With reduced dish and utensil usage, you reduce how often you need to run the dishwasher.

¹ Alberta Environment (ALB). 1993. Focus on water conservation. Reprinted in the Alberta Online Encyclopedia. http://www.abheritage.ca/abnature/environmental/water_conservation_need.htm. Accessed 6 March 2009. 1 p.

American Water and Energy Savers (AWES). 2009. Save water 49 ways. <http://www.americanwater.com/49ways.htm>. Accessed 6 March 2009. 3 p.

Solomon, Dean and Eckhart Dersch (MSU). 1993. How to conserve water in your home and yard. Michigan State University Extension bulletin WQ-16. <http://www.gem.msu.edu/pubs/msue/sq16p1.html>. Accessed 6 March 2009. 3 p.

Town of Gilbert, Arizona (AZ). 2008. Water conservation home page. <http://www.ci.gilbert.az.us/water/>. Accessed 6 March 2009. 1 p.

Outdoor Usage—The AZ website states that 70% of household water use is used outdoors. That seems like a high percentage for the northern U.S., but MSU points out that providing 1000 square feet of lawn with 1 inch of water uses 660 gallons of water!

- If your garden needs frequent watering, install a drip irrigation system.
- Many municipalities have “no daytime watering” regulations—follow them! Most of the water applied by sprinklers during the day blows away or evaporates from the surface before the grass gets a chance to benefit. If you have an automated sprinkler system, turn it off when it rains.
- Don’t over-water your lawn. Place the sprinklers so that they water the grass, not the sidewalk or driveway.
- Make sure your garden hose has a shut-off nozzle or sprayer so you can adjust the water flow to provide just the amount you need, not more. When you are finished, turn the hose off at the faucet instead of at the nozzle to eliminate leaks.
- Speaking of leaks, make sure your hose connections seal properly. If they do not, try adding hose washers or even replacing the hoses. The amount of water saved over the lifetime of a hose will make up for the cost.
- Don’t cut the grass so short. While many people want their lawns to look like the greens at Augusta National, a lawn cut higher (say, at 3 inches) encourages the grass roots to grow deeper and helps the soil retain moisture, lessening the need for frequent watering.

For more ideas, visit the web sites referenced above. The AWES website is particularly comprehensive and informative.

Newtown Square Headquarters Office

Grassroots Monitoring Movement Sprouts under the Snow



Participants of a conservation easement monitoring workshop held in Marquette tour a recently acquired FLP tract in Michigan.

Last February, the city of Marquette, Michigan, notorious for biting cold and heaps of snow, was ineffective in deterring hardy soon-to-be conservation easement monitors from attending a Michigan-sponsored conservation easement monitoring training session. Fifteen State agency personnel, from as far away as Colorado, made their way to Marquette to discuss how to monitor the terms of a 151,000-acre Forest Legacy Program (FLP) conservation easement recently acquired by Michigan. Kerry Wieber, Michigan Forest Legacy Program Coordinator, held the conservation easement monitoring session February 24-25. The design was based on a lesson plan developed by Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NAS&PF) FLP staff that included both an indoor and outdoor session. Kerry requested assistance from **Scott Stewart**, NAS&PF Forest Legacy Program Coordinator, to plan and present this training session.

The session was open to all FLP managers and all States in the FLP. For some, travel restrictions created a need for an alternate means of attending the monitoring session. Three people from the Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources participated via the Internet and conference call. NAS&PF FLP Program Manager **Deirdre Raimo** assessed the training session remotely.

Several attendees stated in their evaluation forms that they would like ongoing forums on monitoring and additional detailed conservation easement monitoring training. Joe Duda, FLP Coordinator from Colorado, said, “Thanks for opening up the monitoring training to all States. It was a very effective use of my time.”

Michigan does not have a conservation easement monitoring policy. Currently, there is an expectation, but not a requirement, that States have a monitoring policy. To encourage State development of monitoring policy, NAS&PF FLP staff members have developed a discussion guide for development of such a policy that covers baseline documentation, monitoring, record keeping, and enforcement.

During the policy development section of the session, Kerry Wieber suggested to Scott Stewart and Deirdre Raimo that promoting monitoring planning and implementation internally would be easier for States if there was firm direction from the U.S. Forest Service for each State to develop a written monitoring policy.

Director’s Awards Ceremony

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry employees gathered January 29, 2009, for the fourth annual announcement of the Director’s awards, which include the Individual Achievement Award, Team Achievement Award, Special Achievement in Civil Rights or Recruitment Award, and the Outstanding Unit Award.

This year, **Tom Luther** was selected for the Individual Achievement Award. Tom provided outstanding and consistent accomplishments by providing supporting documentation, maps, and analysis to NAS&PF, States, and others so they could accomplish their work with the best possible information.

The Team Award went to the Next Generation of Landowners Initiative team. This group has worked in an integrated fashion to address the problem of parcelization, fragmentation, and loss of working family forests. Team members include **Mark Buccowich, Rob Clark, Roger Monthey, Robert Fitzhenry, Devin Wanner, Vicky Evans, and Debbie Muccio.**

Winnie Owens was selected for the Special Achievement in Civil Rights Award. Winnie performed above and beyond the expected level of her responsibilities while assisting the Acting Civil Rights Director over the past 2 years in performing the reporting and communications responsibilities in civil rights for NAS&PF.

The Durham Field Office (DFO) received the Outstanding Unit Award this year. As the reviewers stated, “*This nominee is judged to have best met NA goals and had the most significant impact on meeting NA accomplishment intent.*” The DFO received the highest office rating on the FY2008 Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters report card. Just a few of the measures of the DFO’s success include:

- Providing four centrally located “train-the-trainer” sessions about urban storm response actions for communities.
- Professionally videotaping a DFO-sponsored urban stormwater planning workshop to assist 36 New England and New York workshop participants in providing training for their communities.
- Supporting a “whole office” response to the Asian longhorned beetle findings in Worcester, MA.

All winners received a monetary award, plaque, and/or paperweight. Congratulations to all!



Terri Lopez Assumes New Duties

Terri Lopez was recently selected as the Business Management Group Leader for the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. She started her career at the Philadelphia Naval Base, where she worked for 18 years as part of the Planning and Engineering for Repairs and Alteration on Surface Ships group. The Philadelphia Headquarters location also supported three other field offices. She held a variety of administrative positions in support of the engineering staff, which numbered about 375 employees at its peak. Terri was involved in personnel, security, budgeting, contracting, and training.

After the Naval Base closed in 1996, Terri began working for Logicon Syscon, a defense contractor, as their contract administrator and security officer. Although it was difficult for Terri to leave Federal employment, working in the private sector gave her a different perspective.



Terri Lopez was selected as the Business Management Group Leader.

Terri sought employment with the U.S. Forest Service when her family planned to move from New Jersey to Pennsylvania. She was hired as a temporary secretary for the IT staff at the Radnor Office and was extremely grateful to once again be working for the Federal government. She then worked in the former IMA staff as a Management Analyst and moved on to the Grants Staff, where she managed grants for the seven States served by the St. Paul Field Office.

NAS&PF Aerial Detection Survey Viewer Impresses National FHP / FHM Leadership



National Forest Health Protection Director Rob Mangold (seated) test drives the Aerial Detection Survey Viewer as (right to left) National Forest Health Monitoring Program Manager Borys Tkacz, Quinn Chavez, Jim Steinman (hidden), and John Anhold look on.

NAS&PF employee **Quinn Chavez** attended the Forest Health Monitoring 15th Annual Workgroup Meeting in Savannah, GA, February 23–27. Chavez unveiled the NA Aerial Detection Survey (ADS) Viewer to an audience of forest health specialists, GIS specialists, and others. The viewer, which was developed by Quinn and recently updated and enhanced by **Kevin Hoffman**, is a Web-based application that allows users to view, identify, and download data collected by the Forest Health Protection aerial survey program through an easy-to-use interface. Scale-dependent rendering allows the user to explore ADS data in the context of a variety of reference datasets, including the National Landcover Dataset, digital aerial photography, and topographic maps.

In addition to a live demonstration of the viewer, Quinn presented a poster he jointly developed with Kevin and **Kathy Anderson**. The poster won an award as the first runner-up in the “Best Overall Poster” category. Congratulations, Quinn, Kevin, and Kathy!

Durham Field Office

Workshop for Heat Treated Firewood Held in Wisconsin

We have all heard the message “Don’t Move Firewood,” but what does that mean to the firewood industry? In the Northeast, commercial firewood is a big deal. For example, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation estimates that approximately 275,000 cords of firewood were harvested and sold in 2005. This product netted landowners approximately \$1.4 million in stumpage.

To find out what the future holds for firewood producers, Gordon Boyce of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation recently joined **Rob Clark** of the Durham Field Office to attend a workshop in Wisconsin about heat treatment (HT) of firewood that was hosted by the Forest Products Lab. Representatives from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and firewood producers from eight States convened to learn about new developments in implementing heat treatment processes and to address how to safely treat firewood used for interstate commerce.



Baskets of firewood are loaded into a heat treatment chamber, which is similar to a dry kiln.



A firewood chunk is being prepared for a heat recording device.

Heat treatment was first used on pallet lumber for overseas transportation and to prevent the spread of foreign invasive species. Treating firewood has the same objectives—using high temperatures in a controlled environment to kill any living organism as a quarantine treatment for insects. Heat treatment is an approved method for killing the emerald ash borer and gypsy moth in firewood and for preventing their transfer between regions and States.

Valuable information was shared in the workshop, including:

- What pests affect quarantine regulations and what the certifications mean,
- How to use HT to eliminate pests in order to slow down the human-mediated movement of such pests, and
- What research has been completed to map new standards to combat pests.

Although Clark and Boyce learned that APHIS does not have an approved HT for Asian longhorned beetle, their Otis Lab scientists (located on the Otis Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts) are examining ways to meet this challenge.

Morgantown Field Office

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Webinar Material Available Online

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forestry Program, coordinated by Sally Claggett, hosted three forest conservation Webinars in January and February. Topics included the Bay Bank, enhancing conservation financing for local governments, and an update on forest conservation priorities that were identified at the Forest Conservation Summit. These three 1-hour conferences reached 70 participants who represented an array of organizations and individuals, including local watershed groups, conservation districts, national nongovernmental organizations, and local and State governments.

Presentations, notes, and feedback from the Webinars are available on the Chesapeake Watershed Network's Forest Conservation Group Web page at <http://www.chesapeakenetwork.org/group.htm?mode=home&igid=1200>. Registration is required to access the Webinar material. The site has a wealth of other information, including blogs and dialogue. The Forest Conservation Group is now 100 strong. Contact Sally Claggett at sclaggett@fs.fed.us for more information.

Morgantown Field Office Receives Combined Federal Campaign Awards

Sandy Fosbroke represented the Morgantown Field Office at the United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties (WV) 2009 Campaign Awards party held in February. The office was recognized under the Outstanding Strength category for companies having total campaign growth of \$1,000 or more. The Morgantown Field Office was joined by FCI Morgantown and NETL in this category. The office was also recognized as the Campaign Chair's Choice for a well-run campaign. This recognition includes a traveling trophy that is on display in the lobby of the main building. Field Representative **Bob Lueckel** sent out a special "Thank you" to **Janice Gottschalk** "...for all your great work in coordinating the entire effort of our office."

Pennsylvania Holds Quarterly Emerald Ash Borer Task Force Meeting

The Pennsylvania Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force held its quarterly meeting during March in Carlisle, PA. The primary topic of discussion was the new EAB find by a landowner in Mifflin County in February. Investigation indicates that the infestation has been present for several years. The landowner reported that a line of ash trees died about 3 years ago and was removed. Pennsylvania has added Mifflin County to the EAB quarantine list.

The State is preparing for the summer field season. Panel traps and lures will arrive shortly at State offices, and the task force discussed logistics for getting the traps set up. The task force has planned a number of ways to increase EAB awareness throughout the State. During EAB Awareness Week in May, 1,200 "Don't Move Firewood" yard signs will be posted. The task force has created a 9-foot by 9-foot trade show backdrop for agencies to use at events. The group is also working on a full-page ad for a Pennsylvania Game Commission publication that will focus on firewood transport as a means of spreading a number of destructive forest pests, not just EAB.

Forest Assessment Planning and Discussion Meeting Held with the Baltimore-Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship

A meeting was held between the Baltimore-Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship (BWPFS) and the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry in February at the Agricultural Research Service National Visitor Center in Beltsville, MD. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the need for a comprehensive assessment of combined land resources and management issues. Discussion topics included the potential of using the U.S. Forest Service Urban Forest Effects Model to quantify and describe the benefits of the BWPFS urban forests as well as the emerald ash borer.

Wood Education and Resource Center

“Wood Energy in America” Article in *Science*

Lew McCreery coauthored a policy forum article in the March 13 issue of the journal *Science*. The paper examines the potential for the expanded use of wood for renewable energy in the United States. The authors estimate that the annual wood energy potential in America exceeds the energy produced annually from hydroelectric sources.

A group of the authors recently went on a tour of advanced bioenergy sites in Austria organized jointly by The Pennsylvania State University School of Forest Resources and the consulting firm Resource Professionals Group. The team investigated small-scale power plants fueled partly or solely by advanced wood combustion (AWC).

Community-based AWC has been considered an important fuel source in Europe for some time. Over the past two decades, Austria alone has constructed more than 1,000 AWC facilities.

AWC systems emit low quantities of air pollutants, including greenhouse carbon gases, and have thermal efficiencies across the system reaching 90 percent. Extensive use of district heating and combined heat and power systems are key components of European systems.

In a press release distributed by Duke University, McCreery said, “At a time of rising energy costs and growing concerns about wildfires, greenhouse gas emissions, and over-reliance on foreign oil, wood energy is simply too valuable a resource to waste. Wood can play a larger role in community, State, and regional energy strategies based on high-efficiency distributed energy systems.”

In the article, the team proposes three initiatives to spark increased use of AWC in the United States.

First, make AWC an energy system of choice for new construction and renovation. Second, make better use of wood collected by municipalities as organic waste from diseased and storm-damaged trees, and woody debris from construction sites. Third, expand the use of AWC-compatible “district energy systems,” in which heat is supplied from a central source to sites across a campus or community. District heating systems powered by wood are already in use in downtown St. Paul, MN; at hospitals and public buildings in Akron, OH; and on college campuses.

Community leadership and public education are important for AWC implementation and operation. To gain public support, decisionmakers must increase appreciation for AWC system reliability, air pollution control, and sustainable forest management, as well as for how wood-energy dollars recycle through local economies, adding jobs and profits to local businesses.

North Carolina State University and Wood Education and Resource Center Schedule Workshops

North Carolina State University and the U.S. Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) are offering several workshops from March through June in Princeton, WV, and Raleigh, NC.

North Carolina State University’s Wood Products Extension developed these workshops using WERC grants. The grants focused on developing value-added markets for underutilized eastern hardwoods. These workshops can help generate economic gains for landowners, loggers, sawmill owners, dimension manufacturers, furniture manufacturers, millwork manufacturers, and retailers. The workshops provide information about opportunities for using underutilized eastern hardwoods, procedures required for manufacturing them, and manufacturing methods that are responsive to customer demands.



A *Drying Hardwood Lumber – Improving Lumber Quality* workshop was held in March at WERC, and a second workshop is scheduled at North Carolina State University in May. The workshop covers key methods for drying lumber flat, free of stain, and with the bright color needed in today's competitive market. The workshop also covers dry kiln schedules that use low temperatures and wider wet bulb depressions, and provides updates on oak drying techniques and drying minor hardwood species.

North Carolina State University will host a 2-day *Hardwood Lumber Grading Short Course* in May. This course is an introduction to and refresher for the National Hardwood Lumber Association's grading rules. It covers log quality and processing lumber for maximum value.

A workshop on how to use 3-D SketchUp, surface modeling design software provided free of charge by Google, is scheduled at WERC in May. The workshop covers how to draw component parts and assemble them into a 3-D SketchUp item that can be shown to prospects and customers. This software can help users gain efficiency and profits for their wood product businesses.

In June, Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, NC, will host a workshop on how to use 3-D solid model design software for wood products. Software packages include Solid Edge and Solid Works, which can transfer data files to computer numerical control machinery.

The final workshop will be held at WERC on June 18. *Profitable Business Opportunities for Solid Lumber Cabinets, Furniture, and Millwork* will discuss how to use solid lumber glued panels and rip strips to create cabinets, furniture, and millwork in a profitable business. Design and marketing concepts will be covered that apply to local, regional, national, and international markets.

St. Paul Field Office

Unique Logging Methods Protect Sensitive Site in Minnesota

Linda Haugen of the Forest Health Protection unit in St. Paul has been supporting the National Park Service in efforts to control oak wilt on a unique site near Stillwater, MN. Project personnel used vibratory plow lines and removed potential spore-producing trees in 2007 to prevent spread of the disease. In February, however, the National Park Service and a private landowner tried a novel approach to remove three large infected oak trees. Tim Carroll of Cedar River Horse Logging directionally felled the trees and used horses to skid the logs to a landing. The large red oak logs were cut into lumber using a portable sawmill, and the remaining tops and slabs were piled and burned onsite. The total impact on this sensitive site was minimal, and the horse logging approach helped protect significant geological and cultural resources on this 40-acre parcel. Past activity on this site has been partially funded by U.S. Forest Service Federal suppression funds, and 2009 funds have been requested to fund additional oak wilt control efforts.



Horse logging was recently used on a site near Stillwater, MN, to protect its geological and cultural resources.

Tree Owner's Manual Available



The *Tree Owner's Manual* is now available to property owners seeking information about caring for one of the most valuable assets on their land—its trees. The U.S. Forest Service created the *Tree Owner's Manual* to answer common questions about tree care, from planting, fertilizing, and pruning to troubleshooting signs of damage, injury, and disease. The manual also lists numerous organizations and sources of more information for keeping trees healthy and growing.

The booklet is available in a simple black and white format that is easy to download and inexpensive to reproduce. The Forest Service will help organizations or businesses customize the cover of the manual with their own logo. To download a copy of the *Tree Owner's Manual*, or to request a customized version with a logo on the cover, visit the [Tree Owner's Manual](http://www.treeownersmanual.info) (www.treeownersmanual.info) Web page.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is **noon, Wednesday, April 22, 2009**. News articles submitted after this time and date will be published in the next month's edition. Please e-mail final articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us.

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