



Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



News Notes

November/December 2009



From the Director's Desk

A Time to Be Thankful

Is autumn your favorite season? The colors, the chill in the air, and the warmth of special holidays make autumn a special time. November and early December are the time of year to enjoy autumn's foliage, give thanks to our Veterans, enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday, and prepare for the winter season across the entire Northeastern Area.

It is a time to enjoy the multicolored forest landscapes that we and our partners work hard to manage and perpetuate for future generations to enjoy. Within the Northeastern Area, we work together to foster the growth of our Nation's forests and protect and manage the natural resources of our forests.

From the rolling hills and mountains of the Northeast to the prairie grasslands of the Midwest, we can be thankful to live and work in such a beautiful part of the country. Your accomplishments in managing these lands, along with those of our cooperators and other Federal partners, are important to our organization, our agency, and the future of our Nation. Along with you, I share the pride of being a part of this process and experiencing continued successes.

During mid-November, we recognize Veteran's Day and the opportunity it brings us to express our gratitude to those who have served and are serving in the United States Armed Services. With gratitude, it is a time for us to reflect upon those who have dedicated themselves to serve and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. We honor them and their families and friends who give so much as well.

Our freedoms are precious, for without them and our uniformed service members, we would not have the great Nation that we so easily can take for granted. As I travel or happen to see our service members, I greet them with a simple "Thank you for what you do!" Many seem surprised by the greeting, and they smile! I encourage you to express your gratitude as well, in your own way.

November and early December also bring us to the realization that winter is around the corner. How well have we prepared for the crisp, snowy, and icy season? Though winter has its special beauty, we find it more challenging to experience.

With this thought, this is a good time to check your vehicle's tires, lights, windows, and mirrors for wear, cleanliness, and operational condition. Take the time to put together a winter emergency kit and store it in the trunk of your car. Pack a blanket, emergency flares, flashlight with new batteries, gloves, and a hooded parka, among other items. Think of your comfort needs if you become stranded on a cold



winter night. Don't hesitate to review the practices of defensive driving to ensure that you and your car are ready for the challenges of slippery roads and snowstorm conditions. Your safety is important to all of us.

And finally, as we approach the holidays and the gatherings of families and friends, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you for your hard work and spirit in making the Northeastern Area such an extraordinary place while serving the public and caring for the land! You are the one making the difference, for which I'm grateful and equally proud to be a part of the Northeastern Area.

In the spirit of the holidays, "Thank you!"

Respectfully,

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director

Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month:

LED holiday lights are safer and more energy efficient than traditional holiday lights.

We always hear that the holiday season should be a time to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends, and perhaps indulge in some yummy holiday food! So, why does it always seem to be such a stressful, busy time of the year? Well, sometimes we are our own worst enemies when it comes to preparing for and celebrating the holidays. Here are a few ways to cut costs and embrace some greener holiday traditions this holiday season:



- Send holiday greetings to family and friends via e-mail. Electronic holiday wishes can still be as warm and heartfelt as paper ones (and offer an opportunity to be just as, if not more, creative!) and you can conserve paper, save postage, and reduce waste. Or, if you strongly prefer traditional holiday cards, consider making or buying cards made out of recycled paper.
- Save any holiday cards that you do receive and use them to make holiday gift tags.
- If you're in the market for new holiday lights, consider buying LED (light-emitting diode) holiday lights. Not only do they burn brighter and consume less electricity (up to 90 percent less than traditional bulbs!), they are also much safer—they are cool to the touch when switched on and greatly reduce the risk of fire. They cost a bit more upfront, but the energy savings and reduced fire risk make them a far more economical bet than traditional lights. This year, LED lights are fairly common—look for them at the usual major retailers (if they're not sold out!).
- Have you ever moved out of your house or apartment and come face to face with the amount of junk that you own? We all might get a thrill out of acquiring new stuff every now and again, but much of it just becomes an obligation—stuff that we need to organize, clean, maintain, and schlep around when we move. Instead of adding to peoples' junk collections, give the gift of your time and talent, or give something that is consumable. Consider giving a wine- or beer-tasting seminar (perhaps featuring organic varieties!); cooking a gourmet dinner; giving music, knitting, or cooking lessons; giving tickets to the movies, theatre, or a concert; or giving a gift certificate for babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, or one of your many other talents!



Many commercial Christmas tree farms spray their trees with up to 40 different pesticides! Avoid exposing your children, pets, and family to these toxins by choosing a healthier alternative. Consider decorating a houseplant or buying a living tree (that can later be planted in your yard) instead of a traditional Christmas tree. Or, consider buying an organic or pesticide-free Christmas tree. Use a search engine or go to www.localharvest.org to find organic and pesticide-free Christmas tree farms near you.

Newtown Square Headquarters Office

U.S. Forest Service Chief Addresses Urban and Community Forestry Conference in Portland

More than 300 people joined in the learning, sharing, and networking that took place at the 2009 Partners in Community Forestry National Conference in Portland, OR. This year's conference, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and Home Depot Foundation, featured presentations on building effective partnerships and increasing community involvement, the value of trees in stormwater management, energy conservation, and models for effectively managing community canopy.

Keynote addresses by U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Oregon State Forester Marvin Brown, and Oregon Metro President David Bragdon highlighted 2 days of presentations and tours on urban forestry best management practices. **Phil Rodbell**, NA staff specialist in urban and community forestry, moderated a full day of concurrent sessions on social issues at the event. In 2010, this conference will be held in Philadelphia from November 9-11.



State and Federal Urban and Community Forestry Coordinators met with U.S. Forest Service Chief Tidwell in Portland, OR.

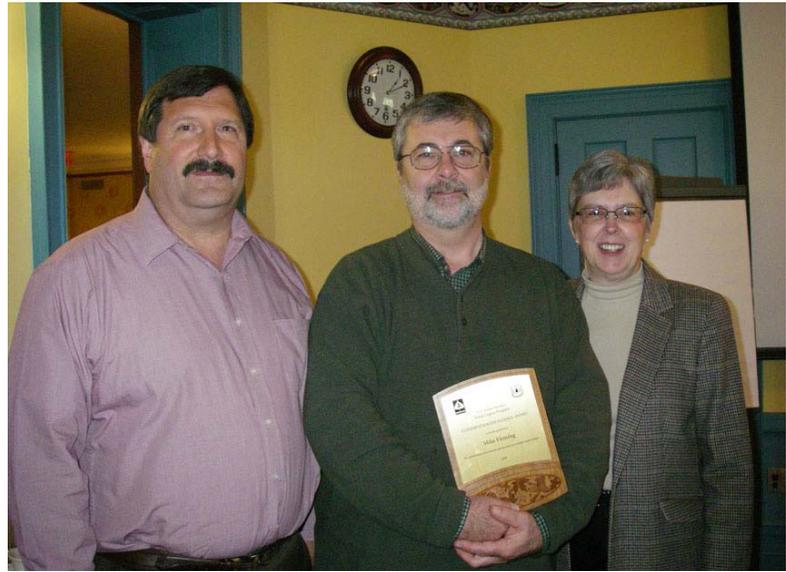


Coveted National Award goes to Northeastern Area State Forest Legacy Program Coordinator

NA Director **Kathryn Maloney** presented **Mike Fleming** of Massachusetts with the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) 2009 Conservation Excellence Award “for outstanding achievement and dedication to forest conservation.” The award presentation took place November 18, 2009, at the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) meeting at Grey Towers. Fleming gradually realized that he was the subject of the award as Director Maloney made her way toward him and described how the recipient met the three award criteria.

Mike provides input and guidance nationally by serving on a number of FLP task forces and teams as well as participating on the national project prioritization panel. Mike also turned around a floundering FLP and now runs an efficient and effective program in Massachusetts. Massachusetts has protected more than 6,000 forested acres from conversion to other uses using nearly \$15 million in FLP funds.

Finally, Mike provides leadership and guidance to other State managers and FLP programs. He is an advocate for new procedures, is often the first to delve into a new requirement, and never hesitates to share his successes and mistakes with fellow State FLP coordinators.



Massachusetts FLP Coordinator Mike Fleming is flanked by NAASF President and New Jersey State Forester James Barresi (left) and NA Director Kathryn Maloney (right) after accepting the FLP 2009 Conservation Excellence Award.

Mike said of the award, “I am shocked and grateful for this recognition. To be acknowledged by a group of professionals I greatly respect is truly an honor. However, I must note that without the help and support of our many partners, who bring us excellent projects and work tirelessly as project sponsors, the Massachusetts Forest Legacy Program wouldn't be the success that it is.”

World Forestry Congress Held in Argentina

NA employee **Phil Rodbell**, selected by the Deputy Chief as one of three representatives of State and Private Forestry, presented three papers at the World Forestry Congress held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 18-23. In addition, Phil's peers appointed him Technical Secretary to communicate the results of the first-ever thematic session dedicated to Urban and Peri-urban Forestry at this periodic event, held every 6 years. More than 7,000 registrants and 160 nations gathered at the 13th Congress. The final declaration written for the United Nations and leaders of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), based in Rome, stated the following:

"Forests are an invaluable asset for humanity, providing livelihoods for billions of people; helping achieve environmental sustainability; and serving as a source of social and spiritual values for peoples, communities, and nations. Through their sustainable management, forests can contribute to alleviating



poverty, safeguarding biodiversity, [and] providing the broad range of goods and services for present and future generations in the context of a changing climate."



Phil Rodbell (second from right) and fellow panelists participate in the World Forestry Congress held in Argentina last October.

"The broader perspective that forests produce services of economic and environmental value to society, such as clean water, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, has not been fully recognized and realized to date. At this Congress, the values of these services to both rural and urban people emerged as vital to society. Economic mechanisms were proposed to take full account of these values which, if successfully implemented, would create financial incentives for landowners and managers, thereby reducing deforestation pressures and illegal and unsustainable activities.

Given the unprecedented pressure on forests, development of these mechanisms and associated global investment is an urgent priority and will have very significant and rapid benefits for forests, but in doing so, care is needed not to impinge on the traditional uses by indigenous communities."

Steve Koehn of Maryland also participated in the Congress as a representative of the National Association of State Foresters. For more information and the complete text of the final declaration, visit <http://www.cfm2009.org>.

Morgantown Field Office

Cheat Lake Elementary Students Learn About Spiders

Toni Jones of the Northern Research Station joined entomologist **Rick Turcotte** from Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry to give a 45-minute presentation about spiders and their kin at Cheat Lake Elementary. First graders learned about spider biology and the ecological role of spiders and their close relatives in the environment. A video camera and monitor were used to provide an up close look at live spiders and other organisms. The presentation was well received by the students and staff, and a large number of them asked questions about spiders and their important role in the environment.



Morgantown Undertakes Green Projects



Green team members Mary Prout, Lisa Cress, and Melissa Emerson work on constructing a compost bin.

During the last week of October, members of the Morgantown Field Office worked on several greening projects. Members planted bulbs in the flower beds by the main building entrance and at the USDA signs in the parking areas. "In the spring these bulbs will push forth flowers that will brighten the entrance and provide resources for pollinators," said green team member **Melissa Emerson**.

The green team also began constructing a compost bin. About 75 percent of the construction was completed. The compost pile will contain leaves, grass clippings, and food refuse. "By establishing a compost pile, we will reduce the amount of garbage sent to the landfill. At the same time, the

compost pile will create nutrient-rich organic soil that employees will be able to utilize," said green team member **Denise Binion**. Team members **Mary Prout** and **Lisa Cress** were also involved in the project.

Wood Education and Resource Center

WERC Accepting Applications for Demonstration Projects

A letter was sent to Northeastern Area State Foresters in early December about how to apply for Fiscal Year 2010 Wood Education and Resource Center cost-share demonstration projects. The letter is reprinted here.

To: Northeastern Area Foresters

Optional Reply Due February 1, 2010

The Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) is accepting applications for cost-share demonstration projects. The projects will assist the WERC in meeting its mission of facilitating interaction and information exchange with the forest products industry that will enhance opportunities for sustained forest products production in the eastern hardwood forest region. The anticipated funding available this fiscal year is approximately \$750,000. Completed applications are due to the WERC on or before February 1, 2010. Priority will be given to projects that accomplish one or more of the following items:

- Maintain the economic competitiveness of the primary and secondary hardwood industries. Examples include:



- 1) Encouraging the adoption of new technology to improve competitiveness and profitability;
 - 2) Bringing information and technology about processing, marketing, business-related skills, and urban wood utilization to existing and emerging businesses; and
 - 3) Developing utilization options for improving forest stewardship and health.
- Increase the knowledge and information on how the hardwood industry can contribute to the green building movement. Examples include certification/chain of custody for sustainable wood products as well as life cycle analysis for a range of wood products.
 - Increase the knowledge, information, and promotion of how carbon sequestration (storage) of wood products can provide a competitive edge to a sustainable hardwood industry. An example includes development of specific carbon storage factors for a range of wood products.
 - Develop technology and markets to address emergency (global or domestic) issues, including:
 - 1) Sanitizing (phytosanitation) wood packaging materials, firewood, and similar products to eliminate these pathways for the transport of insect and disease pests; and
 - 2) Developing markets for and using unexpected increases in the volume of urban and rural wood due to new pest introductions (for example, emerald ash borer) and weather events such as tornados and ice storms.
 - Increase the sustainable use of woody biomass to meet our Nation's needs for energy and raw materials. Examples include public/private partnerships for using woody biomass in heating and cooling, process energy, cogeneration, district energy systems, and solid and liquid fuel production. Projects may also develop or maintain local markets and forest industry infrastructure by using more woody biomass for both energy and value-added products.

The Fiscal Year 2010 application form and instructions can be viewed and downloaded from the Wood Education and Resource Center's Web site at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/> as well as <http://www.grants.gov>. This application form is provided to assist grant applicants with the development of a completed application, and to provide proposal evaluators with the information they need to fairly select projects that will make the best use of available grant funds. Please contact Steve Milauskas, WERC Director, at (304) 487-1510 ext. 233 or Ed Cesa, WERC Deputy Director, at (304) 285-1530, if you have questions about the program.

Editor's Note

DEADLINE! The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is Monday, January 25, 2010. News articles submitted after this time and date will be published in the next month's edition. Please e-mail final articles to me, Nancy Lough at nlough@fs.fed.us. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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