



NORTHEASTERN AREA STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY NEWS NOTES



April 2010



From the Director's Desk

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Specialists Provide Classroom Instruction to Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry Forest Health Protection Personnel

As the field season begins in the region served by Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NASPF), aerial sketchmappers from the State's Bureau of Forestry gathered at two locations in Pennsylvania to become familiar with and learn how to use the Digital Aerial Sketch Mapper (DASM), an aerial data collection system used by the Forest Service.



Aerial sketchmappers attend one of two training sessions held in Pennsylvania on using the Forest Service DASM system. (Photo by Dan Zimmerman, U.S. Forest Service)

The first of two training sessions conducted by NASPF specialists was held at the Division of Forest Pest Management Harrisburg Office for 28 Pennsylvania sketchmappers. The second training session was held the next day at the Moshannon State Forest, District #9 Office in Penfield, PA. Each training session was divided into two sections. The first section covered issues and concerns involving aerial sketchmapping, some of which surfaced during an evaluation of Pennsylvania's aerial survey program last fall. The second portion of each training session was dedicated to the DASM system.

collection system designed internally and implemented within the State. They have collected forest type information and survey data for defoliation, mortality, and other forest damaging events that complemented their data needs. Providing this data in the format requested by the Forest Service was often challenging.

Pennsylvania's Forest Health Protection personnel have been using a data



Focus on the home

- Bring magazines to the doctor's office to read; leave them there when you're done
- Use resealable, reusable containers for leftovers and lunches
- Install automatic shut-off hose nozzles and water conservation devices for toilet tanks; use dye tablets to detect leaky toilets
- Need a new washing machine? Front loaders are more energy efficient than top loaders and use 22-25 gallons per load while top loaders use 40-45 gallons
- Reuse glass jars or plastic prescription bottles with the labels removed to store nails, screws, craft supplies, or other small items in the garage, workshop, or sewing room
- When spring cleaning or moving, have a yard sale or donate items to charities instead of throwing them away
- Donate unwanted books to nursing homes, libraries, charities, schools, hospitals, and prisons, among others

Focus on cleaning

- Make an all-purpose cleaner: 1 gallon hot water, ¼ cup ammonia, ¼ cup vinegar, and 1 tablespoon baking soda; this is safe on most surfaces and rinses off with water
- Use old toothbrushes and other brushes to clean bathroom tile, shoes, etc.
- Use hot vinegar instead of paint thinner on brushes
- Make an inexpensive silver polish: 1 quart warm water, 1 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 piece aluminum foil; soak silver for 10-15 minutes, then wipe with a soft cloth
- Prepare a simple furniture polish using either lemon oil and beeswax or beeswax and olive oil; or mix 2 teaspoons lemon oil with one pint mineral oil in a spray bottle
- Use baking soda to clean sinks, toilet bowls, and showers without harsh chemicals (and only a box will be left when it's gone instead of plastic bottles)
- Clean windows and mirrors with a solution of 3 tablespoons of white vinegar and 2 cups of warm water in a spray bottle; apply with wadded up newspaper

Visit these Web sites for more tips and information:

http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/solid_waste/docs_pub/wrtips.asp

<http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/consumer.shtml>

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/recycle/Reduce/top10.htm>

http://www.informinc.org/fact_office.php

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ReduceWaste/Business/FactSheets/Offices.htm>



Northeastern Area

U.S. Forest Service Seeks Public Comment on Highlands Regional Study

The U.S. Forest Service has released the draft *Highlands Regional Study: Connecticut and Pennsylvania 2010 Update* for public comment. The public comment period runs from May 3, 2010, until June 18, 2010.

The *2010 Update* identifies areas of high conservation value, the impacts of land use change on natural resources, and conservation strategies in the Connecticut and Pennsylvania portions of the Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania Highlands Region. The Forest Service published the study of the New Jersey and New York portion of the Highlands in 2002, following a similar public comment period.

Two public meetings will be held to discuss the *2010 Update* and answer questions:

- **May 24, 2010, at 4:00 p.m.** at the Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center in Reading, PA.
- **May 26, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.** at the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension office in Torrington, CT.

The *2010 Update* is available at www.na.fs.fed.us/highlands/regional/index.shtm. Comments are welcomed via the Website, via facsimile to (212) 637-3887, or by letter to **Martina Barnes**, Regional Planner, U.S. Forest Service, c/o U.S. EPA, Region 2, 290 Broadway, 24th floor, New York, NY 10007.

A map of the Highlands is available at www.na.fs.fed.us/highlands/maps_pubs/highlands_map.jpg. Comments, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized.

Trees for Tribs Project

Kevin Grieser, Riparian Buffer Coordinator, NYS DEC - Hudson River Estuary Program

Through a partnership with the Hudson Basin River Watch (HBRW), the Hudson River Estuary Program's *Trees for Tribs* initiative has been selected as one of 10 nationwide finalists for Redwood Creek's 2010 Greater Outdoors Project. Through an online voting system, the general public will decide who wins a \$50,000 grant. Online voting begins April 1st and runs through August 31st. Individuals are limited to one vote per day and can cast their vote at <http://www.blazethetrail.com/greatoutdoors/vote/>.

The goal of the *Trees for Tribs* initiative is to plant native trees and shrubs to enhance stream buffers and recreational experiences, then monitor water quality at project sites to demonstrate improvements. Since 1990, HBRW's mission has been to improve the water quality of the Hudson River and its tributaries through education, community involvement, and stewardship. HBRW provides hands-on science education programs and stream monitoring workshops to environmental organizations, individuals, and agencies.

HBRW has partnered with the Hudson River Estuary Program since 1999 to foster programs throughout the Hudson River Estuary watershed. The Estuary Program, through longstanding



collaborations with regional watershed groups and HBRW, has championed riparian buffers as a keystone of watershed protection. The Estuary Program's *Trees for Tribes* project is conducted through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYS DEC) Hudson River Estuary Program in conjunction with the New York State Water Resources Institute at Cornell University. The NYS DEC's Saratoga Tree Nursery has also been a key partner in this initiative by providing over 80 percent of the plant material utilized for this program. The U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry has been a key player as well by supplying a grant to help launch *Trees for Tribes* in 2007.

In the 3 years since it started, *Trees for Tribes* has been responsible for the planting of more than 49,000 feet of stream buffers along the estuary's tributaries with over 18,000 native trees, shrubs, and grasses. Over 130 projects have been completed to date with the help of approximately 1,500 volunteers.

Join a May 12 Webcast: "The Insect Zoo in Your Schoolyard"

While pollinators may come in small sizes, they play a large and often undervalued role in the production of the food we eat, the health of flowering plants, and the future of wildlife. A decline in the numbers and health of pollinators over the last several years poses a significant threat to the integrity of biodiversity, global food webs, and human health, according to scientists.

PollinatorLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure is offering a series of live interactive Webcasts, Web seminars, and satellite field trips about pollinators, gardening, and conservation for students. On Wednesday, May 12, join **PollinatorLIVE** for an electronic field trip to the National Zoo in Washington, DC, for five Webcasts exploring "The Insect Zoo in Your Schoolyard." **PollinatorLIVE** will be Webcasting from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., so drop in to watch and participate in any or all of the program segments. Participants will be able to send in their questions by e-mail to the experts on the day of the Webcast.

An all-star cast of scientists will be explaining pollination, plant-insect interactions, the insect collection at the Smithsonian Institution, how students can "bee" scientists and contribute their data to science, and what can be done to help pollinators. In addition, Dr. Chip Taylor, director of Monarch Watch, will provide an update on the monarch butterfly population.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

Overview of Pollination, 11 – 11:30 a.m. ET

One out of every three bites of food arrives on our tables as the result of a pollinator. Donna Stockton-Eng and Alan Peters from the National Zoo will explain pollination and how it works.

Pollinator Partners , 11:45 a.m. – 12: 15 p.m. ET

Join Sean Brady and Nate Erwin from the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum and Insect Zoo, and take a closer look at local and exotic pollinators.

"Bee" a Scientist, 12:30 – 1 p.m. ET

Bee Hunt enables you to take an exciting safari in your backyard, using digital cameras to do real science.



Monarch Update, 1:15 – 1:45 p.m. ET

Dr. Chip Taylor, Director of Monarch Watch, will fill us in on the latest research on monarch butterflies.

Attracting Pollinators to Your Schoolyard Garden, 2 – 2:30 p.m. ET

All of the scientists will explain what you can do to help pollinators in your school garden or community and why it's important.

To watch the programs live on May 12, go to <http://pollinatorlive.pwnet.org> and a link for the Webcast will be posted. A link to test whether you will be able to view the Webcast is available now on that Web page. The entire Webcast will also be simultaneously translated into Spanish.

As part of **PollinatorLIVE**, garden grants of up to \$500 are being offered through Project Learning Tree® (PLT), an award-winning national environmental education program. For more information and the requirements, go to <http://pollinatorlive.pwnet.org/gardening/grants.php>. The deadline to apply is December 3.

Additional live electronic field trips and Web seminars are planned for the 2010-11 school year. Go to the **PollinatorLIVE** Web site at <http://pollinatorlive.pwnet.org> to learn more. The Web site also features resources that meet National Science Education Standards for the classroom.

PollinatorLIVE is geared toward students in grades 4 – 8, but there are lesson plans and activities of interest to teachers and students in all grades.

Questions? Contact Kristy Liercke at lierckkx@pwcs.edu or at (800)609-2680. Follow us on Twitter @ PWNnet. **PollinatorLIVE** is brought to you by the U.S. Forest Service and many other sponsors and partners. For more information, contact Tamberly Conway at tkconway@fs.fed.us or call (202)401-4063.

Newtown Square Headquarters Office

Newtown Kicks Off Growing Season

In April the NTS Green Team sponsored a visit to a local farm and the planting of a container garden.

Farm Tour—Pete's Produce Farm in Westtown, PA, hosted a dozen employees on a visit to the 600-acre sustainable farm. The focus was water and soil conservation methods. Also featured were compost "socks" –fabric tubes stuffed with compost that enable



Compost socks, which can be made to any length, are alternative planting containers. Each of the socks pictured can accommodate two tomato plants.



organic farming almost anywhere, be it on a balcony or in a parking lot! Other stops on the tour were the grain mill, greenhouses, log pile, and hen house. In addition to a healthy dose of sunshine, employees also came away with these facts: a farmworker can pick 1,000 ears of corn in an hour and is more efficient than machinery; farming is the largest industry in the United States; and pollinators (bees) are an important component to successful farming and food production. Pete's Farm routinely produces their own compost and donates produce to local community food banks. Pete's also helps Mexican immigrant farm workers apply for visas. The farm relies heavily on these immigrant workers, in large part because students and nearby residents are not fully available for or interested in seasonal farm employment.

USDA People's Container Garden—After about a year of unsuccessfully petitioning the building management company for a raised bed garden, the NTS Green Team finally won approval to plant in containers. The Team thanks **Vicky Evans** (Morgantown) for this inspired suggestion, which created a win-win situation. Employees planted fruits, veggies, and herbs in the containers in celebration of Earth Day; building management landscapers will add seasonal flowers to the veggies containers to attract pollinators, and will arrange the containers around the building in order to integrate them into the campus landscaping. The Green Team will use organic gardening methods, and produce will be shared among Newtown Square employees. This container garden helps to fulfill USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack's charge that every USDA office feature a People's Garden to showcase USDA's commitment to sustainable, local food production and the importance of good nutrition.



Newtown employees planted a People's Garden in containers for Earth Day. Pictured from left to right are Stacey Jones-Robinson, Rich McCullough, Mary Miller, Paul Polasky, and Sarah Hines.



Morgantown Field Office

Jefferson FFA Takes First Place in West Virginia Envirothon

Twenty-four teams from across the Mountain State traveled to the Greenbrier County Youth Camp near Lewisburg, WV, to compete at the 14th annual West Virginia Envirothon competition held April 22-23, 2010. The West Virginia Envirothon is a conservation education program available to students in grades 9 through 12. It gives students from across the region an opportunity to test their skills at aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and this year's current environmental topic, *The Protection of Groundwater – A Community Focus*.



This team is testing for pH, alkalinity, and nitrate content.

This year's West Virginia Envirothon proved to be another exciting competition, especially for the Jefferson FFA team. This team walked away from this year's competition with a shared \$5,000 scholarship sponsored by the Weyerhaeuser Foundation. The team is now eligible to compete at the 2010 Canon Envirothon at California State University in Fresno, CA. Jefferson FFA also earned the honor of being this year's top-scoring FFA team, which makes them eligible to compete at the national FFA Competition.

Second place was earned by the Ripley Environmental Science team, which received a shared scholarship of \$3,750 sponsored by the Dominion Foundation. Doddridge County Gold took third place and received a team scholarship of \$2,500 sponsored by the 319 Clean Water Grant: West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and the West Virginia Conservation Agency.

The fourth place team was Doddridge County Environmental Science. They earned a shared scholarship of \$1,250 sponsored by Mountain RC&D and Great Kanawha RC&D. Fifth place went to Shady Spring Biology Club 1, which won a shared scholarship of \$500 sponsored by CONSOL Energy.



Teams are identifying aquatic insects.



Braxton FFA Blue placed sixth, Hampshire Home School placed seventh, Braxton FFA Gold placed eighth, Ravenswood FFA placed ninth, and Cabell Midland FFA placed tenth.

The West Virginia Envirothon is made possible through generous partners and sponsors. The Dominion Foundation and the West Virginia Department of Education were the 2010 Platinum Level donors by contributing \$10,000 or more. The Weyerhaeuser Foundation has contributed to the Envirothon since its second year in existence and was a Gold Level donor.

The West Virginia Envirothon Committee is a subcommittee of the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts. It is a partnership effort of the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; West Virginia Conservation Agency; West Virginia Conservation Districts; West Virginia Departments of Education, Environmental Protection, and Agriculture; West Virginia Divisions of Forestry and Natural Resources; West Virginia Forestry Association; and the West Virginia University Extension Service.

Information about the West Virginia Envirothon can be found at www.wvca.us/envirothon.

St. Paul Field Office

SPFO Employee Receives Leadership Award

Saint Paul Field Office Watershed Forester **Teri Heyer** recently received a "Leadership Excellence" award from Toastmasters International. To earn the award, Heyer interviewed five large-scale ecosystem restoration organizations about their missions, organizational structures, priorities, and funding levels. The interviews were conducted with the intention of making recommendations to improve the Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership.



Teri Heyer accepts her Leadership Excellence award from Dave Bengston at the St. Paul Field Office.

Dave Bengston of the Northern Research Station presented Heyer with her award certificate April 20 at the St. Paul Field Office. Bengston is president of Dialogger's Toastmasters, the local club to which Heyer has belonged for more than 20 years.

According to Heyer, the Dialogger's Club is affiliated with the U.S. Forest Service, which sponsored the club back in the 1980s. About 15 people are part of the club today. Heyer noted that Toastmasters has two tracks: one for public speaking and another for leadership.

Joining Toastmasters is a local and inexpensive way, said Heyer, to gain leadership and public speaking training. She added, "Because we're on the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus, we also offer a platform for improving the international students' speaking skills."



Working Forests & Carbon Workshop and Field Tour

Recognizing another benefit of well-managed forests

Registration is now available for a **Working Forests & Carbon** event that will be held June 9-10, 2010. It will include a workshop at the Long Lake Conservation Center near Palisade, MN, and a field tour the following day. The workshop will feature presentations by the Climate Action Reserve and the American Carbon Registry with details about carbon offset standards and forest project requirements. Great River Energy will discuss the latest on carbon policy and the energy provider perspective. The Aitkin County Land Department will also provide an update on the development of a Northwoods carbon offset project. Registration is \$120; students pay \$85.

This event is being organized by the Aitkin County Land Department; Forest Guild; U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry; and Dovetail Partners.

Additional information and online registration are available at:

<http://dovetailinc.org/content/working-forests-carbon>

To download an event brochure:

<http://dovetailinc.org/files/CarbonWorkshopBrochuresm.pdf>

To download an event poster:

<http://dovetailinc.org/files/CarbonWorkshopFlyersm.pdf>

Questions? Call (612)333-0430 or email: info@dovetailinc.org

Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC)

A Value-Added Wood Products Marketing Guide for Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs

This new Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry online publication resulted from a grant (Award Number 05-DG-360) to the Adirondack North Country Association located in Saranac Lake, NY. This national marketing guide for value-added wood products builds upon a regional guide, [A Marketing Guide for Manufacturers & Entrepreneurs of Secondary-Processed Wood Products in the Northeastern United States](#), that **Ed Cesa** wrote in 1992.

The new guide provides marketing “how to” advice for wood products businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the United States. Nine chapters cover general marketing concepts and promotional techniques, as well as the more specialized topics of online marketing and sales, regional branding of wood products, forest product certification, and exporting. Seven appendixes list resources and contacts that provide assistance to wood products companies. Many Internet links are included in the publication.

For additional information, contact [Tim Holmes](#) at (518)302-1891 or Ed Cesa at ecesa@fs.fed.us. Cesa also has CD copies of the publication.

Thanks go to the staff at the [Adirondack North Country Association](#), technical reviewers, and the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Creative Services staff for bringing this publication to reality.



