



# NORTHEASTERN AREA STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY NEWS NOTES



March 2010



## From the Director's Desk

### **Landscape-scale Conservation and Collaboration: It starts with YOU!**

Last August, Secretary Vilsack spoke of his vision for landscape-scale conservation, achieved through collaborative work and consideration of all lands. That vision is being realized in the Northeast and Midwest!

In December 2009, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, the Eastern Region, the Northern Research Station, and the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters collaborated and reached agreement on a common approach for "landscape-scale conservation" (LSC) in the Northeast and Midwest. This common approach is described in a position paper that can be found on the NA Web site at [http://na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/pubs/conservation/landscape\\_conservation.pdf](http://na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/pubs/conservation/landscape_conservation.pdf). This approach renews and builds on the long history of collaboration on joint projects, initiatives, and programs among these organizations over the years. The approach also complements the "all lands" approach to conservation being actively encouraged and led by Secretary Vilsack and Chief Tidwell.

The position paper I mentioned above provides a formal definition of LSC, as follows:

**"Landscape-scale conservation is an emerging framework to conceive, plan, finance, and manage projects with significant conservation value—ecological, economic, and social.**

**The broad concept of landscape-scale conservation includes three basic features:**

- 1. There is a regional system of interconnected properties**
- 2. Actions are organized to achieve one or several specific conservation objectives**
- 3. Landowners and managers within specific conservation regions cooperate or collaborate in some concrete fashion to achieve those objectives."**

While defining terms like LSC is important to achieve a common understanding of what is being talked about and worked on, there is one aspect of this definition that I would like to briefly focus on—the concept of "collaboration." The position paper very clearly states that the success or failure of the LSC approach depends on quality collaboration. Here is a key sentence in the paper:

**"The successful pursuit of LSC requires exceptional collaboration: open to multiple goals and approaches, but with shared purpose and responsibility. "**

Where does "exceptional collaboration" come from? How does one achieve this? Rather than suggest a long list of behaviors or actions, or refer you to books and articles, I would simply say that it begins with each of us being open and listening intently to ideas that others have about



working together in advancing the cause of forest conservation. Rather than leaping to solutions, strategizing on how to accumulate every available dollar for projects, or seeking to control every outcome, exceptional collaboration is achieved from more humble beginnings. It cannot begin or grow in any other way. It depends entirely on how we, as individuals, relate to and work with each other.

My own expression is this: “collaboration” must become the way we work rather than a step in a process we have determined! I encourage your consideration of this perspective as you do your work every day.

Respectfully,

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director

## Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month:

### RAIN BARRELS

By John Brown, U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station

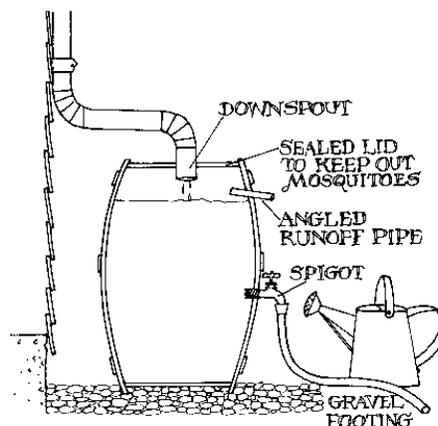
With the snow finally melting this year and the arrival of spring, it's time to start considering outdoor projects besides shoveling snow. This month's tip focuses on rain barrels. They are not just for your Grizzly Adams Cabin (I seem to remember this from watching the show as a kid.)

Rain barrels come in a variety of styles. Whatever your style of landscaping, there's a good chance there is a rain barrel to blend in. First and foremost, ensure that the system is safe for children and pets. It also needs to prevent access for pests. Depending on the current gutter system, a barrel with an overflow system could be a good idea as well.



Rain barrels come in various sizes but typically hold about 50 gallons or so of water. How much water they might save will depend on the size of your roof, the number of downspouts, the periodicity and amount of rainfall, and how you will use the water. Additionally, barrels may be added to some systems to increase holding capacity or to cover more than one downspout.

Pricing runs about \$80 and up depending on construction materials and design. A number of the larger home improvement stores carry these. They are often stocked at garden centers as well, so just be on the lookout. It is also possible to [build your own](#).



You can check out these other resources or simply search for information using the keywords “rain barrels”:

<http://www.savingwater.org/docs/rainbarrels.pdf>

<http://www.epa.gov/Region3/p2/what-is-rainbarrel.pdf>

<http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/rainbsources.html>



# Newtown Square Headquarters Office

## Newtown Square Employees Take Part in Climate Change Workshop

Three Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry staff members from Newtown Square participated in an intergovernmental workshop entitled "Adapting to Climate Change in the Mid-Atlantic" and held March 23-25 in Cambridge, MD. **Steve Davis** served on the planning committee and moderated two sessions. **Sarah Hines** presented a talk on "Linking Climate, Ecosystem Services, and Ecosystem Services Markets," and **Jim Steinman** gave a presentation on "Strategies for Detecting and Managing Climate Change Impacts on Forest Health." Several Northern Research Station staff members also gave presentations related to assessment and adaptive strategies.

The workshop was cosponsored by a number of government agencies, including the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the National Capital and Northeast Regions of the National Park Service; the Eastern Region of the U.S. Geological Survey; the U.S. Forest Service's Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Northern Research Station, and Eastern Region; NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries; and the Minerals Management Service. Over 250 managers of Federal, State, and private forested lands and aquatic resources attended the workshop. The workshop's goal was to develop attendees' understanding of assessment techniques that determine potential climate change impacts on protected areas in the Mid-Atlantic United States and to explore adaptive management approaches that address those impacts.

# Morgantown Field Office

## Morgantown Throws a Retirement Party for Julie Green



Julie Green (center in the blue sweater) is flanked by daughter Stefanie and grandson Cole on the left and daughter Lisa on the right as she opens a retirement gift with Kurt Gottschalk.



Current and former Morgantown Field Office employees gathered to celebrate the 20-year Forest Service career of **Julie Green**. Many Morgantown employees enjoyed refreshments, congratulated Green for her years of dedicated service, and wished her well in her future endeavors. Recent retirees from the Morgantown Field Office joined the festivities along with employees from Princeton, Parsons, Newtown Square, Durham, and Hamden, who attended virtually using video conferencing technology. Green's two daughters, Lisa Sanders and Stefanie Williams, and grandson Cole Williams were also present.

Green began working for the Forest Service as a temporary Business Management Assistant in September 1989 in Irvine, PA. She became a full-time permanent employee in July 1990.

Green was assigned to Morgantown in 1993 as a Support Services Supervisor for Morgantown, Princeton, and Parsons. The foursome of Julie, Jean Holland, Yvonne Chainey, and Lee Philbin won the "Hammer Award" and received a certificate signed by Al Gore for their cost-saving efforts as a self-directed team. As she advanced in grade, Green's position changed to Administrative Officer, a position she served in until the Northeastern Research Station and the North Central Research Station were merged in 2007 to become the Northern Research Station. Following the merger, Green switched from duties as an Administrative Officer to those of a Facilities Operation Manager.

## St. Paul Field Office

### Forest Service Creates Forest Management Guide for Bottomland Hardwood

The U.S. Forest Service has created a Web-based guide for managing hardwood forests in the bottomlands of the Upper Mississippi River System. The guide provides extensive information about bottomland hardwood species that grow in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The *North Central Region Bottomland Hardwoods Management Guide* can be accessed on the Web at [http://nrs.fs.fed.us/fmg/nfmg/bl\\_hardwood/index.html](http://nrs.fs.fed.us/fmg/nfmg/bl_hardwood/index.html).

"This Web-based guide represents one of the most comprehensive resources on bottomland hardwood forest management within the Upper Mississippi River System," said Research Fellow Grant Domke at the University of Minnesota.

The guide contains sections on ecology, silviculture, forest health, economics, management examples, and a glossary. Each section has subsections that allow users to quickly access specific information. Section links provide an overview of the material presented in the section followed by a brief description of the subsections.

Tree species that grow in bottomland hardwood forests of the Upper Mississippi River System are adapted to thrive in soils that may be saturated by water at times during the growing season. The ecology section of the guide has information about bottomland hardwood forest sites, species, and the forests themselves.

The silviculture section presents the broad range of strategies available for managing bottomland hardwood forests. Subsections in this part of the guide include assessing a forest site, regenerating bottomland hardwoods, and managing existing bottomland hardwood forests.



The forest health section looks at how environmental factors influence the dominant tree species that grow in bottomland hardwood forests. The guide also addresses forest health concerns—flooding, winds, ice storms, fire, animal-caused damage, and invasive species—for prominent tree species in the Upper Mississippi River System.

The economics section has links to State stumpage prices and a summary of the average costs of silvicultural treatments. Subsections include the nonmarket values of tree species, the cost of different silvicultural options, stumpage prices, and financial analysis of forest management investment options.

The management section offers examples of two different land management objectives: even-aged and uneven-aged. Each example discusses a variety of options for improving wildlife habitat, increasing tree species diversity, and managing trees for growth and yield. The subsections provide key bottomland hardwood management questions, examples of both even-aged and uneven-aged management, and information about regeneration and managing established forests.

“The Web site is an excellent information resource that pulls together current knowledge managers need to know about bottomland forest ecology and management in this region,” said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers forester Randall Urich.

“We want to continue to enhance the Web site by adding additional photos illustrating examples of forest conditions and treatments. The Web site includes a link on how to contribute photos. We are also exploring ways to have an interactive Web-based discussion on bottomland forest management successes as well as strategies that did not work as well,” said Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Watershed Forester **Terri Heyer**.

### **Partnership Protects Fish Habitats**

A partnership in which Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry is a member recently received approval as part of a national fish protection plan. The Fishers and Farmers Partnership was one of only two partnerships approved so far in 2010 as part of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFAP). The approval came in early March.

The NFAP promotes nonregulatory and voluntary fish habitat protection and restoration that is locally driven, science based, and linked nationally to other efforts. The Fishers and Farmers Partnership’s mission is to support locally led conservation projects that add value to farms, while restoring aquatic habitat and native fish populations. The partnership covers the same geographic boundaries as the Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership.

“Keeping forests on the landscape in the watershed and adjacent to streams is critical to maintaining fish habitat,” said St. Paul Field Office Watershed Forester **Teri Heyer**, a Fishers and Farmers Partnership steering committee member.



