

Northeastern Area



News Notes



Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Monday April 22, 2002



SAFETY FIRST, EVERY TIME!

I am daily reminded of the importance of putting *safety first, every time!* The safety of firefighters, maintenance workers, and tree climbers is our focus much of the time, but the concerns extend to each of us. I encourage you to incorporate safety considerations in all that you do, at work and at home. It is important for each of us to be alert to safety concerns and to remind others when necessary.

Employees in the Northeastern Area often drive many miles to perform their official duties. Driving while fatigued or using a cell phone pose serious safety risks and should be avoided. Be sure to rest or delay that phone call to ensure your safety.

Every project has some potential safety issue! A job hazard analysis should be done before the start of a project to ensure a safe work environment. Current policy requires us to do job hazard analyses and it just makes good sense! If you are not familiar with this requirement, be sure to talk with your supervisor.

The spring and summer months are delightful times of the year! These are also times we engage in more field activities and project work. Forest fires are more likely to occur during these months, and the drought conditions in many parts of the Northeast and Midwest have increased this likelihood. Whatever the activity, from work in an urban community greening project to fire fighting, please think and act on *safety first, every time!*

Kathy Maloney

WASHINGTON OFFICE REVIEW OF THE FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAM IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA

A Washington Office Review of the Forest Health Protection (FHP) Program in the Northeastern Area was conducted on April 9 through 12, 2002, in Newtown Square, PA. The Washington Office identified three areas to examine during the course of this review. Issues identified by the NA-FHP staff were also discussed. The areas reviewed were:

1. Program delivery
2. Organizational structure
3. Funding (internal and external)

The review team was led by Robert Mangold, Forest Health Protection, Washington, DC. Other team members were Esther Chapman, *WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Madison, WI*; Kurt Gottschalk, *Northeastern Research Station, Morgantown, WV*; Tom Hofacker, *Forest Health Protection,*



Washington DC; Wes Nettleton, *Forest Health Protection, Atlanta, GA*; Frank Sapio, *Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Lansing, MI*; and Dave Struble, *Maine Forest Service, Augusta, ME*.

NA participants included the Forest Health staff in Newtown Square, Forest Health Group Leaders, and Field Representatives from the Durham, Morgantown, and St. Paul Field Offices. Invited guests from various state and Federal partners included Don Eggen, *PA Bureau of Forestry, Middletown, PA*; Bob Haack (by telephone), *Northcentral Research Station, E. Lansing, MI*; Gary King, *MI Department of Agriculture, Lansing, MI*; Deb McCullough (by telephone), *Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI*; Bob Rabaglia, *MD Department of Agriculture, Annapolis, MD*; Jil Swearingen, *USDI National Park Service, Washington DC*; Jay West, *USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Ft. Snelling, MN*; and Bob White, *Allegheny National Forest, Warren, PA*

The review team is preparing a report of findings and recommendations that will be available in the near future. The review team discussions were very positive and helpful. We anticipate the team's recommendations will help guide and improve future program delivery.

ECONOMIC ACTION PROGRAM SUCCESSES

The Economic Action Programs offered by the Forest Service promote innovative and entrepreneurial community based approaches to the sustainable use of forest resources. Emphasis has been placed on training and leadership development for community leaders, creating income opportunities and developing marketing strategies that promote natural resources and supporting applied research to assist small businesses.

Forest-based activities are an important component of the region's rural and urban economy across the Northeast and Midwest. Over \$28.5 billion in earnings and 919,000 jobs were provided because of forest based manufacturing in 1998. Through a variety of Federal, state and local governments and private sector business partnerships, the Economic Action Programs have been able to positively contribute to the creation and maintenance of forest-based economic activities in the region.

Successes: The Economic Action Programs in the Northeastern Area are engaged in a variety of projects that utilize forest products to improve the economic vitality of communities and small businesses. Some of the successes briefly described here include non-timber forest products, cultural tourism, and timber bridge construction.

MINNESOTA WILD™

Challenge: to turn an unemployment situation into a thriving business

In August 1990, three unemployed food company workers founded the Minnesota Specialty Crops, Inc. (MSCI) to take advantage of local abundant natural food resources and satisfy a niche market for these types of products. Minnesota Wild™ is the brand name of their products.

While traditional lenders were willing to support the company's infrastructure needs, bankers were reluctant to lend money for the purchase of raw materials from the forest. Through a Rural Development grant with the Northeastern Area, the business was able to access the needed raw materials while employing many local harvesters in the community. Minnesota Wild™ has grown considerably since the Forest Service provided financial support. Gross sales at MSCI have increased over 700 percent in the last ten years. Currently, they sell 129 food products and 15 different wines in Minnesota retail stores, as well as through wholesale and export components of the business.

While MSCI has been successful at building a business, they have also returned some of the natural resources that provide their livelihood. The company provides seeds left over from food processing to the Department of Natural Resources for planting windbreaks and wildlife food plots.



MAINE INDIAN BASKETMAKERS

Challenge: to sustain economic self-sufficiency for tribal members using natural resources.

For the past two centuries, many Wabenaki families have supported themselves through the creation and sale of traditional art products. This cottage industry was the economic backbone to self-sufficiency for tribal members for generations. In the early 1800s many tribal families spent the winter making baskets and other items for sale to the summer visitors along the Maine Coast. However, this industry has been under constant threat in more recent years. Many artisans are forced to sell their work at wholesale prices to gift shops, which then sell the pieces to collectors at premium prices. Through the efforts of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Association (MIBA), Wabenaki artisans are working to re-establish a viable market for their products.

For the past five years the Economic Action Programs have worked with MIBA to design and implement a program to market the artisans' products. The Wabenaki Art and Culture Center has been established in Old Town, Maine, to provide a focal point for retail sales, public demonstrations and an artisan-in-residence program throughout the year. The Center is co-located with the international headquarters of Old Town Canoe Company, which is enhancing the travel and tourism opportunities for the community of Old Town as well. E-marketing is also being utilized to expand markets on a national and international scale. Based on the increasing value of artisan products and enhanced economic well-being for Wabenaki families, MIBA has developed into an effective marketing organization.

POCHUCK QUAGMIRE TRAIL – A VITAL LINK ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Challenge: to provide a safe, practical, cost-effective creek crossing on the Appalachian Trail.

The Appalachian Trail is a continuous, marked national or scenic trail meandering 2,160 miles from Georgia to Maine. More than 73 miles of it runs through New Jersey. To provide a trail corridor from Pochuck Mountain to Wawayanda Mountain in the Vernon Valley, the New Jersey State Park Service and the National Park Service acquired 14.1 acres between Sussex County Route 517 and Canal Road. The Trail could not be placed within this corridor until hikers could safely cross the 60-foot-wide Pochuck Creek. The creek is up to eight feet deep, with steep, slick clay banks, and a deceptive current. A 3,000-foot-wide floodplain wetland covers both sides of the creek. The wetland approach on either side of the creek is a quagmire into which a hiker can sink waist deep even during the summer months.

With the financial and technical assistance of the USDA Forest Service Wood in Transportation Program, the Pochuck Quagmire Pedestrian Suspension Bridge was completed in 1996. The 146-foot bridge was constructed by a unique volunteer-driven, public-private partnership with a material cost of \$36,000 and 5,240 hours of labor. After considerable pre-construction design work, a timber suspension bridge was selected because of the location, site characteristics, cost and a volunteer work force.

The Pochuck Bridge now provides hikers a safer trail without a quagmire detour on a dangerous 2.1 mile walk along heavily traveled roadways with poor visibility.

SUMMARY

These success stories provide examples of addressing community development needs. The Northeastern Area Economic Action Programs staff provides ongoing leadership, along with technical and financial assistance, to create and implement valuable solutions to rural and natural resource dependent communities in the Northeast and Midwest and beyond.



Army Environmental Center Notes

FIRE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH KOREA

Anyone who has worked in the oak/pine forests of the Eastern United States would feel at home on the lands managed by the Eighth U.S. Army in South Korea. Just as the forests are similar, so is the fire regime. The Army has been having increased potential for wildfires as the forests continue to grow and fuel loads increase. Although the Army has experienced fire fighters, they asked the Forest Service for assistance with using prescribed fire to reduce the fuel loads in training areas.



During March, **Mark Cleveland** from NA, Nort Phillips from the Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont, and Jim Hinds from the Superior National Forest, Minnesota, worked with the fire staff at the Eighth Army to develop prescribed burn plans and also trained the staff (see picture) in wildland and prescribed fire fighting techniques. The Eighth Army Fire Chief is planning a prescribed fire in a major training range later this year. Mark, Nort, and Jim will return to Korea to provide expertise for that project.

STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE IN JAPAN

Paul Flanagan, an entomologist with State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection in Wenatchee, Washington, is back at Yokota Air Force Base in Japan until April 20. Paul and Air Force forester Kevin Porteck are finishing a forest health assessment for the urban forests on Yokota that they started last August. The urban forest inventory and assessment will provide a database of current tree health and condition with recommendations on preventing or controlling insect problems. This project is possible through the Air Force/Forest Service Interagency Agreement and is an example of the Northeastern Area's leadership in inter-service cooperation.

NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Helene Cleveland attended the 2002 National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) meeting held in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and National Resources Conference in Dallas, Texas, in early April. More than 200 Department of Defense biologists, botanists, and natural resources managers attended the NMFWA meeting. During the "Show and Tell" portion of the meeting, Helene staffed the "Army of Partnerships" booth that advertises the seven federal agencies that have interagency agreements with the Army Environmental Center; three of those agencies are in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The NMFWA meeting had a more direct tie to the North American conference as John Woodley, Jr., (Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environment) was one of the keynote speakers. Mr. Woodley spoke on conserving America's military training lands, how environmental conservation contributes directly to national defense, and how partnerships are necessary for completing the mission.

CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE TO THE OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST

Robert Whetsell, NA historian/archaeologist based on the Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia, recently completed a 120-day detail as the Forest Archaeologist on the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Rob took on the challenging assignment to broaden his knowledge of cultural resources management at



the national forest program leader level. Rob was involved in all facets of the Ottawa's Heritage Resources Program and consulted with Native American Tribes, the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, the general public, as well as the Regional Archaeologist.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING

During the week of April 8, **Mark Cleveland** participated in the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) training workshop conducted by the Forest Service's International Programs, Disaster Assistance Support Program. DART training prepares participants for assignments with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance in Washington, DC, and in overseas locations. The Disaster Assistance Support Program and the Military liaison program have much in common. They provide Forest Service expertise to other federal agencies, operate through interagency agreements, and are funded with other agencies' funds. The Disaster Assistance Support Program also has experience working with the Military Services. We look forward to enhanced cooperation between these two Forest Service programs.

LARRY R. SOENEN JOINS AEC

Larry R. Soenen joined the Army Environmental Center staff at Aberdeen Proving Ground on February 25, 2002. He will serve as a Natural Resource Management Specialist at Marine Corps Base Butler in Okinawa, Japan. Larry will provide leadership and services for watershed management, erosion control, and hydrology on lands under U.S. Marine Corps control.

Larry will be implementing the natural and cultural resources management plan that was developed through NA's Interagency Agreement with the Army Environmental Center. Based on the results of that plan and other assistance through the agreement, Camp Butler signed its own interagency agreement with NA in 2000.

Larry graduated from the University of Hawaii with a degree in Tropical Soils. Following school, he served in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of Captain.

He has worked for the past 26 years with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at several locations in California and Hawaii. He has provided leadership for consensus-based watershed management planning, and worked extensively on private and public lands installing erosion control and water quality projects.

His wife, Ayako, who has relatives in Okinawa, will accompany Larry. Their daughter will join them at a later date.



You can reach Larry by email at lsoenen@fs.fed.us or by phone in Okinawa at 011 81 6117 25-7223.

Durham Field Office Notes

PLT TRAINING IN NEW YORK CITY

Twenty-seven enthusiastic people from all five boroughs of New York City and the surrounding area attended a facilitator workshop for New York Project Learning Tree. Teachers and environmental educators were trained on the Project Learning Tree activity guides as well as how to conduct teacher workshops. This and future workshops are funded in part with a grant from the Conservation Education Program.



HUBER BRINGS LUMBER DRYING ADVICE TO THE FOUR CORNERS REGION



Dean Huber discusses the importance of uniform air velocity in lumber drying during a sawmill visit in Colorado.

Dean Huber was recently invited to participate in a 2-day lumber-drying workshop for industry. The Colorado State Forest Service and the Four Corners Sustainable Forest Partnership, a joint venture funded by the Economic Action Program involving representatives from the “Four Corner” States and three Forest Service regions, hosted the workshop. The workshop’s 38 attendees, representing a range of small owner/operator businesses to mid-size corporations as well as both hardwood and softwood processors, came from as far as 150 miles away. One attendee noted his appreciation for the workshop on his comment card: *“These days were great. Most helpful on the problems that I have at my yard. I’m grateful that I attended this course.”*

After the workshop, Dean spent 2 days traveling with representatives of the Colorado State Forester’s office and the Four Corners Partnership to make followup site

visits with some of the workshop attendees. At one site, discussions focused on the importance of uniform air velocity in both air-drying yards and dry kilns. At another sawmill, the dry kilns were reviewed, and several types of mill studies were conducted. These site visits afforded the opportunity for Dean to provide some field training and mentoring to the State Utilization and Marketing personnel.

LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND OPPORTUNITY FAIR

The Girl Scouts, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the USDA Forest Service hosted an opportunity fair for fifth through eighth grade girls on March 16 at the University of New Hampshire. The fair highlighted several natural resource service projects the girls could register to participate in during the spring and summer, such as conducting an osprey nesting survey, conducting a watershed monitoring project, designing and planting gardens of native plants, and conducting street tree surveys. Participants from the Durham Field Office included **Carol Lagodich, John Parry, Dave Welsch, and Susan Cox**. Marie-Louise Smith and Jane Hislop (both NE) were also featured in an exhibit highlighting women in the Forest Service and NRCS who are former Girl Scouts. The fair was funded in part by a “Linking Girls to the Land” grant.



Susan Cox explained project opportunities to Girl Scouts and troop leaders at the Linking Girls to the Land Opportunity Fair.

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM HELPS CONSERVE 3 PERCENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

On April 1, the Trust for Public Land announced it had purchased 171,500 acres of forested land in northern New Hampshire from International Paper Company. Attendees at a press conference at the New Hampshire State House announcing the purchase included Governor Jeanne Shaheen, U.S. Senators Bob Smith and Judd Gregg, and U.S. Representatives John Sununu and Charlie Bass. **Rob Clark** attended on behalf of the Durham Field Office.

Efforts to preserve this large tract, encompassing nearly 3 percent of the State, began in July 2001, when International Paper announced its intention to sell the property. Senator Gregg and Governor Shaheen established a task force comprised of local residents, North Country leaders, and State and nonprofit organizations to examine the effects of landownership change. NA Forest Legacy Program Manager **Deirdre Raimo** served on the task force’s

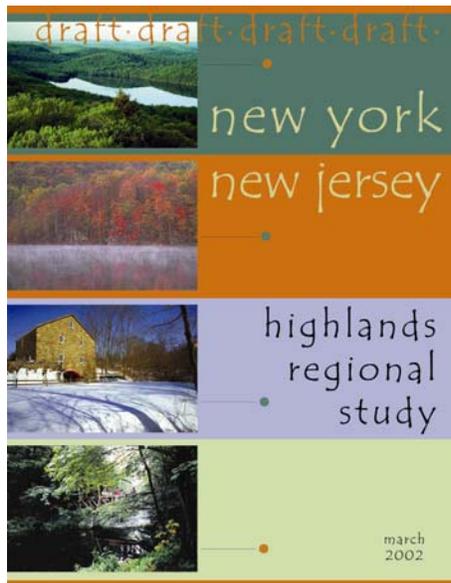


technical committee. The task force recommended a conservation strategy that protects the land as well as permits timber production and recreational activities.

In a critical first step to implement the plan, the Trust for Public Land has purchased the property and plans to sell approximately 25,000 acres to the State of New Hampshire as a nature preserve. The remaining 146,500 acres will be sold to a private timber company under a Forest Legacy conservation easement valued at \$21 million. To date, \$3.6 million from the Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program has been earmarked for the project. Additional Forest Legacy funds are being sought in the FY 2003 budget.

NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS 2002 WINTER MEETING

The New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF) recently held its 82nd annual winter meeting in Manchester, New Hampshire. The 3-day event, focused on the theme "Forestry in the Fragmentation Puzzle," brought together more than 400 foresters, planners, and other natural resource specialists to explore the issues, and share information and ideas. An impressive number of Durham Field Office staff members contributed to the overwhelming success of the most well attended NESAF meeting in years. The program committee included **Tom Luther** (co-chair), **Roger Monthey**, **John Parry**, and **Deirdre Raimo**, as well as Paul Sendak and John Brissette of the Northeastern Research Station. In addition, many Forest Service folks served as speakers, moderators, and audio/visual specialists, and helped with registration. The Forest Service submitted a total of eight entries in the poster competition, including the award-winning "Patterns of Storm Injury and Response" and "Fixed Diameter-Limit Versus Selection Cutting: A Long-Term Assessment in Northern Conifers." One attendee remarked, "*It was a very informative, seamlessly organized, and fun meeting—surely an example for future NESAF meetings to live up to!*"



HIGHLANDS HAPPENINGS

The New York-New Jersey Highlands Regional Study was released as a draft for public comment the first week in April. The report is part of the ongoing process to update the 1992 Highlands Study. It is a comprehensive assessment of natural resources in the region and will serve as a vital information source for the protection and management of natural resources. The report provides data on the land, water, and people within the 1.5 million acres in the New York and New Jersey portions of the Highlands region. **Marcus Phelps**, Highlands Coordinator, and **Martina Hoppe** worked with **Terry Hoffman** and **Betsy Hannigan** in Newtown Square to get copies of the draft report printed and mailed. The report was sent to Forest Service offices, Congressional contacts, Work Group members, key stakeholders, and interested citizens. The public comment period will be open until May 3, and comments can be submitted by mail to: Highlands Study, 1547 County Route 565, Sussex, NJ 07461 or by email to: na_highlandsstudy@fs.fed.us.

To receive comments on the draft report, two public involvement sessions are planned during the review period, one on Monday, April 22, in Morristown, NJ, and another on Tuesday, April 23, in Suffern, NY. **John Hazel** from the Morgantown Field Office will facilitate both of these public meetings. Special thanks go to **Helen Butalla** in Morgantown for making the report available online at: www.fs.fed.us/na/highlands. For more information, contact **Martina Hoppe** at 973-702-7266 ext. 18.



Grey Towers Notes

SPRING-CLEANING AT GREY TOWERS

Spring-cleaning is underway at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark, which includes a lot more than washing more than 600 windowpanes! Staff recently found themselves knee-deep in muck as they cleaned out the historic moat, the first time the task was done in three years. Horticulturist **Elizabeth Belcher** said they first had to remove 133 goldfish, several hundred water lilies, and buckets full of water grasses before they could drain the water and begin mucking. It took two full days to haul away almost 5 TONS of muck. Before refilling the moat, Elizabeth will place mesh bags filled with barley that, when they decompose, will prevent algae growth. Gifford and Cornelia Pinchot constructed the moat, designed as a clever play on the chateau style of the mansion, around 1940. It sits below the East Terrace and is a favorite landscape feature of visitors young and old.



PRESIDENTIAL QUILT DISPLAYED AT GREY TOWERS

A Presidential Quilt, designed and assembled for President George Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, was unveiled for the first time to the public at a reception at Grey Towers. Following the events of September 11, the Milford Valley Quilters Guild, in cooperation with the American Quilter's Society, produced the Presidential Quilt to make a statement that "...faith, hope, and love still hold strong in the face of the country's fear and uncertainty." The quilters assembled 37 blocks of red, white, and blue, adding their own detailed, hand-embroidered portraits of the Nation's 43 presidents. The two center squares of the 9' by 10' quilt features the portraits of President and Mrs. Bush. About 400 visitors came to Grey Towers to view the quilt, which will be presented to the President some time this summer.





MUSIC RETURNS TO GREY TOWERS

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation, in cooperation with the Forest Service at Grey Towers, is sponsoring a series of chamber music concerts in an attempt to create an atmosphere of openness, innovation, and creativity at Grey Towers. The arts, particularly music, are a large part of the Pinchot family legacy. Gifford's father,

James Pinchot, was a patron of the arts and was an innovative thinker when it came to combining arts and the sciences, particularly forestry. The chamber music series will offer four concerts between June and October. Nancy Pinchot is serving as Executive Director of the Pinchot Institute's Music at Grey Towers program. For more information, call Lori McKean at (570)296-9672.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AT GREY TOWERS

Construction continues at Grey Towers with renovation of the original farmhouse, located at the foot of the Grey Towers property. The 19th century structure, which probably was occupied by tenant farmers when the Pinchots farmed the Grey Towers property, will be used as housing for seasonal employees when completed.



GREY TOWERS OPENS EARLY FOR SPECIAL SPRING TOUR SEASON

In response to growing public interest and requests, Grey Towers will open earlier this year for weekends beginning Saturday, April 27, offering house tours on Saturdays and Sundays throughout May. The regular tour season, 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with house and garden tours every hour on the hour, begins Memorial Day weekend.

"We're responding to the excitement and interest that built up last fall, when we re-opened after an extensive historic renovation," said Alice Carlton, Grey Towers Acting Director. *"By opening earlier on weekends this spring, we can expand our services to reach more people and at the same time, help the community at an important time of year, when the tourism industry is just picking up."*

Specific hours for the special spring schedule are:

April 27 and 28: House tours on the hour from 1 to 4 p.m. (Last tour is 4 p.m.)

May 4 and 5: House tours, 1 and 3 p.m.

May 11 and 12: House tours, 1 and 3 p.m.

May 18 and 19: House tours, 1 and 3 p.m.

The grounds are open on those dates from 1 to 4 p.m. and weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information or to request a calendar of events, call 570-296-9630 or visit www.pinchot.org/gt.

GIFFORD PINCHOT AUTHOR IN MILFORD FOR LECTURE, BOOK SIGNING

Char Miller, author of the newly released *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism*, will speak at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 10, 2002. He also will appear for a book signing at Mill Run Booksellers in the Upper Mill, Milford, on Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism* is the first biography of Gifford Pinchot in over four decades. In an intimate retelling of Pinchot's life, Miller reveals this Father of Forestry and leader of the environmental movement as a far more complicated and influential figure than has generally been recognized. Miller gives an unparalleled, in-depth account of modern America emerging, and how Pinchot was among its creators. The book, which will be available at Grey Towers and Mill Run, has been called "a provocative reconsideration of the life and work of the famed conservationist and Progressive politician."



Morgantown Field Office Notes

LIVING MEMORIAL PLANS BEING DEVELOPED

John Hazel participated in a conference call on March 22, led by Robin Morgan to discuss plans for Living Memorial projects to create special places to memorialize those who lost their lives during the September 11 attacks on this country. A committee has been planning for this initiative that includes teams for projects in the New York City metropolitan area (that will be led by Matt Arnn), Washington, DC, metropolitan area (that will be led by Mark Buscaino), and southwest Pennsylvania (that will be led by Patrice Carroll). The initiative will include a Living Memorial registry, web site, and funding for projects at each location. The request for proposal for projects will be posted soon.

RIVER NAVIGATOR SERVES WILDFIRES

River Navigator, **Steve Davis**, served as a Crew Representative for a native American fire crew on various wildfires in Virginia, Arkansas, and North Carolina from February 28th to March 14th. Extended droughts led to an early fire season and some unusual fire behavior in southern forests.

WATERSHED GROUP SPONSORSHIP

The Cuyahoga American Heritage River and the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan are working to help start and sponsor watershed groups throughout the Cuyahoga Watershed. Several watershed groups recently formed and are working to protect their local streams.

URBAN FOREST HEALTH WORKSHOP

On a cold and snowy Wednesday (3/20/02), **Anne Cumming** participated as a speaker in an Urban Forest Health Workshop hosted by Penn State University (PSU) cooperative extension in Carbondale, PA. Funding for the 1-day workshop was provided by the UCF program's Title VIII grants from 2001. Other speakers included Bruce Fraedrich, Bartlett Tree Experts; Gary Moorman, PSU plant pathologist; Greg Hoover, PSU Entomologist; and Scott Guiser and Vinnie Cotrone, PSU extension. Shade tree commissioners, green industry specialists, certified arborists, and pesticide applicators attended the workshop.

AN ADVENTURE WITH THE BROWNIES

The Brownie Troop from Mt. Morris, Pennsylvania, spent the afternoon of March 28, with **Roxane Palone** for a hike through the Core Arboretum in Morgantown. About 23 young ladies, ages 6 to 9, were working toward getting their Adventure and Career merit badges. Roxane first explained to the group what a forester is, her duties, and how to become a forester. She displayed various instruments that foresters use, and showed the Brownies how to measure the diameter and height of a tree. Then it was off to the woods. The girls spotted a woodpecker and several spring wildflowers. They learned about different trees and plants, as well as what to take with them while hiking. After the hike, Roxane gave each Brownie a Smokey Bear bag filled with activities and information about forestry, National forests, and wildfire prevention. June and **Ed Cesa** served as chaperones on the adventure.



KINCAID NAMED TO PROJECT LEARNING TREE STEERING COMMITTEE IN WV

Dan Kincaid, Group Leader for Information Management & Analysis at Morgantown, was recently named to the newly formed Project Learning Tree (PLT) Steering Committee in West Virginia. The WV Division of Forestry recently agreed to co-sponsor PLT in the State, along with the West Virginia Forestry Association, which had been the sole sponsor since the program began in West Virginia in the 1980s. The Committee will assist the two organizations with coordination and program implementation in trying to strengthen the role of PLT in the educational and natural resource communities in West Virginia. The Steering Committee will be comprised of eight members representing various public natural resource and educational agencies and organizations, as well as the private sector. Kincaid has previously served on PLT Steering Committees in Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION MEETINGS

Dan Kincaid recently attended the National Conservation Education Conference in Albuquerque, NM. The day prior to the National conference was set aside for a meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Conservation Education (MACE) cooperative group. Mace representatives included the following conservation education coordinators: Bill Schultz-OH, Judith Leith-DE, Gilda Allen-DC, Leslie Fitzwater-WV, Dave Reinecke-MD, Ed Dix-PA, and John Benton-NJ.



Pictured above is the "passing of the gavel" from the previous MACE President, Bill Schultz – OH to the newly installed MACE President, Judith Leith – DE.



Members of the Mid-Atlantic Conservation Education cooperative group, who met in Albuquerque, NM, in conjunction with the National Conservation Education Conference. Front row (L-R), Gilda Allen, DC; Judith Leith, DE; Leslie Fitzwater, WV. Back row (L-R), John Benton, NJ; Bill Schultz, OH; Dave Reinecke, MD. Not shown, Ed Dix, PA.

WOOD IN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

Customer Service at the Wood In Transportation National Information Center continues to improve.

An interactive website for the Wood In Transportation program was recently completed. The website provides information about funded projects to individuals interested in learning more about the various projects the Forest Service has funded throughout the country. Information is provided in a variety of ways, such as on a statewide basis, yearly basis, by specific design, by project type, as well as a number of additional ways. Users can customize individual reports. For example, engineers can find cost information about specific structures that have been completed.

This website was developed through a partnership between the staff at the Center, the Department of Accounting at the West Virginia University, and the Appalachian Hardwood Center located at West Virginia University. The website includes information on all projects that have been funded since the beginning of the program which was 1989. The website is located at the State & Private Forestry National Information Center located in St. Paul, MN. The website address is: <http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/wit/>. This website can also be reached by visiting the homepage of



the National Wood In Transportation Program at www.fs.fed.us/na/wit. For additional information, contact Ed Cesa or Chris Grant at 304-285-1591.

WOOD IN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ANNUAL STATUS REPORT TABLES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

Sharing of program information to customers of the Wood In Transportation National Information Center continues to be a primary objective of the program. Informational tables about the program that are included in the annual status report are now available on-line. The specific tables available are:

Total Funding for Wood In Transportation Demonstration Projects
Fiscal Years 1989 through 2001

Total Federal Funding for Demonstration Vehicular Bridge Projects
Fiscal Years 1989 through 2001

Total Federal Funding for Demonstration Pedestrian Bridge Projects
Fiscal Years 1989 through 2001

Total Federal Funding for Special Projects
Fiscal Years 1989 through 2001

Total Federal Funding for Commercialization Wood In Transportation Projects
Fiscal Years 1989 through 2001

Wood In Transportation Projects Funded
In Fiscal Year 2001

Total Number of Completed Wood In Transportation Projects
Through Fiscal Year 2001

A procedure has been developed to update these tables on a semi-annual basis. The tables are generated from the Wood In Transportation Program Management Information Database System. This system is maintained and managed by the staff at the Wood In Transportation National Information Center. The tables can be viewed at: http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/wit/ProgramSummary_Search.cfm. For additional information, contact Ed Cesa or Chris Grant at 304-285-1591.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OF TECHNOLOGY IN LOGGING: A PORTABLE TIMBER BRIDGE EXAMPLE

Ed Cesa was a co-author of this article in the February 2002 issue of the *Southern Journal of Applied Forestry*. The article highlights the results of a study that focused on communication channels for effective transfer of portable timber bridge technology to loggers. Other authors include: Ren-Jye Shiau, Yu-Da Institute of Commerce, Miao-Li, Taiwan; Robert Smith, Dept. of Wood Science and Forest Products, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA; Robert Shaffer, Dept. of Forestry, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA.

MFO HONORED AT THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PENN'S CORNER RC&D AREA

On April 19, Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, headquartered in Greensburg, PA, celebrated its 25th Anniversary at an awards luncheon at the Pittsburgh Hilton. David Hess, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, was the keynote speaker. He praised Nevin Ulery, RC&D Coordinator, and A.B. Carl, President of the Council, for their tireless efforts in protecting and restoring the water quality of streams in western Pennsylvania. After the speech, Robin Heard, State Conservationist, and Tom Matticks,



Assistant State Conservationist presented several awards. The Morgantown Field Office received the “Agency Support” award for its 25 years of both technical and financial assistance to Penn’s Corner, and for its outstanding partnership with all of Pennsylvania’s RC&D Councils. **Roxane Palone** accepted the award on behalf of the Morgantown Field Office. The award consisted of an engraved original pen and ink drawing of a buck deer, signed by the artist Larry Smail.

St. Paul Field Office Notes

GREY TOWERS ASSISTS IN DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS FOR THE USDA FOREST SERVICE

Mike Prouty, Field Representative, recently participated in a planning and futuring session for Grey Towers Historical Site. The staff of Grey Towers and the Pinchot Institute are interested in improving the USDA Forest Service Executive Leadership Training Programs and coordinating and hosting future training sessions. The session was designed to assist Grey Towers with defining their niche and role in corporate training programs.

MENOMINEE NATION’S CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mike Prouty, Field Representative, participated in a recent meeting of the College of the Menominee Nation’s ‘Center for Sustainable Development.’ College staff have been working with staff from the Forest Products Laboratory and the North Central Research Station to explore ways to promote sustainable forestry and utilization best practices among underserved private forest owners and tribal forest communities. The College is seeking financial support from the USDA Forest Service to combine their expertise in sustainable silviculture with Forest Service expertise in forest ecology and wood utilization research. Mike represents State and Private Forestry on this team.



Pictured (L-R), Susan Cox, DFO; Teri Heyer, SPFO; Dan Kincaid, MFO; Lori McKean, Grey Towers; and Susan Lacy, Newtown Square

CONSERVATION EDUCATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Teri Heyer, Conservation Education Specialist, participated in the second biennial National Conservation Education meeting, March 12-14, 2002, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This USDA Forest Service sponsored conference attracted 160 attendees. The theme of the conference was “Conservation Education in the 21st Century,” Five Northeastern Area employees and representatives from 13 Northeast and Midwest states and DC attended. The Mid-Atlantic Conservation Education Cooperative (MACE) held their business meeting prior to the conference, and all the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states participated in this meeting.

Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, opened the meeting via video. Joel stressed the importance of conservation education as a recruitment tool and as a way to educate the public about key concepts such as sustainability. According to Joe, *“A public that is better informed can participate more meaningfully in managing our natural resources. Providing quality conservation education gives us credibility as an agency. And finally it solidifies key concepts for our own employees; only when you have to teach something do you really learn it.”* Joel challenged all participants to help chart the course for Forest Service conservation education in the 21st century. Joel also challenged the group to think about how conservation education can be more strongly incorporated in the draft Interpretation and Symbols strategic plans. A



panel of USDA Forest Service partners, including the Nebraska State Forester, and representatives from the National Association of Conservation Districts, and the Adopt-a-Watershed program addressed cooperators' expectations of the Forest Service. The panel emphasized the USDA Forest Service leadership role in supporting existing natural resources education materials linked to state education standards, development of a common message integrated across natural resource program areas, and the use of Forest Service lands as a place for learning to happen.

AND THE EMMY GOES TO...

Into the Outdoors, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' outdoor television program, received the Emmy for Innovative Children's Programming. *Into the Outdoors* is in its first year of broadcast and is designed to introduce 10- to 15-year-olds to outdoor activities and natural resource professions. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources partners with Discover Wisconsin Productions to develop and broadcast the show. The Department chose to submit the episode "Trees are Treemendous" for the Emmy competition. For more information about the television program, visit their website at: <http://www.intotheoutdoors.org>.

CHICAGO WILDERNESS LAUNCHES CORPORATE COUNCIL

With over 140 conservation-minded organizations participating in Chicago Wilderness and committed to making Chicago's natural communities diverse and ecologically sustainable, their next venture is to gain support from the corporate world. In early April, Chicago Wilderness launched their new Corporate Council that includes founding members BP America Inc. and NiSource. Tom Dilley, Chicago Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, attended the kick-off event. In the first two months of launching the Council, Chicago Wilderness has raised \$200,000 in corporate support. They anticipate the Council will attract additional financial and corporate support for community environmental improvement efforts.

CHICAGO GREENING SYMPOSIUM

Tom Dilley, Chicago Metropolitan Initiatives Coordinator, attended the Chicago Greening Symposium in March. Noted television journalist, Bill Kurtis, and Chicago Cultural Affairs Commissioner, Lois Weisberg, kicked off the Symposium. Each alluded to the numerous accomplishments Chicago has achieved towards the greening of a large metropolitan city. Mr. Kurtis cited Mayor Daley's leadership and vision as a key ingredient as well as the contributions of community groups and local state and federal agencies. Commissioner, Lois Weisberg, (the woman behind Chicago's famous cows exhibit), was honored for her outstanding contributions to incorporate greening into Chicago cultural events. Key speakers, both nationally and internationally, addressed Chicago and its leading role as a major force in the urban greening movement.

Mayor Daley commended several agencies for their assistance and work towards tree acquisition and selection. The Mayor specifically cited the USDA Forest Service and the Chicago Green Streets program. There have been over 265,000 trees planted throughout the city since the impetus for this movement began. An elevated concern for community ecosystem and population health has grown through Chicago's tree planting program. Since 1994, seven miles of raised planters and 600 trees have been planted and maintained along Lake Shore Drive alone. A formidable microclimate of de-icing salt spray and temperature extremes doomed previous plantings to failure. The unique partnership between the City, the USDA Forest Service, and the Morton Arboretum has resulted in one of the most dramatic examples of urban greening that exists in a metropolitan area today.



Editor's Corner

THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Nancy Martin, Susan Lacy, and Mary Wick** - Newtown Square, **Lori Danuff McKean**, Grey Towers; **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Melissa Emerson, Roxane Palone, Dan Kincaid, Ed Cesa**, Morgantown; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Martina Hoppe**, NY-NJ Highlands, and **Helene Cleveland**, AEC.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be **May 15, 2002**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Coger at tcoger@fs.fed.us.

