

Northeastern Area



News Notes



Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Monday, February 23, 2004



PROTECTING OUR LIQUID ASSETS

Recently, I came across a copy of “A Primer of Forestry,” written by Gifford Pinchot in 1905. This publication was provided to new employees of the then USDA Bureau of Forestry as a practical guide to management. It totals 87 pages and contains chapters on Silviculture, Work in the Woods, Forestry Abroad and at Home, and Weather and Streams. In

one of the very first sections of the primer, Pinchot talks about the uses of the forest. He says, “*Next to the earth itself, the forest is the most useful servant of man. Not only does it sustain and regulate our streams, moderate the winds, and beautify the land, but it also supplies wood, the most widely used of all materials.*” And he goes on to say, “*A forest, large or small, may render its service in many ways. It may reach its highest usefulness by standing as a safeguard against floods, winds, snow slides, or especially against the need of water in the streams. A forest used in this way is called a protection forest.*”

More and more these days we see recognition of what Pinchot knew 100 years ago — that clean water is one of the most important products of our forests. In the Northeastern Area (NA) alone, over 50 million people draw their water supply from surface streams and reservoirs that owe a great deal of their protection to forests. Forests serve as a giant living sponge to capture, store, and slowly release precipitation as well as trap and transform the chemicals and nutrient deposits that come in the rain or from adjacent runoff. Trees can also serve as a means to mitigate existing pollution problems. This is especially true on farms where forest buffers can protect streams from fertilizers and pesticides or in urban areas where tree canopy helps to reduce stormwater runoff and improve air quality. In fact, an assessment completed in 1999 by EPA listed nearly three-fourths of NA’s watersheds as “not currently meeting water quality goals.” NA’s Strategic Plan also clearly recognizes our role in helping to restore impaired watersheds and protect those providing clean water.

Actively working with others to utilize trees and forests in ways that enhance watershed health has come to be known as “watershed forestry.” In NA, our work in stewardship and urban forestry programs has gone a long way toward defining what watershed forestry can look like. To date, implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) during timber harvesting, protecting forests in specific watersheds, restoring streams, providing training and technical watershed information and tools, and working with communities to reduce the impacts of growth have all been a part of our watershed forestry program efforts. For example, in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, we have led efforts to adopt a goal of restoring forests along 10,000 miles of stream and shoreline and reducing the conversion of forests to development by 30 percent. In the New York City watersheds, we are also working with the nonprofit Watershed Agricultural Council to establish demonstration “model” forests and help landowners manage their forests in ways that will ensure protection of the city’s water supply. NA has also brought together States and private conservation groups to develop community-based watershed partnerships in Vermont’s White River, the Midwest’s Upper Mississippi Basin, and the Potomac River watershed in the Mid-Atlantic region.

What does the future hold? Congress has recognized the need to support watershed activities in cooperative forestry and included the Watershed Forestry Assistance Program in Title III of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act passed and



signed into law by President Bush in December of 2003. This new authority brings greater emphasis to our support of States and other partners in protecting and restoring watershed health. Our experiences and successes in NA will have much to offer the team developing this nationwide program.

The demands on our water supplies and the need for restoration of degraded streams and watersheds will continue to increase. Silently, trees and forests are working hard to keep our water clean and our watersheds healthy. Less silent will be our work to increase public understanding of where water comes from and the tangible linkage between forests and human and watershed health. Watch for a sample of our cooperative efforts with EPA, NOAA, and others as the Weather Channel airs “After the Storm,” a special presentation about watersheds airing on May 9 and June 26 at 8:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. EST on each date. We will continue to look for opportunities to work together with State and Federal agencies, communities, landowners, and watershed groups to be stewards of the land and our liquid assets.

— Kathy Maloney

SUSTAINABILITY NOTES

Building Partnerships in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

The Upper Mississippi River Basin Partnership is co-hosting a Roundtable on Sustainable Forest Management in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, March 23–24, 2004. The partnership—at present, a cooperative venture between the Midwestern State Foresters and the Northeastern Area—seeks to focus activities, demonstration projects, and cooperative programs on key watershed forestry issues. They hope that this roundtable will result in an increase in the number of people actively engaged in cooperative activities with the newly forming partnership. Registration information is available at www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability under Hot Topics. The Upper Mississippi Roundtable is the third regional meeting sponsored by the National Roundtable on Sustainable Forests.

The March meeting provides an opportunity to discuss the recently released USDA Forest Service *National Report on Sustainable Forests — 2003*. The report, as well as the meeting, is structured to discuss the criteria for measuring progress in forest sustainability. The criteria include the conservation and maintenance of forest biodiversity, productivity, and health; soil and water resources; global carbon cycling; social and economic benefits of forests; and forest policy, law, and institutions. The report can be accessed at www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain.

Participants at previous regional meetings held in Charleston, South Carolina, and Phoenix, Arizona, were very interested in **Constance Carpenter**'s presentation on the NA and NAASF sustainability initiative. They asked numerous questions about the base indicator approach, admired the recently released publication *Sustainability Assessment Highlights for the Northern United States*, and scooped up copies of the *Sourcebook on Criteria and Indicators* (all available at www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability).

Updates to the NA Sustainability Web Site

The NA Sustainability Web site (www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability) continues to serve as a clearinghouse for sustainability, forest planning, and ecomap information. The following three items have recently been posted on the NA Sustainability home page:

- *Base Indicators of Forest Sustainability: Metrics and Data Sources for State and Regional Monitoring*.
- Latest issue of the electronic newsletter *Planners' Pages* (Fall/Winter).
- Powerpoint presentations and other documents from the 2003 Northeastern Forest Resource Planners Association annual meeting.



Army Environmental Center Notes

CONSERVING FORESTS AND MILITARY TRAINING

In early February, The Nature Conservancy announced the purchase of two conservation easements in Hoke County, North Carolina, as part of The Private Lands Initiative. Almost 700 acres in size, the two properties adjoin Fort Bragg. Their protection will ensure that 1½ miles of boundary along the base will remain a wooded buffer for Army training activities. The easements allow for the sustainable harvest of forest products as well as hunting and fishing. The lands also contain important red-cockaded woodpecker habitat and border an existing 2,400-acre Nature Conservancy preserve.

The Army, the State of North Carolina, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service started The Private Lands Initiative to aid recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker on public and private land in the vicinity of Fort Bragg. The initiative is modeled after the USDA Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. **Eric Wolters** of NA serves as the Army Environmental Center's contact for the initiative.

Durham Field Office Notes

NEW RESOURCE FOR WORKING WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

The Southern New England Forest Consortium, Inc. (SNEFCI) is proud to announce the release of **Today's Forest, Tomorrow's Legacy—A Guide for Small Acreage Woodland Owners**. This information product contains a series of 11 factsheets on topics ranging from *Why Do Foresters Talk the Way They Do?* to *Working With Your Neighbors – Reconnecting Forest Fragments*. The factsheets are clear, informative, and attractively packaged, ideal for anyone working with private landowners. Though originally tailored for Rhode Island, the information presented can be applied in other States as well. This product is the result of a grant from the Rural Development Through Forestry Program and the collaborative work of SNEFCI, the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Home*A*Syst Program, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Division of Forest Environment.

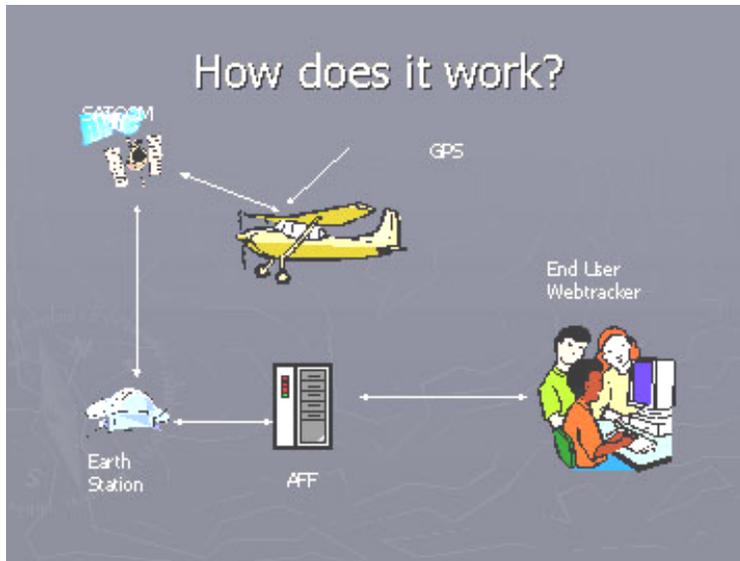
In addition to the 11 factsheets, the product also contains a Woodland Inventory Sheet, Woodland Area Map, Record of Woodland Area Plans and Activities, and Glossary of Commonly Used Forestry and Natural Resource Terms.

To obtain copies, contact Chris Modisette, Executive Director, SNEFCI, P.O. Box 760, Chepachet, RI 02814, phone: 401-568-1610, fax: 401-568-7874, e-mail: sneforest@efortress.com.

EXOTIC INVASIVES ADDRESSED AT NEW ENGLAND GROWS!

Dennis Souto addressed 600 arborists, landscapers, and nursery operators gathered for the annual New England Grows! meeting in Boston on February 6. Dennis' talk, entitled "Managing the Top Three Exotic Pests," focused on hemlock woolly adelgid, Asian longhorned beetle, and emerald ash borer. He emphasized that audience members—armed with search images and who-to-contact numbers—are the best resource for early detection of new exotic pests that slip past barriers to prevent entry into the country. Early detection is essential in order to have any chance at successfully eradicating exotic pests.





The new Automated Flight Following System (AFF) allows users on the ground to track flights in real time via the Internet.

TRACKING FLIGHTS IN REAL TIME VIA THE INTERNET

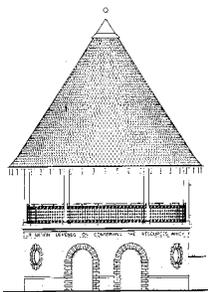
Bill Frament gave a presentation at the Northeast Fire Compact Meeting in Portland, Maine, on the new Automated Flight Following System (AFF). This system uses Global Positioning System (GPS) data to track the real-time position of aircraft. The GPS data are transmitted to a satellite, then downloaded to a ground receiving station that is linked to a USDA Forest Service AFF computer server. The data are accessible via the Internet, enabling a person on the ground to track in real time the position of any USDA Forest Service aircraft equipped with the system. The data are updated every 2 minutes. The user can overlay various GIS layers such as National Forest boundaries, rivers, roads, and FAA navigation aids. Bill also presented information on the GPS WAAS

(Wide Area Augmentation System) developed by the FAA to broadcast accurate GPS data for aircraft navigation purposes. The signal is free and can be used by individuals on the ground as a real-time GPS data correction service. Most GPS units sold today, including inexpensive handheld units, have the ability to receive the WAAS signal, which is advertised to have a 4- to 7-meter accuracy.

Grey Towers Notes

NORTHEAST CENTER OFFERS U&CF FACTSHEETS ONLINE

Following the devastating ice storms in western New York State in 1991, Cornell University Extension developed a series of Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) factsheets. These factsheets have recently been updated by the Davey Resource Group and the Northeast Center for U&CF, and are now available online (www.umass.edu/urbantree/factsheets). Hotlinks have been added to connect readers to additional resources related to tree care, planting, and community forestry. These two-page briefs provide a simple, easy-to-understand introduction to a variety of U&CF topics, ranging from Trees and Sidewalks, Cabling and Bracing, and Community Tree Selection to Predicting Limb Breakage and Root Damage.



VISITOR SERVICES PROJECT, RENOVATION PHASE IV GETS UNDERWAY

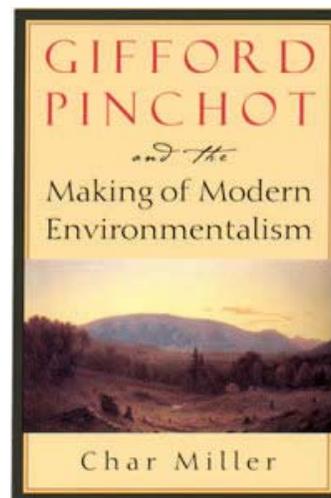
With the majority of the buildings' renovation and partial rehabilitation of the landscape complete, focus at Grey Towers now turns to improving visitor services. Preliminary work has begun on the Visitor Services Project, Phase IV of the renovation, which will enable Grey Towers to fully capture the intended use of Grey Towers as a natural resource education and leadership center. A new visitor pavilion, parking area, pedestrian walkways, improved lighting, and landscaping are just some of the features that, when completed before the end of this year, will address visitor safety concerns, improved access, and site security.



GREY TOWERS, PINCHOT INSTITUTE HELP ORGANIZE “CENTENNIAL ROAD TOUR”

As part of the USDA Forest Service centennial celebration in 2005, Grey Towers and the Pinchot Institute are helping the New Century of Service organize a “Centennial Road Tour,” consisting of 30 lectures by historian Char Miller. Dr. Miller, author of *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism*, will travel throughout the country to discuss the environmental and political history that developed and shaped the USDA Forest Service. His lectures will focus on how the past 100 years of service, including its historic challenges, might help us better understand our contemporary dilemmas and future prospects. Using photographs, cartoons, and other illustrative material, Dr. Miller weaves an exciting tale about the USDA Forest Service’s contributions to the Nation and the controversies that swirled around its actions.

If you are interested in hosting one of Dr. Miller’s presentations, or if you know of a group that would benefit from one of his lectures, contact Lori McKean at Grey Towers, 570-296-9672, or lmckean@fs.fed.us.



GREY TOWERS, PINCHOT INSTITUTE SET TO LAUNCH 2004 CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

James Pinchot was one of the first Americans to recognize that the humanities—art, prose, and music—are the perfect way to illustrate the connection between nature and man. The Pinchot Institute and Grey Towers are keeping the James Pinchot legacy alive by launching the third annual Kindred Spirits Chamber Music Series this spring. New this year are two lectures, in addition to four concerts in the Great Hall, that will focus on the importance of making the connection between music, nature, and man. Visit the Web page at www.fs.fed.us/na/gt for a calendar of events.

GREY TOWERS DIRECTOR PRESENTS PROGRAM AT NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISORS MEETING

Grey Towers Director Ed Brannon presented his *Pursuing the Greatest Good: Reflections on Field Leadership, A Decade of Listening* presentation to about 200 USDA Forest Service leaders at the National Forest and Grassland Supervisors Conference in Nebraska. The presentation was an illustrated compilation of what he has found to be the most important characteristics and behaviors of successful Forest Supervisors. His perceptions were based on a decade of listening to Forest Supervisors speak candidly about the leadership challenges they face.

GREY TOWERS IS HOME TO NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS STUDY

Grey Towers sits right in the center of the New York-New Jersey Highlands region, 1.5 million acres of one of the most rapidly developing regions in the Northeast. In 2002, the USDA Forest Service completed the New York–New Jersey Highlands Regional Study, which assessed the Highlands’ natural resources for water supply, biodiversity, farming, forestry, and recreation. The study modeled future development in the Highlands.

Grey Towers is now the office location for Edward Boyer of Narrowsburg, New York, the newly appointed Highlands Forest Conservation and Stewardship Coordinator. The USDA Forest Service’s role in the Highlands is to assist State and private landowners as they take measures to save forest land and adopt practices to improve the productivity and biodiversity of the Highlands. Boyer will be assisting in the development and implementation of forest conservation and management strategies in the New York and New Jersey Highlands region and the surrounding area. Boyer is an experienced landscape architect and has worked as an ecological planner.





GREY TOWERS OFFERS HORTICULTURE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2004 Elisabeth S. Mortimer Garden Internship at Grey Towers. Established in 1994 to provide an aspiring horticulturist with invaluable practical experience in the historic gardens at Grey Towers, the internship is open to college students above the freshman level. Past participants in the 10- to 12-week summer internship were enrolled in such disciplines as ornamental horticulture, forestry, and landscape architecture. A \$2,500 stipend is offered through the gift of Elisabeth and Charles Mortimer.

For more information or to apply, contact Grey Towers Horticulturist Elizabeth Hawke at (570) 296-9661 or ehawke@fs.fed.us.

GREY TOWERS SITE MANAGER RETIRES

Site Manager Paul LaBounty retired in January 2004, after 13 years of care and management of the buildings and grounds at Grey Towers. Starting at Grey Towers as an exhibit specialist in 1991, Paul came to the USDA Forest Service after many years at National Park Service historic sites. Paul's expertise was especially useful during the planning, design, and implementation of the historic renovation of Grey Towers. Referred to around town by his hiking "handle" Bigfoot, Paul has many long hikes planned for his retirement, including trails in Chile and sections of the Appalachian Trail that he has not yet conquered.



Morgantown Field Office Notes



Pictured from left to right are: Ed Cesa, Gary Hayes, Chris Grant, and Jeff Bejune (WIT staff located in Morgantown, West Virginia); and Scott Groenier and Charles Showers (Missoula Technology and Development Center, Missoula, Montana).

SCOTT GROENIER, NEW STRUCTURAL ENGINEER FOR THE WOOD IN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, VISITS THE NATIONAL WOOD IN TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION CENTER

On Wednesday, January 21, 2004, Scott Groenier, Structural Engineer, and Charles Showers, Engineering Program Leader, both located at the Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC), Missoula, Montana, spent the day visiting with the staff of the National Wood In Transportation (WIT) Information Center. Ed Cesa provided an overview of the WIT Program and the information center located in Morgantown, West Virginia. During the day, project activities, duties for Scott, and interactions between the two units were discussed with a focus on providing the best possible service to USDA Forest Service customers searching for information about the design, construction, and use of wood in transportation applications.

Scott Groenier will be working for the WIT Program 50 percent of his time. The remaining 50 percent of his time will be spent working on projects for MTDC and the Forest Products Laboratory.



MORGANTOWN WELCOMES CINDY BARNETT



Many of you have already met Cindy Barnett, the latest addition to the IMA staff who officially began with us on November 3, 2003, as an information technology specialist.

Cindy has worked for the West Virginia University (WVU) College of Law and Extension Service as a database specialist. She served in the U.S. Army as an Expert Personnel Services Sergeant from 1983 through 1991 and most recently held the position of Computer Network Coordinator at University Health Associates at the WVU Health Sciences Center.

Cindy has earned her Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) and is currently working on becoming certified as a Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator (MCSA). She continues to work part-time toward her B.S. in Computer Science at WVU, of which she has completed 114 semester hours.

Cindy enjoys doing projects around the house, sports, movies, concerts, theatrical productions, and computers, because they are much more than a job.



GARY HAYES JOINS WIT STAFF

Meet Gary Hayes, a new information receptionist for the National Wood In Transportation Information Center. Gary is working directly with center customers and is a term employee. Gary has a diverse background in the healthcare industry, accounting, and administration. Gary is a 14-year veteran in the United States Navy and former employee of the Veteran Healthcare System, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

St. Paul Field Office Notes

DETERMINATION OF NUISANCE PRESS RELEASE

After carefully reviewing all public comments and testimony, Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Dan Wyant has made a final determination to move forward on the proposed actions to eradicate EAB. The determination, a formal requirement under the State's plant health laws, was taken Monday, February 9, after Wyant reviewed all materials associated with the EAB public notice and comment period as well as from the public hearings held in four different locations across the State from January 21-27, 2004. For a copy of the determination and all supporting documents as well as a map of sites targeted for potential eradication in the winter/spring of 2004, please visit www.michigan.gov/mda and click on "Emerald Ash Borer" in the Spotlight section.

MICHIGAN OFFERS TREE PLANTING GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY BORER

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is advertising the availability of financial and technical assistance to Michigan communities suffering tree losses related to the emerald ash borer infestation. The tree planting grants are the result of the \$1.2 million awarded to Michigan from the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area. Grant applications are accepted from local units of government in the 13 quarantined counties of Genesee, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Shiawassee, Washtenaw, and Wayne.



EVALUATION OF EMERALD ASH BORER CONTROL METHODS AVAILABLE ON EAB WEB SITE

Michigan State University (MSU) entomologists spent much of 2003 evaluating methods to control emerald ash borer (EAB), and now a report that summarizes the results from their insecticide trials is available for the public on the EAB Web site, <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>. The report provides a summary of the insecticide products and application techniques tested, including the advantages and disadvantages associated with specific products and techniques. The study evaluated the ability of insecticides to control EAB adults and larvae and assessed the persistence of the insecticides over time. The insecticide research occurred in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties in 2003. MSU researchers worked cooperatively with scientists from the USDA Forest Service and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to test the products and collect the data. Research on insecticides and other potential controls for EAB will continue in 2004.

CANADIAN OFFICIALS REMOVE THE WRONG TREES

The apologies keep raining down, but they're not making Miriam Ivison's walnut trees grow back any faster. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is cutting down all the ash trees in a 10-kilometre wide swath near Chatham-Kent to stop the spread of the emerald ash borer. Contractors mistook 70 black walnut trees on Ivison's farm for ash and chopped them down. She estimates the wood was worth more than \$100,000. MP Gerry Ritz, the opposition agriculture critic in Ottawa, said federally hired contractors shouldn't be the ones tagging the ash trees. Ontario plans to remove and destroy over 60,000 ash trees over the next 10 weeks. There will be no compensation for landowners. It will be the largest tree removal operation in Ontario's history.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE WITH THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER FOREST PARTNERSHIP

This Sustainable Forest Regional Roundtable will provide an opportunity for dialogue between government, citizens, woodland owners, businesses, and the academic community in Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin, and the National Sustainable Forest Roundtable regarding the social, ecological, and economic components of sustainable forest management as a way to protect and enhance water quality of the Upper Mississippi River. The roundtable will be held March 23-24 in Lacrosse, Wisconsin. For more information, log on to <http://www.lsfa.org>.

CHICAGO WILDERNESS RECEIVES \$600,000 GRANT

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation donated \$600,000 to Chicago Wilderness to support the coalition's efforts to enhance the quality of life for people throughout the Chicago region. According to Erika Poethig, program officer at the MacArthur Foundation, "The Foundation believes that organizations like Chicago Wilderness are in the best position to push for real change on issues that cut across neighborhoods and municipalities, such as biodiversity conservation or transportation. We believe Chicago Wilderness will help shape policies that make Chicago and the region a better and healthier place to live."

MINNESOTA'S NBC AFFILIATE TO FEATURE YEARLONG PROGRAMMING ON WATERSHEDS IN THE NEWS

KARE-11, Minnesota's NBC affiliate in Minneapolis, has agreed to feature yearlong programming featuring watersheds and their importance. Their commitment is the result of the USDA Forest Service partnership with the National Environmental Education Training Foundation and Storm Center's "Watershed in the News" Project. **Teri Heyer**, Conservation Education Specialist, has been instrumental in this effort.



CHICAGO WILDERNESS ON THE AIR

A team of talented writers and voiceover actors recently volunteered their time to produce six entertaining public service announcements for radio. Bosco Productions donated the use of a professional recording studio as well as recording and mixing expertise. The public service announcements will be available by April by visiting: <http://www.chicagowilderness.org>.

REACHING OUT TO TRIBAL FORESTERS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs recently hosted a meeting of tribal foresters in Bemidji, Minnesota. **Gina Childs**, Group Leader for Information Management and Analysis, gave a presentation on technology transfer and the Northeastern Area's recent publications. The tribal foresters were thrilled to obtain copies of many of these publications and learn about new training opportunities offered by Northeastern Area staff. The Bureau of Indian Affairs continues to have limited access to the Internet and electronic mail.

Editor's Corner

THANKS TO:

The following contributors to this issue: **Mary Wick**, Newtown Square; **Helene Cleveland**, AEC; **Helen Thompson**, Durham; **Lori McKean**, Grey Towers; **Ed Cesa**, **Cindy Barnett**, and **Gary Hayes**, Morgantown; and **Gina Childs**, St. Paul; **Helen Butalla**, for her willingness to post the NA News Notes on the Web; and to **Sandy Fosbroke** for an extra proofread.

DEADLINE!

Deadline for the next issue of NA News Notes will be COB **March 12, 2004**. Please mail articles to Tinathan Lewis at talewis@fs.fed.us.

