

Cooperative Forestry Newsletter

October 2009



Remembering 9-11: Trees, Memory and Solace after Tragedy

At the Yates building on May 21, 2009, Forest Service landscape architect Matt Arnn presented his experiences in lower Manhattan in the days following the 9-11 terrorist attacks. His photos were sobering and enlightening.

Matt's assignment was to capture images of the devastation to New York's city parks; what he found instead were parks serving the people of New York as they had perhaps never had the opportunity before. Firefighters taking brief breaks in the shade, families meeting to watch, cry, and wonder at the devastation, whole neighborhoods coming together in solidarity in the one place they recognized, understood, believed in... New York's city parks and the trees in them sheltered residents from more than sun in those days, provided more than space to gather.

Now in the years after 9-11, the Living Memorials Project of the Forest Service seeks to enhance our memory spaces by cataloging and assisting with design in 9-11 memorial parks, groves, and sites across the country. We visited one such memorial on May 21st. About 45 Forest Service employees and visitors made the bus trip across the Potomac for a visit to the Pentagon Memorial, where the Forest Service and American Forests provided funding to plant the 85 paperbark maples on site (see FS Today archives for fall 2008). As some of the trees are not thriving as planned, the

facilities manager has their health under investigation.

Andrew Ammerman, Pentagon Memorial Fund Senior Executive Advisor to the Board of Directors, provided additional resources and information about the site and efforts to continue to enhance the trees there. For additional information about the Pentagon Memorial, please visit the Fund's website:

<http://www.pentagonmemorial.net/map/> and for information about the Forest Service's

Living Memorials Project, visit:

<http://www.livingmemorialsproject.net/>.

For additional information, please contact Paula Randler at (202) 401-4489 or

pbrandler@fs.fed.us.



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USDA Forest Service
1400 Independents Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry



Green Infrastructure (GI) Community of Practice

The Green Infrastructure (GI) network met at the Bureau of Land Management, (BLM) headquarters, in Washington, DC, on July 3, 2009. The GI Community of Practice is a growing national network of practitioners working towards the common vision of connecting America's communities, lands, and water to efficiently and effectively protect, restore, and enhance our environment and economy for the benefit of people, communities, and the natural resources on which we depend.

The meeting discussions were on the national recovery efforts, ecosystem services in relation to GI, and sustainable landscape. The primary topic

of discussion was on Economic Recovery. A panel was assembled to provide additional insight that furthered the discussion. For additional information on the Whitten Sustainable Landscape Partnership, please visit: http://www.da.usda.gov/HQs_GreenTeam/WhittenCharretteFinalReport2-8-08.pdf

If you are interested in being apart of this network, please contact Rene Cochise at (202) 205-1392 or send e-mail to rcochise@fs.fed.us. For additional information you can also visit: <http://www.greeninfrastructure.net/content/community-practice>.

Dan Lambe Talk on Tree City USA

On September 3, 2009, Urban and Community Forestry Program featured Dan Lambe, Vice President of Programs, National Arbor Day Foundation to discuss Tree City USA: 33 Years of Growing Canopy, Growing Community. The National Arbor Day Foundation is a longstanding partner with the Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters to help communities

receive the ecosystem service from tree canopy. Dan talked about the origins of the Tree City USA Program and the impact of the program on quality of life in cities and towns across the country.

For additional information on the Urban Tree Speakers Series, contact: smockenhaupt@fs.fed.us.

CF Participates in the National Tree Farmer 16th Annual Convention

The Washington Office Cooperative Forestry staff participated in the "National Tree Farmer 16th Annual Convention" held in Washington, DC, on September 28-30, 2009. This convention brought tree farmers to the Nation's capital to meet with each other and to visit their members of Congress.

The Forest Service displayed two exhibits at the convention focusing on cooperative programs, forest taxation, and estate planning. There were 12 different concurrent sessions including the following offered by the US Forest Service: Ted Beauvais and James Melonas gave presentations on forestry programs in the 2008 Farm Bill and how private forestry can participate in conservation and energy programs; Brett Butler and Mary

Tyrell (Yale University) talked about tools for engaging landowners through social marketing; and Linda Wang presented key tax updates for tree farmers. Also, Don VanHassent and Tom McCarthy of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources talked about conservation easements and forestry.

The regional tree farmers of the year recipients were presented and the national tree farmer of the year was announced at the closing banquet.

For additional information, please contact Ted Beauvais at (202) 205-1190 or tbeauvais@fs.fed.us.

Newly Released Estate Tax Planning Guide

The US Forest Service Southern Research Station and its collaborators recently released the estate tax planning guide titled “Estate Tax Planning: What Will Become of Your Timberland?” This is the updated version of one of the most widely used tax publications for private family forest owners. The electronic version is available free at: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs112.pdf.

The publication contains 180 pages of practical estate planning techniques and estate tax laws and

rules with many examples and applications specifically for woodland property. It is written to assist woodland owners and their advisors—attorneys, consulting foresters, tax preparers, financial planners, as well as state agency foresters and cooperative extension agents.

For more information contact Linda Wang at lwang@fs.fed.us or (404)272-4791, or Neal Bungard at nbungard@fs.fed.us or 603-868-7719, or John Greene jgreene01@fs.fed.us or (504) 589-7130.

Federation of Southern Cooperative/Land Assistance Fund's 42nd Anniversary Celebration

The Washington Office Cooperative Forestry staff, and the Region 8 Cooperative Forestry staff, along with other USDA agencies and offices, participated in the Federation of Southern Cooperative/Land Assistance Fund's (Federation) 42nd Anniversary Celebration and the 8th Estelle Witherspoon Lifetime Achievement Award held on August 13-15, 2009, in Birmingham and Epps, Alabama. There were over 500 participants from around the country and U.S. Virgin Island's including farmers, ranchers, and communities.

For the past seven years, the Federation “has recognized those individuals who have made significant contributions for justice, equality and peace in America and throughout the world.” On August 13, at the Birmingham Sheraton Hotel, this year's 8th Estelle Witherspoon Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA). Please visit [http://federationsoutherncoop.com/2009 annualmtg](http://federationsoutherncoop.com/2009_annualmtg).

The Federation's annual meeting was held at the Rural Training Research Center on August 14-15, in Epps, Alabama. The honored guest speakers included: USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,

Dr. Joe Leonard, Jr., USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development, Mr. Dallas Tonsager, and newly selected, Georgia State Director for Rural Development, Ms. Shirley Sherrod. The speakers discussions were on access to USDA Programs and Services, Opportunity for Economic Growth, and discussions on Q's & A's. For complete articles on all of the events, announcements and photos, please visit <http://federationsoutherncoop.com/>.

In addition, a series of workshops and cooperative training sessions were conducted and exhibits were displayed. The Cooperative Forestry staff provided copies of the “FS Pacific Northwest Research Station publication; “Caring for Our National Assets: An Ecosystem Services Perspective;” and the FS Southern Region's General Technical Report, SRS-112, “Estate Planning for Forest Landowners: What Will Become of Your Timberland?”

For more information, please contact Cheryl V. Bailey, Management Program Analyst, Cooperative Forestry staff at cbailey@fs.fed.us.



EXHIBITS ON THE GO...

The Cooperative Forestry exhibits have been busy this summer; the typical request to utilize one of our exhibits has come from the district offices. This is a wonderful way to tell the Forest Service story and

describe to the public and partners about our national policies and projects and how we can collaborate on future initiatives. The following are a few places our exhibits have visited:

Open Space Exhibit

July 13-16, 2009, the National Academy of Sciences Summer Committee Meeting of the Environment Analysis in Transportation, (WV).

Approximately 150 professionals from all levels and components of the national, state, and local sectors focused on improving the transportation planning and project delivery process through environmental analysis registered for this meeting. This summer's focus was climate change and looking beyond the transportation alignment to consider land scale and global concerns.

The Open Space Exhibit was used to highlight the value of forests and grasslands and the importance of ecological connectivity across transportation systems in sustaining forest and grassland ecosystem services.

The exhibit then traveled on to the great state of Tennessee:

July 23-28, 2009 - Annual Conference of the National Association of Counties, (TN)

Three thousand people registered for this cornerstone event held in Nashville. NACO members elected new officials, adopted legislative policy positions, held committee meetings, educational sessions and receive briefings on important national topics of interest to counties.

The Forest Service has a strong partnership with this association.

Ecosystem Services Exhibit

May 14-17, 2009, Calaveras Frog Jump and County Fair, (CA)

Every May the entire community of Calaveras, California, celebrates its history and its future. Nestled between Yosemite and Lake Tahoe, it is south of the historic Angels Camp and north of Sonora on Highway 49. The event was attended by more than 35,000 people and has more than 7,000 exhibits. Over 2,000 frogs participated in the Frog Jump in 2002.

For more information on this event visit:
www.frogtown.org/

Then on to...

September 15-18, 2009 - USDA's 5th National Small Farms Conference, Springfield, IL.

Over 600 participants were in attendance for this event including, grant universities, community-based organizations and other stakeholders who work with small farmers and ranchers.

The conference aims to strengthen collaboration and partnership among groups and provide an opportunity to share new ideas in research, extension and outreach.

Contact Rene Cochise at rcochise@fs.fed.us to make arrangements to use one of our displays and to order materials/handouts.



U&CF returns to CF

The Urban and Community Forestry has rejoined the Cooperative Forestry (CF) staff under the leadership of Paul Ries. We are currently in the process of recruiting and filling the U&CF Assis-

tant Director's position. For more information concerning this position go to the OPM website, USA jobs or contact Rebecca Monroe at (406) 295-7491 or e-mail rmonroe@fs.fed.us.

WO CF Personnel Update

Keith Cline is currently serving as Acting Assistant Director for Urban and Community Forestry program (U&CF). Keith joined the Forest Service's U&CF program in 2004. He has over 30 years of experience in Urban Forestry, arboriculture, natural resource management and wildlife habitat management, and has worked for environmental non-profit, state and county government, and the private sector. The three years prior to joining the Forest Service, he was Section Chief of the Forest Conservation of the Urban Forest.

Phillip Rodbell, joined the CF staff on a four month detail starting June 22, as acting national program manager for Urban and Community Forestry. Phillip will be filling in behind Keith Cline. He comes to us from the Northeastern Area headquarters in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, where he currently serves as program specialist providing leadership in federally funded action to plant and improve community trees and forests in the Midwest, New England, and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. He has more than 27 years experience in federal program management, non-profit action, state program administration, and local government consulting, including three years of international experience with the Peace Corps in Honduras, Central America. Immediately before joining the Forest Service, he served five years as U&CF Program coordinator for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and several years as commu-

nity action forester with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Phillip is a Certified Arborist and has a Master of Science degree in Forestry from North Carolina State University and a B.S. in Forest Resources from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Beatra Solomon Wilson began a 120-day detail, on July 6, 2009, as a Program Specialist and Urban Forester on the Washington Office Cooperative Forestry and Urban and Community Forestry Staff. She will be filling the position formerly occupied by Peggy Harwood. Currently, Beatra is a Fire Program Specialist on the Washington Office, Fire & Aviation Management Staff, focusing on performance and accountability as it relates to external audits and program reviews. Joining the agency in 2002, as an Urban Forester Trainee in the Southern Regional Office, Beatra spent two years in Cooperative Forestry before becoming the State & Private Forestry Budget Coordinator in 2004. Beatra has a Master of Public Administration from Kennesaw State University and a Bachelor of Science in Urban Forestry from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



WO CF Personnel Update - Cont'd

Magaly Figueroa joined the Washington Office Cooperative Forestry and Urban and Community Forestry Staff (U&CF) for a 90-days detail beginning July 6, 2009. She will be filling in behind Nancy Parachini. Magaly is a Program Manager for U&CF and the Stewardship programs at the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF). At the Washington Office, Magaly will primarily be working with the Forest Legacy Program, but will spend some time in Research and International Forestry. Magaly is also taking part in the Executive Leadership Program through USDA Graduate School.

CAPAL Intern Program

The Washington Office Cooperative Forestry and Urban & Community Forestry staff welcomed two new interns this summer through its second year partnership with the Conference of Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL):

Hana Kim attends Pepperdine University, majoring in advertising and public relations. Hana worked on a communications project to raise the visibility of the Forestry Stewardship Program, working with regional program managers to develop stories for a special issue of *Minority Landowner Magazine* dedicated to Forest Stewardship and helping to create a team collaboration and sharing site for Cooperative Forestry.

Annelisa Luong attends the University of California in Berkeley majoring in Conservation and Resource Studies and Society and Environment. She expects to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in 2011. The projects Annelisa worked on include, managing the Trees for People Speaker series, taking a look at the UCF website and identify areas of mutual interest between the Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Water Environment Research Foundation.