

## USDA Forest Service Botany in the News

### U.S Forest Service Eastern Region Intertribal Nursery Workshop

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) hosted a Forest Service Eastern Region Intertribal Nursery Workshop on August 13-14, 2013. Highlights included formal welcomes by the Four Thunders; an Elder blessing by Joe Dowd; a welcome from Chris Swartz KBIC Tribal Chairman; and greeting from Barbara Van Alstine and Tony Holland of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. Jeremy Pinto of the Forest Service, Moscow, Idaho, provided a brief history of the Intertribal Nursery Council. Evelyn Ravindran, KBIC Hatchery/Nursery Manager, and Pam Nankervis, KBIC Wildlife Biologist, highlighted the KBIC Natural Resource Programs. Jan Schultz of the Forest Service Eastern Region and Scott Herron of Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan discussed restoration needs, resources, and opportunities in botany. The Animal, Plant, Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine's (PPQ) mission regarding invasive species and how it relates to native plants and nurseries was presented by Craig Kellogg of the USDA, Romulus, Michigan.



Keweenaw Bay, Lake Superior, Michigan.

Tours included the KBIC Fish Hatchery with KBIC Fishery and Wildlife Biologist Gene Mensch; KBIC Native Plants Greenhouse with Karen Anderson, KBIC Natural Resources Department Plant and Greenhouse Technician; and the Sandpoint Restoration Project along the Lake Superior shoreline. The following day included a facilitated discussion about current tribal nursery production goals and objectives and an identification of Eastern Tribal Nursery Association needs.



KBIC Fish Hatchery tour.

### Native Plant Materials Partners

The U.S. Forest Service National Center for Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR), through a memorandum of understanding between the National Forest System, Forest Service State and Private Forestry, and Forest Service Research and Development, has a mandate to transfer information about the collection, propagation, and deployment of native plant materials.

A six-person team, comprised of Forest Service State and Private Forestry regional nursery specialists; director of the National Seed Laboratory; and scientists Kasten Dumroese and Jeremy Pinto from the Forest Service Rocky



Dr. Jeremy Pinto, U.S. Forest Service.

Mountain Research Station was formed. The team was constructed in response to dwindling assets within the Forest Service, but its reach is more widespread. One major problem the team addresses is ensuring that nursery managers, reforestation and restoration specialists, and others in related fields have timely information. It is imperative that the growers and users of the approximately one billion native plants produced each year in the United States have good information so that production is as efficient as possible; so that out planting performance justifies costs; and that reforestation and restoration plantings meet desired outcomes. This is especially true for underserved communities, such as Native Americans and citizens of the U.S. insular areas.

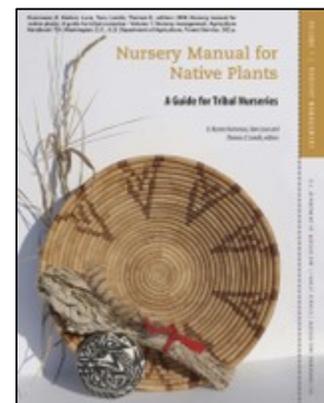


**KBIC Native Plant Greenhouse products.**

Dr. Jeremy Pinto, RNGR's Tribal Nursery Coordinator, organizes annual meetings of North American indigenous peoples and the Intertribal Nursery Council. He is responsible for the technical aspects of this popular meeting, which provides a forum for tribes to network about native plant production and restoration. Jeremy conducted this most recent RNGR Intertribal Nursery Council workshop.

## **The Intertribal Nursery Council (INC)**

The Intertribal Nursery Council (INC) is a USDA Forest Service managed tribally guided, organization for advancing the interests of native peoples involved with plant production in nurseries. Key focal points of the organization include technology transfer and sharing, conservation education, preservation of ecological knowledge, reforestation, restoration, and nursery training. Meetings are held annually and participation is open to tribal members and non-tribal members who work for or with tribal agencies. See the INC website at <http://www.rngr.net/inc/intertribal-nursery-council>.



A product of the INC, the Tribal Nursery Manual covers all aspects of managing a native plant nursery, from initial planning through crop production to establishing trials to improving nursery productivity into the future. It was written to assist Native Americans in growing native plants and draws extensively on tribal activities for the many photos and specific examples in the text. See the manual online at <http://www.rngr.net/publications/tribal-nursery-manual>.

The Tribal Nursery Needs Assessment is another product of the INC. Using funding provided by USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry, Native Americans associated with the Intertribal Nursery Council were asked to provide information about their native plant production needs. The information was compiled into this needs assessment that forms the basis for some new and ongoing Forest Service outreach projects to Native Americans.

Information regarding the Intertribal Nursery Workshop can be obtained from Jeremy Pinto at [jpinto@fs.fed.us](mailto:jpinto@fs.fed.us). For information about the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department, please contact Evelyn Ravindran [eravindran@kbic-nsn.gov](mailto:eravindran@kbic-nsn.gov). Information about botany partnerships and projects within the Forest Service Eastern Region can be found at Celebrating Wildflowers (<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/>), the Zaagkii Wings and Seeds project (<http://wingsandseeds.org/>), or contact Jan Schultz, [jschultz@fs.fed.us](mailto:jschultz@fs.fed.us).