

Great Lakes Plant Solutions
A Publication of the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
East Lansing, Michigan

December, 2004



John Durling, Agronomist

*Rose Lake PMC
Welcomes New
Agronomist*

By: John Durling

The Rose Lake Plant Materials Center welcomes John Durling to the team as the agronomist for the Plant Materials Center.

John brings to the position a wealth of experience in agronomy and resource conservation. He has held appointments as Director of Farming Systems Research with the Michigan Agricultural Stewardship Association and as a Sustainable Farming Systems Specialist at Michigan State University. John has MS and PhD degrees in Crop & Soil Sciences from Michigan State University. He also owns and manages a small family farm.

“Influencing my decision to pursue and accept this career opportunity,” states Durling “were many positive interactions with the NRCS and especially with the people at Rose Lake where I’ve been an Earth Team Volunteer since May.”

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi



Tribal members separating and repotting sweetgrass

By Dave Burgdorf

In January, 2004, the NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians, establishing the frame work in which the PMC could provide specific plant materials assistance to the tribe. The Tribe and NRCS also established two Task Agreements related to two specific plants of cultural significance to the tribe; Sweetgrass (*Hierochloe odoratum*) and Sacred Tobacco (*Nicotiana rustica*). Each Task Agreement outlines specifically what is expected and what will be done by the NRCS and the Tribe. On November 19th, nine tribal members came to the Plant Materials Center to receive training on propagation techniques for increasing sweetgrass. The training was provided by Gail Bischoff and Amanda Lee. The tribal members propagated several flats of sweetgrass which will be returned to the tribe in the spring of 2005 for establishment in raised beds and on to tribal property. The tribal members stated they were very pleased with the training and are looking forward to returning to the PMC for further training in the spring.

Harvest at Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Refuge

By: Sergio Perez

Rose Lake PMC assisted the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Division personnel in harvesting Indiangrass (*Sorhastrum nutans*), Big bluestem (*Adropogon gerardii*) and Little bluestem (*Schizoachyrium scoparium*) at Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Medaryville, Indiana.

The harvested seed will be used for demonstration plantings and made available to commercial growers for establishment of production fields, which will then be harvested and the seed made available to the public.

The Rose Lake PMC provided a small combine to harvest the Indiangrass and Big bluestem. A portable dryer was erected at Jasper-Pulaski to dry the harvested seed to improve seed quality. The dryer was designed so that it could be disassembled and moved to other locations.

The harvest efforts resulted in a yield of 375 bulk pounds of Big bluestem, 680 bulk pounds of Indiangrass, and 250 bulk pounds of Little bluestem. The Rose Lake PMC is in the process of preparing release notices for those plantings.



Grass seed harvest with combine from Rose Lake



Seasons Greetings

Everyone at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center wishes each and everyone of you a Holiday Season filled with peace, love, joy, family, and friendship. May the coming year be filled with prosperity, good health and good planting.

John Leif, Dave Burgdorf, John Durling, Sergio Perez, Elaine Gerona, Gail Bischoff, Amanda Lee, Claude Vail, Jerry Grigar, Amanda Quinlan and Joshua Lee

Please visit the Plant Materials website to find more information on using plants to solve conservation problems:

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>
<http://plants.usda.gov>

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