

Cooperative Forestry Newsletter

April 2009



Remarks from CF Director Paul Ries

As the new Director of Cooperative Forestry, I would like to take a minute to introduce myself. I come to this job after serving for the past several years as the Director of State & Private Forestry for the Northern and Intermountain Regions (R-1 & R-4) of the Forest Service. I arrive here as a strong advocate for our Nation's Forests, and a firm believer in our role as a partner in the conservation, enhancement and protection of those forests. I must share with you that I find both the nature of the responsibilities and the scope of the relationships to be challenging and humbling.

Many have asked about my agenda as new Director. I think it is important to share that I do not come into this position with an agenda. Things are not broken. You have all done a good job maintaining both your relationships and your programs. For my part, I hope to initially focus on effective communication and more interchange between the field, our partners and the Washington Office.

As part of that, I will be spending much of my time these first several months both listening and asking questions.

I will be visiting with as many of you (employees and partners) as I can. The purpose of the listening will be to get your sense of what is working well, and what we might improve. This will also help me develop a sense of

where you feel we need to head in the future. I will be looking for common themes and opportunities in what you all have to say, and intend to use what I learn from you to craft consensus around our future in Cooperative Forestry.

In the meantime, it has been an interesting time to arrive

here in Washington, DC. Economic Recovery is in full swing, the Congress is working on FY-09 appropriations, and preparations are under-way for FY-10 and FY-11 Budgets. Farm Bill implementation is very active, as is S&PF Redesign.

For all these reasons, and many more, I am excited to be here- in this position at this point in time- and looking forward to working with you.



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www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry

Helping people care for their forest and communities..

Vilsack Establishes the People's Garden Project

Members of U.S. Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry staff attended Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack "breaking of the pavement for the Peoples's Garden" ceremony on February 12, 2009. This historic step moved USDA closer to the implementation of The People's Garden. Secretary Vilsack declared the stretch of pavement adjacent to the site of the USDA Farmer's Market permanently closed and returned back to green.

It is essential for the federal government to lead the way in enhancing and conserving our land and water resources," said Vilsack. The USDA community garden project will include a wide variety of garden

activities including Embassy window boxes, tree planting, and field office plots. The gardens will be designed to promote "going green" concepts, including landscaping and building design to retain water and reduce runoff; roof gardens for energy efficiency; utilizing native plantings and using sound conservation practices. For more information about the Peoples's Garden you can visit, <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7 0 A/7 0 10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/02/0042.xml>.

The Green Infrastructure Community of Practice

The Green Infrastructure Community of Practice meeting was held at the U.S. Forest Service headquarters, Yates Building, Washington, DC, on February 12, 2009. Discussions focused on the national recovery efforts, ecosystem services in relation to Green Infrastructure and sustainable landscapes. The meeting ended with a tour of the landscape architecture currently planned for the USDA Whitten building. The U.S. Forest Service is a major partner in this effort. The Green Infrastructure Community of Practice is a growing national network of partners working together to improve conservation planning techniques that support healthier ecosystems and communities.

Current partners include: U.S. Forest Service - Appalachian Trail Conservancy - Bureau of Land Management - Centers for Disease Control - DC Department of Transportation - Defenders of Wildlife - Eco-Agriculture Partners - Environmental Finance Center -

Federal Highways Administration - Green Infrastructure Center - LandCare Center - Low Impact Development Center - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals - National Association of Regional Councils - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Park Service - SVR Design - The Conservation Fund - Trust for Public Land - US Department of Agriculture - US Department of Defense - US Environmental Protection Agency - US Fish and Wildlife Service - World Resources Institute.

For additional information please contact Rene Cochise, Cooperative Forestry, at rcochise@fs.fed.us.

“Trees for People” Speaker Series Kicks Off in March

The urban forestry speaker series Trees for People began March 5, 2009, with a dynamic pairing of speakers Deborah Gangloff and Alice Ewen Walker, of American Forests and the Alliance for Community Trees, respectively. Deborah and Alice discussed how urban forestry advocacy is changing and what’s new in 2009. On March 18, 2009, Ray Tretheway, of the Sacramento Tree Foundation and Sacramento City Council, spoke about the success of the energy conservation partnership Sacramento Shade and gave us a look ahead to the Energy Conservation Through Trees Act, introduced by Congresswoman Matsui. On April 8, 2009, Scott Maco of Davey Tree will discuss innovative uses of the i-Tree program for urban forest management. In May, 2009, topics include Kathy Wolf’s social science research (May 14th), and a visit to the Pentagon Memo-

rial with S&PF Deputy Chief Jim Hubbard and Forest Service landscape architect Matt Arnn (May 21st). Please spread the word widely among your DC networks!

The discussions are all held in the Training Room of the Sidney R. Yates building in southwest Washington, D.C. A complete schedule and short video interviews with the speakers can be found on the U&CF website <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf>. Questions about the speaker series can be directed to Paula Randler at pbrandler@fs.fed.us or (202) 401-4489. If you have questions concerning special needs or to request sign language interpretation, contact Paula Randler at the address or phone number above three working days before each discussion.

Forestry in the Farm Bill Webinars and Workshops

State forestry agencies, State Forestry Extension Specialists, and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees, and national members of the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition recently participated in a series of regional Farm Bill implementation webinars. The target audience for these “train the trainer” sessions was forestry and other agency professionals who are responsible for providing forestry-related assistance to landowners. The purpose of the webinars was to present highlights of the forestry-related conservation programs in the 2008 Farm Bill and to inform State forestry agencies and cooperators about immediate opportunities for land-

owners to apply for USDA assistance. These sessions will next be delivered as a series of on-site workshops in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Minnesota and Montana. For more information contact James Melonas at jmelonas@fs.fed.us or Karl Dalla Rosa at kdallarosa@fs.fed.us.

Ted Beauvais of the USFS served on a Farm Bill panel with representatives of the National Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency. He discussed the Forestry Title programs and the importance of both the Conservation and Energy titles for forests and the use of wood.



Meeting with the Wyland Foundation

Representatives from Forest Service State and Private Forestry and National Forest System (NFS) met with the Wyland Foundation on Monday March 9, 2009. This non-profit organization is internationally known for their ability to bridge the worlds of art and science and inspire people of all ages to become better stewards of water resources.

The meeting discussions were on sharing ideas about watershed management in the Forest Service

and opportunities to connect kids with nature. This meeting was held at the National Aquarium in Washington, DC and Gloria Manning, Associate Deputy Chief for NFS served as host. For additional information, please contact Cynthia McArthur at (202) 205-2733 or cmcarthur@fs.fed.us. For information on the Wyland Foundation please visit <http://www.wylandcleanwaterchallenge.org/index.cfm?mid=6>.

Ecosystem Services Community of Practice

State and Private Forestry is working with a variety of non-profit organizations, states, universities, and other federal agencies to build a "Community of Practice (C of P): for Ecosystem Service Market Projects. This effort aims to build a collaborative network of organizations and agencies that are actively involved in the development of market-based strategies and tools aimed at the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems like forests, farms, wetlands, and other open space. Ecosystem Services are commonly defined as the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. The purposes of the C of P are to: 1) foster peer to peer

information exchange, learning, and coordination; 2) collaborate on the development of common terminology, approaches, metrics, and guidelines for market operation; 3) reduce duplication, increase partnerships, and accelerate implementation of market-based approaches; and 4) encourage new ideas and innovation. Twenty separate projects are currently participating. The C of P hosted its most recent conference call on March 10, 2009. To find out more, please visit <http://sites.google.com/site/ecosystemserviceprojects/Home> or contact Al Todd at atodd@fs.fed.us.

Ecosystem Service: Marketing Environment Solutions

The U.S. Forest Service participated in a conference entitled "Ecosystem Services: Marketing Environmental Solutions" held in Charlottesville, VA on March 12-13, 2009. The conference focused on ecosystem services from forest lands such as carbon sequestration, water supply and biodiversity, and the emerging markets for these ecosystem assets. The conference explored new ways of conserving forest lands through non-traditional market approaches that balance economic and environmental sustainability in these

challenging times. Speakers from private industry, government, non-governmental organizations, and academia provided information and perspective on the opportunities and challenges of carbon, nutrient, water, biodiversity, and other ecosystem service markets. To find out more about this event, please visit www.cpe.vt.edu/esmes/ or contact Al Todd at atodd@fs.fed.us.



Municipal Forestry Institute

The Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI) is a unique leadership and development opportunity for urban forestry professionals. The Society of Municipal Arborists, with support from the U S Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program, is presenting the fourth year of the Institute at Palm Key Center in Ridgeland SC. The 45 participants will learn leadership and management tools and skills including program administration, planning, coalition building, strategic thinking, and public relations. The Institute is not about growing trees, but

growing urban forestry programs and growing program and community leaders. In the first three years, MFI graduated 212 leaders from 36 states, the District of Columbia, and 4 Canadian provinces. Keith Cline, Program Manager with the U&CF in Washington ,DC will join urban forestry professionals from across North America as a member of the Institute's teaching cadre. For additional information contact Keith Cline at kcline@fs.fed.us or (202) 205-1393.

NACD'S and Urban & Community Group Meets

The National Association of Conservation Districts and Urban and Community Resource Policy Group met at their annual meeting in New Orleans, LA on January 30–31, 2009. Larry Payne, Director Emeritus, attended on behalf of the Forest Service. Discussions focused on national

strategies, smart growth, urban farming, stormwater guidelines, and small acreage issues. The Group also reviewed progress on their very comprehensive 2008-2009 Work Plan including all 25 action items.

USDA Women & Working the Lands

In FY08 a new working group within the Department began meeting: Women & Working the Lands (WWL). The group is an interagency gathering of professionals throughout USDA interested in finding ways to cooperate and coordinate across our various agency missions to benefit women involved in all types of farming, ranching, rangeland and private forestland ownership.

The WWL will foster a collaborative effort in coordination, partnership and communication among the various USDA program areas and agencies reaching women in agriculture and women and working lands, ultimately leading to increased knowledge and increased participation and access USDA programs. The WWL meets monthly, for additional information on this working group please contact Rene Cochise, Cooperative Forestry, at rcochise@fs.fed.us.



Smart, Clean & Green: 21st Century Sustainable Water Infrastructure

The Water Environment Research Foundation hosted a briefing on emerging approaches in water management on February 25-26, 2009, in Washington, DC. Kenneth Bell, Research Urban Hydrologist, represented US Forest Service. Discussions focused on systems that treat, use, store and reuse water efficiently at small scales and blend designs that will restore hydrologic function.

Two panels offered different perspectives. The first panel included non-profit organizations, private companies and other organizations. The second panel presented what federal agencies are doing to encourage sustainable water infrastructure. The

panels included representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautic and Space Administration, National Research Council, National Science Foundation and the Senate Sub-committee on Energy and Environment.

Kenneth Bell discussed developing a research agenda for a sustainable water infrastructure. For further information contact Susan Mockenhaupt at (202) 205-1007 or smockenhaupt@fs.fed.us.

Sustainability at Coca Cola Company

The Global Sustainability officials at Coca Cola recently met with Al Todd, State and Private Forestry Assistant Director for Ecosystem Services and Markets to discuss their corporate models for carbon and water neutrality. Coca Cola has an outstanding record of leadership in this arena and in addition to learning about the approaches for-profit

companies in addressing both operational and environmental sustainability, these dialogues may open opportunities for future collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service in water and forest conservation. For additional information contact Al Todd at atodd@fs.fed.us.

Roundtable on Sustainable Forests

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests hosted the second series of workshops to discuss the draft National Report on Sustainable Forests - 2010. The workshop took place on February 24-25, 2009, in Athens, Georgia. Following a series of presentations by (USFS) and University scientists, approximately 60 federal, state, private and non-government organization partners engaged in small group discussions of this nearly 200 page technical report. Based on the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators, the report

provides a detailed look at the condition and trends in biological, ecological, economic, social and institutional aspects of forest ecosystems and their conservation and management. You can review the report on-line at: www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport/. The Roundtable on Sustainable Forests will host its third and final review workshop on March 23, 2009, in Washington, DC. Any questions regarding the meeting, should be directed to Sarah Walen at swalen@merid.org or (970) 513-8340 ext. 221.



Forest Service Traveling Exhibits Available

This is a great opportunity to tell the Forest Service story, and the Cooperative Forestry Staff encourages the use of any of our six exhibits. If interested in utilizing one of these exhibits please contact Renee Cochise at (202) 205-1392 or rcochise@fs.fed.us. The exhibits can be viewed at <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperative/> under "what's New", look for the navigation button, traveling displays available for Forest Service use.

Timber Tax Webinar for Agency Foresters

National timber tax specialist Linda Wang hosted a federal income tax on timber webinar on February 27 and March 12, 2009. This special one-hour tax program provided an update on timber tax in the 2009 filing season. Discussions were focused on tax treatment of timber income and expenses and proposed new regulation by the IRS. The National Tax website, (<http://www.timbertax.org/>) was developed as a reference source for questions regarding the tax treatment of timber related activities.

The site added two new publications recently related to tax year 2008: *Timber Tax Management for Family Forest Owners*, (<http://www.timbertax.org/publications/publications.asp>) by Timber Tax LLC, and the article "Income Tax Deduction for Timber Casualty Loss," (http://www.timbertax.org/publications/articles/tax_articles.asp) by Dr. Linda Wang, Timber Tax Specialist, U.S. Forest Service. For additional information Linda Wang can be reached at (404) 347-2067 or lwang@fs.fed.us.

Robert Partner Retires

Robert has retired with over 30 years of experience in the military and federal government. Robert's most recent assignment was to provide support to the Urban and Community Forestry staff in the Washington, DC office. Robert was well liked and respected within the Forest Service family and many colleagues stopped by to wish him well. Robert you will be missed... remember to sign that volunteer form and return it!