



Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



News Notes

April 27, 2009



From the Director's Desk

Fasten Your Seatbelt for a Safe Spring

The spring season brings an array of bright colors from blossoming trees, shrubs, and flowers following the dormancy of winter. For many, spring is also the beginning of the field season. Across Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, there are many activities that our employees will engage in to accomplish their work. There is a commonality between these field activities that we will be experiencing throughout the spring and all seasons—incorporating safety and risk management during our travels.

This begins the focus of my message to you this month, which includes all employees of Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. Incorporating safety and risk management during our travels is the beginning of a well-planned trip. Our awareness of safety during the winter months is heightened due to the challenges we face driving on slippery roads, encountering dangerous icing conditions, and having shorter days for daylight driving, among others. We are generally more conscious of exercising and employing safety techniques on a day-to-day basis. As the season changes and road conditions improve, days lengthen, and our visibility is better, it is natural to be more relaxed behind the wheel.

As you prepare for your driving trip, take time to walk around your vehicle and conduct a “circle of safety” inspection, looking for obstacles. Once in the car, make it a point to adjust all mirrors for better visibility, fasten your seatbelt, and look both ways before entering an intersection. One key item mentioned—your seatbelt.

Fastening your seatbelt is one of the simpler (and required) acts to perform, as a driver, and one that remains either forgotten, overlooked, or considered unimportant. However, there is good news, according to the National Highway Traffic Administration, which announced a significant decline in traffic fatalities for 2008. This is due to an increase in seatbelt use accompanied by a decline in motorized travel by Americans due to higher fuel costs in 2008. So there are contributing factors for the noted decline of fatalities.

When one stops to think about the measures we take to keep healthy, such as medical checkups, exercising, proper diet, and required surgery, among others, there is a cost. Though well spent, there is a cost in the effort of maintaining our health. The only cost of snapping a seatbelt is a second of time and a savings of injury. Catchy phrases, such as ‘click it or ticket,’ have been successful in some States that have laws enforcing seatbelt use. We know an accident happens in seconds; take one of those seconds



and ‘click it,’ and save yourself and others the agony and pain of an injury that you and others may suffer by not wearing a seatbelt.

In summary, I hope you have a safe and enjoyable spring season as your work may take you from place to place, office to field, home to work, and back. It is a beautiful time of the year to enjoy. So please do so and let us work together to ensure that we are reducing the risk in all our activities to an acceptable level that keeps us healthy and free of harm and injury. Do this for yourself, your family, and for your fellow colleagues. And of course, I appreciate your effort, your work, and your attention to the focus of this message. Thank you!

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Tips for Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention – Cherie Fisher

Reduce Waste While Spring Cleaning

One of the best ways to keep unwanted items out of landfills is to give them to someone who **does** want

them. Consider having a yard sale, perhaps with neighbors. If you don't have enough stuff (or motivation) for a yard sale, the Internet can help you find people or organizations that want exactly the things you're trying to get rid of.



- *FreeCycle* is an online posting site that allows people to offer or request specific items that they want or are willing to give away for free. People see your posting and send you an e-mail to request the item, then are responsible for picking it up at an agreed time. Go to www.freecycle.org to see if there is a *FreeCycle* group in your area.
- *ExcessAccess*. For \$5 per year, you list your available items and the site alerts local not-for-profit groups that have requested those items. The nonprofit group is expected to pick up the item unless you want to deliver it. Go to www.excessaccess.com for more information.
- Many local and larger charitable organizations have wish lists on their Web sites for items they would like to have. You can find registered charities in your area through the phonebook, friends and neighbors, or the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov/app/pub-78.

You can also poke around online for local, national, and international organizations that accept specific donations such as cell phones, computers, household items, clothes, appliances, cars, and just about anything else you can think of. Two examples include:

- *Call2Recycle* recycles cell phones and rechargeable batteries from appliances such as drills, toothbrushes, computers, and walkie-talkies, among others. Some NAS&PF and NRS offices have



Call2Recycle boxes; otherwise, they have drop boxes at major retail stores all over the country. Go to www.rbrc.org/consumer to find a drop box near you.

- *Cell Phones for Soldiers* sells donated cell phones to a company that refurbishes or recycles them, then uses the money to buy calling cards for people serving in all branches of the U.S. military. You can get a prepaid shipping label and more information at www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

Pollution Prevention

Here are some clever ideas for reducing pollution that perhaps you haven't thought of:

- Consider purchasing electric rather than gas-powered yard machines such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and snow throwers. (www.on.ec.gc.ca/community/classroom/pp/m6-006-e.html#a1)
- Drive smart by accelerating gradually, using cruise control on the highway, combining your errands into one trip, keeping your car tuned, not topping off at the gas pump, replacing your car's air filter, and keeping your tires properly inflated. (www.coalitionforcleanair.org)
- Turn off your car or truck rather than idling while parked.
- Dispose of hazardous household chemicals and pharmaceuticals at special municipal events or designated drop-off locations in your area (contact the sanitation or public works department of your town or city for advice). Never put them down storm drains or household drains.
- Replace chemical-based household cleaners with organic substitutes—use vinegar and water to clean glass, simmer citrus fruit and cinnamon in water to freshen the air, use coffee grinds or household compost to fertilize plants, and use lemon oil or olive oil to polish wood furniture. (www.epa.state.il.us/p2/less-toxic-products.html)
- If you must wash your car at home, park it on the lawn to get the lawn watered at the same time. Use only biodegradable soaps and cleansers.
- Prevent light pollution by aiming exterior house lights down and encouraging your municipality to use efficient fixtures for street lighting. (www.need-less.org.uk)
- Practice organic gardening at home and select native yard and landscaping plants that don't require lots of water or fertilizing. Use compost for fertilizer.
- Scale up your positive impacts on the environment by encouraging your workplace, neighbors, school, town, friends, church, or community organization to take pollution prevention and waste reduction measures.

Newtown Square Headquarters Office

Climate Change Continuing Education Webinar Series Has Successful First Semester

The first semester of the Climate Change Continuing Education Series is now coming to a close, and has been met with great success. The semester-long Webinar series was led by **Sarah Hines** and cosponsored by both NAS&PF and the Northern Research Station. It was designed to provide the most up-to-date information and tools about forest-related climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, ecosystem service markets, and climate modeling. The targeted audience is NAS&PF stakeholders, including State foresters and forestry associations, consulting foresters, private forest landowners, and related nonprofit organizations. These monthly Webinars featured a suite of prominent speakers, including Forest Service scientists Chris Swanston and Maria Jawnowiak, consulting forester



Neil Sampson, and climate expert Chris Zhangjar of The Nature Conservancy. The March session highlighted CVal, a comprehensive cost-benefit spreadsheet designed to help consulting foresters and private forest landowners who want to participate in the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), an ecosystem service market. CVal helps users accurately assess startup costs and revenue streams, and conduct break-even analyses related to participation in CCX. With some minor tweaking, CVal can also be used with CCAR, RGGI, or other over-the-counter ecosystem service markets. CVal was developed by the U.S. Forest Service Forest Products Lab. All Webinars were recorded and archived. Recordings of the Webinars, pdf files of the presentations, and other material can be found at <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/carbon/webcasts/>.

National Museum of Forest Service History in Development

There are big plans in the works to preserve, display, and communicate U.S. Forest Service history on a national scope. Volunteers are planning to open the first-of-its-kind National Forest Service Museum, to be located in Missoula, MT, in the coming years.

According to Forest Service Museum Project Spokesperson Tom Hamilton, this labor of love started as a grassroots initiative, led by Forest Service retirees and employees. It has been in the making for more than 20 years. There are about 50 people now involved with the project, including 25 people who serve on a board of directors. Most of the volunteers come from the local area.

The goal of the museum is to keep Forest Service history alive and educate people about the importance of forests, said Hamilton. It is also intended to show people how the Forest Service mission focus has evolved over the years.

“The Forest Service has been an integral part of United States history,” he said. “And it continues to play an important role in management, use, and understanding the Nation’s forests.”

Visitors there will learn more about the agency’s history. They will also see some of the equipment used and how the agency has evolved over time. The museum will be a living thing, he added.

“It will be updated to show how changes are taking place. We’re not just looking at the long past, but even what the outlook is for the future.”

The building’s footprint will be 15,000 square feet and will sit on 36 acres of property. “That’s an 8,000 square-foot visiting area and additional space in the basement,” he said. “There is already a fire tower. There will be a memorial grove. People will be able to see equipment used to fight forest fires, manage forests, and other work.” There will also be a 10-minute video talking about the history of the Forest Service, and even a 1950s-era Forest Service ranger cabin, he said.

The project will be the first museum to incorporate National Forest, Research, and State and Private Forestry aspects in its design, Hamilton said. Even the building’s support timbers will feature a diversity of tree species.

“Forest Service people helped find posts of different species around the country. For example, a black walnut post came from the Fernow Experimental Forest in West Virginia. A number of the timbers came from the Northeast, including sugar maple, yellow birch, and red spruce. The red spruce came from a private tree farm. The other two came from national forests,” he said.



The project is well underway, Hamilton added, though there is no specific date yet for the museum opening. “The economic downturn has extended our fundraising efforts. The land has been acquired. The water and sewer are in place. As soon as funds are available, construction of the building will start.”

The plan now indicates the structure will cost \$8 million. “We’re hoping another two million can support the operating costs,” he said.

The project has been funded so far by private groups, a public grant, and individual donations. They also received contributions from foundations, conservation groups, the forest industry, and Forest Service employees and retirees, he said.

“Right now our capital campaign is still underway. One of the things we’ve been working on is industrial partners that might be able to provide materials.”

“We’re going to continue the capital campaign,” he added. “We’re trying to encourage membership by Forest Service retirees and employees. We are also continuing to work with outside groups to complete the funding for the museum. People who contribute \$1,000 or more will have their names on the wall inside the museum.”

Hamilton said that in addition to membership funding, contributions in kind are also welcome. The museum is looking for all kinds of artifacts to highlight its history, even current and former employees’ personal journals and other documents, he added.

For more information about the project, visit the Forest Service Museum Web site at www.nmfs-history.net. Visitors can sign up for membership, check out previous contributions, or nominate someone for the memorial. They can also read about the museum’s plans and what has been done to date, he said.

People with additional questions or concerns can also contact Hamilton at (608) 278-0768 or via e-mail at retiredtomh@yahoo.com.

Durham Field Office

NAS&PF Employees Attend Source Water Protection Workshop

Rebecca Lilja, Roger Monthey, and Dave Welsch attended the Southern Maine Source Water Protection and Collaboration Workshop at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve April 15 and 16, 2009.

The 2-day workshop included presentations about instream rules and their implications for source water; funding and financing source water protection efforts; uses for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act State revolving loan funds; evaluating drinking water resource assets; working with land trusts to protect land; and linking surface water quality to the watershed.

Attendees could also choose among field trips, including presentations on water quality protection at Sanford Regional Airport, the headwaters for Branch Brook; a briefing on source water protection during Maine Turnpike widening and daily operations; and a tour of a water treatment facility on how to maintain downstream flows to protect nationally significant wildlife and estuarine habitats at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve.



Morgantown Field Office

Maryland Offers Tree Planting Coupons, Registry, and Tree Benefits Calculator

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley helped launch the new citizen component of *Marylanders Plant Trees*, a program designed to greatly increase tree cover across the State. The program offers \$25 discount coupons to purchase native trees that cost \$50 or more.

Whether or not Maryland citizens take advantage of the coupon program, those who plant new trees are asked to use the State's new Web site—www.trees.maryland.gov—to register the trees they have planted and calculate their benefits.

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry helped Maryland develop the *Marylanders Plant Trees* tree registry and tree benefits calculator. The system allows State residents to register multiple trees and calculate their collective benefits based on local prices and conditions. Data related to registered trees will help the State track tree planting efforts. Maryland State agencies have a goal of planting 1 million new trees by 2011, and private citizens are being asked to plant 50,000 trees by 2010.

The tree benefits calculator concept was initially developed by Casey Trees and Davey Tree Experts. It is based on STRATUM, the Forest Service's iTree street tree assessment tool. The Forest Service supported linking the benefits calculator with a tree registry and the development of its aggregating potential. The new interactive Web technology can be used to track tree planting, promote tree care and planting activities, and help meet urban tree canopy goal setting needs.

Morgantown Field Office Encourages Tree Planting

Morgantown Field Office employees individually wrapped 600 red pine, white pine, and Virginia pine trees in early April for the 11th annual West Virginia University Children's Health Fair. The trees originated from the Clements State Tree Nursery, which is operated by the West Virginia Division of Forestry. **Denise Binion, Yun Wu, Melissa Emerson, Dan Twardus, Rod Whiteman, Bob Lueckel, Karen Felton, Toni Jones, Devin Wanner**, and others took time out of their busy schedule to prepare for the health fair.



Morgantown employees gather around a picnic table to wrap tree seedlings to hand out at the West Virginia University Children's Health Fair.

The fair was held 2 days later at the Morgantown Mall featuring the theme "Jump Start Your Heart." In addition to handing out trees, Forest Service employees shared information about native and invasive insects as well as emerald ash borer traps. The Forest Service shared booth space with Tom Elliot, an employee of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

For the past 4 years, the Morgantown Office has used the health fair to teach children how important trees are to our health. **Chelsea Gibson, Sam Forbeck**, Elliot, and **Wanner** gave the evergreen trees to families for planting. They also fielded many questions about the insects that were on display and talked about the emerald ash borer.



The Forest Service booth has become one of the destination spots of the fair. It has become so popular that even though more trees were available this year than in previous years, all tree seedlings were distributed 2 hours before the event ended. Several fairgoers also asked about getting more trees to plant on their property. Copies of the Clements State Tree Nursery order form were given to those individuals.

Many families that stopped by the display commented that the trees they received in previous years are doing well and getting noticeably bigger. Several thousand people attended this year's health fair. Event organizer Stephanie Bock said, "Attendance is a testament to the high quality (and fun!) activities that you provide at your booths each year. The community has come to expect a great fair, and each of you delivers year after year."

St. Paul Field Office

NAS&PF Employee Participates in International Tree Risk Seminar and Summit

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Plant Pathologist **Jill Pokorny** is the U.S. Forest Service representative on an international committee of urban forestry professionals and consultants that met in February for the *International Seminar on Trees and Risk* and the *Tree Risk Summit*. Both events were sponsored by the national chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Southern chapter of ISA, and Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories. Seminar organizers assembled an international panel of speakers who presented information about tree risk assessment tools and techniques, tree biomechanics, and tree risk management strategies. Jill spoke about designing and implementing community tree risk management programs.

The group also met to discuss both the body of tree risk literature and the current state of tree risk research, and to identify research needs. The ISA is developing Best Management Practices that will lead to industry standards for conducting tree risk assessment and provide training content for a tree risk assessor certification program.

EDITOR'S NOTES

DEADLINE! The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is noon, Tuesday, May 26, 2009. News articles submitted after this time and date will be published in the next month's edition. Please e-mail final articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us.

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