



# Forest Matters

*The stewardship newsletter*

Summer 2009  
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## Issue Contents:

Stewardship News.....	5
Research .....	8
State Roundup.....	9
Naturalist's Corner .....	11

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**Northeastern Area  
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[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/  
stewardship](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship)

## Peer-to-Peer Networks: Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Managing privately owned forest land for the long term benefits the public as well as the landowner. This is especially important in the Northeastern United States, where nearly 5 million individuals and families own roughly 129 million acres of forest land.

Outreach professionals have historically given information to private forest landowners about forest management and stewardship. One innovative way to encourage stewardship is to train volunteer landowners to network with their peers to share basic forest management information and contacts with forestry professionals.

“Woodland owners consistently select peers as a preferred source of information to support forest management decisions,” according to Eli Sagor, University of Minnesota Extension Specialist and project lead for *Woodland Owner Networks*. This trust among peers is the foundation of peer-to-peer networks.

Paul Catanzaro, UMass Extension Forest Resources Specialist in the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources Conservation, noted, “When people need to make decisions about their land, they often turn to a trusted friend, neighbor, or family member.

“People are more likely to hear and internalize messages, and therefore change their attitudes and behaviors, if they believe the messenger is similar to them and faces the same concerns and behaviors. Peer-to-peer learning provides locally relevant information when landowners need to make a decision about their land, delivered by the people they naturally turn to for information.”<sup>1</sup>



Oregon forest landowner Maureen Kirby shares maps and a management plan on her property with other woodland owners. (Photo courtesy Nicole Strong)

<sup>1</sup><http://woodlandownernetworks.wordpress.com/2008/06/25/overview/>. (10 June 2009.)

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## Peer-to-Peer Networks: Neighbor Helping Neighbor *(continued from page 1)*

Peer-to-peer networks help forest landowners be more confident about making decisions and let them exchange information, brainstorm solutions, and strengthen connections with each other. According to Sagor, “Most woodland owner networks exist not to promote any specific behavior, but to help landowners feel supported, find answers to their questions, and make well-informed decisions.”

According to a 2007 evaluation of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Program, volunteers contributed more than 21 full-time employee equivalents in volunteer

effort and estimated that they reached 19,500 peers and members of the general public within the past year.

Because of the informal and fluid nature of peer-to-peer networking, however, there are no concrete numbers to describe the overall success of peer-to-peer networks. According to Sagor, they will work on quantifying results soon.

For a listing of peer-to-peer networks, go to <http://woodlandownernetworks.wordpress.com/programs/>.

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## Peer-to-Peer Case Studies: Midwest The Wisconsin Woodland Advocate Program

by Dennis McDougall, U.S. Forest Service, NAS&PF, St. Paul, MN

The *Wisconsin Woodland Advocate Program* (WAP) is an initiative of Wisconsin Family Forests, a non-profit woodland owners group that promotes sustainable management of Wisconsin’s privately owned family forests.

WAP recognizes that people tend to be leery of strangers and more trusting of neighbors whom they see as being similar to them, while some are intimidated by professionals. This innate skepticism seems especially acute when woodland owners are approached about management of their woodlands.

To overcome this barrier, WAP recruits local woodland “advocates” to serve as catalysts for active forest management of family forests near where they live. One example of a woodland advocate is Judy Newland, resident and woodland owner in Leon Township in Waushara County.



Woodland advocate Judy Newland looks on as private forester Kim Quast discusses management options with forest landowners. (Photo by Peter Hoffman)

*(continued on page 3)*

***Forest Matters: the stewardship newsletter*** is published semiannually by the U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area Forest Stewardship Program. Its goal is to bring the stewardship message to natural resource professionals, consultant foresters, and private forest landowners in the Northeast and Midwest. If you have any questions, or would like to be added to the hard copy or electronic mailing list, please contact Jane McComb U.S. Forest Service, 271 Mast Rd., Durham, NH 03824, phone: 603-868-7693, fax: 603-868-1066, e-mail: [jamccomb@fs.fed.us](mailto:jamccomb@fs.fed.us).

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## Peer-to-Peer Case Studies: Midwest *(continued from page 2)*

With Judy serving as a local contact providing guidance, advice, and inspiration, WAP contacted more than 220 previously unengaged forest landowners who were “potential stewards.” WAP’s effort resulted in the writeup of 40 management plans, timber harvesting, timber stand improvement, and invasive species management occurring on previously unmanaged land.

Woodland advocates such as Judy aren’t there to make technical management recommendations; instead, they promote the idea of actively caring for the woodlands by sharing their own experiences and encouraging landowners to seek out the services of a trusted forestry professional.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry provides technical expertise by visiting sites and writing plans. WAP recruits woodland advocates from graduates of the Master Woodland Steward Program and Woodland Leadership Institute, two successful woodland owner and leader training programs run by University of Wisconsin Extension.

For more information about WAP or Wisconsin Family Forests, contact Executive Director Gerry Mich at [gerry@wisconsinfamilyforests.org](mailto:gerry@wisconsinfamilyforests.org) or call (920) 424-4888.

## Peer-to-Peer Case Studies: Mid-Atlantic Pennsylvania’s Landowner Volunteer Program

by Karen Sykes, U.S. Forest Service, NAS&PF, Morgantown, WV

The *Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Volunteer Project* teaches volunteer woodland owners the principles of forest stewardship so they can better manage their forest lands and motivate other woodland owners to become actively involved in managing Pennsylvania’s forests.

Volunteer Forest Stewards receive approximately 40 hours of free classroom and field training in forest management and stewardship-related subjects. In exchange, they agree to spend 40 hours of their time relaying what they learned to other forest landowners, which can motivate them in turn.

Since it started in the fall of 1991, 470 people have completed volunteer training as Forest Stewards, of which 367 are still active. The original intent

of the project was to build a network of volunteer forest landowners who would leverage Extension’s capability to reach Pennsylvania’s private landowners (almost 750,000) and possibly influence their friends and neighbors more effectively than an educational institution or government agency.

Forest Stewards have met Extension’s original expectations and have wielded even more influence than anticipated. They have been the force behind the creation of a growing number of local woodland owner associations throughout the State—associations that now provide additional educational programming for landowners. The combined membership of the 27 associations is around 1,600—the largest voice for forest owners in the State.

“They are passionate people that are fun to work with,” said Allyson Muth, Forest Stewardship Program Associate at Penn State Extension. “They have a strong stewardship ethic and understand the way forest systems work. When landowners hear about forestry and forestry practices from someone who’s had personal experience, it resonates more than anything Extension or forestry professionals can do.”

For information, go to <http://paforeststewards.cas.psu.edu/> or contact Allyson Muth at [abm173@psu.edu](mailto:abm173@psu.edu) or by calling (814) 865-3208.

## Peer-to-Peer Case Studies: Northeast Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program

by Marcheterre Fluet, Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program/Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D

On March 7, 2009, the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program partnered with the International Becoming an Outdoorswoman® Program (BOW) to offer a 1-day pilot workshop called *Women Sustaining Woodlands: Forest Stewardship 101*. This event offered women who own forest land an opportunity to learn about forest stewardship and network with each other.

The Massachusetts BOW Program, run by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DoFW), offers an annual June weekend program that introduces women to a wide range of outdoor skills. Additional 1-day “Beyond BOW” workshops scheduled throughout the year focus on a single topic.

Ellie Horwitz of the Massachusetts DoFW and Marcheterre Fluet of the Massachusetts Forest

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## Peer-to-Peer Case Studies: Northeast *(continued from page 3)*

Stewardship Program/Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D organized a workshop for women who own or manage forested land in the Bay State. Pilot enrollment was limited to 20 participants.

Registrations came from every part of the State. Within a week there was a waiting list. Most participants had no prior experience with either the Forest Stewardship Program or BOW, but most owned and/or managed between 10 and 50 acres of forest, either privately or through land trusts.

The morning session included four speakers—three natural resource professionals and one local landowner—who discussed forest stewardship values: wildlife habitat, timber management, passive and active recreation, and long-term environmental protection. In the afternoon, participants practiced management planning in a variety of stands.

One of the most exciting aspects was the active engagement and discussion that occurred throughout the workshop.

Workshop evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, and future collaboration between the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship and BOW Programs is anticipated.



Laura Dooley, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, leads a discussion on timber management at a BOW workshop sponsored by the Forest Stewardship Program in Massachusetts March 7, 2009.

## Peer-to-Peer Network Coordinator Spotlight: Nicole Strong, Women Owning Woodlands Network

Instructor, Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, Oregon State University, College of Forestry

Nomad. Avid mountain biker. Passionate about helping others, especially in rural communities in Latin America. Who fits this description? Please meet Nicole Strong, founder of the *Women Owning Woodlands Network* (WOWnet) in western Oregon.

WOWnet, launched in January 2006, recognizes the growing role of women in forest land management and offers hands-on, fun educational opportunities to develop their basic forestry and decisionmaking skills.

Nicole brings an abundance of enthusiasm, empathetic listening skills, appreciation of nature, and global perspectives to her work at Oregon State University Extension and coordination of WOWnet. Much of this stems from her experiences growing up as the daughter of a Naval officer. Following her birth in Crete, Greece, Nicole and her family lived a nomadic life in many places throughout the Western Hemisphere, including 8 years in Peru and Panama.

Nicole nurtures her interest in the outdoors as a self-described “crazy mountain biker.” She always manages to squeeze a bike in along with work gear in the car.

Nicole attended Purdue University. Like other young urban people, she had never heard of Extension and didn’t know what a land grant university was. As an engineering major, she happened to take an ecology elective. She fell in love with that field and switched to wildlife sciences.

As a wildlife major, Nicole spent a summer doing field work in Venezuela. As she describes it, “I spent a lot of time in an amazing jungle, and every spare minute getting to know people in the local communities. In my mind, there had to be a way to combine the data we were collecting and [the] scientific knowledge we had with the knowledge of these people. I still had not heard of Extension or human dimensions.”



Nicole Strong during a recent visit to Mexico.

*(continued on page 5)*

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## Peer-to-Peer Network: Nicole Strong

(continued from page 4)

The Venezuelan trip also triggered reflections on her childhood and the poverty she witnessed in those countries. That led to a 3-year stint in the Peace Corps in Guatemala with *Defenders of Nature*, a nongovernmental organization working with communities within the Biosphere Reserve Sierra de las Minas.

As Nicole observed, “Though the topic changes, the mission [of my work] is the same—helping people gain access to information and resources that allow them to better manage their land and take care of themselves and their families, [which] will result in landscape-level sustainability in all of its meanings.”

Nicole completed a Master’s degree at Penn State. Following a year as Extension Coordinator at the University of Florida with the Center for Subtropical Agroforestry, Nicole began work at Oregon State University as an instructor and coordinator of the Master Woodland Manager program, a peer-to-peer educational program, where she has been for 5 years and has “loved every minute of it.”

Who are Nicole’s heroes? “Every day it seems I meet someone whose thoughts or actions blow me away, but ultimately it is my parents. Their generosity and dedication to careers of service are inspiring.

“My mother struggled to be able to attend college (the first woman [to do so] in her family), becoming a teacher and later an administrator working with Erie’s inner-city youth, when she could have stuck to the suburbs. My father’s Navy stories mostly focus on cross-cultural interactions, very humble and humorous stories that remind me very much of my own Peace Corps experiences.”

Working for OSU’s Extension Service is gratifying for Nicole. “Extension is a tremendous vehicle through which to work with rural communities, as well as to increase awareness among the greater public about the contributions of these communities, with an ultimate goal of hopefully renewing the ‘social contract’ between urban and rural people in our country.”

“What I bring is perspective (lots of them, in fact!), enthusiasm, and the ability to listen to what it is that people think, feel, and want to know. Even though I am pretty different from most woodland owners, I think they appreciate and trust that I appreciate them, and have their best interest in mind.”

While waiting for a return flight to the United States after working in Mexico in late June, Nicole wrote, “I keep coming back to Latin America to contribute however and whenever possible. The situation here is very different. The people I worked with this week will not be able to eat if we [make a mistake]. It makes you very humble and want to be very certain you know what you are talking about before you introduce some technology or idea.”

“I keep that perspective with me everywhere I go, and it can’t help but enrich the work I do here. WOWnet seems innovative in the United States, but all around the world Extension works with women’s groups. The dynamic is very special and can be very powerful.”

To find out about upcoming WOWnet events, contact Nicole Strong at [nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu](mailto:nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu) or sign up on the WOWnet Web site at <http://womenowningwoodlands.blogspot.com>.

## Stewardship News

### FY2008 Redesign Process: An Overview

by Mike Huneke, U.S. Forest Service, NAS&PF, Newtown Square, PA

Fiscal Year 2008 marked the first year that the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry distributed funds to State forestry agencies through a competitive grants process known as “Redesign.” Through this process, 15 percent of the national allocation that had traditionally been made available to the 20 Northeastern and Upper Midwestern States, and Washington DC, was distributed based on a competitive grant process.

During this first year, 82 grant applications were submitted by the States, of which 33 proposals were funded, representing a total of \$5.3 million. Funded projects covered the programmatic spectrum, ranging from forest stewardship support on private land to watershed management, urban forestry, forest health and invasive species management, and community wildfire protection. Selected projects included both individual State and multistate efforts.

Thus far, the Redesign process has been viewed as an effective way to distribute Federal dollars to States, and the process is being repeated in fiscal year 2009. Ultimately, success will be measured by the implementation of the projects and the innovations that they create—innovations that would not have come to be without the Redesign process.

(continued on page 6)

## **Redesign a Year Later: Mid-Atlantic 2008: An Integrated Approach to Mitigate and Manage the Effects of Invasive Plants in Urban and Forest Landscapes in Ohio**

by Karen Sykes, U.S. Forest Service, NAS&PF, Morgantown, WV

Invasive species are one of the major threats to the Nation's forests and grasslands. In the region served by Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NAS&PF), thousands of acres are infested annually by non-native invasive plants. These plants threaten the ecological integrity and biological diversity of forest and range ecosystems. They are also estimated to cause \$120 billion annually in damage to the environment, forestry, agriculture, industry, recreation, and human health.

The *Ohio Invasive Plant Project* was developed to mitigate or manage the effects of invasive plants in 22 heavily forested counties in southeastern Ohio. This effort will involve integrating NAS&PF programs and cooperation among the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Wayne National Forest (WNF), Ohio Invasive Plants Council, and the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station (NRS).

The project area includes 545,000 acres of public forest land (WNF) and over 500,000 acres of private forest land with high stewardship potential (according to the Ohio Spatial Analysis Project (SAP)).

NRCS will focus funding from its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) on invasive plant management on 7,500 acres within the project area and adjacent to public forest lands. The Wayne National Forest will promote the EQIP program to private forest landowners within its acquisition boundaries and through its sponsorship of the Iron Furnace Cooperative Weed Management program to the larger project area.

Ohio Division of Forestry service foresters will work with landowners whose land has high stewardship potential to develop recommendations for managing invasive plants and coordinate EQIP applications, rankings, project implementation, and review.

Other partners will solicit, identify, and evaluate candidate municipalities for urban forest demonstration sites. Division of Forestry urban foresters will conduct six demonstration and outreach programs in conjunction with the WNF and the Ohio Invasive

Plants Council. Each organization will help develop and promote the urban forest invasive plant management demonstration site and programming.

Accomplishments so far include:

- An EQIP score sheet for invasive plant projects
- Drafting a news release to announce the availability of assistance through the Invasive Species forester and EQIP funding
- Meeting with U.S. Forest Service Research to plan a Tree of Heaven management study at Tar Hollow State Forest
- Developing a Division of Forestry Invasive Plant Web site
- Developing invasive plant control factsheets in cooperation with Ohio State University Extension
- Developing a questionnaire to measure the knowledge and priority levels of municipal managers about invasive plant management
- Surveying 50 communities that represent a range of population, capacity, and proximity to Federal, State, and county forests
- Planning an urban invasive plant presentation for a Parks and Cemetery Management workshop in Marietta, OH.

## **Redesign a Year Later: Northeast Monitoring Protocols for Forest Ecosystem Health: Connecticut Highlands Pilot Project**

by Roger Monthey, U.S. Forest Service, NAS&PF, Durham, NH

The health of forest ecosystems is important to all who value the many benefits that forests provide. The Connecticut Highlands in western Connecticut is a place of exceptional forest values to residents of Connecticut and New England. The Highlands protect public drinking water supplies, significant wildlife habitat, key working landscapes, and recreational opportunities for residents of the Northeastern United States.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Forestry was awarded a Redesign grant in 2008 to monitor forest health and productivity in the Connecticut Highlands. This effort involved collaboration with many partners, including

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Audubon Connecticut, University of Connecticut, Yale University, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, The Nature Conservancy, Metropolitan District Commission, and Connecticut Forestlands Council.

This project will identify and quantify threats to the forest health and productivity of the Connecticut Highlands. Project personnel will develop monitoring methods to rapidly and accurately measure key indicators of forest health, including floral characteristics, forest insects and diseases, invasive species, faunal populations, and soil properties.

Measuring key indicators will provide an early warning of forest health problems or, conversely, evidence of stable or improving forest health conditions. The monitoring protocols will be applied periodically to track how indicators are changing over time.

These data will be directly linked to existing layers of GIS-based data and models, and to critical public benefits derived from forests that can be identified. Personnel will also assess how reliably the indicators accurately measure forest health conditions.

## Cap and Trade Explained

by Sarah Hines, U.S. Forest Service, NAS&PF and NRS

Our climate is getting warmer, according to the most recent report from the Nobel-Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's premiere intergovernmental scientific body on climate change. The report states that the evidence that the Earth's climate system is warming is "unequivocal."<sup>1</sup>

Manmade emissions responsible for warming our atmosphere come from two primary sources—burning fossil fuels (83 percent) and land-use change and/or deforestation (17 percent). Many solutions for lowering emissions and transitioning to a cleaner, more sustainable economy in the United States center around the idea of a "cap and trade" system—a cap is placed on the amount of carbon emissions that can be produced within certain sectors of our economy, with the ultimate goal of drastically reducing economy-wide GHG emissions in the long term.

Businesses in these sectors could choose to upgrade, retrofit, or change their business practices to reduce their emissions to the mandated cap (which would gradually become tougher over a period of years), or buy allowances from other companies that have

reduced emissions below required levels, and therefore have emission allowances to spare or "trade."

## How can Forests Play a Role?

Scientists and policymakers widely recognize that forests play a substantial role in mitigating climate change. Sustainably managed and healthy native forests can act as carbon sinks, sequestering large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. On the other hand, degradation and conversion of forest land to nonforest use results in large carbon emissions.

Carbon offsets produced by forests could be part of a U.S.-wide cap-and-trade system. An offset represents an avoidance or measurable reduction in emissions from an "uncapped" sector of the economy (i.e., a sector that is not required by law to reduce emissions from their business practices). Offsets can provide a short-term "bridge" to a low-carbon future.

Those companies that cannot reduce their emissions to the mandated cap in the short term can either buy excess allowances from other companies (who have reduced below their cap) or purchase offsets (representative of emissions reductions and/or removals outside the cap).

Afforestation, reforestation, sustainable forest management, avoided deforestation, and appropriate substitution of wood-based products for more fossil fuel-intensive products are all ways that forests can enhance mitigation. Under a cap-and-trade system, practices related to some or all of these categories may generate offset credits, as long as these offsets qualify as real, additional, permanent, and verifiable.

## What about the Voluntary Carbon Market?

Many private forest landowners are already familiar with what a regulated cap-and-trade system might look like by participating in voluntary carbon markets. For example, the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) is a U.S.-based voluntary but legally binding cap-and-trade system. Afforestation and managed forest projects are both eligible.

Private forest landowners interested in enrolling need to have a forest management plan in place, conduct an inventory, and be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), or the American Tree Farm Group (ATFG). Consulting foresters then work with an aggregator to verify and sell credits over the CCX trading platform, and the landowner receives a check for the net revenue.

*(continued on page 8)*

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# Research

## Timber and Wildlife Harvesting Studies on the Massabesic Experimental Forest

by Bill Leak, Research Silviculturist, U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Durham, NH

The Massabesic Experimental Forest, headquartered in Alfred, ME, is a 3,700-acre forest purchased between 1937 and 1942 under the 1911 Weeks Act. The U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station owns it for timber and wildlife management research.

Oak and pine predominate with healthy proportions of hemlock, red maple, and other species. About 80 percent of the forest was heavily damaged by the 1947 fires, resulting in many acres of poorly stocked and low-quality stands.

After a long period of minimal harvesting, a series of new experiments was begun in 2007. Researchers wanted to study and demonstrate several regeneration methods in the oak-pine forest type and provide a range of wildlife habitat conditions.

A shelterwood harvest was applied to about 10 to 12 acres of mature pine. Four 3-acre patch cuts were made in an extremely low-quality stand of young oak and pine. A group selection harvest was also applied to a 25-acre stand of mature pine, oak, and hemlock.

However, the most impressive harvest was a thinning in about 95 acres of declining, poor-quality white pine

that had a small area of planted red pine. The theory was that if the tree decline was due to moisture deficits and/or infection by the canker *Caliciopsis*, a widely spaced crop-tree thinning might do some good.

Two levels of thinning were applied: low density (figure 1) that left about 30 to 40 square feet basal area per acre, and higher density that left about 60 to 80 square feet (figure 2).

Compared to the totally unimpressive original stand (figure 3), the transformation after thinning was remarkable—order was created out of chaos, potential value out of junk. We anticipate rapid understory development of pine and other species that will create ideal conditions for snowshoe hares. Growth and crown development in the thinned stands will be monitored as well as wildlife activity.

There are no results to date with one exception—the December 2008 ice storm had very little impact on the thinned stands. Fewer than 10 percent of the trees showed any significant damage, a good sign following such heavy thinnings.



Figure 1. Low-density thinning left about 30 to 40 square feet of basal area per acre at the Massabesic Experimental Forest (winter 2008).



Figure 2. High-density thinning left about 60 to 80 square feet of basal area per acre at the Massabesic Experimental Forest (winter 2008).



Figure 3. This is the original stand prior to thinning (winter 2008).

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### Cap and Trade Explained *(continued from page 7)*

Private forest landowners who want to learn more can talk to their consulting forester or go to the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Web site “Carbon Market Opportunities for Private Forest Landowners,” available at: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/carbon/index.shtm>. In addition to

CCX, there are several other options for selling credits in the voluntary carbon market, including “over the counter” (OTC) markets.

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<sup>1</sup>IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change Synthesis Report, 2007. Available at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/ar4-syr.htm>.

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# State Roundup

## Minnesota Officials Find Emerald Ash Borer Infestation in St. Paul Neighborhood

by Michael Schommer (May 14, 2009)

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced the discovery of an emerald ash borer infestation (EAB) in St. Paul just northeast of the intersection of Interstate 94 and Highway 280. This is the first detection of the destructive tree pest in Minnesota.

The infestation was initially reported to MDA by Rainbow Tree Care Company on Wednesday, May 13. After receiving the report and conducting an initial inspection, MDA submitted larvae from the infested trees to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for confirmation as EAB.

The MDA issued a quarantine prohibiting the movement of firewood, ash nursery stock, ash timber, or any other article that could spread EAB in Ramsey and Hennepin Counties, followed by a Federal quarantine. MDA staff conducted a thorough survey of trees in the surrounding area to assess the extent of the infestation.

With an estimated 900 million ash trees, Minnesota is a prime target for EAB. Earlier this year, MDA issued a quarantine for Houston County in response to an EAB infestation across the border in Wisconsin.

Early surveys indicate the infestation to be limited in extent. Approximately 60 trees were identified as being infected and scheduled to be destroyed. Both Hennepin and Ramsey Counties were quarantined and together they include the majority of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

While EAB spreads slowly on its own, it can hitch a ride to new areas when people transport firewood or other wood products infested with the larvae. Officials urge Minnesotans to take steps to keep EAB from spreading:

- **Don't transport firewood, even within Minnesota.** Don't bring firewood along on a camping trip. Buy the wood you need locally from an approved vendor. Don't bring extra wood home with you.
- **Don't buy or move firewood from outside your area.** If someone comes to your door selling firewood, ask them about the source of the wood.

- **Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees.** If you suspect your ash tree could be infested by EAB, visit <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eabplanning.htm> and use the "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?" checklist.

## EAB Quarantine Now in Effect in Vernon and Crawford Counties

by Mick Skwarok (April 22, 2009)

Madison, Wis. – The number of counties in Wisconsin under quarantine for the emerald ash borer (EAB) has now grown by two. Vernon and Crawford Counties are the latest to be added to the State's list of counties where the movement of hardwood firewood and other products is restricted in an effort to slow the spread of the tiny, green ash-killing beetle.

Emerald ash borer was discovered in Vernon County earlier in April in the small riverside community of Victory. Additional counties already under quarantine for EAB include Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Washington.

"The quarantine on firewood and ash products is an important step in slowing the spread of EAB in western Wisconsin," said Bob Dahl, plant protection section chief with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

Under the quarantine, businesses and residents in Vernon and Crawford Counties can no longer move these products out of the area: all hardwood firewood, ash timber, ash nursery stock, mulch, and manufactured ash products that have bark attached.

Businesses and industries may apply for compliance agreements through DATCP or the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will allow them to move certain products at certain times of the year or if specific conditions are met. There are no such agreements available for homeowners or campers who want to move firewood. Violating the quarantine is a criminal action and may result in a fine of up to \$200, 6 months in jail, or both. If regulated materials cross the State line, Federal penalties begin at \$1,000.

Information about emerald ash borer and quarantine issues in Wisconsin can be found at [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov).

The national EAB Web site can be found at [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info).

*(continued on page 10)*

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## State Roundup *(continued from page 9)*

### Maryland Passes Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009

On May 7, 2009, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley signed the *Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009* and the complementary bill *No Net Loss of Forest Act*, which will protect existing forests and encourage the planting of more trees to replace forests that have been cleared for development. Both bills are intended to protect the State's forested area in perpetuity and are the most historic pro-forestry policies ever adopted in Maryland.

The acts will promote retention and better management of Maryland's remaining forest lands with emphasis on privately owned forest lands. They encourage outreach to forest landowners to develop and implement Forest Stewardship Plans through the county-level Forest Conservancy District Boards and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension.

Approximately 76 percent of the State's 2.56 million acres of forested lands is owned by private, nonindustrial landowners. Development pressure is extremely high, thus putting Maryland's forests at risk.

Currently, only 1 in 4 forest landowners has any type of forest management plan. This legislation includes income tax incentives and protection of forest harvesting from nuisance suits. It also encourages local governments to be more conscious of pro-forestry options when making decisions through local planning and zoning practices that are not more restrictive than existing State policies.

### Meet Steve Grant: Northeastern Area Outstanding CFM Forester of the Year

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forester Steve Grant was recently named the *Northeastern Area Outstanding Cooperative Forest Management Forester* for Federal Fiscal Year 2009. Steve has worked as a Wood County Liaison and Private Lands Forester for nearly 25 years.

Steve's work for the Wisconsin DNR spans a breadth of duties, from working with community and school forests to advising many private landowners on a first-name basis. Steve and the Wood County Forest Administrator jointly manage the 37,000-acre county forest to provide public benefits for the county and practice sustainable forestry.



Steve Grant was recently recognized for his work as a cooperative forest management forester.

Steve works with the Wisconsin Woodland Advocate program to match landowners with other landowners that have common interests in forest management on their private lands. This is a very grassroots peer-to-peer network that Steve advises as a subject matter expert.

Steve has been an invaluable resource for the Wisconsin DNR, Wood County and its citizens, and private landowners. According to one landowner, "Steve has always been on top of my program. He will always be a welcome sight on my property."

### Gene Odato Leaves Harrisburg for Greener Woods

Gene Odato, long-time Section Chief for Rural and Community Forestry at the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, is leaving his position to become District Forester at the Tuscarora Forest District. The district is comprised of 91,165 acres and located in Cumberland, Franklin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, and Perry Counties. Gene, a 1975 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, has been a member of the Cooperative Forest Management Committee for several years and has served as Secretary and Treasurer on several occasions.



Gene Odato is leaving his post as Section Chief for Rural and Community Forestry in Pennsylvania.

### Jim Olson Retired July 1, 2009

Jim Olson retired July 1 as Stewardship Coordinator and BMP forester for the State of Delaware. Jim has served as a Delaware County Service Forester since 1989. When the Forest Stewardship Program was started, he also became the Stewardship Coordinator, a position he has held until the present. In July 1999, Jim added duties as a BMP forester overseeing Delaware's Erosion and Sedimentation Program.

Following his retirement, he and his wife Marge plan to move back to Upper Michigan and live in Houghton.



Jim Olson is retiring after 20 years of service to the Delaware Forest Service.

*(continued on page 11)*

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## State Roundup *(continued from page 10)*

### Dan Ernst Changes Hats in Indiana

Long-time private lands forester Dan Ernst, Indiana's Stewardship Program Coordinator, has transitioned to a State lands position with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Dan has worked for IDNR since 1977 and worked his way up through the organization to become an Assistant State Forester in charge of cooperative forest management by 1997.

To date, Dan's entire career has involved working with private landowners and promoting stewardship of

private forest lands. Dan will surely be missed by his friends and colleagues in cooperative forestry, and we wish him well in his new position.

Cooperative forest management duties in Indiana will be assumed by Phil Wagner, current IDNR Assistant State Forester with Special Programs. We welcome Phil to cooperative forestry! He can be reached by calling 317-232-4115 or sending an e-mail to [pwagner@dnr.in.gov](mailto:pwagner@dnr.in.gov).

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## Naturalist's Corner

### Integrating Timber and Forest Bird Habitat Management

by Roger Monthey, U.S. Forest Service, NAS&PF, Durham, NH

From spring through mid to late summer when bird breeding activity declines, the eyes and ears of birdwatchers hone in on the bright splashes of bird color and calls of birds flitting across the woodland panorama. Many of these species are Neotropical migrants that add an international flavor to our woodscapes.

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry unit of the U.S. Forest Service recently awarded a grant to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR). The 2-year project, *Foresters for the Birds: Helping Landowners Integrate Timber and Forest Bird Habitat Management*, is a joint venture between the Forest Service, Vermont Department of FPR, and Audubon Vermont.

The project will train foresters and other forest professionals to manage timber in ways that protect and enhance Neotropical migratory bird habitat.

Woodland owner surveys often show that landowners are interested in wildlife habitat and nature protection, among other values. Wildlife habitat and forest management goals, if planned out wisely, can complement each other.

The project will focus on private land in forest blocks that have high-value habitat for a diversity of breeding Neotropical migratory birds. Project personnel will develop training workshops for foresters, bird-friendly forest management guidelines, and model language for new stewardship plans.

The project's goal is to provide direct technical assistance to 50 landowners on stand-level silvicultural practices that can enhance habitat for breeding birds. The first workshop was held May 7 and 8 in Huntington, VT (figures 1 and 2).



Figure 1. Vermont County Forester Michael Snyder gives a presentation during the first workshop for the project held May 7 and 8 in Huntington, VT.



Figure 2. Vermont County Forester Michael Snyder discusses the merits of a small patch cut for songbird habitat with an emphasis on the Chestnut-sided Warbler, an early successional bird species.

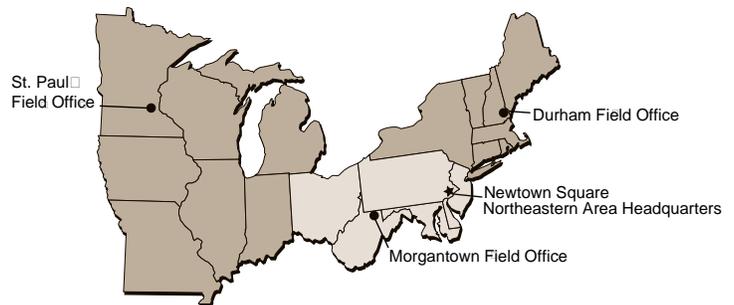
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Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry



### Naturalist's Corner *(continued from page 11)*

The U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative Committee defines bird species that are declining as *responsibility* bird species. If a responsibility bird species has a high proportion of its global population breeding in a region, species conservation efforts should be focused there. The concept is to take action and conserve birds in the core of their population range before they end up on a threatened or endangered species list. Low-cost **stewardship activities**, education, and monitoring can help maintain or increase these bird populations.

Vermont has 39 species of responsibility. Audubon Vermont has already developed nine recommended forestry practices to protect and promote the State's species of responsibility. These include creating and enhancing vertical structure, limiting management activities during the breeding season, keeping forested buffers along streams, retaining overstory trees when harvesting, retaining deadwood, softening edges between habitats, minimizing linear openings, maximizing forest interior, and retaining early successional forest habitat.