



# Forest Matters

*The stewardship newsletter*

Summer 2010  
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USDA  
Forest Service  
Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry



**Northeastern Area  
Forest Stewardship  
Web site and Forest  
Matters online:**

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

## Forestry Programs for Massachusetts Landowners

Kent Lage, Director of Forestry Programs, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

Seventy-six percent of Massachusetts' 3.1 million acres of forest land is privately owned by approximately 220,000 individual landowners. An additional 20,000 to 30,000 acres is owned by municipalities as "Town Forests." The flow of public benefits from these forests—clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreation, and long-term wood supply—is directly related to their health and sustainability.

To promote and protect the Commonwealth's forests, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) issued a formal request to administer four forestry programs—Forest Viability and Enhancement, the Federal Forest Stewardship Program, Pilot Forest Carbon Offset and Trading, and Land Conservation Estate Planning Outreach. A partnership of three groups—the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (Farm Bureau); Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.; and CarbonTree, LLC—was awarded a contract for the first three programs.

### *Forest Viability and Enhancement Services*

The Forest Viability Enhancement Program will focus on forest landowners currently engaged in any one or a combination of these three forest-based business categories: traditional forest products, nontraditional forest products, or recreation and wildlife. The goal by June 30, 2012, is 15 covenants with 1,500 acres under covenant.

In Phase I, the Farm Bureau and the DCR will identify and select participating landowners. Approved participants will then work with a team of environmental, economic, and marketing consultants to develop a focused Forest Viability Enhancement Plan. This plan will suggest ways the landowner can increase the economic return from their forest-based business using ecologically sustainable methods such as more efficient production of specialty products, niche marketing, direct marketing, value-added initiatives, ecotourism, and improved management practices.

In return for having a plan developed, a participating landowner must commit to a 7-year Phase I agreement with the DCR. Under the agreement, the landowner will manage the entire property that forms the basis for the forest-based business under a Forest Stewardship Plan using long-term forest management principles.

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### ***Forest Viability and Enhancement Services***

*(continued from page 1)*

In Phase II, landowners with a DCR-approved plan will be considered for funding to implement specific portions of the plan. Implementation awards will not exceed \$20,000 per plan. The landowner is also required to convey a 20-year covenant to the DCR on the entire property on which the forest-based business is derived.

### ***Forest Stewardship Services***

The primary objective of the Forest Stewardship Program is to reduce the likelihood that forest properties will be developed by encouraging active forest management through a 7-year agreement with the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program. The program provides a cost share to develop Forest Stewardship Plans. Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D has been running this program for the DCR and U.S. Forest Service for 15 years.

Over a recent 3½-year period, the Forest Stewardship Program sent educational materials to nearly 15,000 landowners who collectively own 685,000 acres (almost one-third) of the State's private forest land. During this same time, 784 Forest Stewardship plans were completed on 51,000 acres of forests. The goal of this new contract is to add 52,000 acres of private and municipal forest land to the Forest Stewardship Program. DCR anticipates that 845 Forest Stewardship Plans will be completed during the term of this contract. In the first 12 months of the program under the WFI, 410 plans and upgrades were completed on 48,474 acres, including 11,950 acres of municipally owned land.

### ***Pilot Forest Carbon Offset & Trading Program***

Under this program, which is new to Massachusetts, interested forest landowners can earn revenue by selling greenhouse gas emissions credits from carbon sequestered on lands managed as working forests. Managed forests sequester carbon faster than unmanaged forests. This additional carbon storage has monetary value in the form of carbon credits. The credits will be aggregated by CarbonTree, LLC, and sold on the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) or another approved Climate or Carbon Exchange with the proceeds going to the landowners. The goal of this program is to encourage landowners to commit to managing their forests sustainably with the incentive of payment for carbon stored by their managed forests.

CarbonTree will explain this new program to landowners. They have developed an application, brochure, and specific guidelines for carbon inventory that meet the protocols approved by the CCX for their work primarily in New York. CarbonTree will conduct workshops with interested licensed foresters to go over the carbon inventory guidelines and develop a list of licensed foresters interested in conducting these inventories, either as part of the inventory process for a Forest Stewardship Plan or separately. Based on discussions with licensed foresters and the DCR, CarbonTree will develop a payment schedule for reimbursement for carbon inventories pending the DCR's approval.

The goal of this contract is to add 24,000 acres of private, municipal, and State forest land to the Pilot Forest Carbon Offset and Trading Program by funding forest inventory and administrative costs. The DCR anticipates that 240 forest ownerships will be completed during the initial term of this contract.

***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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# Stewardship News

## WebDET/WinDET Help Desk Now Online

The WebDET/WinDET Help Desk is now fully operational. Navigate to <http://www.webdet.info> for direct access to resources, very user-friendly quick start guides, and more indepth information about these programs (click on Other Important Points). For technical help, call the toll-free number (800-908-7550) or create a Help Desk account and make an on-line service request. The NA State and Private Forestry contact is Mike Huneke (610-557-4110, [mhuneke@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhuneke@fs.fed.us)).

WebDET is a Web-based tool for entering data and writing reports in support of the U.S. Forest Service Forest Stewardship Program. Access WebDET through a Web browser without the need for desktop GIS software or software expertise. WebDET is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. State forestry agencies provide WebDET to field foresters who work with private landowners to prepare Forest Stewardship Management Plans, record contact and other information about the property, track plan accomplishments, and spatially display and analyze the property's locations and associated activities.

WinDET is a desktop application extension to WebDET. It lets nontechnical users mimic the preparation of a Forest Stewardship Management Plan using packaged software specifically and solely intended for this use. This stand-alone application runs on a personal computer and is independent of the Internet. WinDET is for State stewardship coordinators, private contractors, and other State staff who write forest stewardship plans for nonindustrial private forest landowners, who do not have access to adequate telecommunication connections, or for some other reason choose not to access WebDET on the Web.

The WebDET application is hosted in the USDA National Information Technical Center (NITC) data center in Kansas City, MO. All State and Federal users are required to obtain a USDA Level 2 Access account to access WebDET. Level 2 Access allows users to conduct official electronic business transactions with the USDA via the Internet. You must have a valid e-mail address to register for an account with Level 2 Access. In addition, you must visit the nearest USDA Service Center in person and prove your identity with a current State Driver's License, State Photo ID, U.S.

Passport, or U.S. Military ID. All WebDET users (State and Federal) must sign a Rules of Behavior form, and national Federal browser users have no access to landowner information, which is currently disabled in WebDET pending data encryption in the next release. Landowner information is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. For additional information about WebDET and WinDET, go to <http://www.webdet.info>.

## Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut

Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) is an important tree species in eastern woodlands that is valued for its timber and fruit. This native species of the Eastern United States was first introduced in the West by early settlers, where it has been extensively planted and thrived for over 160 years.

Beginning in about the 1990s, however, many black walnuts have died in the West in such places as Colorado and California. In fact, mortality has occurred in nearly all Western States where black walnut is found. Western black walnut species vary in their susceptibility to the disease from mildly resistant to somewhat susceptible. However, eastern black walnut is highly susceptible and makes up the overwhelming majority of the mortality.

The disease, aptly named "thousand cankers disease," is caused by a fungus (*Geosmithia sp.*) that hitches a ride with the tiny walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*). Not much is known about either of these two organisms, though early indications suggest that both may be native to the United States. The fungus is transferred to the tree when the beetle feeds. The fungus then creates a canker at each feeding site, and these cankers coalesce to girdle the tree.

This disease is only found in the Western United States right now. Of course the concern is that it may spread to the East where it could potentially devastate the black walnut resource. A conference was held recently in St. Louis to highlight thousand cankers disease, identify research needs, and form vital partnerships to help develop control strategies. For more information about thousand cankers disease of eastern black walnut, go to <http://www.walnutcouncil.org/>.

## Pest Alert: Thousand Cankers Disease

The U.S. Forest Service has published a Pest Alert for thousand cankers disease that is available at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/detail.cfm?id=5225>.

(continued on page 4)

## CFM Meeting Held in Lake Placid

New York State hosted the 2010 Joint Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) Committee/Forest Utilization Committee Meeting in beautiful Lake Placid June 14-16. The meeting opened with remarks from New York State Forester Robert Davies, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Director Kathryn Maloney, National Forest Stewardship Program Manager Karl Dalla Rosa, and an informative historical introduction to the Adirondacks from NYSDEC Regional Forester Tom Martin.

The meeting quickly proceeded into an informative presentation by Missouri CFM Forester Steve Westin related to the Stewardship Project, followed by the Awards Banquet where Michigan CFM Forester Deb Huff accepted the 2010 CFM Forester of the Year Award on behalf of award recipient Thomas Stone, a career State service forester from Michigan. Lunch was followed by further discussion and presentations from the Stewardship Project Workgroups, then a presentation from U.S. Forest Service Researcher Brett Butler on the TELE (Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively) Web site. The evening concluded with a guided van tour to the summit of the scenic Whiteface Mountain.

The meeting's second day consisted of field tours to a demonstration site depicting the integration of conservation easements and timber harvesting activities followed by a choice of an informative stop at the Adirondack Wild Center Natural History Museum in Tupper Lake and a Wood Pellet Manufacturing Facility in Massena, NY. The third day of the meeting included the CFM Committee Business Meeting and discussions about WebDET and American Tree Farm/State partnerships.

Congratulations to New York for hosting a fantastic meeting. Congratulations to New York for hosting a fantastic meeting. Copies of the meeting's presentations can be found on the CFM Web site at <http://northeasternforests.org/CFM/>. Next Year's CFM meeting will be held in New Jersey.

## Stewardship Project Focus Grants Awarded

The Forest Stewardship Project is an initiative of the U.S. Forest Service's Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters to identify new



Cooperative Forest Management meeting attendees pose for a photo during their recent gathering in Lake Placid, NY.

approaches to expand the scale and effectiveness of the Forest Stewardship Program in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Upper Midwestern States. Cooperative workgroups are currently developing guidance for new approaches to the Forest Stewardship Program that will address landscape-scale conservation, enhance financial viability for woodland owners, identify opportunities for more seamless government, and develop new metrics and measures of success for Forest Stewardship. To support this effort, the Northeastern Area will be allocating funding for the following Stewardship Project Focus Grants.

- *Minnesota*: Applying Landscape Stewardship in Multiple Scales and Settings – \$150,000
- *Ohio*: Developing Effective Communications and Outreach Tools for Expanding the Reach of the Forest Stewardship Project – \$150,000
- *Connecticut*: Private Forest Landowner Reactions to Community Engagement and Landscape-level Approaches to Forest Stewardship – \$149,946
- *Iowa*: Maximizing Forest Reserve Potential through Targeted Outreach in the Driftless Area – \$142,806
- *Pennsylvania*: Communicating Effectively for Enhanced Woodland Sustainability – \$137,983
- *Maine*: Development of New Partnerships to Support and Expand the Maine Forest Stewardship Program – \$32,996
- *Maine*: Determining Effectiveness of Landscape-Level Planning – \$32,050
- *Vermont*: Landscape-Based Forest Stewardship Planning – A Regional Approach – \$100,000

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# Applied Research

## Northeastern Tree Planting and Reforestation: A Guide for Woodland Owners, Farmers, and Others

Jim Ochterski, Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Ontario County

Peter Smallidge, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources

Jeff Ward, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Forestry and Horticulture

This recently published guide is a great tree planting resource. We plant trees for a variety of goals—timber production, aesthetics, privacy, wildlife habitat, woodland and watershed restoration, and windbreaks to reduce energy costs for homes. This publication includes a table to help you properly select tree species to meet a variety of goals.

It's important to fit tree planting into a wider forest stewardship plan (see text box below). A stewardship plan provides a road map to lay out goals, objectives, and planned activities for your property in an organized, efficient, and timely way while working with a professional private consulting forester or public service forester. If you have never planted trees before, there is lots of help out there, including public service and private consulting foresters, tree nursery owners, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Cooperative Extension personnel, trained woodland owner volunteers (in some States), and other natural resource consultants.

Plant only tree species that are adapted to your site conditions. There are three limiting factors for tree planting—soil texture, existing vegetation types, and exposure. How much water a soil drains or keeps controls which species of new trees will survive. For example, white ash, green ash, and red maple grow well on damp and heavy soils whereas red oak, red pine, and black cherry do not.

Trees are often planted in open fields. If there is dense goldenrod or dense tall grasses, clear them with repeated mowing, herbicides, or other techniques.

Exposure is also important. For example, oaks tolerate sunnier, hotter areas, such as south- and west-facing slopes; maples, however, thrive on northern or eastern slopes where the sun and wind tend to be less intense.

It is essential to make sure your planted trees survive. You don't want your trees to die after putting so much time and effort into planting them. Three factors largely determine planting success—controlling competing plants; protecting seedlings from deer, rabbits, and voles; and providing adequate moisture to allow new roots to develop.

You can control competing plants around planted seedlings by periodic mowing, mulching, placing weed mats, hoeing, furrowing, flaming, and applying herbicide. You may need artificial protection if high deer browse is anticipated. An alternative is to plant tree species less preferred by deer (for example, white pine and white spruce). Tree shelters (plastic tubes) around newly planted seedlings, if maintained properly, can protect your planted trees from deer browsing. Tree shelters are most appropriate for valuable hardwood trees on good soil and should be checked regularly because tubes can tip and become choked with weeds. Tree seedlings will not survive an extended dry period in their first few years. On well-drained soils, it might take only two rain-free weeks to kill your planted trees.

[This information, from *Northeastern Tree Planting & Reforestation*, published in December 2009, is available at <http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/info/pubs/management/TreePlantingBulletin12-09.pdf>.]

**The Forest Stewardship Program** is administered by the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry and its State and Territorial partners. The Program provides assistance to landowners to encourage the long-term stewardship of nonindustrial private forest lands. Planning assistance is a vital part of the Program, which provides landowners with enhanced access to other USDA conservation programs and/or forest certification programs. A Forest Stewardship Plan is a plan that addresses individual landowner objectives while adhering to National and State Forest Stewardship Management Plan guidelines. Criteria for Forest Stewardship Plans are listed in the Forest Stewardship Program National Standards and [http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/fsp\\_standards&guidelines.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/fsp_standards&guidelines.pdf).

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# Landowner Spotlight

## Forest Stand Improvement Using Pre-Commercial Treatments

David Paganelli, County Forester, Vermont

*I am a professional forester and woodlot owner in South Strafford, VT. The techniques described in this article have been practiced on my own woodlot and, in addition, have been taught to woodland owners in Vermont as part of my job as County Forester with the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks – Forest Stewardship Program.*



### Introduction

Forest stand improvement refers to pre-commercial treatments made in young forests to improve their species mix, stem quality, and growth rate. When these treatments are focused only on improving timber quality in the future, they are sometimes called *timber stand improvement*.

When forests establish naturally on abandoned agricultural land or regenerate following timber harvest, they begin with thousands of tree seedlings per acre. By the time these forests reach maturity, only one or two hundred large trees remain per acre. Nature is perfectly capable of choosing the winners and losers without our assistance, but Nature may choose the open-grown spruce rather than the well-formed sugar maple that we would prefer. By practicing forest stand improvement early in the development of a forest, we can adjust species composition and enable the trees we value most to grow to their full potential.

### Pre-Commercial Treatments

Foresters call treatments that do not generate enough revenue to pay for themselves *pre-commercial*. Typically pre-commercial activities take place in sapling or pole-size stands, or in stands where certain trees are of such low value that they cannot be harvested at a profit. These practices are usually made by forest landowners themselves or by contractors at an hourly rate. In Vermont, the most common types of pre-commercial forest stand improvement treatment involve one or more of the following:

- Girdling large, cull trees over desirable regeneration
- Thinning young stands with good stem quality
- Crop tree release
- Pruning young trees of exceptional quality

### Girdling

When pastures revert to forest, it is common to find large, open-grown pasture trees (wolf trees) in a sea of saplings and poles. Sometimes these large trees can be left here and there as *legacy trees* to promote structural and ecological complexity, but others may be harvested or girdled to make room for young trees of better quality. Girdling is the process of running a saw around the tree deep enough to interrupt the flow of water and nutrients from the roots up to the leaves and sugars from the leaves down to the roots.

We girdle those trees that would do too much damage to regeneration if we cut them down. Girdled trees die in place and break up slowly over time, generally doing little damage to surrounding trees. Additionally, large dead trees provide important wildlife habitat and eventually return to the soil where they provide valuable organic matter and nutrients.

When I girdle a tree, I first cut off all the low branches that might be in my way and move them out of my immediate work space. For hardwoods, this generally does not require much effort but with open-grown white pines, there can be many, large lower branches. Sometimes the ground is uneven or slippery and it is just good practice to reduce the amount of additional debris that could cause you to slip or trip. I run the chainsaw around the trunk at a comfortable height, perhaps 2 to 3 feet above the ground, and make my cut about an inch deep into the wood. The critical thing is that both ends of the cut should meet when you complete the circle. Then I offset about 6 inches and make a second girdling cut.

In my experience, a single girdling cut will kill about a third of the trees; double girdling will kill most, but not all, of the rest. Even after double girdling it often takes a year or two for trees to die; bigger trees take the longest. You may need to return after several years and do a followup treatment to pick up the few trees that overgrew your girdling cuts. Small trees often break during wind events after girdling, so I prefer to cut down trees that are 10 inches in diameter or smaller and only girdle larger stems.

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An open-growth white pine has been double girdled to provide growing room for the hardwood poles beneath it..

### ***Thinning and Crop Tree Release***

When trees become established on a site, they quickly fill the available growing space. As the average tree grows in size, there is room for fewer and fewer trees, and competition between trees for light is intense. Some trees win the battle for sunlight and persist in the stand, but most others will be crowded out of the canopy and will perish. The natural thinning process encourages full stocking of tall trees with small crowns and relatively slow diameter growth.

When we thin or make a crop tree release, we concentrate growth on the best stems and accelerate their growth rate. We identify those individual trees that we judge to have the greatest potential and then reduce the competition for those trees by cutting some of their closest neighbors. Thinning and crop tree release differ in both the pattern of cutting and the degree of release. Thinning results in modest release, more or less uniformly throughout the stand. Crop tree release focuses more significant release on just a few of the best trees.

With early thinning we try to maximize the number of future crop trees and the length of merchantable stem on each tree. However, since we maintain a higher early stocking level around each partially released tree, diameter growth is slower than if the trees were completely released from competition.

With crop tree release, we accept fewer crop trees per acre, and shorter merchantable stems, but maximize diameter growth rate by completely releasing trees from competition. The theory behind crop tree release is that a handful of trees in any stand contribute a disproportionate amount to the future value of the stand. We talk about wildlife crop trees (beech, oak,

cavity trees); aesthetic crop trees (paper birch); and timber crop trees. For timber crop trees that potential value is focused in the lower portion of the stem, so if we can maximize the rate of diameter growth there, we maximize the financial rate of return of the stand.

Thinning a stand or releasing crop trees when the trees are too small can reduce the natural pruning of lower branches. It is okay to do some very light corrective thinning in young stands, but no serious thinning efforts should take place until the average dominant trees are around 4 inches in diameter and at least 20 to 30 feet tall.

People often ask about spacing in young stands. “How far apart should my crop trees be? Ten feet? Fifteen?” But it really isn’t about how far apart the stems are, but how far apart the crowns are. The biological business (photosynthesis) of trees takes place in the crowns, and bigger crowns produce more energy to grow the tree. A good rule of thumb for thinning in young stands is to release the crown of every potential crop tree on at least two sides (of a circular crown) so that there is 2 to 5 feet of space between tree crowns. For crop tree release, release at least three sides of the crowns of the very best trees to leave 5 to 10 feet of space between tree crowns. It is okay to release a crown on its north side, but you will get the best growth response by releasing its east, south, and west sides since these are the aspects that receive direct sunlight.

### ***Pruning***

Pruning is the removal of low branches to improve the stem quality of the best trees. A clear log (free of knots) can have much higher value than the same log with a few, small branches. For quality hardwoods sometimes the difference between a sawlog and a veneer log that is worth perhaps five times as much is the presence of a single, small branch. Removing branches on the best-quality stems while they are still small (generally 4 to 8 inches in diameter) leaves time for the tree to overgrow its pruning wounds and produce the maximum amount of clear wood before harvest.

The best stems to prune are those that are straight; have only a few, small branches; and are free to grow. Hardwoods to be grown for veneer should be pruned to a minimum of 10.5 feet in height (a 10-foot log with 6 inches trim). Spruce grown for clapboard stock should be pruned to 12 to 16 feet long with an allowance for trim, and white pine should be pruned to at least 16 feet high. It is important to limit pruning to only the best of the best stems. In even the highest-

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# State Roundup

## New Forest Stewardship Coordinator for Iowa

Iowa State Forester Paul Tauke announced that Forestry Supervisor Aaron J. Lumley is taking over responsibilities for the Forest Stewardship Program in Iowa. Aaron is a graduate of Iowa State University and has been employed by the Iowa DNR for the past 5 years. Prior to that, he spent several years working in the forest products industry in the private sector. In addition to coordinating the Forest Stewardship Program, Aaron supervises 15 district forester positions and serves as the nursery manager at the State tree seedling nursery. Aaron can be reached at [Aaron.Lumley@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Aaron.Lumley@dnr.iowa.gov).

## Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Iowa

Iowa's first confirmed emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation was discovered in spring 2010. Several EAB larvae were found in a single tree on Federal property in Allamakee County along the Mississippi River in northeastern Iowa. This location is very close to a recently discovered infestation in Minnesota and to an infestation discovered in Victory, WI, in 2009. The State has placed Allamakee County under quarantine to prevent the movement of infested material out of the county in an attempt to isolate the infestation. For more information on EAB in Iowa, go to <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/iowainfo.cfm>.

## Sudden Oak Death Found in Pennsylvania

The Penn State Plant Disease Clinic confirmed that a submitted sample of diseased bay laurel is infected by *Phytophthora ramorum*, the fungus that causes sudden oak death (SOD) disease of oak. Sudden oak death has killed thousands of oaks in the Western United States, but to date has been kept out of eastern forests. If SOD is introduced in the East, this disease would pose a serious threat to the oak resource. The fungus can also infect a wide variety of highly valued ornamental species in addition to oak, which complicates efforts to keep the fungus out of the Eastern United States. The infected specimen came from a greenhouse and no infected material was released to the public, so the likelihood that the fungus was introduced into the natural environment is very low. It does, however, illustrate how easily accidental introductions might occur. Diligence is the key to keeping this potential forest pest out of the East. For more information on SOD, go to <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/index.html>.

## Minnesota EAB Update

### *February 25, 2010: MDA confirms emerald ash borer infestation in Minneapolis trees*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirmed an emerald ash borer infestation in four trees in the Prospect Park East River Road neighborhood of Minneapolis within Tower Hill Park. This infestation is within a mile of the St. Paul neighborhood in which the tree pest was found last year. The infestation was discovered through an ongoing survey of ash trees in the vicinity of the South St. Anthony Park neighborhood, where EAB was found in May 2009. While this marks the first time emerald ash borer has been found in Minnesota outside Ramsey County, State officials said the discovery was anticipated. Last fall, scientists determined that the St. Paul infestation had been in place for about 3 years prior to detection. Since the adult beetles can fly up to 2 miles each year, officials expected that the beetles had spread into Minneapolis.

### *April 29, 2010: MDA confirms EAB infestation in Houston County trees*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirmed an emerald ash borer infestation in three trees in the extreme southeastern corner of Houston County immediately across from Victory, WI, where an infestation was found last year. Houston County was quarantined last year as a precautionary measure because infested trees in Wisconsin were found only 0.1 miles from the Minnesota border. Woodpecker foraging symptoms helped surveyors find the EAB-infested trees.

[Both articles are from [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/fid/2010/fid\\_%20may10.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/fid/2010/fid_%20may10.pdf)].

## Invasive Plant Workshop in Illinois: the 2010 Stiltgrass Summit

The River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area is hosting a research and management summit on the invasive Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL, from August 11 to 12, 2010. Japanese stiltgrass, also called Nepalese browntop or eulalia, aggressively invades forested habitats in the Eastern United States. This summit will discuss recent

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research and management techniques and will feature presentations, panel discussions, field trips, and poster sessions. The summit starts on August 11 with afternoon field trips followed by a reception and poster session. The evening concludes with a presentation on the history on Japanese stiltgrass in the United States. On August 12, attendees will listen to presentations from stiltgrass researchers and management experts as well as take part in panel discussions on management options. This conference will be useful to anyone involved in natural resource management or research in the Eastern United States. For more information, go to <http://www.rtcwma.org/stiltgrass/>.

### **New Forest Stewardship Law Receives Praise in New Jersey**

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation applauds the State Legislature and former Gov. Jon Corzine for passing a landmark bill that provides incentives for private landowners to improve the health of New Jersey forests. The Forest Stewardship Act was passed by the Senate and Assembly on January 11 and signed into law by Gov. Corzine during his last full day in office on January 18.

Forest landowners with at least 5 acres are now eligible for reduced property tax assessments by actively managing their woodlands to promote forest health and sustainability. Previously, woodland owners participating in the farmland assessment program had to meet an income requirement, which forced them to cut their trees for timber and firewood. Participating forest landowners can use improved forest stewardship plans that promote productivity, regeneration, and restoration. Stewardship activities can include removing invasive plants; restoring endangered

species habitat; fencing property to encourage regeneration and prevent deer damage; and resolving problems caused by erosion, disease, and pests. For more information about the Forest Stewardship Bill, contact the New Jersey Conservation Foundation at [info@njconservation.org](mailto:info@njconservation.org) or 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728).

### **Maine Forest Working Group to Sponsor Fall Workshop**

The Maine Forest Working Group is sponsoring a workshop in Auburn, ME, November 5, 2010, at the Auburn Hilton Garden Inn. The theme will be *Keeping Forests as Forests – Developing Effective Outreach Strategies for Small Woodlot Owners*. This group includes personnel from the Maine Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Maine Resource Conservation and Development Councils, and U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry.

The meeting will help service providers develop more effective outreach strategies as they work with small woodlot owners. The speakers include Dr. Brett Butler of the U.S. Forest Service, located at the University of Massachusetts–Amherst; and Dr. David Kittredge, Extension Forester at the same university. Meeting objectives include building awareness of landowner outreach data and techniques, and helping each service provider develop an action plan that will help them use effective outreach strategies. Landowner outreach will be crucial to successfully implement the Forest Stewardship Project, a landscape-scale program designed to “Keep Forests as Forests” and exponentially increase the effectiveness of the Forest Stewardship Program.

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### **Pruning** (continued from page 7)

quality stands, it is seldom necessary to prune more than 50 hardwoods or 100 softwoods per acre. In order to maximize the rate of return from pruning, it is important that trees be fully released prior to pruning.

I prune low branches any time of year with a pair of hand clippers. Be careful to cut flush to the outside edge of the branch collar, which is the slight swelling between the branch and the trunk. The branch collar acts as a barrier to decay that may try to reach the trunk from the dead branch, so it is important not to injure it during pruning. As you prune higher on the stem it becomes more difficult to fully control your cut, and more likely you will injure the branch collar.

For pruning higher than I can comfortably reach, I use a pruning saw on a 6-foot pole for hardwoods. This allows me to reach to about 12 feet on the trunk with pretty good control. If you prune during the winter, snow depth can allow you to reach another foot or two. In order to prune softwoods to 16 feet or higher, you will probably need a pruning saw with an extendable pole. Because you need to stand below the branches you saw, wear a helmet and eye protection while pruning to protect you from sawdust and the severed branch.

## *Memorial to Rod Whiteman and Dan Snider*

### **Forest Service Employees Killed in Plane Crash**

Dan Snider and Rod Whiteman died doing the job they loved. The men, assigned to the Morgantown, WV, Field Office of Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, were killed when the plane in which they were conducting aerial pest surveys crashed on its approach to the Lock Haven, PA, airport. Pilot Patrick Jessup of New York State, on contract with the USDA, was also killed.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell said both men were well liked in their units and that their loss is tragic.

“Any loss within our Forest Service family is tragic, and we all mourn their deaths,” Tidwell said. “They were dedicated to their jobs, their families, and their communities. Perhaps we can take comfort in knowing their level of dedication to the Forest Service and to those around them.”

Whiteman, 46, originally from Oil City, PA, graduated from Penn State University in 1986 before joining the Forest Service as a forestry technician. Over the years he became an expert in all aspects of gypsy moth suppression projects on Federal lands in the Mid-Atlantic States. He also worked extensively as a firefighter and was certified as a firefighter Type-2, single-resource helicopter manager, and faller B. He served as the Morgantown Field Office aviation officer and trainer.

An avid runner, Rod was a member of the Roadrunners Club. He also enjoyed trapping, hunting, and fishing. He particularly liked to hunt in Marienville, PA, with his father, Glenn “Whitey” Whiteman.

Rod’s survivors include his parents, Glenn and Mary Jane Whiteman; his wife, Megan Lewis Whiteman, whom he married in 2002; and his daughter Haley. Rod’s family has asked that memorials be made in his name to Hunt of a Lifetime, P.O. Box 241, Harborcreek, PA 16421 or to Charitable Deeds, 98 Hickory Nut Lane, Knox, PA 16232.

Snider, 30, started his 9-year Forest Service career in 2001 as a student intern while attending North Carolina State University-Raleigh. He worked extensively on the Longleaf Restoration Project on the Coastal Plain of North Carolina. In 2005, Dan transferred to the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station as a forestry technician. He was part of the Agency’s chain saw crew that helped with recovery operations following Hurricane Katrina.

In 2007, Snider transferred to his current position as a biological science technician with the Morgantown Field Office. He worked extensively in the Forest Health Protection Group in cooperation with State partners on invasive insect and pest detection surveys in Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. His work included pest surveys for gypsy moth, hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, and Sirex wood wasps. He had received extensive training as a Forest Service employee in Geospatial Information, Advanced Firefighting Training, and Interagency Incident Business Management, and was working on certification as an Aerial Survey Technician. Dan, who owned the year-round Indian Meadows Campground in Pentress, WV, enjoyed music and embraced life. He was also a dedicated family man. His survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Cameron Snider, who works with the West Virginia Department of Forestry; and a son, Lee Wildman Snider, 2.



Dan Snider



Rod Whiteman

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# Naturalist's Corner

## Plants from the Woods Can Grace Your Home Landscaping

Roger Monthey, U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Durham, NH

Bringing forest plants into your yard adds greatly to the variety and beauty of your landscape. The easiest way to bring these plants to your yard is to let Mother Nature do it for you—windblown seeds of native plants find exposed soil areas and begin to grow. Wild birds and mammals are also important in transporting native seeds.

I have found the following native plants in my 1/3-acre yard near Portland, ME: smooth aster (*Aster laevis*), large-leaved aster (*Aster macrophyllus*), wild lily-of-the-valley (*Maianthemum canadense*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), white avens (*Geum canadense*), enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), rough-fruited cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*), purple-leaved willow herb (*Epilobium coloratum*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), common blue violet (*Viola sororia*), bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*), clearweed (*Pilea pumila*), rough-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*), evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*), calico aster (*Aster lateriflorus*), and alternate-leaved dogwood (*Cornus alterniflora*). My yard is located within a few hundred yards of a several hundred acre forest reserve, which likely aids in the transport of seeds to my property. Although I value all of these plants, I especially enjoy the alternate-leaved dogwood because of its attractive, wide-spreading branches and flat-topped white inflorescence.

In addition to natural recruitment, I have planted native plants that I purchased from nurseries, including Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), and American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*). You can also obtain woodland plants for your yard by trading with your friends and neighbors, or by "rescuing" wild plants from forested areas that are planned for residential or commercial development. Make sure you have specific permission from the private property owner on whose land you collect. And make sure your identification skills are honed enough to avoid collecting any endangered, threatened, or sensitive species on either Federal or State lists. Only take a small percentage of the population of the wild plant that you are removing. Collecting seed rather than the whole plant is less destructive than transplanting.

Many plants have edible and/or medicinal qualities. If you use plants for these reasons, make absolutely sure you know what you are picking and its bodily effects. Check usage and identification of these plants carefully with references such as *Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants and Herbs* (Steven Foster and James Duke, Peterson Field Guides) or *Foraging New England: Finding, Identifying, and Preparing Edible Wild Foods and Medicinal Plants from Maine to Connecticut* (Tom Seymour, The Globe Pequot Press). There are many other useful references besides these. *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* (by Lawrence Newcomb; illustrated by Gordon Morrison; and published by Little, Brown, and Company) is also an excellent general wildflower guide.



Large-leaved aster  
(*Aster macrophyllus*)



Wild lily-of-the-valley  
(*Maianthemum canadense*)



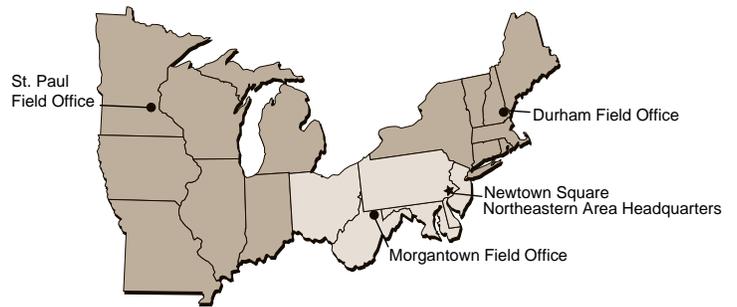
Alternate-leaved dogwood  
(*Cornus alternifolia*)



USDA Forest Service  
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**NA** Northeastern Area  
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