



North Dakota Forest Service

the prairie forester

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ARBOR DAY HONORS THE END OF WWI AND ALL VETERANS WHO HAVE SACRIFICED

The NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service and ND World War One (WWI) Centennial Committee are joining together to encourage all citizens to plant trees on Arbor Day, and throughout the year, to commemorate the centennial end of WWI and to honor all veterans who have sacrificed to keep our nation free.

A morning news conference and signing of the Governor's Arbor Day Proclamation will be held in Memorial Hall at the capitol in Bismarck, ND, on Friday, May 4, 2018. The first Friday in May is North Dakota's official Arbor Day. The public and all veterans are invited to attend.

Following the news conference, the Governor has been invited to join State Forester Larry Kotchman and ND WWI Centennial Committee Chair Darrell Dorgan in planting a tree near the WWI memorial on the capitol grounds to commemorate this event. A Prairie Expedition® American elm, released by the NDSU Woody Plant Improvement Program and resistant to Dutch elm disease, has been selected. Veterans in original WWI uniforms with rifles and flags will be in attendance.

Governor Doug Burgum's grandfather was a WWI veteran and this has historical significance for him. The idea of planting trees in honor of WWI veterans has precedence. Within a six-month period leading up to the



NORTH DAKOTA WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The ND State Arbor Day Celebration will encourage all citizens to plant trees this year to commemorate the centennial end of World War One and to honor all veterans who have sacrificed to keep our nation free.

Armistice on November 11, 1,300 young men from North Dakota died in WWI. Following the war, thousands of trees were planted across the state in memory of WWI veterans. It is believed one of the trees near the WWI memorial is one of those 100 year-old trees.

Arbor Day is a holiday set aside for planting trees and is an annual tradition in North Dakota. Trees provide environmental, economic, and social benefits that make direct and visible contributions to our quality of life and contribute to a vision of a safe country with vibrant communities. The trees planted across the state will leave a living legacy and lasting memorial for present and future generations. All citizens are urged to join us in planting trees this year to honor the sacrifices made by America's military personnel to preserve and promote enduring peace around the world.

The North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota WWI Centennial Committee will also have a role in the annual Memorial Day program at the Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan on Memorial Day, May 28, 2018. ND WWI Centennial Committee Chair Darrell Dorgan will provide remarks during the program. The North Dakota Forest Service will give a thousand Meyer spruce seedlings 12-inches tall to families of the veterans and the public on a first-come, first-served basis following the event to take home and plant to honor all veterans.

A series of events leading up to the Armistice ending WWI are being planned across the state. Check this website often for upcoming events:

[www.worldwar1centennial.org/
north-dakota-wwi-home-page.html](http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/north-dakota-wwi-home-page.html)

A View from the Top of the Tree

When spring arrives, we all have a desire to plant something outdoors. Whether you live on a farm or in a community, spring never seems complete until the planting is done. For those who like trees, we are fortunate to have Arbor Day, a special holiday set aside for tree planting. Arbor Day in North Dakota is proclaimed by state law as the first Friday in May. The tradition of Arbor Day is older than the state itself. We first celebrated the event in the Dakota Territory in 1882, seven years before statehood.

This year a special Arbor Day event is planned for May 4 on the North Dakota Capitol grounds. We are especially pleased to partner with the World War One (WWI) Centennial Committee to encourage all citizens to plant trees on Arbor Day, and throughout the year, to commemorate the centennial end of WWI and to honor all veterans who have sacrificed to keep our nation free. We have invited Governor Doug Burgum and the veteran's organizations to join us in planting a Prairie Expedition® American elm tree. This trademark selection made by North Dakota State University originated from a lone survivor among other American elm trees that died from Dutch elm disease in eastern North Dakota. American elm is North Dakota's state tree.



Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester

We owe a great deal to our veterans, and we are urging all citizens to plant trees this year to honor the sacrifices made by the men and women in America's military. Planting a tree will leave a living legacy to those that have served our country. I hope you will join us in remembering our veterans and support North Dakota's Arbor Day tree planting tradition.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry A. Kotchman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ND State Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator



Ashley Bahmiller
*Centennial Elementary School
Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner*

Ashley Bahmiller, a fifth grader at Centennial Elementary School in Bismarck, was selected as the first place winner of the 2018 State Arbor Day Poster Contest. The purpose of the contest is to encourage planting trees, increase awareness of the benefits trees provide, and celebrate Arbor Day.

The Arbor Day Poster Contest is part of the Keep North Dakota Clean (KNDC) Poster Contest, which is the largest and longest-running poster contest in the state. Over 10,000 students participate in the contest each year. Visit www.keep-nd-clean.org.

The 50th KNDC awards ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. in the National Energy Center of Excellence on the Bismarck State College campus in Bismarck on Friday, April 27, 2018. Ashley's immediate family and teacher, Summer Czczok, are also invited to attend.



Municipal Forestry Institute

By: Gerri Makay, Community Forestry Program Manager



The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) sponsors an annual forestry leadership academy known as the Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI). The 2018 MFI was held the week of February 18-23 at the Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center in Litchfield, CT, located about 30 miles west of Hartford. Gerri Makay, Community Forestry Program Manager for the ND Forest Service, and Trent Wise, Arborist Supervisor for Fargo Park District, were among the 32 participants in the 2018 program.

MFI is an intensive professional development opportunity for people who plan, manage, and administer urban forestry programs and who want to become more effective leaders and managers. A team of urban forestry professional and educators with years of experience leading urban forestry efforts at the local, state/provincial, federal, and non-profit levels developed the Institute curriculum. Four major components of the MFI curriculum include:

- Developing a leadership approach to your position;
- Thinking and planning strategically to advance urban forestry efforts;
- Working effectively with boards, coalitions, and non-profit organizations; and
- Managing the relationship between people and trees.

The training is presented in a variety of formats including lectures, multi-media presentations, panel discussions, group exercises, and real-

life scenarios. Part of the MFI experience involves readings and online discussions completed as pre-work, prior to the week of group instruction.

One of the highlights during the week included time spent with Dr. David Nowak, a project leader with the USDA Forest Service. Dr. Nowak related his experiences of 30 years in the world of urban forestry, including his work on the development of software tools such as i-Tree that quantifies ecosystem services from urban vegetation.

More than 700 graduates, including more than a dozen representing North Dakota, have completed the leadership training since the program began in 2006. The North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association (NDUCFA) provides an annual registration scholarship for one member to attend MFI. Trent Wise was the NDUCFA scholarship recipient for 2018.

Professional Development Opportunities for K-12 Educators

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

The North Dakota Forest Service and partners are offering two professional development opportunities this summer for K-12 educators for credit.

The first, **“How do we Know? Looking at the Evidence,”** will be held **June 20-22, 2018**, at the Heritage Center in Bismarck. The institute will investigate newly developed resources and some proved standards from partners in the ND Teacher Resource Coalition. Participants are responsible for their two credit costs, hotel lodging, if needed, and a few meals.



The second, a final GeoFIT (*Forestry Institute for Teachers*), called **“Our Environment: The Essential Resource”** will be held **July 31-August 2, 2018**, and is offered by the ND Forest Service and ND Geographic Alliance. Based out of Stanton, ND, each day will be spent with content rich, hands-on outdoor experiences and individual and group activities. The charter bus tour of central North Dakota will include

stops at Garrison Dam, National Fish Hatchery, Audubon Wildlife Refuge and LEED building tour, Knife River Indian Villages, Lewis and Clark Center and Fort Mandan, Cross Ranch, Great River Energy Plant, and Heritage Center. The cost is two credits, a few meals, and a \$100 registration fee.

Participants in either workshop can obtain credits from Minot State University, ND State University, or the University of ND. Pass/Fail or letter grades will be offered.

Partnership Benefits Ruffed Grouse

By: Ron Wilson, ND Game and Fish Department and Michael Kangas, Nursery and State Forests Team Leader

Last fall, and during part of the mild winter, work was done on a variety of small chunks of woodlands in the Turtle Mountain forest to improve the health of the woodlands and create an environment that will benefit ruffed grouse and other animals. As part of a cooperative agreement between the ND Game and Fish Department and the ND Forest Service, the agencies plan to treat 5- to 10-acre patch-cuttings over the next ten years on high priority Forest Service and Game and Fish lands.

While hard hats and chainsaws are employed at times, much of the work to clear blocks of forest and stack logs falls on a forestry brush cutter and a heavy-duty skid steer. The equipment was purchased by the agencies through federal Wildlife Restoration



A plan is in place to apply regeneration treatments in the form of 5- to 10-acre patch-cuttings in the Turtle Mountains over the next 10 years to benefit grouse and other animals with a forestry brush cutter.

Photo courtesy of Ron Wilson, ND Game and Fish Department

Act funds. The forestry brush cutter, sort of a lawnmower/weed whacker on steroids, chews up most everything in its path, thereby allowing vigorous regrowth of aspen suckers. The bigger trees, those bigger around than 12 inches, are cut by chainsaw and stacked with the skid steer.

“By sharing this equipment, we will be able to initiate some stand treatments that are going to have a long-term, beneficial impact on a variety of wildlife species in the Turtle Mountains,” said Mike Kangas, ND Forest Service nursery and state forest team leader.

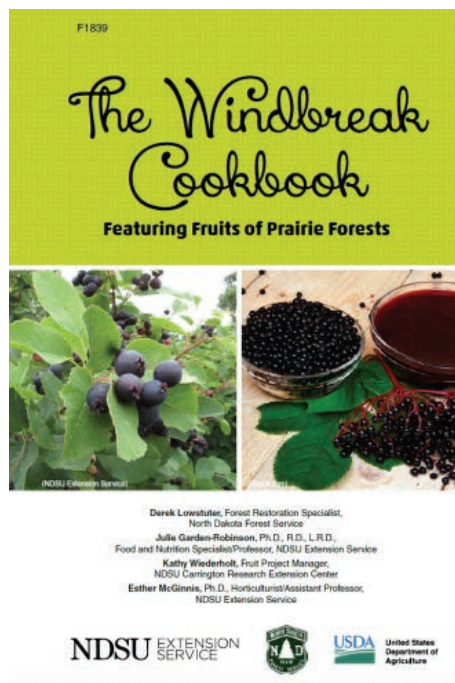
Reprinted in part with permission from the ND Game and Fish Department.

Windbreaks are Part of Local Food in Rural ND

By: Derek Lowstuter, Forest Stewardship Manager

North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) Forest Stewardship staff were invited to attend and present at the 14th annual ND Farmers Market and Growers Association (NDFMGA) and Local Foods Conference. This year’s conference was held at the Grand Hotel in Minot, ND. The two-day conference, sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and the NDFMGA, attracted growers, processors, marketers, and others from across the state.

Conference attendees were shown how appropriately-designed windbreaks cannot only improve growing conditions for commodity and specialty crops, but can produce specialty crops themselves. Fruit and nut-bearing trees can be incorporated



into new or existing plantings to provide additional value for landowners or wildlife.

NDFS staff collaborated with NDSU Extension Service staff to publish a cookbook and cultivation guide that highlights just some of the species suitable for North Dakota. The cookbook was funded through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service – Forest Stewardship Program. The book can be picked up for free at your local NDFS field office or downloaded at:

www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/lawns-gardens-trees/the-windbreak-cookbook-featuring-fruits-of-prairie-forests

Emerald Ash Borer a Giant Leap Closer

By: *Lezlee Johnson, Forest Health Manager*

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed emerald ash borer (EAB) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in December 2017. Only sixty miles north along a well-traveled highway, it is the closest known EAB infestation to North Dakota. The insect appears to have arrived at least five years before its discovery. In that time, EAB spread to adjacent street trees and to park trees 1,500 feet away. Surveyors discovered the best indicator of an EAB infestation is observing light colored bark caused by woodpeckers foraging on ash trees for EAB larvae.

EAB is a small metallic green beetle. Adult beetles lay eggs on ash tree bark during the growing season. When the eggs hatch, the larvae chew tunnels under the bark, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients and stressing ash trees. The stressed tree attracts more beetles, which continue the attack until they kill the tree. North Dakota is particularly vulnerable to EAB because green ash is our most abundant tree in forests, in windbreaks, in conservation plantings, and in communities.

EAB cold-hardiness research, cross-referenced with a study of actual temperatures of ash tree inner bark,



The emerald ash borer is smaller than a penny and difficult to find because it hides in the bark.

North Dakota Cities Within 100 Miles of EAB *



Emerald ash borer is as close as 60 miles to the nearest North Dakota community of Pembina.

accurately predicted that EAB would survive these conditions. EAB survival in Winnipeg's cold winters is associated with thick trunks, south sides of trees, and being below the snow line. It is reasonable to expect EAB will be able to survive North Dakota winters as well.

Based on cold-hardiness research, EAB is likely to spread more slowly in Winnipeg (and in North Dakota once it arrives) than it has elsewhere. Once detected, EAB cannot be eradicated, so Winnipeg is adopting the "Slowing Ash Mortality" (SLAM) approach to municipal tree management. This approach is based on a good tree inventory and involves selectively removing large ash trees, removing most ash trees as they die, treating some ash trees with pesticide to delay their death, and intensively surveying and monitoring the infestation.

Lessons learned from Winnipeg include the following: cold will not protect North Dakota from EAB, managing EAB is expensive, do not plant ash, plant a variety of trees, update or begin a tree inventory, remove poor quality ash trees, develop an EAB management plan, survey for EAB and infested trees, and learn more about emerald ash borer.

Green ash trees all across the state already show symptoms of stress from many causes. This makes it very difficult to monitor them for EAB. In order to identify an infestation as early as possible, be alert to woodpecker feeding in ash trees – especially on the south sides of ash trunks and branches. If you find this EAB sign, please note its location and send a picture of it to Lezlee.Johnson@ndsu.edu.

2018 Spring Fire Season Outlook

By: Ryan Melin, Fire Manager

It appears North Dakota will have a slightly cooler spring with most of the area seeing above normal precipitation. As in a normal spring, the state should see a fairly active and progressive weather pattern resulting in ample opportunities for precipitation.

With the current projected weather forecast, the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) is anticipating a normal spring fire season for much of the state with fire activity and fire danger driven heavily by periods of drier weather coupled with possible high wind events, which North Dakota often encounters. The NDFS will be closely monitoring western North Dakota where continued drought conditions have left the 100- and 1,000-hour fuels readily available for combustion and could provide for challenging fire suppression efforts.



A “Red Flag Warning” means the conditions of dry fuel, heat, and wind have the potential to create a fire.

The NDFS encourages checking the ND Department of Emergency Services website www.nd.gov/des/ on a daily basis to view adjective fire danger ratings, stay informed on the

current fire potential in your area, and view county issued burn bans. For more information, contact Ryan Melin at (701) 328-9985.

Forestry Datelines

April 27	Keep ND Clean 50 th Awards Ceremony BSC Energy Center, Bismarck, ND Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446	May 20-26	Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week Contact: Lezlee Johnson at (701) 231-5138
April 30	Community Forestry Grants ND Forest Service Deadline for post-marked applications Contact: Gerri Makay at (701) 652-2951	May 31-June 2	ND Firefighter’s 134 th Convention Valley City, ND Contact: Rob Knuth at (701) 222-2799
May 4	ND State Arbor Day News Conference and Tree Planting Honors WWI Centennial end and all Veterans who have sacrificed. Memorial Hall, Bismarck Capitol Building Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446	June 13	ND Community Forestry Council and State Stewardship Coordinating Committee Joint Meeting, Bismarck, ND Contact: Gerri Makay at (701) 652-2951
May 24	Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education (C2E2) Regular Spring Meeting NDFS Bismarck Office, 1:30 p.m. Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446	June 20-22	“How do we Know? Looking at the Evidence” K-12 Educators’ Professional Development, Heritage Center Bismarck, ND Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446

People in Forestry

FORESTRY MILESTONES

Each year, North Dakota State University (NDSU) recognizes staff who have passed milestones in years of service. The 30th NDSU Staff Recognition Social will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in the Memorial Union Great Plains Room on the campus in Fargo. The honorees will receive an NDSU Bookstore gift certificate based on years of service. The following ND Forest Service staff will be recognized:

5 YEARS

Loretta Forsberg, Administration Team Leader in Bottineau.

15 YEARS

Michael Kangas, Nursery and State Forests Team Leader in Fargo.

25 YEARS

Brenda Johnson, (retiree)



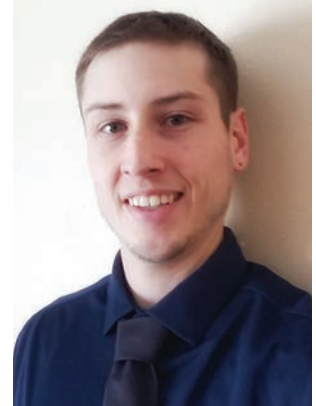
Elizabeth Mars
*Forest Stewardship Specialist
Lisbon NDFS Field Office*

Elizabeth “Liz” Mars was appointed by State Forester Larry Kotchman as the Forest Stewardship Specialist for the NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service. She began her duties on March 1, 2018, in the Lisbon field office.

Mars will be responsible for providing technical and financial assistance for the management and protection of native, riparian and planted forest resources. Her duties will include both office and field responsibilities promoting the Forest Stewardship Program and related programs, and directing landowners’ assistance to implement forestry best management practices

“I look forward to meeting and working with local landowners to ensure natural resource sustainability for present and future generations,” Mars said.

A Bismarck native, Liz received her bachelor’s degree in Natural Resources Management from North Dakota State University in Fargo. She was previously employed with the forestry department in the city of Dilworth, MN. She and her husband, Ned, love to travel to threshing shows.



Joshua Wolk
*Forest Stewardship Specialist
Walhalla NDFS Field Office*

Joshua Wolk was selected by State Forester Larry Kotchman to serve as the Forest Stewardship Specialist for the NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service. He began his duties on January 2, 2018, in the Walhalla field office.

Wolk will be responsible for providing technical and financial assistance for the management and protection of native, riparian and planted forest resources. His duties will include both office and field responsibilities promoting the Forest Stewardship Program and related programs, and directing landowners’ assistance to implement forestry best management practices

“I am looking forward to serving the rural landowners of North Dakota and helping them meet their forest stewardship goals,” Wolk said.

A California native and Colorado transplant, Wolk received his degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He formerly worked as a Conservation Land Manager in Queensland, Australia, and as a Seasonal Range Technician for Larimer County in Colorado.



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"The mission of the North Dakota Forest Service is to care for, protect and improve forest and natural resources to enhance the quality of life for future generations."

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