



2017 TREES AWARDS RECOGNIZE TREE CITY, TREE CAMPUS, AND TREE LINE USA PROGRAMS

The annual Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony, sponsored by the North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota State University (NDSU), recognized North Dakota's forty-eight Tree City USA communities, two Tree Campus USAs, and one Tree Line USA this year at the Fargodome on Saturday, September 23. The Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the US Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters, sponsors the Tree City, Tree Campus, and Tree Line USA programs.

Communities, campuses, and utility companies engaged in the programs show a commitment to the planting and care of trees that result in healthy, sustainable community forests, which improve the quality of life for everyone. The North Dakota Forest Service administers the programs.

Sixty-four percent of North Dakota's population lives in a Tree City USA community. North Dakota's largest Tree City is Fargo, and North Dakota has the smallest Tree City in the nation, Sibley, with a population of 22. Grand Forks and Mandan are the longest running with 41 years. NDSU was the first Tree Campus USA and United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) in Bismarck was the



The 2017 award winners recognized at the Fargodome during half-time.

first tribal college. Montana-Dakota Utilities is the only Tree Line USA in the state.

The leaders were recognized at the Fargodome with a noon luncheon followed by an awards ceremony. NDSU President Dean Bresciani and State Forester Larry Kotchman presented each representative with a plaque and a tree print. The award winners also attended the Trees Bowl football game and were recognized on the floor during half-time. The North Dakota Forest Service distributed 3,000 Meyer and Black Hills spruce trees after the football game.

The 2017 Tree City USAs include: Arthur-7 years, Bismarck-40 years, Bottineau-29, Cando-28, Carrington-27, Casselton-17, Cavalier-20, Cavalier Air Station-20, Cooperstown-29, Devils Lake-37, Ellendale-24, Dickinson-24,

Fargo-40, Forman-20, Grafton-29, Grand Forks-41, Grand Forks Air Force Base-24, Granville-24, Harvey-14, Hatton-12, Hazen-30, Jamestown-37, Lakota-7, LaMoure-32, Langdon-32, Lankin-21, Lincoln-11, Lisbon-28, Mandan-41, Mapleton-15, McClusky-2, McVile-20, Milnor-20, Minot-25, Mohall-3, New Rockford-25, Northwood-32, Oakes-10, Pekin-22, Rugby-14, Sibley-5, Towner-28, Valley City-29, Wahpeton-33, Washburn-9, Watford City-25, West Fargo-33, and Williston-36.

The 2017 Tree Campus USAs include: NDSU of Fargo and UTTC of Bismarck. The 2017 Tree Line USA is Montana-Dakota Utilities.

For more information, contact Gerri.Makay@ndsu.edu or call (701) 652-2951.



A View from the Top of the Tree

According to the National Association of State Foresters, today's fire seasons are on average 78 days longer than in the 1970s and are projected to grow hotter, more unpredictable, and more expensive. Federal wildland fire suppression costs for the 2017 season have already *exceeded \$2 billion*, making it the most expensive year on record. Catastrophic wildfires have occurred across the nation, approaching new records with over 8 million acres burned.

State Foresters are urging Congress to pass legislation this year that fixes the broken wildfire funding system and addresses much-needed forest management reforms.

- Over the last few decades, the portion of the USDA Forest Service's budget dedicated to fire has grown from under 20 percent to more than 50 percent of the agency's total budget.
- As wildfires eat up a significantly larger share of the agency's budget, critical funding that supports federal, state and private forests is reduced. Compounding the issue is a practice known as "fire borrowing," which occurs when the agency runs out of appropriated funding in a given year. Fire borrowing robs money from non-wildfire programs to pay for the current year's fire suppression needs.
- In order to cover wildfire suppression costs in recent years, the USDA Forest Service has been forced to dismiss employees early, cancel contracts, and halt plans to fill critical positions that conserve and protect our nation's forests, both public and private.

The National Association of State Foresters urges Congress to pass a bipartisan solution to the wildfire funding problem.



Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester

A solution must:

1. End late-season fire borrowing.
2. Stop the long-term erosion of funding for non-wildfire suppression programs due to the increasing share of the budget going to wildfire funding. This reduces funding to address insect and disease threats, provide firefighting assistance grants to states, and protect America's urban forests where 80 percent of Americans reside.
3. Encourage more active federal forest management, either associated with fire funding reform or separately. State Foresters support rewarding collaboration, streamlining the National Environmental Policy Act process, and expanding the use of categorical exclusions, such as for more active post-fire salvage, reforestation, and more.

We are hopeful this bipartisan solution will fund the suppression of catastrophic wildfire like other natural disasters and enable more active management to protect our nation's forests and communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry A. Kotchman".

Tree City USA Deadline

By: Gerri Makay, Community Forestry Manager

All Tree City USAs must apply each year to recertify for the program. Communities are encouraged to submit applications online at www.arborday.org/programs/. The

deadline to apply is December 31, 2017.

The Tree City USA signs at community entrances enhance the community's public image and tell

visitors the city or town cares about its environment. For more information, contact Gerri Makay in Carrington at Gerri.Makay@ndsu.edu or call (701) 652-2951.

Denbigh Day Bridges the Gap for Youth and Adults

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

The ND Forest Service and US Forest Service partnered together to celebrate National Public Lands Day with two separate free events—one for students and one for the public—on Friday, September 29, 2017, at the Denbigh Experimental Forest. Public lands come in all sizes and varieties and are the places where we live, learn, play, exercise, and relax. Everyone attending learned about the history of the Denbigh Experimental Forest and the plants and wildlife that live there, as well as the professionals who manage it.

When asked about the importance of engaging youth in forest management and other environmental issues, Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator, ND Forest Service, said, “Today’s generation of youth is the first to spend so much time growing up indoors. Children’s plugged in lives are often devoid of chances to explore the outdoors. Additionally, if youth and adults are detached from nature, how will they learn about, understand, and value natural resources? How will the next generation care about the land and be stewards of its resources?”

To help educate youth, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade area students were engaged during the day in some active learning experiences regarding

forest management and issues; forest health and invasive species; tree identification; multiple use principles, and natural resource careers. Everyone also got to hike and explore the forest. We want students to see the relevance of their classroom studies to complex environmental issues, and help acquire skills they’ll need to be creative problem solvers for a sustainable future.

Casey Johnson, Sheyenne District Ranger, US Forest Service, says, “Getting students onto their public lands and into forests and grasslands to learn about sustainability is important. Getting youth connected to the outdoors and their public lands is good for forests and grasslands and good for kids.”

Families and interested adults were invited to bring their own picnic lunch and lawn chairs out to the Denbigh Experimental Forest for a family-oriented evening meal and program starting at 6 p.m. Johnson gave an overview of the Denbigh Experimental Forest’s history while folks were enjoying their evening meal. Later, everyone had the chance to explore the forest arboretum and hike the skyline trail. The fixings for s’mores around a hosted campfire were provided. After dark, Deb Nelson, Bottineau High



Students spent a day...and families spent an evening...in the Denbigh Experimental Forest.

School science instructor, showed everyone how to use a free app to find and view constellations using their cell phones or tablets.

These two opportunities helped instill a lifelong appreciation for the value that forests and grasslands represent for biodiversity, the broader environment, sustainable communities, natural resource products, recreation, and our shared quality of life. Everyone enjoyed the great outdoors and celebrated the public lands that give us so much.

For more information, contact: caseyjohanson@fs.fed.us / (701) 683-4342 or Glenda.Fauske@ndsu.edu / (701) 228-5446.



2018 Towner State Nursery Catalog is Here!

By: Rhonda Schell, Sales and Office Manager

The 2018 Towner State Nursery catalog is here! For best availability for next spring’s planting season, customers should order by December 1. Confirmations will be sent out by the end of the year. The

minimum order has changed to 100 trees. Customers can order from their local Soil Conservation District office or from the nursery directly. The catalog is available online at www.ndsu.edu/ndfs/.

Congressman Cramer Delivers ND Bur Oak Saplings to Kazakhstan

By: Jeff Smette, Nursery Manager



US Ambassador George Krol and Embassy staff planting bur oak saplings from the Towner State Nursery in Kazakhstan for Astana's new Botanical Garden in honor of EXPO 2017 on August 30. (Photo courtesy US Embassy Astana)

President Donald J. Trump sent a Presidential Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan to attend the EXPO 2017 International Fair on “Energy of the Future” in the capital city of Astana in August. ND Congressman Kevin Cramer was a member of the Delegation. Cramer delivered bur oak saplings from the

North Dakota Forest Service Towner State Nursery to the US Kazakhstan Ambassador George Krol to plant at the State Botanical Garden in the capital of Astana in honor of EXPO 2017. Countries participating in the EXPO all brought gift trees to plant.

The Botanical Garden complex

provides a leading research, cultural, educational, and environmental center. It consists of eight pavilions of various sizes and adjoining gardens. Each has geographical and climatic conditions corresponding to a certain zone on Earth.

The bur oak was selected by the US Forest Service both for its ability to stand as a symbol of the United States and for its suitability for the harsh Astana climate.

“It was an honor to represent President Trump at EXPO 2017, and a special treat to deliver 20 bur oak saplings from ND as our country’s contribution to the Botanical Garden being developed to memorialize this momentous event,” said Congressman Cramer.

The Towner State Nursery produces one million seedlings annually in over thirty different species and stock types for distribution to landowners.

State Forest Improvements

By: Tom Nowatzki, State Forests Manager

The 2017 season has been a busy one on the State Forests. We started out the season assessing the improvements made on the Turtle Mountain State Forest trail system and started planning for the next phase of trail improvements that will be made during the 2018 summer season. Grant money has been secured by the ND Parks and Recreation Department to continue trail improvements.

A new development on the Turtle

Mountain State Forest trail system has been the increased interest in mountain biking. Of course, the trail system has been designed to be a “multi-use” trail and mountain bikers are welcome, but there was some friction between two of the user groups. Horseback riders have traditionally been the largest user group and expressed some concern that the mountain bikes can spook their horses if the bikes come speeding down the trail past the horses. In response to this, we have



posted “Share the Trail” signs on the trailheads to explain the trail courtesy that is necessary for all of our user groups to coexist on the trail system.

Community Tree Inventories Prepare to Go Online

By: *Lezlee Johnson, Forest Health Manager, NDFS, and Dana Schaar Jahner, Executive Director, NDUCEFA*

Communities can make the best decisions about managing their trees when they have good information about their trees. A community tree inventory is the collection of information about the health and diversity of the community forest. It answers questions about the number, kinds, and condition of trees in a community. A tree inventory report includes information about the benefits provided by community trees, as well as tree management recommendations.

Thanks to cooperative efforts between communities, the North Dakota Forest Service, and the US Forest Service, many of North Dakota's cities already have a basic tree inventory. The CTAP, or Community Threat Assessment Protocol, is a tree inventory project that began in 2013 and continues today.

The North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association (NDUCFA) has joined these partners and is taking a giant leap forward with an updated online Tree Inventory Planning (TIP) tool. The TIP tool will be available in January 2018. All of the completed CTAP tree inventories will be available online, and communities will have instant access to their tree inventory. They can use this to develop grant applications, make management decisions, and see colorful reports about their community forest.

After attending a short training workshop, communities will be able to update their own inventory, adding trees they have planted and removing those they have lost. An Emerald Ash Borer Cost Calculator will be available



A tree inventory is the collection of information about the health and diversity of the community forest. An online Tree Inventory Planning (TIP) tool will be available in January 2018. TIP will give communities instant access to their inventory, which can be used to make management decisions and develop grant applications.

to help make the most cost-effective management choices in preparation for the possible appearance of this invasive pest.

Trees are a valuable part of a community's infrastructure and provide benefits to a community over their entire lifetime. Good management of this resource maximizes the value that trees produce and minimizes tree conflicts. Some of the benefits of trees include saving energy costs, reducing stormwater runoff, removing air pollution, health benefits, and lower violence and crime. In fact, trees are the only component of infrastructure that actually increases in value over time. With an inventory, the actual dollar amount of some of these benefits can be estimated. This helps make a good case for a sound tree planting program.

A community tree inventory can help a community set goals for tree management. For example, a city may wish to increase the number and diversity of trees through a planting program or reduce the number of poor quality or diseased trees through removals. Common goals in North Dakota include planting a wider diversity of tree species and reducing the numbers of very poor-quality trees. An inventory allows cities to move from a reactive stance, constantly responding to storm events, invasive disease or pests, or other catastrophes, to a system where the city can withstand these disasters.

For more information, contact the NDUCFA or one of the Community Forestry staff at the North Dakota Forest Service.

Fire Grants and Fire Training Opportunities

By: *Ryan Melin, Fire Manager*

The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) Fire Management Team is wrapping up another busy year with fire suppression assignments across much of the western United States. NDFS firefighters also assisted several North Dakota fire departments.

The Fire Management staff continues to work with the new reporting tool that has streamlined the reporting process for departments and, hopefully, bolster reporting numbers for the state of North Dakota. The reports will have a direct impact on the grant funds available for fire departments.



NDFS Service Cooperative Fire Protection Assistance grants are due November 17, 2017. Fire departments must utilize the reporting tool developed by the NDFS and Emergency Reporting to be eligible for grants. For more information, contact Michael Odell, Cooperative Fire Protection Manager, at (701) 328-9915.

ND Forest Service firefighters assisting the Mandan Rural Fire Department and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in the Little Heart Bottoms south of Mandan. The fire was contained to 50 acres thanks to the great coordination and cooperation of all agencies involved.

The fire management staff is currently planning its winter training schedule. With numerous requests from rural fire departments and the fire management's partnership with the North Dakota Firefighters Association for its State

Fire School, it looks to be a busy winter. To request wildland fire training or any questions on trainings offered, please contact Ryan Melin, Fire Manager, at (701) 328-9985.

Forestry Datelines

Nov. 20-22 ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts Annual Conference/Meeting
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, ND
Contact: Kathy Henriksen (701) 223-8575

Feb. 22-25

For details and registration, go to:
www.nducfa.org or www.ndnga.com

ND State Fire School
ND State Fairgrounds - Minot, ND
Contact: www.ndfa.net or (701) 222-2799

Dec. 31 Tree City USA Application Deadline
Contact: Gerri Makay (701) 652-2951

Mar. 1-Apr. 30

Community Forestry Grant Signups
Contact: Gerri Makay (701) 652-2951

Jan. 28-31 NDNGA and NDUCFA Joint Conference
Delta Hotels by Marriott, Fargo
NDNGA: Mary Holm at (701) 886-7673
holmgh@polarcomm.com
NDUCFA: Sam DeMarais at (701) 212-0838 / sdemarais@fargoparks.com

Mar. 13-15

NDCDEA/NDFS Tree Promotion Meeting
Quality Inn, Bismarck, ND
Contact: Tom Claeys (701) 328-9945

People in Forestry



Jennifer Dragseth
Accounting Manager
Bottineau, ND

Jennifer Dragseth was chosen as the Accounting Manager for the North Dakota Forest Service. She began her duties on October 23, 2017, at the Bottineau headquarters.

This position provides administrative support to the Office of the State Forester. The position is responsible for records management of programs within the agency, including tracking expenditures, initiating accounts payable vouchers, travel vouchers, timeslips, creating and maintaining multiple databases, support in administering grant programs, and submitting reimbursement documentation. Additional position responsibilities include assistance with tracking fire expenditures and preparing the final annual fire reimbursement request.

“I am thrilled to be joining the ND Forest Service team in Bottineau, and I look forward to contributing to the mission of this great organization,” said Dragseth.

Dragseth previously held positions at the Towner State Nursery and Western State Bank in Towner. She enjoys traveling, hunting, and spending time outdoors with her family.



Loretta Forsberg
Administration Team Leader
Bottineau, ND

Loretta Forsberg accepted the position as the Administration Team Leader for the North Dakota Forest Service. She began her duties on August 1, 2017, at the Bottineau headquarters.

Forsberg reports to the State Forester and assists in advancing the mission of the agency. She is responsible for the leadership, administration, and management functions of the Administration Team. The team is responsible for fiscal, personnel, and office management for the Office of the State Forester. The Team Leader supervises the employees assigned to the unit and is a member of the Leadership Council. Duties also include budget preparation, grants and contracts oversight, payroll, accounts payable and receivable, information technology planning, program planning, monitoring and evaluation. She served as the Accounting Manager for the past five years.

Forsberg enjoys spending quality time with her family and loves every minute she can spend with her three grandchildren. Loretta feels what is important in life is people and strives to appreciate every minute of every day.



Derek Lowstuter
Forest Stewardship Manager
Bismarck, ND

Derek Lowstuter was selected as the Forest Stewardship Manager for the North Dakota Forest Service. He began his duties on September 1, 2017, in the Bismarck office.

As manager, his primary function is to coordinate the Forest Stewardship Program efforts. He will be responsible for the supervisory functions for the Forest Stewardship staff members. The position is responsible for coordinating the technical and financial assistance to private landowners. These duties include coordinating technical assistance for the management and protection of native, riparian, and planted forest resources, and administering the rural-based forestry grant programs. The manager also provides staff support to the North Dakota State Stewardship Coordinating Committee.

Lowstuter said, “I’m looking forward to the new challenges in this position and serving the rural landowners of North Dakota by helping them implement sound forest management practices on their land for multiple benefits.”

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Bottineau NDFS Field Office

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Bottineau NDFS Headquarters

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Carrington NDFS Office

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Fargo NDFS Forest Health Manager

Tel: (701) 231-5138

Fargo NDFS Nursery and State Forests

Team Leader

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Lisbon NDFS Office

Tel: (701) 683-4323

Towner State Nursery

Tel: (701) 537-5636

Walhalla NDFS Office

Tel: (701) 549-2441

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