



North Dakota Forest Service

the prairie forester

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ARBOR DAY CELEBRATES THE ND PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The North Dakota Forest Service will hold the State Arbor Day Celebration in Bismarck on Friday, May 1, on the ND Heritage Center Plaza. The event will honor the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's 50th Anniversary! All current, past and retired ND Parks and Recreation employees, all state agencies, and the general public are invited to attend.

The afternoon events begin with some musical entertainment at 12:30 p.m. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. with a welcome, and special ND Parks and Recreation 50th Anniversary Honor Guard, which will include the Arbor Day flag. After the national anthem, Governor Jack Dalrymple has been invited to read the proclamation. Remarks will follow by Director Mark Zimmerman, ND Parks and Recreation Department; State Forester Larry Kotchman, NDSU-ND Forest Service; and Director Claudia Berg of the State Historical Society of ND.

Next, special recognition will be awarded to the following past ND Parks and Recreation Directors:

Ray Elliot
James Kittle
David O'Brien
Einer Johnson
Clarence Maesner
John Greenslit
Curt Seibel



The 2015 State Arbor Day will celebrate the ND Parks and Recreation Department's 50th Anniversary with tree plantings.

Gary Leppart
Robert Horne
Douglas Eiken
Douglass Prchal

A ceremonial tree planting will begin at 1:30 p.m. at a designated site on the capitol grounds just south of the Heritage Center's Plaza. A Dutch elm disease resistant American elm tree will be planted. State Forester Larry Kotchman will give some remarks and a tree planting demonstration. Former Director Doug Prchal will follow with a few comments.

The events conclude with more music and an "Ice Cream Social" for participants back at the Plaza. The 50th Anniversary Exhibit Trailer, located in the parking lot, will be open for free tours. In the event of inclement weather, all the events will take place inside the ND Heritage Center's Atrium.

In honor of their 50th Anniversary, the NDSU-ND Forest Service awarded the department a tree planting grant of \$10,000 to plant a diverse assortment of native trees and shrubs at eleven state parks that will enhance outdoor recreational experiences. The grant will complement ongoing tree and shrub plantings, but more importantly will assist with the replanting efforts of the flood impacted state parks, such as Fort Lincoln and the Cross Ranch State Parks. These recreational tree plantings will yield several other benefits, including bank stabilization, food and cover for birds and wildlife, wind protection, screening, conservation education experiences, and beauty. The statewide commemorative tree plantings will benefit everyone in this and future generations.

Special thanks goes to all the Arbor Day sponsors and participants. Get out and enjoy your North Dakota state parks!

A View from the Top of the Tree

I am pleased to join my state and federal colleagues in celebrating “25 Years of Forest Legacy, Forest Stewardship, and Urban & Community Forestry Programs” in 2015. These three programs were established into law by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act (1990 Farm Bill) on November 28, 1990. The North Dakota Forest Service administers the Forest Stewardship and Urban & Community Forestry Programs in our state. This anniversary provides an opportunity to celebrate not only the success of these programs, but also share the purpose and importance of these programs.

There are several efforts underway to celebrate this anniversary. These efforts include: planning a 25th Anniversary Commemorative event in Washington, D.C. in April 2015; collecting stories to highlight program successes through publications, media, and videos; and providing financial support for regional 25th anniversary endeavors.

A competitive 25th Anniversary Commemorative Assistance Fund has been established to support regional efforts in communicating the accomplishments and benefits of the programs across the country. The Washington Office will contribute up to \$15,000 for each project, which must be matched by and submitted through a U.S. Forest Service regional office.



Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester

The Forest Stewardship Program provides technical assistance, through state forestry agency partners, to private forestland owners to encourage and enable active long-term forest management. A primary focus of the program is the development of comprehensive, multi-resource management plans that provide landowners with the information they need to manage their forests for a variety of products and services.

The Urban & Community Forestry Program provides technical, financial, educational, and research services to states, cities, and nonprofit groups so they can plant, protect, maintain, and utilize wood from community trees and forests.

These programs will continue to sustain trees and forests that deliver human health, social, economic and environmental benefits.

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

ND State Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator



Ashley Bergquist
Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner

Ashley Bergquist, a fifth grader at Turtle Lake-Mercer Public School, was selected as the first place winner of the 2015 State Arbor Day Poster Contest. The purpose of the contest is to encourage planting a tree, 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. KNDC is the largest and longest running poster contest in the state. Over 10,000

students in grades 1 – 8 take part each year. The 47th awards ceremony will be held on April 24 at the Lewis and Clark Center in Washburn, ND. All first place winners receive \$100 in cash, a certificate, gold medallion, and have their poster turned into a billboard and placed along a major highway by Newman Outdoor Advertising! The winners, their families and teacher are honored with a noon luncheon, and will have their photo taken with First Lady Betsy Dalrymple.

Seeking Nominations for the 2015 Trees Awards

By: Tom Claeys, Forestry and Fire Management Team Leader

The North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota State University annually recognize individuals, organizations and agencies that contribute in an outstanding way to forestry activities. If you know of someone who deserves recognition for their contributions, we would like to publicly thank them for their devotion to forestry activities. Forestry activities can include: fire mitigation, protection and suppression; tree planting, preservation, or maintenance; community forestry efforts; forest management practices; forest recreation; or environmental education.

The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2015 Trees Awards is August 1, 2015. The awards will be presented during special recognition ceremonies at the Trees Bowl in the Fargodome on September 12. Each award winner will



be presented a personalized engraved plaque at an awards ceremony, and recognized for their efforts during half-time at the NDSU Bison football game against Weber State of Ogden, Utah.

Selection committee members will evaluate each nomination and vote for candidates based upon the degree to which they meet the requirements

outlined in the award category descriptions.

Categories include:

**Community
Conservation Achievement
Distinguished Service
Excellence in Government
Fire Department Cooperator
Media Outreach
Natural Resources Professional
Tree Celebration
Volunteer Organization
Youth Tree Planters**

To secure a nomination packet, please contact Tom Claeys, Forestry and Fire Management Team Leader at Thomas.Claeys@ndsu.edu or call (701) 328-9945.

Community Forestry Grants

By: Gerri Makay, Community Forestry Manager

Community Forestry Grants for tree planting and program development are now available from the NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service. The application deadline is April 30, 2015.

Applicants must contact a member of the Community Forestry Program staff to discuss projects in order to be eligible for a grant award. All projects must be located on publicly owned or controlled property, including boulevards, parks or school lands. Eligible applicants include counties, townships, cities, towns, park districts, school districts and tribal equivalents. All grants require a match from the

community in the form of cash or in-kind.

Planting projects should include a diversity of species, and can include a mix of shrubs and trees. Recent street tree inventories of 63 communities throughout North Dakota revealed green ash averages 46 percent of the total street tree populations. That does not prepare us well for any impending invasive pest, especially emerald ash borer.

Smaller scale planting projects are perfect for the Community Family Forest Grant, which awards up to \$2,000 for Tree City USA

communities and \$1,500 awards for all other communities. Projects must match the award 80:20, making this grant suitable for a wide range of applicants.

Applications and staff contact details are available at www.ndsu.edu/ndfs/ and click on "Grants." In addition, funding opportunities are available for flood recovery efforts.

Contact Gerri.Makay@ndsu.edu or call (701) 652-2951 for more information.

Three Summer Professional Development Opportunities for K-12 Teachers

By: *Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator*

“Energizing Western North Dakota”

Chateau De Mores
Medora, ND

June 4-6, 2015 – K-12

Cost: 2 credits + night lodging

This three-day course is an active, highly participatory, study of the geographic, historic and cultural landscapes that energize the lifestyles of people on the Northern Plains. We will explore how elements of the geology, current events, energy development, water use, and cultural and environmental changes impact our sense of place. Contact eholland@nd.gov.

2015 Geographically FIT
(Forestry Institute for Teachers)

“Energy and Society”

July 27-30, 2015 – K-12

Cost: 2 credits, + \$100 fee

Some evening meals on your own.

Register at:

www.ndgeographic.org

The “Energy and Society” workshop is a four-day, broad-based learning experience via a first class charter bus. The theme is current, relevant and statewide. Enhance lifetime learning and world mindedness while encompassing energy, the environment, and society from Minot to Williston, Watford City and back.

“Guidelines for EE Excellence”

State Historical Society of ND

Bismarck, ND

August 19, 2015

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Participants will receive free *Guidelines for Excellence* that are balanced, scientifically accurate, and help develop an environmentally literate citizenry. These materials help prepare students to think together about difficult decisions they may have to make. The instructor is Dr. Bora Simmons from the University of Oregon. To register contact Glenda.Fauske@ndsu.edu or (701) 228-5446.

Students No Longer “Puzzled About Forestry Products”

By: *Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator*



Marketplace students across the state were no longer puzzled by all the products made from trees and forests after a forestry presentation, which concluded by making a wooden string puzzle that fostered cooperative problem solving in a fun way.

Marketplace for Kids (MFK) is about encouraging youth entrepreneurship, innovation and invention. The vision is for every student to receive entrepreneurship education and encouragement to become a lifelong

partner in building stronger communities. MFK encourages youth to explore entrepreneurship and self-employment through the recognition and development of their inventive, creative thinking and problem-solving

skills. Thirteen MFK education days were held across the state this spring for fourth, fifth and sixth graders. MFK believes youth are prospective skilled, innovative people who will continue to power a diversified and vigorous economy in our state.

The North Dakota Forest Service provided a showcase of “special forest products” people have made, grown or collected from trees and forests and turned into successful businesses. There can be significant economic returns to well thought-out businesses where products focused on viable, high-value markets drive sustainable rural enterprises.

For information on special agroforestry products, contact Glenda.Fauske@ndsu.edu or call her at (701) 228-5446.

Under-bark Temperatures of Ash Trees in ND: Will Emerald Ash Borer Survive Here?

By: Aaron Bergdahl, Forest Health Manager

The under-bark temperature of ash trees was monitored by the Forest Health staff of the North Dakota Forest Service over the winter of 2014-2015 at five sites across the state. This was done to gain information about patterns of ambient temperature fluctuation and how these influence the inner temperature of trees. This information allows a better understanding of the potential temperatures experienced by overwintering insects, primarily wood boring beetles. With the potential threat of the emerald ash borer (EAB), this information could be very useful to compare to recent field studies on the cold hardiness of EAB conducted by several universities and the U.S. Forest Service. This comparison will help us determine whether EAB will be able to survive the cold North Dakota winters. EAB has not been detected in North Dakota.

In December 2014, temperature sensors were installed at the following locations: Fargo, Trefoil Park; Fargo, Downtown; Bottineau; Walhalla; and Mandan, Agricultural Research Station. These areas were chosen for specific reasons. Bottineau and Walhalla were chosen because they experience the coldest temperatures in the state, and these areas contain our largest contiguous natural forest resources. Mandan was selected because it is representative of the climate in western North Dakota, and the Fargo locations were chosen to represent the climate of eastern North Dakota. The urban 'Downtown' site was of particular interest, since it provides information about temperatures in the urban environment, which can be very



A sensor measuring temperatures in a green ash tree in Walhalla, ND, installed on December 10, 2014. A preliminary look at the temperature data and comparisons to recent studies indicate EAB will be able to survive our winter temperatures if the beetle arrives in North Dakota.

different compared to temperatures in rural areas.

Temperature sensing diodes were inserted between the bark and wood of the trees using a drill. Each unit had three sensor diodes: one measured temperatures on the north and one on the south sides of the tree, and the third sensor measured the ambient air temperature approximately three feet away from the tree towards the east.

The results showed that the temperature under the bark on the southern side of trees, the side favored by overwintering insects, was often very much warmer than the ambient temperature – sometimes as much as 14 degrees warmer. The south side temperatures occasionally equaled ambient temperatures for a brief

period during the night, with the greatest temperature difference being in the afternoon on sunny days. Closer analysis of the under-bark temperatures measured this winter in North Dakota, and comparisons to published research results, unfortunately, indicates that EAB will be able to survive in North Dakota if it becomes established here. This is yet more reason to increase species diversity in tree plantings and spread the word about the threat of EAB being introduced to our state via transport of EAB-infested firewood.

For more information about this topic, contact Aaron Bergdahl, Forest Health Manager at (701) 231-5138 or email aaron.d.bergdahl@ndsu.edu.

Recent Changes in Fire Program Management

By: Tom Claeys, Forestry and Fire Management Team Leader

The ND Forest Service Fire Program and staff were recently reorganized to provide better service to our external partners and internal customers. The changes began on March 16, 2015, in the Bismarck field office.

Ryan Melin was named the Fire Manager by State Forester Larry Kotchman. Melin will be responsible for developing, implementing and directing the state-wide wildfire protection programs. In addition, he will supervise personnel aligned to fire suppression, serve as a representative to the State Forester on large fires in North Dakota and the Governor's Fire Mitigation Task Force, and be the liaison for the Western Fire Managers, Northern Rockies Interagency Fire Mobilization, the ND Fire Council and other interest groups. The goal is to increase firefighting and public safety from wildfire at all levels by



With little or no snow pack in south central and southwest North Dakota, spring fire season has arrived. The agency recently repositioned fire resources in southwest North Dakota, and sent two engines and firefighters to assist Standing Rock Fire Management with a large fire.

identifying opportunities to enhance firefighting capacity.

Anthony Schultz was selected as the Cooperative Fire Protection Manager. Schultz will be responsible for developing, implementing and directing state-wide wildfire protection programs. The position provides program oversight for the Federal Excess Personal Property, Firefighter Protection, Volunteer Fire Assistance and Cooperative Fire Protection Assistance Programs. He will coordinate between state and local jurisdictions, guiding capacity building and development of County Wildfire Protection Plans and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grants.

Forestry Datelines

April 8	Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education Spring Meeting ND State Water Commission, Bismarck, ND Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446	May 1	ND State Arbor Day Celebration 1:00 p.m. Heritage Center, Bismarck ND Contact: Tom Claeys at (701) 328-9945
April 23	State Earth Day Festival, Bismarck, ND blog.earthdayfestivalbismarck.com/	June 4-6	ND Firefighter's 131 st Convention Jamestown, ND Contact: Renee Loh at (701) 222-2799
April 24	Keep ND Clean Awards Ceremony 11 a.m. - Washburn, ND Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446	June 10	ND Community Forestry Council and State Stewardship Coordinating Committee Joint Meeting, Towner State Nursery Contact: Gerri Makay at (701) 652-2951
April 30	Community Forestry Grant Sign-up Deadline for spring grants is April 30 Contact: Gerri Makay at (701) 652-2951	August 19	Guidelines to Excellence K-12 Workshop State Historical Society, Bismarck, ND Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446
May 6-8	ND State Envirothon Competition Crystal Springs Bible Camp Contact: Diane Olson at (701) 840-1286		

People in Forestry

Mary Fisk was selected as the Office Manager for the North Dakota Forest Service field office in Bismarck. She began her duties on March 2, 2015.

Fisk will provide administrative support to the Bismarck, Carrington, Jamestown and Lisbon field offices. She will be responsible for records management for all the programs in Bismarck, including tracking expenditures; initiating accounts payable vouchers, travel vouchers, and time slips; creating and maintaining multiple databases; support in administering grant programs; and submitting reimbursement documentation. Her receptionist duties include answering the telephone and assisting internal and external customers. Additional position responsibilities include tracking all fire expenditures both in-state and out-of-state for fire responses; assistance in preparing the



Mary Fisk
Office Manager
Bismarck NDFS Field Office

final annual fire reimbursement request; and providing support for the Federal Excess Property Program.

A native of Mandan, Fisk received an associate's degree from Bismarck State College. She completed the Excellence Through Leadership Program and was an office

assistant/cashier supervisor at Bismarck State College.

“The ND Forest Service is involved in many important projects across the state. It gives me great pleasure to assist the staff and to be part of the Bismarck office team,” said Mary.

Mary enjoys spending time with her family on the Missouri River and Lake Sakakawea, gardening and various crafts. Her favorite family vacations have been in locations where she could appreciate the outdoors.

She can be reached at:

NDSU-ND Forest Service
916 E Interstate Ave, Ste 4
Bismarck ND 58503-1227
Tel: (701) 328-9944
Mary.Fisk@ndsu.edu

Annual Staff Recognition

Each year, North Dakota State University (NDSU) recognizes staff who have passed milestones in years of service. The annual NDSU Staff Recognition Social will be held on Monday, April 6, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. 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:

25 YEARS

Edwin Jacobson, Systems/Irrigation Specialist located at the Towner State Nursery.

15 YEARS

Keith Broe, State Forests Technician at Bottineau; **Sharon Bartels**, Community Forestry Specialist at Lisbon; **Joel Nichols**, Community

Forestry Specialist at Bismarck, and **Thomas Nowatzki**, State Forests Manager at Bottineau.

5 YEARS

Aaron Bergdahl, Forest Health Manager in Fargo, and **Jeffrey Smette**, Nursery Manager at Towner.

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

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