



BLOCH: A GLOBAL ART PROJECT COMES TO NORTH DAKOTA

BLOCH, a global art project that has already been in Europe and Asia, is coming to North America ... and its first landing point is North Dakota in July! From the Swiss region of Appenzell, there is an ancient, annual carnival tradition. Each year when the last spruce tree is felled in the winter, the trunk – known as the *Bloch* – is pulled by twenty men from the village of Urnasch to Herisau and back. At the end of this one-day procession, the trunk is sold to the highest bidder at auction in the village square, and is usually processed into shingles or furniture.

However, in 2011, the buyers were the Swiss artist duo known as Com&Com (Marcus Gossolt and Johannes Hedinger). The artists gave the trunk a new role. Instead of simply traveling between the two Swiss villages, the Bloch would travel the world, stopping on every continent. The focus is to help raise awareness about the value of trees to all of us culturally, socially and environmentally. It's about participation and cultural exchange and people connecting to develop a worldwide conversation. At each stop, a new *Bloch* procession or interaction based on local trees and traditions will be held. On its world tour, the trunk will take on layers of meaning provided by the local customs it interacts with, and new stories will attach themselves to this tree. At the end of this long journey, the trunk will return to its starting point in Urnasch, Switzerland.



This bloch (tree trunk) from an ancient Swiss carnival tradition is making a journey around the world and is headed to North America. The first landing point is North Dakota in July! The focus is to help raise awareness about the value of trees to all of us culturally, socially and environmentally.

The trunk is coming to North Dakota through a partnership between the North Dakota Council on the Arts; Troyd Geist, state folklorist; and Barbara Hauser (from Zurich, Switzerland) who studied Fine Arts and Linguistics in North Dakota. North Dakota is appropriate for the visit as the state contains the geographical center of North America and Turtle Mountain where, according to Ojibway mythology, “Sky Woman” with the help of a muskrat caused “Turtle Island” (North America and the world) to re-emerge after the Great Flood. Traditional/folk and contemporary artists, as well as the general public, are invited to interact with the tree. Bloch is scheduled for Downtown Fargo Street Fair (July 17-19),

Napoleon and the Nokota Horse Conservancy in Linton (July 25), Taylor Horsefest (July 27), Fort Totten Days, Spirit Lake Indian Reservation (July 26), Rugby (July 28), Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation (July 29-31), and the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead, MN, 2014 (August 3).

This project is supported in part by a grant from the ND Council on the Arts, the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, and the Swiss Arts Council. The ND Forest Service is pleased to provide promotion and support for this exchange between people, traditions and tree-related customs and stories.

A View from the Top of the Tree

North Dakotans' recognition of the importance of planting trees dates back to the early pioneers. Following the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s, North Dakota emerged as a national leader in planting conservation trees for farmstead and field windbreaks to control soil erosion. An estimated 55,000 linear miles of windbreaks have been planted. These conservation trees provide a wide variety of benefits to both the land and landowners by preventing soil erosion, increasing crop yields, reducing water pollution, saving energy and increasing wildlife habitat. Tree planting is a proven conservation practice that has staying power through times of drought and flood.

Unfortunately, rural tree plantings across North Dakota are showing signs of old age and deterioration from numerous pests and environmental conditions that reduce their effectiveness and limit long-term survival. Throughout the northern Great Plains, it is estimated that 50-90% of the windbreaks have declined and are in need of renovation. Many older windbreaks are being removed and not replaced. The loss of these important tree resources is an immediate concern to many North Dakotans.

I am extremely pleased North Dakota's partnership of conservation leaders are taking steps to address the decline of field and farmstead windbreaks. A team of conservation professionals will be examining opportunities to launch a renewed state-wide windbreak renovation initiative. With possible financial assistance from the North Dakota Outdoor



Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester

Heritage Fund, the initiative would provide needed financial, technical and educational assistance to implement an effective program for restoring rural tree plantings.

North Dakota's farmers and ranchers have been instrumental in building an effective conservation program partnership that exists today. Working through their network of 55 Soil Conservation Districts, rural landowners have made significant contributions to protecting our soil, water and wildlife. We need to join them in a renewed effort to restore the windbreaks that are part of our conservation heritage throughout rural North Dakota.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry A. Kotchman".

Forestry Councils Hold Joint Meeting

By: Robert Harsel, Stewardship Manager

For the second year in a row, the ND Community Forestry Council (CFC) and the ND State Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SSCC) held a joint meeting. This year it was hosted at the Cross Ranch State Park near Washburn on June 11.

Presentations included Margie Ewing, US Forest Service State & Private Forestry; Kevin Kading, ND Game & Fish Department; and Larry



A 50th Commemorative Anniversary Tree Planting at Cross Ranch.

Kotchman, Derek Lowstuter and Lezlee Johnson, ND Forest Service.

The outdoor sessions included a walking tour to view one of the commemorative tree plantings being planted across the state by the ND Parks and Recreation Department in honor of their 50th Anniversary. The plantings at Cross Ranch will help in flood recovery efforts.

Grant Projects Produce Benefits for Years

By: Lezlee Johnson, Community Forestry Specialist



Trees at the Lewis and Clark RV Park in Hazen, ND, work hard so visitors can rest in their shade.

Community Forestry Grant programs have lasting results. A small group of ND Forest Service employees and Community Forestry Council members saw living evidence of this on a tour of projects funded up to 20 years ago in Beulah, Hazen, Washburn and Wilton. Each of these cities has accepted the challenge of planting trees for the people who live and visit there to enjoy their many benefits.

Beulah developed a Master Landscape Plan with an America the Beautiful (ATB) Program Development grant in 2004, and planted trees with an ATB Tree Planting grant in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Beulah used grant funds to plant trees along Main Street, for screening at its cemetery, and along main highways.

In 1999 and 2000, Hazen planted several kinds of trees, all of which

work hard providing shade to visitors to the Lewis and Clark RV Park. Hazen also planted trees along its Main Street, and designed and planted a pocket park, which is both pleasant and a source of community volunteer opportunities.



Trees at the Centennial Park in Wilton beckon everyone to come and follow its trail.

Visitors to Wilton enjoy the benefits of trees planted beginning in 1995 along US Highway 83. They can then visit Centennial Park and rest in the shade of trees planted with grant money in 1998 and 1999.

2014 GeoFIT: Enchanting Expedition of the Southwest

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

The ND Forest Service and ND Geographic Alliance are holding their 2014 Geographically FIT (*Forestry Institute for Teachers*) in southwestern North Dakota. Titled as the “Enchanting Expedition of the SW,” the K-12 teachers’ workshop will be headquartered August 4-7, 2014, out of the Badlands Ministries Camp south of Medora, ND.

This professional development opportunity provides two semester

credits from either Minot State University, North Dakota State University or the University of North Dakota.

The workshop is a four-day, broad-based learning experience via a First Class charter bus, where you will be treated like royalty. Each day will be spent with content rich, hands-on outdoor experiences, individual and group activities. We’ll visit the badlands, grasslands, National Park,

Logging Camp Ranch and the Enchanted Highway. Network with colleagues from all parts of the state and receive educational materials to utilize when school begins. Don’t miss this exciting geography, geology and forestry adventure!

For more information, contact glenda.fauske@ndsu.edu or call (701) 228-5446.

Follow-up Tips for the Spring Planting Season

By: Michael Kangas – Nursery and State Forest Team Leader



Note the difference between the flushed-out spruce on the left (see the lush new growth) and the spruce on the right that failed to break bud.

Now that spring planting season is over, mid-summer is a good time to do some follow up work on those recently planted trees. The following tips can make the difference between a successful tree planting and the need to do it all over again next year.

#1 Assess survival. Trees experience numerous stresses from the time they are lifted at the nursery until they are planted at their final destination. Outplanting success can be variable depending on numerous factors. Long storage time, improper handling, and windy conditions during planting can all reduce outplanting success for conservation tree plantings. Inspect recently planted trees to ensure they have broken bud (flushed out). Trees

that have not broken bud by this time of year are unlikely to survive. Containerized trees (produced in a greenhouse and stored in freezer) can be used to hand-plant trees that did not survive the initial outplanting.

#2 Inspect trees for pests, diseases, and/or animal damage. Trees in the northern plains are exposed to numerous insect pests, diseases, and herbivory. Look for insect damage in the form of skeletonized leaves or defoliation, diseases in the form of leaf spots or necrosis, or animal feeding. Diagnosis of these damaging factors can be tricky and treatment options differ for each so contact a ND Forest Service forester if you suspect pest damage to confirm the

problem before attempting treatment options.

#3 Supplemental water. Newly planted trees need water. Although much of the state has received adequate moisture this year, some areas have not. A gallon or two of water applied to conservation stock can make all the difference in survival. Note that trees receiving adequate moisture in the early spring may need water if no rainfall has occurred during the recent month. Trees growing on porous or coarse soils (sandy) will need more frequent watering than those growing on fine textured soils (clays).

#4 Weed fabric barrier. Weed fabric is essential to growing trees in the northern plains to eliminate weed competition. Recently though, foresters have observed the fabric does not break down over time. As trees grow, they can be girdled by the fabric, resulting in mortality for trees 10-15 years of age. Foresters advise landowners go out and expand the openings around trees to prevent this issue for tree plantings established within the last 10-15 years.

For more information, contact: Michael.Kangas@ndsu.edu; or (701) 231-5936.



Bur Oaks, Bugs and Birds

By: Aaron Bergdahl, Forest Health Specialist and Dr. Joe Zeleznik, NDSU Extension Forester

In several communities around North Dakota, young bur oak trees are showing damage from woodpecker activity occurring in winter. The damage is highly variable, but at its worst, some trees have been completely girdled. The birds are not to blame, however, as they have been searching for a tasty meal – numerous insect larvae located within the bark. The larvae belong to a family of tiny wasps called cynipid wasps.

Experts at the NDSU Entomology Department are currently trying to determine the exact insect species. Once this is determined, control strategies can be developed. Meanwhile, the North Dakota Forest Service and NDSU Extension Forestry are currently working on an assessment of affected trees.

The birds seem to be focusing on young trees, those with stem diameters (at 4.5' above the ground)



An oak tree showing shredded bark, typical of this new tree disorder.

from 1" to about 8". Larger trees may be affected as well, but the damage on those trees seems to be less severe.

Some trees have escaped with no damage at all, while their neighbors may have destruction up-and-down the entire stem. Examples of this problem have been seen throughout the eastern part of the state, as well as in the Bismarck-Mandan area and Divide County. No problems have been reported in conservation (shelterbelt) plantings, but this is definitely a possibility.

In a heavily infested tree, the main leader can be killed, which then must be pruned out. The result is a tree with poor structure that is stressed and might not survive in the long term. Some trees have been attacked more than once and are damaged to the point that they must be removed. Unfortunately, the only recommendation at this point is to prune out dead branches. Efforts will continue to monitor the situation and search for solutions.

Smokey Bear Celebrates 70 Years at the ND State Fair

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

Smokey Bear, our nation's symbol of wildfire prevention, has been raising public awareness about the need to prevent accidental, human-caused wildfires for 70 years! Since 1944, Smokey Bear has been vigilant in delivering his fire prevention message to each new generation. Young and old need to hear Smokey's message, "**Remember, only YOU can prevent wildfires!**"

The US Forest Service and ND Forest Service are partnering to celebrate Smokey's 70th birthday at the ND State Fair on Tuesday, July 22. The event is part of the Family Day



activities. Locate the Festival Tent located in the State Fair Park. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Come learn about the "True Story of Smokey Bear" and how Ray Bell from Bergen, ND, was the forest ranger from Bergen, ND, who gave the firefighters the burned bear cub to when Bell visited their camp. Bell's family restored Smokey's health; suggested him as the symbol for fire prevention to the US Forest Service; and asked President Eisenhower to give Smokey a home in the zoo in Washington, DC, for all the children to enjoy.

North Dakota Firefighter's Association Celebrates 130 Years

By: Sarah Tunge, Fire Manager



The ND Forest Service (NDFS) was proud to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the ND Firefighter's Association (NDFA) at their annual convention and State Fire School held in Grand Forks on June 5-7.

State Forester Larry Kotchman and Fire Manager Sarah Tunge attended. Gov. Jack Dalrymple addressed the state's full-time and volunteer firefighters at the convention to thank them for their dedicated service, and to stress the importance of meeting the needs for emergency preparedness in a state with a growing population and unprecedented commerce. About 96 percent of the state's firefighters are volunteers.

"Every day, North Dakota's firefighters willingly and courageously put themselves in harm's way to save lives and property," Dalrymple said. "Public safety is the top priority for us all, and I commend you for your dedication to protecting the lives of others."

The NDFS enjoys a longstanding partnership with the NDFA. A highlight of the year is State Fire School. This year was extremely successful and we are very pleased to see the interest in wildland fire training increasing. Five classes were held including Safe Motor Grader Fire Suppression, two Wildland Fire Refresher classes, Basic Wildland Firefighter Training and Wildland Fire Simulation. A total of 105 participants attended the classes.

We are working to develop additional wildland fire training courses and resources to be administered throughout the year. In an exciting new venture, we will be working together to develop a wildland firefighting training library and



The ND Forest Service and ND Firefighter's Association have enjoyed a longstanding partnership for fire prevention and firefighter training.

instructor cadre. We are looking forward to developing new materials and classes in partnership with the NDFA.

The NDFA continues to be an advocate for fire prevention and firefighter training across the state. We are proud to work with them on so many worthwhile projects. The NDFS wishes sincere congratulations to the ND Firefighter's Association on 130 years of service to the firefighters of North Dakota.

Forestry Datelines

Aug. 4-7	2014 Geographically FIT (<i>Forestry Institute for Teachers</i>) – southwestern North Dakota Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446	Sept. 20	Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony ND State University and Fargodome Contact: Tom Claeys at (701) 328-9945
Aug. 13-14	ND Forest Service Staff Meeting Dakota College at Bottineau Contact: Brenda Johnson at (701) 228-5422	Sept. 23-25	Windbreak Technology Course Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND Contact: Liz Smith at (701) 400-8330
July 22	Smokey Bear's 70 th Birthday Party ND State Fairgrounds, Minot, ND Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446	Nov. 23-25	NDASCD Annual Conference/Meeting Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, ND Contact: Kathy Henriksen (701) 223-8575

People in Forestry



***1st Place ND State Envirothon
Bismarck High School
Bismarck, ND***

Bismarck High School, coached by Val Smallbeck, received top honors at the 15th annual North Dakota State Envirothon competition. Their team also scored highest on the Wildlife and Forestry Trail Tests! The event was held at Crystal Springs Camp May 8 & 9, 2014. Team members included Jessica Bushaw, Jordan Bushaw, Thadd Hall, Emilee Lachenmeier, Rachel Nelson and Sam Wolf.

Second place went to Minot High School and third place went to Sargent Central High School.

The Envirothon is sponsored by the Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education (C2E2), and is a natural resource competition.



***Glenda E. Fauske
Information and Education
NDSU-ND Forest Service***

Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator for the NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service at Bottineau, was the recipient of a 2014 Outstanding Support for Geographic Education Award from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE). This award honors those who have made extraordinary commitments to the

teaching and learning of geography, while working outside of the classroom. She will be formally recognized by the NCGE community at an awards ceremony on August 2, 2014, at the Peabody Memphis Hotel in Memphis, TN.

Sara Forness, a teacher at West Fargo High School in North Dakota, was selected from nominees across the US as one of five Outstanding Educators by Project Learning Tree® (PLT), the national environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation. This is the first time a North Dakota educator has won the National PLT Outstanding Educator Award since its inception in 1994. In North Dakota, PLT is sponsored by the NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service.

Forness uses Project Learning Tree as the foundation for her courses. She often brings natural resources professionals into her classroom as guest speakers. As an extracurricular activity, she coaches students to



***Sara Forness
West Fargo High School
West Fargo, ND***

participate in the Envirothon, an annual natural resource competition for North American high school students that combines in-class curriculum with hands-on field experiences and problem-solving scenarios. Her student teams have won the state Envirothon championship four times.