



2013 TREES AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED AT TREES BOWL

The North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota State University honored the 2013 Trees Award winners at an awards ceremony, and at the Trees Bowl football game in the Fargodome on October 5, 2013. The Trees Awards recognize individuals, organizations and agencies who contribute in an outstanding way 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.

Following a ceremonial tree planting and luncheon, NDSU President Dean Bresciani and State Forester Larry Kotchman presented each winner with a special Trees Award plaque and a limited edition print at an awards ceremony. The winners were also recognized on the field during half-time of the NDSU Trees Bowl winning football game against the University of Northern Iowa. After the game, 3,000 Scotch pine and bur oak trees were distributed to fans.



The 2013 Trees Award winners from across the state were recognized at the Fargodome by State Forester Larry Kotchman and NDSU Bison Athletics Director Gene Taylor. They are pictured with the second national football championship oak tree that will be planted on the campus.

The 2013 Trees Award winners include:

- Community of the Year
City of Casselton
- Conservation Achievement
Art Erfle, Carrington
- Distinguished Service Award
**Tony and Barb Braun
Napoleon**
- Environmental Educator
**Valerie Smallbeck
Bismarck High School**
- Excellence in Government
David Herr, Elgin
- Fire Department Cooperators
(co-winners)
**Hettinger and Reeder
Fire Departments**

- Forest Stewardship Landowner
Ardon Herman, Minnewaukan
- Media Outreach
**Marci Narum
KX TV Network, Bismarck**
- Natural Resources Professional
Rhonda Vetsch, Linton
- Smokey Bear Poster Contest
Hazel Emter, Dickinson
- Tree Celebration
Montana Dakota Utilities Company
- Volunteer Organization
Jamestown Lions Clubs
- Youth Tree Planters
**Langdon High School
Advanced Biology Class**
- Distinguished Leadership
Ray Lambert, Bismarck



A View from the Top of the Tree

Every North Dakota legislative session is uniquely important in setting direction and initiating opportunities that enhance and benefit the State. The 2013 Legislative Assembly authorized a historic Outdoor Heritage Fund, which will provide up to \$30 million per biennium from oil and gas production tax revenue to support long-lasting projects that enhance North Dakota's legendary outdoors. The grant funds will support projects such as access to private and public lands for sportsmen; create fish and wildlife habitats; stewardship toward farming and ranching; enhance water quality, plant diversity and soil conditions; and develop outdoor recreation. The deadline for the first round of grant applications is December 2, 2013.

The Industrial Commission, which consists of the Governor, Attorney General and Agriculture Commissioner, will manage and operate the fund with input from a diverse board of 12 voting members representing conservation, agriculture, energy, outdoor recreation and business. Ex-officio members of the advisory board include the directors of the ND Department of Game and Fish, ND Department of Parks and Recreation, ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the State Forester.

The following four directives for the grant funds were established:

- Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems, and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Develop, enhance, conserve and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

The advisory board established an application process to recommend projects or opportunities to be supported through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Information about this process can be accessed on the website www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm. Applicants will find what needs to be included in an application, how the application will be reviewed and scored by the Advisory Board, sample contracts for projects awarded funding and other general information about the program.



Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester

The law states the Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars cannot be used for the following purposes:

- Litigation;
- Lobbying activities;
- Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with surface coal mining operations; sand, gravel or scoria extraction activities; oil and gas operations; or other energy facility or infrastructure development;
- The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of defined activities that fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

We are looking forward to seeing projects in our communities and rural areas that foster public access, recreation and stewardship by enhancing plant diversity, improving water quality, increasing wildlife habitat, and conserving soil, and protecting trees and forests. When implemented, all these projects will be instrumental in conserving our State's legendary natural resources and outdoors.

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

FORESTS GIVE US
THINGS

Your Forests... Your Future

North Dakota is Home to the Smallest Tree City USA

By: Gerri Makay, Community Forestry Manager

North Dakota is home to 50 Tree City USA cities, including Sibley (near Fargo), the nation's smallest Tree City with a population of 28! Across the state, towns and cities of all sizes are demonstrating their commitment to community betterment by achieving Tree City USA certification.

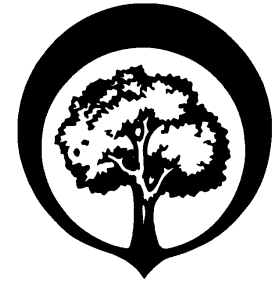
Trees make communities more livable by increasing property values, reducing crime rates and increasing the lifespan of roads and stormwater systems. Trees also improve communities by reducing energy consumption, increasing consumer spending in business districts and reducing the incidence of obesity and asthma in children.

Tree City USA recognizes communities that have organized

community forestry programs supported by a tree board or department, municipal tree ordinances, an annual budget of \$2 per capita, and an annual Arbor Day ceremony and proclamation.

Tree City USA is a national program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, and in North Dakota the program is administered by the North Dakota Forest Service. Across the US, there are over 3,400 communities designated as a Tree City USA.

North Dakota's first nationally recognized "Tree Campus USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation is located in Fargo ... it's North Dakota State University.



TREE CITY USA®

All Tree City USAs and Tree Campus USAs are encouraged to utilize the online system for their 2013 applications. The deadline to apply is December 6.

For more information about joining Tree City USA, contact Gerri.Makay@ndsu.edu or call (701) 652-2951.

Kotchman Receives 2013 Professional Award

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator



State Forester Larry Kotchman received the "2013 Professional Award" from the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts at their 75th annual meeting held November 18 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. The award was presented at the recognition banquet.

The Professional Award is given to an individual who has for many years contributed significantly to soil and

water conservation accomplishments that have resulted in many benefits to the State of North Dakota. The goal of the Soil Conservation Districts is to further the widespread application of sound and practical soil and water conservation practices in North Dakota.

As a member of North Dakota's State Technical Committee, Kotchman has been instrumental in securing several cost-share programs and grant funds that have helped the Soil Conservation Districts enable landowners to plant trees and install fabric weed barrier. These include the Stewardship Incentive Program, Forest Land Enhancement Program, Living Snow Fence Task Force, Centennial Trees Program, North

Dakota Mitigation Tree Planting program, and the Forest Restoration Program. Kotchman worked with conservation partners to secure a three percent tree planting earmark for conservation tree planting within EQIP funding. He was also instrumental in providing \$600,000 in additional technical assistance funding to North Dakota's soil conservation districts to enhance tree planting and forestry services.

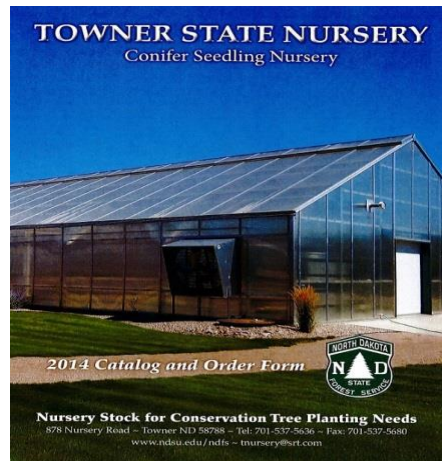
Kotchman is responsible for the administration of the NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service. His major duties involve directing state and private forestry services through three leadership teams comprised of 30 full-time and approximately 50 seasonal employees.

2014 Towner State Nursery Catalogs Available

By: Rhonda Schell, Sales and Office Manager

The 2014 Towner State Nursery catalog is here! Customers wanting to ensure species availability next spring should place their orders before the 1st of January. Orders can be placed by working with your local Soil Conservation District office or contacting the Towner State Nursery directly at (701) 537-5636.

Be sure to check out the full catalog. We have added additional information to the 2014 catalog on



how to care for your nursery stock, types of nursery stock, selecting the type of stock and species, and storage tips for bare-root and container (plug) stock.

Check out the new “wildlife bundles” being offered this year. The bundles are comprised of several tree species and are available in bare-root and container stock, depending upon selection. All wildlife bundles are based on a three-row planting of 300 linear feet.

Forest Restoration Initiatives

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

RURAL FLOOD RECOVERY GRANTS

The North Dakota Forest Service successfully advanced a 2013-2015 biennial budget request through the State Board of Higher Education and the 2013 Legislature to address forest restoration needs in North Dakota. This \$387,704 state-funded initiative will provide technical, financial and educational assistance to restore rural forests damaged or destroyed by the 2011 flood.

The Forest Restoration Initiative will improve management, restoration and protection of upland forests, riparian (streamside) forests, and rural plantings (windbreaks and shelterbelts). The initiative will support: (a) forest health surveys and long-term monitoring of flood impacted trees and forests, (b) the implementation of forest restoration practices, (c) educational outreach to landowners and managers, and (d) grants to affected landowners for forest restoration, including tree removal and replacement. Funds will



Grant funds are available for rural landowners and communities for forest restoration projects.

be used for conducting forest health surveys, preparing forest stewardship plans, fire risk assessments, and the implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects and forest restoration practices.

COMMUNITY FLOOD RECOVERY GRANTS

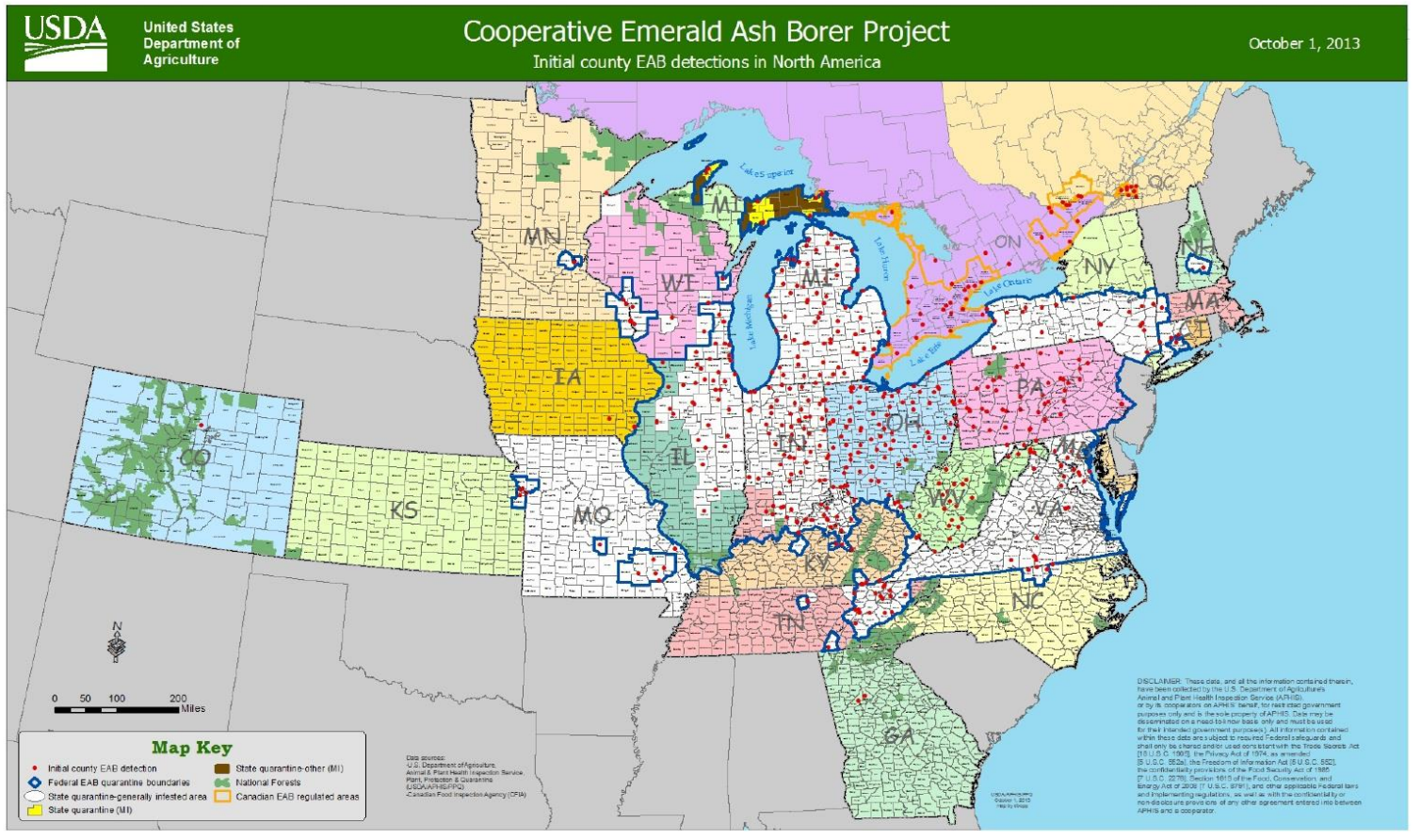
The North Dakota Forest Service has also been awarded \$300,000 from the

US Forest Service for a State and Private Forestry FY 2011 western competitive funding proposal for a response and recovery effort focused on restoring 3,028 acres of community forests heavily impacted by historic flooding along the Missouri and Mouse Rivers in North Dakota.

The Community Forest Flood Recovery Project supports (a) a flood damage assessment and monitoring plan, (b) a wood utilization and feasibility study and biomass marketing strategy, (c) a disaster response plan for green infrastructure in communities and (d) grants to affected communities for green infrastructure restoration, including tree removal and replacement. Partners will include impacted communities, ND Urban and Community Forestry Association, NDSU Plant Pathology, NDSU Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering, and the ND Disaster Recovery Task Force. Check out www.ndsu.edu/ndfs/grants/.

EAB Found in Colorado

By: Aaron Bergdahl, Forest Health Specialist



The emerald ash borer (EAB) was discovered in Boulder County, Colorado, on September 23, 2013. This is the most recent EAB find following a discovery in Connecticut earlier this year. This brings the number of states with confirmed, established EAB populations to 22 states and 2 Canadian provinces. The Colorado find is especially notable since it is the furthest west the EAB has spread. The pest appears to have essentially “skipped” across Kansas, where EAB is found on the northeast edge of the state, and made it to north central Colorado. This apparent long-distance dispersal is highly indicative of spread via transport of infested ash wood, since adult emerald ash borers can only fly a maximum of ten miles, and typically do not fly more than

one mile to find an ash tree on which to lay its eggs.

Since the discovery of the EAB in the United States in 2002, the invasive insect, native to China, has killed over 50 million ash trees costing communities over 10 billion dollars in tree removal, treatment and replacement. This amount does not take into account the value represented by the loss of a mature urban tree canopy and ecological services provided by ash trees in a native setting. EAB only attacks ash trees in the genus *Fraxinus*. In North Dakota, this primarily means green ash, black ash and Manchurian ash and their cultivars; mountain ash is an unrelated species and will not be attacked by EAB.

Emerald ash borer is not known to be in North Dakota and the closest established EAB population remains the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. The North Dakota Forest Service and other state interest groups continue to stress the message to not move firewood. Buy local firewood and burn your firewood close to where you buy it. For more information about EAB, its threat to North Dakota, and what you can do to prevent EAB from impacting our state, visit: www.ndinvasives.org or www.nd.gov/ndda/pest/emerald-ash-borer-eab or call/email Aaron Bergdahl, North Dakota Forest Health Specialist at (701) 231-5138 or aaron.d.bergdahl@ndsu.edu.

2013 Fire Season Recap

By: Sarah Tunge, Fire Manager

The ND Forest Service (NDFS) Fire Management team had a successful 2013 season. Highlights include a new staff member, innovative new training tools, and providing fire suppression assistance to partners across the country.

The year started out with JT Wensman joining the team as a Fire Management Specialist/FEPP Manager. Wensman has been busy making contacts with local fire departments regarding FEPP/FFP equipment, as well as grant opportunities. On top of these duties, Wensman has also stepped in to facilitate several existing hazardous fuels reduction projects. He has been an excellent addition to the team.

Fire crews were dispatched to numerous states across the west to assist with suppression efforts this year. This season proved to be below average for fire occurrence across the state, allowing crews to travel and provide both hand crew and engine support to states, including New Mexico, Idaho and Montana.

Several new pieces of equipment also arrived early in the year. The NDFS

was able to update the existing type 6 wildland engines with new platforms. The old platforms were at least ten years old and had reached the end of their lifespan. The fire team also began using the SIM sand table for training across the state. This training tool will be showcased at the ND Firefighter's Association Instructor Conference in November.

Rounding out the season was the application period for Volunteer Fire Assistance grants. This year, the ND Forest Service was able to fund all fire departments that applied for

grants. The grant application and review process are slated for review during the off season, so be on the look-out for changes coming in 2014.

As we near the end of 2013, the fire management team would like to thank all of our partners, local, state and federal, for a successful year. We are looking forward to an even better 2014.



Forestry Datelines

Dec. 6	Tree City USA Application Deadline Contact: Gerri Makay (701) 652-2951	Feb. 27-Mar. 2	ND State Fire School ND State Fairgrounds - Minot, ND Contact: www.ndfa.net or (701) 222-2799
Jan. 26-29	NDUCFA and NDGA Joint Conference Ramada Plaza Suites Hotel, Fargo ND Nursery & Greenhouse Association Contact: Mary Holm at (701) 886-7673 ND Urban & Community Forestry Assoc. Contact: Sharon Bartels at (701) 683-4323 For details and registration, go to: www.nducfa.org/	Mar. 14	Keep North Dakota Clean Poster Contest Deadline – www.Keep-ND-Clean.org Contact: Glenda Fauske (701) 228-5446
		Mar. 19-20	NDCDEA/NDFS Tree Promotion Meeting Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND Contact: Liz Smith (701) 400-8330

People in Forestry



Lorelei Anderson
*Office Manager
Bismarck Field Office*

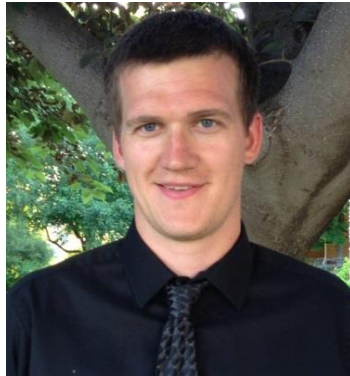
Lorelei Anderson was selected by State Forester Larry Kotchman to serve as the Office Manager at the Bismarck Field Office beginning on August 1.

Anderson will provide administrative support to the Bismarck, Carrington, Jamestown and Lisbon field offices. The position is responsible for records management for all programs, including tracking expenditures; initiating accounts payable and travel vouchers; time slips; creating and maintaining multiple databases; and support for grant programs.

A native of Bismarck, Anderson received a bachelor's degree from the University of North Dakota. She was employed by Bismarck State College, where she gained experience in communication and collaboration.

"I am proud to be assisting this great team working in Community Forestry Fire Management, and Forest Stewardship," said Anderson.

Lorelei Anderson
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Steven Burdick
*Forest Stewardship Specialist
Walhalla Field Office*

Steven Burdick, Forest Stewardship Specialist, was appointed by State Forester Larry Kotchman to begin his duties on June 16 at the Walhalla Field Office.

Burdick will assist the Stewardship Manager with technical and financial assistance to private landowners statewide. His duties include both office and field responsibilities promoting the Forest Stewardship Program and directing landowner assistance to implement forestry best management practices. He will serve as a liaison to cooperating agencies in management of native, riparian and planted forest resources.

A native of West Fargo, Burdick received his Bachelor and Master degrees from North Dakota State University in Environmental and Conservation Sciences.

Burdick said, "I look forward to working with landowners to accomplish conservation objectives."

Steven Burdick
ND Forest Service
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Derek Lowstuter
*Forest Restoration Specialist
Towner State Nursery*

Derek Lowstuter was selected by State Forester Larry Kotchman to serve as the Forest Restoration Specialist for the North Dakota Forest Service. He began his duties on October 14 and is stationed at the Towner State Nursery.

Lowstuter will be responsible for achieving the goals of the new ND Forest Restoration Initiative. This includes conducting forest health monitoring projects to improve forest health; implement forest restoration practices to restore riparian forests impacted by floods; improve water quality; provide flood protection; and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. He will also award forest restoration grants to affected communities and individuals.

"I am excited to work with landowners and managers to promote the active and sustainable management of the state's forests through the new Forest Restoration Initiative," Lowstuter said.

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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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NDSU

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