



North Dakota Forest Service

the prairie forester

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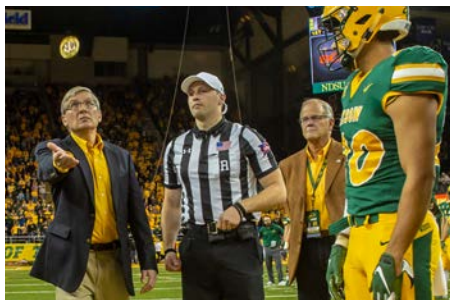
2018 TREES AWARDS WINNERS RECOGNIZED

The 28th Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony was sponsored by the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) and North Dakota State University (NDSU) at the Fargodome on September 29, 2018. The Trees Awards recognize individuals, organizations, and agencies who contribute in an outstanding way to forestry activities.

Following a noon luncheon, NDSU President Dean Bresciani and State Forester Larry Kotchman presented each winner with a plaque and a limited edition print. The winners were also recognized on the field during half-time of the NDSU Trees Bowl. After the game, 3,000 Meyer spruce and bur oak trees were distributed to fans.



Trees Award winners from across the state were recognized at the Fargodome by North Dakota State University and the North Dakota Forest Service.



State Forester Larry Kotchman had the honor of "tossing the coin" prior to the start of the Bison game against SDSU.

The 2018 Trees Award winners are:

**COMMUNITY
Forman**

**CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT
Francis Krumm, Hague**

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
Dana Schaar-Jahner, Bismarck**
**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR
Erik Holland, Bismarck**
**EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT
Lynn Morgenson, Bismarck**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
Mandan Rural Fire Department**
**FOREST STEWARDSHIP
LANDOWNERS
Holly and Barry Mawby, Esmond**

**MEDIA OUTREACH
Jim Olson, Fargo**
**NATURAL RESOURCE
PROFESSIONAL
Glenda Fauske, Bottineau**

**SMOKEY BEAR
POSTER CONTEST
Kody Henry, Dickinson**
**TREE CELEBRATION
ND World War I
Centennial Committee**
**VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION
Bismarck Community Orchard**
**YOUTH TREE PLANTERS
New Rockford-Sheyenne
2018 Senior Class**
**DISTINGUISHED
LEADERSHIP AWARD
State Forester Larry Kotchman**

A View from the Top of the Tree

Nearly 32 years ago, I wrote the “View from the Top of the Tree” for the first edition of *The Prairie Forester*. This will be my last. I will retire on November 20, 2018, having served 32 years as State Forester and 43 years with the agency.

In my first “View” as a new State Forester, I compared North Dakota’s foundation in forestry to the essentials for a tree’s growth. The “soil,” nurtured by our people, our state, and our finances. The “root system,” anchored by the history of forestry established under the Higher Education system. The “trunk,” embodied in our dedicated foresters, technicians, administrative staff, and seasonal employees. The “branches,” our programs and services extended to landowners, communities, rural fire districts, schools, and other public bodies. Finally, the “fruit,” the successful budding, blossoming, and greening of program outcomes benefitting those we serve.

As State Forester, I am extremely grateful to have been part of North Dakota’s forestry heritage. Throughout my career, I feel fortunate to have served with outstanding agency staff and supportive partnering organizations, creating countless opportunities to work with individuals, organizations, and agencies who share a commitment to conserve, protect, and wisely use North Dakota’s forest resources. Likewise, North Dakota’s elected officials, community leaders, and university system administrators have been instrumental in our success in delivering quality state and private forestry programs. I also greatly appreciate being able to represent North Dakota’s forestry interests at the regional and national levels. These enduring relationships have resulted in numerous noteworthy successes.



Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester

My career with NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service has been extremely rewarding. It has truly been the honor of my life to support the land grant university’s mission in public service and to serve the citizens of North Dakota. I will be leaving an agency with a dedicated and competent staff who contribute in outstanding ways to forestry programs throughout North Dakota and beyond. Their efforts to care for and protect trees and forests enhance our quality of life and benefit the state’s health, safety, and economy.

My wife, Alice, and I plan to spend more time traveling, visiting our children and friends, relaxing at our home in Bottineau, and enjoying the farm near Cavalier. We will miss you all!

A handwritten signature in dark 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 can submit hardcopies to Gerri Makay, Community Forestry Manager in Carrington, but are encouraged to submit applications online at www.arboday.org/programs/. The deadline to apply is December 31, 2018.

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 at (701) 652-2951 or Gerri.Makay@ndsu.edu.

Denbigh Day was “Cool” for Youth and Adults

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

In an effort to connect youth to forests through education, area 7th and 8th grade students from four urban and rural communities were brought to the Denbigh Experimental Forest to experience outdoor recreation and develop appreciation for forest management and its benefits to all of us.

Over 150 students, teachers, parents, and presenters took part in the “Denbigh Day” events on September 28, where “cool” early winter temperatures hovered at 22 degrees Fahrenheit! The USDA Forest Service and ND Forest Service sponsored the Public Lands Day events with grant funds from the Dakotas Society of American Foresters.

The Denbigh Experimental Forest was established in 1931 by the USDA Forest Service after the Dust Bowl hit. It is managed by the Dakota Prairie Grasslands — Sheyenne Ranger District. The mission was to determine which species of trees would survive in the northern Great Plains, which seed sources were best adapted for the region, and which methods of tree establishment were most effective. Over the next twenty plus years, more than 40 tree species from around the world were planted there.

The Denbigh Day objectives were to provide historical information, teach some basic principles of forestry, connect science to hands-on experiences with real-world applications, foster stewardship of our natural resources, and generate interest in a career path in forestry.

The students rotated between six forestry sessions, several tied to *Project Learning Tree* (PLT) activities, which were provided by experienced forestry professionals and some members of the Dakotas Society of American Foresters. All volunteered their time to pass on their knowledge to the next generation. Classes included Mapping and GPS, Forest Health, Bugs in the Forest Ecosystem, Forest Management, Tree Identification with a Key, and a Forest Hike.

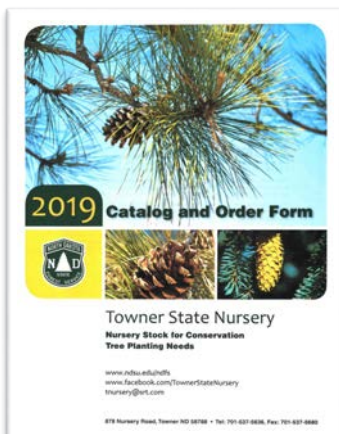
A warm meal and hot cocoa were welcomed during the noon break and followed by a fire suppression presentation showing off equipment and a truck used in wildland firefighting. The afternoon sessions ended at 2 p.m. and then students loaded the buses with T-shirts and a supply of Smokey Bear fire prevention items, forestry resource materials, some new skills, and, hopefully, a love for the outdoors.



Students spent a “cool” 22 degree morning and families spent an evening in the Denbigh Experimental Forest.

Families and interested adults were invited to bring their own picnic lunch and lawn chairs out to the Denbigh Forest for a family-oriented evening meal and a program starting at 6 p.m. The Sheyenne District Ranger gave another overview of the Forest’s history. Later, everyone had the chance to explore the arboretum and hike the Skyline Trail. The fixings for s’mores around a hosted campfire were provided.

These two opportunities helped instill a lifelong appreciation in people of all ages for the value of forests, the broader environment, recreation, and our shared quality of life.



2019 Towner State Nursery Catalog is Here

By: Rhonda Schell, Sales and Office Manager

The 2019 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/.

First Biochar Kiln Fabricated in ND

By: Derek Lowstuter, Forest Stewardship Manager



ND Forest Service staff load invasive buckthorn into the first biochar kiln fabricated to produce charcoal to be used as a soil amendment.

Early fall snows and record-breaking cold temperatures have hampered

outdoor fall activities. However, the early snows and cold were ideal for

testing the first kiln fabricated to produce charcoal under the Great Plains Biochar Initiative (GPBI) in North Dakota. The GPBI is a regional partnership between local, state, and federal agencies, private companies, and individuals to promote the production and use of charcoal as a soil amendment.

The “Cavalier” kiln is a flame-cap style kiln made from the modified bottom cone of a grain hopper. The shape and size of the kiln causes a “flame-cap” of swirling air on the top of the kiln that limits oxygen lower in the kiln. The lack of oxygen and high heat create charcoal from waste wood. This resulting charcoal can improve soil structure and health when applied to fields, gardens, or containers.

Trail Improvements Continue on State Forest Lands

By: Michael Kangas, Nursery & State Forests Team Leader

Another phase of trail improvements are underway on the Turtle Mountain State Forest. Phase II of the *Trail Restoration and Improvement Project* began this summer with contractual work to be completed next spring. The project focuses on enhancing trail sustainability on the multi-use trails that originate from Strawberry Lake campground and Twisted Oaks Equestrian campground. The ongoing project involves establishing re-routes around sensitive wetland areas, installing culverts to direct water flow, benching, and signage enhancements. The resulting work will make the trails more durable and require less maintenance.

Plans are underway to complete additional trail improvement needs



New “water crossing” on a state trail.

through a Phase III of the project. Phase III will address water-crossing areas and steep terrain areas that could not be accommodated in the current project. Assessments for this phase will commence this fall and into the spring. The agency anticipates working through the North Dakota

Parks and Recreation Department to apply for grant funds in 2019.

Trails on North Dakota Forest Service lands are all non-motorized, multi-use trails. Acceptable uses include hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling (when a snow base of at least 4” is present). Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are not permitted on multi-use trails. Trails designated for OHVs and ATVs can be found at the archery range section located four miles north of Bottineau along the Sjule Road. For more information about trail use, contact Tom Nowatzki at (701) 228-3700 or to download maps go to: www.ndsu.edu/ndfs → ‘Explore Our State Forests.’

Emerald Ash Borer Update

By: *Lezlee Johnson, Forest Health Manager*

The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) played a big role in the North Dakota Department of Agriculture's (NDDA) Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) trapping efforts in 2018. We placed 127 traps in 27 counties in late May, checked them and changed lures in July, then checked and removed the traps in August.



Forest Health Intern Owen Schneider places a purple EAB trap in an ash tree in Fargo.

The traps are large, glue-covered purple structures. We placed them in ash tree crowns along with a lure to attract EAB. If there is an EAB population nearby, the adult EAB beetles get stuck on the trap when they fly around nibbling ash leaves and looking for mates. EAB populations are in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Manitoba so this survey is an important and economical method of surveying the entire state for EAB.

City Foresters and the NDDA were also trapping, and the good news is that none of us trapped any EAB beetles. Trapping will continue in future years because once the EAB is

established, it cannot be eradicated, and EAB continues to be discovered closer to our state.



A thin crown, with or without basal sprouts, is a symptom of EAB and other ash maladies.

In Manitoba and in South Dakota, it is estimated based on tree-ring research that the EAB infestations started four or five years before they were discovered. The infested trees did not show any symptoms at first. When symptoms finally developed, they were indistinguishable from those caused by other common ailments, except for one thing: a 1/8" wide D-shaped exit hole made by the adult when it exits the bark.

The eventual arrival of EAB will have a significant impact on North Dakota forests, communities, homeowners, and landowners. Treatments for individual trees will be available, but are expensive and must be applied by a tree care professional. Communities have been preparing for EAB by inventorying city trees, removing poor quality ash trees, and planting a diversity of new trees. Ash trees in forests, windbreaks, and conservation plantings are very vulnerable. After EAB is established, stingless wasps which prey on EAB can be released with the hope that future generations

of ash trees will have some protection from EAB.



Adult EAB beetles leave a D-shaped exit hole about 1/8-inch wide in ash tree bark.

The best way to manage EAB is to prevent it from entering North Dakota. An important message is "Don't move firewood!" Remember also to plant diversity. Planting several different tree species will improve your property's and North Dakota's resilience to future pest problems.

The website below is part of a multinational effort to bring you the latest information about emerald ash borer. Check back frequently at:

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

For more information, contact Lezlee.Johnson@ndsu.edu or call (701) 231-5138.

GNA Helps Reduce Wildfires in Pine Stands

By: Thomas Claeys, Forestry and Fire Management Team Leader

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows the USDA Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with states to improve the health and resilience of pine stands on National Forest System lands, and assure viability of the pines into the future, as well as reduce the potential for catastrophic fire. The Dakota Prairie Grasslands (DPG) and North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) have entered into a GNA agreement called NDFS/DPG Woodlands and Grasslands Sustainability Agreement.

The agreement outlines the use of mechanical treatment and winter pile burning as a means of reducing the fuels load to maintain the health of the ponderosa pine stands on the Medora Ranger District. The ponderosa pine stands in Slope County are unique because they are the most northeasterly colonies of native ponderosa pine in North America.

The pine stands have had decades of continual fire suppression and the



Hazardous fuels reduction projects reduce pine needle litter mats, remove underbrush and small trees, recycle nutrients, and stimulate grass production in the stands, creating park-like stands of widely-spaced trees with a grass understory.

majority have not received prescribed fire or mechanical treatments. These

conditions make the pines susceptible to catastrophic wildfire events, as evidenced by the Deep Creek Fire of 2004. Such fires generally kill large areas of trees and create a hazard to homes and ranches in the area, as well as threaten the lives of firefighters and homeowners.

Forest management prescriptions are outlined within the GNA and were developed by NDFS Forest Stewardship staff. These prescriptions mirror hazardous fuels reduction efforts on adjacent private lands, allowing for the effective treatment of “both sides of the fence” on both private and federal land. The project is planned to be implemented over multiple years, as funding is available. Five priority areas will be treated over an extended period of time. NDFS and DPG staff will provide periodic training and monitor implementation.

Forestry Datelines

Nov. 18-20 ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts Annual 80th Conference/Meeting
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, ND
Contact: Kathy Henriksen (701) 223-8575

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

Jan. 28-30 NDNGLA and NUCFA Joint Conference
Delta Hotels by Marriott, Fargo
NDNGLA: Mary Holm at (701) 265-2441
holmgh@polarcomm.com
NUCFA: Sam DeMarais at (701) 212-0838 / sdemarais@fargoparks.com
For details and registration, go to:
www.nducfa.org or www.ndngla.com

Feb. 21-24 ND State Fire School – Holiday Inn and ND State Fairgrounds, Minot, ND
Contact: www.ndfa.net or (701) 222-2799

Mar. 1-Apr. 30 Community Forestry Grant Signups
Contact: Gerri Makay (701) 652-2951

Mar. 5-7 NDCDEA/NDFS Tree Promotion Meeting
Radisson Inn, Bismarck, ND
Contact: Tom Claeys (701) 328-9945



People in Forestry



Cody Clemenson
Resource Forester
Bottineau, ND

Cody Clemenson was chosen to receive the “Young Alumnus” award by Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB). This award goes to an alumnus who has graduated within the last 15 years, has been successful, and shown

growth and promise in a chosen career. The recipient must have contributed to the community and/or society in a beneficial way and has set a good example in the community.

Clemenson graduated from DCB in 2010 with an Associate of Science degree in wildlife, which was a three plus one program with Valley City State University. He completed his Bachelor of Science at VCSU. He works in the ND Forest Service field office in Bottineau. In his spare time, he volunteers for the ND Parks and Recreation’s WOW program leading the spear fishing class and is an adjunct instructor at DCB teaching GIS classes.

Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator, ND Forest Service headquarters in Bottineau,



Glenda Fauske
Information and Education
Coordinator

was awarded the “Natural Resource Professional” Trees Award at the Fargodome on September 29, 2018. Fauske is retiring January 15 and will have served for 30 years from 1989 to 2019.



State Forester Larry Kotchman received the “Distinguished Leadership” award from North Dakota State University and the North Dakota Forest Service. **President Bresciani** presented it to Kotchman and his wife, Alice.

Larry Kotchman, State Forester, received the “Distinguished Leadership” award from North Dakota

State University and the North Dakota Forest Service at the Fargodome on September 29, 2018. Dr. Bresciani,

President, North Dakota State University, presented it to Kotchman and his wife, Alice.

Kotchman will be retiring on November 20, 2018, after 43 years of service from 1975 to 2018. He has served for 32 years as the ND State Forester, and is the longest serving, current State Forester according to the National Association of State Foresters.

Kotchman’s professional career will be remembered by the way he improved public leadership and impacted state and private forestland management policies in ND and throughout the nation. He is respected and admired by those who know and work with him. Despite his many awards, recognitions, and successes, he remains modest and thoughtful.

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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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