



North Dakota Forest Service

the prairie forester

Vol. 29 No. 3

Fall/Winter 2015

25th TREES BOWL AND AWARDS CEREMONY HELD IN FARGO

The 25th Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony was sponsored by the North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota State University at the Fargodome on September 12, 2015. The Trees Awards recognize individuals, organizations and agencies who contribute in an outstanding way to forestry activities. The 25th anniversary of the State and Private Forestry Programs the U.S. Forest Service delivers in partnership with state forestry agencies and partners was also recognized. The Forest Stewardship, and Urban & Community Forestry Programs support healthy forests and livable communities that impact the social, economic, and natural environment for everyone.

Following a fourth national championship ceremonial tree planting and 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 winning football game against Weber State University of Ogden, Utah. After the game, 3,000 ponderosa pine and bur oak trees were distributed to fans. The 2015 award winners include:

Community of the Year
City of Jamestown

Conservation Achievement
Ken and Lila Richau
Golden Valley



The 2015 Trees Award winners from across the state were recognized at the Fargodome by the North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota State University. They are pictured with the fourth national football championship oak tree that will be planted on the NDSU campus.

Distinguished Service Award
Greg Smith, Bismarck

Environmental Educator
Collin Evenson, Devils Lake

Excellence in Government
ND Parks and Recreation
Department

Fire Department Cooperator
Bismarck Rural Fire Department

Forest Stewardship Landowners
David and Katherine Axvig
Edinburg

Media Outreach
Cecily Fong, Bismarck

Natural Resources Professional
ND Forest Service Firefighters

Smokey Bear Poster Contest
Brew Nesvig, Beach

Tree Celebration
Minot Forestry Department

Volunteer Organization
Moore Engineering, Sunrise and
Noon Rotary Clubs, Minot

Youth Tree Planters
Debra Nelson
Bottineau Jr High School Classes

Distinguished Leadership
US Forest Service
State & Private Forestry
Regions 1 and 4

A View from the Top of the Tree

State Foresters are required to review the status of their *Forest Action Plan* (FAP) every five years. North Dakota's *Forest Action Plan* was completed in 2010 and the North Dakota Forest Service solicited feedback this year from partners, stakeholders, and the general public. We also hosted a joint State Stewardship Conservation Committee and Community Forestry Council meeting on June 10, 2015, to engage key partners in the FAP review. Respondents were specifically asked to review priority issues, identify implementation challenges, determine new data needs, and identify the implementation focus for the next five years.

Feedback was positive and reinforced the original priorities established in the 2010 plan. Forest health / invasive species issues were ranked highest by respondents. Enhancing species diversity and strengthening educational outreach were additional high priorities. All eight of North Dakota's identified priorities in the 2010 plan remain at least moderately important to stakeholders. Stakeholders also identified emerging priorities that have materialized since the launch of the *Forest Action Plan* in 2010. The following summaries highlight these issues:

Restoration of Riparian Forests – Nearly one fifth of North Dakota's forests occur within 200 feet of a stream or lake. The majority of these forests are comprised of ash, elm, and cottonwood. The health and sustainability of these plant communities have important implications for water quality, flood control, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities.

Loss of Windbreaks – New farming technology, larger equipment and declining tree health have prompted many farmers to remove windbreaks. The loss of these resources has serious consequences for soil conservation and wildlife habitat.



Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester

Education of Decision Makers Regarding the Importance of Green Infrastructure – Educating decision makers about the importance of trees, the ecological and social services they provide, and the benefits to communities remains an important issue to ensure policies incorporate the best available science.

Oil Field Reclamation / 'Boom Town' Urban Forestry Needs – Population growth in western North Dakota associated with oil and gas extraction has created community forestry needs. North Dakota has also experienced some direct loss of forests due to oil and gas impacts (roads, well pads, pipelines), which have required replacement tree plantings.

Drought Tolerant Species for Western North Dakota – Western North Dakota receives less moisture than the eastern half of the state. The evaluation of hardy, drought-tolerant trees species is a high priority.

A report on the *Forest Action Plan* five-year review must be submitted to the USDA Forest Service by November 20, 2015. We thank you for taking the time to help the North Dakota Forest Service improve our planning efforts.

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, 2015.

Sibley, ND – population 28 – currently stands as the smallest Tree City USA in the program. New York City is the largest with 8.4 million residents.

Tree City USA is a national program sponsored by the Arbor Day

Foundation and National Association of State Foresters and administered by the North Dakota Forest Service.

Come and Take “A Walk in the Woods”

By: *Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator*

The North Dakota Forest Service and North Central Teacher Center are bringing a traveling exhibition called *A Walk in the Woods* to Bottineau, ND, from November 16-27, 2015. It is part of the Rural Arts Initiative from the North Dakota Museum of Art. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday for the public at the Technology Center on Main Street, except on Thanksgiving Day. The museum delivers and installs the exhibition in towns across the state, and it is free of charge to the host community and visiting public.

A Walk in the Woods consists of artwork from the museum’s permanent collection. It contains work by artists who make images and constructions that are about wood or that include wood as their material. Wood is important for many reasons—warmth, shelter, refuge, a place to find food, shade, and much more. In fairy tales, legends, and folktales, the woods or forests often have a very important purpose. Stories such as Little Red Riding Hood and Snow White depict woods as a daunting place to be avoided. On the other hand, Paul Bunyan and Johnny Appleseed find tranquility and life.



Much like these stories, the artists in this exhibition have different takes on wood and how it was used. Visitors to the exhibition will see photography, sculptures, wood-fired ceramics, wood block prints, plus work from the museum’s new African collection. Artworks in the exhibition deal with necessity, aesthetics, and spirituality. At the same time the exhibition contains works that are utilitarian and functional.

School classrooms wishing to attend the touring exhibition may get reimbursement for bus transportation and substitute teachers for an out-of-class art education opportunity. The museum’s education department also develops numerous pages of lesson plans for each exhibit and teachers can find these on the webpage at www.ndmoa.com/images/user/698/a_walk_in_the_woods_lesson_plans.pdf. Area schools are encouraged to contact Glenda.Fauske@ndsu.edu / (701) 228-5446 to arrange a tour during school hours.

Keep ND Clean Poster Contest Expands to Pre-K

By: *Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator*

Keep North Dakota Clean (KNDC) is the largest and longest running contest for students in grades 1-12, and will expand to include Pre-K students in 2016! Pre-school and kindergarten students will have their category in the 48th contest with a special “color-in” poster. The winner from each grade Pre-K to 8 will have their poster made into a billboard by Newman Outdoor Advertising and placed along a major

transportation route close to the winner’s home community.

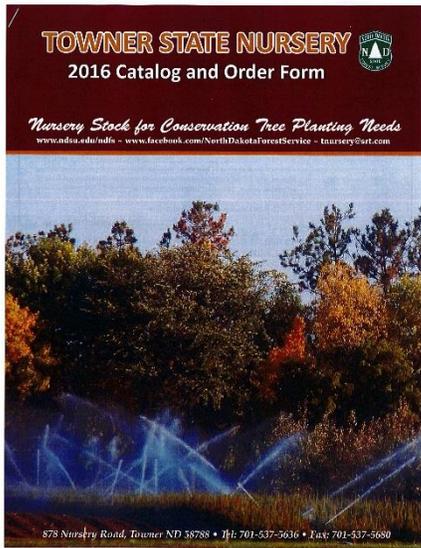


The North Dakota Forest Service-Fire Management sponsors the second grade Smokey Bear “Prevent Wildfire” contest and the North Dakota Forest Service-Project Learning Tree sponsors the fifth grade Arbor Day “Trees are Terrific” contest.

The deadline for submitting posters is March 15, 2016. Check out Keep-ND-Clean.org.

2016 Towner State Nursery Catalogs Available

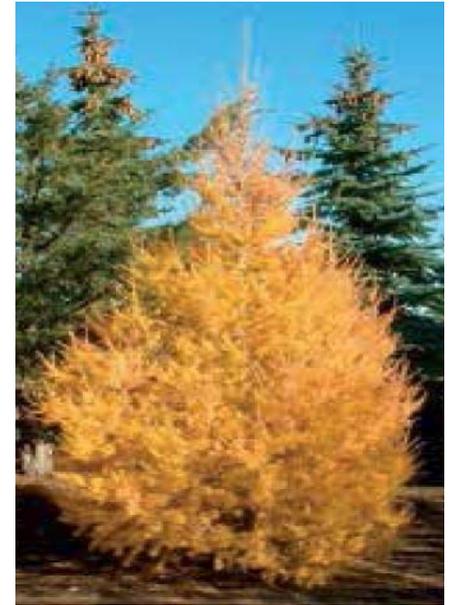
By: Rhonda Schell, Sales and Office Manager



The 2016 catalog is filled with helpful information and tree tips.

The 2016 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, which is also available online at www.ndsu.edu/ndfs/documents/2016-catalog.pdf. It includes additional information 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.



Siberian larch are a deciduous conifer that turn a beautiful gold in the fall.

Trail Restoration and Improvement Projects

By: Tom Nowatzki, State Forests Manager

The North Dakota Forest Service State Forests program is currently cooperating with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department on implementing the Trail Restoration and Improvement Program on the trail system located on the Turtle Mountain State Forest.

The program was funded by a successful Outdoor Heritage Fund application. All of the preliminary work consisting of mapping and identifying problem areas on the trail system have been completed and we are now in the implementation phase. Contractors have been hired through the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to work on trail improvements. Staff members from the State Forest program are helping as needed and have been busy clearing wind-blown trees and fixing

damaged portions of the trail.

The trail system on the Turtle Mountain State Forest has been difficult to maintain due to abnormally high amounts of precipitation over the last ten years. The goal of the Trail Restoration and Improvement



Connecting trails will expand access and create a more enjoyable experience.

Program is sustainable trail building and armoring techniques to improve access, user experience, and resource protection. This will be accomplished by rerouting trails around sensitive wetlands, repairing resource damaged areas, and building connecting routes to expand access. In addition, the project will improve trailhead information centers, improve user access points, and overall trail signage to accurately direct users and create a more enjoyable recreational experience.

Trail work on the Turtle Mountain State Forest is due to be completed this fall with trailhead and signage work to be completed in the spring of 2016.

Once the project is complete, the trail system should be more sustainable for many years to come.

Fall Tree Care: Preparing Trees for Winter

By: Aaron Bergdahl, Forest Health Manager

As homeowners begin fall cleanup in preparation for the coming North Dakota winter, certain steps can be taken to help trees make it through the challenging season in good health.



A properly mulched, newly planted honeylocust tree receiving some fall watering.

Fall watering: Watering trees from mid-September through freeze-up in October can help trees take advantage of the fall root-growth period. Fall watering is especially beneficial for young trees planted within the past five years. Older, established trees are typically able to obtain sufficient water from their more extensive root systems. It is recommended to provide between five to ten gallons of water per week, per inch diameter of your tree (for example, a tree that is three inches in diameter should get at least 15 gallons of water per week). Tree roots will continue to absorb water until soil temperatures drop below 40 degrees for a consistent time period, so watering after trees have dropped their

leaves continues to be beneficial. Areas of the state receiving above normal moisture in the late summer and early fall may require little if any additional watering. Also, spreading a four-inch thick layer of organic mulch around the base of newer plantings helps maintain soil moisture.

Raking and pruning: Collecting and properly disposing of dead leaves, branches and other plant material in the fall is key to reducing the potential of leaf and canker diseases that can harm the health and reduce the aesthetics of your trees. By landfilling, composting or burning (where possible) this year's leaves and twigs, the sources of next year's infections can be effectively reduced from your yard. Dead wood can be pruned out of a tree at any time of the year and reduces the amount of overwintering sites for certain fungi and some harmful insects. Late fall is often a convenient time to prune trees to improve their form, structure and remove injured or diseased branches.

Protect and shade your trees: Wrapping the trunk of younger trees with a light-colored tree guard not only prevents sunscald (bark cracking and injury from intense sunlight that often occurs in late-winter), but also protects trees from rodent feeding damage that can girdle and kill trees. Protecting the bottom three feet, starting from the soil level, is often sufficient for protection from rodent feeding. Although, as snow drifts and piles around smaller trees in winter, rabbits may be able to access higher areas of your trees. Thus, it is important to periodically monitor your trees in winter as you would during the growing season. Preventing winter burn in conifers (drying out of fine branches and needles) is important for

preserving tree health. Small ornamental conifers planted next to homes are especially prone to winterburn. Such damage on small conifers can be prevented by loosely wrapping the trees with burlap.

Winterizing your trees according to the advice above will help maintain the health of your trees and ensure another year of valuable tree services like summer shade and beautiful fall foliage.



A plastic tree wrap will protect young trees from bark cracking, sunscald and rodent damage.

For more information, contact your nearest ND Forest Service office or aaron.d.bergdahl@ndsu.edu; or call (701) 231-5138.

ND Firefighters Wrap Up a Busy Year and Plan for the Next

By: Ryan Melin, Fire Manager

The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) Fire Management team is wrapping up a very busy year with fire suppression assignments across the state and the western United States. NDFS firefighters were requested by several North Dakota fire departments for suppression assistance along with the Standing Rock and Three Affiliated Tribes Reservations. NDFS firefighters were also engaged in fire suppression assignments in Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming.

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



ND Forest Service fire crews worked on fire suppression efforts in Alaska this summer.

training or any questions on trainings offered, please call Anthony Schultz at (701) 328-9916 or Ryan Melin at (701) 328-9985.

The Fire Management staff continues to work towards developing new reporting techniques that will streamline the reporting process for departments and, hopefully, bolster reporting numbers for the state of North Dakota. The reported numbers have a direct impact on grant funds available for fire departments. The list of solutions includes the possible use of mobile technology and partnering with the State Fire Marshal's office to combine reporting systems. The NDFS looks forward to offering a more accessible and streamlined process in the future.

Forestry Datelines

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

Mar. 16-17 NDCDEA/NDFS Tree Promotion Meeting
Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND
Contact: Liz Smith (701) 400-8330

Jan. 24-26 NDNGA and NDUCFA Joint Conference
Ramada Plaza Suites Hotel, Fargo
NDNGA: Mary Holm at (701) 886-7673
holmgh@polarcomm.com
NDUCFA: Scott Luidahl at (701) 241-1465
sliudahl@cityoffargo.com
For details and registration, go to:
www.nducfa.org or www.ndnga.com

Feb. 26-28 ND State Fire School
ND State Fairgrounds - Minot, ND
Contact: www.ndfa.net or (701) 222-2799

Mar. 1-Apr. 15 Community Forestry Grant Sign-ups
Contact: Gerri Makay (701) 652-2951

Mar. 15 Keep North Dakota Clean Poster Contest
Deadline – www.Keep-ND-Clean.org
Contact: Glenda Fauske (701) 228-5446



The oak tree, cut off to serve as a sturdy gate post in the Turtle Mountains, endeavors to persevere as a sprout grew this summer on the Russell Fauske farm.

People in Forestry



Sheldon Voeller
Nursery Technician
Towner State Nursery

Sheldon Voeller was selected as the Nursery Technician for the North Dakota Forest Service. He began his duties on September 8, 2015, in the Towner office.

Voeller will be responsible for the packaging and preparation of tree orders, greenhouse production of tree seedlings, special projects around the nursery, and helping monitor and maintain nursery irrigation systems.

Sheldon has been involved in agriculture for many years with experience in applying herbicides, pesticides, fungicides and fertilizer, and has worked part-time at the nursery recently. He is married with grown children and grandchildren. Sheldon enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening and sports.

“I am looking forward to growing, caring for, and packaging good healthy trees for nursery customers,” said Voeller.

Sheldon Voeller
Nursery Technician
Towner State Nursery
878 Nursery Road
Towner ND 58788
Tel: (701) 537-5636
Sheldon.Voeller@ndsu.edu

ND Champion Tree Register

Deadline for Nominations is

December 31, 2015

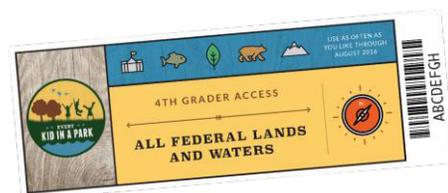
The ND Forest Service maintains the records for the *ND Register of Champion Trees*. Nominations for the Register are accepted throughout the year, and are due no later than December 31 at the state headquarters. The register is updated with the new champions and released shortly after the New Year.

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



A new White House youth initiative to get all 4th graders and their families to experience the places that are home to our country's natural treasures, rich history, and vibrant culture FREE OF CHARGE!

To help engage and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates, the White House, in partnership with the Federal Land Management agencies, launched the Every Kid in a Park initiative. The immediate goal is to provide an opportunity for each and every 4th grade student across the country to experience their federal public lands and waters in person throughout the 2015-2016 school year.



Beginning September 1, all kids in the fourth grade have access to their own Every Kid in a Park pass at www.everykidinapark.gov. You need to print your pass and bring it with you when you visit. Each pass has its own code and electronic passes are not permitted. The Every Kid in a Park pass is good for the 2015-2016 school year, until August 31, 2016.

**Happy
Holidays!**



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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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This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request by calling (701) 228-5446.

ND SU

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Field Offices