



North Dakota Forest Service

the prairie forester

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26th TREES BOWL AND AWARDS CEREMONY HELD IN FARGO

The 26th Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony was sponsored by the North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota State University at the Fargodome on September 10, 2016. The Trees Awards recognize individuals, organizations and agencies who contribute in an outstanding way to forestry activities.

Following a fifth 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 Eastern Washington University of Cheney, Washington. After the game, 3,000 Colorado blue spruce and bur oak trees were distributed to fans.

The 2016 award winners include:

Community of the Year
City of Grand Forks and City of Mandan (co-winners)

Conservation Achievement
Jim and Karen Strand and Family, Hazelton

Distinguished Service Award
Mike Fugazzi, Grand Forks



The 2016 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 fifth national football championship oak tree that will be planted on the NDSU campus.

Environmental Educator
JoAnn Schapp, Minot

Excellence in Government
CREC Northern Hardy Fruit Program, Carrington

Fire Department Cooperator
Des Lacs Rural Fire Department

Forest Stewardship Landowners
Brad and Linda Kingery Cavalier

Media Outreach
Chelsey Benson, Bismarck

Natural Resources Professional
Kevin Kading, Bismarck

Smokey Bear Poster Contest
Ainsley Johnson, Bismarck

Tree Celebration
United Tribes Technical College Bismarck

Volunteer Organization
ND Nursery and Greenhouse Association

Youth Tree Planters
Bottineau Boy and Girl Scouts

Distinguished Leadership
President Dean L. Bresciani North Dakota State University Fargo

A View from the Top of the Tree

With support from the National Agroforestry Center, partners from across the Great Plains will host a three-day workshop to create the framework for a Great Plains Windbreaks Action Plan. The goal is to advance the use of windbreaks in supporting profitable and resilient farms and ranches and conserving natural resources across the region. The workshop will be held on February 7 – 9, 2017, in Manhattan, Kansas.

As a member of the Great Plains Windbreaks Action Plan Committee, I am pleased to have been able to send invitations to eight partnering organizations and entities within North Dakota. Other states are circulating invitations throughout the Great Plains as well. We hope to attract interested workshop representatives who are willing to share their experiences and contribute to the development of an action plan.

The workshop resulting framework and follow-up efforts will help to:

- Create a region-wide narrative and objectives for advancing research, monitoring, and outreach on windbreak use across the Great Plains region;
- Coordinate and strengthen inventory, monitoring, and data collection on windbreak adoption, trends, condition and impacts;
- Craft effective communications, including the identification of messages for key audiences, and communication tools to catalyze landowner action; and
- Build partnerships that advance the use of windbreaks across the Great Plains.



Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester

Following the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, field and farmstead windbreaks were planted extensively throughout the Great Plains to reduce soil erosion on adjacent agricultural lands. An estimated 55,000 linear miles of windbreaks have been planted across North Dakota. Unfortunately, these trees are showing signs of old age and deterioration from numerous pests and environmental conditions that reduce their effectiveness and limit long-term survival. An estimated 62 percent have declined and are in need of renovation. Many older windbreaks are being removed and not replaced. North Dakota's farmers and ranchers need support to renew their efforts to restore these windbreaks which are instrumental in preventing soil erosion, increasing crop yields, reducing water pollution, saving energy and increasing wildlife habitat.

The workshop planning committee believes there is an urgent need for a region-wide effort to better understand why and where windbreaks are declining and how windbreak establishment and management can be strengthened throughout the Great Plains. I think the Kansas workshop will be a critical step in that direction.

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, 2016.

Sibley, ND, population 28, currently stands as one of the smallest Tree City

USA communities 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. A community's public image is enhanced

by being a Tree City USA and it makes the community a better place to live and helps attract and keep or conduct business. Further, the Tree City USA signs at community entrances tell visitors that the city or town cares about its environment. It is also an indication to prospective businesses that the quality of life may be better because of trees.

Canine Conservationists

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

With her nose in the air and tail wagging, Tia moved between a stand of trees sniffing their trunks. The German shepherd passed countless trees before she stopped and sat. The action alerted her handler, Alice Whitelaw, that she had found an ash tree infested with emerald ash borer (EAB).

Tis is one of a trio of dogs trained to detect ash wood or emerald ash borer as part of the invasive species team at Working Dogs for Conservation (wd4c.org), a nonprofit organization that puts dogs on the front lines of environmental conservation.

“Seeing the raw potential of the dogs and watching them develop these skills over time is super rewarding,” says Whitelaw, co-founder and director of programs for Working Dogs for Conservation. “I’m amazed at their potential to play an important role in conservation.”

The idea of using dogs for scent detection isn’t new. Law enforcement agencies and the military have long trusted dogs to use their superior sense of smell to locate suspects, drugs, and bombs. Working Dogs for



Tia inspects a live ash tree and alerts her handlers to an infestation. Photo credit to wd4c.org.

Conservation uses the same strategies to train their canine conservationists to sniff out invasive species.

Formed in 2000, the Montana-based organization partners with agencies around the globe to help protect wildlife and wild places by dispatching dog/handler teams in the field.

Over the last 16 years, handlers have traveled across the globe using dogs to sniff out invasive zebra mussels in Alberta, poached rhino horns in Zambia, and brown tree snakes in Guam. In the U.S., the dogs have the potential to save forests by identifying the emerald ash borer, a destructive beetle that is wreaking havoc on ash trees.

Native to Asia, emerald ash borer arrived in the U.S. around 2002 via shipping crates containing infested ash wood. To date, emerald ash borers, which have no natural predators in the U.S., have spread to more than 29 states and threaten to kill most of nearly nine billion ash trees found in North America – and the problem continues to escalate. EAB has not yet been detected in North Dakota.

This partial article was reprinted with permission from *American Forests* and you’re encouraged to read the entire piece written by Jodi Helmer and published in Vol. 122, No. 2 at: www.americanforests.org/magazine/article/canine-conservationists/.

ND Tree Selector is a Valuable Tool

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

Not sure which trees to plant? Looking for a tree with certain characteristics or one that would fit in certain situations? North Dakota tree experts have created the **North Dakota Tree Selector** to help you. The searchable database at www.ag.ndsu.edu/tree-selector/ can find biological or ecological characteristics (deciduous versus conifer, cold hardiness, etc.) and ornamental characteristics (showy flowers, fall color, etc.). Simply



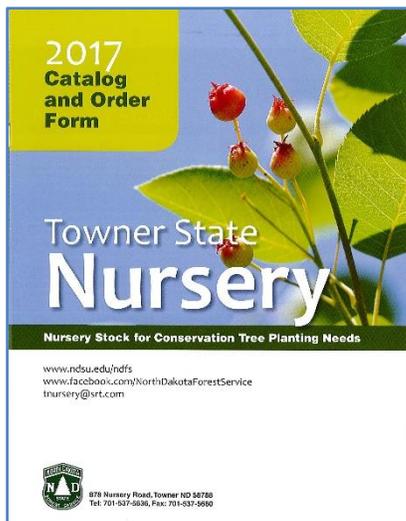
answer a few questions and recommended tree species will be displayed. While not every combination of characteristics will result in a recommended species (e.g., there are no tall trees, with red fall color, and showy flowers that are hardy enough for ND), there are many

more species that people don’t know about that can grow well in North Dakota.

This useful website was developed by the NDSU Extension Service with partial funding from the ND Forest Service and US Forest Service State and Private Forestry. Dr. Joseph Zeleznik, Extension Forester, is currently updating the site with additional tree species and varieties.

2017 Towner State Nursery Catalogs Available

By: Rhonda Schell, Sales and Office Manager



The 2017 catalog is filled with helpful information and tree tips.

The 2017 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/.

The nursery is offering a new trial containerized species and encourages your observations. Bur-gambel oak should be a great choice for wildlife habitat enhancement. The drought tolerance combined with the cold tolerance of our native bur oak gives this hybrid the potential to be a faster growing oak for this area.

Please contact the nursery with questions on your next planting at (701) 537-5636 or tnursery@srt.com.



Bur-gambel oak is a hybrid that grows fast and produces acorns at a young age. Photo: FastGrowingTrees.com

Joint National Public Lands Day Celebrated

By: Michael Kangas, Nursery and State Forests Team Leader

On Saturday, September 24, the North Dakota Forest Service and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department celebrated National Public Lands Day; a nation-wide event to promote recreation on public lands. The event included numerous activities and the grand reopening of the Turtle Mountain State Forest Trail System at the Strawberry Lake Recreation Area.

Following the official ribbon cutting ceremony, attendees could choose from a variety of family friendly activities such as kayaking, a youth and adult fishing derby, guided short and long hikes, or a guided off highway vehicle (OHV) ride on the newly established OHV trails on the



ND Parks and Recreation Director Mark Zimmerman helps children with the ribbon cutting to reopen the Turtle Mountain State Forests trail system.

Turtle Mountain State Forest located on Section 36 in Dalen Township.

The reopening of the Turtle Mountain State Forest Trail System resulted from a cooperative effort between the ND Forest Service and the ND Parks and Recreation Department. Improvements to the trail system were made possible with a grant from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund. Trail enhancements included new trail reroutes, water crossings, trail heads and signage.

The event was a great success as everyone attending enjoyed the mild September weather and some beautiful fall colors. For more information about State Forest recreational opportunities, please click on the 'Explore Our State Forests' quicklink at www.ndsu.edu/ndfs.

Medium-Sized Shade Trees for North Dakota Cities

By: *Lezlee Johnson, Forest Health Manager*

If there were a way for you to make everyone who lives on one block of your city feel seven years younger and \$10,000 richer; and if you could accomplish this with a \$2,000 investment in an infrastructure component that will then increase in value every year, would you consider it? The city of Toronto found last year that regardless of individual or neighborhood wealth or age, residents who lived on a city block with an average of ten or more trees viewed themselves as healthier than those without trees. Ten or more trees on their block made these residents feel as well as if they were seven years younger and had a \$10,000 raise!

Municipal trees are already a positive force for quality of life in North Dakota communities. Trees improve air quality, calm traffic, encourage

outdoor activities, and reduce stress. The North Dakota Forest Service has been inventorying municipal trees in small communities since 2012, and has found that there is still an abundance of opportunity for tree planting. In fact, for every tree you see, there are usually two or three unoccupied tree planting spaces. Communities can improve satisfaction with their tree management programs and improve the well-being of residents by planting trees. One way to do this while minimizing costs is to carefully match trees to their planting sites when planning a tree planting project.

In general, in order to get the most tree canopy for your municipal dollar, it is best to plant the largest-growing tree that is suitable to a planting site. Previous newsletters have included

recommendations for planting large trees in large spaces and for planting small trees in small spaces. In order to have the most diverse and resilient tree population, it is also appropriate to match medium-sized trees to medium-sized spaces. Medium trees should grow to between 25 and 45 feet tall.

Below are five medium-sized trees that are under-represented in North Dakota communities, and whose benefits far outweigh their costs of establishment. Foresters have a saying: “The best time to plant trees is twenty years ago. The next best time is now.” Include some medium-sized trees in your community’s next tree planting project. For more information on tree selection and care, contact your city forester, or a North Dakota Community Forestry Specialist.

Below are five medium-sized trees that are underrepresented in North Dakota communities and whose benefits far outweigh their costs of establishment.



Ironwood
Ostrya virginiana

Also called American hophornbeam, this North Dakota native is in the birch family. Its peeling bark is a distinctive feature.

ND Forest Service photo



Littleleaf Linden
Tilia cordata

Fragrant blossoms, pyramid-shaped crown, dark green leaves.

ND Forest Service photo



Ohio Buckeye
Aesculus glabra

Large showy flowers in spring, unique palmate leaves, shiny brown namesake fruits.

ND Forest Service photo



Manchurian alder
Alnus hirsuta

Smooth gray bark, bears tiny alder cones.

ND Forest Service photo



Japanese elm
Ulmus davidiana
var. japonica

Hardy, umbrella-shaped, and resistant to Dutch elm disease.

NDSU Extension photo

1 Kardan, O. et al. Neighborhood greenspace and health in a large urban center. *Sci. Rep.* 5, 11610; doi: 10.1038/srep11610 (2015).

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

By: Ryan Melin, Fire Manager



ND Forest Service fire staff sizing up Beaver Creek fire in Colorado this past summer.

The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) Fire Management staff is wrapping up another busy year with fire suppression assignments across the state and the United States. NDFS firefighters were requested in state by several North Dakota fire departments for suppression assistance along with the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

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 training or any questions on trainings offered, please call Mike Odell at (701) 328-9916 or Aaron Bucholz at (701) 328-9946.

The Fire Management staff continues to work towards the implementation of the new reporting system that will streamline the reporting process for departments and, hopefully, bolster reporting numbers for the state of North Dakota. The reported fire occurrence numbers have a direct impact on grant funds available for fire departments. The solution includes the 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 near future.



Forestry Datelines

Dec. 31	Tree City USA Application Deadline Contact: Gerri Makay (701) 652-2951	Feb. 23-26	ND State Fire School ND State Fairgrounds - Minot, ND Contact: www.ndfa.net or (701) 222-2799
Jan. 29-Feb. 1	NDNGA and NDUCFA Joint Conference Ramada Plaza Suites Hotel, Fargo NDNGA: Mary Holm at (701) 886-7673 holmgh@polarcomm.com NDUCFA: Scott Liudahl at (701) 241-1466 sliudahl@cityoffargo.com For details and registration, go to: www.nducfa.org or www.ndnga.com	Mar. 1-Apr. 15	Community Forestry Grant Signups 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
		Mar. 15-16	NDCDEA/NDFS Tree Promotion Meeting Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND Contact: Tom Claeys (701) 328-9945

People in Forestry



Michael Odell
*Cooperative Fire
Protection Manager
Bismarck, ND*

Michael Odell was selected as the Cooperative Fire Protection Manager for the North Dakota Forest Service. He began his duties on October 24, 2016, in the Bismarck office.

Odell will be responsible for developing, implementing, and directing statewide wildfire protection programs. The position provides program oversight for the Federal Excess Personal Property, Firefighter Protection, Volunteer Fire Assistance and Cooperative Fire Protection grants.

He will also coordinate between state and local jurisdictions, guiding capacity building and development of wildfire coordination plans (i.e. County Wildfire Protection Plans and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grants). In addition, the manager supervises the Cooperative Fire Protection Technician.

Michael previously held positions as a wildland firefighter with the ND Forest Service, Wyoming Hotshots, and the California Smokejumper. He enjoys motorcycles, hunting, working out, and spending time with family.



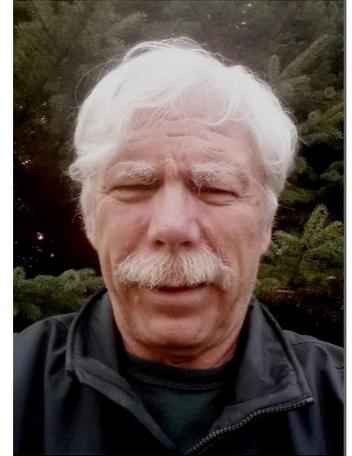
Lezlee Johnson
*Forest Health Manager
Fargo, ND*

Lezlee Johnson accepted the position as Forest Health Manager in Fargo beginning November 1, 2016, following the departure of Aaron Bergdahl. For the past three years, she has served as a Community Forestry Specialist at the Bottineau field office.

Johnson has developed rural and community forest management skills, as well as geographic information science expertise, over her forestry career.

Her duties include administration of the Forest Health Management and Forest Health Monitoring Program efforts. She will conduct an annual statewide survey with a special emphasis on pests that may be introduced from other regions. Other duties include providing public and private forest managers with technical assistance targeting detection, identification and control.

"I plan to increase the use of remote sensing techniques to detect forest health issues," said Johnson. "This will enhance our ability to provide the most current information to forest managers and will inform our technical assistance recommendations."



Robert Harsel
*Stewardship Manager
Lisbon, ND*

Robert "Bob" Harsel, Stewardship Manager at Lisbon, will culminate his 38-year career with the agency on December 30, 2016. Harsel's knowledge of forest resources, rural landowner successes, and skills have contributed so much to preserving and managing North Dakota's valuable forestry resources.

When asked what were some of the biggest changes he experienced over the years, he said two things came to mind. The first was technology, as he started out with a typewriter and now uses a computer with ArcGIS! The second change was the significant increase in the visibility and respect of the agency now compared to when he first arrived from Colorado. He attributes it to the excellent leadership and staff.

Bob plans to stay in the Lisbon area seeing more of his grandchildren, family and friends; working on home projects; and pursuing his love of outdoor activities such as fishing, golfing, kayaking and skiing.

A cake and coffee reception honoring Bob's retirement is planned at 2 p.m. on December 13 at the Carrington NDSU Research Center.

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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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