



ARBOR DAY CELEBRATES ANNIE'S BIRTHDAY AT HER HOUSE

The North Dakota Forest Service and the Bottineau Winter Park are partnering together to celebrate the 2013 State Arbor Day and Ann Nelson's birthday in Annie's House at the Bottineau Winter Park (BWP) near Bottineau, ND, on Friday, May 17. The public is invited to attend.

Arbor Day in North Dakota is normally celebrated the first Friday in May, but the event this year is being held on May 17, which is Ann Nelson's birthday. Annie's House was built to honor Ann Nelson of Stanley, the only North Dakotan to perish in the World Trade Center attacks in New York on 9/11. For many years her family has had a residence at Lake Metigoshe, where she learned to ski and enjoyed many other outdoor sports. Ann always dreamed of having a house in North Dakota.

The joint celebration will begin at 1 p.m. CDST with introductions by Emcee Tom Claeys, North Dakota Forest Service. The American Legion Post #42, American Veterans Post #25 and Veterans of Foreign Wars



The 2013 State Arbor Day will celebrate Annie's birthday at her house at the Bottineau Winter Park near Bottineau, ND, on Friday, May 17. Annie's House is a year-round sports facility and the only adaptive ski facility for children, adults and wounded warriors in North Dakota.

Post #8688 will provide a joint color guard to Post the Colors. The Bottineau High School choir will lead everyone in singing *God Bless America*. Wally Brandjord, BWP Board Chairman will give an official welcome. Governor Jack Dalrymple has been invited to deliver the keynote address and read the State Arbor Day Proclamation. Remarks regarding the construction and financial goals to complete Annie's House will be provided by Cedric Jacobson. Jenette Nelson will explain how the New York Says Thank You Foundation selected Annie's House as a project. Major General David Sprynczynatyk, Adjutant General of the ND National Guard, will deliver a few words on behalf of the wounded warriors. Jordan Thornberg will provide a musical selection he wrote called *Annie's Song*. State Forester Larry Kotchman will explain the significance of the trees being planted, and Ann's parents – Gary

and Jenette Nelson - will give some acknowledgement remarks.

Following the ceremonial tree planting, everyone will gather around the tree with 42 balloons and sing Happy Birthday to Ann, and then release the balloons. The event will conclude with refreshments, the North Dakota Forest Service will provide apples and the Bottineau Winter Park will provide birthday cake and coffee/punch.

Annie's House is a year-round adaptive recreational sports facility. The facility will provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities and wounded warriors to participate in recreational activities such as skiing, hiking, fishing, and canoeing. Accommodations, specially trained instructors and adaptive equipment are provided to make their recreational experiences successful.



A View from the Top of the Tree

As State Forester, I applaud and support the beneficial intent of the proposed North Dakota legislation to make the Forest Stewardship Tax available statewide. Senate Bill 2279 would provide for a legislative management study of the benefits and implications on tax policy of the Forest Stewardship Tax. The 2013-14 interim study would report its findings and recommendations together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations to the 2015 Legislative Assembly.

Enacted in 1991, the Forest Stewardship Tax (Chapter 57-57), provides a financial incentive to forestland owners to manage and conserve forest resources. This chapter applies in any county in which the county commission has approved by resolution the application of this chapter to all qualifying property within the county. The State Forester is responsible for determining whether property qualifies for taxation under this law. The State Forester examines the land and reports to the county commission whether the landowner is eligible for forest stewardship tax benefits.

Forest resources in North Dakota include upland forests and riparian (streamside) forests. In total, these resources encompass 772,400 acres or 1.73 percent of the total land area of North Dakota. Forest resources provide important public benefits, including clean air and water; soil protection; food and cover for wildlife; biodiversity; and outdoor recreation experiences. The majority of forest lands, 68 percent, are privately owned. Unlike agricultural lands, forests provide little, if any, annual income to their owners in North Dakota.

North Dakota's forest resources face tremendous threats, including flooding; drought; invasive insects and diseases (such as emerald ash borer); a lack of species diversity; and deterioration associated with old age. Over maturity and



Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester

limited natural regeneration; conversion to non-forest uses; wildfire; and limited wood utilization opportunities threaten forests in the Turtle Mountains, Pembina Gorge, Devils Lake Hills, Killdeer Mountains and the Badlands.

By resolution, the County Commissioners in Benson, Cavalier, Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Ramsey, Walsh and Wells Counties have approved the application of this chapter to all qualifying forestlands within these counties. There are 42,140 acres enrolled by 658 landowners in the program. The law currently provides for landowners enrolled to pay a tax rate of fifty cents per acre in lieu of all other real estate taxes.

I welcome the opportunity to strengthen the intended benefits of the Forest Stewardship Tax for all of North Dakota's forestland owners. The State Forester's office is very supportive of legislation and programs that would provide incentives to landowners to maintain forest lands. Dedicated landowners who wish to manage and conserve their forest resources to provide important public benefits deserve our full support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry A. Kotchman".



Grace Bartunek
Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner

ND State Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

Grace Bartunek, a fifth grader at Bennett Elementary School in Fargo, was selected as the first place winner of the 2013 State Arbor Day Poster Contest. The purpose of the Arbor Day Poster Contest is to increase

awareness of the benefits trees provide in our cities and towns, and encourage the celebration of Arbor Day. The Arbor Day contest is part of the Keep North Dakota Clean poster contest.

Marketplace for Kids Focuses on Special Forest Products

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator



At the end of each MFK forestry class, students make a Primstav or Norwegian calendar out of a wooden painting stick donated by Walmart in Bottineau.

Marketplace for Kids (MFK) is about encouraging youth entrepreneurship, innovation and invention. Twelve MFK education days are held across the state each spring. MFK believes youth are prospective, skilled, innovative people who will continue to power a diversified and vigorous economy in our state.

The North Dakota Forest Service provides sessions with ideas on a variety of “special forest products” people have made, grown or collected and turned into a successful business. Examples include food products like fruits and nuts; craft products; wood items like violins, furniture and carvings; medicines; decorative florals; and woody biomass for fuel.

Two Professional Development Opportunities for K-12 Teachers

By: Glenda E. Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

North Dakota’s Wars: the Civil War and the Cold War
Valley City State University
June 26-28, 2013
2 credits

Cost: 2 credits, \$32/night + \$10 (one time) for linens at Valley City State University and some meals.

By combining history, geography, and environmental studies in a learning cohort, we will exchange ideas, approaches and experiences to strengthen our practical teaching and learning activities. The workshop will include a tour and presenters at the Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site.

Sponsored by the ND Teacher Resource Coalition members: Knife River Indian Villages NPS, ND

Council on the Arts, ND Forest Service, ND Geographic Alliance, ND Humanities Council, ND State University, and State Historical Society of ND.

For more information or to register, contact: Erik Holland at (701) 328-2792; eholland@nd.gov



Geographically FIT
(Forestry Institute for Teachers)
Traveling Tour for K-12 Teachers
in west central North Dakota
August 5-8, 2013
2 credits

Cost: 2 credits, + \$100 in advance when you register and evening meals on your own.

This adventure begins in Hazen. Step-on guides will interpret the landscape as we journey. Each day will be spent with content rich, hands-on outdoor experiences, individual and group activities. Network with colleagues from all parts of the state and receive educational materials to utilize when school begins in the fall. Travel via a first class charter bus. Registration is limited to the first 25 people. Casual dress recommended.

The ND Geographic Alliance and ND Forest Service sponsor the Institute.

For more information or to register by July 1, contact (800) 235-1948 or marilyn.weiser@minotstateu.edu.

Have a Voice in Strengthening Environmental Education

By: *Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator*



The Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education (C2E2) is providing an opportunity for all of us to have a voice in strengthening our partnerships and environmental education on Wednesday, June 5, at the Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy. The long-range strategic planning meeting will be held in the

Multipurpose Room from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDST.

Our future depends on our collective ability to teach and help students understand the need for a sustainable environment. The goal of environmental education is to develop an environmentally literate public who have the knowledge, attitude and skills to make responsible decisions and take action to protect our natural resources, safeguard public health, support energy conservation, and engage in the movement towards a more sustainable future.

Solving complex issues requires an approach that allows us to understand different points of view, analyze problems, balance competing needs, and take informed action. It's going to take all of us – formal and nonformal educators, school administrators, community and tribal leaders, businesses, state and federal agencies – working together to meet these challenges.

The more we understand our personal connection and responsibility to the environment, the closer we'll get to living in the world we want. Please join us at this public meeting on June 5.

Forestry Staff Tour Projects in the Southwest

By: *Liz Smith, Stewardship Specialist*

North Dakota Forest Service staff recently participated in a tour of forestry projects in southwestern North Dakota. The tour began at the Heart Butte Reservoir Game Management Area, where participants learned how conservation tree planting and rotational grazing is being used to increase wildlife habitat. The tour continued to Mott where the Hettinger County Soil Conservation District showcased several large wildlife tree planting projects utilizing varieties of native fruit-bearing tree and shrub species. The final stop on day one of the tour was Adams County where Soil Conservation District technician Shari Wick took them to see several of the over 400 miles of living snow fences planted along highways and township roads from 1999 to 2008.



ND Forest Service staff toured forestry projects in southwestern North Dakota.

Day two of the tour began in the small town of Bucyrus, where fire management specialist Ryan Melin explained how North Dakota Forest Service personnel assisted local firefighters in battling a large, wind-driven wildfire in that area last fall. The tour ended in the ponderosa pine forest near Amidon where staff

viewed the area of the Deep Creek fires and learned about the hazardous fuels reduction project the agency has been involved in since 2005. It was a great learning experience for the new staff and a good refresher for staff not familiar with projects in that part of the state.

Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week

By: Aaron Bergdahl, Forest Health Specialist

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Awareness Week is scheduled for May 19 – 25, 2013. This is a cooperative effort to educate people about EAB between the North Dakota Forest Service, North Dakota Department of Agriculture and North Dakota State University Extension.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic invasive beetle that only feeds on ash trees and was originally brought here by accident from Asia. Currently, EAB is known to occur in 18 states, and the closest known location to North Dakota of EAB is in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. EAB has killed tens of millions of ash trees in the states where it has been found and has cost taxpayers millions of dollars to take down infested trees and replant.



Larval tunnels of native ash insects can often resemble those made by EAB (pictured).

Trees are killed by EAB grubs (larvae) that feed on tissues that transport vital fluids between the roots and canopy as they mature. If these tissues are damaged around the entire circumference of the tree, the tree will, in effect, be strangled (girdled) and die. Ash is the most abundant forest land tree species in North Dakota, with an estimated 85 million ash trees. Ash trees are very common in our cities, towns and in conservation plantings, so it is important that we all do what we can

to prevent this pest from entering our state.

EAB is not able to spread more than a few miles on its own and has primarily spread long distances in infested firewood. During this camping season the North Dakota Forest Service urges all outdoor enthusiasts to not transport firewood long distances within North Dakota, buy local firewood and burn it where you buy it. Firewood brought to North Dakota from outside of the state poses a risk to our tree resources and should be discouraged.

Look for informative fliers attached to ash trees in your area and imagine how your town would look without about thirty percent of its trees. Help spread the message ‘**Don’t Move Firewood**’ to play a part in preserving our ash trees.



Hands-on experience peeling ash bark to reveal the tunnels made by EAB larvae.

For more information about EAB Awareness Week, the First Detector Training or any other questions about tree pests, contact Aaron Bergdahl at (701) 231-5138 or email Aaron.D.Bergdahl@ndsu.edu.

Emerald Ash Borer First Detector Training 2013

The North Dakota *Emerald Ash Borer* (EAB) *First Detector Program* was conducted at a joint meeting of the North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association and the North Dakota Nursery and Greenhouse Association in early 2013. The two sessions offered included about 60 volunteer trainees from a wide range of tree and nursery professionals and many others with an interest in trees and tree resources.

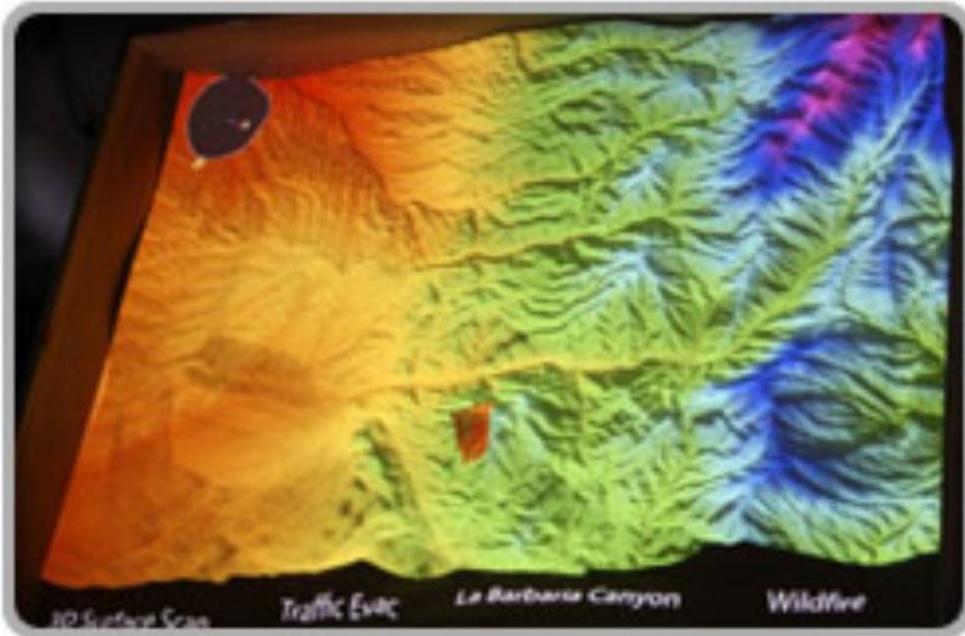
The purpose of the program is to train citizens of North Dakota to correctly identify symptoms and signs of EAB and report suspect tree damage or insect sightings. The hope is that first detectors will play a part in the early detection of EAB. Early detection offers more options for the management and possible eradication of this destructive pest of ash trees.

The program was cooperatively developed in 2010 by the ND Forest Service, ND State University, ND Department of Agriculture and the USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine. The program has trained a statewide network of just under 300 people since it began.

Training is provided by people who have first-hand experience with EAB, and includes a hands-on session on how to peel bark in search of EAB larvae, and submit a suspect sample of EAB.

Spring Fire Season Starts With a New Training Tool

By: Sarah Tunge, Fire Manager



Fire training is easy, interactive and relevant with local simulated terrain and data with the new SimTable.

The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) Fire Management team is pleased to announce a new fire simulation training tool. The SimTable is designed to deliver interactive real time fire simulations

based on GIS mapping data. This allows the fire team to customize training to any area and fire department in the state.

“This is going to be an outstanding training tool for not only our partners, but for rural fire departments across the state,” says Ryan Melin, NDFS Fire Management Specialist-Operations. The SimTable takes maps, like those seen on Google Earth and projects them onto super fine sand that can be contoured to match the landscape, and then based on fuel types in the area and wind speed, the computer models actual fire behavior. Participants can then position engines, air tankers and water tenders to fight the fire and see the results in real time. According to Melin, “This is a much more realistic training tool than the old sand table with toy fire trucks and yarn for fire.”

The SimTable training is available free of charge to rural fire departments across the state. Please contact Ryan Melin at (701) 220-1475 or Ryan.Melin@ndsu.edu for more information.

Forestry Datelines

April 30	Community Forestry Grant Sign-up Deadline for Spring Grants is April 30 Contact: Gerri Makay at (701) 652-2951	Multipurpose Room 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. RSVP for a free noon luncheon Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446
May 9-11	ND State Envirothon Competition Crystal Springs Bible Camp Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446	June 5 ND Community Forestry Council Meeting Valley City State University Contact: Gerri Makay at (701) 652-2951
May 17	ND State Arbor Day Celebration 1 p.m. CDST Bottineau Winter Park Contact: Tom Claeys at (701) 328-9945	June 6-8 ND Firefighter’s 129 th Convention West Fargo High School and Fargo Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND Contact: Renee Loh at (701) 222-2799
June 5	Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education (C2E2) Spring Meeting and Strategic Planning Session Bismarck Public School Career Academy	

People in Forestry



*Lisa Stone
Office Manager
Bismarck NDFS Field Office*

Lisa Stone was selected as the Office Manager for the North Dakota Forest Service Bismarck Field Office. She began her duties on January 9, 2013. Stone is responsible for all financial and records management at the Bismarck office. Her duties include initiating accounts payable vouchers, travel vouchers and time slips. She will also provide support to fire personnel, track expenditures, maintain databases and assist with payroll.

Stone, originally from Bismarck, ND, has 25 years of experience in accounting and office management. She was an executive assistant for the electronic health record implementation at Sutter Health Care in Sacramento, California. She is in her second year of college with an online university, and enjoys restoring antique furniture, riding horses and cooking.

“I am looking forward to providing quality accounting and administrative support to the ND Forest Service customers and staff,” Stone says.



*John (JT) Wensman
Fire Management
Specialist-Grants
Bismarck NDFS Field Office*

John (JT) Wensman was appointed as the Fire Management Specialist-Grants at the Bismarck Field Office. He began his duties on January 7, 2013. Wensman is responsible for managing Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP), Cooperative Fire Assistance Grants, and Community Wildland Urban Interface planning.

Wensman recently moved to North Dakota from Colorado, where he held a position with The Nature Conservancy’s Southern Rockies Wildland Fire Module. He has 12 years of fire fighting experience in nearly 20 states, as well as Canada and Mexico, including 6 years with the hotshots in Alaska. He has also taught wildland fire courses in several colleges in Colorado. He and his wife enjoy all things outdoors, like hunting, fishing and camping.

“I look forward to the next chapter in my life working with the firefighters and departments across North Dakota,” said Wensman.



*David Nowatski
Riparian Specialist
Walhalla NDFS Field Office*

David Notwatzki left the North Dakota Forest Service after serving as the Riparian Specialist in the Walhalla Field Office for seven years. He was a real asset to the staff and will be greatly missed. We wish him the best in his new position as an agronomist with a local seed dealer in Langdon.

North Dakota Forest Service Opens New Office in Jamestown

The North Dakota Forest Service opened a new field office in Jamestown, ND, in February 2013. This central location will allow easier access to deliver forestry programs and technical assistance statewide. The office is located in the downtown Jamestown Business Center and staffed by Liz Smith.

**Liz Smith, Stewardship Specialist
NDSU-ND Forest Service
300 – 2nd Avenue NE, Suite 208A
Jamestown ND 58401
Tel: (701) 400-8330
Liz.Smith@ndsu.edu**