



North Dakota Forest Service

the prairie forester

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25th TREES BOWL ANNIVERSARY



This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony sponsored annually by the North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota State University. The events recognize individuals, organizations and agencies that contribute in an outstanding way to forestry activities. The 2015 events take place September 12 on the North Dakota State University campus and at the Fargodome.

The Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony provide an opportunity to publicly thank someone who deserves recognition for their contributions to tree planting, preservation or maintenance; fire mitigation, protection and suppression; community forestry efforts; forest management practices; forest

recreation; or environmental education.

The events begin with a tree planting on the campus to honor the fourth consecutive Division I FCS national championship by the NDSU Bison football team. This will be followed by a noon luncheon and awards ceremony. The winners will also be recognized on the floor during half-time of the NDSU football game against Weber State University of Utah.

These events will be extra special this year because we will also be celebrating 25 years of the federal Cooperative Forestry Programs. The US Forest Service is dedicated to managing our nation's public forests (and grasslands), but two-thirds of the nation's forests are non-federal. The US Forest Service looks to private and state landholders to aid in sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests.

The Cooperative Forestry Programs include the Forest Stewardship Program, the Forest Legacy Program, and the Urban and Community Forestry Program. The ND Forest Service provides pass-through federal funding across the state through the Forest Stewardship Program and the Urban and Community Forestry Program.

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) provides technical assistance to private forestland owners to

encourage and enable development of comprehensive, multi-resource management plans that provide landowners with the information they need to manage their forests for a variety of products and services.

The Urban and Community Forestry Program is a vehicle for long-term investment in activities that restore and maintain healthy forests, and develop stewardship between ecosystems and communities. The program works to show communities the benefit of installing and maintaining trees and forests in urban areas.

Representatives from the US Forest Service will be taking part in – as well as be honored – at the 25th Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony.

2015 Trees Awards Nomination Information and Deadline

Nominations for the 2015 Trees Awards must be submitted before

August 1, 2015.

A one-page nomination form can be found on the ND Forest Service web site at:

www.ndsu.edu/ndfs

Or it can be obtained by calling Tom Claeys at (701) 328-9945 or Thomas.Claeys@ndsu.edu.

A View from the Top of the Tree

The 64th North Dakota Legislative Assembly approved new legislation providing additional funds and clarifying the purposes for the Outdoor Heritage Fund. House Bill 1409 increases funding from \$30 million to \$40 million for the next two years, and reaffirms that state agencies, political subdivisions, nonprofit organizations and tribal governments may submit applications to support projects such as providing access to private and public lands for sportspersons; creating fish and wildlife habitats; stewardship toward farming and ranching; enhancing water quality, soil conditions and plant diversity; and for outdoor recreation areas.

The Industrial Commission, chaired by Governor Dalrymple, is responsible for the operation, management and control of the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board makes recommendations to the Commission on the funding of grants. After five grant rounds, the North Dakota Industrial Commission has awarded \$23.5 million for 83 projects. This \$23.5 million will be leveraged with other funding sources for a total of over \$97 million being expended on the directives established by the Legislature.

I am extremely pleased \$1,800,000 in Outdoor Heritage funds have been awarded to address the decline of field and farmstead windbreaks. Working with North Dakota's conservation partners, the North Dakota Forest Service submitted the statewide "Windbreak Renovation Initiative" to provide needed financial, technical and educational assistance for restoring rural tree plantings.



Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester

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.

Financial support from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will enable North Dakota's farmers and ranchers 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. We are honored to assist them in protecting our soil, water and wildlife.

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

Minot High School Wins 2015 Envirothon

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator



1st Place ND State Envirothon
Minot High School
Minot, ND

Minot High School, coached by Joe Super and David Norton, received top honors at the 16th annual North Dakota State Envirothon competition. The event was held at Crystal Springs Bible Camp May 6-8, 2015. Team members include Allison Rabe, Rachel Dostert, Brandon Christman, Lindsey Bertsch, and Regaen Zarr.

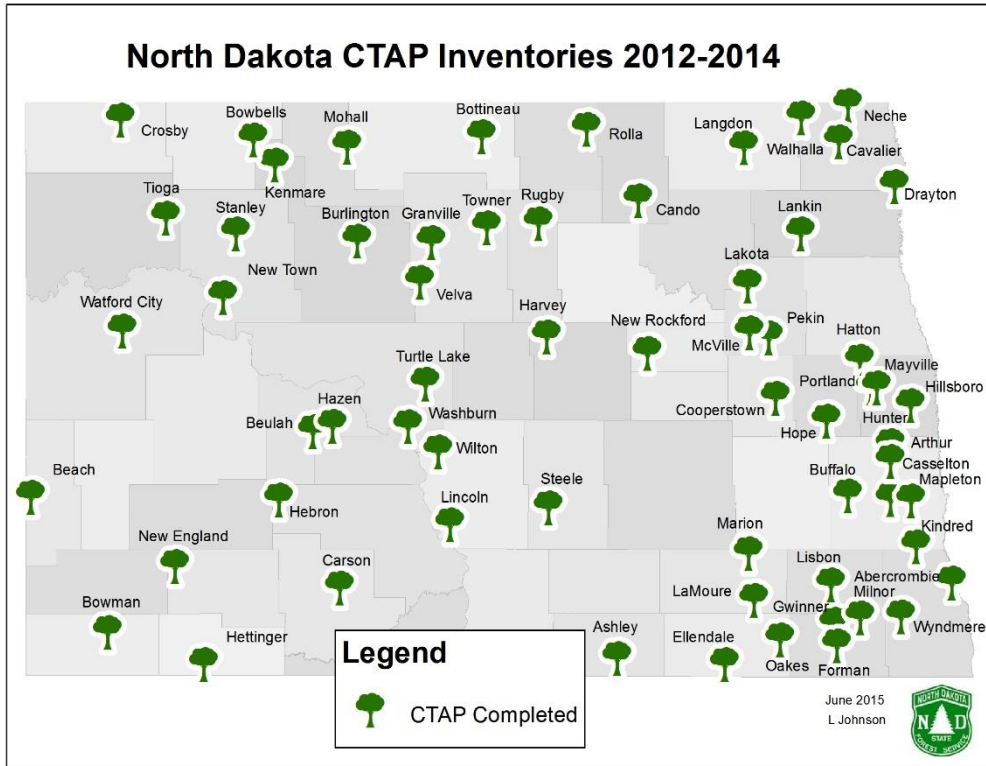
Second place honors went to Midkota High School coached by Gilbert Black.

Third place honors went to Bismarck High School coached by Valerie Smallbeck.

A total of 120 students from around the state were challenged on their knowledge about natural resources and the environment. The team will represent North Dakota at the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon Competition in Springfield, Missouri, on July 27 through August 2, 2015.

Community Tree Inventories

By: Lezlee Johnson, Community Forestry Specialist



The map above shows the community forest inventories that have been completed from 2012-2014 across North Dakota.

Communities can make the best decisions about managing their trees when they have good information about their trees. A community tree inventory is the collection of information about the health and diversity of the community forest. It answers questions about the number, kinds, and condition of trees in a community. A tree inventory report includes information about the benefits provided by community trees, as well as tree management recommendations.

Thanks to cooperative efforts between communities, the North Dakota Forest Service and the US Forest Service; many of North Dakota's cities now have a basic tree inventory. This is the fourth year of the CTAP – or Community Threat Assessment

Protocol tree inventory project. CTAP continues to fund tree inventories.

Trees are a valuable part of a community's infrastructure and provide benefits to a community over their entire lifetime. Good tree management maximizes the value that trees produce, and minimizes tree conflicts. Some of the benefits of trees include saving energy costs, reducing stormwater runoff, removing air pollution, increasing health benefits, and lowering violence and crime. In fact, trees are the only component of infrastructure that actually increases in value over time. With an inventory, the actual dollar amount of some of these benefits can be estimated. This helps make a good case for a sound tree planting program.

A community tree inventory can help a community set goals for tree management. For example a city may wish to increase the number and diversity of trees through a planting program, or reduce the numbers of poor quality or diseased trees through removals. Common goals in North Dakota include planting a wider diversity of tree species and reducing the numbers of very poor quality trees. An inventory allows cities to move from a reactive stance, constantly responding to storm events, invasive disease or pests, or other catastrophes, to a system where the city can withstand these disasters.

In North Dakota, the most common type of inventory is the street and park tree inventory, where city owned trees in right-of-ways and parks are inventoried. Most communities are small enough that all public trees are counted, but larger areas may wish to begin by using a sampling method and extrapolating the information.

In three summers of data collection, North Dakota's Community Forestry Specialists have tallied 35,765 trees along streets and in parks. Nearly half of these trees, 48 percent, are ash trees, mainly green ash, and vulnerable to the threat of the emerald ash borer. The next most abundant trees are Colorado blue spruce, American elm, boxelder, and flowering crabapple. The average community tree in North Dakota is a little over eleven inches in diameter and is in good to fair condition.

Several more CTAP inventories are planned for 2015. If your city is on the map, your city forester or city hall may have a copy of the inventory and recommendations to share.

Windbreak Renovation Initiative Earns Funding Support

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

With the support and assistance of the State Stewardship Coordinating Committee, the ND Forest Service submitted a “Windbreak Renovation Initiative” grant proposal to the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF). The OHF Advisory Board voted 11-0 to support full funding for the \$1.8 million dollar project.

The OHF is designed to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, conserve natural areas for recreation, provide plant diversity, and support practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching. The OHF is supported by funding from a slice of the state’s oil and gas production tax.

This funding will help the ND Forest Service and partners initiate a statewide windbreak renovation



Outdoor Heritage Funds will be used to initiate a cost-share program to help landowners achieve their conservation goals and soil protection across the agricultural landscape.

program to address a deteriorating resource. These aging shelterbelts have endured droughts, flooding, storm damage, a variety of insect and disease threats, changing farming

practices, and are now in decline and in need of renovation. The loss of shelterbelts has been an issue identified in the agency’s long-range strategic plan and in the ***Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Forest Action Plan***.

The total project cost is \$3.6 million, of that, \$1.8 million in grant funds will be used for funding actual windbreak renovation projects on the ground. The \$1.8 million match is the landowner’s cash match or in-kind. Renovation practices may begin to take place in the fall of 2015 and run through the spring of 2020.

Today, shelterbelts are commonly referred to as windbreaks, and they continue to serve a vital role and function in the 21st century.

Geocaching on the ND State Forests

By: Tom Nowatzki, State Forests Manager

When most people think of outdoor recreation opportunities on the North Dakota State Forests, they may think of camping, hiking, horseback riding, berry picking and other more traditional activities. However, for many years now tech savvy people have had the opportunity to participate in geocaching.

The staff at the Turtle Mountain State Forest maintains two geocaches. One, the Back Country Campsite cache, is located south of Strawberry Lake. In order to find this, geocachers have to hike approximately 2.3 miles from the trail head at Strawberry Lake. The other cache maintained by State Forest staff is located at Hahn’s Bay. The

Hahn’s Bay cache is a much shorter hike, only .3 miles, and has been very popular.

When these caches were first established in 2007, they were stocked with Smokey Bear promotional items. In the last eight years, people have taken many of those items and have left various other items and trinkets.

As geocaching has become more popular, people in other parts of the state have asked for and received permission to place their own geocaches on State Forest properties. In these cases, the individuals who placed these caches are responsible to maintain them. Caches placed by

others on the State Forests are located at the Tetrault Woods State Forest near Walhalla, the Nowesta Memorial Grove near Drayton, and on the Sheyenne State Forest near the waterfall in Lisbon.

Geocaching has provided another outdoor recreation activity for people to participate in on the North Dakota State Forests. It is a great family activity and appeals to people who may not have otherwise taken the opportunity to explore the State Forests of North Dakota. Learn more at www.geocaching.com.

Aerial Forest Health Surveys Planned for 2015

By: Aaron Bergdahl, Forest Health Manager

The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) has contracted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Resource Assessment and Inventory group from Grand Rapids, MN, to do an aerial survey of forest resources in July. The areas along the Red River corridor and the Pembina Gorge in northeast ND, the Sheyenne River and the Devils Lake Hills will be assessed to identify forest health threats visible from the air, such as forest tent caterpillar defoliation and dieback, for later ground truthing.

Ground truthing will serve to confirm the presence/absence of forest pests and provide management options to forestland owners/managers.

The MNDNR aerial survey team will use a Geographical Information System (GIS) tablet-based application during the flight to document specific areas of concern among the identified forest resources and code them according to the type of damage observed. A GIS shapefile (an electronic file format for computer

mapping programs) containing damage codes and acres of effected forest resource will be given to the NDFS. The GIS data can be further used in a number of ways and integrated into products such as management plans and maps.

For more information about aerial forest health surveys in 2015, contact Aaron Bergdahl, Forest Health Manager at (701) 231-5138 or aaron.d.bergdahl@ndsu.edu.

Forest Health Interns Secured for the Summer

By: Aaron Bergdahl, Forest Health Manager



Interns Dylan Roberts from North Carolina and Anthony Pappas from West Virginia assist with a forest health assessment at the Pembina Gorge.

The North Dakota Forest Service hired two interns for the 2015 Forest Health Program field season. Dylan Roberts, currently a sustainable forestry major at Warren Wilson College in

Asheville, North Carolina, and Anthony Pappas, a forest resources management major at West Virginia University, were hired to assist with forest health assessment, invasive

insect monitoring, trapping and various other tasks associated with North Dakota Forest Service programs.

When asked to comment on their impressions of forestry on the Great Plains, Dylan states “Seeing the landscape here has expanded my view of forestry and the multiple ways in which trees are used on the Plains.”

Anthony remarked “Forestry in the Appalachians compared to be here is very different – I am looking forward to seeing more of North Dakota and observing the forestry practices used here.”

So far the interns have done work in the Pembina Gorge, Turtle Mountains and the northeastern counties. Next they will be working on a forest inventory project in Slope County, ND. Among many other responsibilities, Dylan and Anthony will conduct a forest inventory of the Sheyenne State Forest.

Fire Management Announces New Changes

By: Anthony Schultz, Cooperative Fire Protection Manager

The ND Forest Service (NDFS) Fire Management Program is proud to announce several new changes to the program over the past few months.

The 2015 Fire Management Cooperative Fire Protection Assistance grant is now hosted on the ND Forest Service Fire Management website at www.ndsu.edu > Resources For ... > Rural Fire Departments, and will feature the ability for fire departments to now submit their grants online. We are excited to offer this option to departments and look forward to answering any questions departments may have. Fire Departments should note some changes to the grants this year include the ability to apply for funding for the purchase of a fire department vehicle.

The fire program is now fully staffed as the Cooperative Fire Protection Technician was filled with the hiring of Aaron Bucholz. Aaron was a long-



Aaron Bucholz
Cooperative Fire
Protection Technician
Bismarck, ND

time seasonal for the NDFS, and will serve under the direction of Anthony Schultz to assist in Federal Excess Property and Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant matters.

A native of Rolla, Bucholz has a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries

Management. He was employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for six years and the last three years has been a seasonal firefighter with the ND Forest Service. Aaron is qualified as an Engine Boss and IC5 and is working on IC4 and as a Fire Boss trainee. He enjoys hunting and fishing in his free time.

“I look forward to working with the local fire departments throughout the state,” said Bucholz.

The Fire Management staff is also working towards developing new reporting techniques that will streamline the reporting process for departments and, hopefully, bolster reporting numbers for the state of ND. The list of solutions includes the possible use of mobile technology and working with an off-the-shelf vendor. The NDFS looks forward to offering a more streamlined process in the future.

Forestry Datelines

July 27-30	2015 Geographically FIT (<i>Forestry Institute for Teachers</i>) – Western Energy Tour Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446	Sept. 2	Tree Risk Assessment Workshop Bismarck, ND – 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact: NDUCEFA at (701) 355-4458
July 28	Tree Identification Workshop and Meeting Absaraka, ND – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact: NDUCEFA at (701) 355-4458	Sept. 12	25 th Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony ND State University and Fargodome Contact: Tom Claeys at (701) 328-9945
Aug. 12-13	ND Forest Service Staff Meeting NDSU Campus, Fargo, ND Contact: Brenda Johnson at (701) 228-5422	Sept. 16	Tree Risk Assessment Workshop Grand Forks, ND – 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact: NDUCEFA at (701) 355-4458
Aug. 19	Guidelines for EE Excellence Workshop Presenter: Dr. Bora Simmons Heritage Center, Bismarck ND Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446	Nov. 22-24	NDASCD Annual Conference/Meeting Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, ND Contact: Kathy Henriksen (701) 223-8575

People in Forestry



Glenda E. Fauske
*Information and Education
NDSU-ND Forest Service*

Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator for the NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service at Bottineau, is the recipient of the 2014 “Friend of Geography Award” from the North Dakota Geographic Alliance. The award recognizes a person who contributes to the cause of geography education and understands its impact on North Dakota students. The award includes a trip to Washington, DC, in August for the centennial celebration of the National Council for Geographic Education.

Fauske has served the PreK-12 education community for 25 years. She has been a member of NDGA since 2006. The ND Forest Service and ND Geographic Alliance annually partner to sponsor a summer professional development opportunity for teachers called **Geographically FIT** (*Forestry Institute for Teachers*). Glenda’s expertise and knowledge of North Dakota forestry is promoted and implemented by way of *Project Learning Tree*, which advances environmental literacy and promotes stewardship through excellence in

environmental education, professional development, and curriculum resources that use forests as a window on the world.

When asked about the importance of geography education in the state of North Dakota, Fauske stated, “Partnering with geography education is a perfect fit. Understanding the physical location of different environments and systems that impact our lives, as well as the complex connectivity of people to these places will play a role in shaping our collective future. What we do together matters. Stewards of all ages need to understand how every choice they make every day of their lives matters for a sustainable future.”

Leanne Marten was appointed by Chief Thomas Tidwell to serve as the Regional Forester, Northern Region, in Missoula, MT, with the US Forest Service on June 28, 2015. Marten served as the National Director for Ecosystem Management Coordination in Washington, DC. Her various 20-year assignments in the field and national office have resulted in a wealth of knowledge on a full range of complex natural resources and social challenges the agency faces.

Garrett Masloski was selected by State Forester Larry Kotchman to serve as the Forest Stewardship Specialist for the NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service. He began his duties on April 1 in the Walhalla field office.

Masloski will be responsible for providing technical and financial assistance for the management and protection of native, riparian and planted forest resources. His duties will include both office and field responsibilities promoting the Forest



Garrett Masloski
*Forest Stewardship Specialist
Walhalla, ND*

Stewardship Program and related programs, and directing landowners’ assistance to implement forestry best management practices. The Specialist assists the Stewardship Manager with technical and financial assistance to private landowners. He worked for the North Dakota Forest Service as a forest health intern for the past three field seasons.

“I am looking forward to getting to know the Forest Stewardship program and team, and working to help landowners responsibly manage their forests,” Masloski said.

A native of Pembina, Garrett recently received his degrees in Fisheries and Wildlife Science and Biology from Valley City State University. He enjoys outdoor activities and anything with an engine.

Garrett can be reached at:

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