



BISMARCK HOSTS STATE ARBOR DAY

Bismarck

The City of Bismarck will be hosting the State Arbor Day Celebration on Friday, May 6, 2005. Everyone is invited to attend this public event, which will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Public Works Building at 601 26th Street South. The Arbor Day celebration this year recognizes a legacy of countless hours of tree planting efforts by retired Bismarck City Forester Paul Blumhardt, a champion of Urban and Community Forests!

Blumhardt served as the Bismarck City Forester from May 1, 1978, to January 31, 2005. He has invested his career in caring for the community's trees and

deserves recognition for improving the quality of life in Bismarck and the State of North Dakota. Thanks to his hard work, the City of Bismarck is an inviting place to live and work. At the same time, the trees he planted are conserving energy, improving air quality and reducing storm-water runoff.

A recent study conducted by the USDA Forest Service's Center for Urban Forestry Research indicates the municipal tree resource in Bismarck is a valuable asset providing approximately \$1 million in total annual benefits. Citizens are now receiving a relatively large return on that investment, approximately \$3.09 in benefits for every \$1 spent on tree care!

Dave Patience, President of the Bismarck Forestry Advisory Committee, will serve as the Master of Ceremonies. The State Arbor Day Celebration will begin with an Honor Guard posting the colors and a School Band playing "God Bless America." Bismarck Mayor John Warford will give an official welcome. City Commissioner Connie Sprynczynatyk will present the Bismarck Beautification Awards and Parks Commissioner Shannon Bakke will present the Apple Seed Awards to individuals and organizations that have contributed to the community forestry efforts in Bismarck. State Forester Larry Kotchman will bestow the City of Bismarck with their Tree City USA award. Governor John Hoven has been invited to deliver the proclamation and keynote address.



Bismarck City Forester Paul Blumhardt retires after 27 years in Urban and Community Forestry.

A ceremonial tree planting will follow the formal ceremony near the Public Works Building. Connie Sprynczynatyk will provide some brief remarks, and trees honoring Paul and his family will be planted.

Following the tree plantings, fresh apples and evergreen seedlings will be distributed to all the participants. The trees planted on Arbor Day will symbolically link past efforts to present, and leave a living legacy of this legendary city forester.

North Dakota Forest Service and MSU-Bottineau "Celebrate their Centennial" CENTENNIAL 1906-2006

View from the Top of the Tree

Our reliance on fossil fuels is hitting where it hurts the most, at the gas pump. Unleaded gasoline is at \$2.27 in Bottineau with prices for diesel and premium at nearly \$2.50 per gallon. We are told that a surge in world demand is expected to push petroleum prices even higher by summer.

Sixty percent of the petroleum products consumed in this country come from off-shore sources. We are at the mercy of global conflicts, worldwide consumer demand and production cartels. In my opinion, renewable energy sources here at home are a viable alternative to this volatile situation with fossil fuels.

I recently attended the *Conference on Renewable Energy in the Upper Midwest* sponsored by Senator Byron Dorgan and the University of North Dakota Energy and Environmental Research Center. Senator Dorgan said, "The United States cannot be timid when developing a new approach to American energy issues. The country's dig and drill energy strategy needs to be replaced by a comprehensive long-term plan that reduces the country's reliance on fossil fuels. The plan should include targets, timetables and incentives for increasing the use of renewable energy."

Senator Dorgan's vision for an energy policy makes sense, especially when you consider the abundant renewable energy opportunities we have in North Dakota and other Midwestern states. The production of energy from wind, biofuels and biomass holds great potential for the region. Energy companies, agricultural producers and processors and forest landowners may be able to take advantage of emerging renewable energy technologies and markets. The Energy and Environmental Research Center in Grand Forks is at the forefront of developing, demonstrating, and commercializing energy and environmental technologies. The Center is leading the way for the growth of a renewable energy industry in the region.



Larry Kotchman
State Forester

The North Dakota Forest Service is committed to promoting the use of biomass from agricultural, forest and urban wood residues to produce fuel for heat. A feasibility study conducted by the Energy and Environmental Research Center estimates that 500,000 tons of biomass from these sources is available annually in North Dakota. Clean, efficient and cost-effective technologies are available to convert heating systems to burn biomass. The primary challenge is developing an infrastructure to process the biomass and deliver it to end users.

Technical and financial assistance are available from a variety of programs and organizations to help interested landowners and businesses pursue renewable energy alternatives. Our national security and standard of living will depend on how well we take advantage of these exciting new opportunities to become more energy self sufficient.

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

North Dakota CD Featured in DC

By: *Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator*

North Dakota's "Spirit Woods" CD will be featured this summer at the American Folklife Festival in Washington, DC, on The Mall from June 23-27 and June 30-July 4, 2005. The Folklife Festival is an annual living cultural exhibition that includes musical performances, craft demonstrations, illustrations of work, grass roots culture and food.

Because the USDA Forest Service's 100th anniversary coincides with the 39th Festival dates, the Secretary of the

Smithsonian Institution invited the Forest Service to partner with them to produce the "Century of Service Signature Event."

The North Dakota Forest Service, in partnership with the North Dakota Council on the Arts, released "Spirit Woods: Traditional Stories and Songs of Forests and Trees" in 2004. This educational and entertaining recording promotes the folk arts and culture of our area, and provides scientific and

educational information on the trees found in North Dakota. To this day, most cultures have beliefs, values, and traditions that shape human interactions with the environment and its resources.

Copies of the CD are available for \$15.95 plus \$3 for shipping by contacting the ND Forest Service at (701) 228-5446 or the ND Council on the Arts at (701) 328-7590.

MDU Certified as “First” Tree Line USA in North Dakota

By: Gerri Marchus, Community Forestry Specialist



The National Arbor Day Foundation has recently named Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU) a Tree Line USA Utility in recognition of the company's national leadership in caring for trees, while meeting service objectives. MDU, with its corporate headquarters located in

Bismarck, provides electric and/or gas service to over 250 communities in portions of five surrounding states.

Tree Line USA is a program of the National Arbor Day Foundation that closely parallels the Tree City USA program, which encourages proper utility practices that safeguard trees. The focus of Tree Line USA is on education and honoring those companies that meet the requirements of the program. Initiated in 1992, the program has grown from a handful of certified utility companies to 115 companies certified in 2004.

MDU will be among those utility companies recognized for this designation at the 2005 Tree Line USA awards ceremonies. The recognition program will be held in conjunction with the twelfth annual Trees and Utilities National Conference in Omaha's Downtown/Old Market April 18-20, 2005.

MDU will also be recognized as the Tree City USA/Tree Line USA Recognition Program held at the Heritage Center in Bismarck on April 26, 2005.

Wildfire Awareness Week In March

By: Colleen Reinke, Fire Planning and Prevention Specialist

Governor John Hoeven proclaimed March 13 through 19 “Wildfire Awareness Week” (WAW) in North Dakota. WAW was initiated in 2004. The North Dakota Fire Council, a group of federal, state, tribal, local and private wildfire managers, initiated Wildfire Awareness Week to raise awareness of wildfire issues prior to North Dakota's early wildfire season, which generally begins in April. The Council chose the theme “Be Firewise in North Dakota” to focus educational efforts for Wildfire Awareness Week 2005.

As part of the week's activities, members of the Fire Council and volunteer fire department personnel scheduled wildfire presentations at a number of rural elementary schools throughout the state. Students learned how to protect their rural homes with “Defensible Space,” and also learned ways to prevent wildfires. Following the presentations,



State Forester Larry Kotchman and Smokey Bear join Governor Hoeven in declaring “Wildfire Awareness Week.”

fourth grade students were invited to participate in a radio message contest. The Fire Council's Prevention Committee will choose winners, then prizes will be awarded and the overall winners will record their announcements. The announcements will be distributed to radio stations around the state for use during wildfire season.

The Fire Council also promoted WAW by sponsoring a booth at the Class “B” Boys Basketball Tournament. This year the tournament was in Minot, and the WAW booth was very popular with basketball fans. The Council stocked the booth with many Smokey Bear giveaway items, as well as informational pamphlets regarding Firewise practices. Smokey Bear mingled with the crowd between games and appeared on the center court with Governor Hoeven before the championship game.

Wildfire Awareness Week is growing as an annual event in North Dakota. With continued support from the North Dakota Fire Council and the North Dakota Forest Service, WAW will continue to grow as an effective tool to teach North Dakotans about wildfire prevention and safety issues.

Nominees for 2005 Trees Awards Sought

By: Tom Claeys, Sustainable Forestry Coordinator

The North Dakota Forest Service annually recognizes individuals, organizations and agencies that contribute in an outstanding way to forestry activities. If you know of someone who deserves recognition for their contributions, we would like to publicly thank them for their devotion to forestry activities. Forestry activities can include: fire mitigation, fire protection and suppression; tree planting, preservation, or maintenance; community forestry efforts; forest management practices; forest recreation; or environmental education.

The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2005 Trees Awards is Friday, August 5, 2005. The awards will be

presented during special recognition ceremonies at the Trees Bowl in the Fargodome. Each award winner will be presented a personalized engraved plaque at an awards luncheon and recognized for their efforts during half-time at the NDSU Bison football game.

The following categories will be recognized:

**Community
Conservation Achievement
Environmental Educator
Excellence in Government
Fire Department Cooperator
Media Outreach
Natural Resources Professional
Tree Celebration**

Volunteer Organization Youth Tree Planters

Selection committee members will evaluate each nomination and vote for candidates based upon the degree to which they met the requirements outlined in the award category descriptions.

In order to receive your nomination packet, please contact Tom Claeys, Sustainable Forestry Coordinator, at Thomas.Claeys@ndsu.edu; or call (701) 228-5486, or check our on-line form at www.state.nd.us/forest.

It's official...

Oak is our National Tree!



With a flourish of the Presidential pen in December of 2004, oak became America's official National Tree! The oak is found in all 50 states.

This was the first voting process on-line that allowed a half-million people of all ages and from all walks of life to help choose a national symbol.

Arts and History Education Institute

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

Classroom teachers, arts specialists and teaching artists working with students in grades K-12 are invited to take part in a four-day Arts and History Education Institute held in Bismarck and Washburn June 28 to July 1, 2005. The workshop will include hands-on activities, presentations, discussions, artist demonstrations and tours of historic sites, while focusing on how to integrate state content standards in drama, visual arts and social studies.

Presenters include Lewis and Clark visual artist, Michael Haynes from Missouri; chief historian at the Arch in St. Louis, Robert J. Moore; and Ed and Karen Erickson of Creative Directions, an arts organization that has been working for over 25 years to teach, facilitate, and integrate the arts in schools throughout the United States.

Additional features include Project Learning Tree language arts activities

and the new "Spirits Woods" enhanced CD of stories and songs about trees and forests. Participants will also learn drama techniques and the process an artist goes through to create images with historical integrity.

The cost is \$100 for two graduate credits; \$200 for registration and materials. Dorm rooms are available at Bismarck State College for \$15 per person for double occupancy, per night. Transportation between Bismarck and Washburn will be provided.

The Institute is sponsored by the North Dakota Forest Service, North Dakota Council on the Arts, the North Dakota Alliance for Arts Education, the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and Edu Tech.

For more information or to register, contact the ND Council on the Arts at (701) 328-7593.

TREE TIPS: What's so complex about tree decline?

By: Michael Kangas, Forest Health Specialist



Many tree care professionals, foresters, arborists and amateur horticulturalists observe declining, dying trees in the field. Naturally, such a situation may prompt the question, “What is killing this tree?” Perhaps a more appropriate question is, “What factors have led to the decline of this tree over time?” That is, tree decline is often the result of several cumulative factors that affect trees over time, rather than from just one “pest” or environmental factor. The slow, progressive loss of vigor and eventual death of the tree that results from numerous factors is often referred to as a *decline complex*.

Decline complexes can be observed on nearly all woody perennial plants and trees, because they are exposed to numerous damaging factors throughout their lifespan, including pests (insects and diseases), environmental injuries and human activities. It is helpful to categorize these factors that damage trees to better understand decline complexes. These may be regarded as: predisposing factors, inciting factors and contributing factors.

Some factors are long-term problems associated with the site, where the tree is growing. These are referred to as predisposing factors and may include deficiencies in soil nutrients, moisture, sunlight or chronic exposure to air pollutants. Inciting factors refer to acute injuries that may bring about additional stress to the tree. These may include foliar disease, insect defoliation, frost

damage or mechanical injuries.

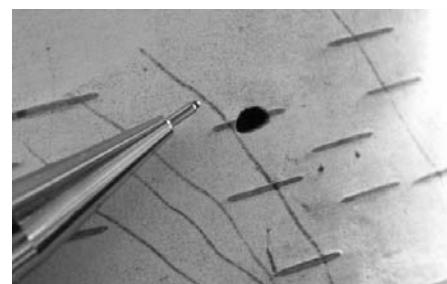
Predisposing and inciting factors weaken a tree over time and reduce its resilience to damage imposed by other agents, known as contributing factors. Contributing factors may be wood boring insects or some types of diseases (canker and root diseases). Many of these pests are considered *secondary*, incapable of causing significant damage to healthy trees. However, when coupled with other stressors (predisposing and inciting factors) they may ultimately cause tree death.



This paper birch tree has been weakened over time by predisposing and inciting factors, making it susceptible to the bronze birch borer (a contributing factor).

Paper birch is a common ornamental tree that illustrates a decline complex well. Paper birch requires moist soil conditions for optimal health and is very sensitive to insufficient moisture. In addition, some acute injuries such as herbicide exposure or insect defoliation may further weaken the tree. Although the predisposing factors (insufficient water) and inciting

factors (herbicide exposure or insect defoliation) are unlikely to kill the tree themselves, the combined effects of these factors weaken the tree over time and make it susceptible to the bronze birch borer (a contributing factor). The bronze birch borer is a relatively non-aggressive insect that poses little threat to a healthy birch, but may cause death to a weakened, unhealthy tree. Often, this insect is inappropriately designated as the “sole killer” of the tree when in reality, the predisposing and inciting factors played an equally important role in the process of tree death.



Exit hole in a birch tree made by a bronze birch borer.

Once a tree has reached a severe stage of decline, there is little that can be done to save the tree. That is, tree decline is more effectively prevented rather than treated. Therefore, it is important for homeowners to recognize what predisposing, inciting, and contributing factors may damage their trees. Frequent inspection of trees and early detection of potential problems are critical components of preventing tree decline. Stress that is caused by inciting and predisposing factors is not an irreversible condition if detected early and treated appropriately. In addition, sound horticultural practices such as proper watering, mulching, and pruning may keep trees in a healthy condition and, thereby, prevent damage caused by contributing factors.

For more information, contact Mike Kangas at (701) 231-5936 or Michael.Kangas@ndsu.edu.

Vegetative Fuelbreaks and Firewise Practices

By: Tom Berg, Staff Forester

The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) received \$500,000 in State Fire Assistance Hazard Mitigation grant funding from the USDA Forest Service. This competitive grant comes from funding that is part of the National Fire Plan and allows the agency to strengthen its efforts for vegetative fuelbreaks and Firewise practices.

As with some of the NDFS programs, reimbursement opportunities are being provided to natural resource professionals for management plan development. As in years past, only trained managers will be eligible for this reimbursement. There are two ways professional resource managers can receive reimbursement. First they can be reimbursed for the composition of a Forest Stewardship Program management plan. Second, funding will be provided for completing Firewise Hazard Assessments.

The NDFS plans to hold the first batching period in July 2005. To prepare professional resource managers, the NDFS will hold training sessions outlining the process for Firewise assessment, application for incentives to install vegetative fuelbreaks, and an introduction to Forest Stewardship management plan composition. Two training sessions are planned. The first was held in conjunction with the Tree Promotion Meeting in March 2005. The

second will involve regional sessions provided in central locations throughout the state this summer.

Reimbursement rates have increased for each plan compiled. New Forest Stewardship Management Plan rates:

- \$200 flat rate per plan
- \$200, plus \$1 per acre for every acre
- \$25, plus \$1 per acre for every new plan

Recently, the State Stewardship Coordinating Committee held a Partners Forum to provide an opportunity for partnering agencies to review this new program. Participants provided excellent improvement suggestions to enhance the delivery mechanism for this program. Their input will be incorporated into State Fire Assistance Hazard Mitigation Grant guidance documents.



Tree Promotion Partnership Grows

By: Tom Claeys, Sustainable Forestry Coordinator

Since 1996, a centrally located statewide annual Tree Promotion meeting has been held to share tree promotion and tree planting ideas. In 2002, the Tree Promotion meeting was combined with the ND Conservation District Employee's Association meeting in Bismarck.

This year's meeting offered an opportunity to learn and share ideas with others from around the state. We encourage soil conservation district employees, district supervisors, NRCS personnel, NDSU Extension personnel and anyone else involved in promoting conservation tree planting to attend.

Conservation tree plantings in North Dakota are an extremely valuable resource that provide multiple benefits to the citizens of North Dakota and beyond. These plantings provide wildlife habitat, clean air and water, recreational opportunities, erosion control, wind protection, forest products, scenic beauty, increased property values, and numerous other social and conservation benefits.

Conservation tree planting faces many challenges today and will face increasing pressures in the future. Development for non-forest uses; forest health issues; invasive tree pests; exotic species; changing demographics; land ethic

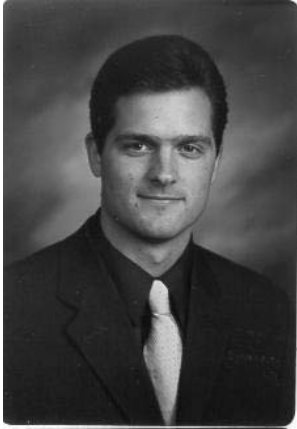
perspectives; and a lack of economic incentives for public and private landowners to retain and manage land all impact the future of forest lands.

As natural resource professionals, it is in all of our best interests to encourage the wise use, conservation and proper management of our planted forests. The future of conservation tree planting in North Dakota involves the proper planning and planting of trees in the face of increasing societal demands. It means fulfilling today's needs while planning for the needs of tomorrow.

People in Forestry

David Geyer was selected as the Fire Management Coordinator for the North Dakota Forest Service. He began his duties on March 1 in the Bismarck office.

Geyer's duties will include developing, implementing and directing statewide wildfire protection programs.



David Geyer
Fire Management Coordinator

The position provides overall program coordination for the Fire Management, Federal Excess Personal Property, State Fire Assistance and Cooperative Fire Protection Assistance Programs.

Prior to accepting the position, he served as the Fire Management Specialist. Geyer has over ten years of firefighting experience, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Montana.

Tom Nowatzki was promoted to State Forests Specialist at Bottineau, where he will manage 13, 278 acres of public State Forests administered by the agency.

His duties will include the operations of three campgrounds; maintenance of the trails system; forest resource management; wildlife management; maintaining an office and shop complex; and working with public, state and

federal agencies to develop recreational and resource management plans.

Nowatzki is originally from Langdon and holds a degree from MSU-Bottineau and a Bachelor of Science degree from North Dakota State University in Fargo.



Tom Nowatzki
State Forests Specialist

Forestry Datelines

| | | | |
|-----------|--|------------|--|
| April 26 | Tree City USA Awards Ceremony Heritage Center, Bismarck, ND Contact: Jackson Bird at (701) 328-9945 | June 2-4 | ND Firefighter's Annual Convention Minot, ND Contact: Lois Hartman at (701) 222-2799 |
| April 27 | Keep North Dakota Clean Poster Contest Awards Ceremony, 11 a.m. Lewis and Clark Center, Washburn Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446 | June 14-16 | Trees, People and Towns Conference Cheyenne, WY Jackson Bird at (701) 328-9945 |
| May 6 | ND State Arbor Day Celebration, 1:30 p.m. Public Works Building, Bismarck, ND Contact: Tom Claeys at (701) 228-5486 | July 22-30 | North Dakota State Fair and Parade Minot, ND |
| May 12-14 | ND Envirothon Competition Cooperstown Bible Camp, Cooperstown, ND Contact: Glenda Fauske at (701) 228-5446 | July 24 | Smokey Bear and the RedHawks Newman Outdoor Field, Fargo, ND Contact: Colleen Reinke at (701) 328-9990 |

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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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