



SUCCESS STORIES

REPORTING EXAMPLES OF OUR PROGRESS IN CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE



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Forest Plays Pivotal Role in Urban Connections



Visiting the Forest provided these youth with a rare view of the White Mountain's scenic beauty.

The Eastern Region's Urban Connections Program made real progress this summer in establishing a more visible and valued role among community-based groups engaged in conservation education in the Boston area.

Given the energetic leadership of R9 Urban Connections manager Daryl Pridgen, the indispensable cooperation of the Durham field office of State and Private Forestry, and the strong support of Forest Supervisor Tom Wagner, the White Mountain National Forest played a pivotal role in developing partnerships with a number of groups that resulted in some exciting opportunities for Forest staff to interact with young people from Boston and elsewhere in New England.

Some of the highlights of this past summer include:

Working through the Boston Minuteman Council of Boys Scouts of America, the White Mountain brought the twin stewardship and safety messages of the Leave No Trace and HikeSafe programs to over 200 hundred New England-area Scouts and Scout leaders.

Using funds made available through the work of John Parry, Urban Forester with State and Private Forestry in Durham, NH, the Forest hosted two separate urban youth groups for an overnight camping trip.

The first group, the Franklin Park Coalition Summer Youth Crew, featured 10 high school aged young people and two crew leaders. On August 9, this group traveled to the Saco District. Over the next 36 hours, the group set up camp at one of the District's rental cabins, took a 3-mile hike that included a summit of Mt. Willard in Crawford Notch, and assisted on the rebcation of the South Moat Trail.

The second group, UMass Extension, Communities, Families and Youth Program, Boston 4H Urban Stewards Program, featured eight middle- and high-school aged young people and four crew leaders and chaperones. On August 12, this group also traveled to the Saco District, where they chose to tent camp in the Jigger Johnson Campground.

Patience Monroe, one of the crew leaders, wrote a note the following week in which she thanked the Forest Service for the "...adventures the two day program entailed, such as the hike around the pond, swimming in (Echo) Lake, the night hike in the pouring rain, and the stewardship project in vegetation taller than all of us."

Forest NEPA Coordinator Rob Fallon followed up the overnight visits by conducting sessions in Boston on "careers in natural resources." These sessions were held at Zoo New England on August 18, and were attended by the Zoo Teens, a summer youth work program run by the Zoo; the Franklin Park Youth Crew, and the Urban Stewards.

In all, Fallon spoke with nearly 60 middle- and high-school students that day.

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For more information contact Colleen Mainville at (603) 528-8796

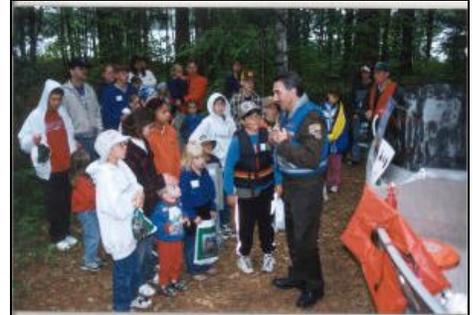


Kids Go Fishing on the Chippewa

On June 5, the 15th Annual Take a Kid Fishing Day, was held on the Marcell/Deer River District of the Chippewa National Forest. Over the years, "Take a Kid Fishing Day" has grown to be something that kids in the community really look forward to. Many families combine the event with a weekend of camping.

The community partnership for this event is made up of the Bigfork Lions Club, the Itasca County Sheriff's Department, and the Chippewa National Forest. The Lions Club furnishes prizes and lunch, the Sheriff's Department, Pat Medure and Don Basista, hosts a boat and water safety seminar and the Forest service provides the site, contacts guides and provides general coordination for the day. All partners feel that providing programs such as this fishing derby can teach kids skills that will benefit them in the future. "Take a Kid Fishing Day" is an excellent opportunity for children to learn the basics of boat and water safety, fisheries conservation, develop some skill at angling and to have a good time outdoors.

In good weather, we can expect between 50 – 70 kids to take part in the event. Although a severe storm hovered over the area this year, more than 20 hearty kids showed up prepared with raincoats and boots. Ready to weather the storm, everyone waited for the skies to lighten, however the extremely heavy rains forced a cancellation of the fishing trip. Everyone had a good visit under the tarps while the rain poured down, and all of the kids were pleased to receive prizes for their participation in the event.



Despite the damp weather, the crowd turned out for the annual fishing event.

For more information contact Kay Getting at (218) 335-8673

Forest Conducts Census on Kirtland's Warblers



Kirtland's warbler returns to the Forest each year to nest.

The 34th annual census for Kirtland's warblers, an endangered songbird of the jack pine ecosystem, was held June 6-15, 2004, and covered approximately 13,000 acres of breeding habitat in the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

One of the rarest birds on earth, the Kirtland's warbler only nests in Michigan and spends winters in the Bahamas.

Each morning, groups of Huron-Manistee NF employees, Hiawatha NF employees, and numerous volunteers arrived at the Kirtland's warbler habitat by 5:45 am and began their census routes. Census routes typically take 4-5 hours to complete and can cover 2 or more miles by traversing through thick stands of young jack pine.

Each singing Kirtland's warbler male is triangulated by taking a compass bearing from set locations along established transects and their location identified on a map.

The Huron-Manistee NF recorded 444 males, the upper peninsula of Michigan recorded 9 males, and in the lower peninsula the Michigan DNR recorded 887 males.

In 2004, the grand total of singing Kirtland's warbler males was 1340 which is 128 more than censused in 2003. This is the highest number ever recorded, and the 4th consecutive year the count has been over 1000!

As recently as 1987, only 167 singing males were counted.

The Kirtland's warbler census would not be possible without the dedicated commitment of route leaders and the influx of new volunteers recruited by returning volunteers. Thank you one and all and we hope to see you again next year!

For more information contact Kenneth Arbogast at (231) 775-5023



PIT Project Uncovers the Past

The Butternut-Franklin Lakes area is located within the Highland Lake District, an area noted for an abundant lakes and scenic beauty. Offering broad recreational appeal, it was in 1935 that some of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's first recreational facilities were developed in this area.

It wasn't until much later, however, that it was discovered that the area's appeal didn't date back decades, but millennia. While it was assumed that Wisconsin's national forests contained archaeological and historic resources, it was unclear where the search should begin.

The solution came through the development of an early partnership with Beloit College. When Beloit College archaeologists attempted to identify locations in the Forest, they found many possibilities. The Butternut-Franklin lakes area, however, stood out as the strongest candidate.

The Beloit College team located the Forest's first recorded archaeological resources. Though they confirmed the presence of archaeological deposits, little was known of the age or culture of those who once resided in the area. It was a few years later that archaeologists began to address those questions when a campground was proposed for development along the Butternut Lake's east bay. Before planning could continue, however, an archaeological evaluation was required.

Again, the Forest looked to partnership opportunities, and in doing so teamed with Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center and the University of Wisconsin to conduct the campground investigation. The investigation determined that the proposed campground area contained evidence of 2,000 years of Native occupation.

Because this type of archaeological site was rare—and relatively undisturbed—it was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. While campground plans were set aside, collaborative archaeological research in this area was just beginning.

In 1987, the Forest's first volunteers assisted in archaeological studies, and the project they participated in was at Butternut Lake. Two years later, volunteer recruitment efforts were formalized through development of the Passport In Time (PIT) volunteer initiative, a collaborative effort among the Superior, Chippewa, and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests.

The Forest's first PIT project was at Butternut Lake. At that same time, a long-term partnership was begun with Nicolet College, and later Northland College. These partnerships allowed the colleges to recruit students through archaeological field schools to participate in the Forest's PIT projects. Among 15 years of cooperative projects with Nicolet and Northland colleges, many have been held in the Butternut-Franklin lakes area. Interestingly, one of the field school held at Butternut Lake consisted entirely of Native American students.

The 2003-2004 PIT project focused on the more enigmatic sites of the Butternut-Franklin lakes area. This location encompasses approximately 80 acres, and includes approximately 40 surface depressions.

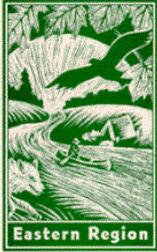
Among these surface depressions are the remnants of prehistoric food processing areas. Excavation in this area determined that many of the depressions served as "cache pits," or storage places, for food and other provisions. Along with the purpose of storage, at least one of the pits was determined to be a prehistoric earth oven.

In the winter of 2004-2005, laboratory analysis will focus on determining what was stored in the pits. This will include an attempt to recover charred floral materials from samples of pit matrix, which may include such items as berries, nuts or grains. It will also include a type of soil analysis that identifies the presence of lipid residues to determine if meats were stored in the pits.



Volunteers and partners played a key role in the Butternut project.

For more information contact Holly Kulinski at (715) 362-1354



Forest Hosts Camp “I, Too, Am America”

The Shawnee National Forest again this year hosted a conservation education day camp entitled Camp “I, too, am America.” It was designed to raise the awareness of school children on the fragility of archaeological resources, teach them the correct methods in recovering archaeological information, and what can be learned from the recovered artifacts.

In the process they also learned about the local history including the Underground Railroad. Although the target audience is underserved populations, all school or 4-H groups are encouraged to participate.

A history interpreter is hired, and the work is accomplished through a Challenge Cost Share agreement with the University of Illinois Extension Service. The entire Forest Heritage Staff is involved in instructing the students, including Student Career Employment Program (SCEP), Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP), Hispanic Association of College and University (HACU), and Historically Black College and University (HBCUCP) students.

Part of making sure the kids have memorable time includes keeping them safe from poisonous snakes, ticks and poison ivy. History lessons include hiking to Underground Railroad hideouts like Sand Cave and signal bluffs like Crow Knob. Deep in Sand Cave or high atop Crow Knob, they learn how the Underground Railroad operated, who helped fugitive slaves and how Miller Grove, Sand Cave and Crow knob fit into the larger picture.

They hear about actual runaway slaves who traveled through the area, how they traveled and what wild food sources were available to them in southern Illinois. Hiking through two of more than 80 designated natural areas gives the kids an idea what natural resources are, and instills the Leave No Trace ethic in them. At last count, we have had about 135 children and chaperones take advantage of this summer program. Our last program on August 5 included not only 4-H club members, but also several adult developmentally disabled individuals.

For more information contact Becky Banker at (618) 253-7114



Camp participants explored many of the unique facets of the Shawnee NF.

Wayne Helps Sponsor Trail Association Gathering



During one of the day hikes, the group paused for a scenic photo.

The 2004 North Country Trail Association annual conference was held at Ohio’s Marietta University campus on August 5-8, 2004. The North Country Trail winds through seven states and extends over 3,000 miles, including almost eighty-five miles of trail on the Athens Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest.

There were more than 130 attendees at the three-day session. The weekends events included; but were not limited to a board meeting that discussed the proposed reroute of the trail to include downtown Marietta and several hikes on the Marietta Unit. Of the 130 attendees over 100 hiked the trails of the Wayne.

Representatives from the Wayne were involved with leading the hikes. The Forest representatives were on the trails for support factors, educational benefits, and trail guidance.

The conference attracted many associations and groups heavily involved with trails and hiking. The Buckeye Trail Association, Ohio Horseman Council, National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and other area groups were represented throughout the weekends events. Their presence at the events gave the Forest a great opportunity to network with these organizations and keep a strong partnership in tact for the National Trail System.

For more information contact Teena Ligman at (812) 277-3579



Hoosier Heros Work Together to Rescue Man Lost in Wilderness

It's not every day you get to be a hero.

Often, it's a matter of timing. Mark Thibideau and Andrew Reuter, who have worked on the Hoosier National Forest for three summers, have been trained to respond to Wilderness emergencies but never had a chance to use their training—until this summer.

“And then there we were, working on clearing a trail on Grubb Ridge and this Boy Scout leader comes running up,” explained Mark Thibideau, a summer seasonal on a trail crew.

Thibideau said the Scoutmaster asked if they had a radio and explained that his Troop had found a man with a broken leg who was in bad shape and needed help.

“We had a map, and the man showed us where he thought he'd left his scouts and the injured man,” Thibideau said. “The Scoutmaster said the boys were going to carry the man down to the lake and try to flag down a boat or something to get him out. So we thought if we called for a boat, we could meet them down at the lake shore.”

Reuter and the Scoutmaster hiked up on the ridgetop to get a good radio signal and called Dave Morris and Danna Strout, Hoosier Recreation Technicians. Morris agreed to get the Forest's boat and meet them at the map coordinates they gave him. “Andrew and the Scoutmaster were a lot faster than I was, so they took the radio and the first aid bag and ran on ahead,” Thibideau said.

Meanwhile Morris got the boat from the Hardin Ridge warehouse and came around on Lake Monroe to meet them at the point they'd agreed on. Events rarely unfold as planned and Thibideau, hurrying along in the wake of his faster companions, came across the injured man and the Boy Scouts.

“Apparently they'd changed their plans and decided to hike up to the trail and then down to the lake, so they'd just come up to the trail where we were and had missed their leader and Andrew who'd gone by earlier,” said Thibideau. The irony was that the group that had gone ahead had the radio and the first aid kit.

The man was in a lot of pain but responsive and even joked some. “He just kept saying he was excited to see people again,” said Thibideau.

Apparently, Thibideau explained, 59-year-old Peter Bartczak had been hiking in the Charles C. Deam Wilderness the day before when he'd fallen and broken his leg. He had nothing more with him than a bottle of water and hadn't told anywhere where he was going.

He spent the night hoping for rescue then began to crawl out. After 28 hours, he estimated he may have been about a mile from where he started. That's when he heard the five Boy Scouts, age 14 to 16, and three adult leaders coming his way. The Boy Scouts had shared their food and water with the injured Bartczak while they rigged up the stretcher. Then they traded off carrying him as they made their way out while one of their leaders went ahead looking for help.

Bartczak was a large man, and the Scouts had already carried him about a mile before they met up with Thibideau. Reuter and Morris also came back up the trail and took turns carrying the stretcher. They switched off often, in the mile and a half left to the shoreline as they made their way with the injured man.

“We got him there, and then they loaded him the boat and they got Mr. Bartczak to the Hospital and set his leg,” noted Thibideau. Bartczak was hospitalized for a week or so while he recovered. The whole rescue from the time the men first met up with the Scout master took about two hours.

Both Reuter and Thibideau are certified Wilderness First Responders. They received their credentials through Indiana University's Adventure Leadership program.



Peter Bartczak rests his broken leg after spending 28 hours lost in a remote section of the Hoosier NF.



A Good Dam Job

In 2001, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest entered into preliminary discussions with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for the purpose of improving fisheries habitat in the North Branch of the Oconto River, located on the Lakewood-Laona Ranger District.

These discussions became reality in 2004 as work began to remove the remnants of the Hemlock Dam. The Holt Lumber Company, who had considerable land holdings in the area, constructed the Hemlock Dam in 1894. The dam was instrumental in creating the conditions necessary for floating pine logs downstream to sawmills along the Menominee and Oconto Rivers.

During the early pinery days, this was the only method used to bring logs to the mills, where they eventually became lumber used for home and industrial development. An estimated 75 logging dams were constructed on the Forest during this time.

Later, the railroad became the primary method of transportation, and, in most cases, the dams were abandoned or dismantled. Historical records indicate the Hemlock dam ceased operation around 1896. The Hemlock dam was a crib dam. A crib dam usually had one, and possibly two, rubble-filled wooden cribs. The cribs served to anchor a wooden framework that probably included two wooden gates, one functioning as a floodgate, and the other functioning as a sluicing gate. Each gate was raised and lowered by a crank and gear mechanism. One of the old gear mechanisms was recovered at the dam site.

Although water was abundant in northern Wisconsin's expansive river systems, river flow was unpredictable, so logging dams were constructed to create reservoirs that ensured adequate water volume for log driving. The log drives had a substantial impact on rivers throughout the area.

Rivers were "cleaned" of wood and rocks to make log driving easier, but this removed valuable habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. And the release of water from logging dams caused floods that in some cases scoured the bed and banks of rivers, reducing fish habitat by causing the rivers to become wider and shallower.

Mark Bruhy and Kim Potaracke, Heritage Resource staff on the Forest, conducted an evaluation of the Hemlock Dam. It concluded that the dam did not retain sufficient integrity to meet the National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria. Following the environmental analysis and public scoping for the removal of the dam, the Forest Service and WDNR entered into a joint agreement that involved a two-phase process for removing the remnants and restoring the streambed.

In July 2004, phase one began. This involved the removal of two earthen berms (dikes), rock and cribbing. Although the remnant rock sill only raised the upstream water level two feet, this caused water to pond upstream nearly two miles, causing a wide, stagnant channel with warm water.

Removal of the sill lowered the water level about one foot and has begun the process of restoring the river to a narrower, deeper channel with more current and cooler water. A temporary earth pad along the south side of the plunge pool below the dam site was put in place. This pool will act as a sediment basin for up to five years.

In 2005, additional work will be conducted to further lower the water level upstream to its original level.

The WDNR is the major cooperator for this project, paying all costs for on-the-ground removal as well as coordinating and obtaining all necessary permits for the work to take place. The WDNR also brought in a crew that specializes in dam removals and restoration.

While not financial contributors, the River Alliance of Wisconsin and Trout Unlimited has been very supportive of this project.



Environmentally friendly fuels were used during the removal process, and gas booms were installed downstream to contain spills.

For more information contact Holly Kulinski at (715) 362-1354



YCC Assists Forest With Trail Work



YCC members and the Tell City Trail Crew rerouted the Hemlock Cliffs trail.

Hemlock Cliffs is a unique site found in southern Indiana. The box canyon shape, sandstone rock formations, shelters and seasonal waterfalls create a cool, peaceful place for visitors to enjoy.

Hemlock Cliffs is host to many plants such as mountain laurel, French's shooting star and wild geranium, and one of the three populations of winter-green left in Indiana. This allure pulls people from all over the world to visit the cliffs.

Unfortunately, this heavy use has deteriorated the old trail and the time had come to mend the damage. Plans for the reroute began over two years ago, as the old trail had been showing signs of problems. The seriously eroded original route ran alongside a creek bed and was becoming a problem for both visitors and the local ecosystem.

In order to remedy these problems, Recreation Technician Ronnie Roark moved the hike-only trail out of the creek bed and onto the hillside, using the natural contours to control water runoff and to limit damage by visitors.

The Youth Conservation Corps, stationed at the Brownstown District of Hoosier National Forest, joined the Tell City Trail Crew in an effort to complete this project quickly.

Forestry Aid Kristin Mullis stated, "Working alongside the YCC was fun. They are hard workers and demonstrate a lot of skill." The partnership proved successful. Work on the trail began in late July and the reroute was completed in only three days.

YCC provides a one-time opportunity for high school age students to work for agencies such as the Forest Service. The positive result of their hard work is certainly evident in the Hemlock Cliffs project.

For more information contact Teena Ligman at (812) 277-3579

Lewis & Clark, and the Story of York

Last year, our nation began to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery and their journey toward the Pacific Ocean. This extraordinary western trek captured the imagination of our country, and we are clamoring to learn more about the expedition and its members.

The entire Corps of Discovery consisted of enlisted men or officers in the U.S. Army, with the exception of two individuals: George Drouillard, the son of a French father and Shawnee mother; and York, William Clark's black slave, who was the only African American included in the Corps.

Little is known about York, however Shawnee employee Marlene Rivero is bringing York to life. Marlene has been able to bring York's life to hundreds and perhaps thousands of people through her portrayal of Rose, York's mother.

She tells the story of York, through a series of letters that were sent from William Clark to his sister Lucy Clark Croghan back in Louisville, KY. Rose and York's father, also known as York, traveled with the Clark family west from Virginia to Kentucky during the last decade of the eighteenth century. Both William Clark and York were born in Virginia, although William was probably a few years older than York.

Rose tells of her son's boyhood with William and then of his adventures west during the Expedition up the Missouri River. She has performed at three of the Lewis and Clark Signature events; Camp Dubois, Hartford, Illinois; St. Charles, Missouri; and Omaha, Nebraska, and plans to participate in more.



Marlene Rivero brings the story of York to life at area events.

For more information contact Marion Bunch at (618) 253-7114



Forest Spreads the hikeSafe Message at Fun & Fitness Day

Over 2000 participants were able to test their fitness skills and learn about the hikeSafe program at the 7th annual Kid's Fun and Fitness Day, hosted by Settler's Green Outlet Village in Conway, NH, on Saturday, July 17.

Families from across the East coast, as well as international visitors, attended the event to test their fitness skills in a fun and safe way. Climbing walls, sports demonstrations, and a kid's fun run were part of the day's activities.

Clare Long and Susie Spruce-Eland from the White Mountain National Forest provided information about the hikeSafe program, an initiative between the USFS and New Hampshire Fish and Game Department designed to educate hikers of all ages, from first-timers to experienced trekkers, on how to have a safe, enjoyable outdoor experience, and to help reduce search and rescue efforts.

A storytelling video by the Association of National Park Rangers entitled "Lost! But found, Safe and Sound" was shown to teach people the need to stop and stay where you are, to have and blow a whistle to let humans know where to find you and for animals to stay away, and a garbage bag to keep warm.

It has been found that younger children are reluctant to call out when searchers are looking for them because they have been taught not to talk to strangers, and they feel they might get "in trouble" for being lost. At the end of the day the local toy store had sold out of all their whistles!

Particular emphasis was placed on helping to educate families about maps and contour lines, and what to do if you find yourself lost in the woods. Understanding these elevation lines help not only with trip planning, but also identifying your location.

An activity sheet and several 3-D contour puzzles were available and participants were encouraged to try to piece together the mountains and match the silhouette with the contour drawings on the activity sheet.

One parent commented, "I've been using maps for years and never knew what those lines meant!" Local scout groups and teachers expressed an interest in having programs offered at their sites as well.

Hiker responsibility information cards were given to participants to remind hikers of what to do, bring, and how to act in order to make sure they understand that they are responsible for themselves and need to be prepared to get "There and Back," the hikeSafe code. hikeSafe information is now available in all of the Settler's Green stores.



Clare Long teaches some of the basics of map reading at the Fun & Fitness Day.

For more information contact Colleen Mainville at (603) 528-8796

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