



Success Stories

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Quick Action Saves Life of Allegheny Employee

The Allegheny National Forest in June is awash in brilliant sunlight as it awaits the return of summer. Plant life abounds on the forest floor, bringing wildlife and the public back into the Allegheny. It is an exciting time of renewal in the forest, but on just such a day in 2002 an otherwise ordinary nature hike became a matter of life and death for a Forest Service employee.

Cindi Talkington, a newly hired Office Automation Assistant on the Marienville Ranger District, was on an interpretive trail tour with other new employees when she began to feel ill. When she began to struggle with her breathing, Talkington—who suffers from asthma—reached for her inhaler and called for assistance.

Along on the tour were Scott Reitz and Christopher Thornton of the Bradford Ranger District, both qualified as Emergency Medical



Allegheny NF employees who took part in the heroic life saving effort gather for a group photo.

Technicians. Talkington attempted to walk back to the parking lot, but collapsed unconscious in anaphylactic shock.

It was at this point that her fellow employees took the action that later proved to have saved her life when her heart nearly stopped beating.

As they carried her to the parking area and administered CPR, one person called 911. Bradford District Ranger John Schultz rushed off to find aid, and spotted a Pennsylvania State Trooper. By coincidence, the trooper had pulled over a registered nurse for a traffic violation.

He asked the trooper to lead the emergency vehicle to the hospital and the nurse agreed to ride in the emergency vehicle to do chest compressions on Talkington, who now was in critical condition. En route to Bradford Hospital the ambulance picked up a paramedic who administered epinephrine that helped stabilize her condition.

Talkington remembers none of this. She has been told about the life-saving efforts many times since last June.

“At first, their (her coworker’s) best guess was that maybe something in the grass, like mold, got stirred up,” Talkington says now.

After her collapse and rush to the hospital, she was thankful her rescuers dismissed the thought of an allergic reaction, and took aggressive and quick action. For their heroic measures, Reitz and Thornton and other Forest service employees and emergency personnel were awarded the Heroism and Emergency Response Award during an Eastern Regional award ceremony in Milwaukee in December.

For Talkington, the awards for her good Samaritans represented a small measure of gratitude she has for those who provided the timely aid that kept her alive. She celebrated her first wedding anniversary in September. After her recovery, Talkington says she remembers nothing of that harrowing day. She has lost a day of her life, but thanks to fellow Forest Service employees trained in CPR she didn’t lose her life.

The Eastern Region also recognized the Allegheny’s John Schultz, Dave Cotterman, Tom Farrell, Dan Valentine, Julie Moyer, Corinne Marzullo, Jason Rodriquez, Chris Losi, and Dave Saunders for their efforts that day. State Trooper Joseph Klinger and nurse Christine Schuyler were also commended.

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Wayne NF Recognizes Key Local Partners



Forest Supervisor Mary Reddan (left) presented more than 30 awards at the Wayne NF's second annual Partnership Recognition Ceremony Dec. 17, 2002.

On December 17, 2002, the Wayne National Forest held its second annual Partnership Recognition Ceremony. The program had an overwhelming turnout with 33 different conservation organizations in attendance. More than 60 individuals came out to represent those organizations at the Wayne Supervisor's Office in Nelsonville, Ohio.

Each partner was honored for their hard work and dedication with a certificate of appreciation, and all of the attendees had the chance to learn what each organization had worked on in conjunction with the Forest. Examples of the activities performed by Wayne NF's partners ranged from abandoned mine reclamation, watershed restoration, trash removal, tourism promotion, trail maintenance, and environmental education to reconstruction of wildlife habitat.

Wayne Forest Supervisor Mary Reddan recognized Rural Action's Community Organizing and Support Initiative (COSI) for community capacity building. She also honored The Bear Run Stream Restoration Project for restoring a watershed to a functioning

and self-maintaining aquatic and riparian system.

Both the Rural Action's COSI and the Bear Run Stream Restoration projects have received recognition from the Chief of the Forest Service Dale Bosworth's Office in Washington D.C.

Chippewa LE&I Leads Real-World Ice Rescue Training

Law enforcement officers and rescue teams from north central Minnesota recently gathered in sub-zero temperatures on a frozen lake in the Chippewa National Forest for ice rescue training. Chippewa NF law enforcement officer Paul Nordeen, along with Tom Schackman, Mitch Bouchonville and Tom Somrak from the Walker Ranger District, spent long hours in the cold and wind to prepare for and assist with the event.

The training gave workers a chance to practice ice rescues, and other skills especially necessary this year with such unstable ice conditions on area lakes. There were a number of logistical hurdles to overcome, including cutting large holes through 20 inches of lake ice to accommodate divers and snowmobiles with flotation devices. A few brave individuals jumped into the icy waters to test their flotation and snowmobile suits, while others practiced pulling them out.

This is the second year that this ice rescue training has been conducted, helping build relationships between the many local, state, and federal agencies in the area. Participants shared knowledge and displayed the new rescue equipment currently available. Together, teams worked with the hovercrafts, Ice Angels, snowmobiles and ice-ambulances to prepare for winter ice emergencies.

The day after the rescue training concluded, teams were called to the rescue of a man and woman who had driven their car into open water on Leech Lake on the southern end of the Chippewa NF. Cass County officers arrived and were able to quickly put together a plan and rescue the individuals.

Which was just another reminder of how important this annual safety training has become.



LE&I Officer Paul Nordeen tests an insulation suit during the icy training on the Chippewa NF.



Bergland Cultural Center Receives Award

Friends of the Bergland Cultural and Heritage Center—a non-profit organization of Bergland, Michigan, area citizens—were selected to receive the 2002 New Century of Service Award as part of the Eastern Region Honor Awards held in Milwaukee in December.

This noteworthy award is given to Forest Service employees, retirees, volunteers or partners who embody the spirit of New Century of Service by demonstrating excellence and dedication in “Caring for the Land and Serving People.”

The Friends of the Bergland Cultural and Heritage Center were recognized for their efforts in working to convert a former Forest Service administrative site into an interpretive center, which highlights the Forest Service’s history in the Great Lakes area.

Already listed as a part of the Western Upper Peninsula Heritage Trail Network, the historic Bergland administrative site has the potential to become the cornerstone of a regional heritage and eco-tourism economy.

Built in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), the site is no longer being used by the Ottawa National Forest as an active administrative area. Friends of the Bergland Cultural and Heritage Center, who have recognized the uniqueness and historical value of this site, are working to develop plans that will adapt the Bergland office to provide public education and interpretation activities.

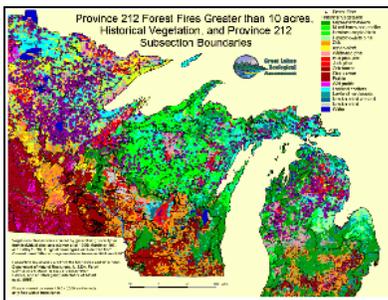
The restored site will provide an educational experience that will leave visitors with a better appreciation of Forest Service history in the Great Lakes area. Current activities include developing plans for the use and restoration of the administrative site, completing the process to register the site for the National Register of Historical Places, developing interpretive displays, websites, and informational brochures, and strengthening the partnership already formed between the Forest Service and the local community.

The site will potentially draw visitors from the local area and across the Great Lakes region. By celebrating the past, we look forward to opening the doors to the next century.



Once used as an administrative office, the Bergland Center was built in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

New Web Database Available thru RO Intranet Homepage



Searching for Literature on Historic Vegetation and Fire Regime Effects is one of many features of the web-based system.

Following a comprehensive analysis of information needs in the R9 Regional Office and on the Forests, the Natural Resources staff and the regional webmaster unveiled the first version of a web-based scientific literature database accessible through the R9 intranet homepage.

This system is unique in that it allows an “Up Front” literature search using keywords and other terms that take the user directly to the USDA National Agriculture Library DigiTop Desktop Library for checking availability of online publications.

The literature database contains technical information on topics such as species viability, forest health, air quality, and watershed management. Much of this information can be useful for broad-scale, mid-scale, or project-level analysis and planning.

Literature search profiles for NR staff program areas were developed with keyword search terms acquired from R9 RO and Forest resource specialists. Search terms were then compiled into profiles. Student volunteers from Wisconsin Lutheran College conducted the literature searches and integrated data into bibliographic databases.

Copies of the literature databases are posted on the R9 Intranet site and can be browsed using special software. When all searches are posted, the system will support up to 10 databases and over 10,000 references.



Artifact Display Finds New Home at Center

There are many reasons to visit the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, a remarkable facility that opened in 1998 outside of Ashland, Wisconsin. Located near the shores of Lake Superior, the Center presents a broad range of exhibits and special programs that interpret the cultural and natural history of the western Lake Superior region.

This mission—interpretation for the public benefit—is one that fits well with the USDA Forest Service’s Heritage Program. Given its mission and proximity to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, it seemed appropriate that the Forest’s archaeological and historical collections be housed at the Center.

In 1990, Congress approved the final rule on the management of archaeological collections recovered from federal lands. Referred to as “Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections,” it addressed long-overdue standardization with regard to the treatment of archaeological collections and associated documentation.

To date, the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF land base has been found to contain approximately 2,400 archaeological and historic properties. Though Forest Service archaeologists have, through the years, attempted to limit the volume of materials collected, the collections are far too large to curate in a facility such as the Forest Supervisor’s Office. For this reason, in 1992 a suitable collections repository was found at the University of Minnesota at Duluth.

The Duluth facility served the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF’s short-term needs, however traveling between north-central Wisconsin and Duluth proved prohibitive in terms of the requirements of collections management.

To address this problem, discussions this year with Center Director Steve Hoecker led to the creation of a new curation facility in Ashland. The Center was found to provide all of the mandated requirements, such as a climate controlled environment, security and accessibility. Further, the Center—though constructed by the Forest Service—is operated through partnerships with several agencies, including the National Park Service and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

With regard to the Wisconsin Historical Society, their involvement in the Center is another reason why the facility has become such an important “heritage resource.” That is, within the Center, the Society has developed an archives, referred to as the Northern Wisconsin History Center. The History Center contains archival material documenting the history of northern Wisconsin, including local government records and manuscript collections. The History Center has become extremely important to the people of northern Wisconsin, particularly those interested in historical or genealogical research.

In 2003 and 2004, the heritage staff will begin the process of organizing the Forest’s archaeological collections and associated documentation. This will involve inspecting all collections for deterioration, ensuring that all collections are packaged appropriately, and all collections are referenced in the accessioning system, linked to the new Heritage Infra Module database.

Further, all reports and documentation that relate to the collections will be placed within a filing system located within the repository. It will take considerable time and energy to accomplish all of this, though as always, we will do it with the help of partners, Passport In Time volunteers, and student interns.

If all goes as planned, in 2005 the Forest will have a curation facility that is accessible to students, researchers, tribal representatives and others who wish to view the collections. It is hoped that at some future time historical documents relating to Forest history can be housed at the curation facility.

Establishing such an archive, along with the curation of archaeological collections, will serve more than simply the interests of archaeologists and historians. Natural resource managers will be able to study the Center’s archaeological and archival collections as time capsules that define historic ecological context, and human induced ecological influences and changes.



The Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center was selected as the permanent home for scores of rare archaeological exhibits .



Allegheny Adopts Local Families for Christmas

To borrow a phrase from a popular song, “the greatest love of all” is giving. And that is what a large number of Allegheny National Forest employees felt when they recently adopted two families in need to share their love with during the holiday season.

That love came in the form of gifts for children, and even though the ANF employees will never know to whom the gifts were delivered, they nevertheless shared in the joy and experienced the true meaning of giving.

It started in mid-November when the Employees’ Association opted out of formal holiday giving as an organization and several individual employees brought forth the idea of the employees themselves voluntarily “adopting” two families who otherwise would have little joy during the holiday season.

Two “special needs” families in the Warren area were identified: one family by the local Early Intervention Coordinator, and a second family by one of their own employees. The first family was a grandmother committed to raising her three young grandchildren and the second a single mother struggling to raise two daughters and a young son. The children’s ages ranged from 2-1/2 to 14 years old.

An “angel tree” was created and decorated with more than 50 cutout angels, each identifying a desired gift for a boy or girl and his or her age. Some wished for specific gifts, the youngest little girl asking “Santa” to bring her a Rolie Polie Olie, while another asked for a “Trace and Draw” Projector. Still others asked for hats, mittens, coats and winter boots. Soon each and every angel had been lovingly removed from the once-crowded tree.

The good-hearted givers were asked to tape the paper angel to their wrapped gifts so that it could be identified for “Santa” to deliver to the correct child, and the wrapped gifts soon began to pour in. In addition to wrapped gifts for the children, employees also gifted appliances, furniture, clothing and food. Even a brand-new red bicycle was placed beside someone’s tree! ANF employees did not forget the mother and grandmother either. They, too, received gift bags full of goodies.

Just before the holidays, the gifts were sorted by child and made ready for “Santa’s” delivery. When the bags of gifts left the building, the employees were reminded of the true meaning of giving and had experienced “the greatest love of all.”



Employees on the Allegheny NF “adopted” two local special-needs families, helping them all enjoy a special Christmas season.

Environmental Learning Projects Abound on Chippewa



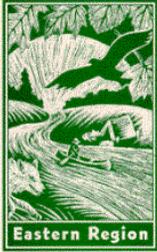
Local kids enjoy the Chippewa.

The Chippewa National Forest’s education programs run throughout the year, and the enthusiasm for learning is infinite. The Forest is a “hands on” classroom and teaching teachers is our specialty.

Inspiration reigns with 35 employees providing programs this year and 10 naturalists working with kids of all ages, whether it be touring through history, mucking around in the pond, or crawling along the forest floor in search of rare plants. Interested? We figured you would be.

Employees on the Chippewa NF presented over 100 Visitor Center programs, and 150 school programs over the last year. Ten volunteer resort and community naturalists presented over 9000 programs in three months. And most importantly, educators on the Forest provided training for teachers through Project Wild and

Project Learning Tree, and participated in multi-agency interpretive planning sessions and mentored new naturalists. We’re proud of the environmental education program on the Forest—and work hard to add new dimensions each year!



Turkeys Rebound as Habitat Improves on MTNF



This photo—taken in 1921—is the last surviving picture of the original Lake Owen Dam structure.

Members of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) and the USDA Forest Service continue a partnership to improve Mark Twain National Forest wildlife habitat. The latest contribution is in the amount of \$100,000 for land management projects and habitat preservation for wild turkey and other wildlife in Missouri's only national forest.

"When we have a partner like NWTf, we can bargain for more habitat projects because they are always willing to support our efforts," said Jody Eberly, Mark Twain NF wildlife biologist. "For years, this cooperation has resulted in great things for the Forest."

Located in south central Missouri, the forest is filled with nearly 1.6 million acres of mountainous terrain and plush prairie habitat. Eberly said the more than 10-year partnership has served as the catalyst for the state's increasing turkey populations and improving habitat.

"This partnership strengthens every year and the forest and wildlife

benefit because of it," said Mike Hubbard, Missouri's technical committee member for the NWTf. "Missouri's NWTf volunteers like to see wildlife habitat and turkey populations flourish, which has been the case in on the Mark Twain."

Of the more than 100 habitat-enhancement proposals this past year, forest officials indicate they will emphasize prescribed burning and forest thinning. Deemed one of the worst years in history for rampant wildfires, nationwide concern has forest officials working to reduce the risk of potentially high-burning conditions.

"With the partnership money, we will work to reduce the risk of wildfires in the forest. Through controlled burns, we can help eliminate the risk for optimal wildfire conditions," Eberly said. "Savannah restoration, planting food plots and mowing will continue as priorities for the benefit of the forest habitat and wildlife."

Local NWTf chapters raise money for the Wild Turkey Super Fund through banquets, which is then allocated to different local, state and national habitat management projects, education programs, hunter safety materials, outreach, research equipment and wild turkey restoration.

Wayne Military Vets Take Part in Athens Parade

The Wayne National Forest took part this year for the first time in recent years in the Athens Veterans Day Parade. The parade pays tribute to the many area veterans of the military.

Gary Cravens, Minerals Technician on the Athens District, recruited his fellow veterans to participate.

"A group of us who were all Vietnam Era veterans decided to participate to honor all veterans and current military personnel serving around the world," said Connie Roberts, who also played a role in helping organize the effort.

At the parade's conclusion, the Wayne NF group met at the Veterans Memorial on the Ohio University campus for a memorial service dedicated to those who gave their lives in defense of their country.

Gary Willison, John Clark—who suited up as Smokey Bear—Bill Scripp, Connie Roberts, and Gary Cravens all represented the Wayne NF in the parade down main street.



Smokey Bear was among the Wayne employees who took part in the Athens Veterans Day parade down Main Street.



Capitol Christmas Tree Passes Through Indiana

It was a cold and blustery Thanksgiving Day when the Umpqua National Forest rolled into Tell City, Indiana, with the 2002 Capitol Christmas Tree. The tree was en route to Washington, D.C., where it would take its place in the U.S. Capitol.

Nancy Myers, the Hoosier's Recreation Planner, was on hand when the tree arrived.

"I was so happy to be there, it was such an uplifting experience," Meyers said. Smokey Bear, aka Ann Timm, the Hoosier's Fisheries Biologist, and Tom Zick, one of the Hoosier's fire fighters, were on hand to greet the entourage as it arrived at City Hall.

Myers said the city blocked off Main Street for the presentation, and many of the townspeople turned out to welcome the tree and its entourage. Singers from Oregon performed while Smokey made the rounds welcoming kids and adults alike. A large group accompanied the tree as it moved across the country, eight of whom were Forest Service employees from the Umpqua, and the rest were volunteers and singers from a community college in Oregon.

The Oregon group had a table set up and were selling T-shirts and sweatshirts, cards with scenes from the Umpqua, and other souvenirs from Oregon. The funds from sales went to pay for the volunteer's travel expenses.

Myers said Wayne Kleckner was the "IC" of the group. Kleckner is the Timber Management Officer on the Cottage Grove District of the Umpqua. He and his wife were the main organizers and said they were thrilled to be part of the convoy east to deliver the tree.

Myers presented Kleckner and his crew with a large bag of fresh Tell City pretzels and potato chips, from a local Tell City industry. Kleckner assured her the "road munchies" would be much appreciated. In return he passed out Umpqua National Forest pins to all the Forest Service people who turned out to give their fellow Forest Service employees a hearty Hoosier greeting.

Before the program, Sue Denoncour—wife of District Ranger Jim Denoncour—arranged for the Oregon group to have Thanksgiving dinner with their church. Kleckner said the meal was delicious and much appreciated by the Oregonians. After a big dinner and the program on Main Street, the visitors from Oregon were invited down to the school gym by the Hoosiers to play a friendly pick-up game of basketball.

Myers said the Hoosier NF was proud to have been one of the stops on the tree's cross-country journey to the nation's Capitol.



Smokey Bear was on hand along with a few youngsters to welcome the Capitol Tree as it traveled from Oregon to Washington, D.C.



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