



Temperate Times



3-Year Review: Network is off to an Excellent Start!

The Northeast Temperate Network (NETN) 3-year startup review was held at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP in late January. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the network is set up to succeed; all I&M networks are required to hold a review meeting about three years after completion of their monitoring plan. The report from the review panel summed up the network's performance as follows: "There was a consensus among the four panel members and all of the superintendents and park resource managers who attended the review that the network is off to an excellent start. Based on the

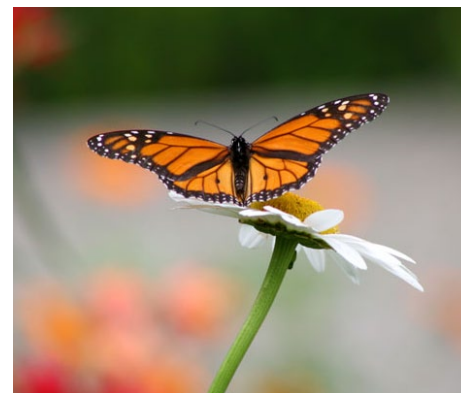
impressive number of inventory products, monitoring protocols, technical reports, and data sets produced, and on comments and compliments by park managers, key cooperators, and others during the review, the NETN has been and continues to be a leader among the 32 networks in many components of designing and implementing a long-term natural resource monitoring program." The summary report also highlighted the network's leadership in science communication; commitment to citizen science; strong track record of collaborating with other networks, agencies, and non-federal partners; and emphasis on sound data management

practices. Network staff are working to implement many of the recommendations of the final report, including ensuring long-term sustainability of core monitoring protocols, reviewing monitoring objectives for all protocols, developing a monitoring plan for the Appalachian Trail, and reorganizing the NETN steering committee to consist primarily of park resource managers rather than outside technical experts. The NETN would like to thank the review panel and our parks and cooperators for all of your support and encouragement—we are thrilled to be able to work with you to preserve and protect park natural resources!

Network Prepares to Pilot Phenology Program

A pilot project focused on citizen-science-based monitoring of plant and animal phenology and involving the NETN, Acadia NP, Appalachian NST, Appalachian Mountain Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, The Wildlife Society, and the USA National Phenology Network is planned for summer 2009. These organizations are at various stages of developing and implementing programs to monitor the phenology of plants and animals.

The goal of this summer's project is to collaboratively create monitoring protocols that are as consistent as possible, and meet the various organizations' needs. This effort will also provide a template for similar coordinated monitoring efforts in other regions. Expected products include a draft 'field methods' SOP and perhaps other draft SOPs following Oakley et al. (2003) guidelines. In addition, the effort will be evaluated after the field season to guide future efforts. *Continued on page 2.*



Butterflies and moths, such as the monarch butterfly, could be included in the pilot phenology monitoring program © Ed Sharron.



Phenological events, like the turning and falling of deciduous tree leaves in fall, could be monitored © Ed Sharon.

Pilot Phenology Program, continued

Acadia NP, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP, Boston Harbor Islands, Saugus Iron Works NHS, and the Appalachian Trail will be involved in piloting phenology monitoring this summer and next spring.

According to Abe Miller-Rushing, Coordinator of the Wildlife Phenology Program for the USA National Phenology Network, and lead scientist on this project, the pilot program will run from July to November. Dr. Miller-Rushing hopes that the pilot will include observations of at least one plant and one animal species for each park involved.

The pilot program will target dedicated park volunteers, casual park visitors,

and teachers/school groups. Monitoring stations will be located in higher traffic areas, and observation locations will be clearly marked to facilitate repeat observations of the same individual organism or population. Different levels of engagement, from “self-serve” observations to moderate training will be piloted with the various target audiences to assess which approaches work best.

The pilot program assessment will likely include a comparison of citizen-scientist data to that collected by experts, a survey of participants’ experiences, and an assessment of effort required to organize and implement the program and its appropriateness in different settings (i.e., parks, trails, etc.).

Coming to a Forest Near You

The NETN Forest Health Monitoring Crew kicked off the 2009 summer field season in May with a week-long training at Valley Forge NHP. This year’s crew members include Andrew Vincello, Nicole Lightle, Erika Gorczyca and Kate Willikin, NETN’s new Forest Monitoring Crew leader.

This year, the crew will be monitoring forest plots at Morristown NHP, Acadia NP, Weir Farm NHS, and the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS units in the

NETN. In addition, the crew will make stops at three parks in the Northeast Coastal and Barrier Network and all the parks in the Mid-Atlantic Network.

In May, the NETN published the *2006-2008 Forest Health Monitoring Report*. In addition, the NETN developed several briefs to highlight key results. The NETN Forest Health Monitoring Protocol will be published later this summer.

Continued on page 3.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Northeast Temperate Network

54 Elm Street
Woodstock, Vermont 05091
802-457-3368
<http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/netn/index.cfm>

Program Manager

Brian R. Mitchell ext. 37
Brian_Mitchell@nps.gov

Appalachian Trail Coordinator

Fred Dieffenbach ext. 36
Fred_Dieffenbach@nps.gov

Data Manager

Adam Kozlowski ext. 40
Adam_Kozlowski@nps.gov

Plant Ecologist

Kate Miller
Kathryn_Miller@nps.gov
207-288-8736

Science Communication

Sarah Lupis Kozlowski ext. 23
Sarah_Lupis_Kozlowski@nps.gov

Parks

Acadia National Park
Appalachian National Scenic Trail
Boston Harbor Islands, a National Park Area
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
Minute Man National Historical Park
Morristown National Historical Park
Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites
Saratoga National Historical Park
Saugus Ironworks National Historic Site
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
Weir Farm National Historic Site

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Crew Leader, Kate Willikin, gracefully avoids barberry thorns while helping to sight the laser rangefinder at Morristown NHP (NPS photo).

Coming to a Forest Near You, continued



The 2009 Forest Health Monitoring Crew, from left to right: Kate Willikin, Andrew Vincello, Erika Gorczyca, and Nicole Lightle (NPS photo).

Network	Park
Northeast Temperate Network	Acadia NP
	Morristown NHP
	Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS
	Weir Farm
Mid-Atlantic Network	Appomattox Court House NHP
	Booker T. Washington NM
	Eisenhower NHS
	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP
	Gettysburg NMP
	Hopewell Furnace NHS
	Petersburg NB
	Richmond NBP
	Valley Forge NHP
Northeast Coastal-Barrier Network	George Washington Birthplace NM
	Sagamore Hill NHS
	Thomas Stone NHS

In 2009, the Forest Health Monitoring Crew will visit these 16 park units across three I&M Networks.

Interns Increase Science Communication

This summer, the NPS Northeast Temperate Network, Acadia National Park’s Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC), and Acadia Partners for Science and Learning are employing two summer interns to work on science communication with Acadia’s resource management team and with the inventory and monitoring network. Sara Delheimer, a student at the University of Tennessee, and Hannah Kreitzer, who attends Unity College in Maine, will be living and working at Acadia NP during June and July. Their job is to help make scientific work going on at Acadia and throughout the NETN more visible and accessible for park staff and visitors.

Primarily, the interns are focused on creating “resource briefs”—two page summaries of research, monitoring, and management projects. The interns have already written briefs about invasive species management, water quality, and alewife population recovery at Acadia. They have also developed briefs to summarize parts of the NETN Forest

Health Monitoring report (see article on page 2).

Hannah and Sara maintain and manage a regular “blog”. It is called “Field Notes: Observations on science and nature in northeastern national parks.” A more creative outlet, the blog is a place for the interns, park staff, and scientists working across the Network to share their experiences, providing a unique insiders look at northeastern national parks.

Sara and Hannah regularly write about their experiences living and working at Acadia; Carol Trocki, an NETN cooperator, posts regular updates about coastal breeding bird monitoring; Jenna Dodge, another Acadia intern, posts “The View from the Airie”, an update on peregrine falcon nesting at Acadia.

Sarah Lupis Kozlowski, NETN’s Science Communication Specialist, is providing the science writing expertise needed to support the interns and is managing the actual day-to-day writing and editorial work. Acadia Partners is providing the

financial support for the program, and Bill Zoellick, Program Director, is managing the day to day logistics of getting Hannah and Sara out into the field. David Manski, Acadia’s Natural Resource Chief, is coordinating with researchers and staff at Acadia, ensuring that the interns cover a variety of projects and topics.



Sara Delheimer (left), an Environmental Sociology student at the University of Tennessee, is excited to work with researchers and explore different media for communicating science while learning about Maine’s natural and cultural history. Hannah Kreitzer (right), a native Mainer and part of Unity College’s Environmental Writing program, is also eager to learn more about her home state’s natural history through field work and writing (NPS photo).