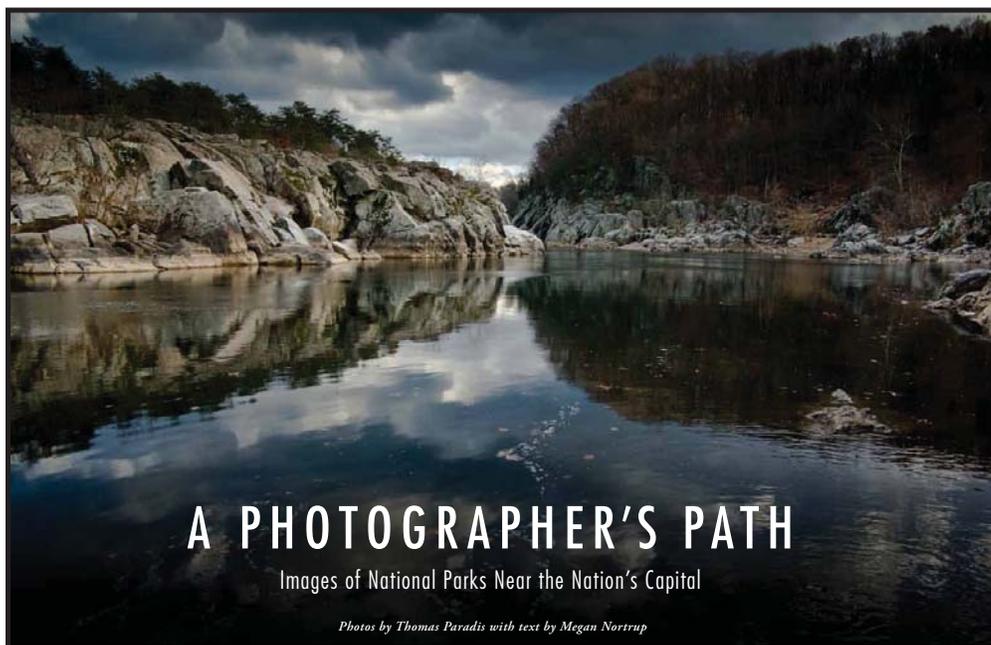




NCRN Natural Resource Quarterly - Fall 2010

submerged oak and sycamore leaves



A PHOTOGRAPHER'S PATH

Images of National Parks Near the Nation's Capital

Photos by Thomas Paradis with text by Megan Nortrup

The cover image of a new photography book of NCR park natural resources shows storm clouds gathering over the Potomac River between CHOH and GWMP.

Photography Book of NCR Parks

A new photography book entitled "A Photographer's Path" features natural resources in the parks of the National Capital Region (NCR). The book was produced by the National Capital Region Network (NCRN) Inventory & Monitoring (I&M) program for educational purposes and to promote the natural resources of NCR. It features images taken by NPS photographer Thomas "Tom" Paradis who worked part-time as NCRN's Visual Information Specialist through the STEP (Student Temporary Employment Program) for almost four years. He recently completed his master of fine art degree in photography at George Mason University and will finish his duties with NCRN in September.

Copies will be distributed to all NCR natural resource employees this fall. For more information contact Megan Nortrup by email.

Coming to Your Park this Fall..

White-tailed deer monitoring using distance sampling (spotlighting) will begin this October and continue through December in all NCR parks except WOTR* and HAFE where monitoring will use pellet group counts.

NCRN I&M water monitoring continues in all parks.

The NCRN I&M veg crew continues monitoring forest vegetation along with forest insect pests, invasive/exotic plants, and soils in all parks until the end of September.

A fish monitoring team from Versar, Inc. will finish electrofishing in early September in the lower third of the following streams: Youngs Branch in MANA, Bush Creek and Visitor's Center Creek in MONO, and Big Hunting Creek, Whiskey Still Creek, and Owens Creek in CATO.

The NCR's Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) will continue working through November to treat exotic invasive plants, including *Phragmites australis* at NACE's Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and *Ailanthus altissima* throughout NCR.

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Emerald Ash Borer Update

It's been several years since the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) first arrived in the National Capital Region, so what's the latest? While EAB has not yet been detected in an NCR park, monitoring using purple sticky traps this summer did capture one EAB beetle right outside of Oxon Hill Farm (NACE). The farm is located in southern Prince George's County—one of the original EAB infestation areas.

State and federal agencies continue to use purple sticky traps to monitor for the presence of EAB around the region. NPS is also trapping this year at CATO, HAFE, ROCR, and ANTI.

Looking for and recording evidence of forest pests like EAB is also one of the responsibilities of the region's Inventory & Monitoring veg crew, which monitored forest vegetation in all parks this summer. As of August 25, they had found no evidence of EAB in an NCR park.

When EAB first arrived here in 2003 on infested nursery trees sent to Fairfax County, Virginia and Prince George's County, Maryland, thousands of ash trees were destroyed in an effort to eradicate the pest. Its spread was temporarily halted through these efforts and through quar-



Bauer

Emerald Ash Borer beetle.



Univ. of Maryland Extension

EAB purple sticky trap.

antines on moving firewood and other tree products, but EAB has since been reconfirmed in both areas and spread to new places. See the chart below for a full list of areas with known EAB populations and what measures are being taken to combat them.

For further information on EAB visit: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/index.shtml or <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/>.

Fighting Invasive Plants in the NCR

It takes a village to protect NCR's treasured places—in this case, from invasive exotic plants. So far this year, thousands of hours have been spent to combat invasive plants that can displace native species, eliminate food and habitat for wildlife, alter natural fire regimes and nutrient cycling in soils, inhibit native plant regeneration, and degrade historic structures. Data collected during NCRN I&M forest monitoring from 2006 to 2009 found invasives in all parks. Seven of the region's parks have invasives in 75% or more of their forest plots.

So hearty thanks to the ten members of the National Capital Region's Exotic Plant Management Team; to the sum-

EAB	Known Infestation Locations	Quarantines	Monitoring/ Eradication Activities
D.C.	None known	No quarantines	Monitoring by USDA APHIS and NPS in Rock Creek Park.
Maryland	Southern Prince George's County, North Waldorf in Charles County	No movement of wood products into or out of Prince George's and Charles Counties	Monitoring throughout the state by USDA APHIS and state of Maryland. Biocontrol wasp releases and monitoring. Use of systemic insecticides.
Pennsylvania	A cluster of western counties including Lawrence, Mercer, Beaver, Butler, Armstrong, Indiana, Allegheny, Westmoreland, and Washington, and in central PA, Mifflin and Juniata counties	No movement of wood products into or out of infested counties	Monitoring throughout state.
Virginia	Fairfax County	No movement of wood products into or out of Fairfax, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park	Monitoring throughout Northern Virginia.
West Virginia	Fayette, Roane, Raleigh, and Morgan Counties	No wood products may cross the state border.	Monitoring throughout state.

mer invasive plant crews at ANTI, CATO, CHOH, GWMP, MANA, MONO, and PRWI; to all the park maintenance and natural resource staff who treated exotics; and to the numerous volunteer groups that have helped protect our parks so far this year. Thanks also to the National Capital Region Inventory & Monitoring Network (NCRN I&M) veg crew, who are playing a vital role in the fight against invasive exotic plants by monitoring them in 400 forest plots.

The National Invasive Species Council estimates that damage from just six invasive species is \$74 billion a year. And the cost they inflict on our natural and cultural heritage is immeasurable. But with all the hard work and dedication of folks here in the NCR (not to mention equipment, supplies, and other resources that help make it all happen), we are able to continue to protect our parks and help *“leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”*

Counting Geese and Restoring Marshes

This summer, a small dedicated crew spent five days counting resident Canada geese along the Anacostia River. The group, made up of Wildlife Biologist Scott Bates, staff from NACE, employees from the District’s Department of Environment, and Anacostia Watershed Society volunteers, counted the geese during their flightless summer molt. But why?

Non-migrating, resident Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) are a confounding factor in Anacostia River marsh restorations. Following the success of the 1992-93 marsh restoration project at Kenilworth Marsh, NPS along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the D.C. government, set out to restore 40 acres of marsh in Kingman Lake in 2000. After filling mudflats with thousands of cubic yards of material dredged from the Anacostia, planting thousands of marsh plants, and spending more than \$6 million, resident Canada



NPS

Resident Canada geese enjoying NACE’s Langston Golf Course

geese ate nearly everything that wasn’t fenced off. Since then, documenting the herbivory effects and populations of resident Canada geese is a key means for NPS to inform the draft Goose Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that

may allow the management of goose populations.

NACE’s Anacostia Park which includes both the Kenilworth and Kingman marsh restorations, is comprised of approximately 590 acres of wetland and 390 acres of grassland (including the Langston Golf Course). Of the areas surveyed, Kingman Lake still shows the highest numbers of geese, averaging more than 350 on each day of this year’s count.

As for goose herbivory, USGS Botanist Cairn Krafft is leading a study that measures the grazing impact of geese by using fences to exclude them from certain areas at Kingman Marsh and comparing the vegetation inside the enclosures to that immediately outside. This spring she and her colleagues used surveillance cameras to document geese squeezing under the fences, which are elevated to allow herbivory by fish, turtles, and other wildlife while excluding the geese. The fence elevations have since been lowered somewhat to keep the geese out.

To help with next year’s goose count at NACE, contact Scott Bates by email.

New Amphibian Resource Brief Available

A new resource brief on amphibians in the National Capital Region (NCR) is now available. The brief gives an overview of the status of frogs, toads, and salamanders in NCR, describes the National Capital Region Inventory & Monitoring Network’s (NCRN I&M) amphibian monitoring efforts, and provides basic species data by park. Copies are available through the NCRN website at http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncrn/monitoring_amphibians.cfm. For more information contact Megan Nortrup by email.

Park Acronyms

ANTI = Antietam National Battlefield
CATO = Catoctin Mountain Park
CHOH = Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park
GWMP = George Washington Memorial Parkway
HAFE = Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
MANA = Manassas National Battlefield
MONO = Monocacy National Battlefield
NACE = National Capital Parks - East
NAMA = National Mall and Memorial Parks
PRWI = Prince William Forest Park
ROCR = Rock Creek Park
WOTR = Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

Calendar

2010

SEPTEMBER

10-12. Virginia Native Plant Society Annual Meeting. Shenandoah National Park. www.vnps.org

16-17. Good Green – Bad Green. Front Royal, VA. www.vcnva.org/anx/index.cfm/1,93,1581,0,html/Sep-1617-Good-Green-Bad-Green-Invasive-Plant-Control-for-Habitat-Restoration

25. Maryland Native Plant Society Annual Meeting. Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD. www.mdflora.org/Default.aspx

30. Deadline for abstracts for 2011 George Wright Society Conference to be held March 14-18 in New Orleans.

OCTOBER

3-7. 2010 BioControl for Native Ecosystems in the US. Northampton, MA. <http://biocontrolfornature.ucr.edu/>

4-7. Stream Erosion and Sedimentation Monitoring Workshop. MONO. Contact Giselle Mora-Bourgeois by email for details and to register.

13. National Fossil Day. NAMA and Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. <http://nature.nps.gov/geology/national-fossilday/natmallevent.cfm>

20-22. North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. Washington, DC. www.nappc.org

21. NAT (Natural Resources Advisory Team) Meeting. President's Park (PRPA).

26-29. Natural Areas Association Annual Meeting. Osage Beach, MO. www.naturalarea.org/10Conference/

NOVEMBER

14-19. Prescribed Fire Workshop for Resource Specialists. Tallahassee, FL. www.fws.gov/fire/pftc/training-opportunities.shtml

DECEMBER

7-9. Scenario Planning for Climate Change Training. Urban Landscapes and Eastern Forests Workshop: special emphasis on cultural resources for Urban Landscape and Eastern Forests case studies. Washington, D.C. Contact Shelly_Clubb@nps.gov

2011

JANUARY

20. NAT (Natural Resources Advisory Team) Meeting. Location TBA.

MARCH

14-18. George Wright Society Conference: Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World. New Orleans, LA. <http://www.georgewright.org/gws2011>

APRIL

28. NAT (Natural Resources Advisory Team) Meeting. Location TBA.

National Capital Region Network Staff
Program Manager: Patrick Campbell
Botanist: John Parrish
Data Manager: Geoff Sanders
GIS Specialist: Mark Lehman
Hydrologic Technician: Jim Pieper
Hydrologic Technician: Tonya Watts
Quantitative Ecologist: John Paul Schmit
Science Communicator: Megan Nortrup
Visual Information Specialist: Thomas Paradis
Water Resources Specialist: Marian Norris

Visit NCRN I&M at:
<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncrn/index.cfm>
<http://imnetsharepoint/NCRN/default.aspx>

NCRN Natural Resource Quarterly offers updates on the status of park natural resources and Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) “vital signs” for the NPS National Capital Region (NCR).

Questions or comments? Contact Megan Nortrup by email or at 202-342-1443 x214.

Copies of this and other issues are available at http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncrn/network_products.cfm