

Community Forest News

The Newsletter of the Bath Community Forestry Committee ♦ 1 Oak Grove Ave. ♦ Bath, Maine 04530 ♦ 1- (207) -443-8345 ♦ sbalboni@cityofbath.com

Fall 2007
Edition

Sponsored by the
Maine Forest Service
Project Canopy



Celebrating 10 Years of Community Forest Photography

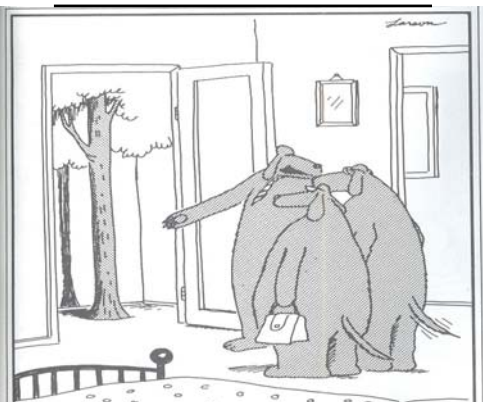
The 10th year of the Community Forest Photography Contest will be celebrated with the publication of a 24-page postcard booklet comprised of a small sample of the wonderful images of greater Bath and its beautiful community forest taken by past contest participants.

This postcard collection is an update of the Bath Community Forestry Committee's first postcard booklet produced in 1992. The 2007 booklet is funded by a Maine Forest Service Project Canopy Grant. Printing is being done by J. S. McCarthy Printers with design and production oversight by Mahan Graphics.

This lovely and unusual collection will be available in the Fall, at the Bath Cemeteries & Parks Office on 1 Oak Grove Avenue, for a donation of \$15.00 or more to the Bath Community Forestry Trust.

Upon publication, complimentary copies will be sent to those who have contributed to the Forestry Trust within recent months.

Thank you to all who value our Bath community forest and wish to ensure its future.



"Now, here's a feature you folks would really enjoy... Voila! A tree right off the master bedroom."

Where the Redwoods Grow, the Oddballs Also Flourish

By JANET MASLIN

Richard Preston, who describes the nuptials in "The Wild Trees," has taken his own leap with this book's choice of subject matter. After creating a best-selling horrible-disease franchise with books including "The Hot Zone" in 1994 (Ebola) and "The Demon in the Freezer" in 2002 (smallpox), Mr. Preston could have remained on the biohazard beat indefinitely. Instead he has written an exciting book about botany (sic) that recalls his 1987 astronomy book "First Light," about the Hale telescope. Once again he combines the thrill of exploration with the quirkiness of those who choose it as their lives' work.

"My goal is to reveal people and realms that nobody had ever imagined," Mr. Preston writes. Certainly he does so. The giant, ancient California redwoods from which "The Wild Trees" takes its title have hidden in plain sight, some of them not far from a well-traveled road. And yet Mr. Preston makes them seem as wildly exotic to his readers as they are to the assorted oddballs who choose to climb them. Mr. Preston transforms himself into one of those oddballs before this story is over.

As illustrated by Andrew Joslin, whose plain line drawings of redwood structure are astonishing, "The Wild Trees" presents its subjects as "the blue whales of the plant kingdom." Mr. Preston writes that "in order to see a giant tree you need a magnifying glass," and this book is fascinating in its keen, inquisitive account of the redwoods' biosphere.

These organisms are the size of 30-odd-story buildings, yet they are anchored by roots that are disproportionately small. Their upper reaches are home to bonsai trees, berry bushes, tiny aquatic creatures and nitrogen-based fertilizer. They grow so slowly that their development is hard to measure during the course of a scientist's lifetime. But they are not the world's largest living organisms. That honor, according to Mr. Preston, belongs to an edible fungus in Oregon that lives underground and measures three square miles.

Still, the redwoods are colossal and daunting. And "The Wild Trees" wonders what kind of people would become obsessed with them. Mr. Preston, who entered this strange realm by writing an article for The New Yorker, went to Arcata, in Northern California, in 2003 to meet Steve Sillett, the tree explorer whose adventures are central to the human side of this book's story.

"Recreational climbers regarded Sillett as a near-legendary figure, and he regarded them with alarm," Mr. Preston writes. Mr. Sillett was married to Marie Antoine, the aerial bride who had sewn lichen into her veil. And their home had become a magnet for redwood devotees. "The clothing was Gore-Tex," Mr. Preston writes, "and the conversation was trees, trees, trees."

"The Wild Trees" reaches into the past to explain how Mr. Sillett and Ms. Antoine got to that point. It begins in 1987, when Mr. Sillett, then an acrophobic college student majoring in biology, saw his first redwood forest and decided to start climbing. "I'm lusting for this tree," he told his brother and a friend, and thus a career of exploration began. It is the book's impressive but not entirely provable claim that Mr. Sillett has been the first person to visit many of the midair wonders he has seen.

The book treats redwoodphilia as a true addiction. "Why would a child get so whacked-out on redwoods," Mr. Preston asks about Mr. Taylor. "He couldn't say. And it was getting worse and worse, this redwood thing. He felt that he needed to go into some kind of redwood detox." But whatever it is, Mr. Preston makes it contagious by filling his book with amazing details based on the trees' gigantism and mystery.

In a particularly dramatic sequence a big and slightly tilted tree called Telperion (from Tolkien's "Silmarillion") is climbed and then hit by a squall after the climbers have ensconced themselves in treetop hammocks. They reassure themselves that the tree has survived for eons and gone untouched by countless storms. But this is the one that, after the climbers escaped, brings Telperion down and creates a 60-foot-high mud splash in the process.

"The Wild Trees" sags slightly when Mr. Preston begins describing his own climbing career, since it is no match for the book's other exploits. And it reaches too strenuously for a final note of wisdom. Maybe we learn from trees. "Maybe these trees can teach us something about ourselves," Mr. Sillett says. Or maybe a labyrinthine sky-high structure holding huckleberries, copepods, lettuce lungwort and centuries' worth of silent history is devoid of lessons but speaks mesmerizingly for itself.

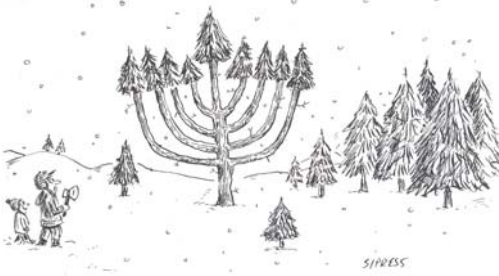
New York Times Book Review, April 19, 2007

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING!

The Bath Community Forestry Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month, September to June from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. in the Bath City Hall. The public is always invited to join us. Our meetings in the basement conference room. Go directly down the stairs from the side door of City Hall, and take a left. For more information call Letha Bennett at 443-8345.

Winter Preparation Checklist

When adding new trees, purchase only those species native to your area's hardiness zone. Trees native to areas even one zone milder than yours might experience significant stresses during your region's winters. In preparing for winter, remember to prune only after your trees have entered dormancy after the risk of new growth. Lay a layer of mulch down around the bases of your trees to moderate temperature fluctuations and moisture loss. Don't forget to leave a space between the mulch and the trunk of the tree to discourage mice. Check occasionally during the cold season for signs of rodent damage. Use bait, enclosures or repellents as necessary. Apply a good fall fertilizer that promotes root growth over leaf growth.



Pre-Storm Tree Assessment Protocol Conducted by Students

Between September 18th and October 2nd the City of Bath will be continuing a community-wide, pre-storm tree survey. The Bath Forestry Division and students from Ms. Carol Nichols Honors Biology class at Morse High School will conduct an "Initial Storm Damage Assessment Protocol for Urban & Community Forests", following guidelines developed by the USDA Forest Service and the Davey Resource Group. At the beginning of the school year, the students were trained by the Bath City Arborist in how to evaluate Bath's street-side and adjacent trees, and how to estimate the amount of clean-up that might be needed after a severe storm. During this planning stage, sample plots, representing at least 2% of the City's total street mileage were randomly chosen, a survey performed by the students and cost and time estimates made. Trees greater than 6 inches in diameter within the City right-of-way (R.O.W.) and within 50 feet of the City R.O.W. were measured and tallied. If ever a federal disaster is declared in the State, Sagadahoc County or the City of Bath, this survey will hasten Bath's ability to receive aid necessary for hazard tree reductions and debris removal. As of this writing, roughly half of the necessary 2% of the total street mileage has been surveyed. The survey will be continued next Fall with a new class of students.

If you have any questions or want more information about this project, please contact the Bath Forestry Division by phone at 443-8347 or 751-7677, or by e-mail at thoerth@cityofbath.com.

MOFGA Chainsaw and Forest Safety Course

November 16 & 17, 2007

at

MOFGA's Common Ground Education Center
Unity, Maine

Learn the basics of saw mechanics, operation, maintenance, and safety. Learn and practice the latest in safe felling techniques.

This two-day course covers many aspects of chainsaw use. All students are expected to provide a tuned saw, tools, PPE (steel toed boots, leg protection, hearing, eye and head protection) and gloves. This equipment must meet CLP/OSHA standards. Some extra PPE and tools are available to loan for the course.

This course is taught by Pete Tracy of the Certified Logging Professional Program. Class size is limited to fifteen, with a first come, first served signup policy. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older unless prior consent is given.

Course fee for two days, including hearty meals, is \$160.00 per person. Campsites are available.

For more information, contact Andrew Marshall, Educational Programs Director, at 568-4142.



Bath's State Champion Tree Highlight

If you wish to see the whole listing of Maine's Big Trees, visit Project Canopy's web-site at www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/pubs/pdf/projcanopy/bigtrees_2005.pdf, to see them all.

Bath is home to the State's largest European Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) located on Bath St. The specimen is half-way between High and Middle Streets, on the north-side of Bath Street. It presently has a height of 70 feet, a crown spread of 42 feet, and a trunk circumference of 115 inches. The tree was first registered by Mr. Tim Lindsay of Bartlett Tree Co. Thanks, Tim!

To learn more about how the trees are measured, or if you think you have a champ, contact the Bath City Arborist, at 443-8345.

- Thomas C. Hoerth

Children's Tree Climbing Workshop

The Patten Free Library and the Bath Forestry Division are pleased to announce that a second session of this summer's children's tree climbing workshop will be held in the Spring of 2008. It is open to all children from ages 9-12. All the necessary equipment will be provided.

The instructors for the workshop will again be Melissa LeVangie and her twin sister Bear Scovil. Both are noted and awarded tree climbers and have competed in numerous regional, national and international tree climbing championship competitions. Whether they are climbing professionally or recreationally, their main focus is safety and respect for the trees they work in and explore.

For more information, directions or questions, please contact either Ms. Nyree Thomas at the Patten Free Library at 443-5141 or nthomas@patten.lib.me.us, or Mr. Tom Hoerth at 443-8345 or at thoerth@cityofbath.com.

Winter Pruning Clinic

On Saturday to be announced in March of 2008, from 9:00 A.M. until Noon, the Committee will be providing a Winter Tree Pruning Workshop. This workshop will focus on winter tree care techniques and tools for the trees in your landscape.

It is free, and the public is welcome to join. The workshop will be held in the basement conference room at Bath City Hall, 55 Front Street. If you have your own hand-pruners, hand saws and loppers, bring them with you. After review and practices, we will walk up Centre Street to practice these techniques on selected public trees. For more information, call Ms. Letha Bennett at the Bath Cemeteries & Parks Department office, 443-8345 or Thomas Hoerth at 751-7677 or via e-mail at thoerth@cityofbath.com.

The 9th Annual Low-Impact Forestry Workshop & Chainsaw Safety Course.

This is one of MOFGA's unique and most popular events, for beginners and experienced woods workers. Discover the rewards of working in the woods with horses and appropriate machinery. Learn and practice sustainable woodlot management, timber harvesting and processing, draft horsemanship and chainsaw safety from a crew of experts. Hearty food, great company and a memorable learning experience are guaranteed. Register early; this event fills quickly. A separate chainsaw operation and safety workshop will run concurrently. November 16 & 17.

For more information, call MOFGA at 568-4142, e-mail at mofga@mofga.org, or visit www.mofga.org.

10th Annual Bath Community Forest Foliage Photography Contest!

The City of Ships is also the City of Trees. During the months of September and October, look within the city limits of Bath for the most striking trees in full fall color and photograph them, or images of trees taken at any time of the year! **Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter!** The contest is open to anyone. Note the tree's location (address/cross-streets), camera type used, film used, date photo was taken, time of day, camera settings (if any), and give the image a title. Please, limit the number of entries per person to three (3), and remember to include all information with each entry. Please look for extra copies of the application forms in **Bath City Hall, the Bath Cemeteries & Parks Department Office, the Patten Free Library** and at all the sponsoring businesses. Entries can be mailed in at any time during the contest. All photographs become the property of the Bath Community Forestry Committee. For more information, or if you have any questions, please call **443-8345**.

All entries will be judged on composition and presentation. This year's judges will be **Ms. Constance Panetski**, Fine Arts teacher at Morse High School, **Ms. Jacqueline Zimowski**, of Through My Eyes Photography, and **Ms. Darreby Amber**, a local resident. Two (2) awards will be given to adult entrants, and two (2) awards will be given to student entrants. Prizes are being generously donated by **Beale Street Barbeque, Just Framing, Now You're Cooking, Skillin's Greenhouse, York's Rhododendrons, Bart & Greg's DVD Explosion** and **Bull Moose Music**. The two First Prizes are: Adult Category, a 2-inch caliper tree from Skillin's Greenhouse and a \$25.00 gift certificate from Beale Street Barbeque and, Student Category, a \$75.00 gift certificate from York's Rhododendrons, a \$25.00 gift certificate from Beale Street Barbeque and a \$30.00 gift certificate from Bull Moose Music. The Second Prize for the adult entrant is a gift from Now You're Cooking, a \$25.00 gift certificate from Beale Street Barbeque and a \$45.00 gift certificate from Just Framing. The Second Prize for the student entrant is a \$45.00 gift certificate from Just Framing, a \$25.00 gift certificate from Beale Street Barbeque and a \$10.00 gift certificate from Full Spectrum Art Supplies. All entrants who get their film developed at Kennebec Camera will receive a 10% discount on developing when they show their filled out contest application! Where possible, save one copy of your image on a PC disk. Images can be developed on PC disk at Kennebec Camera and Shaw's Supermarket.

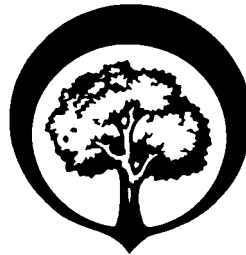
All entries received by **Friday, November 2nd**, will be displayed in the Patten Free Library Children's Room starting **Friday, November 9th**. An awards ceremony will be held at the Patten Free Library on **Friday, Nov. 9th, from 4:00-**

5:00 p.m. All entries will also be displayed on the Bath Community Forestry Committee's web-site found at www.cityofbath.com. Members of the Forestry Committee and their families are prohibited from entering the contest.

All entrants will receive a copy of the updated postcard collection featuring selected images from past photo contests as well as being recognized in our Forestry Newsletter. Adults entrants will receive a \$10.00 discount coupon from Skillin's Greenhouse. Student entrants will receive a free DVD rental from Bart & Greg's DVD Explosion, which can be picked up during the afternoon awards ceremony at the **Patten Free Library on Friday, Nov. 9th**.

Images and Application Forms can be sent to:

**10th Annual Community Forest Photo Contest
C/O Bath Dept. of Cemeteries & Parks
1 Oak Grove Ave.
Bath, Maine 04530-2236**



TREE CITY USA®

Urban Forestry Web-sites

Find An Orchard In Your Area

www.maineapples.org/orchards.html

Backyard Orchardist

www.allaboutapples.com/backyard/index.htm

The University of Maine Apple IPM Program

pmo.umext.maine.edu/apple/

A Short History of Apples

www.rickerhill.com/Apple%20History.htm

Apples of Maine

www.applesofmaine.com/

For a larger selection of sites and related links, please visit our web-site, located at:

www.cityofbath.com/forest/index.htm.

Habitat Stewards™ Program in Fall 2007

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering the Habitat Stewards™ Program this fall. This program provides the knowledge and skills to coach people in your community to create and enhance wildlife habitat in yards and other parts of the settled landscape. In exchange for the 30-hour training program, Habitat Stewards commit 30 hours to share information and knowledge with others in their communities. Subjects include wildlife survival needs, habitat components, landscaping for wildlife, native plants and more. The six classes are on alternate Saturdays, September 9, 22, October 6, 20, and November 3, 17 at the Androscoggin-Sagadahoc Counties Extension office in Lisbon Falls or nearby locations. The program fee is \$75.

Habitat Stewards™ is a volunteer program of the National Wildlife Federation® and, in Maine, is a joint effort with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Applications must be submitted by August 9. For more information and an application, contact Nancy Coverstone, Extension Educator, UMCE in Androscoggin-Sagadahoc Counties, at 353-5550 or 1-800-287-1458; ncstone@umext.maine.edu

In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and in pursuing its own goals of pluralism, the University of Maine shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship status, age, disability or veterans status in employment, education and all other areas of the University. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Questions and complaints about discrimination in any area of the University should be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity, 101 North Stevens Hall, Rm. #101, Orono ME 04469, 581-1226. If you are a person with a disability and will need any accommodations to participate in these programs, please contact Nancy Coverstone, 1-800-287-1458 to discuss your needs. Please contact us at least 10 days prior to the event to assure the fullest possible attention to your needs. TDD 1-800-287-8957.

Celebrate the History, Flavor, and Tradition of Maine Apples MOFGA's Common Ground Education Center Unity, Maine

- Educational Workshops on growing, processing, and cooking apples.
- Rare and heirloom Maine variety display and tasting.
- Help identifying your mystery variety.
- Lots of vendors of local and organic apples, apple products, cheeses, and other local handmade products.
- Cider pressing.

10am-3pm

**FREE Admission! Saturday, October 20, 2007.
Saturday, October 20, 2007**

November 19 & 20
Friday 4:00 p.m. to Saturday Noon
Maine Project Learning Tree (PLT) Annual Conference
Tanglewood 4H Camp, Lincolnville

The conference begins at 4:00 p.m. on October 19 with national and regional PLT updates and discussions. Concurrent sessions that address revised learning results, the new PLT curriculum, creative agendas and more to be held from Friday at 4:00 p.m. through Saturday at Noon. The conference cost is \$50, with scholarships available by request. For more information, contact Pat Maloney at 626-7990.

October 18
5:00—7:00 p.m.
Maine Project Learning Tree 30th Anniversary
The Augusta Country Club

You are invited to attend a special celebration with our keynote speaker Gina McCarthy, Commissioner of the Com. Dept. of Environmental Protection. She'll share stories and information from her state's special initiative, No Child Left Inside, a response to Richard Louv's book, Last Child in the Woods, which addresses "nature deficit disorder. Admission is \$25 and please RSVP by October 1st. For more information, contact Pat Maloney at 626-7990.

October 18 & 19
Northern Forest Center's "Ways of the Woods"
Augusta State House

Sponsored by Maine TREE Foundation & Project Learning Tree, this 53-foot truck trailer will host museum quality exhibits, floor-to-ceiling photographs, displays and several interactive elements. Admission is free to all adults and children! For more information contact Pat Maloney at 626-7990.

October 28-30
"New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture 41st Annual Conference—Conway, New Hampshire"
 Visit www.newenglandisa.com for more information.

October 20
10:00 A.M.—4:00 p.m.
"The 7th Annual Great Maine Apple Day—Unity, Maine"

Sponsored by the Maine Pomological Society and held in MOFGA's Exhibition Hall in the Common Ground Education Center. Apple enthusiasts will celebrate the fall harvest with apple and cider tastings, a pie contest, displays, lectures, workshops and many apples and apple-related products for sale. Admission: FREE!. For more information or for a detailed flyer, call 568-4142 or 933-2100.

October 10
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
9th Annual Citizens Involvement Day – Riverfront Park

Learn more about the groups that contribute so much to Bath and how you can get more involved. Call Al Smith at 443-8372 for additional info.

September – October
"9th Annual Bath Community Forest Photography Contest"

See page 3 for further information and reminder.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Fall 2007 Workshops & Upcoming Events

Some of the workshops are co-sponsored by the City of Bath Cemeteries & Parks Department and the Bath Community Forestry Committee. Please note times, locations and dates (including rain dates). Call Letha Bennett at the City of Bath Cemeteries & Parks Department Office at 443-8345 for more details and any questions.



Bath Community Forestry Committee
1 Oak Grove Ave.
Bath, Maine 04530

2007 Committee Members

- Thomas Barrington, Co-Chairperson
- Edward Benedict
- Bruce Brennan
- Geraldine Coombs
- Nancy Coverstone, UMCE
- Keith Emery
- Thomas C. Hoerth, *Ex-Officio*
- James Larson, Co-Chairperson
- Margo Oliver
- Aaron Park
- Suzanne Preisler
- Mary Earl Rogers, Associate

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This edition generously sponsored by the
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