

Community Forest News

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

Spring 2007
Edition



Sponsored By

Come Enjoy Bath's
2007 Arbor Week Celebration

Every year during the third full week in May, the State of Maine celebrates Arbor Week. This year that week falls between the dates of Sunday, May 20 and Saturday, May 26. As in previous years, Bath has a number of activities and events to celebrate Arbor Week. The Committee is pleased to offer these activities and openly invites the public to all of these events.

*The Bath City Council will deliver an Arbor Week proclamation at its regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday night of that week.

*The Committee will be joining the Bath Garden Club's annual plant sale, with a tree seedling sale. All proceeds will go towards the Community Forest Trust Fund. Look for the Committee's table on Saturday, May 19th in City (Library) Park.

*A talk by Prof. Tom Wessels of Antioch College entitled "Interpreting the Forested Landscape" will be given on Monday night, May 21 from 6-9 pm at the Winter Street Church. The talk is free but any donations will go towards the Committee's Forestry Trust Fund.

*Look for red, white and blue ribbons on memorial and honorary trees planted by the BCFC in recent years.

*The public is invited to the Maine State Celebration at the Pine Tree State Arboretum. Call 623-2371 for more details.

*The 5th graders of Fisher Mitchell School will be potting up tree seedlings donated by Central Maine Power Company. The seedlings will find a home in the Bath Municipal Tree Nursery. Several memorial trees will be planted around the City.

The Committee hopes that you are able to enjoy one or all of these activities celebrating Bath's wonderful community forest!

"Reading the Forested Landscape"
An Evening with Prof. Tom Wessels
Monday, May 21, 2007
6:00—9:00 P.M.
Winter Street Church

The Bath Community Forestry Committee and the Maine Forest Service Project Canopy are so very pleased to announce a talk given by renowned author and academician Professor Tom Wessels of Antioch New England Graduate School.

"It is wonderful to know nature through one-on-one encounters with other organisms, but it is perhaps more empowering to gain a fuller understanding of the patterns that have shaped its landscapes. Through some knowledge of history and the broader view of seeing a forest and not just its trees, we begin to see the forces that shape a place. This new way of seeing creates reverence, respect, a sense of inclusion and accountability. Reading the landscape is not just about identifying landscape patterns; more importantly, it is an interactive narrative that involves humans and nature. For those interested in enhancing their sense of place, I know of no better way than by becoming intimately acquainted with their local forests and the fascinating stories they tell." Tom Wessels 1997.

This slide presentation is based on Tom's book, "Reading the Forested Landscape, A Natural History of New England". It will introduce you to approaches used to interpret a forest's history while wandering through it. Using evidence such as the shapes of trees, scars on their trunks, the pattern of decay in stumps, the construction of stone walls, and the lay of the land, it is possible to unravel complex stories etched into our forested landscape. This process could easily be called forest forensics, since it is quite similar to interpreting a crime scene.

Tom is a professor of Ecology and founding director of the Masters Degree Program in Conservation Biology in the Department of Environmental Studies at Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, New Hampshire. He is former Chair of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation which fosters environmental leadership through graduate fellowships and organizational grants. He has conducted workshops on the natural history of landscapes throughout the United States for more than 25 years. When not traveling or teaching, Tom spends his time with his family in Westminster, Vermont exploring the woods around their home.

The talk is free to the public, but any donations will go towards the Forestry Committee's Trust Fund.

Trees are sanctuaries.

**Whoever knows how to speak to them,
whoever knows how to listen to them,
can learn the truth.**

**They do not preach learning & precepts,
they preach undeterred by particulars,
the ancient law of life.**

- Hermann Hesse, *Wandering*

**"I'm starting to get concerned
about global warming."**



"I'm starting to get concerned about global warming."

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. We will have 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.

News of Butler Head 2007 Winter Bird Count

On a day made for watching birds, five (5) watchers assembled at Butler Head on January 7th for the 12th annual winter bird count sponsored by the Bath Community Forestry Committee. The troop toured the high ground, the forest and the shoreline and was rewarded by a good variety of sightings. The high point of the day was at the high point of the preserve where, through the branches of the venerable white oaks, three (3) bald eagles were seen cavorting overhead enjoying the unusually warm January day. On the low side, six (6) common goldeneyes were seen swimming and diving in Merrymeeting Bay. Two of the eagles were also seen standing on a sandbar in the Bay at low tide. The warm weather brought out a variety of other birds including a pair of brown creepers, which had not been seen on any previous winter bird count. The official count was:

- 7 herring gulls
- 1 crow
- 6 common goldeneyes
- 16 chickadees
- 2 brown creepers
- 3 bald eagles
- 1 downy woodpecker (♀)
- 1 goldfinch

- Thomas Barrington

The Committee Welcomes Edward Benedikt!

The Forestry Committee would like to welcome its newest member appointed by City Council in 2006.

Ed Benedikt is a retired Naval Architect, a professional engineer and state legislator. He has served on a number of town environmental commissions in Maine and New Jersey as well as being active in local conservation groups that are interested in the New Meadows Lake, Merrymeeting Bay, Kennebec River and Casco Bay.

In retirement, he has concentrated on being a "train host" on the "Down Easter" between Portland and Boston, on managing a small family forest preserve and an oyster aquaculture nursery on the New Meadows River. He also taps sugar maples and does water monitoring for the Friends of Casco Bay.

The Forestry Committee is very pleased to have Ed as its newest member and look forward to his in-put and energy! Welcome Ed.

Tree Opportunity For Taxpayers

Each year, the Bath Forestry Division plants four to six street trees. When the Forestry Committee is fortunate enough to secure grants, more can be planted. If you think that you might have a good planting site on your property, call the Cemeteries & Parks Dept. office at 443-8345, and ask to have your name added to the potential planting list. You will be contacted by a member of the Forestry Committee.

MOFGA Organic Orcharding Classes

A series of 2 day-long sessions, covering theory and hands-on practice in organic fruit tree and orchard management, that are designed for beginner to intermediate orchardists managing backyard plantings to larger orchards.

Saturday, April 21: Grafting fruit trees and spring orchard care.

Location: Unity. Learn to propagate and reproduce your favorite fruit tree varieties. Several methods will be covered, from bench grafting (indoors) of rootstock to outdoor grafting (top working) of established trees of various ages. Spring orchard care, fertilization and more.

Saturday, May 12: Late spring & early summer orchard care.

Location: Unity. Join several experts for an early-season exploration of organic disease and insect strategies, including lectures, discussions, question and answer periods inside and out. Learn what to expect in your orchard and how to manage it. Cost: \$25.00 per workshop. To register: call 207-568-4142 or download a registration form (PDF) at www.mofga.org. You can also pay for the workshops online.



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.

One of Bath's demure and interesting trees is an unassuming specimen of a Katsura, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, with a height of 40 feet, an average crown spread of 31 feet and a trunk circumference of 640 inches! Look for the newly emerging reddish purple leaves this Spring, which will gradually change to bluish green in the Summer and soft apricot-orange in the Fall. This state champion, identified by Mr. Tim Lindsay in 2002, can be seen at 824 High Street, on the north end of the front yard.

- Thomas C. Hoerth

Tree Planting Techniques: Observing The Natural Process

After you have selected the right tree for the right location, handle the tree with great care to the approved planting site. Move balled-and-burlapped trees by the root balls. Take special care to protect the stem, branches and foliage from physical and environmental stresses. Steps to follow:

- ◆ Cut and remove the wire basket;
- ◆ Untie twine and burlap, and pull away from the stem;
- ◆ Locate the tree's trunk flare by careful excavation of extra soil. Use a hose or whiskbroom to expose potential girdling and adventitious roots. Prune off with sharp pruners. If girdling roots are excessive and the tree does not have a prominent trunk flare, return it to the supplier;
- ◆ Prepare the planting basin by determining the distance between the exposed trunk flare and the bottom of the root ball. The depth of the basin is dependent on this measurement. If soil has a foul smell and has colors of blue and gray, the soil may not be draining properly;
- ◆ Use the shovel handle across the basin's existing grade when measuring proper depth. Raise the tree one inch for each inch in caliper to compensate for future settling (up to six inches);
- ◆ Prepare planting basin 2-3 times the ball width.;
- ◆ Slide or roll the tree into the basin and check depth; make adjustments as needed. Remove all packaging material;
- ◆ Prune any exposed or damaged roots with sharp pruners;
- ◆ Backfill with parent soil while watering, using shovel handle to work out air pockets. Do NOT use foot to compact soil;
- ◆ Construct soil berms around the basin;
- ◆ Stake the tree, only when needed, in a triangular configuration, using webbed strapping;
- ◆ Apply 2-4 inches of composted woodchips around the entire planting area up to, but not touching, the trunk; and
- ◆ After-care should include one year of monitoring for each one inch of stem caliper, including re-mulching and watering from April through November.

-Brian K. Maynard, Ph.D. University of Rhode Island

In Memory of Arthur Tainter

The Committee would like to acknowledge and remember the efforts of the Late Arthur Tainter as a member of the Bath Community Forestry Committee. He was a strong, active member and he will be dearly missed. Peace to you, Arthur.

Determining the Need to Fertilize Landscape Trees and Shrubs

When woody plants exhibit poor growth or reduced vigor, yet have had adequate moisture and are not experiencing pest problems or other environmental limitations, the proper application of fertilizer may be necessary. Landscape trees and shrubs are occasionally subject to adverse soil and environmental conditions. Redistribution and compaction of the original soil profile during home construction, poor drainage, removal of twigs and leaves that normally decompose to provide nutrients, heavy grass sod competition, and extreme pH levels are some factors that contribute to nutrient deficiencies. Supplemental nutrients may sometimes be needed to help trees maintain vigor. Most trees and shrubs will not require fertilization. Vigorous growth is a good indication that a tree or shrub is receiving a sufficient nutrient supply. Less vigorous plant growth and poor color usually indicate an insect or disease problem, environmental stress, poor root development or damage, moisture deficiency, or other factors not related to fertility. Being familiar with normal growth for a specific tree or shrub species and the associated site conditions will help determine the need for fertilization.

Determining Whether to Fertilize

Trees obtain nutrients for plant growth from the soil through their roots. The major nutrients include nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. There may be a combination of symptoms apparent in a nutrient-deficient plant. Some of the more easily identified symptoms are: general lack of vigor or growth; presence of small, stunted or off-colored (usually yellow) foliage; dead twigs on small branches; and stunted twig growth. Soil tests can provide additional evidence of nutrient deficiencies where tree growth is slower than expected. It is recommended that two soil samples be taken, one from the 0 to 6 inch depth, and the other from the 6 to 18 inch depth.

Application Timing

Fertilization is most effective when the nutrients are available to the tree or shrub during periods of maximum growth. The best time for fertilizing is in the spring, just after trees have fully leafed out. This allows the tree to maximize the amount of fertilizer taken up by the roots and used by the growing tree. Care should be taken with early season applications of fertilizer since turf can be damaged. Fall applications (once leaf senescence begins and before the ground freezes) are less desirable than spring but are an acceptable way to fertilize trees. However, considerable amounts of nitrogen may be lost to leaching during the winter months. Fertilizers should not be applied in late summer since this may promote growth flushes that are very succulent and could be easily damaged by the freezing temperatures of early autumn. In addition, it is usually not recommended to fertilize trees during the first year of planting since this can create an

unbalanced top-to-root ratio. For large transplanted trees, it may be best to wait several seasons for a root system to become re-established before fertilizing.

In addition, if trees are surrounded by fertilized turf-grass, they generally do not need additional nutrients. However, severely eroded soils, very sandy soils or locations around new construction (where topsoil may have been removed) may be deficient in nutrients. Fertilizer applications to trees should be made in moderation and based on need.

Scott J. DeWald,
Nebraska District/Extension Forester
Steven D. Rasmussen,
Nebraska District/Extension Forester
Charles A. Shapiro,
Nebraska Extension Soils Specialist
Scott J. Josiah,
Nebraska State Extension Forester

This article is taken from the Extension Service publications of the University of Nebraska



TREE CITY USA®

Urban & Community Forestry Web-sites

Trees Are Good

http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/tree_selection.aspx

Community Tree Selection

<http://www.umass.edu/urbantree/factsheets/2communitytreeselec.html>

Tree Selection & Site Design

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/techguide/selection.htm>

How to Choose a Tree

<http://www.treehelp.com/howto/howto-choose-a-tree.asp>

Tree Selection

<http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/fnr/html/ugrad/UrbFor/TreeSelection.pdf>

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

www.cityofbath.com/forest/index.htm

Northern Trees Website Development

Rutgers University, in partnership with the University of Florida and USDA Forest Service Northeast region, is pleased to announce the Northern Trees Web site. This site helps guide users through the process of tree selection and provides a list of possible site-specific trees in hardiness zones 2 through 7 in the Northeastern United States. It also provides extensive cultural and maintenance information and photographs. The Tree Selector allows users to develop a list of trees by choosing soil, site, and plant attributes with the option of marking more than one value. The Web site has an extensive list of approximately 1,300 trees by scientific and common name, a site analysis tool and form, and a tree expert system for novices that is still under development. For more information, go to <http://orb.at.ufl.edu/TREES/index.html>.

The Maine TREE Foundation and Maine Project Learning Tree Announce

2007 Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours

Join us on a 4-Day Tour of Maine's Forests and Mills

Reserve your place on one of these tours!

Rangeley Lakes and Western Mountains
July 10 -13

Central Maine's
Penobscot-Hancock Highlands
July 17- 20

✦ Learn about sustainable forestry, ecology, recreation, wildlife, wood products, energy from wood and more!

✦ Each tour is unique and offers educational insights into forest related concerns and issues.

✦ Foresters, biologists, land owners and mill owners will be on hand to answer your questions. The Maine TREE Foundation provides everything—comfortable accommodations, delicious food, and everything you ever wanted to know about Maine's forests.

✦ Trained facilitators will present a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop on each tour.

✦ All PLT activities are correlated with the Maine Learning Results. Learn about setting up forest inventory growth (FIG) plots to use with students

Become certified as a Project Learning Tree Teacher. You'll earn contact hours plus a minimum of 2.8 CEU's.

Call 207-621-9872 or email mtf@gwi.net to receive an information/registration brochure.

The Registration Fee is only \$75.00.

Space is limited, so call soon.

www.mainetreefoundation.org

States' celebration plans, contact Jan Samterre at 623-2371. See page 1 for more specific information. For specific information regarding the **Maine's Arbor week Celebration**

May 21—27
See page 1 for more details. Sponsored by the Bath Community Forestry Committee and the Maine Forest Service Project Canopy. Winter Street Church. Admission is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted. For more information call 443-8345.
6:00—9:00 P.M. May 21
"Reading the Forested Landscape" with Prof. Tom Wessels

May 4 & 5
The sale is April 27 & 28, for preorder customers picking up orders and May 4 & 5 for the general public. Along with many of our catalog listings, we bring in many locally grown plants, some rare, some potted, some in quantities too small to list in the catalog. Seeds, organically grown seedlings, seed potatoes, and orchard, farm and garden supplies are also available. FMI visit www.fedcosseeds.com.
10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. May 4 & 5
FEDCO Annual Tree Sale—Clinton, Maine

The pick-up date for the Kennebec and Somerset Soil & Water Conservation District's (KSCSWCD) 2006 Tree, Shrub and Flower sale, at the following three locations: Skowhegan SWCD, 12 High Street; Augusta State parking garage; and in Winslow, at 514 Garland Road. For more information and directions contact the KCSWCD at 622-7847, extension 3, 474-8324, extension 102, or visit them on-line at www.KCSWCD.org. Order deadline is March 22.
April 28
9:00 A.M.—Noon
2006 Tree, Shrub and Flower Sale Order pick-up.

April 21
A series of 2 classes offered by the Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association. Contact MOFGA at 568-4142 for more details and registration information. See page 2 for more details.
May—June
Calling All Women Who Work in Their Woodlots!
This second series of workshops will take place in Readfield, again on Saturdays: May 12, May 19 and June 2. Contact: Tish Carr, Skyline Tree Services, 1-800-611-5118 or Patty Cormier, Maine Forest Service, (207)474-3499 to sign up and get detailed information.

April 21
Please bring any seeds, scionwood, or cuttings you have to share freely with others. These contributions are what make the day a success. Labels, tape and markers will be supplied. On sale will be T-shirts, books, grafting supplies, rootstocks and even some rare seeds. There is no admission fee though donations are welcome. For more information, call 568-4142; e-mail at mofga@mofga.org, or visit the web-site at www.mofga.org.

March 24
Seed Swap & Scion Exchange
MOFGA's Common Ground Exhibition Hall—Unity
There will be the usual selection of interesting educational workshops for seed savers and fruit enthusiasts. Nicholas Lindholm will present the basics of seed saving, and Mark Fulford will be teaching grafting techniques. Will Bonsall will be holding an applesauce tasting featuring several one-variety apple sauces.
April 28
Noon — 4:30 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Spring 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, 443-8345, for more details and any questions.



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

2007 Committee Members

- Edmund Benedikt
- Thomas Barrington, Co-Chairperson
- Bruce Brennan
- Geraldine Coombs
- Nancy Coverstone, UMCE
- Denis Hebert, *Ex-Officio*
- Thomas C. Hoerth, *Ex-Officio*
- James Larson, Co-Chairperson
- Margo Oliver
- Aaron Parks
- Mary Earl Rogers, Associate

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