

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 2008 Edition

Sponsored by the
Maine Forest Service
Project Canopy



Come Enjoy Bath's 2008 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 18 and Saturday, May 24. 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 17th in City (Library) Park.

*A children's tree climbing workshop will be held on Saturday, May 17th, from 9:00 until Noon at the Patten Free Library (PFL) and in City (Library) Park. Children ages 8-14 are invited to register at the PFL in the Children's Room or by calling 443-5141.

*Maine Forest Service Utilization Forester, Mr. Peter Lammert will give a talk Wednesday Night, in the bath City Hall Auditorium from 7-8:30 P.M.

*The public is invited to the Maine State Celebration, Monday, May 19 at the Maine State capital buildings Hall of Flags, from 1-3:00 p.m. Call 287-4987 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 and honorary 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!

"Yew: A History" Book Review by Russell Ball

This extensively researched book features one of our most curious trees—the yew (*Taxus*).

At 15 million years old, the yew is one of the oldest tree species in Europe. It bears no cones but is a conifer, and it can be found from Edinburgh to northwest Africa.

Unfortunately, massive demand for longbows during the Middle Ages and, more recently, as a source for the anti-cancer drug paclitaxel, the yew is now rare and endangered in the wild

Fred Hageneder, author of *Yew: A History*, examines all aspects of this fascinating tree, ranging from its distinct biology, morphology, toxicology, and its extraordinary ability to naturally regenerate (allowing yews to live for thousands of years) through its unique ecological niche and survival strategy.

In this fascinating study, Hageneder relates the evergreen, poisonous, and "immortal" qualities of this historically venerated tree to ancient civilizations and their gods and goddesses. A convincing case is also put forward that the yew may in fact be the true World Tree and the Tree of Life—and it could have been Jason and the Argonauts' much-prized Golden Fleece.

This comprehensively referenced book (320 pages) is packed with high-quality photographs and line-drawings. The author donates half his royalties to the Ancient Yew Group (www.ancient-yew.org).

Yew: A History by Fred Hageneder. ISBN 978-0-7509-4597-4. Sutton Publishing, Gloucestershire, UK)

Reviewed in the February 2008 issue of the International Society of Arboricultures' (ISA) "Arborist News", Volume 17, Number 1, page 28. www.isa-arbor.com/

Calling for More Volunteers!!

We need committed volunteers to assist with the up-keep and management of the Bath Municipal Tree Nursery. Nearly 1800 trees are currently stored in the nursery, from 1-gallon pot sized tree plugs to 2"-caliper balled-and-burlapped trees. They need watering, mulching and weeds removed from the beds as well as re-potting into larger containers. Activities are scheduled several times during the year, so please contact Jim Larson, 443-8763, if you are able to devote any time to this incredibly satisfying job. There is a reward: think how great you'll feel when you drive through Bath and see these trees planted on the street-side or as a wind-break at one of the sports fields, and realize your work helped those trees flourish. Call today. It's easy!!

Newsletter: Snail-mailed, E-mailed & Archived

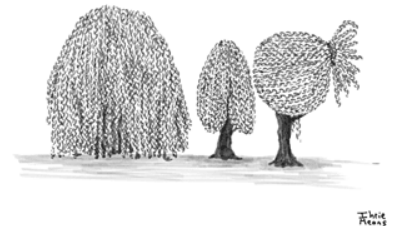
In an effort to avail the readership to our humble newsletter and to save postage costs, we are inquiring about those who are interested in continuing receiving the newsletter through normal postal delivery, or as an attached e-mail file (as an Adobe Acrobat file—*.pdf) or who can access it from our web-site at www.cityofbath.com/forest/index.htm. We would greatly appreciate hearing from you as to your preference or preferences. Contact Thomas Hoerth at 443-8345, 443-8347, 751-7677 or by e-mail at thoerth@cityofbath.com. We look forward to hearing from you and serving you better.

Character is like a tree
and
reputation like its shadow.

The shadow is what we think of it;
the tree is the real thing.

Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)

© Cartoonbank.com



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 2008 Winter Bird Count

On an ordinary 6th day of January, two enthusiastic, optimistic, incurable bird watchers met at Butler Head to conduct the 13th annual winter bird count sponsored by the Bath Community Forestry Committee. The day was dull and cloudy, windless and the temperature hovered around the freezing mark. There was snow on the ground and foliage.

In high spirits, the two counters paused briefly to get a sense of the prospects for the day. Good news! Two crows were heard from the northeast. It didn't matter that they were on Chops Point, outside the census area and couldn't be counted, there were birds out there! The encouraged counters donned their snowshoes and proceeded to tour the Head following the traditional route. It was a nice walk through woods, along the shore, over the high ground, down to the low ground hoping to be the first to record a feathered friend. Alas, after about an hour, not a peep or a feather to record. Not even a woodpecker pecking wood.

The day was improving though. The sun came out from time to time. When it came out the trees started dripping, and when the clouds came back the dripping stopped. The counting fortunes were bound to improve if the sun came out. Alas, after another half hour, not a peep or a feather to record. Not even a woodpecker pecking wood.

Eventually, the weary, disappointed counters decided to give up. They trudged back to the car and headed for home, no cheer, no conversation, nothing to report. But what was that silhouette in the air that flashed across the road? It was a bird! I know it was a bird. But what kind of bird? Spirits soared. Rats! It was in the CMP power transmission line which is not part of Butler Head. The mysterious bird could not be counted. Spirits plummeted. The cheerless trip home continued. A few feet more, though, and hope returned. Out of the transmission line and back onto Butler Head land a flock of mysterious birds flew by. They flew like robins.

Out of the car, into the trees and bushes the counters went. There were birds there, lots of birds. Before they were through, twenty robins had been counted. The trip had been worthwhile, the day was a success. Spirits soared.

- Thomas Barrington

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 19: 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 10: 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_2007.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

Maine Warns of Insect Pests Hitching Rides on Firewood

BURN LOCALLY. That's the message from the Maine Forest Service when it comes to firewood.

It's not a good thing to pack firewood and move it from one region to another, state officials said. Moving firewood increases the risk of spreading invasive insects. Using local or kiln-dried wood is recommended.

"Some people think it's safe to move firewood when it's cold out," said Charlene Donahue, Maine Forest Service entomologist. "But that's not true. If unused firewood gets left here in the winter, the insects inside the logs will come out next spring. Freezing temperatures rarely kill insects. After all, they live outside."

Donahue uses the emerald ash borer (EAB) as an example of an invasive insect that has been on the move. The pest devastated millions of ash trees in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio and has recently been discovered in West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

"It's only a 12-hour drive from there to here," Donahue said. "It's not that far at all, only a day's drive to Maine. We haven't had any new major insect infestations recently, and the public's help regarding firewood movement will help keep it that way."

- Allen Lessels,

People, Places & Plants, Early Spring 2008

Restoration & Stress Relief Through Physical Activities in Forests & Parks

A field survey assessed the restorative effects of visiting an urban forest and a city park in Zurich, Switzerland. Respondents rated their headaches, level of stress, and how balanced they felt both prior to visiting the outdoor location and at the time of being interviewed.

Suffering from headaches and stress decreased significantly, and feeling well-balanced increased significantly. The recovery ratio for stress was 87%, and the reduction in headaches was 52%, in terms of the possible improvements on five-point rating scales.

With respect to feeling well-balanced, the observed changes amounted to 40% of the possible enhancement. Positive effects increased with length of visit, and individuals practicing sports (e.g., jogging, biking, playing ball) showed significantly higher improvements than those engaged in less strenuous activities (e.g., taking a walk or relaxing).

These findings support previous research on how exercise in green spaces promotes well-being and recovery from stress.

(Urban Forestry & Urban Greening 2007.
6(4):213-225)

We're Getting There! Druid Park Up-date

You may have noticed, late last fall, that Druid Park underwent some grading of the parking area and walkway on the east side of the Cemeteries & Parks Building; a path had been constructed up through the property; and flower berms near the North Street and Oak Grove Avenue intersection were formed. The City also installed energy-efficient windows in the Cemeteries & Parks Building which improved its appearance considerably.

This spring, the first order of business, I have been told, will be the activation of the underground watering system, installed several years ago, with grant money from the Senter Fund.

The Sub-Committee met this winter to make plans for the planting of the berms. We hope the flowers will be a bright spot at the intersection this summer. A plaque provided by the Bath Garden Club, honoring our veterans will be installed on the boulder in one of the berms and dedicated in May by the Club.

Depending on time constraints and weather, we hope to see the small patio sitting area on North Street finished and the magnolia tree grown for us by Tom York at York's Hardy Rhododendrons installed next to the parking lot. Who knows, maybe we'll even be able to dedicate Druid Park by fall, or the following spring.

There is one opportunity for honoring or memorializing someone. A fourth bench is needed for the North Street patio sitting area: the other three have been designated by individuals, one as a memorial and the other two as honorary. The purchase price is \$479.95. There are no shipping charges, and a brass dedication plaque is provided for the back of the bench. Please contact the Cemeteries Office at 443-8345. Any check may be made out to the Bath Community Forestry Committee, Druid Park Fund, with a note on the bottom of the check, "bench purchase," and the cost is tax-deductible.

Individuals have contributed some funds for flowers, but more are needed to make the kinds of display that we would hope to have. There are lots of "flower people" in our readership. We would be grateful for any donations that would help us beautify Druid Park. "Druid Park Flowers" would be the note on the bottom of the check.

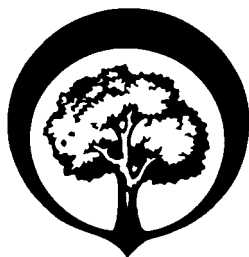
Thank you for your past generosity in supporting the Forestry Committee's efforts for a more beautiful and healthy Bath.

- Gerry Coombs, Druid Park Sub-Committee

Druid Park 2007 Donations

Gifts to the Forestry Committee's Druid Park Fund for the year 2007 numbered forty-three and came to a total of \$1,566. The following people contributed in 2007 and we want to thank each of them here. Thanks goes to:

Ann E. Krebsbach, Dr. Patricia Ames, Bill & Kathy Higgins, Hollis E. Risteen, Kenneth & Margaret Sylvester, Joanna Johnson, Ryan & Kate Nixon, Sandra Johnson & Aldo Cerutti, Evelyn King, Valerie M. Nickerson, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Klingaman, Mildred Goss Jones, Philip & Pat Shannon, Jack & Fleta Metcalf, David C. Smith, Polly Thibodeau, Janice R. Levitt, Candice & Ruben Hernandez, Arthur & Martha Mayo, Sophia J. Fox & Linda E. Chadbourne, Jean M. Anthony, Sallie Pollard, Laura Larrabee, Victoria Jackson, George & Natalie Phillips, Susan Paluska, Norma Puffer, Mary Earl Rogers, Edmund & Ruth Benedikt, Nancy Coverstone, Bruce Brennan & Margaret Kelly, Margaret



TREE CITY USA®

Urban & Community Forestry Web-sites

Water, Mulch & Fertilizer

<http://www.tree-planting.com/tree-planting-5.htm>

Planting & Mulching Trees & Shrubs

<http://extension.unh.edu/pubs/HGPubs/CNMULCH.pdf>

Proper Mulching Techniques

<http://www.treesaregood.org/treecare/mulching.aspx>

Watering Your Trees

http://treesforyou.org/Planting/Watering/watering_your_trees.htm

The Fine art of Mulching Trees

<http://dnr.state.oh.us/Home/urban/features/mulching/tabid/5455/Default.aspx>

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

www.cityofbath.com/forest/index.htm

LaGuff, Richard O. Card, Phyllis Hill, Kelly Watt, Mary E. D. Rogers, George Swanson, Kathe Mickunas & Daniel Reisbach, Patricia R. Levan, James & Susan Hummer, James & Denise Larson, Geraldine N. Coombs and Barbara Lebel.

With sincerest gratitude,

- Bath Community Forest Committee.

Bath Community Forestry Trust 2007 Donations

Gifts to the Bath Community Forestry Trust Fund for the year 2007 numbered fifty-five, with the Trust Fund totaling \$24,599.59 as of this writing. The following people contributed in 2007 and we want to thank each of them here. Thanks goes to:

Michael N. Jr. & D. S. Ambler, James A. III & Susan Gillies, Regis J. & Marnie E. Fortin, Lois S. Dole, Hon. Thom Watson, Elizabeth H. Doak, Bill & Mary Earl Rogers, Sandra Johnson & Aldo Cerutti, Judy & George Metcalf, Ruth C. Innes, Vincent & Elizabeth Messler, Joan M. Atwood, Suzanne Brewer, Jack & Fleta Metcalf, Thomas & Judith Barrington, Joseph C. Seigh, Chris Oppenheimer, Now You're Cooking, Inc., Constance Cummings, Wayne Garceau, Jacqueline & Dwight Dwinall, Victoria H. Jackson, Walt & Betsy Cantrell, Janice Knight, Susan Paluska, Nancy Coverstone, Jeanine Draut, Vail's Tree Service, Pamela & Frederick Dorcus, John Herrigel, Margaret LaGuff, Richard O. Card, Anne D. Mosher, Sandra & David Weiss, Anne W. Hammond, Kathleen Stehle, Josephine Gasca, Elizabeth S. Hughes, Mary E. D. Rogers, David & Susie Reed, Julia G. Kahrl, David & June Dorion, Dora L. Akeley, Tanya Hanger, Allen & Barbara Gaul, Belinda Pillow, Kenneth & Margaret Sylvester, Torow Family, James & Denise Larson, Geraldine N. Coombs, John & Anne Marsh, David Collings and David & Polly Goldman.

With sincerest gratitude,

- Bath Community Forest Committee.

Calling All Volunteers!!

We need committed volunteers to assist with the watering of our recently installed street-side trees. In the past three years nearly 40-plus trees have been planted throughout Bath. Without an army of volunteers, these will not survive. The watering season is from May through August, and only takes a few hours a week. You make your own schedule!! Please contact Bruce Brennan, **837-1926**, or Letha Bennett at **443-8345**, if you are able to devote any time to this incredibly satisfying job. There is a reward: think how great you'll feel when you drive through Bath and realize your work helped those trees flourish. Call today. It's easy!!

States' celebration plans, contact Jan Samterre at 287-4987.

Maine's Arbor week Celebration

May 18—24

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.

Organic Orchardng Classes—MOFGA

May 10

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

garden supplies are also available. FMI visit www.fedocseeds.com.

catalog. Seeds, organically grown seedlings, seed potatoes, and orchard, farm and grown plants, some rare, some potted, some in quantities too small to list in the general public. Along with many of our catalog listings, we bring in many locally raised plants, some rare, some potted, some in quantities too small to list in the general public. Along with many of our catalog listings, we bring in many locally raised plants, some rare, some potted, some in quantities too small to list in the general public.

FEDCO Annual Tree Sale—Clinton, Maine

May 2 & 3

The sale is April 27 & 28, for preorder customers picking up orders and May 4 & 5 for preorder customers picking up orders and May 4 & 5 for preorder customers picking up orders.

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.

applesauce tasting featuring several one-variety apple sauces.

Mark Fullford will be teaching grafting techniques. Will Bonsall will be holding an and fruit enthusiasts. Nicholas Lindholm will present the basics of seed saving, and There will be the usual selection of interesting educational workshops for seed savers

MOFGA's Common Ground Exhibition Hall—Unity

Seed Swap & Scion Exchange

March 29

Noon – 4:30 p.m.

This workshop will focus on recognizing and treating root-related problems for new installations and existing trees. Pre-registration is required. The registration fee is \$50 for New England Chapter ISA, MAA & MELNA members and \$70 for non-members. Registration deadline is April 1, 2008. Questions? Call 207-657-3256, or info@mainearborist.org, or www.mainearborist.org.

April 8 (10:00—3:30 P.M.)

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Spring 2008 Workshops & Upcoming Events



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

2008 Committee Members

- Steve Balboni, *Ex-Officio*
- Edmund Benedikt
- Thomas Barrington, Co-Chairperson
- 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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 Project Canopy

