

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 2009** 

Proudly
sponsored
by



Come Enjoy Bath's 2009 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 17 and Saturday, May 23. As in previous years, Bath has planned a number of activities and events to celebrate Arbor Week. The Committee is pleased to offer these activities to the public.

*The Bath City Council will deliver an Arbor Week Proclamation at its regular monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday night, May 6, of that week.

*The Committee will be joining the Bath Garden Club's annual plant sale on Saturday, May 16 in City Library Park. They will be selling 18" specimen Blue Spruces and taking orders for other varieties of conifers.

*Presentation of Landscape Awards for resident and business by the Bath Community Forestry Committee.

*Presentation of "Bath's Favorite Tree" voted by residents of Bath.

*Mr. Jack Witham will give a talk Thursday, May 21st in the Bath City Hall Auditorium from 7-8:30 P.M. He will speak on "Twenty-Five Years of Change in a Pine-Oak Forest in Arrowsic" At that time, announcement of voting results for "Bath's Favorite Tree" will be made.

*The public is invited to the Maine State Celebration, at the State House Hall of Flags, Augusta. 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.

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

A Tribute To Fred Pecci

Last October 6th, 2008, the City of Bath lost a venerable steward and valued citizen, when Mr. Fred Pecci, Bath's long-standing City Arborist died after a brief illness. Fred was born on December 16, 1911 and was 96 at the time of his death.

Known as the Tree Man of Bath, his status and position were widely respected. Back in the early 80's, upon my arrival in the state to attend school at UMO, I was introduced to Fred. This was before I moved to Bath. I was struck by his passion and love of both trees and Bath. He was a consummate naturalist and his desire to learn and his curiosity guided him to try many new types of tree plantings and attempt different ways of propagating local varieties of trees that grew well in the City. For me, he was a mentor and a yardstick on the role a City Arborist should play and he was always ready to instruct as well as to learn. Fred and I worked together on the City's 1998 Ice Storm Recovery Grant, together and it provided a wonderful chance to spend a lot of time with him and to learn about the City and its history. We inspected and assessed every street tree for the grant. While inspecting a tree adjacent to the Winter Street Center, Fred indicated that a maple tree was hollow and should be taken down so that it could not damage the Center's stained glass window. Not seeing any external evidence that it was compromised, I questioned his assessment. In a huff he said, "Let's have a look". To my joyous surprise, he got out his climbing line, tied his saddle and friction knot and was part way up the tree before I even got all my gear out. Upon reaching him 40-odd feet up, I laughed, to which he asked, "What's so funny?" I told him that he WAS right; there was a rot column in the tree and I could have slid him down it, and I said, "Fred, I don't go tree climbing with many people who are 86 years of age! Thank you!"

Fred is still my inspiration, and I am honored to carry on as Bath's City Arborist. Fred, myself, and the other gentlemen who have served the Bath Community in this capacity, have had a great opportunity to give back to Bath. Fred is very much missed, but as I drive around Bath, I see him everywhere and greet him when I do.

Peace to you and yours, Fred and thank you.

-Thomas Hoerth

2008 Community Forestry Excellence Award

*Presented by Representative Thomas Watson of Bath to Thomas C Hoerth,
Bath City Arborist and Community Forester Extraordinaire*

Bath City Arborist Recognized at 2008 Maine Arbor Day Awards

AUGUSTA, ME — Bath City Arborist and Tree Warden Thomas Hoerth received the 2008 Community Forestry Excellence award at the State Arbor Day ceremony held May 19th at the State House Hall of Flags. In the ten years he has worked for the city, Hoerth, along with the Bath Community Forestry Committee and the Division of Forestry have planted over 800 trees, developed and expanded the city nursery to over 1,700 trees, and established the city as a Tree City USA for 9 years. This has included 7 years of receiving the National Arbor Day Foundation Growth Award, which recognizes environmental improvement and leading tree care programs.

Hoerth, a Maine State Certified Teacher, utilizes his teaching background every day, whether working with middle and high school students conducting tree inventory work in the city, teaching forest inventory plotting in the city owned woodlands, or conducting pruning workshops and tree climbing seminars for children. The state recognized Hoerth for his achievements working for Bath and his lifelong dedication in support of urban and community forests.

-Jan Santere

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.**

Annual Arbor Week Lecture

Jack Witham, resident scientist, will present findings on twenty five years of change in a pine-oak forest in Arrowsic. What were its origins, and where is it going: A close look at birth, growth and death in a 100 acre forest in transition. Jack will present an analysis of the composition, structure and interactions within the tree community. Findings on the impacts of a timber harvest on the forest community, including the resident plant and animal populations, will be discussed.

News of Butler Head WINTER BIRD COUNT

In spite of discouraging remarks of skeptics because of limited numbers of birds seen in previous years, the 14th annual winter bird count at Butler Head took place on January 4th. It was a perfect day for a walk in the winter woods; sunny, 20°F, light snow cover and a light, northerly breeze. The ideal conditions were enhanced when the counters were greeted by a flock of about ten goldfinch. The day was off to a very good start. Although the birds kept out of sight, the walk in the woods was delightful. A crow was heard. Probably the same one heard last year, too shy to show itself. The trek continued through the deciduous forest, the mixed growth where fresh evidence of a pileated woodpecker was seen, the hemlock grove and on to the beech grove. But what was that flash of a shadow? A raven, tending strictly to business, on a bee-line somewhere. While looking up at the raven, two buteos were seen far overhead, too high up to identify, but clearly enjoying soaring in the light breeze and sunshine. A good day. The total count was ten goldfinch, one raven and two hawks. Maybe next year we'll see the crow.

- Thomas Barrington

Vote For Your Favorite Bath Tree!

In celebration of Arbor week, the BCFC is holding a contest for the most popular tree in the City of Bath. Ballots and ballot boxes will be located in various convenient locations around town, or you may mail your vote to the City of Bath Cemetery office at One Oak Grove Avenue, Bath, ME 04530, Attn: Letha. Anyone can vote, and any tree is eligible: street trees, parks, cemeteries, schools, or your neighbor's back yard! All voters will receive a free copy of our postcard booklet of city trees. On Wednesday night at 7pm, May 20th, in City Hall auditorium, Jack Witham will present a program on current research projects related to trees in Maine. At that time, the winning tree will be announced, as well as the location for the planting of a sapling of the tree voted most popular. The tree will be planted in a public place yet to be determined. PLEASE VOTE! Bath is fortunate to have a healthy urban forest, and residents are encouraged to recognize the benefit that our trees provide our city!

Don't Forget Our Twelfth Annual Urban Forest Photography Contest!

During the months of September and October, the Bath Community Forestry Committee and the Bath Forestry Division will be running the **Twelfth Annual Urban Forest Photo Contest** in conjunction with Now You're Cooking!, Just Framing, Bull Moose Music, Skillin's Greenhouses, Bart & Greg's DVD Explosion, York's Hardy Rhododendrons and the Patten Free Library. Entries will be judged by a panel of local, professional artisans. The Contest is open to anyone and has awards for both Student and Adult categories of participation. Look for contest entry forms in August at the above locations and on our web-site at www.cityofbath.com/forest/index.htm.

This year, every entrant will receive a postcard collection of twenty past photos, made available through a grant from the Maine Forest Service's Project Canopy. Thank you Project Canopy! -Tom Hoerth, City Arborist & Tree Warden

Small Trees for the Urban Garden

Two varieties of popular favorites, River Birch, and Ginko, are available in a dwarf form:

Betula nigra 'Little King': This dwarf version grows to 10 feet high by 12 feet wide after 20 years, quite do-able for a city garden. It has dense, compact habit, branching to the ground, and forms a tight rounded crown. The leaves are a glossy medium green, and like the standard variety, the bark peels and shreds to reveal a cinnamon colored inner bark. It tolerates extreme summer heat well. This has been introduced by the Chicago Botanical Garden, and is recommended for zones 4-9.

Ginko biloba "Chase Manhattan": This small variety of the living fossil tree may reach 3 feet in a gazillion years or more! It has tiny, cupped, dark green leaves that turn buttery yellow in the fall, and like the standard, all drop at once to form a golden carpet. Again, this is recommended for zones 4-9.

Both trees, if not available locally, can be ordered from Fairweather Gardens in Greenwich, N.J. www.fairweathergardens.com.

Upcoming Biennial Fundraiser For Bath Community Forestry Trust

Coming soon to a mailbox near you! Our biennial fundraising letter will be arriving in May to support the ongoing work of the Trust. Interest from this trust has helped fund projects such as the recently revitalized Druid Park and provided resources for our volunteers in the planting, pruning and watering of our community trees. If desired, your tax deductible donation will be

reciprocated with our beautiful BCFC postcard booklet featuring past contest winners of our annual photography contest. Please give generously

Asian Longhorned Beetle & Emerald Ash Borer On the Move!

The USDA Forest Service (FS) and the Animal & Plant Health & Inspection Service (APHIS) are currently involved with detection and eradication projects involving these two pests.

Emerald Ash Borer, EAB (*Agrilus planipennis*) was discovered in Michigan in June 2002. It is a species of metallic wood boring beetle (*Buprestidae*) that attacks ash (*Fraxinus*), usually killing trees in one-three years. This beetle is now found in at least 10 states. All counties in the lower peninsula of Michigan are under some form of quarantine, and isolated infestations of EAB have now been found in Ohio, Ontario, Illinois, Virginia, Indiana, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Maryland.

Asian longhorned beetle, ALB (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) attacks many different hardwood trees, including all species of maple, birch, horse chestnut, poplar, willow, elm, ash, mimosa (silk tree), hackberry, sycamore, mountain ash, and London plane. ALB was first detected in August of 2008, in Worcester, Massachusetts. In some respects, Worcester is very much like the three other locations where the Asian longhorned beetle has cropped up since it was first sighted in 1996. Like Jersey City, New Jersey, Brooklyn, New York, and the outskirts of Chicago, it is an older city with an industrial past, perched on major transportation routes.

Infestations grow in two basic ways- movement of pests by the pests themselves, and movement of pests via accidental human help (like the movement of firewood). Let us all hope that the infestation in Worcester has not created other infestations through that second mechanism. There are many property owners in the area now designated as infested with ALB, who, in the last ten years, surely cut down dead trees and carried the wood on camping trips. I just hope that these trees were not ALB killed, because Worcester is only a few hours on the interstate away from the Appalachian Trail, Adirondack State Park, Acadia National Park, Baxter State Park, the Green Mountains... and so many other gorgeous places that will suffer if this pest has spread.

For more information and to learn how you can help keep these pests out of Maine and our forests contact Ann Gibbs, at 287-7602, Allison Kanoti, at 287-3147 or Collen Teerling, at 287-3096. Tom Hoerth, City Arborist & Tree Warden

Bath Trails Receives Support From National Parks Service

A Committee of Kennebec Estuary Land Trust Will Inventory and Link Hiking Trails

The National Park Service (NPS) recently announced that **Bath Trails** has been selected to receive assistance from the NPS's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. It was selected from the most competitive field of requests ever received by the agency and was one of only 12 new projects accepted in New England, New York and New Jersey.

Bath Trails (a committee of the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust) is a partnership of Bath City government, local schools, non-profits, individual hikers, bicycle riders, and private businesses, with a mission set on the creation, connection, and maintenance of a network of multi-use trails for recreation, transportation and a healthier community.

There are a number of formal and informal trails, sidewalks, walkways, and other bicycle and pedestrian pathways located in Bath. These pathways connect the south end of the city to the north, weaving through the downtown, neighborhoods, historic districts and to schools and recreational facilities. Bath Trails' hope is to connect and formalize many of these trails to ultimately create an accessible network of trails to be celebrated by citizens and visitors alike.

The first project is to create a multi-use trail over 4 miles long running from Thorne Head Preserve at the north end of High Street to the Bath YMCA. Two properties owned by the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust and several city owned properties will form the core of the natural area along the trail. This plan also includes establishing a handicap accessible trail at Thorne Head and a mountain bike course adjacent to the Bath YMCA.

"The National Park Service is proud to support such capable partners and is eager to help contribute to Bath Trails", Julie Isbill, National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program, Northeast Region.

Bath Trails hopes the trail will provide benefits of health, habitat protection, recreation, historic and environmental education, transportation, and scenic enjoyment for the community. Through the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, the National Park Service helps communities and neighborhoods preserve their important local resources, protect river resources, develop new trails and greenways and create new open space. These projects are locally-led with RTCA staff supporting local recreation and conservation leaders. This year, 23 projects were selected as Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance recipients in the 8 states across New England, New York and New Jersey.

In 2007-8, RTCA efforts helped over 100 communities leverage \$ 13 million in funds for targeted projects.

For more information on the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, please visit www.nps.gov/rtca. For information about Bath Trails, contact Steve Balboni, Director Parks and Recreation, City of Bath at 207-443-8360 or www.cityofbath.com. -Steve Balboni

Weed-Wacker Alert !

String trimmers (a.k.a. weed - wackers) are wonderfully helpful around the yard when used to trim grasses near walkways, walls and other non-living items. However, when used to trim grasses around the base of trees they can become lethal. If bark damage occurs and is deep enough, the tree will not be able to nourish itself and may die. So, be gentle around the trees and finish up your trimming by hand - either pulling or cutting. Also consider using mulch which can be spread around the tree up to six inches deep - being careful not to contact the trunk directly. This will add organic matter, reduce watering, eliminate soil compaction and save you time trimming.



TREE CITY USA.®

Urban & Community Forestry Web-sites

Water, Mulch & Fertilizer

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

Proper Mulching Techniques

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

Watering Your Trees

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

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

www.cityofbath.com/forest/index.htm

Druid Park Dedication

About seventy people attended the Druid Park dedication on September 21, 2008. Under a canopy made available by First Federal Savings and Loan, a short program took place. It was followed by the presentation of a terrace bench dedicated to Denis Hebert, former Superintendent of Cemeteries and Parks.

Refreshments were contributed by Henry and Marty's Restaurant and Forestry Committee members. Flowers for the day were provided by Craig Cunningham and Jim Larson, and photographic displays by nSteve Balboni. The Parks and Recreation crew handled set-up details. It was a day we all looked forward to!

Although many city employees and volunteers contributed to this park, we would especially like to mention the tireless work done by Geraldine Coombs whose vision and hard work nurtured this project along.

Calling All Volunteers!

We need committed volunteers to assist with the watering of our recently installed street-side trees and nursery trees. The watering season is from May through August, and only takes a few hours a week when natural rainfall is not adequate. Please contact Bruce Brennan at **837-1926**, or Letha Bennett at **443-8345**, if you are able to help.

Book Review

"Forest Trees of Maine"

The Maine Forest Service has issued a centennial edition of its "Forest Trees of Maine", the 14th edition of this excellent publication. For \$7, it is a wonderful buy, but it is also an exceptional reference book for anyone needing help identifying a specific tree. It is available on line at www.MaineForestService.gov. or at 287 - 2791.

The information provided includes color photos of bark, buds, seeds, flowers, fruit, needles, leaves, and cones. The original line drawings of tree habit, and leaves, have been retained as well. Winter and summer keys are provided and the format makes it easy to find the identifications needed. In addition, the binding is spiral, making the book easier to use in the field.

New with this edition are maps giving the range for each species, as well as listing the location of the biggest known specimen in the state of a given species.

Throughout the book are old photos of forestry workers as well as historical information including a chart comparing 1908 to 2008 as to forested area, cost of lumber, etc.

It is a handsome softcover volume. Even though you can refer to it on line, I highly recommend getting the hard copy. It is a pleasure to peruse, and makes a nice gift for any gardener or arm chair dendrologist.

-Mary Earl Rogers

June 11
Tree Pruning Clinic
City of Bath Arborist Thomas Hoerth
 Nuts to bolts lecture followed by hands on demonstration. Held in basement meeting room of City Hall. Tools are provided. FMI 443-8345

May 22nd-25th -
McLaughlin Garden Lilac Festival - South Paris, Maine
 9am-5pm
 Experience the colors and scents of one of the largest lilac collections in Maine. Perennials and lilacs will be on sale all weekend. \$5 admission; members FREE. Lilac care Workshop 1 pm. FMI 743-8820

May 17-24
Maine's Arbor week Celebration
 See page 1 for more information. For specific information regarding the State's celebration plans, contact Jan Santerre at 287-4987.

May 8 & 9
FEDCO Annual Tree Sale—Clinton, Maine
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 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.fedcoseeds.com.

October 10
Citizens Involvement Day
 A variety of informational booths and activities. Location: Waterfront Park. Please contact Al Smith, 443-8372, for further details.

August 1
Bud Grafting
 10am-1pm
 Led by Delton Curtis at Curtis Pond Nursery
 Location: Thordike
 Bud grafting is a great way to start your own fruit trees as well as many ornamentals. "Budding" uses individual buds from this year's new growth to graft onto rootstock already set in the nursery. Taught by Delton Curtis of Curtis Pond Nursery. Delton grafts thousands of trees every year for Fedco. He has been bud grafting for many years focusing in particular on peaches. All major tree fruit species will be covered.

July 25 - 30
International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)- Providence, Rhode Island
 FMI www.isa-isa.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Spring/Summer 2009 Workshops & Upcoming Events
 Some of the workshops are co-sponsored by the City of Bath Parks and Recreation 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 Office, 443-8345, for more details and any questions.



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

2009 Committee Members

- Steve Balboni, *Ex-Officio*
- Edmund Benedikt
- Thomas Barrington, Co-Chairperson
- Bruce Brennan
- Geraldine Coombs
- Nancy Coverstone, UMCE
- Keith Emery
- Elizabeth Haskell
- Thomas C. Hoerth, *Ex-Officio*
- James Larson, Co-Chairperson
- Aaron Park
- Mary Earl Rogers, Associate
- Margo Smith

PRESRT STD
 U. S. POSTAGE
 P A I D
 PERMIT No. 45
 BATH, ME 04530

Address Service Requested

This edition
 generously
 sponsored by:
Cahill Tire

Wheel & Tire MAN
CAHILL TIRE, INC.
 4 STATE ROAD
 P.O. BOX 53
 BATH, ME 04530-0053
 (207) 443-9811

