

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

Summer 2008 Edition

Sponsored by the
Maine Forest Service
Project Canopy



Bath's Arbor Week A Success!

During the week of May 19th through May 23rd, when Maine celebrated Arbor Week, Bath hosted numerous activities which placed Bath's community forest in center stage. A 'Princeton' American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) was planted in memory of Arthur Tainter, by his family, at the Tainter recreational Complex. For the eleventh year in a row, Bath was recognized as a National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA. We also received the Growth Award for the seventh year, as well as receiving a 2-inch caliper Camperdown Elm (*Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii') tree from Project Canopy, donated by the Maine Department of Transportation. On Thursday, May 22nd, 280 Norway Spruce seedlings, donated by Central Maine Power, were potted up by the Fifth Grade classes of Fisher-Mitchell School and installed in the City's tree nursery. Likewise, a weeping Cherry tree was planted in honor of the retirement of Mr. Dennis Dow, the former principle of the Fisher/Mitchell school.

The "City of Ships" is also proud to be the "City of Trees"!

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<http://www.cartoonbank.com>



"Hey pal, what I do above the tree line is my business and nobody else's"

Issues in Arboriculture - A Better Tree Pit

There are many things we as municipal arborists and urban foresters can do to improve the condition of trees along our streets. We can aerate and fertilize, mulch, water, prune deadwood, and improve structure. But probably the best thing we can do to assure long life and a stream of ecological services into the future is to remove pavement.

The general practice in ultra-urban environments is to cut out one 3 x 3 or 4 x 4 concrete block just big enough to shoehorn in the root ball of a fine specimen tree. Unfortunately, this is the recipe for stagnation and decline of the tree, not robust growth and a vibrant street life. It would be much better to take out two or three of the concrete blocks and fully replace the soil with a medium that ensures good drainage and full occupation by the tree as rapidly as possible. If pedestrian space is limited, porous pavers can be used that allow traffic and water infiltration both. We can rescue our oldest tree residents to great effect by cutting away the metal confines and separating and daylighting roots from their concrete coffins lids. The best-known tree rescue project is ongoing in New York City, where the Department of Parks and Recreation has taken over sidewalk repair operations around its street trees. The City has released many trees from an otherwise slow death, with great promotional fanfare and to great joy of adjacent residents.

In terms of storm water management, a tree is nice, but a big filter strip is even better. Expanding the tree pit and improving infiltration will find us friends in new places within City Hall. City planners, water and sewer officials, and watershed enthusiasts will back us up and may even find the resources to make it happen. At a minimum, they will support and even write new policies ensuring that specifications for new sidewalk installations and improvements focus on trees for their multi-dimensional benefits.

A big pit allows us to grow larger trees that will shade and cool buildings and adjacent pavement and contribute more to energy conservation, storm water management, economic activity, and property attraction. The key has always been pit size. Landscape Architect James Urban has been preaching larger-the-better for the last 20 years, recommending 800 cubic feet of soil (4 x 10 x 2) minimum to grow a healthy 12-inch diameter tree and 1,000 cubic feet for a 16-inch tree.

We need good soil in our cities, and lots of it. Most specifications suggest using existing soil to speed acclimation of tree roots to the miserable conditions of the site. However, in ultra-urban environments, we want lots of good, well-drained soils in our pits that discourage extension beyond the confines of the site and into the surrounding grey infrastructure. Structural soils have caught on as an engineering solution that enables root growth through a compacted medium that can carry heavy loads despite plenty of air space. Unfortunately, according to Jim Urban, the rock that provides the structure also displaces usable soil volume with significant reduction in rooting space; when calculating the soil volume available to the tree, the rock volume must be subtracted.

The newest innovation available to sustain both pavement and tree root growth is the "Silva Cell" developed by Deep Root Inc., in association with Jim Urban. The product is a reinforced shell that can be filled with topsoil while supporting pavement so that tree roots are free to roam in friable soils liberated from compaction stress and somewhat separated from the hard-scape beyond. And without the larger component stones required for standard structural soil mixes, the tree roots have more soil and potential organic matter to inhabit. The result should be larger, healthier trees free from the vaulted confines of the average city tree. Now that municipal elected officials are racing to grow more sustainable communities, we should be their first stop for best practices that will secure a greener future. We have the knowledge and expertise to grow healthy trees in just about any site, given sufficient political commitment and support. And the result: a better pit and a forest of trees along the streets of our cities.

Further Reading:
www.nycgovparks.org
www.deeprooot.com
www.stormwatercenter.net

- Phillip Rodbell is a certified arborist and manager of the U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program in the 21-state Northeastern Area. This article first appeared in the July-August 2007 edition of the Society of Municipal Arborists journal "City Trees".

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.

Farm Woodlot Management & Portable Sawmill Demonstration

On Wednesday, September 3, at 5 p.m. at the Sass Woodlot, in North Anson, join Jerry Sass, woodlot owner and manager, and Consulting Forester Sam Brown for a teaching tour of Jerry's woodlot. They will talk about why and how they manage the woodlot, with particular emphasis on long-term, low-impact forestry techniques using small-scale, multipurpose equipment. We'll also get a demo of the small portable band-saw mill that Jerry uses to add value to his timber. Woodlots are an important part of a diverse farm system, providing fuel, building materials, and other value-added products such as maple syrup to supplement income. This offering part of MOFGA's Farm Training Project Workshop series that runs through the growing season.

For more information visit www.mofga.org, or call 568-4142.

Green Development and Low Impact Forestry

Join Jan Wirth of Old Woods Farm and Jim Ostergard, Certified Master Logger on Saturday, September 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Old Woods Farm, 47 Port Clyde Road, Tenants Harbor.

For more information visit www.grlt.org or e-mail at info@grlt.org, or call 594-5166.

Bath Forestry Committee Awarded Maine Forest Service Project Canopy Tree Planting Grant

Maine's Urban and Community Forestry Program, Project Canopy, awarded the Forestry Committee and Division's application, Bath Trees Used for Buffering & Screening (T.U.B.S.) project this spring. The award was for \$7,908. It will provide for forty-five (45) trees to be planted around the City, such as Kimball Field, the Bath Water District garage, the Police Station, the Fire Department, the Tainter Recreational Complex, Varnum Field, the South End Park, as well as several street trees and a memorial tree. The plantings help further the diversification of Bath's community forest as well as addressing goals spelled out in the Bath Land Use Code and the Mission Statement for the Forestry Committee. After installation this growing season, the trees will be watered the following three growing seasons to ensure successful establishment.

The Committee and Division are very grateful to the Maine Forest Service Project Canopy for availing these kinds of resources to municipalities to support the improvement of community forests state-wide, and we are proud to be able to represent the City of Bath in its efforts to provide for a more livable community as responsible natural resource stewards.

- The Bath Community Forestry Committee

Spreading the Word of Arboriculture

The TreeAreGood program is pleased to support the "Spreading the Word of Arboriculture" project. The goals of "Spreading the Word of Arboriculture" project are to educate the general public about the profession of arboriculture, to generate awareness to secondary school career advisors, and to recruit youth into the many arboricultural careers.

This special project exists to develop a repeatable, turn-key program for regional Chapters of International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), other green organizations, and local groups needing professional tree care information to continue spreading the word within their areas.

The tools developed to meet the project goals are the treesaregood.org website, opt-in broadcast e-mails, t-shirts, stickers, and consumer-friendly, educational programs brought to schools and organizations by arborists teaching people about the importance of trees and their profession of arboriculture. Many of these are available at very little or no cost.

If you wish to find out more about this program visit www.treesaregood.org/SpreadTheWord.aspx. Thank you for your interest in "Spreading the Word".



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

Don't Forget Our Eleventh 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 **Eleventh 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

"Winter Trees" Children's Book Review

Young readers join a boy and his dog as they use their senses of sight and touch to identify seven common trees in the snow-covered forest. Additional information about trees and their life cycles is included.

Written by Carole Gerber, author of many books for children, including Leaf Jumpers and Arctic Dreams and illustrated by Leslie Evans, who has illustrated Leaf Jumpers, The Yummy Alphabet Book, and The Alphabet Acrostic series (Clarion Books). Charlesbridge Publishing, 2008. 32 pages.

ISBN-10: 1580891683

A Tree's Worst Enemy

Recently, The Forestry Committee has become alarmed by the damage that is being done to the trunks of Bath's younger trees, public and private, by grass trimmers and lawn mowers. Over a period of time, the nicks and gouges are cumulative so that the tree can not feed itself. Nutrients no longer get up through the thin layer of vascular tissue, or inner bark, and the tree declines and dies. Any bark damage allows insects and fungus to enter and attack the tree, weakening it. Please caution family members or works to use the trimmer and lawn mower with care around young trees, large and small.

Another serious problem is bark rot, and insect infestation as a result. This condition is caused by mulch piled too high around the trunk of the tree. Please pull the mulch back about two inches.

- The Bath Community Forestry Committee

Chainsaw Safety Training

This class is a follow-up on the basic chainsaw class and is similar to the game of logging level 2 training. The class will review the level one training with more on saw maintenance, carburetor adjustment, use of felling wedges, spring poles side lean and felling accuracy. You will have a chance to have hands on experience with felling trees. This event will be free for Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM) members and cost non-SWOAM members \$50.00 to participate. Pre-registration is required and there is a maximum of 10 people who can participate hands-on (tree felling, bucking, limbing etc.), but others can attend as observers.

Mike Maines, Certified Logging Professional (CLP) since 1994 and Licensed Professional Forester will be teaching this class in Vassalboro at David Jenney's woodlot. We will tailor the class based on the experience of the people who sign up. You will need to bring your chainsaw along with personal protective equipment (head, eye, ear protection), steel toe boots, chaps - or safety pants. If you plan to observe you will need at least a hardhat. If you do not bring the required personal protective equipment you will not be able to participate, and every participant must sign a release form.

This class will provide anyone, whether you are just starting out using a chainsaw or have been using one for 20 or more years with excellent training to help make working in the woods a safe and fun experience. The training will focus on introducing the participant to open face felling and the development of techniques to safely use a chainsaw. Topics covered include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell, and understanding hinge wood strength. The training will also cover limbing, height measurement, segment calculations, wedging techniques and hinge placement.

The class will take place on Saturday, August 23, 2008 (Rain Date: Sunday, August 24, 2008) from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, in Vassalboro, Maine. For more information or to register, please contact David Jenney at djenney@gmail.com or at 207-923-3483

Introduction to Tree Climbing

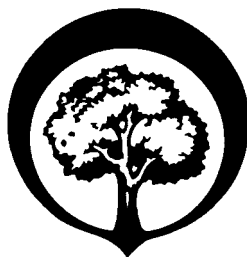
The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program is pleased to offer this workshop taught by North America Training Solutions. The workshop will be held in Manchester Center, Vermont, on August 18 & 19.

For more information contact Danielle Fitzko at 802-241-3673.

Children's Tree Climbing at Citizen's Involvement Day

The Bath Forestry Division are very pleased to announce that on Saturday, October 11th, in Waterfront Park, a children's tree climbing workshop will be held, as part of Bath's 10th Annual Citizens Involvement Day celebration. It will run from 10 AM to 1 PM in the afternoon. It is open to all children from ages 9-12. All the necessary equipment will be provided.

This year's 10th Annual Bath Citizens Involvement Day is shaping up to be quite the ceremony of the best that Bath has to offer. It will be Saturday, October 11th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with music, activities for kids of all ages and a chance to meet and talk with local volunteer and non-profit service organizations that work in and around the Bath community. This event will be held rain or shine. If it's too rainy to be held outside the whole shebang will be moved into Bath City Hall. For more information, directions or questions, please contact Mr. Tom Hoerth at 443-8345, or at thoerth@cityofbath.com.



TREE CITY USA®

Urban Forestry Web-sites

How To Water Your Tree

www.phytosphere.com/vtf/treewater.htm

Watering Your Mature Tree

www.canopy.org/howto/maturewatering.html

Tree Watering FAQ

www.sayegrow.com/FAQ.html

Is Your Tree Thirsty?

fr.cfans.umn.edu/extension/urban_com/Watering.html

Your Young Tree Will Need TLC and Watering This Summer

www.landsteward.org/page.cfm/28415

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

After Five years of planning and intermittent development, the Forestry Committee is looking forward to a dedication of Druid Park later in September. By then, all the loose ends will have been tied up and the park readied for public enjoyment. There will be more information forthcoming by the end of August.

As of now, the Committee has some good people to thank for their hard work. Volunteers Margo Oliver, David C. Smith, Denise Larson, Barbara Starbird, Nathaniel Goddard, Keith Emery, Martha Simpson (a teacher at Morse High School) and seven Freshmen students on their school's Community Service Day, planted the berms on the North Street end of Druid Park, the third week of May. This would not have been possible, in 2008, without a very special gift for flowers from the Bath Garden Club.

Thanks, also, go to Tom Hoerth, Bath City Arborist, who constructed the small sitting area at the end of Druid Park and to Tom York, from York's Hardy Rhododendrons, for his lovely gift of the Magnolia tree now planted adjacent to the present parking area. As always, the Cemeteries & Parks crew were of valuable assistance.

By the way, is there anyone you would like to honor or memorialize? Perhaps a group of people might wish to honor someone? A Druid Park bench could be something to consider. A commemorative brass plaque is always supplied. Information is available at the Cemeteries Office, at 443-8345.

Did any of our readers notice the lavender Irises on the terrace in early June? Many thought they made a very beautiful display.

- Gerry Coombs,
for the Druid Park Sub-Committee

Summer Watering

For trees planted this summer or within the last three growing seasons, the best start they can get is by providing them with proper watering.

Each tree should receive, either naturally or by irrigation, the equivalent of 1 inch (1") of rainfall per week from April through the end of October. When there is no rainfall during a weekly period, this can also be achieved by supplying twenty gallons (20 gals.) of water slowly delivered over a thirty minute (30 min.) time frame.

Even though the previous three Springs have been some of the wettest on record, the available water in the soil is well used up come mid-summer. Slow, timely irrigation can get a tree through the dry spells during the Summer and Fall months.

- Gerry Coombs

September 6
10:30-12:30 p.m.
Green Development & Low Impact Forestry
 See page 2 for more details.

September 26, 27, & 28
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
32st Annual Common Ground Country Fair – Unity, Maine
 Evening entertainment on the 26th and 27th starts at 7:00 p.m. The Fair closes at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday only. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults (ages 13 and over) and \$6.00 for elders (ages 65 and over). Admission is free all weekend for MOFGA members, children 12 and under, and handicapped citizens with one assistant. Contact MOFGA for more information or directions at 568-4142, e-mail at mofga@mofga.org.

October 11
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
10th 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.

October 12-14
42nd Annual Conference—New England Chapter—International Society of Arboriculture
 Holiday Inn By the Bay, Portland, Maine. Visit www.newenglandisa.org/annual_conference.html for more information and registration forms.

August 18-19
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Introduction to Tree Climbing - Manchester Center, VT
 The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program is pleased to offer this workshop taught by North America Training Solutions. The workshop will be held in Manchester Center, Vermont, on August 18 & 19. For more information contact Danielle Fitzko at 802-241-3673.

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September
Druid Park Dedication
 See page 3 for more information.

September—October
11th Annual Community Forest Photography Contest
 See page 2 for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Summer 2008 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 04530-2236

2008 Committee Members

- Steve Balboni, *Ex-Officio*
- 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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