

Community Forest News

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

Summer 2005 Edition

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Bath's Arbor Week A Success!

During the week of May 15th through May 22nd, when Maine celebrated Arbor Week, Bath hosted numerous activities which placed Bath's community forest in center stage. Ribbons and name placards adorned specimen identified in Maine's Big Tree Register, all week long. Two commemorative trees were planted. The first tree, a Sugar Maple, honored the Bath Garden Club. The tree was installed in Druid Park. The second tree was a Scarlet Oak, also planted in Druid Park, in memory of the late George Pollard. For the eighth year in a row, Bath was recognized as a National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA. We also received the Growth Award for the fourth year, and received the Community of Excellence Award at the State ceremony hosted by the Maine State Museum. On Thursday, May 19th, 280 Red Pine seedlings, donated by Central Maine Power, were potted up by the fifth grade classes of Fisher-Mitchell school and were installed in the City's tree nursery. The "City of Ships" is also proud to be the "City of Trees"!



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Municipal Arborist Exchange Program "Brilliant, Just Brilliant!" From Bath, England to Bath, Maine

by Mark Minkley, Senior Arboricultural Officer,
Bath and North East Somerset Council, England

Thomas Hoerth, host for my two-week exchange in September 2004, is City Arborist and Tree Warden for Bath, Maine and is employed within the Cemeteries and Parks Department. His role is supported by a voluntary community forest management committee and covers strategic planning and management advice as well as hands-on tree maintenance. Bath, Maine has a population of just 10,000 and over 15,000 trees, so Thomas has his work cut out for him!

Nothing had prepared me fully for the differences between our jobs and the trees for which we are each responsible. The notion of an exchange between local government arboricultural officers of twin towns across the Atlantic seemed an excellent opportunity not to be missed—thank you, SMA.

With all the hype of the American election at the time of my visit I was curious to see if trees and the environment hit the political agenda anymore strongly in the U.S. than the U.K. What I had not really reckoned on was the difference between 4% tree coverage in Bath, UK compared to 94% in Maine—wow!

I was lucky enough to make my visit just as fall arrived so could witness the beautiful colours across woodland panoramas. In the U.K., with so much less tree cover, much of my work is to use legislation to protect our trees. This can be very effective as the laws cover both public and private trees and the enforcement procedure is clear to enact. I was surprised how little legal backup was in place to protect trees in Maine but also heartened by the positive attitude to trees voiced by so many of the public I met.

Over the two weeks I spent shadowing Thomas, the following projects and case studies are just some of those that stood out in my diary.

Thomas gave me a tour of the key trees and sites locally, starting off with the Cemetery, which has a diverse and well-treed setting.

We met up with the Bath Forestry Committee at a woodlot owned by the City of Bath. No management is being currently undertaken due to lack of budget (now there's a familiar story!), but Thomas has managed to survey much of the site with local school children carrying out 'timber cruises'. The hope is that the children will be involved in plotting this information onto GIS and use the site as an outdoor classroom. The wood had some good quality hemlock that might generate some income towards future management costs.

Thomas got me involved watering street trees as part of a research project he has funding for, "Cost Effective Sidewalk Planting Site Rehabilitation." The grant is to monitor the benefits of regular watering on established street trees over a three-year period. Members of the forestry committee get actively involved watering newly planted trees, which mean the success rate of planting in Bath is very high.

On Breast Cancer Awareness Day the city turned pink! Highway, shop fronts, balloons... everything! Thomas had arranged a tree planting event with two trees, *Cornus mas* 'Golden Glory' and *Magnolia stellata* planted in the grounds of Patten Free Library. The grounds of the library have some excellent trees, my favourite being a mature cucumber magnolia, which is the largest I have seen.

Thomas and I spend a most enjoyable Saturday at Maine Coastal Botanical Gardens running a chainsaw course for householders and volunteers of the gardens.

Thomas has managed to multiply his resource of one many times over by successful funding bids and working with the Bath Forestry Committee and other community groups. He has done extensive programming with school children.

The arborist licence scheme that is run by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural

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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 the City Hall, and take a left. For more information call Letha Bennett at 443-8345.

Druid Park Update

Through the generosity of organizations, friends and two grants secured by Tom Hoerth, Bath City Arborist, all trees for Druid Park have been ordered. Two trees were planted during Arbor Week, and the rest will follow as soon as Mr. Hebert's Cemeteries & Parks crew can find a day or two to put them in. Rainy weather may have held up their lawn mowing and burials, but the moisture has been wonderful for trees and shrubs.

You may have noticed that part of the driveway in front of the Cemeteries & Parks Office has been taken up for grading and tree planting. The remainder will disappear as soon as funds are available for installing the patio and walkways. This is something the Committee will be working on during the Summer.

Beginning on June 11th, the Forestry Committee was graciously permitted by Sagadahoc Preservation, Inc. to set up a display table in the Winter Street Center, where tickets and refreshments were sold for the Society's Annual Historic House and Garden Tour. This was an opportunity for the Committee to introduce our "Paving Stones for Druid Park" project whereby each purchase of a paving stone was entitled to fill in that purchase on a large map of the proposed Park. Artist Pam Allen's concept drawing of the completed Park helped visitors envision its future appearance. This drawing will be on display during Heritage Days, July 3rd and 4th, at the Forestry Committee's display and sales booth, either in Library Park or on the lawn of the Winter Street Church. Look for us again during Citizens Involvement Day at Waterfront Park, September 17th. Pavers will also be for sale during the Summer at the Cemeteries & Parks Office. Letha Bennett will be there to handle purchases. A list of names of all patio builders will be recorded at the Cemeteries & Parks Office.

Spread the word!

- Gerry Coombs

S.M.A.R.T. Grant Update

As of this writing the Hyde School freshman science class has completed the establishment of a permanent study site following the Forest Watch curriculum, on the Hyde campus. Likewise, the junior/senior Honors Biology class also established permanent study site following Project learning Tree's Forest Inventory & Growth (F.I.G.) protocols. Likewise, the Bath Middle School finished the inventory of Oak Grove Cemetery West.

The remaining parts of the project, including the inventory of Maple Grove Cemetery by Morse High School science teacher Carol Nichols biology class and the re-inventory of Ward 4 by Morse High School's Human Geography class, taught by Dan Madden, are presently underway.

-Thomas Hoerth

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

Keep your eyes open and your cameras handy this coming summer and early fall for picturesque trees in Bath! During the months of September and October the Bath Community Forestry Committee and the Bath Forestry Division will be running the Eighth Annual Urban Forest Photo Contest in conjunction with Full Spectrum Art Supplies, Kennebec Camera, 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 and at other sites around the City.

-Tom Hoerth, City Arborist & Tree Warden

"A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit."

- Quaker Philosopher Elton Theeblood



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 Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata*) located at 1 Edwards St. The specimen is physically located on Carriage House Lane, north of the driveway to the original carriage house. It presently has a height of 32 feet, a crown spread of 36 feet, and a trunk circumference of 114 inches. A "champ" indeed!

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

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Resources is one that I would like to see replicated over here. In England, the lead arboricultural organisation is the Arboricultural Association; it runs two schemes, Approved Arboricultural Contractor and Registered Arboricultural Consultant.

The schemes are voluntary, and whilst some local authorities and other large contracts are only open to licensed companies, the majority of arboricultural work is carried out by companies not assessed by the scheme. This makes appointing an arborist an unnerving experience for many householders.

By contrast, the law in Maine requires anyone practicing arboriculture to first obtain an arborist licence. Whilst the exam may not be as arduous as those in England, every arborist in Maine has to have a licence rather than the company as a whole.

The Maine Forest Service Community Forestry Programme is called "Project Canopy", and I met with its director, Michael DeBonis. Whilst in England, community forestry is only funded within 12 community forestry areas, in Maine the whole state is covered. Maine's approach is far more inclusive and means that more funding is available for local group and tree officers.

I came back to Bath, England inspired and my 'arboricultural batteries' fully recharged! I would like to thank Doug Still and the SMA Municipal Arborist Exchange Committee for making this opportunity available, as well as Altec Industries, Inc for their financial support of the programme. Thanks to John Bubier, Bath City Manager, for kindly loaning me his condo for the duration of my stay. Thanks to Denis Hebert and the Bath Forestry Committee for their hospitality. Finally, thanks to Thomas's family for making me feel so welcome and showing me around their beautiful city. Thomas, I hope we can further develop our sister cities exchange!

Mark can be contacted at the following:

Mr. Mark Minkley, Senior Arboricultural Officer
Bath and North East Somerset Council, England
Trimbridge House, Trim Street
Bath
BA1 2DP
United Kingdom
mark_minkley@bathnes.gov.uk

Portland Hosts 4th Annual Maine State Tree Climbing Championship

The City of Portland is honored to be able to host the 4th Annual Maine State Tree Climbing Championship in Deering Oaks Park. This event has been sponsored by the Maine Arborist Association and the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. The championship will take place on Saturday, July 9 with Saturday, July 16th, as the rain-date.

(See page 4 for contact information.)

**The Maine TREE Foundation and
Maine Project Learning Tree
Announce
2005 Forests of Maine Teachers'
Tours**

**Part of the Foundation's LEAF (Long-Term
Education About Forests) Project**

Learn about sustainable forestry, forest ecology, recreation, wildlife, wood products 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 comfortable accommodations, delicious food, and lots of discussion time. 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.

Reserve your place on one of the following tours:

The Bradford Camps on Munsungan Lake July 12-15;

Nicatous Lodge on Nicatous Lake July 19-22; or Sugarloaf in the Western Mountains August 2-5.

2.8 CEU's will be earned; \$50 registration fee and space is limited! **The 2005 Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours has just added an offering of two college credits on Tour One - July 12-15!** For teachers interested in accumulating credits, Dr. Robert Kuech from USM will once again participate and act as faculty advisor from USM. Dr. Kuech will join us as a Project Learning Tree Facilitator and faculty advisor on **Tour One from July 12-15 at Bradford Camps on Munsungan Lake.** Please contact Dr. Kuech directly for details about the requirements and available credits for the class:

Robert Kuech, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor Science Education
University of Southern Maine
507 Bailey Hall
Gorham, Maine 04038
rkuech@usm.maine.edu
780-5089

For more information about the Maine TREE Foundation and Maine Project Learning Tree Summer 2005 Forest Tours please contact:

Patricia Maloney, Coordinator
Maine Project Learning Tree
P.O.Box 344
Augusta, Maine 04332
207 626-7990 (phone)
207 621-8245 (fax)
www.mainetreefoundation.org

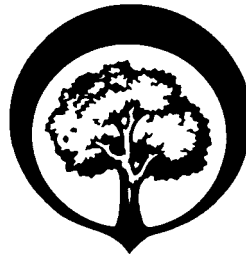
Give the Living Gift of Trees

Celebrate your love of trees—and life's special moments—with Trees in Celebration. This unique Foundation program lets you create a living monument in a national forest that has been damaged by fire or other natural causes, while you commemorate life's many milestones.

For every \$10 you send, 10 trees will be planted and you will receive an attractive certificate to mail or present to the person you have chosen to honor. Trees in Celebration is the perfect gift for new births, engagements and weddings, anniversaries, graduations, retirements, holidays, or any occasion that is special to you. You'll support our planet with the gift of trees as you honor those you love in a special way.

To be a part of this important gift-giving tradition, call The National Arbor Day Foundation toll-free at **1-800-448-7337**, or visit www.arborday.org/celebration.

"May the Forest Be with You!"



TREE CITY USA®

Urban Forestry Web-sites

Trees in Celebration

www.arborday.org/celebration

Elm Research Institute

www.libertyelm.com

Plant Trees

www.americanforests.org/planttrees/

The American Chestnut Foundation

www.acf.org/seeds_seedlings.htm

Dig-Safe System, Inc.

www.digsafe.com/

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

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

Thank You Generous Donors

The Bath Community Forestry Committee recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with the publication of an anniversary report highlighting the accomplishments of the Committee over the last decade and outlining the plans for the next. The Committee is gratified by the many people who showed their support for what we've done and what we will do, with the help of the community. They showed their support by donating to the Bath Community Forestry Trust. This Trust was created to assure a permanent fund to promote and enhance the Community Forest through expenditures of only the income earned on the principal. To date, thanks to the contributions of many fine citizens and organizations that trust has a principal balance of almost \$20,000. The following community members are thanked for their contributions since November 2004 to the time of publication of this newsletter: Senator and Mrs. Arthur Mayo; Mrs. Doris Steen; Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Dwinall; Kim Lorensten-Harper; Julia Kahrl; Jennifer Hudson; Mr. and Mrs. John Coombs; Myonee Lee; Katherine Anagnostis; Dorthy Heggie; Mr. and Mrs. James Gillies; Dr. and Mrs. William Blake; Janice Knight; Ruth Innes; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cheetham; David Vigue; Beth Saufler; Belinda Pillow; Mr. and Mrs. Ron Moloff; Peesh McClanahan; Al Cerutti and Sandra Johnson; Penelope Graham; Mr. and Mrs. John C. Metcalf; Dr. Paul Doolan; Constance Cummings; Mr. and Mrs. Alan Gaul; Teresa Ceruti; and Judy and George Metcalf.

The Community also showed its commitment to our specific plans contributing nearly \$2000 to the establishment of Druid Park at the intersection of North Street and Oak Grove Avenue. We thank those named above and Lois Hart; Elena Vandervoort; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Perry; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Poliquin; Beverly Henrickson; Mr. and Mrs. Wayne McPhail; Joyce Pye; Bruce Cole; Mr. and Mrs. James Kemp; Valerie Nickerson; Mr. and Mrs. George Driscoll; Evelyn King; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Austin; Dr. Patricia Ames; and Mr. and Mrs. David Barber.

Thank you, all. Our work continues and with your financial support, dedicated to the Trust, Druid Park, or both we will make a continued difference in making Bath a better place to live. Copies of the anniversary report are available at the Cemeteries and Parks Department.

- Judy A. S. Metcalf

Summer Pruning Clinic

The Committee invite anyone interested to a pruning clinic on Wednesday, August 10, 2005, from 5:00—7:00 p.m. Seasonal pruning techniques will be discussed and demonstrated by Bath City Arborist Thomas Hoerth, with participants then practicing on selected public trees. The clinic will be held in the basement conference room of City Hall. For more information call 207-443-8345.

For more information call 626-0005, or e-mail info@swam.com. out sound forest management and strengthen long-term woodland ownership. important aspects of land management, which encourage landowners to carry Association of Maine, Events and demonstrations are designed to highlight Hosted by the Western Maine Chapter of the Small Woodlot Owners

9th Annual S.W.O.A.M. Forestry Fair—Oxford Fairgrounds August 21 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Evening entertainment on the 24th and 25th 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 info@mofga.org.

Enrollment is limited. Contact MOFGA to register, or for more information. Cost: \$175 for series; \$50 per class; 30% student/apprentice discount. damage and study prevention strategies. Learn about leaf analysis and more; containing one of the largest blocks of organic trees in Maine. ID pest Ricker, Steve Meyerhans and Steve Page tour Ricker Hill Orchards in Turner. Peter

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 more info.

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association Organic Orchardng Workshop Session #4 July 16 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

September 17 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Citizens Involvement Day – Riverfront Park, Bath, Maine September 23, 24, & 25 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Maine Arborist Association and the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. For more information, advertising and directions, contact Michael Fowler at 329-8008 for more details.

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. Join Brad Johnson, farm & woodlot manager at Chewonki, for a teaching tour of their woodlot. Brad will talk about why and how they manage their woodlands, with particular emphasis on his specialty, working in the woods with horses. Contact MOFGA for more information and directions at 568-4142, or e-mail at info@mofga.org.

4th Annual Maine State Tree Climbing Championship Deering Oaks Park, Portland July 9 (July 16 rain date)

August 23 5:00 p.m. Farm Woodlot Management—Chewonki, Wiscasset

All Day August 23

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Summer 2005 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

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2005 Committee Members

- Joan Atwood Thomas Barrington, Co-Chairperson Geraldine Coombs Nancy Coverstone, UMCE Dr. Paul D. Doolan Denis Hebert, Ex-Officio Thomas C. Hoerth, Ex-Officio Jim Hummer James Larson, Co-Chairperson David Marsh Judy A. S. Metcalf, Secretary Mary Earl Rogers, Associate Arthur Tainter

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