

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 2006

Edition

Sponsored By  Eaton Peabody
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Bath's Arbor Week A Success!

During the week of May 22nd through May 26th, when Maine celebrated Arbor Week, Bath hosted numerous activities which placed Bath's community forest in center stage. Ribbons and name placards adorned specimens located in Bath's City Park, all week long. Two commemorative trees were planted. The first tree, a Red Oak, in honoring Ms. Nancy Coverstone and memorializing her late husband, Bill Coverstone. The tree was installed in City Park. The second tree was a Fastigiata White Oak, planted in Druid Park, in memory of the late David Marsh. For the ninth year in a row, Bath was recognized as a National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA. We also received the Growth Award for the fifth year, as well as receiving a 2-inch caliper Callery Pear tree from Project Canopy and donated by the Maine Department of Transportation. On Thursday, May 25th, 280 Colorado Blue Spruce 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"!

© Cartoonbank.com



"Fun can happen to adults, too."

Arborist Dispute Ends in Court Order

A Maine arborist who has been the subject of numerous complaints from the public has entered into a Consent Order resolving a complaint filed against him in the York County Superior Court by the Maine Department of Agriculture. Mr. Gilman Lamarre, who was doing business as Lamarre's Tree Service, agreed to the terms of the Consent Order, which was approved by Superior Court Justice Arthur Brennan.

According to the consent Order, Mr. Lamarre engaged in unfair and deceptive trade practices and advertised, consulted, solicited, contracted and/or in other respects engaged for compensation in the business of an arborist without being licensed. Lamarre agreed not to perform any work requiring an arborist license without first being licensed, to pay fines and restitution, and to change some of his business practices in the event that he becomes licensed to do arborist work again.

"We have been working with a number of Mr. Lamarre's clients who did not receive satisfactory completion of arborist work contracted by Mr. Lamarre," said Terry Bourgoin, Director of the Division of Plant Industry with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. "Most of the complaints did not involve the quality of the work performed, as Mr. Lamarre has done tree work for most of his adult life. The subject of most of the complaints revolved around Mr. Lamarre's business practices. Hopefully we have resolved that issue through the Court Consent Order if Mr. Lamarre wishes to continue working in the arborist profession" said Bourgoin.

"Maine arborists perform a very valuable service to the citizens of the state, but the work can be dangerous and costly if not done properly. That's why arborists have to be licensed by the State of Maine before they can do any tree work" according to Bourgoin. "Arborists must first pass an exam and then show proof of adequate insurance before the Department of Agriculture will issue a license", said Bourgoin. All licensed arborists are issued wallet licenses, which they are obligated to show to prospective clients upon request. "If Maine citizens want to ensure that a person soliciting tree work is licensed, they can ask to see the individual's arborist license or can call the Division of Plant Industry with the Maine Department of Agriculture to check on the license status of that individual" said Bourgoin. The Division of Plant Industry also maintains a list of licensed arborists on its web site, which is being updated for 2006.

For more information on the Arborist Licensing Program, contact the Maine Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry at 207-287-3891 or visit its web site at:

www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/arborist/index.htm

Dancers Wanted

The urban forest continues to expand. Through the generosity of many, and the hard work of more, planting of trees in Bath continues. The results are gratifying and barren cityscape becomes beautiful neighborhoods. Now for the rest of the story! The planting is just the beginning, then the watering begins. New trees have to be watered regularly for three summers after they are planted. The planting is traumatic for the tree. It is exposed to new soil, loses some of its roots and has to become acclimatized to new conditions, and the worst condition that can beset a new tree is lack of water.

The Bath Community Forestry Committee considers caring for these trees to be its charter responsibility. Unfortunately there are more trees than Committee members and we need some help. We have successfully met our responsibility in the past as homeowners, interested citizens and others have stepped forward to help with the watering. The program lost momentum last year, however, because there was plenty of rain. This year we have to prepare for regular watering. You can help by volunteering to be a member of a watering team or by performing regular rain dances for the benefit of trees in your yard, your street, your ward or for the whole city. There are 62 trees that will require watering this summer and the more 2 or 3 person teams we can recruit the easier it will be. The trees should be watered once a week unless we get an inch of rain, then we can skip a week. Dancing may have to be done more often.

There will be an initiation session to explain the process, become familiar with the equipment, review potential assignments and establish schedules. If you are interested in helping, please call the Department of Cemeteries and Parks at 443-8345.

- Thomas Barrington, BCFC Co-Chairman

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

It's about to happen! Sometime in July, the new terrace in Druid Park will be installed and two-thirds of its shrubbery planted. Le Chance Brick Co. in Gorham received the 1600 pavers from Whittaker Greer Co., in late-May, for shipping to Bath when needed. Through the sale of pavers, this past year, and other generous community support, together with a specific grant opportunity from the City, money was available for the purchase. Jorgenson Landscaping Co. has made a wonderful offer of their professional expertise and services in laying this terrace, after the Department of Cemeteries & Parks has completed the preliminary foundation work.

You may have noticed that several trees planted last year, in Druid Park, were removed shortly thereafter. These needed to be replaced because of poor leaf-out or failure to meet our specifications. Replacements should be installed by the time this newsletter is received. An Arbor Week planting on the west-side of the Cemeteries & Parks Office building was a fine, healthy fastigiated White Oak. Druid Park is slowly but surely evolving.

Look for us during Heritage Days on the lawn-walkway of the Winter Street Church Center. Sagadahoc Preservation has kindly permitted us to be located there. We will have information available about the development of Druid Park and opportunities for involvement in bringing the remaining elements of its architectural plan to fruition.

- Gerry Coombs

Pre-Storm Tree Assessment Protocol Conducted by Students

Between May 22nd and June 9th the City of Bath conducted a community-wide, pre-storm tree survey. The Bath Forestry Division and students from Ms. Carol Nichols Biology class at Morse High School conducted an "Initial Storm Damage Assessment Protocol for Urban & Community Forests", following guidelines developed by the USDA Forest Service and the Davey Resource Group. The students were trained by the Bath City Arborist in how to evaluate Bath's street-side and adjacent trees, and how to estimate the amount of clean-up that might be needed after a severe storm. During this planning stage, sample plots, representing at least 2% of the City's total street mileage were randomly chosen, a survey was performed by the students and cost and time estimates made. Trees greater than 6 inches in diameter within the City right-of-way (R.O.W.) and within 50 feet of the City R.O.W. were measured and tallied. If ever a federal disaster is declared in the State, Sagadahoc County or the City of Bath, this survey will hasten Bath's ability to receive aid necessary for hazard tree reductions and debris removal.

If you have any questions or want more information about this project, please contact the Bath Forestry Division by phone at 443-8347 or 751-7677, or by e-mail at thoerth@cityofbath.com

- Thomas C. Hoerth

Don't Forget Our Ninth 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 Ninth 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

"Plant trees. They give us two of the most crucial elements for our survival: oxygen and books."

- A Whitney Brown



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 Bath St. The specimen is located 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

Skeletal Soil – An Innovative Medium Under Pavement that Improves Street Tree Vigor

Soils under pavements or driveways are highly compacted to meet load-bearing requirements and engineering standards. This often stops roots from growing, causing them to be contained within a very small useable volume of soil without adequate water, nutrients and oxygen. Subsequently, urban trees with most of their roots under pavement grow poorly and die prematurely. The problem is not the tree, but with the material below the pavement in which the tree is expected to grow. One new technique for urban tree establishment is the redesign of the entire pavement soil profile to meet load-bearing requirements for structurally sound pavement installation while encouraging deep root growth away from the pavement surface.

Structural soil is designed to do just that. It consists of three components mixed in the following proportions by weight, crushed stone: (granite or limestone, 3/4 – 1 1/2 ") 100; clay loam: (USDA soil classification gravel <5%, sand 25-30%, silt 20-40%, clay 25-40%) 20; Hydrogel (a potassium propenoate-propenamamide copolymer to help prevent separation of the stone and soil during mixing and installation) 0.03. Total soil moisture at mixing should be 10%. The entire pile is turned and mixed until a uniform blend is produced. The structural soil is then installed and compacted in 6" lifts. Five year demonstration tests show reductions in sidewalk heaving and healthier, long-lived trees.

-Trees on Maine Street, Vol. 5 No. 2

Bath Using Skeletal Soils

The Bath Forestry Division with cooperation from the Public Works Department have installed skeletal soils in numerous locations around the City. Whether it is a partial or complete street renovation, if there were trees included in the project, skeletal soils were part of the design. The thirteen trees installed as part of the White Project renovation all had skeletal soils as part of their soil volume. Likewise, the new trees along Commercial and Front Streets near Bracket's market have employed this technology.

Bath Hosts 5th Annual Maine State Tree Climbing Championship

The City of Bath is honored to be able to host the 5th Annual Maine State Tree Climbing Championship in City Park. This event is being sponsored by the Maine Arborist Association and the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. The championship will take place on Saturday, September 16th with Saturday, September 23rd, as the rain-date.

(See page 4 for contact information.)

The Maine TREE Foundation and Maine Project Learning Tree Announce 2006 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:

Little Lyford Pond Camps, near Moosehead lake July 11-14;
Twin Pond Camps on Millinocket Lake near Katahdin July 18-21; or
Leen's Lodge on West Grand Lake in Downeast maine August 1-4.

2.8 CEU's will be earned; \$100 registration fee and space is limited! **For more information about the Maine TREE Foundation and Maine Project Learning Tree Summer 2006 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
mft@gwi.net

On The Look-out For Wood

The Maine Woodcarvers Association members (about 160 of them) have a need for wood to carve! If you have supplies of; Butternut, Black walnut, Birch, Poplar, Chestnut, Hickory, Black ash and especially Bass woods they would like to have your address, email and 'phone number! They look for small amounts, not hundreds of board feet. They are even interested in burls! This is not a large market for suppliers, but carvers do have a need and are always looking for the woods listed. They are willing to look around, but need numbers to call. If you think you can help, please call (873-3370) or email (browndd@adelphia.net). Their Association will list you in their newsletter as a supplier.

Proper Mulching Techniques Key to Healthy Trees

Mulching is one of the most beneficial things a homeowner can do to keep trees healthy - it makes growing situations more "friendly" for trees in general. But over-mulching can be one of the worst landscaping mistakes you can make, causing significant damage to trees and other plants.

"All things in moderation should be a homeowner's mulching motto," says Jim Skiera, Executive Director of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The generally recommended mulching depth is 2 to 4 inches, according to the ISA. When applied properly, mulch helps maintain soil moisture, control weeds, improve soil structure, and inhibit certain plant diseases. Mulch also protects plants and trees from "weed whacker" damage and "lawnmower blight" in addition to giving planting beds a uniform, well cared-for look. But too much mulch - be it layers deep or piled high against tree trunks - can cause major problems for homeowners.



TREE CITY USA®

Urban Forestry Web-sites

USDA Forest Service i-Tree

www.itreetools.org

Society of Municipal Arborists

www.urban-forestry.com/mc/page.do

Maine Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry

www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/

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.

Municipal Arborists Must Address Climate Change

At the Municipal Forester Institute (MFI) 2006 at Lake Arrowhead, CA, futurist Ed Barlow described some trends relating to global warming that are truly alarming. He also posited that those who would look for leadership to counter humanity's contribution to the rapid rise of greenhouse gases had better not rely on a top-down response.

Also at MFI 2006, Keith Cline of the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program presented methods for quantifying ecosystem services provided by urban forests. Carbon storage, annual carbon sequestration, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions due to energy savings are among the measurable benefits.

I believe that the political will to develop plans to reduce green-house gas emissions must come from local initiatives. I also believe that urban forestry will play a significant role in these local plans. It is right for SMA to partner with organizations like the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program as the role of urban forestry in greenhouse gas reduction plans evolves.

Over 200 U.S. cities now participate in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The agreement outlines specific measures to be taken to meet pollution reduction goals. One of these measures is to "Maintain healthy urban forests and promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb carbon dioxide." The value of this action can be quantified by employing USDA Forest Service i-Tree tools like STRATUM and UFORE (see www.itreetools.org).

I strongly urge members of the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) to get involved in the drafting of a local greenhouse gas reduction plan. Communicate to your policy makers that we can now quantify the benefits of the urban forest. If your community has not done so, encourage your mayor or appropriate official to join in the Climate Protection Agreement with the U.S. Conference of Mayors. A similar international effort is the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. Ithaca, New York has signed on to both of these, and our urban forestry program features prominently in our local plan.

- An editorial by Andy Hillman, City Forester, Ithaca, New York

**"Someone's sitting in the shade today
because someone planted a tree a long
time ago."**

- Warren Buffett

September 22, 23, & 24
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
30th Annual Common Ground Country Fair – Unity, Maine
 Evening entertainment on the 23rd and 24th 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.

September 16
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Citizens Involvement Day – Riverfront Park, Bath, Maine
 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.

September 16 (September 23 rain date)
All Day
5th Annual Maine State Tree Climbing Championship
City/Library Park, Bath
 Sponsored by the Maine Arborist Association and the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. For more information, advertising and directions, contact Jon Hanisko at 797-7294 for more details.

August 12
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Arbormaster Training, Portland Maine
 Contact Jon Hanisko at 797-7294 for more details.

August 15
Sustainable Woodlot Management
 This MOFGA Farm Training Project Workshop will take place at the Sass Woodlot (635-2846) in North Anson. Directions to the workshop are available on MOFGA's website <http://www.mofga.org>.

August 2
Logging with Horses
 This MOFGA Farm Training Project Workshop will take place at Chewonki Farm (882-7323) in Wiscasset, beginning at 5 pm. Join the woodlot managers at the Chewonki Farm, an agricultural and educational non-profit in Wiscasset, for an introduction to horse logging and a chance to practice twitching a few logs out with Sal the mare. Directions to the workshop are available on MOFGA's website <http://www.mofga.org>.

July 15
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Organic Orchardng Workshop Session #4
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
 Summer orchard care and organic commercial orchard tour with John Bunker and others at Super Chilly Farm and Orchard, 167 Turner Mill Pond Rd, Palermo. Learn to identify disease and insect damage in the orchard. All major orchard pests and diseases will be explored. Prevention strategies will be examined. Learn about leaf analysis and more. Workshop starts at 10:00 am and goes until about 3:30 or 4:00 pm. To register, call MOFGA at 568-4142. Cost: \$50 (30% discount for students and farm apprentices).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Summer 2006 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

2006 Committee Members

- Joan Atwood
- Edward Benedict
- Bruce Brennan
- Thomas Barrington, Co-Chairperson
- Geraldine Coombs
- Nancy Coverstone, UMCE
- Denis Hebert, *Ex-Officio*
- Thomas C. Hoerth, *Ex-Officio*
- James Larson, Co-Chairperson
- Judy A. S. Metcalf, Secretary
- Mary Earl Rogers, Associate
- Arthur Tainter

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

This edition generously sponsored by