

Community Forest News

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Bath Community Forestry Committee ♣ 1 Oak Grove Ave. ♣ Bath, Maine 04530 ♣ 1-(207)-443-8345

 **Spring 1999** 
Edition

"To protect, to expand, to preserve, and use wisely, the forestry resources and greenspaces found within the City of Bath, Maine."



1999 **Com-**
mittee Members

Thomas Barrington
Geraldine Coombs, Chairperson
Nancy Coverstone, UMCE
Dr. Paul D. Doolan
Thomas Edwards
Denis Hebert, Ex-Officio
Thomas C. Hoerth
Judy A. S. Metcalf
David Reed
John Rothwell
Thomas York



Web Site

<http://www.clinic.net/forest/>

E-mail

dhebert@cityofbath.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Spring 1999 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 Gail Rioux at the City of Bath Cemeteries & Parks Department Office at 443-8345, for more details and any questions.

April 7 **7:00 p.m.**

"Thoreau's Journey through Maine" – Pine Tree State Arboretum Lecture Series

Forester and Thoreau enthusiast Marc Johnson will take us on a journey through Maine when it was still wilderness, as seen by Henry David Thoreau. Free for Arboretum members, \$3.00 per person for non-members. Call 621-0031 for more info.

April 9, 10, and 11

Bangor Flower Show – Bangor Auditorium and Civic Center

Flowers, trees, shrubs, grasses and landscape ideas will inspire over 15,000 Maine gardeners. Gala "Preview" garden party on Thursday night, April 8, starting at 5:30 p.m. For more information call 667-7333.

April 28 **7:00 p.m.**

Birds of the Arboretum – Pine Tree State Arboretum Lecture Series

Get ready for Spring migration with Steve Oliveri. Free for Arboretum members, \$3.00 per person for non-members. Call 621-0031 for more information.

May 1 – 29 **7:00 a.m.**

Saturday Morning Nature Walks – Pine Tree State Arboretum

Every Saturday in May, with the focus on birds. Call 621-0031 for more information.

May 3 – 28

School Tours – Pine Tree State Arboretum

Teachers – call to schedule a tour for your school! Call 626-2875 for more information.

May 15 **9:00 a.m.**

Bath Community Forestry Committee Tree Nursery Dedication

Come join the celebration of opening Bath's tree nursery at the Oak Grove West Cemetery on the Old Brunswick Rd., and the start of Arbor Week! Refreshments will be served. Call for more information at 443-8345.

May 17 – 21 Arbor Week! **8:00 a.m. to noon**

Seedling Giveaway

All week long, while supplies last! At the Pine Tree State Arboretum, Augusta, call 621-0031.

May 17 **All Day**

Envirothon – Pine Tree State Arboretum

High school teams from around the state will compete to perform tasks and answer questions on tree identification, tree care, forestry, wildlife, soils, and other topics. Call 621-0031 for more information.

May 22 **9:00 a.m. to noon**

"Wildflowers of Butler Head"

Come join Ronnie Kamphausen, of Phippsburg, on a walking tour of Butler Head and learn about Maine's wildflowers. Rain date is Sunday May 23, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Call 443-8345 for more information.

"Mark Your Calendar!" continued on page 2.

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 Gail Rioux at 443-8345.

"Mark Your Calendar!" continued from page 1.

April 21 **9:00 a.m.**
Spring Apple Orchard Planting
Morris Farm, Wiscasset

Join staff and volunteers on Friday to install the Farm's newest addition, an organic apple orchard. Bring a good digging shovel and a strong back for a morning of vigorous planting. Call 882-4080 for more information.

May 19 **12:00 noon**
Arbor Week Tree Dedication
City Park

Join us as we plant a Liberty Elm in City Park. This was a generous gift from the Town of Brunswick and the Village Improvement Association.

May 19 **5:30 p.m.**
Edible Wild Plants
Pine Tree State Arboretum Lecture Series

Linda Nelson will help you learn to identify wild plants that you can eat. Join her for some tasty samples and a foraging trip into the Arboretum's fields and forest. Free for Arboretum members, \$3.00 per person for non-members. Call 621-0031 for more information.

The Forestry Trust -How Are We Doing?

It is a truism that "big trees from little acorns grow," and our Bath Community Forestry Trust is a good illustration of that. During 1998, fifty families and individuals made gifts that ranged from \$5.00 to \$500.00, swelling our infant Trust by \$2,388.28. This sum enabled us to receive the anonymous \$1,000.00 challenge gift that was announced in the spring 1998 newsletter. As of December 31, 1998, the Trust total was \$5,090.17.

Like the sprouting acorn, the Trust continues to grow. Since our December newsletter, the following persons have contributed:

Thomas Barrington; William D. Sewall; Mrs. Theresa Ceruti; Victoria Jackson; Anonymous Gift - In Memory of Bernard Hebert; Sandra Johnson & Aldo Cerutti; John P. Doane; The Bath Rotary Club; James Burbank; and Richard O. Card.

Thanks to Bath's futurists, some day we will have an oak!

-Gerry Coombs

May 22 **9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**
Citizen Involvement Day -
Bath City Park

Come join a celebration of neighbors and community development at the Citizen Involvement Day sponsored by the Bath Community Development Committee. Find out how you can become more involved with various community-oriented groups that will set up display booths. For more information, contact Al Smith at 443-8372. We'll see you there!

May 21 **9:00 a.m.**
Summer Tours Begin
Pine Tree State Arboretum

Join staff and volunteers on Friday mornings for guided tours of the plant collection and Demonstration Tree Farm. Call 621-0031 for more information.



Land for Maine's Future Program
Funds Thorne Head Preserve

At a meeting on March 3, 1999 the Land for Maine's Future Board voted to provide \$175,000 to the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust towards the purchase of Thorne Head. The owners of this 96 acre, forested headland in Bath on the Kennebec River have traditionally kept it open to the public for passive recreation. Establishment of the Thorne Head Preserve will ensure this public access forever, and not leave it to the whim of future owners. The Preserve will be a significant addition to Bath's urban forest. The grant brings the amount raised to 55% of the Land Trust's campaign goal of \$416,250. Land Trust officials report they are delighted and encouraged to have this amount in only 28% of the duration of the campaign.

- Thomas Barrington

Pruning Workshop -
A Cut Above the Rest

On February 6, Committee members Tom Hoerth and Gerry Coombs were joined by Gary Anderson of Bath; Malcolm Miller of Bath; Jerry Pieh of Arrowsic; and Jan & Clarence Richards of Harpswell for a three-hour, hands-on pruning workshop. Interests ranged from wanting to care for one tree to caring for large wood lots. After some discussion regarding terminology, tools and techniques, we ventured outside to "practice what was preached" on some American Chestnuts that are being readied for placement in the cemeteries. Feeling confident after this "triage", we all climbed into our vehicles and treated some of the trees around the tennis courts on Congress Street. Finally, we examined and pruned two Honey Locusts across the street from Roger's Hardware. All participants now felt confident to begin experimenting with their new-found knowledge. They also left with copies of "How to Prune Trees", available at the Office of Cemeteries & Parks, Bath Tree Ordinance pamphlets and an International Society of Arboriculture's "Pruning Guide". Another pruning workshop will be held in June.

On that note, hold your pruning of trees until June or early July; spring is not the time. Exceptions: If you have a flowering tree or shrub, you can prune it after it flowers. Oak trees should only be pruned in winter and only when absolutely necessary. By doing this you avoid Oak Wilt, a very serious disease of that species.

Keep lawn "Weed n' Feed" products away from trees (outside the drip-line). They can do serious damage to mature trees over a period of time. You will see a gradual decline in the tree's health beginning with die-back in the canopy.

Don't top any tree; you will be sorry. The tree will counter by putting out lots of thin, bushy, weak branches from the stubs, that look terrible and break easily. If there is a substantial reason for lowering the height of a tree, let a licensed professional do the job, and your tree will still look good.

Every tree has a distinctive shape that needs to be respected when pruning. A Honey Locust should not be made to look like a Little Leaf Linden, nor should a Katsura have the shape of a Gingko. Become acquainted with the characteristics of the tree you might like to prune. The Cemeteries & Parks Office has colorful, pictorial resources for public use, so come on by and avail yourself of them.

-Gerry Coombs & Thomas Hoerth



A Long Road

The Bath Community Forestry Committee is relieved to finally have a plan accepted by the Bath City Council for the City's Butler Head property. A Management Plan had been evolving over six years as one of a number of long-range goals set by the Committee for itself. Ms. Nancy Coverstone, a Cooperative Extension Educator from Auburn, gave invaluable help as our guide and facilitator at early meetings. During those years, a number of groups and organizations (The Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, North Bath Snowmobilers, Merrymeeting Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, State of Maine Forest Service, and the University of Maine Extension Service in Orono) had been consulted for advice, materials, and information. Butler Head summer residents were contacted and polled for their opinions on the best use of the land. City of Bath records were researched; previous land use plans, studies and reports received scrutiny. The Bath Comprehensive Planning Committee and a former City Planner were approached for advice and guidance.

Students and teachers from the Fisher-Mitchell School and the Bath Middle School, under the Kids in Planning Program, became very involved doing inventories, research, and map making. They put together displays and a video, constructed bird and bat houses, studied surveying and water quality, designed signs, picked up litter, pulled loosestrife, collected information on animal tracks, flowers, birds and, in doing so, gained an appreciation for and felt an ownership of the Butler Head land and cove.

Following inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan (which we hope will happen) and perhaps some ordinances addressing management issues, the long-range planning for trails, signs, camp sites, erosion control, limited parking, restoration of abused areas, protection of sensitive areas and plants, demonstration forestry, etc. can begin. Money will be needed to effect many of the desired changes; the Forestry Committee will be applying for grant monies available for such projects. Whether our applications will be accepted, or not, is an uncertainty, but we will be trying.

Over time, we anticipate that there will be adults and youth who will have interest in becoming involved in the actual implementation activities of the Butler Head Plan. Lots of folks have no interest in planning, grant writing and committee work, but they do like the actual, on-site involvement, and there will be plenty of that.

Watch for developments in future issues of this newsletter.

- Gerry Coombs, Chairperson

Scionwood Exchange at MOFGA Education Center

On Sunday, March 28, from 12 to 4, the Maine Tree Crop Alliance will host the annual Scionwood Exchange. Every year scions from dozens of varieties of apples, pears, plums, and other fruits are given away. Participants are encouraged to bring scionwood, cuttings or seeds if they have any to share.

Most fruits can only be replicated by grafting. Cuttings called "scions" are spliced onto smaller trees called rootstocks. The technique is called grafting. Once you get the hang of it, you can collect your own scions from any tree you like and start your own trees by grafting them yourself.

Assorted workshops will be offered. There is no admission fee, but donations are accepted. For more information, call 426-9005 (days) and ask for John or Roberta Bunker

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TREE CITY USA®

Urban Forestry Web-sites

Tennessee Division of Forestry
Urban Forestry

<http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/tdfuf.html>

National Urban Forestry Unit Home Page
<http://www.gosschalks.co.uk/www/nufu.org.uk/>

Trees for Wakefield:
Urban Forestry Program

<http://www.wakefield.org/trees/urban.htm>

Public Opinion of Urban Forestry
in California

<http://urbanfor.cagr.calpoly.edu/data/abstracts/Opinion.Abst.html>

Community (Urban) Forestry
<http://www.mccoy.army.mil/factsheets/urbforst.htm>

For a larger selection of sites and related links, please visit our web-site at the address indicated below.

Look for our colorful photography display at the Patten Free Library!

Common Ground Dedicated Tree Planting

The Common Ground Dedicated Tree Planting Program, sponsored by the Common Ground Landscape Committee, will implement its tree planting activities at the First Annual Common Ground Spring Thing on May 15 & 16, 1999 at the Common Ground Education Center in Unity.

This is an on-going program, and any individual, group or Maine-based business wishing to have a tree planted at the Common Ground in Unity is welcome. All donated trees will have a stake-mounted plaque near the tree with the tree name, its hardiness rating, date of planting and the name of the person to whom the tree is dedicated or the name of the donor. Multiple tree donations are greatly appreciated.

A \$300.00 donation will purchase a 2 to 2^{1/2} - inch caliper tree (about 10- to 15-foot tall). The tree planting will begin at the First Annual Common Ground Spring Thing in mid-May 1999. Trees will be supplied by Maine-based nurseries.

Dedicated trees will continue to be planted at future Landscape Committee-sponsored work-days during 1999 and beyond. Any surplus funds generated by this program will provide for additional Committee landscape planting and maintenance activities.

Planting a Dedicated Tree is a great way to create a physical remembrance which will provide shade and enjoyment for all those using the Common Ground in the future.

For more information and sign-up forms, contact the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, P. O. Box 2176, Augusta, Maine 04338; or call at 207-622-3188.

- Ernest Glabau

"Please recycle this newsletter or share it with friends, family, and co-workers."

Join the Bath Community Forestry Committee at Skillin's Open House!

Skillin's Greenhouses has invited the Bath Community Forestry Committee to join in their Open House festivities on Saturday, March 27, from 8 to 5, and on Sunday, March 28, from 9 to 5. Please stop by our table for a visit and find helpful information about trees you are thinking about putting in your landscape.



"Don't Forget To Visit Our Web-Site <http://www.clinic.net/forest/> Soon!"



Celebrate Arbor Week – Help Find the Tree Giants & Gems in Our City!

As a part of the celebration of Arbor Week 1999 (May 17 – May 23), the Bath Community Forestry Committee and the City of Bath wish to compile a Registry of Trees – large, rare, or unique. Many private properties in Bath hold hidden gems of rare species, large specimens, or uniquely shaped trees that one rarely comes across. We wish to gather information about such trees in Bath with your help and share it with all the citizens of Bath and with the State Forestry Dept. Please fill in the form below with as much of the information requested, as possible. If you have questions about a certain tree, please visit the Office of the Cemeteries & Parks, at 1 Oak Grove Ave., in Bath, and avail yourself of our references and advice. Please identify, when possible, the tree’s common name and scientific name (Genus and species). Measure the tree’s circumference in inches, around the trunk 3 feet above ground level, and record it below. Measure, as best you can, the tree’s height in feet, and record it below. Measure the average crown spread in feet, and record it below. If the tree has a special, documented history, we would be pleased if you could provide this also. If the tree has a unique shape or attribute beyond the scope of description, please feel free to photograph your specimen and include it with the information below. We appreciate your sharing your backyard gems with us, and if you know of friends, neighbors or family living in Bath, who have not received this newsletter, please share this with them, and ask that they, too, take part in this Arbor Week activity. Please return to the address noted in bold print below. For your efforts, we will send you a complimentary copy of “1999 Maine Register of Big Trees” compiled by the Maine Forest Service.



Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____ State : _____ Zip : _____

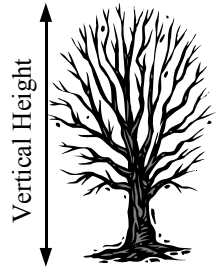
Phone : _____ E-Mail : _____

Tree Common Name : _____

Tree Scientific Name : _____

Circumference (inches) = _____

Avg. Crown Spread



Height (feet) = _____



Average Crown Spread (feet) = _____

Newsletter By Mail or On-Line?

The Bath Community Forestry Committee is a “natural resource” oriented committee, and, as such, need to be a role-model of practices that we believe in. In that vein, we wish to offer our newsletter, **Community Forest News**, in the form of two mediums. For those who have access to the World Wide Web, we would request that you avail yourself of our web-site to access our on-line edition of the **Community Forest News**. Those who do not have this capacity will continue to receive our regular printed edition. Our goal in offering these two options is to reduce the amount of paper involved in bringing you our newsletter, while maintaining the quality, consistency, and distribution of **Community Forest News**. In addition, if you do receive a printed copy of **Community Forest News**, we hope you will share it with those who have an interest in trees, tree care and urban forestry stewardship. Please take a moment to complete the information form below. Please return the form to **The Bath Community Forestry Committee, 1 Oak Grove Ave., Bath, Maine 04530-1926**. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our efforts to more efficiently utilize technologies available to us in bringing you the **Community Forest News**.



Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____ State : _____ Zip : _____

Phone : _____ E-mail Address : _____

- “I will access the on-line edition of **Community Forest News**.”

- “Thank you, I no longer wish to receive the newsletter.”



“Don’t Forget To Visit Our Web-Site <http://www.clinic.net/forest/> Soon!”



"Yes, I want to help the Bath Community Forestry Committee improve its ability to manage and maintain our precious urban forest. Enclosed please find my donation towards the purchase of the 'Tree Manager™ System' software."

\$10.00 \$20.00 \$Other

Please make checks payable to the Bath Community Forestry Committee. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

Name- _____

RR# or St. Address- _____

Town/State/Zip- _____

Phone/E-mail- _____

98 Ice Storm Community Forestry Recovery Grant Update

As of this February, a comprehensive evaluation of Bath's urban and community forest was completed by Mr. Fred Pecci and Mr. Thomas Hoerth. The evaluation located, identified, assessed the condition and estimated the costs for all trees identified as needing any form of corrective pruning, removal due to hazard conditions or symptoms, disposal of materials, and any stump grinding as a result of removals. Trees were evaluated along Bath's streets, school grounds, cemeteries, parks, boat launches and other municipal properties. The completed evaluation or assessment was then presented to Mr. Denny Hebert, Superintendent of the Cemeteries & Parks Department, who oversees the Forestry Division for the City of Bath, for further evaluation and disposition. The State grant managers have twice visited Bath, at our invitation, to provide us with feedback regarding the progress and process of our efforts.

Also included in the evaluation was an estimate for the cost of trees that could be replaced as a result of removals realized through this grant. The types of trees that could be

considered are identified in the Maine Community Forestry Council's "RECOMMENDED TREE SPECIES LIST For Street and Park Trees", compiled by Dr. Paul Cappiello and Dr. Rick Churchill, as of March 1997.

Replacement tree numbers and the above reference have been made available to the Planting and Site Selection Sub-Committee of the Bath Community Forestry Committee for their advice, in-put and consultation. The City Manager's Office and City Planner's Office have also been contacted for their perspective and in-put. After the amount for a final grant request has been determined, it will be submitted to the State grant managers for approval. Upon acceptance of our request, an open bidding procedure on all aspects of the work identified in our request will be made to the public. The deadline for completion of all work identified in the final grant submission, once accepted, is September 1, 2000. Efforts to include community, civic, and other volunteer groups in aspects of the identified grant work will be greatly encouraged upon acceptance of our proposal. Please look for further up-dates in future issues of our newsletter.

-Thomas Hoerth



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

