

Community Forest News

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



Summer 1998
Edition

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



1998 Committee Members

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



Web Site

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

E-mail

dhebert@cityofbath.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Summer 1998 Workshop Series and Upcoming Events

Some of these 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, or the number noted.

July 9th,

9:00 - 12:00 am

"Maine Community Forestry Council"

The Summer Board of Director's meeting at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta. The public is encouraged to attend. Call 626-2875 for information.

July 18th,

9:00 - 12:00 am

"Tree Care and Forest Health"

See page 2 for more details.

August 8th,

9:00 - 12:00 am

"Professional Assistance"

See page 2 for more details.

September 3rd,

9:00 - 12:00 am

"Maine Community Forestry Council"

The Autumn Board of Director's meeting at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta. The public is encouraged to attend. Call 626-2875 for information.

October 24th,

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

"Wildlife Habitat in a Developing Landscape"

See page 2 for more details.

"Butler Head Walk - Mushrooms"

Date and time to be announced. Look for more information to follow.

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. The public is always invited to join us. We will have our meetings in the first floor conference room. Go directly up the stairs from the side door of the Bath City Hall, and the room is on the left. For more information call **Gail Rioux at 443-8345.**

Software Upgrade Needed!

The Bath Community Forestry Committee is looking for donations to upgrade our current DOS version of "Tree Manager™ System" software, by ACRT, Inc., to the current Windows™ version. This computerized record-keeping system allows us to enter and electronically maintain information about our urban forest population.

In 1993 an inventory of Bath's urban forest was completed and recorded electronically into a database. This database serves as a management and maintenance tool to promote and preserve the health of our urban forest. The cost of purchasing this more efficient upgrade is \$1500.00. We are looking for \$10.00 to \$20.00 donations that would go towards the purchase of this upgrade. Please call Gail Rioux, at the Bath Cemeteries & Parks Department Office, at 443-8345, to find out how you can help Bath keep its urban forest healthy. *-Tom Hoerth*

"Wildlife Habitat in a Developing Landscape"

This educational conference will offer information to understand and conserve wildlife habitat. The conference will include local examples of successfully planned habitat protection. Various tools and methods for protecting habitat will be highlighted. Speakers include Ken Elowe from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Gary Donovan, from Champion International Corporation. This conference will provide a meeting place for volunteers and professionals involved in the development of our communities, and whose work directly or indirectly effects wildlife habitat. Living with wildlife is part of the Maine way of life. As we develop the landscape, it is important to identify and conserve habitat. Informed local decisions benefit our economy, our community and our environment.

Municipal officials, staff, volunteers, landowners, and developers will benefit from this conference, as will anyone interested in how we use the landscape. The conference will be held on Saturday, October 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Central Maine Technical College in Auburn. Cost per person is \$25, and includes lunch. The deadline for registration is October 9. Please call Nancy Coverstone, UMCE, at 1-800-287-1458 for more information and a conference brochure.

Contributors to Bath Community Forestry Trust

When we were given an anonymous challenge grant in December of 1997 for the Bath Community Forestry Trust, it seemed that it would be a daunting task for our small Forestry Committee to raise the \$1000 necessary to receive the second half of the challenge grant, while carrying on the business of the Committee. Our concerns were for naught! Friends of Bath's urban forest came through generously with \$1,285.00, as of June 29th, 1998. Gifts ranged from \$1.00 to \$150.00, and all were gratefully received.

The following people helped us meet our present goal for the Trust:

Theresa Ceruti
Anonymous
Col. Dummer Sewall Chapter, D.A.R.
Dr. Paul D. Doolan
Thomas & Julie Rice
Richard Card
Mark Jorgensen Landscaping
T. Holtwijk & Heidi Johnson
Anonymous
Steve & Joyce Wilson
Sharon Drake Realty
Arthur & Martha Mayo
Jacqueline Barrett Landscaping
John & Audree Fox
Edmund Jurenas
Mildred Jones
Vincent Messler
James & Denise Larson
John & Fleeta Metcalf
Mary L. Murphy
Robert & Katherine Falt
Michael & Marion Fear
George & Judy Metcalf
Max & Holly Dawson
James & Susan Hummer
Alfred & Maria Holt
Marc & Lauren Lieberman
John & Anne Marsh
Abbot Fletcher
George & Sallie Pollard
Elizabeth Hughes
Moxie Haney
The Cosmopolitan Garden Club
R. Allen Gaul

The larger we can grow the Trust, the more income it will produce for forestry purposes. Our dream for the Forestry Division of the Cemeteries & Parks Department includes a special truck for high pruning of large trees; a chipper; a machine for stump removal; the hiring of an arborist, for education and inventory work; the opportunity to plant more trees and care for them.

(Cont.)

With effort on our part and a supportive community, we are convinced that, eventually, these good things will come to pass.

*For a more beautiful and healthy Bath!
Gerry Coombs, Chairperson
Bath Community Forestry Committee*

Birders Enjoy Butler Head

On a nice Saturday morning in May, a dozen enthusiastic birders toured Butler Head, lead by Maurice Dauphin of Phippsburg. The May 30th expedition by amateur ornithologists was the first formal birding event conducted at Butler Head. The tour was sponsored by the Bath Community Forestry Committee, and was one in a continuing series of walks and visits which have included wild flower study, nature drawing, and mushroom study. The birds sighted during the outing were Bald Eagle, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Peewee, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Northern Raven, American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Ruffed Grouse (heard, not seen).

-Tom Barrington

What Do You Have To Do To Become A Tree City USA?

Some of our readers may be asking the above question. Briefly... a city must have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. All of which seems simple enough, but it is not.

When the above requirements are met, the community completes an application, which is sent to the State Forester. He/she reviews the application and, upon approval, sends it to the National Arbor Day Foundation. This procedure has to be followed each year. Tree City USA recognition is not automatically given after the first time.



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



Inventory Volunteers Needed

This summer, the Forestry Committee is planning on re-inventorying the Ward 1 voting district as a follow-up to the original inventory done in 1993. The information that is gathered will assist us in maintaining and managing Bath's urban forest. Planting sites, tree conflicts, and hazard trees can all be identified and the appropriate cultural actions can then be taken. This pro-active approach is more cost effective than responding re-actively to any needs that arise. We intend to re-inventory different Wards every summer so that the health and status of Bath's urban forest can be optimized and planned for as efficiently as possible, but we need your help.

In order for this inventory to be completed, in as timely a manner as possible, we are looking for people interested in learning more about trees and tree ecology. You don't have to be a trained arborist to take part in this activity; we will provide you with all the information and tools required to complete this effort. We anticipate starting this effort sometime in late-July, and we are ideally looking for 9 or 10 people, so if you, or someone you know, are interested in volunteering, please contact Gail Rioux at 443-8345, and she will take your name and phone number. We will contact you with more information and dates. *-Tom Hoerth*

"Tree Care and Forest Health"

Learn the basics of tree care and to recognize the presence of disease, insect infestation and other stress factors. Find out about Integrated Pest Management (IPM); understand what you can do and when to seek professional assistance.

Instructor Dick Bradbury, Maine Forest Service. July 18th, 9:00am - noon. Call Pine Tree State Arboretum, 621-0031 for information.

"Professional Assistance"

This workshop will focus on recognizing where and when to seek professional assistance. Representatives of natural resources professions will be on hand to describe the services they provide and explain how they can assist landowners in meeting their natural resource stewardship objectives. These will include foresters, loggers, wildlife biologists, pest management specialists, arborists, and other trained professionals. Learn what type of work is done by the different disciplines and what to look for when selecting a professional.

August 8th, 9am - noon. Call the Pine Tree State Arboretum, 621-0031, for more information.



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Opening On Forestry Committee

A valued member recently moved out of Bath leaving an opening on the Forestry Committee. If any of our readers would have an interest in filling this spot, please contact the Bath City Clerk's office, at 443-8332, to make an appointment to fill-out an application. There is a three-year commitment. A City Council Committee considers all applications and brings a recommendation to the Council for appointment.

As far as special projects are concerned (like our re-inventory this summer) or work on any subcommittees, all one has to do is talk with a member of the Forestry Committee or call the Cemeteries & Parks Office, at 443-8345, to volunteer. Gail Rioux, the friendly person who answers the telephone will see that your information gets to the right person.

Thorne Head Project Initiated

Thorne Head, located at the northern end of High St. within two miles of downtown Bath, is an unspoiled, bold, wooded headland rising abruptly from the Kennebec River. For generations it has welcomed picnickers, birders, hikers and cross-country skiers, and those merely seeking a peaceful respite from the pace of everyday life. The eagles that live near Thorne Head and visitors alike share views of the Kennebec River in three directions. The lush green space, easy trails and comforting closeness to nature make a visit to Thorne Head a rejuvenating and rewarding experience.

The stewardship of the Dickson Family has assured public access to, and preservation of, this piece of the urban forest. This family has, with unselfish generosity, shared this preserve with members of the public. Unfortunately, the family can no longer provide this public service, and has offered the property for sale.

A local conservation organization, The Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust, has initiated the Thorne Head Project to take advantage of an opportunity to preserve the 94 acres. The Project will coordinate the resources of federal, state and local government agencies, conservation organizations, charitable organizations, and individuals to acquire and preserve Thorne Head. Work has begun on a fund-raising campaign. Local businesses have contributed many services, and volunteers have logged many hours planning and organizing the project. Initial contact has been made with local charitable organizations and businesses exploring the possibility of major contributions. This work will be expanded and formalized in the near future, and formal sale and ownership agreements will be established.

-Tom Barrington

Tree City USA Awards Day

The Pine Tree Arboretum in Augusta hosted the 1998 Maine Arbor Week Celebration and Awards Ceremony on May 21, at 4:00 p.m., in its lovely hilltop amphitheater. Luckily, the weather was cooperative for this outdoor affair. People came from all over the state. Governor Angus S. King, Jr. was scheduled to present the Outstanding Forest Stewardship Awards and Environmental Improvement Award, as he did last year, but he was delayed at the State House in negotiations on an important bill. His representative made the apologies and very capably delivered the Governor's remarks.

Charles J. Gadzik, Director, Maine Forest Service, then presented the National Arbor Day Foundation Education Award to the China Primary School Demonstration Forest and followed with the 1998 Tree City USA Awards to ten Maine communities. Augusta, Camden, Farmington, Kennebunkport, Orono, Portland, South Portland, Westbrook, and Yarmouth had all been recognized for a number of years. Bath was the new member in this proud "club".

Bath's City Manager, John Bubier, and Denis Hebert, Superintendent of the Cemeteries and Parks Department, accepted the beautiful walnut and brass plaque for City Hall; a white, green, and blue banner which we hope will fly from one of the City's flagpoles; and two highway signs for the entrances to our City declaring Bath to be a Tree City USA. Both officials spoke briefly and very appropriately. It was a proud moment for the Bath contingent. Forestry Committee members recognized that the City Manager had taken time from an extremely busy workday to drive to Augusta for the ceremony, and they appreciated his support.

After David Gomeau, Chairman of the Maine Community Forestry Council, awarded the National Arbor Day Foundation Poster Contest Prizes to two fifth-graders from Vassalboro and Wayne, everyone took pictures, and at least one representative from Bath resolved that we would be there with our cameras, next year, too.

Those attending from the Forestry Committee were David Reed, Judy Metcalf, Denis Hebert, and Gerry Coombs. David and Gerry had earlier in the day attended a workshop at the Arboretum on "Nursery Stock Selection and Tree Planting" which was followed by a BBQ picnic and early afternoon tours of the Arboretum.

-Gerry Coombs

"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- _____

"Yes I want to be a part of Bath's future. Enclosed please find my donation to the Bath Community Forestry Trust."

\$10.00 \$20.00 \$50.00

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

Name- _____

RR# or St. Address- _____

Town/State/Zip- _____

Phone/E-mail- _____

Is there anyone to whom you think we should send information about the Bath Community Forestry Committee?

Name _____

Address _____

Town/State/Zip _____

Phone/E-mail _____



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