

# Community Forest News

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

 **Winter 1999**   
**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  
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](mailto:dhebert@cityofbath.com)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Winter 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.

**January 16**

**9:00 a.m. – “the bird’s are counted”**

### *3rd Annual Butler Head Winter Bird Count*

Come join and help a hearty crew, snow or shine, complete the 3rd annual bird count. Bring whatever birding supplies you have, and plenty of warm clothing! For more information contact Thomas Barrington at 443-5695.

**January 4, 11, and 25**

### *Sidewalk Christmas Tree Pick-up Dates*

The City of Bath has arranged for the removal of any Christmas trees put by the sidewalk. The trees are chipped, and recycled as mulch. For more information call Paul Adam at 443-8356.

**January 19**

**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

### *Maine Landscape & Nursery Association Annual Trade Show*

The 1999 Annual Trade Show will be held at the Augusta Civic Center. Contact Edith E. Ellis at 225-3998 for a reservation form and informational brochure, or you can write her at MeLNA, RR2 Box 1584, Turner, ME 04282.

**January 29**

### *Maine Community Forestry Council*

Early Winter Board of Directors meeting at the Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell. Call 626-2875 for more information.

**February 6**

**9:30 - 12:00 am**

### *Winter Tree Pruning Techniques*

Thomas Hoerth, Bath Community Forestry Committee Member. See page 2 for details.

**February 10**

### *Sustainable Communities*

Join Cioe Chunn for a program on ecologically and economically sustainable communities that nurture human spirit around the world and relate them to her work with students at Gardner High School. 7:00 p.m. at the Pine Tree State Arboretum, Augusta, call 621-0031.

**February 21**

### *Trees on Skis*

Sponsored by the Maine Audubon Society. Beginning in Norridgewock, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$8.00 for members, and \$12.00 for non-members. Call for more information at 781-2330.

**March 6**

### *Maine Arborist Association Annual Meeting*

To be held in Portland at the Elks Lodge, 1945 Congress St. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Call Pat Lindsay for more information at 883-3340, or e-mail at [tlindsay1@maine.rr.com](mailto:tlindsay1@maine.rr.com).

**March 10**

**7:00 p.m.**

### *Land Ownership and Forest Policy*

Lloyd Ireland, economist and forest policy expert. At the Pine Tree State Arboretum. Call 621-0031 for more info.

## 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.

### Additional Contributors to Bath Community Forestry Trust

The most recent donations towards the Trust were made by:

Dean Almy, Jr.; and  
Sandra & David Weiss.

The following businesses donated gifts for the software upgrade:

First Federal Savings & Loan;  
Sharon Drake Real Estate Incorporated; and  
Burgess Business Solutions.

With purchase of the software, we can better monitor the growth and health of Bath's urban forest, more effectively target and tend specific trees in need of immediate help, streamline yearly maintenance programs to benefit all of Bath's urban forest, locate future planting sites and conditions, and create a greater diversity in Bath's urban forest, ensuring the health of all of Bath's trees.

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

*For a more beautiful and healthy Bath!*  
Mrs. Gerry Coombs  
Bath Community Forestry Committee

### Thank You To Our Re-Inventory Volunteers!

A re-inventory of the street trees of Ward I began in early September with a training session for volunteers at the gazebo in City Park on a Saturday morning. Under the guidance of Tom Hoerth, who would do the computer updating work, and Denis Hebert, Superintendent of Bath's Cemeteries & Parks Department, measuring skills and charting techniques were explained and practiced. From then on, volunteers in teams of two with specific assignments were free to choose their own schedules. November 30th was the deadline set for finishing the task.

Volunteers for the project were: Ernest and Edith Bowker, George and John Metcalf, Maggie & Tom Edwards and Paul Doolan, Tom Barrington and Gerry Coombs. Their support was greatly appreciated! It was a tedious business but a healthy one; those fall winds off the river were brisk.

The street trees of Ward II will be reviewed this year. Do we have some potential volunteers out there? There will be more information in our Spring and Summer 1999 newsletters.

-Gerry Coombs

February 6, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### Winter Pruning Techniques

Thomas Hoerth, Bath Community Forestry Committee Member

This workshop, sponsored by the Bath Community Forestry Committee, will focus on winter tree care techniques and tools. It is free, and the public is welcome to join. We will meet at the office of the Bath Cemeteries & Parks Department, at 1 Oak Grove Ave., in Bath, Maine. If you have your own hand-pruners and loppers, bring them with you. After review and practices, we will car-pool in and around Bath practicing these techniques on selected public trees. For more information call Ms. Gail Rioux, at the Cemeteries & Parks Department office, at 443-8345.



### Thorne Head Acquisition Campaign Receives Early Boost

The campaign by the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust to buy and preserve Thorne Head received a grant of \$25,000 from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund this fall. This was the first significant contribution to the campaign since a formal option agreement was signed with the owners in October. A comprehensive solicitation of businesses, charitable organizations, individuals and government agencies has begun and will continue through the option period until February 2000.

The preservation of Thorne Head, just two miles north of downtown Bath, at the end of High Street, will ensure convenient outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for Bath.

-Thomas Barrington

### Winter Almanac Items

#### Winter Moons

#### January



Full Moon - Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.



Last Quarter - Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>.



New Moon - Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>.



First Quarter - Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>



Full Moon - Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> (Blue Moon)

#### February



Last Quarter - Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>



New Moon - Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>



First Quarter - Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### March



Full Moon - March 2<sup>nd</sup>



Last Quarter - March 10<sup>th</sup>



New Moon - March 17<sup>th</sup>

Vernal Equinox at 8:46 p.m. on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Winter Pruning Timetable Pruning to Encourage Growth

January 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

February 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

March 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Pruning to Discourage Growth

January 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

February 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

*"Wassail, the ancient practice of beating the limbs of fruit trees with wooden sticks, was a Twelfth-night ritual said to waken the trees to the new year. Fill Your bowls with ale, and give the trees wassail."*

© 1998 Old Farmers Almanac

*"Businesses with office and work spaces in wooded developments find their workers are more productive and absenteeism is reduced. Post-operative hospital stays may be shortened when patients are placed in rooms with a view of trees and open spaces."*



## Fruit Tree Pruning Tips

Rather than write about any personal approach to pruning, we recommend spending a winter reading about pruning and looking at the trees. Contact a local orchardist, and ask if you can watch he or she prune. There are many teachers and we are still learning. Libraries are full of pruning books(, and so is the Cemeteries and Parks office). *Ecological Fruit Production in the North* has an excellent study by Jean Richard. You should learn what is best for your trees.

Healthy fruit trees tend to grow more vegetative growth than fruit if left untended. With a life span of many decades, the tree's biological imperative is to grow large in its youth, then seed and reproduce later.

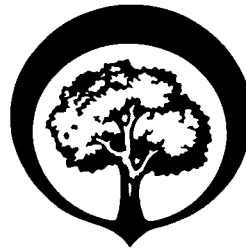
Pruning is the art of removing unwanted tree structure, and the conscientious grower will discover that the art is rewarding. Every tree is a unique sculpture and once the growing process is understood growth can be directed for the health of the tree and the pruner.

- ♣ It is better to remove a whole branch than to leave a stub.
- ♣ Leave a clean cut from which water will drain.
- ♣ Don't prune in the fall or early winter. Chances of winterkill are drastically increased by fall pruning.
- ♣ Never prune off more than a third of new growth on a branch or a third of the new wood in a tree. For beginners, a quarter would be more appropriate.
- ♣ A branch with a vertical fork or crotch is likely to split if loaded with fruit or ice. Select one or the other to keep, favoring the lower branch if the object is to keep the tree's height down.
- ♣ Prune branches that rub against each other or those so close together that one completely shades the other.
- ♣ Some people use pruning paint, some don't. There are more opinions as to its efficacy than varieties of apples. On young trees, when a cut is exposed to the sun, use white interior latex paint diluted to 50% to cover the wound.
- ♣ Cherry trees need little pruning after the first five years. Limit pruning to removal of dead wood, excess growth, and interfering branches. Allow sunlight into the tree.
- ♣ Pear trees should be pruned lightly. The growth habit of pears is upright, with naturally narrow crotches. Thin out the top of the tree to allow light in; remove all suckers and dead wood. If fire-blight is a problem, pruning tools must be sterilized in 1:10 bleach solution before

making the next cut.

- ♣ Plum trees bear fruit on spurs, usually in the interior of the tree. If spurs have become unfruitful they should be removed favoring the healthy, bearing spurs. If an old plum tree is bearing many small inferior fruit, remove one-third of the spurs. Nip back one-fourth to one-third of the new growth to encourage spur production.
- ♣ Observe where the flower buds are formed on the tree, noting where and on what age wood these buds are found. Attempt to distribute the flower buds and new shoot growth evenly throughout the tree, making sure each bud is as open to sunlight as possible. This is accomplished by proper pruning and training of the tree with removal of fruiting branches from time to time.

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### Urban Forestry Web-sites

#### Urban Forestry 2000:

#### The Online Urban Forester

<http://w3.aces.uiuc.edu/NRES/UF2000/data.html>

#### Urban Forestry Forum Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.urban-forestry.com/forum/faq.html>

#### Urban Forestry 2000: Getting Involved

<http://w3.aces.uiuc.edu/NRES/UF2000/community.html>

#### Urban Forestry Resources

<http://quercus.home.texas.net/index.htm>

#### The Urban Forestry Center

<http://www.amfor.org/ufc/uffacts.html>

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

## Fall Foliage Photography Winners Announced

During the month of October the First Annual Urban Forest Fall Foliage Photography contest took place. The weather was not very cooperative, but that did not keep our four winners from capturing the wonderful images still on display in the Patten Free Library's Children's room.

The three winners in the Adult category were; First prize, Mrs. Melissa Romac, with "A Burled Trees Brilliance", for Second prize, Mrs. Joan Vanderlaan, with "Goodbye Summer - Welcome Autumn Reflections", and for Third prize, Mrs. Brenda Niese, and her untitled collage of five images. The Student category winner is Ms. Molly McGlaulin, and her untitled image from Thorne Head. A hearty congratulations to all our winners and their wonderful efforts which will be on display until the new year.

This being the first annual running, we were very fortunate to have so many supportive and giving community members, such as Full Spectrum Art Supplies, Just Framing, and Kennebec Camera for their generous donations of this year's prizes, to the Bath City Hall Clerks Office staff for providing help with materials, to Ms. Carrie Bell-Hoerth for designing promotional materials, and to the wonderful staff in the children's room at the Patten Free Library for providing input for the contest and the space to award and display the winning images. A huge thanks to you all!

The Bath Community Forestry Committee greatly enjoyed providing another opportunity to connect the citizens of Bath with the beautiful and diverse greenspaces that make up our fair City. Please watch for notices next year for the Second Annual Urban Forest Fall Foliage Photo Contest, and keep enjoying Bath's urban forest!

- Thomas Hoerth

## Forestry Committee Welcomes Tom Edwards to the Committee

The Bath Community Forestry Committee welcomes its newest member, Tom Edwards. He was born and raised in the Washington D.C. area. He holds a B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School of the Univ. of Penn. He served four years in the US Air Force as a meteorologist. He has worked in the field of human resources before retiring from Citibank two years ago. Tom loves the outdoors and has served in Scouting for over twenty years. Tom is active in the Rotary Club and Sagadahoc Preservation, Inc. The Forestry Committee considers itself fortunate to have a person with Tom's interest and experience joining us.



"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- \_\_\_\_\_

"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 ?      Other ?

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: \_\_\_\_\_

*"Apartments and offices in wooded areas rent more quickly, have higher occupancy rates and tenants stay longer."*



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

