



Community Forest News

City of Bath, Maine

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

Spring - 2013

Forestry Committee Notes from the Chairman

A PRAYER FOR TREES

I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights, the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun, and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.

I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat.

I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin.

I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty. 'Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer: Harm me not.'

(This prayer has been used in Portuguese forest preservation plans for more than 1,000 years.)

On page four of this newsletter the BCFC is asking you to help "keep Bath green and growing". Our success is only made possible through the diligence of hardworking volunteers and generous financial supporters. Jobs are scarce; wages are being cut back; everyday expenses are increasing; and more demands are put on us daily. But the one thing I've learned over time is that charitable giving, no matter how large or small, boosts the spirit and contributes to a prosperous and vibrant community that in turn makes us feel safe and happy.

Trees are a major life force here on earth. They provide us with oxygen, shelter, shade, beauty, images for artists, subjects for poets, food for wildlife, and the material for the products we rely on. Without trees many life forms would perish. Maine and other New England states are most fortunate to still have old tree forests that enhance our daily lives. The BCFC would be most grateful for your time and financial generosity during this very exciting year. Grow with us! Advocate for Bath trees! Thank you. Elizabeth Haskell

"I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees for the trees have no tongues." Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

The Bath Community Forestry Committee speaks for the trees of Bath

More than ever, this is the year there is no looking back to save the forests of the world. IT IS THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION! Trees are important to Maine and to all of us as individuals. Traditionally, Arbor Day Week celebrates trees and the communities that prosper from green urban forests, downtown parks and tree-lined streets. This past Arbor Day Week celebrations in Bath were an impressive show of strength, fortitude, and energy toward saving and contributing to the urban forest that exemplifies much of Bath and it's charm and desirability as a place to call home.

Activities ranged from a tree giveaway to tree plantings and potting of seedlings from Central Maine Power. Bath Middle School students planted 50 fruit trees at the South End park, better known as the dog park, just as they had done behind their school last fall. Morse High School students potted 300 pine seedlings donated by Central Maine Power, and the annual BCFC Landscape Awards were given to Lee and Mary Derosa of 65 Green St. for the residential award and the owners of the Sedgwick Building at 765 High St. for the business award.



Top Left: Micah Loosigian of Brunswick sizes up a tree a little smaller than he is. Top Right: The Herman Family of Woolwich delight with their tree picks at the annual BCFC tree giveaway at Waterfront Park. Right: Arborist, Tom Hoerth (center) and intern, Heather Reed (left) instruct Morse High School students in potting seedlings donated by Central Maine Power Co.



JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING!

The Bath Community Forestry Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month, September-June from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. in the Bath City Hall. The public is welcome. The Committee meets in the second floor conference room. For more information, call 443-8345. See us at www.bathforestry.com

TREES AROUND BATH– Eastern Redbud

At the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) they call this popular native tree the 'Forest Pansy'. Not many are found this far north, but they can survive in Zones 4-9. The eastern redbud is a small, deciduous, understory tree with a spreading, flat-to-rounded crown and can grow to 20-30' tall. Rosy pink flower clusters with pea-like blooms appear in the early spring between April and May before the foliage emerges. Heart-shaped leaves open bright reddish-purple and gradually mature to a more muted purple. Pendulous, flat, bean-like, 2-4" long seed pods resembling snow peas appear in late spring after flowering. Fall color is variable, but often includes attractive shades of reddish-purple and orange. Redbuds are true harbingers of spring attracting early hummingbirds.

The flowers are pollinated by long-tongued bees such as blueberry bees, because short-tongued bees cannot reach the nectaries (nectar glands). The fruit are flattened, dry, brown, pea-like pods approximately 2-4 inches long that contain flat, elliptical, brown seeds 1/4 inch long. The pods mature between August and October. Over the centuries, Native Americans ate the flowers raw or boiled and ate the seeds roasted. In Appalachia the green twigs are often used today as a seasoning for venison and opossum, hence, in the mountain areas the eastern redbud is known as the spicewood tree.

Professionals at MBG suggest planting a redbud tree when it is young and can be left undisturbed as mature trees do not transplant well. Redbuds are easily grown in average, medium, well-drained, moist soils in full sun. In most of New England, the tree does best when planted in an area protected from winter extremes. Canker can be a significant disease problem and potential pests include tree and leaf hoppers, caterpillars, and scale.

In many countries the redbud is also known as the Judas tree. During the Byzantine Empire, it was believed that Judas, a disciple of Jesus, betrayed Jesus and then hanged himself from a redbud tree because he was so ashamed of what he had done, causing its white flowers to turn pink and then red to signify shame. This showy, fairly low-maintenance tree will bring pride to any small lawn, woodland garden, or naturalized area. Check with your local gardening center to order the tree if they don't keep it in stock.



Eastern Redbud - *Cercis canadensis* attracts song birds, bees, and hummingbirds to dine on the delicious nectar that is enclosed in flower glands called nectaries.

Butler Head Preserve protected by conservation easement

Butler Head Preserve, a 141-acre woodland site on Merrymeeting Bay, will soon be part of a conservation easement held by the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT). The Bath City Council approved the easement at their February 2013 meeting. The conservation easement is a collaborative effort under the guidance of the City of Bath (the owner of the property), the Bath Community Forestry Committee (BCFC), and KELT.

During the summer and fall, the BCFC committee members will be cleaning up the existing trails, establishing new trails, and posting all the trails throughout the Preserve. A \$5,000 grant from the Merrymeeting Bay Trust will fund a Varney Mill Road identity sign, the new trail signs, a tri-plex kiosk, boundary markers, maps, and literature for the kiosk.

The purpose of the conservation easement is to provide significant public benefit by protecting and preserving in perpetuity: (a) the wildlife habitat and natural features of the Protected Property; (b) the opportunity for the general public to enjoy the low-impact outdoor recreational opportunities on the Protected Property;

and (c) the scenic views of the Protected Property, as enjoyed by the general public from Butler Head and adjacent waters.

Butler Head is currently the site of a 20-acre maple grove within the 141 acres used by the vocational students at Morse High School to collect sap for producing their own maple syrup. The undergrowth in the grove has been pruned and cleared out so the maple trees can receive more sunshine and develop into larger, healthier trees over the years ahead. Landcrafters of Woolwich also has a collection site in the Preserve.

In addition, the Maine Island Trails Association will have a designated stop in the northeast corner of the preserved property for kayakers and canoeists to stop at Butler Head during excursions to and from the islands off the Midcoast. The stopover will give the boaters an opportunity to stretch their legs. An unfinished trail in the northeast corner will eventually connect to other trails in the Butler Head system, but at this time it dead ends and does not complete a loop around the northeast corner.

No fires, camping, or overnight stays will be allowed. The primary purpose of the pre-



serve will be similar to Thorne Head, allowing day hiking, bird watching, dog walking on a leash, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Bath's Public Works Department completed an upgrade of the road in May with new ditching to prevent erosion and a turnaround area at Mallard Drive. The turnaround area will also indicate the stopping point for cars that may trespass on private property if they proceed further.

Scientists Map Genome That Causes Dutch Elm Disease

Maine's neighbors to the north in Toronto, Canada have successfully mapped the genes in the ascomycete fungus that causes Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Researchers at the University of Toronto hope their studies will help scientists prevent the fungus from destroying elm trees in the future. The findings were recently published in the online journal *BMC Genomics*.

"Essentially, Dutch Elm Disease prevents the normal distribution of nutrients in the tree by blocking the flow of sap," said Alan Moses, a professor of Cell & Systems Biology and an author of the study. "The tree wilts and dies. This is the first time the 30 million DNA letters for the fungus *Ophiostoma ulmi* have been mapped," said Moses. Relatively little is known about the fungus because researchers often study its closer relatives like bread mold or beer yeast. Moses hopes the availability of the genome will encourage and speed up research on the Dutch Elm Disease fungus because it's only a matter of time before all the elm trees are gone.

Dutch Elm Disease is believed to have originated in the Himalayas, travelling to Europe from the Dutch East Indies in the late 1800's. The fungus is disseminated through bark beetles. It emerged in Holland shortly after WWI, earning the name Dutch Elm Disease. It is the most destructive elm tree disease in North America, Scotland, Spain, Italy, Western Canada, and New Zealand—typically killing most trees within two year of infection.

Trees infected by beetles first show wilting, curling and yellowing of leaves on one or more branches in the upper portion of the tree and subsequent mortality to all three elm species (*Ulmus* spp.) native to Europe. Large trees may survive and show progressively more symptoms for one or more



Elms *Ulmus americana* on Oak Grove Ave.

years. Frequently, by the time first symptoms are noted, the fungus has already reached scaffold branches or the main trunk of the tree. Once the fungus is established within a tree, it spreads rapidly via the water-conducting vessels. The tree reacts to the presence of the fungus by plugging its own cambial tissue in an attempt to block the fungus from spreading further. As the area around cambium (the vascular tissue) is crucial for delivering nutrients and water to the rest of the plant, these plugs or tyloses prevent them from travelling up the trunk of the tree, eventually killing it. The first symptom of infection is usually an upper branch of the tree with leaves starting to wither and yellow in summer, months before the normal autumnal leaf shedding. This progressively spreads to the rest of the tree, with further dieback of branches. Eventually, the roots die, starved of nutrients from the leaves.

Dutch elm disease cannot be eliminated once it begins. A year-round community cleansing program is the key to slowing the spread of the disease. The most available control is removing infected trees and

promptly destroying the wood. If infected wood is to be used as firewood, it should first be debarked. Trenching to disrupt root grafts is also recommended to protect healthy elm trees near diseased ones. In urban situations, insecticide spraying of high value trees has been effective in keeping bark beetles from attacking susceptible trees. In ornamental plantings, suggested control measures include planting trees further apart to prevent root grafts or choosing mixed tree species. The use of resistant selections for new plantations is strongly recommended.

*Alliance for Community Trees & U.S.F.S.
info@ACTrees.org*

Residential & Business Landscape Awards Display Green Pride



BCFC Residential Landscape Award
Lee & Mary Derosa, 65 Green St., Bath

Over 50 outstanding trees grace this amazing property that is a must see for all Bath residents. It's like taking a stroll through the Garden of Eden, said a recent passerby. Unusual species include Weeping Canadian Hemlock, Yellow Cypress, and River Birch.



BCFC Business Landscape Award
Sedgwick Professional Building, 765 High St., Bath

Mary Tennant, Margaret Lonsdale, and Gregory Sarka accept the award for the tenants and owner of the professional building located at a strategic intersection in Bath at High, Centre, and Court St.'s. Once the location of the Sedgwick Hotel, the building houses numerous doctors offices and Direct Display, a publishing company.

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

Bath acquires forestry intern

The Society of Municipal Arborists has awarded Bath a forestry intern to work with Tom Hoerth, City Arborist, for 13 weeks this summer. Heather Reed of Portland, Oregon is a senior at Oregon State University studying Ecological Landscapes and Urban Forestry.

"My personal and professional goal is to communicate the value of trees to as many people as possible and cultivate cooperation to protect our natural resources," said Reed in her application.

Ms. Reed's duties this summer will be helping Hoerth immediately with the Arbor Week celebrations, staking and placing tree protection on newly planted trees, organizing the watering program for the City's trees, working with the BCFC members at the City nursery, and attending the BCFC meetings to observe a city tree committee at work.

Tree City USA Award 2012



For a 13th consecutive year and for the 17th time, Bath has received the Tree City USA award presented by the Arbor Day Foundation. The award is given to municipalities across the United States for their exemplary care and protection of urban forests and city trees. Tom Hoerth accepted the award at the Hilton Inn in Auburn during Maine's Arbor Day celebrations in May.

DRUID PARK BLOSSOMS

When life finally returned to the land in May, the ladies of Druid Park were out in force to tend the weary gardens of this landmark park at the entrance to the majestic Oak Grove Cemetery. Geraldine Coombs, Denise Larson, Connie McChesney, and Suzanne Wilhelm are toiling once again repairing the "casualties" of the winter. "This year we need to replace many perennials, and the berms need to be replenished. The women of Druid Park are a lovely reminder that hard work pays off. We are very fortunate to be blessed with these stewards," said Elizabeth Haskell, chairman of the BCFC.

Over 30 geraniums are also planted each year. Donations for the flowers are welcome and can be mailed to 1 Oak Grove Ave. or dropped off at the same address to Lori Harper. Stop any Monday between 9a.m. and noon, say hello, and lend a hand - the reward is twofold.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR Spring 2013

June 15, 2013 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Farm & Homestead Day at MOFGA Common Ground Education Center, Unity, ME
FREE hands-on skill sharing event. Learn more about living in rural Maine. Build a goat milking stand, mow with a scythe, learn about wild, edible plants, and much more. More information at MOFGA.net

June 23, 2013 6:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Maine Bureau of Parks and Land, Aroostook State Park, Presque Isle, ME
Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day festival, now in its 20th year. \$2 for adults, \$1 for children 5-11, all others free. Bird walks, live bird displays, bird netting and banding. Coffee, cocoa, water, lunch available for small fee. Event will take place rain or shine unless severe weather. Call 768-8341 for more information or cancellations.

July 25, 2013 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Maine Forest Service Are Bats Offshore? Ladd Center, Gott Rd., Wayne, ME
Steve Pelletier will answer the many questions you may have about bats. How many species in Maine? How long do they live? Are Maine bats infected with white nose syndrome? Call 685-4616 for details.

Keep Bath Green and Growing!!**BCFC, 1 Oak Grove Ave., Bath, ME 04530**

This is a landmark year as we establish a conservation easement at Butler Head and begin assessing the trees in Bath's Cemeteries. Your contribution will be used wisely and be greatly appreciated. Forward to the address above. Make checks payable to BCF Trust (investment acct.) or BCFC (operations).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Bath Community Forestry Trust Levels

___ \$300 Chestnut ___ \$100 Hickory ___ \$50 Hazelnut ___ \$25 Beech
___ Other

Bath Community Forestry Committee Operations/Tree Care Levels

___ \$300 Oak ___ \$100 Elm ___ \$50 Maple ___ \$25 Pine
___ Other

___ Check here if you wish to volunteer on future projects. Thank you.



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Bruce Brennan
Wendy Everham
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