



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 ♦

Winter - 2013

Forestry Committee Book Review

The Power of Trees by Gretchen C. Daily, a biologist, and Charles J. Katz, Jr., a renowned photographer, is a slim volume intended to relate to a quote from a Tibetan master: "when you meditate on a tree, you will find that it dissolves into an extremely subtle net of relationships that stretches across the universe" - Sogyal Rinpoche.

Exploring the evolution, the impact on history and humanity, and the natural wonder of trees, the book features approachable and fascinating scientific observations. The authors are associated with the Stanford Woods Institute, a conservation organization in California. The book is full of captivating facts like the largest known organism on Earth-the Great Banyan Tree in Calcutta- has 3,000 trunks covering 1.5 acres and a colony of aspens in Utah called "Pando" is 47,000 trees, genetically identical all connected by a massive root system. Pando is thought to be the heaviest organism on Earth weighing about 7,275 tons and spanning 100 acres. It may be 80,000 years old. The 26 small black and white photographs have a timeless quality, offering no captions, just appreciation of the awesome power of trees. Published by Trinity University Press, \$12.97, 64 pgs.
Mary Earl Rogers

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midcoastopticals@myfairpoint.net

Tom Barrington Steps Down from BCFC Chairmanship After 10 Years



Tom Barrington is a man who wears many hats. To keep pace with his busy life, he is relinquishing his chairmanship of the Bath Community Forestry Committee while remaining a member and the chairman of the BCFC Trust. Barrington has served on the BCFC board since 1995 having been co-chairman and chairman. He also is currently on the board of the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust and was one of its founders in 1989. Both groups are extremely important to the Bath community and go hand in hand in preserving our waterways and urban forests, he advocates.

"My primary focus for the Committee will be preserving Butler Head for future generations," he said in a recent interview. "The Committee is attempting to make Butler Head part of a conservation easement that will be held by KELT, but administered by the BCFC," he said. Currently, Butler Head is used for educational

purposes with the RSU #1 maple sugaring project; provides access to the coastline for the Maine Island Trails Association; and provides hiking trails for local residents. "There is still much work to be done in preparing the trails and putting up signage," he added. In December, the BCFC received a \$5,000 grant from the Merry-meeting Bay Trust to do that work and develop flora and fauna brochures for the North Bath property.

A Bath resident since 1965, Barrington recognizes the importance in participating in the activities of the community you live in and recognizes the value of open space and the role trees play in the quality of life.

New Chairman

"One of the hardest jobs I have in stepping into the chairmanship of the BCFC will be to speak for the trees of Bath. I have traveled to remote areas of the world and have seen the devastation of forests in Africa and South America's Amazon Basin resulting in the loss of animal habitat, the decline of air quality, and the destruction caused by soil erosion," says Elizabeth Haskell, the new chairman of the BCFC.

Since moving to Bath, Haskell recognized immediately that the city was fortunate to have a vast variety of northeastern trees and an urban forest that supports them. Bath citizens understand that trees are an important economic commodity to the downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods, she said.

"Even though trees are the oldest 'living' things on earth and provide the very air we need to survive, it is difficult to compete for charitable donations when you are up against a cute panda, a starving child, or a disaster relief fund," said Haskell. "In a small community like Bath, which is very charitable, there are dozens of worthwhile organizations seeking donations from merchants and individuals. The most difficult goal of the BCFC is convincing people that

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Websites Focus on Children and the Environment - Log On and Care!

As the old saying goes "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink" rings true today when trying to urge your children to commune with nature. There are many organizations and individuals creating wonderful and informative websites to encourage children to get dirty hands and maybe a few bumps and bruises along the way.

Discover the Forest, a collaboration between the US Forest Service and Universal Pictures, has edu-

cational materials and a website based on Dr. Seuss', *The Lorax*. As an enduring symbol of forest conservation, Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* offers a message of hope, renewal, restoration, and responsibility. Like Truffula trees, forests are renewable resources that offer numerous benefits. Trees provide shade, oxygen, clean water, food, and homes for humans and wildlife, and wood products that meet many other public needs as well. Go to www.discovertheforest.org.

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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 second floor conference room. The Public is always welcome! For more information, call Lori Harper at 443-8345. See us at www.bathforestry.com

TREES AROUND BATH— Black Tupelo

The tupelo tree is native to New England and is found from Maine to Florida. Only four of the 10 known species of tupelo trees are native to North America. These water-loving trees are associated with wet soils and are often found in swamp margins and seasonally-flooded lowlands. Michel Dirr, noted dendrologist, considers it one of his favorite trees, especially because it is native and it is relatively disease free, as well as being one of the most beautiful trees for fall color, turning a brilliant flame color. With its pattern of horizontal branching, it offers a handsome profile in winter.

Tupelo trees are excellent for naturalized areas, and are equally good to use as a specimen in the home garden. Many birds and mammals are attracted to its fruit, which are 3-inch clusters of small oval-shaped "grapes". The leaves are simple, obovate and lustrous dark green, varying from 2-5 inches long and 1-3 inches wide. The fruit, often a delicacy for bear, is dark blue, fleshy and borne in clusters of 1-3 inches on long, slender stems. Tupelo trees' bark is grayish and flakey early on in life, but forms course blocks or ridges as it ages. Not a fast grower, a tupelo tree will grow about 12 feet in 10 years, to a maximum of 30-50 feet, and will spread from 25-30 feet. It prefers moist, well drained and loamy soil. Tolerating sun or shade, wind and swampy conditions, it is moderately tolerant of drought once it is established.

Black tupelo, or black gum, is found in Sagadahoc County as well as Androscoggin, Cumberland, and York counties. The tree rarely reaches over 50 feet in height, but is long-lived. One tupelo tree in New Hampshire is considered to be 500 years old according to *Forestry Trees of Maine* and tupelo trees two feet in diameter are found in the town of Casco on an island in Sebago Lake.

Tupelo wood is used extensively by artistic woodcarvers, especially for carving ducks and other wildfowl. In commerce, it is used for shipping containers and interior parts of furniture, and is used extensively in the veneer and panel industry for crossbanding, plywood cores, and backs. The wood can be readily pulped and is used for high-grade book and magazine papers. In the past, the hollow trunks were used for bee gums to hold beehives.

Sources: *Forestry Trees of Maine*; *The Sibley Guide to Trees*; and *The Arbor Foundation*



Sketch by Linda Engstrom, Portland, Oregon

Black Tupelo-*Nyssa sylvatica*

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Cornales
Family: Cornaceae
Genus: *Nyssa*
Species: *N. sylvatica*
Binomial Name: *Nyssa sylvatica*



Apple C.O.R.E. Students Plant Fruit Trees Behind Middle School

Bath Middle School students, under the guidance of Laurie Burhoe, local Apple C.O.R.E. coordinator, planted 40 apple, pear, and persimmon trees on the eastern slope behind the school which faces the tennis courts. The RSU 1 Apple C.O.R.E. Orchard Project (Classroom for Outdoor Learning and Research) was established by the seventh grade Black House students.

Burhoe had seen many small orchards in Europe and thought planting an orchard behind the school would give students a sense of entitlement, responsibility, and a tangible end product. The students will be responsible for pruning, pest management, and monitoring weather factors that could impact the trees. Produce will go to the schools food program.

Tom Hoerth, city arborist, will serve as the students resident expert. Hoerth has applied for a \$5,000 Project Canopy grant for another orchard in the south end of town that would be planted and monitored by the Bath Regional Vocational Center.

Sunrise Rotary, the Bath Community Forestry Committee, Skillins Greenhouses, and residents contributed to the purchase of the trees.



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

“Misty” Photos Take Top Honors in 2012 BCFC Contest



Misty Morning by Joan Chandler

For the second year in a row, Joan Chandler of Bath won the adult category of the Bath Community Forestry Committee's annual photography contest held in November. Called **“Misty Morning”**, the photo must be seen in color to fully appreciate the lavender and pink hues of an early morning in Library Park. Second Prize went to Virginia Campbell with “Country Walk”; third prize to Kathleen Webster with “Stairway to Heaven”; and Elaine Blouin, with “Who’s Hiding There!?!?”. Siona Henze’s, “Autumn Mist” won first prize in the student category. Second prize went to Sierra Merrill with “Witching Night”; and third prize to Calla Barton with



Autumn Mist by Siona Henze

“Birch Close & Far”. This year’s display took place at the Patten Free Library and the Bath Freight Shed community room. Many thanks to Skillin’s Greenhouses, York’s Hardy Rhododendrons, Bull Moose Music, Just Framing, Bart & Greg’s DVD Explosion, Beale Street BBQ, Now You’re Cooking!, Henry & Marty’s, Byrnes Irish Pub & The Admiral’s Steakhouse, Shelter Institute, Big Top Deli and the Maine Arborist Association for generous donations of prizes. Pam Allen, Mike Mahan, and Andreas von Huene had the difficult job of judging the photographs and thanks go to them for that weighty task. The BCFC thanks contestants for their entries and looks forward to next year’s expressions of Bath’s urban forest!

Tree Planting & Grant Update for 2012 Season up from 2011

This year’s forestry grants to the Bath Community Forestry Committee/City of Bath totaled just above \$36,000 for tree planting, tree protection, educational projects, climate solutions, and internships. Of particular note was the grant received from the Society of Municipal Arborists, the International Society of Arboriculture, and the USDA for funding an intern who worked with Tom Hoerth for three months this past summer. The intern, Kelly Swarthout of Wisconsin, spent a majority of the summer planting and watering new trees, maintaining and watering trees planted in the past two years, and working with city staff learning the ins and outs of a small community devoted to the preservation and growth of its urban forest.

Other grants were received from the Merry-meeting Bay Trust for Butler Head Improvements, Project Canopy, the Davis Foundation, the Maine Development Foundation, and Climate Solutions University.

Hoerth, City of Bath arborist, reported that 83 trees were planted in 2012; 90 trees were trimmed and pruned; and 100 trees were removed for reasons including disease, weather-related destruction, potential hazard to pedestrians and motorists, and weakness from age or pest damage.

Websites—Cont’d. from page 1

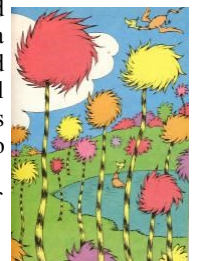
Climate Classroom is a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) initiative that focuses on creating age and developmentally appropriate curricula and projects that educate youth about the causes of and remedies for global warming. “An Inconvenient Truth In the Classroom” is the teen component of this initiative, built around the Academy Award-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, by former vice president, Al Gore. It is designed to encourage students to analyze the science of global warming and its relevance to current events and their daily lives.

Also from NWF is *Education for Sustainability*, a framework that can be used to engage students in all subjects by using the real-world context of the complex interconnections between the creation of vibrant communities, strong economies, and healthy ecosystems, both locally and globally. Education forms the foundation for building sustainable communities, and without education we cannot achieve sustainability. For the NWF websites go to www.climateclassroom.org.

The Arbor Day Foundation, along with teachers and mental health professionals worldwide are becoming concerned that today’s children no longer spend the time exploring the natural world in the way previous generations did. Research is showing that children need a

connection to the natural world as a regular part of their healthy growth and development. Disconnection from nature is leading to increases in problems such as childhood obesity, dislike and often fear of the outdoors, and an increased reliance on behavior-regulating medications. The Arbor Day Foundation and the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation have collaborated to create *Nature Explore*, an outdoor classroom that offers nature-based play and learning spaces. Aside from offering certified outdoor classrooms, *Nature Explore* also offers Families Club Kits packed full of appropriate activities to engage families in exploring the natural world together. The kit can be downloaded free or ordered with editable forms and a CD. Go to www.natureexplore.org for more information.

Become a *Web Ranger* at the National Forest & Parks website. This inter-active site thrusts children into the real world as they customize their own ranger station, share pictures and stories, earn rewards, and find plenty of activities. It is a mine field of knowledge and fun (over 50 games) that will entertain children of all ages and learning levels. Go to www.nps.gov/webangers/ and have a lot of fun! Hats off to helping kids!



Winter Moth Advances in Maine

The Maine Forest Service reports the winter moth (*Operophtera brumata*), found in Harpswell in 2011, has now appeared in nearby communities of Woolwich, Westport Island, and Brunswick. State epidemiologist, Charlene Donahue, said the economic impact of the insect to Maine is difficult to estimate at this time, but the moth loves expensive hardwoods such as oak, maple, apple, elm, ash, crabapple, and cherry trees. Donahue said homeowners will likely face increased costs for prevention and treatment of vulnerable trees and shrubs.

The moth larvae hatch in early spring from eggs laid on the trunks of host trees. The larvae are light green to brownish inchworms with longitudinal white stripes. They crawl up trees and attack leaves and buds. In the summer they will form earthen cocoons and stay protected until November and safe from pesticides.

Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t.) is a bacterium that works well on younger larvae of the winter moth while they are free feeding on open leaves, said the MFS. The biological insecticide can be used in ecologically sensitive areas as it only affects the caterpillars in the larval stage. Since most of the moths in MA and ME have been found in coastal areas, this insecticide is safer than most. University of Massachusetts scientists are researching the use of a parasitic fly (*Cyzenis albicans*) that has been effective in controlling winter moths in Canada and the Pacific Northwest. This, however, will be a long term biocontrol option that will take years to become effective after the releases are begun.

To report swarm outbreaks and learn more about the winter moth, contact the Maine Forest Insect and Disease Laboratory in Augusta at 287-3244 or email charlene.donahue@maine.gov. In Bath contact thoerth@cityofbath.com.

Chairman-cont'd from page 1

we need trees in order to enjoy a healthy future for our children and grandchildren," she said.

Haskell was impressed by a comment received recently from Bath's summer forestry intern, Kelly Swarthout, in a college report she (Swarthout) sent to the BCFC, "Having come from a small, new community in Wisconsin, I was struck by the immense size of the trees in Bath compared to my hometown of Neenah which had mostly newly planted trees," she wrote.

My goal, as chairman, is to help bring more recognition to the Committee's great work and expand our education programs throughout the City. We are very fortunate to be a Tree City USA recipient as recognized by the Arbor Tree Foundation, she added.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Winter 2013 Workshops & Upcoming Events

JOIN the Maine Tree Club through the University of Maine's Cooperative Extension program. Learn the value of trees to Maine's economy, how to best care for your trees, and learn more about Maine's forests. The Maine Tree Club equips participants with the knowledge and skills to identify Maine trees and creates opportunities for people, through hands-on experience, to better understand Maine's ecosystems. Call 1-800-287-1471 or email lisa.waters@maine.edu.

JOIN the Bath Community Forestry Committee, Bath, ME

The BCFC currently has two vacancies on the board. Seeking members with dedication to trees and the urban forest and an interest in education, tree care, and the environment. Fill out an application at the Bath City Clerk's Office, 55 Front St., Bath, ME.

February 4-8, 2013 National Green Week is an annual event that empowers schools to engage in sustainability focused lessons, projects and activities between Feb. 4 and the end of April which is Earth Month. Schools choose any week to participate. Join the movement! Go to greeneducationfoundation.org and get a start up kit today.

February 13, 2013 7:00 p.m.

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay Speaker Series, Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, ME

East-West Corridor/Highway-Have you ever wanted to get to NY or VT from here? A corridor might make your trip shorter, but what impact will it have? Find the answer to some of these questions at this fact-filled meeting. For more information call Ed Friedman at 666-3372.

February 17, 2013 Noon-3:00 p.m.

Viles Arboretum, 153 Hospital St., Augusta, ME

Join Heywood Kennel Sled Dog Adventures to experience dog sledding through the Viles Arboretum forests and fields. A wonderful North Woods experience for the whole family. Call 626-7989.

March 8-9, 2013 Starts Mar 8 @12:00 p.m. Ends Mar 9 @4:00 p.m.

Maine Arborist Association Annual Meeting Double Tree Hotel, So. Portland, ME

Members and non-members welcome for one or both days. For schedules and prices go to mainearborist.org or call 222-4278.

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