

# Community Forestry 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- 2012



### Forestry Committee Update

#### Letha Bennett

Letha Bennett, Assistant to Cemeteries and Parks and the BCFC, passed away in January after an extended battle with cancer. Letha worked for the City for over eight years. One of 11 children, Letha was kind, generous, loyal, diligent, and determined to fight the disease that eventually took her life. She was dedicated to the cause of the BCFC and she will be greatly missed by her City co-workers.

#### Tree Giveaway

Last year BCFC gave away hundreds of evergreens from the nursery on Old Brunswick Rd. This year we will be doing it again, only with a slight hitch. We will be weeding, mulching, and repotting, and we would like a little help from Bath residents. Give us some time and we will give you a tree or two! Join us between 9:00 a.m. and noon on May 19th at the nursery.

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## BCFC Urban Forest Needs are Growing; Sub-Committees Seek Special Volunteers

### Shout Out to Volunteers!!

The urban forest is growing, but the Bath Community Forestry Committee isn't. Help us grow with the forest as we move into our third decade.

The Bath Community Forestry Committee was chartered to support the work of the Bath Parks and Recreation Department's Forestry Division. In the 20 years since its founding, Committee members have participated in many successful projects. These projects have primarily exploited the benefits of trees by enhancing the quality of life in Bath as well as appealing to visitors to the City of Bath.

As a result of these achievements, there have been more trees planted and more activities undertaken by the Committee. Four sub-committees have been formed to accommodate and manage the tasks and objectives of this expanded work. The sub-committees include communications, education, tree care, and finance. Your particular skill can perhaps enhance the work in one of these committees.

**Communications:** Spread the word about the Urban Forest through event planning for fundraising, orchestrating website set-up, or designing graphic displays for special projects and events. Contact Beth Haskell at [ehaskell@midmaine.com](mailto:ehaskell@midmaine.com)

**Finance:** Help track the flow of funds supporting the forest; find funding sources; prepare the budget; develop sources for funding specific projects (e.g., RSU 1 maple syrup project at Butler Head); and develop a mechanism to assist in the BCFC's bi-annual fundraising drive. Contact Aaron Park at 442-7950 or [aaronpark@myfairpoint.net](mailto:aaronpark@myfairpoint.net)

**Education:** Develop programs to teach children, adults, groups, and others who want to know more about the value of trees. Work with schools, businesses, and other organizations by developing workshops, clinics, field trips, lectures, and publications to provide the knowledge and information necessary to foster the understanding and skills that apply to the Bath's forests. Education is always a key to success. Contact Kurt Spiridakis at 449-0646 or [boatshop@maritimeme.org](mailto:boatshop@maritimeme.org).

See **Volunteers** - page 4



**Tom Hoerth, City Arborist**, shows attendees at a March workshop, the fine art of pruning trees. Workshops like this one, help citizens of Bath better understand how to properly care for their trees  
*Photo by E. Haskell*

#### Activities & Accomplishments

- ♦ Druid Park Improvements
- ♦ Butler Head Trails
- ♦ Creation/Maintenance of City Nursery
- ♦ 26 Honorary and 22 Memorial Trees Planted Since 1993
- ♦ 660 City Trees Planted since 1992
- ♦ Watering & Pruning City Trees
- ♦ Hyde School Arboretum
- ♦ Cool Bath 350-Tree Project
- ♦ Pruning Clinics & Yearly School Projects
- ♦ Tree City USA
- ♦ Arbor Day Foundation Growth Awards
- ♦ Annual Commercial and Private Landscape Awards
- ♦ Annual Tree Photography Contest

### 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. We meet in the second floor conference room. For more information, call 443-8345. See us at [www.bathforestry.com](http://www.bathforestry.com)

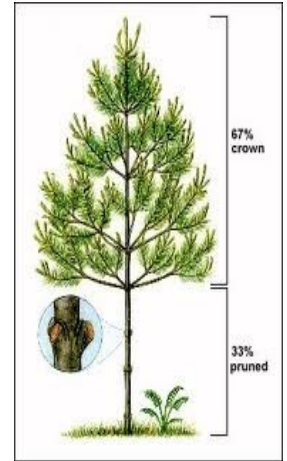
## TREES AROUND BATH—Eastern White Pine

In future newsletters, the BCFC will focus on tree species in the Bath forests, woodlands, and landscapes. This page two space will bring you up-to-date information on trees you may have in your own backyard or trees that grow in nearby urban forests. This issue focuses on Maine's state tree—the Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*). It is the largest northeastern conifer, often reaching over 100 feet in height, with a straight trunk and crown of horizontal branches. Today it is valued for lumber, paper products, and Christmas trees. This majestic pine was prized by the King of England as the greatest tree for making ship masts during the Colonial period. Needless to say, the stately white pine was also a major building block in the foundation of the Maine shipbuilding industry during those times.

Throughout New England and parts of the south, the white pine is widely grown in a plantation environment and can be harvested relatively early in life. An average 8-foot Christmas tree, for example, is approximately 8-10 years old. Many commercial white pines can add 3-4 feet of growth in one season. It grows well in light, acidic soil, but will tolerate sites from boggy to rocky. Full sun is most desirable, especially for privacy hedges and windbreaks when you want a full, healthy tree that will fill in those areas you want protected or covered.

White pines provide wildlife habitat in ways that other large conifer species are unable to duplicate. White pine seeds provide a food source for bird species such as the red-breasted nuthatch, pine warbler, chipping sparrow, pine siskin, and evening grosbeak. Black-capped chickadees and pine warblers glean insects from white pine bark, needles and twigs. White pine seed is also a food source for eastern chipmunks, gray squirrels, red squirrels, and northern flying squirrels. White pine is an emergency winter food source for white-tailed deer, bark-eating porcupines, and foraging pileated woodpeckers searching for carpenter ants.

White pine needles are 3-5 inches long; the pine cone is 5 inches long, slightly curved, and narrow; the bark is grey/green on young trees and darkens as it ages while producing ridges and deep furrows. Many Eastern White Pines are found in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Bath and the Bowdoin Pines in Brunswick.



Eastern White Pine—*Pinus strobus*



### Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
Phylum:	Pinophyta
Class:	Pinopsida
Order:	Pinales
Family:	Pinaceae
Genus:	<i>Pinus</i>
Subgenus:	<i>Strobus</i>
Species:	<i>P. strobus</i>
Binomial name:	<i>Pinus strobus</i>

## National Arbor Day Celebrates 140th Year in 2012

When it rains, it pours! Most people today recognize that motto as being the trademark of Morton salt. But did you know that J. Sterling Morton, the family patriarch of the Morton's Salt Co., is the same man who founded Arbor Day? Morton moved to the barren plains of Nebraska in 1854 and immediately planted 160 acres of his home site with 1,300 apple trees. Morton was a newspaper editor by trade, but his love and knowledge of trees quickly spread through his writings and early Plain's settlers quickly learned how to plant trees as wind breaks, grow orchards for food, plant large spreading trees for shade, and harvest dead trees for fuel. When Morton became a legislator in Nebraska, he introduced an Arbor Day or Tree Day resolution in 1872. One of his fondest sayings was "other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future".

National Arbor Day is now celebrated throughout the U.S. anywhere between January and May depending on when you can plant trees in the climate zone where you live. For example, Florida celebrates in January and Alaska celebrates in May. The purpose of Arbor Day is to

encourage the planting of trees. That first year in 1872 over one million trees were planted in Nebraska. "Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed," said Morton.

The National Arbor Day Foundation was formed in 1972 by John Roseneau who revitalized tree planting in the U.S. when the country's forests were being decimated by fires, blights, disease, and clear-cutting. It was Roseneau who created Tree City USA, Trees for America, Rainforest Rescue, Arbor Farm, and Tree Line USA.

Bath has been a Tree City USA for 12 consecutive years through the efforts of the Bath Community Forestry Committee and the City's Arborist, Tom Hoerth. Geraldine Coombs, a member of the BCFC since its founding in 1992, has coordinated the Tree City USA effort since its inception. Each year, submissions for receiving the Tree City USA award must list four standard requirements that proves a community has the "planting and nourishing of trees" as a community priority.

Today the Arbor Day Foundation sees quite a different danger to the loss of our forests and woodlands—a generation of children who have not experienced "free-range childhoods". Children are disconnected from nature and no longer have rewarding associations with the wilderness. Without emotional connection to the natural world, today's children will become adults without a desire to become conservation professionals or citizens who care, according to the current chief executive of the ADF, John Renow. Today few children spend hours wandering the woods, climbing trees, wading in brooks, jumping in piles of leaves, or playing with frogs and insects, he adds.

Bath is a special community that has a mix of interested teachers, parents, and professionals who care about the City and its natural environment. One only has to look at the parks, trails, and urban forests to see that BATH CARES FOR TREES!

**Plant a tree where you live or work, today!**



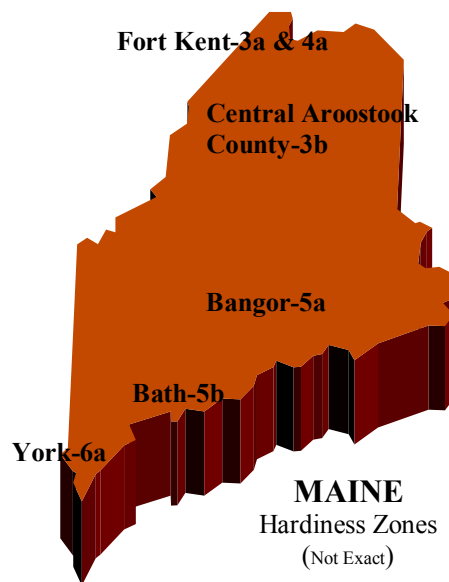


## USDA Shifts Plant Hardiness Zone Map Northward in 2012

For the first time in 22 years, the United States Department of Agriculture has revised the hardiness zones northward as the planet heats up. The hardiness zone map is divided into 26 zones (based on five-degree temperature increments) and is considered the main guide for farmers, foresters, and growers who depend on the maps to determine what plants and trees will survive in a specific geographical area.

The changes to the map have occurred based on a study conducted by the USDA and Oregon State University from data collected between 1976 and 2005. In contrast, the 1990 map was based on temperature data from only a 13-year period between 1974 and 1986.

Compared to the 1990 version, zone boundaries in the new edition of the map have shifted in many areas. The new map is generally one 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zone warmer than the previous map. This is mainly a result of using temperature data from a longer and more recent time period; the new map uses data measured at weather stations during a 30-year period between 1976 and 2005. The new guide zone map also uses detailed factors such as prevailing winds, slope of the land, and city "heat".



*The online interactive map can be found at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>*

The largest impact in Maine will be the Midcoast area and York County where the zone will move from 5b to 6a. This means that in the new zones the plants will tolerate minus five to minus 10 degrees whereas 5b tolerates minus 10 to minus 15 degrees. Although this shift in zones will not find citrus growers scrambling to Maine, it will allow many homeowners the chance to plant trees, shrubs, and plants that are commonly found in central Massachusetts and northern Connecticut.

The new map is very much like the map issued by the Arbor Day Foundation, said Woodrow Nelson, a vice president of the Foundation. The revised map gives us a clear example of what the "new normal" will be as we begin to cope with global weather changes, said David Wolfe, Cornell University plant and soil professor, in a recent interview with the ADF.

For the first time, the map is available as an interactive GIS-based map on the USDA website. Users may simply type in a ZIP Code and find the hardiness zone for the area in which they live. *From USDA, 2012*

## Fortune Was Smiling

### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Bird Count at Butler Head

Once again the perpetrator, aka Tom Barrington, of the annual bird count at Butler Head, prepared for the lonely disappointing event on Jan. 7, 2012. For many years he had been the only counter and the total bird count was ONE. These "mis-adventures" had often resulted in ridicule by other Committee members. Imagine his delight when arriving at Butler Head this year, there were five bird watchers ready to hit the trail. Not only that, but they also had already counted 20 birds, albeit unidentified. Fortune was smiling.

It was mostly cloudy and warm for January, 29°F, with calm winds and light snow cover. Not a bad day for a walk in the woods. Spirits were high as the tour started. There were highs and lows in both the terrain and the enthusiasm of the trekkers.

Several highs included the ever-cheerful black-capped chickadees, eventually totaling 11. Often the hike went on for 30 minutes without a peep or a glimpse of a feather. At one of the low points, the diligent group decided to check out Merrymeeting Bay. Spirits soared! A pair of Barrows Goldeneyes were spotted close enough for positive identification (when they weren't diving). Across the Bay was a flock of eight ducks casually swimming about, but too far for identification.

Pretty satisfied with the adventure, the avid birders left the Bay area and headed back to the woodlands while enjoying the calls of a couple of crows and a raven.

The grand finale, only a few steps from the parking lot in a tree top, the group sighted a flock of 31 American goldfinches. Fortune had smiled yet again. The perpetrator and his entourage left Butler Head wishing there were more Januaries in the year.

Native bird habitat in the Butler Head woodlands, aside from those listed above, are the Pileated woodpecker, Hermit thrush, Scarlet tanager, Hairy woodpecker, Pine warbler, Red-eyed vireo, Pine siskin, and Ruffed grouse.



**Butler Head Birders from Left to Right:**

Bill Rogers, Tom Barrington, Mary Earl Rogers, Carol and Jason Carrigan at the Annual BCFC Winter Bird Count at Butler Head. Photo by E.Haskell

## Maine Senate Passes Tree Growth Survey

On March 29, 2012 the Senate passed a measure that will evaluate "questionable" properties that are enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law program.

The bill, LD 1470, was sponsored by Senate President Kevin Raye, R-Perry, who said he had "grave concerns" about whether some landowners were using the 40-year-old conservation law as a tax shelter. The bill directs the Maine Forest Service to randomly sample properties in Tree Growth and to report its findings to the Legislature. It passed unanimously.

Sen. Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, said the measure did not go far enough since it allows the landowner to keep forest management plans confidential. Jackson attempted to amend LD 1470 by requiring plans to be made public. His amendment was defeated along party lines. Jackson had argued that it was going to be impossible to determine if landowners were honoring an agreement that can yield a 95% property tax deduction.

The forest industry argues that plans are confidential because they contain proprietary information, but the Maine Municipal Association argues that there is no reason smaller landowners should be allowed to shield their plans. Jackson said his measure was designed to promote transparency in the law. *Sun Journal March 2012*

## Sweet Returns for RSU 1

Students from Morse High School Jobs for Main Graduates and Bath Regional Career and Technical Center hosted a "sap to syrup" event in March that brought many visitors and younger elementary school students from around the Bath area to enjoy their sweet success.

Maine Maple Friday is part of a large scale project headed up by Tom Hoerth, Bath City Arborist, and the BCFC. Students from RSU 1 collected sap from a large maple grove at Butler Head in Bath and processed the sap into syrup under the guidance of Emily Dittmann, Culinary Arts Instructor at Morse High School BRCTC. The students collected over 300 gallons of sap from the Butler Head trees in what proved to be a very difficult and sporadic spring flow.



## Lincoln Trees Ceremony

After Abraham Lincoln's assassination, many communities planted trees in the president's honor. Called "Lincoln" trees, the trees ranged from elm to weeping willows. The *Chicago Tribune* encouraged a nationwide effort claiming "Green would be to his memory over all the land in nature, as it will be in human hearts". No calculations were ever done, even to this day, as to how many trees were planted after the assassination, but it does number in the thousands. Bath's Lincoln trees in Library Park are long gone, but on May 21, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Paul D. Doolan, Bath will plant two Gettysburg Oaks—one at Library Park and one at the Customs House. Tentative time for the plantings will commence at 11:00 a.m. at the Customs House and proceed to Library Park.

Volunteers-cont'd from page 1

**Tree Care:** The opportunities are unlimited. Help care for trees in the City nursery including transplanting seedlings, weeding the nursery grounds, thinning trees, and pruning limbs. Participate in planting projects such as the Cool Bath 350-Tree Project. Water and mulch new street trees in the summer, prune and care for trees year around, and work on plans for siting and planting new trees. Contact Bruce Brennan at 837-1926 or [bruce.brennan1@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.brennan1@gmail.com).

You may not have time in your busy schedule to sit on a board, but you may have time to take on a project or two during the year.

GIVE US A SHOUT  
OUT SOON! WE NEED  
YOU AND THE TREES  
OF BATH NEED YOU!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## Spring 2012 Workshops & Upcoming Events

**May 19, 2012 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Bath Garden Club Plant Sale, Library Park, Bath, ME**

Join this industrious group of gardeners at their annual sale of perennials and annuals. Many of the Garden Club members spend days dividing and repotting plants for sale at this very popular annual event. Call for details at 443-3780.

**May 20-26, 2012 Arbor Day Week in Bath**

**Bath Community Forestry Committee, Bath, ME 04530**

**May 7-Community Service Day for 9th Grade Students**-Volunteer students will be helping Tom Hoerth raise the ground level of the wet area at the City nursery and develop paths around the nursery for easier access. Other students will be working at Druid Park planting flowers with Gerry Coombs and other members of the BCFC. (This CSD is a special day each year for 9th grade students only.)

**May 19-Work for a Tree Giveaway-9:00 a.m. -Noon** -Help members of the BCFC continue to organize and weed the tree nursery on Old Brunswick Rd. (On the right past the Middle School.) Lend a hand and take home a tree or two!

**May 21-Lincoln Tree Plantings at Customs House and Library Park**— After Abraham Lincoln's assassination, commemorative trees were planted throughout the U.S. Tom Hoerth will plant Bath's replacement Lincoln trees with Gettysburg Oaks. Customs House at 11:00 a.m. and Library Park at 1:00 p.m.

**May 21-Historic Tree Tour**-Led by Tom Hoerth & State Arborists. Walk will be within reasonable walking distance of Library. Time and route to be announced.

**June 2-3 & June 9-10, 2012 Maine State Wildfire Training**

**Academy, Thomas College, 180 W. River Rd., Waterville, ME**

The 2012 forest fire training courses will cover wildfire behavior, wild land fire-fighting, protection tactics, and introduction to fire chainsaws. For more information call Alan Hammond, Maine Forest Service, 207-287-4993. Fees and course information can be found at [www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/ffchom.htm](http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/ffchom.htm)

**June 23, 2012 All Day Event 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

**Organic Orcharding 101, Maine Organic Farmers & Growers Association, Common Ground Education Center, Unity, ME**

Michael Phillips, author of *The Apple Grower*, will discuss health strategies for disease and insect control in orchards. Bring a box lunch. Fee is \$50 for non-members. Call 207-568-4142 or e-mail [abbys@mofga.org](mailto:abbys@mofga.org).

**June 29, 2012 All Day Event**

**Coastal Maine Botanical Garden Symposium, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

"So You Think You Can't Garden in Coastal Maine?" Three seasoned Maine Horticulturist will prove otherwise. \$90 for non-members includes breakfast and lunch. Call 207-633-4333 or email to [info@mainegardens.org](mailto:info@mainegardens.org)

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**Bath Community Forestry Committee**  
**1 Oak Grove Avenue**  
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**2012 Committee Members**

Steve Balboni, *Ex-Officio*  
Edmund Benedikt  
Thomas Barrington, *Chairman*  
Bruce Brennan  
Geraldine Coombs  
Carol Carrigan  
Elizabeth Hasckell  
Thomas C. Hoerth, *Ex-Officio*  
Aaron Park  
Mary Earl Rogers, *Non-Voting Associate*  
Margo Smith  
Kurt Spiridakis