

# Bath Community Forestry Committee Approaches 20-year Landmark

The Newsletter of the Bath Community Forestry Committee ♦ 1 Oak Grove Ave. ♦ Bath, Maine 04530 ♦ 1-(207)-443-8345 ♦ Spring-Summer 2011



## Forestry Committee Achievements

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

## Sugarbush Educational Site and Sugar Operation A Major Success at Butler Head Preserve

An ambitious sugarbush project at Butler Head Preserve proved to be “sweet” success for eight RSU 1 students this last March. Under the leadership of Tom Hoerth, city arborist, and Emily Dittman, the instructor of a culinary arts class at Bath Regional Career and Technical Center, the students not only tapped trees and collected sap, they also learned the ins and outs of being better businesspeople.

The students installed 100 taps and collected over 300 gallons of sap to make maple syrup. Morse High School students from the Jobs for Maine Graduates program took the lead in marketing and selling the raw material to local buyers at Goranson’s Farm in Dresden and Landcrafters in Woolwich.

Other Morse students will be evaluating the sugar content in the sap to determine its value in the marketplace. Eric Varney, a science teacher at Morse, said his

students calculated the sugar content to be about 2.5 percent—which means the sap can be sold for 35 cents per gallon to the syrup producers.

“This is the most ambitious project we have ever undertaken,” Thomas Barrington told City Council members at the Council’s January meeting. Barrington, BCFC chairman, said this endeavor is only a part of a larger project that the Committee hopes to fulfill over upcoming years.

The goal at Butler Head is to encourage and provide environmentally sound use of the city-owned property for educational and limited recreational purposes while conserving the basic resource for future generations. Of the 137.6 acres, only 20 acres is being used for syrup production. Seventeen of those acres have been leased to Willow Schwarz and David Jewell of Landcrafters over a ten-year period for commercial collection.

Landcrafters will also provide technical and business counseling to the RSU 1 students. (No syrup will be made on-site by students or Landcrafters.)

Income from the sale of the sap by the students will be used to buy material and equipment needed for the collection process. Any profit left from the revenues of the students’ portion of the project will be donated to a charity of the students’ choice, said Dittman. Revenues from the 10-year commercial lease will help fund the BCFC’s work in maintaining the health of the 700 trees in many of Bath’s forested areas.

To make a wild forested area productive, forest management must be in place to ensure a healthy and viable outcome, said Hoerth. It’s important for communities to preserve and protect forests while utilizing their wealth. This project will pay off in a positive way for generations to come, he said.



Ben Wallace (above) and Jessica Shannon (right) from the **Bath Regional Career and Technical Center** hammer numbered tags into sugar maples at Butler Head Preserve in Bath.



Photos used with permission of the Times Record/Troy R. Bennett

### JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING!

The Bath Community Forestry Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month, September-June from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. in the Bath City Hall. The public is always welcome. We meet in the second floor conference room. For more information, call Letha Bennett at 443-8345. [www.cityofbath.com/forest/index.htm](http://www.cityofbath.com/forest/index.htm)

Dear Friend:

"We need trees. Trees need us." This simple credo has guided the work of the Bath Community Forestry Committee (BCFC) for almost twenty years.

"**Trees need us.**" Without the steadfast and focused work of the Committee and its wide network of community supporters, the demonstrable improvements to Bath's community forest outlined in this newsletter simply would not have happened. Bath citizens understand the importance of the Committee's work to the preservation and expansion of the community forest. Through the gratifying support of the community over the last 20 years, the City of Bath's tree resources have flourished. The truth that "trees need us" has been embraced and understood by the hard working members of the BCFC and by the citizens of Bath. Thank you.

"**We need trees.**" A treed space has an assessed value of ten per cent more than a bare lot. Thus, trees add to the valuation of a City. Trees filter smog and carbon elements from the air. Shade trees provide economical air-conditioning in the summer, reducing our carbon footprint in the long run and our energy costs in the short run. Evergreen trees provide wind and snow breaks which warm our homes and businesses in the winter. The forest resources harvested from city-owned land provide funds that help offset the costs of tree maintenance and care. The sugar maple tapping described on page one demonstrates a partnership between business, schools, and the City which has at its center the educational and financial benefits derived from maintaining a healthy community forest. So, yes, "**we need trees.**"

There is an unwritten portion of the credo of the BCFC without which the mission fails. "**We need you.**" Without your financial support over the last 20 years, all those accomplishments outlined in this newsletter would have been unachieved dreams. Kindly give now as generously as you can to the ongoing work of the BCFC Fund or to the BCFC Trust to ensure that Bath's tree resources continue to grow and flourish. Your gift to the Fund and/or Trust is tax deductible, and it ensures that the dedicated stewardship of our community forest endures.

Very truly yours,  
Judy A. S. Metcalf, Trustee Emerita

**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BCFC'S FUTURE PLANS**

**\$25** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$40** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$50** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$75** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$100** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other** \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail Donation to:  
Bath Community Forestry Committee  
One Oak Grove Avenue  
Bath, ME 04530

Please contact me; I would like to be a volunteer: ☐

Designate my donation to: ☐ BCFC Fund ☐ BCFC Trust

**Thank you for your donation and many thanks to our benefactors for continued trust in our dedication to Bath's trees and forests. We continually strive to preserve, protect, enhance, and use wisely the forest resources of Bath.**



ABOVE: Druid Park-Before

RIGHT: Druid Park-After

Landscaping, trees, perennials and annuals, and benches grace the Park with the help of generous donors.



## DRUID PARK—A DREAM REALIZED FOR BATH COMMUNITY

When Oak Grove and Maple Grove Cemeteries were designed, the design plan combined the dignity and elegance befitting Bath citizens' final resting spots amid the Victorian landscape of pathways, ponds, and stately trees.

However, the entrance to these cemeteries, Druid Park, needed more than the bare triangle of grass and a few trees that existed in front of the cemetery office building at 1 Oak Grove Ave.

With the help of many devoted volunteers and some grants, the Bath Community Forestry Committee set about to make changes so that Oak Grove and









Maple Grove would have a gateway. The park is now completed with walkways, new trees, and colorful perennials and annuals that welcome citizens and visitors to one of Bath's loveliest neighborhoods.

Geraldine Coombs, a founding member of the BCFC, was recently asked how the organization has stayed together for almost 20 years. "It all comes down to people with a passion for their environment and trees. People need to envision the future and see what needs to be done to enhance their community," she said. "I do things other people don't have time for, and I have fun," said the 86-year old.

Since 1992, the enthusiasm and vision of the original nine members of the BCFC have inspired community-wide appreciation for trees and all things related to trees. In their endeavors to further tree and forest education, they have gained the support of Bath citizens and businesses.

Druid Park gives us a reason to smile. Stop by and take a walk through the park and admire the hard work of many volunteers. And if you really want a treat, stop on a summer day when you see "Gerry" Coombs ferociously weeding the gardens—she'd love to have some help!

### FUTURE ENDEAVORS THAT NEED YOUR SUPPORT

-  NEW TREES FOR THE CITY OF BATH (if every resident gave just a \$1, we could plant many trees!)
-  BATH CEMETERY ARBORETUM & GROUNDS ENHANCEMENTS
-  OAK GROVE CEMETERY POND RESTORATION
-  DRUID PARK GARDEN MAINTENANCE INCLUDING NEW PLANT MATERIALS
-  BUTLER HEAD SUGARBUSH PROJECT WITH RSU #1—ONGOING SUPPORT
-  EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS WITH BATH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY RESIDENTS
-  CITY OF BATH TREE NURSERY MAINTENANCE
-  BATH CITIZENS INVOLVEMENT DAY—ANNUAL HONORARY TREE PLANTING

## Celebrate Bath's Arbor Day Week by Attending Events from May 15-21

Every year, during the third full week in May, the State of Maine celebrates Arbor Week. As in previous years, Bath, a Tree City USA community, has planned a number of events to celebrate Arbor Week:

**May 4** – Bath City Council will deliver an Arbor Week Proclamation at its regular meeting.

**May 15-21** – Landscape Awards will be presented to the commercial and private properties on one of these days.

**May 15-21** – A special collection of tree artifacts will be on display at the Patten Free Library.

**May 14** – Bath Garden Club plant sale at Library Park from 8:00 a.m. – Noon

**May 16** – The public is invited to the Maine State celebration at State House Hall of Flags in Augusta. (Call 287-4987 for details.)

**May 17** – There will be showings of two short movies at the Winter St. Center at 880 Washington St. from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – “*From Stump to Ship*”, narrated by Tim Sample, and “*Spar Tree*”. Each film is 13 minutes long and both will be shown twice during the evening. Winners of the BCFC Landscape Awards will be announced and refreshments will be served.

**May 18** – Fisher Mitchell School children will pot seedlings donated by CMP. The seedlings will be housed at the Bath Municipal Nursery for future planting.

**May 21** – Open House at the nursery for tree giveaway from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Plant a tree for a loved one, a new baby, or just to enhance your yard.

**CELEBRATE** Bath's community forests by attending as many events as you can!



## FREE TREES AT THE BATH CITY NURSERY

**Who:** Bath Community Forestry Committee

**What:** Will give away potted evergreens of various sizes & species

**When:** Saturday, May 21, from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

**Where:** Bath City Nursery, Bath

**Directions:** From the four corners off Congress Ave. (by the Puffin Stop) turn onto Oak Grove Ave.; take immediate left onto Old Brunswick Rd. toward the Bath Middle School; go past the Bath Middle School; nursery will be on the right. Watch for signs!



**Committee Members Wanted:** Summer is upon us and it's our busiest time of year. After the recent resignation of two long-time committee members, the Bath Community Forestry Committee is looking for two new members to complete its 9-member board. To pursue our future endeavors successfully, it is vital to have a full crew on board to oversee the protection, expansion, preservation and wise use of the forestry resources and green spaces in Bath. Love of forests and trees is a crucial prerequisite!



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