



# Community Forest News

## City of Bath, Maine

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

Spring - 2014

### Forestry Committee - Spring Poetry -

#### RAIN

From which comes the green  
Light, lush, and verdant.  
The smell of earth  
Sweet, spiced, and deep.  
Bird trills uneven  
Through the patter.  
Keep falling.  
Keep falling.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### HOME COAST

Where seagulls are angels.  
Where crows are king.  
Where baked beans are banquets,  
Where pines have rings.  
Where isles are cathedrals.  
Where salt air sings.  
Where seals are jesters.  
Where dreams have wings.  
Home Coast

\*\*\*\*\*

#### KNIGHTED

Palms up  
On one knee  
In the stand

Where oak and pine and  
maple meet  
Facing west with the ferns

For a moment  
I am knighted.

Submitted by Steve King - Bath



## Save the date — October 8 — night of the blood moon! Harvest dinner, music, silent auction, shaping up to support Bath's trees

The BCFC has a fundraising drive every two years to support the ongoing efforts of the Committee to maintain and keep Bath a vitally important forested community. Preparations are now underway for a fundraising Harvest Dinner to support Bath's trees on October 8th at the Bath Freight Shed.

The dinner, which will occur on the second blood moon of the year, will be sponsored by the Kennebec Company and catered by Aaron Park, a BCFC member and owner of Henry and Marty's Restaurant and Catering in Brunswick. The dinner will feature fresh Maine vegetables, meats, cheeses, and breads similar to other harvest moon dinners Park has catered in the past. The evening's entertainment will include music by Tom Hoerth, a silent auction, and the announcement of the BCFC's photography contest winners. The dinner will be a three-course presentation with a cash bar and will cost \$50/person.

Bath's tree canopy will require major attention in the decades to come with the onset of global warming and invasive insects such as the emerald ash borer, the hemlock woolly adelgid and the Asian longhorn beetle. "It will take a lot of money and volunteers to conduct the work necessary to preserve, protect and replace Bath's trees in the future," according to Elizabeth Haskell, chairman of the BCFC.

"The major goal in the coming decade for the BCFC will be to develop more awareness of the plight of Bath's trees as well as all the forests of Maine. Forests are the lungs of the planet and need to be preserved for not only the quality of human life, but also for habitat diversification required to preserve the world's wildlife," added Haskell.



Further information and updates will be available in the September newsletter, on the City website at [www.bathforestry.com](http://www.bathforestry.com) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/bathcommunityforestrycommittee](https://www.facebook.com/bathcommunityforestrycommittee). Tickets are not printed yet, but advanced seating may be reserved by calling Elizabeth Haskell at 443-4739 or via e-mail at [ehaskell@midmaine.com](mailto:ehaskell@midmaine.com). Auction items may also be donated by contacting Ms. Haskell. The Committee is requesting service items, gift certificates, art, and one-of-a-kind items. Mark your calendars and support Bath's amazing tree canopy by joining us for this festive occasion on October 8th.

## 2015 BCFC photography contest guidelines changing

The BCFC is changing the format for its annual photography contest held in October every year. While the photography contest will be held as usual in October for 2014, the 2015 contest will be held during Arbor Week, May 17-23, 2015. "We hope this change will encourage more entries that represent Bath's trees in ALL seasons of the year," said chairman, Elizabeth Haskell. "We would like to eventually produce a calendar and of course that takes pictures to represent each month. In October, most of the submissions are of

fall foliage," she added.

"Granted, fall foliage is very appealing and beautiful, but trees are exquisite all year," according to George Waldman, this year's photography contest coordinator who was a former photojournalist for the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit Sunday News and a freelance photojournalist for major publications and institutions around the world such as the NY Times, Newsweek, the LA Times, and the Ford Foundation.

See Photo Contest—Page 4

### JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING!

The Bath Community Forestry Committee meets the first 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](http://www.bathforestry.com)

## TREES AROUND BATH – Ash Tree

The threat facing America's ash trees is monumental. The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) cannot be stopped on its trek toward the northeast. This exotic Asian pest has destroyed 100 million ash trees from the Midwest to New England since 2002. Once the pest is detected in an ash tree, it is only a very few years before the tree dies. Maine has yet to see the EAB, but City Arborist Tom Hoerth says it is only a matter of time. Early detection is critical for developing and implementing control measures, says Hoerth.

The Maine Forest Service has issued identification guidelines for reporting the EAB, a brilliant fluorescent green, shiny torpedo-like insect. An ash tree will show signs of woodpecker feeding damage, D-shaped holes in the bark, tapeworm-like larvae with bell-shaped segments under the bark, S-shaped larval tunnels under the bark, and vertical splits in the bark often with tunnels underneath. The cost of removing and replacing ash trees in communities across the country will be staggering as will the economic impact on ash based industries.

The significant population of ash trees in Bath (well over 1,000 just on the City's streets) currently provide valuable benefits including filtering air pollutants, reducing storm water runoff, sequestering carbon, and providing energy savings for homes and businesses. During the next 10 years, Hoerth will be implementing a plan to remove and replace Bath's ash trees as well as other trees that will be devastated by invading exotic pests such as the Asian long-horned beetle which attacks hardwoods, especially maples, and the Hemlock woolly adelgid. Hoerth will be conducting biosurveillance this summer for the *Cerceris fumipennis*, a native ground-dwelling wasp that can help detect the ash borer. The predator wasp relies on buprestid (wood boring) beetles to survive.

Proactive management of community trees will not only save money and trees, but also preserve the aesthetics of neighborhoods. The Forest Pest Outreach Program through the Maine Forest Service is a collaborative initiative among numerous professionals and volunteers to determine the best management practices a community can take to combat the EAB. Get Planning! Visit [www.maine.gov/eab](http://www.maine.gov/eab) for more information and watch for announcements at [www.bathforestry.com](http://www.bathforestry.com) for Bath's ongoing efforts to save our ash trees.



Ash—*Fraxinus Americana* on Whiskeag Road in Bath

## Look UP Maine!

The Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is a destructive insect from Asia that has the potential to eliminate ash as a functioning part of our forests and landscapes. It was introduced to North America, probably through imported wood, in the early 1990's and since has spread rapidly from the U.S. heartland to New England.

Although this insect has not yet been confirmed in ME, detection of the EAB is getting closer and closer to the ME border. Last spring, the insect was found along the Merrimack River in Concord, NH which has resulted in regulation of Merrimack County. In November, EAB was found in North Andover, Essex County, MA. It is unclear at this time what impact that detection (within 10 miles of the NH border) will have on the regulated area, except that ash from close to the ME border has serious risk of transporting the insect through supply chains to ME mills. Forestry experts in NH have alerted neighboring states that there have been some inquiries from suppliers about moving ash products from the new emerald ash borer quarantine area to receivers in ME. Movement of ash from such areas is federally regulated. Receipt of regulated ash requires a special federal compliance agreement. Such an agreement can provide opportunity for limited, seasonally constrained, receipt of ash from quarantined areas.

City Arborist Tom Hoerth will be developing a long-range plan for Bath to eventually remove any diseased ash trees and plant replacement trees. Hoerth recently explained to the BCFC that a long-range plan is the most important task a community can undergo to alleviate anxiety of residents and their stress of losing long-established trees. The country has undergone major losses of trees such as the American elm (*Ulm americana*) and the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*). "Americans have dealt with similar problems in the past and I'm confident Bath residents, businesses, and the City will make a valiant effort to do what is necessary for Bath's ash trees," according to Elizabeth Haskell, BCFC chairman. "We must have a united front to combat this situation and plan for the future of our tree canopy," she added.



Tom Hoerth labels ash trees with information depicting cash value of environmental benefits an ash tree gives back every year.

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

# Arbor Week: green accolades for property owners; tree plantings benefit downtown; students transplant seedlings



## Arbor Week Festivities-2014

From root beer floats served by Now You're Cooking to yummy refreshments served by the Kennebec Co. to educational activities for Morse H.S. sophomores to the annual landscape awards, fun REALLY was had by all at the Arbor Week festivities last month in Bath.

In 2014 the BCFC will launch a city-wide campaign to develop awareness about the impending changes in the urban forest and the impact of those changes specific to Bath. With the help of BCTV, Facebook, the City website, and other social media, information from professional forest service organizations will provide important details in the world of forestry and woodland pests. Community involvement will be the key to maintaining a healthy tree community.

The Kennebec Co. will be collaborating with the BCFC on a project that will replace diseased ash trees that must be removed from the

environment. "The Kennebec Co. uses trees to make our hand-crafted cabinets. We want to replace the trees that we use while also ensuring that Bath, our Company's hometown, has healthy and vibrant trees downtown and in public spaces throughout the city," said Ken Strainic, of the Kennebec Co. Two trees planted at the Arbor Week event will be the first trees planted by the Kennebec Co. in honor of customers Drs. Matthew and Amina Hanna and Mr. & Mrs. Brad Matson, both of Bath. This will be an ongoing activity between the Kennebec Co. and the BCFC to produce "carbon-neutral cabinets".

Landscape awards this year went to Bill and Mary Gannon of Burger King for their vibrant use of trees and shrubs at the Leeman Highway location. Mr. & Mrs. Gannon take a great deal of pride in the landscaping of all their Burger King facilities. Carolyn Lockwood

received the residential award for her tremendous effort of landscaping an extremely difficult piece of property behind her home on High St. which actually faces Raymond Ct.

Tom Hoerth collected the City of Bath's distinguished Tree City USA award in Farmington on May 20th. The Maine Forest Service currently recognizes Bath as a premier example of a community that has a sound forestry program with a dedicated arborist and creative volunteers. "According to the Maine Forest Service, the BCFC is one of the oldest volunteer groups in the State to hallmark urban forestry. "We hope to expand our educational process in 2014 to do what is right for Bath's urban forests," said Elizabeth Haskell, BCFC chairman.



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

**Photo Contest—continued from page 1**

The contest is open to anyone, including non-residents, but the photos must be taken of trees within the boundaries of Bath's city limits. All adult and student entries will be judged on composition and presentation. Adult and student categories are judged by guest judges and this year a supporters' choice award will be selected by attendees of the October 8th BCFC fundraiser dinner from the entries on display at the Freight Shed in Bath. Winners of the contest will be announced that evening. Photographs will also be displayed on the City of Bath's website at [www.bathforestry.com](http://www.bathforestry.com) and at the Bath Freight Shed during the month of November.

Photographers retain ownership of their image, but entering an image implies an understanding that the photo can be used by the Bath Community Forestry Committee in promoting its interests and in its publications. All images

submitted must follow this criteria: 1) 5x7 or larger print; 2) black and white or color; 3) matting allowed, but no frames; 4) photos must be taken between October 2013 and October 2014; 5) complete application filled out with name of tree, place picture taken, date & time of photo, type of camera used, and title of image.

With i-pads, i-phones, digital cameras, and sophisticated SLR's, the world is an open book and instantly available to today's inquisitive amateur photographer. Great photography is not necessarily about equipment, however. No matter what camera you use, your images can stand above all the rest.

A few tips to taking better pictures include: simple photos are better than complex; composition—compose around a single object; shoot the same picture from different angles; remember that lighting is critical to the outcome; realize that digital zoom cuts down on sharpness

and resolution, so try to avoid using; and always be aware of the environment around you.

Photography contest winners in past years have received prizes from Bart & Greg's DVD Explosion, Beale St. Barbeque, Big Top Deli, Bull Moose Music, Byrnes Irish Pub & Restaurant, Henry & Marty's Restaurant and Catering, Just Framing, the Maine Arborist Association, Now You're Cooking!, Skillin's Greenhouses, Shelter Institute, and Tandem Glass Gallery & Studio.

The BCFC has this year's application available on line at [www.bathforestry.com](http://www.bathforestry.com). All entries may be delivered or sent to 1 Oak Grove Avenue, Bath, ME 04530. Photos may be submitted beginning September 15th through October 1 and judging will take place October 8th at the Bath Freight Shed at 5:00 p.m. For more information please contact George Waldman at [geowaldman@aol.com](mailto:geowaldman@aol.com)

**Mark Your Calendar****Spring 2014****May thru October, 2014****Druid Park, 1 Oak Grove Ave., Bath, ME**

Geraldine Coombs is looking for volunteers to work at Druid Park on Tuesday mornings during the summer between 8:00 a.m. and noon. Volunteers are not asked to stay the full four hours. Workdays are canceled when it rains. Call Lori Harper at 443-8345 if you would like to volunteer in maintaining this lovely gateway park.

**Stay Tuned for Upcoming Events! BCFC, Bath, ME**

**Facebook Page:** [www.Facebook.com/bathcommunityforestrycommittee](http://www.Facebook.com/bathcommunityforestrycommittee)

**Summer Events:** Tree watering volunteer brigade needed. E-mail Bruce Brennan at [bruce.brennan1@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.brennan1@gmail.com) to lend a hand.

**Fall Events:** Harvest Dinner at the Bath Freight Shed on October 8th. Silent auction, music, and BCFC photography awards that evening. Auction donations may be offered by e-mailing [ehaskell@midmaine.com](mailto:ehaskell@midmaine.com)

**Ongoing Events for residents:** Take great tree photos all year to enter the BCFC annual photography contest. See [www.bathforestry.com](http://www.bathforestry.com) for entry form and information about the contest.

**Butler Head Preserve:** Enjoy a delightful hike through the Butler Head woods this summer off Varney Mill Rd. in north Bath.

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

Support Bath's trees! Your contribution will be used wisely and be greatly appreciated. Forward to the address above. Make checks payable to BCFC and denote on the check if it is for the Trust Acct. or the Operations Acct.

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.



**2014 Committee Members**  
Elizabeth Haskell, Chairman  
Andrea Babin-Wood  
Steve Balboni, Ex-Officio  
Thomas Barrington  
Bruce Brennan  
Wendy Everham  
Thomas C. Hoerth, Ex-Officio  
James Hummer  
Aaron Park  
Mary Earl Rogers  
George Waldman  
Vacancy  
Lori Harper, Staff Assistant

**Bath Community Forestry Committee**  
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