

Community Forest News

City of Bath, Maine

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

Winter/Spring- 2015

Forestry Committee Book Review

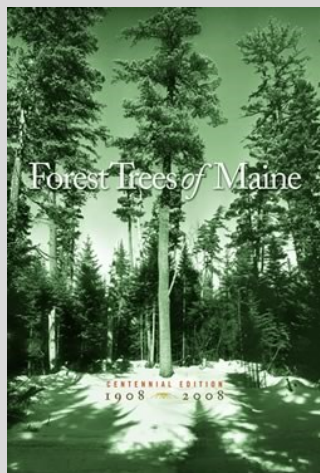
Forest Trees of Maine Centennial Edition 1908-2008

Maine is the most forested state in the U.S. and while we don't have as many species as some states, we have the most acreage covered by forests. In 1908 the Maine Forest Service released a booklet titled *Forest Trees of Maine*. In 2008, the 14th edition was published with color photos and maps.

This handy book contains information on 78 different tree species, including all of Maine's commercially important native trees, as well as a few of the more common and important introduced trees. When deciding which species to include in the 14th edition, emphasis was placed on trees that occur in Maine forests.

The book contains keys to help identify trees in both summer and winter; a glossary of common tree terms; illustrations of leaves and common parts of a tree; and the various distinctions among different strains of the same species like pine, spruce, oak, maple, birch, beech, etc. This book will provide hours of engaging activities for the amateur tree enthusiast.

Order the book online at www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/handbooks or call the Maine Forest Service at 207- 287-3200.



Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) provides early warning system in locating exotic pests

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (MDACF) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be conducting a national exotic pest survey in 2015. The goal of the program is to provide an early warning system for pest detection and response that is critical for safeguarding the nation's natural resources and agriculture. Typical surveys will target exotic and invasive pests and pests of export significance. State cooperators will also include the University of Maine and Cooperative Extension. Data collected from these surveys will be organized and stored in the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) database, which is accessible to the public and provides a wealth of information on exotic pests.

The program uses a multi-pronged strategy to accomplish its mission, involving:

- A structured, transparent assessment process to identify pest threats;
- Development of scientifically sound pest diagnostics and survey protocols;
- Providing survey materials (traps, lures, etc.);
- Conducting the actual pest surveys;
- Timely reporting of pest survey results through an approved database;
- Ensuring that the data collected is valid and of high quality; and
- Notification of significant pest detections through established protocols.

These efforts are accomplished by involving stakeholders and the scientific community, and leveraging efforts by other agencies in the USDA and the MDACF. The surveys conducted through CAPS are primarily funded through the USDA. The money supports inspections of commodities, conveyances, and passenger baggage conducted by Homeland Security at customs boarders, ports of entry, airports, etc.

With Maine bordering on Canada and having over 3,500 miles of coastline, the entry ports are numerous, not to mention the thousands of tourists who visit Maine each year from around the world. Maine's vast forests (the most acreage in the 50 states) are vulnerable to pests making pest control and identification a high priority with the Maine Forest Service.

It is critical that the public be alert to all pests that invade their properties or tree farms. The mission of the CAPS program is to provide a survey profile of exotic plant pests in the U.S. deemed to be of regulatory significance through early detection and surveillance activities. Individuals with information and/or concerns should contact Karen Coluzzi at the Maine Forest Service at 207-287-3891 or email her at karen.l.coluzzi@maine.gov.

See page 3 for a table of the pests that Maine foresters will be focusing on in 2015. All pest pictures and descriptions are available at www.maine.gov/dacf/php/caps/index.

See CAPS—page 3



Emerald Ash Borer
(*Agrilus planipennis*)



Asian Longhorned Beetle
(*Anoplophora glabripennis*)

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING! Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from September to June at 7:00 p.m. in the Bath City Hall second floor conference room. See us on the City of Bath's website at www.bathforestry.com or on www.facebook.com/bathcommunityforestrycommittee or call 443-8345.

TREES AROUND BATH – Swamp white oak

The Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) is a medium-sized deciduous tree with loose, scaly bark which gives it a shaggy appearance. As its common name suggests, Swamp white oak grows best in deep, damp soils and alongside streams and riverbanks. Swamp white oak is not abundant in Maine, but occurs in small, widely scattered groves especially in York and Androscoggin counties. The species name *bicolor* refers to the fact that the leaf has two different colors with the upper surface being glossy dark green and the underside silvery grey and covered with soft down.

Swamp white oak grows to an average height of about 60 feet and a diameter of 2–3 feet and can live as long as 350 years. The limbs are small, usually pendulous. The head is narrow, open and round-topped. The bark on old trees is deeply furrowed, divided into broad, flat ridges, flaky and grayish-brown. On young trees and branches, the bark is smooth and separates into papery scales that hang loosely. The inner bark is orange and the leaves are alternate, 4–6 inches long and slightly lobed.

The flowers appear in May when the leaves are not more than half-grown. The fruit matures the first season and the oval-shaped acorn has a long stalk three times as long as the cup and about one-third enclosed by it. The twigs have a yellowish or a light orange to reddish-brown bark. The wood is strong, heavy, hard, and rot resistant and is used for flooring, cabinetmaking, furniture and wine barrels.

This native North American tree is a constant source of food for forest rodents, hoofed browsers, pheasant, turkey and ducks. These species rely on the Swamp white oak for its acorns because they are much less bitter than the Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) acorns. All parts of the tree are a favorite for the white tail deer as well.

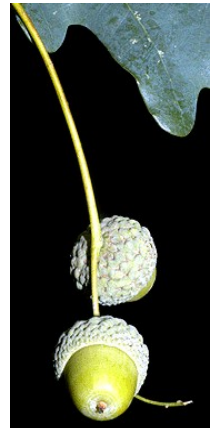
Generally, the Swamp white oak is a durable and long-lived tree, but it can be susceptible to potential diseases and insect pests, including canker, leaf spot, rust, blight, galls, caterpillars, borers, leaf miners, oak lace bug and oak mite. Tree specialists recommend *Quercus bicolor* as decorative large yard trees, for use as street trees, and for planting in damp soil areas.



The characteristics of a Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) are a deeply-furrowed shaggy bark, shown at left; glossy upper leaf and grey underleaf, lower left; elongated flowers that appear in May, lower center; and oval-shaped acorns with long stalks, lower right.

This beautiful, showy tree is often the choice of landscape architects for property boundary trees.

Photos from Virginia Tech, Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Maine Forest Service



Trees are a symbol of hope and endurance at the World Trade Center Memorial



1 World Trade Center in New York City with Swamp white oak in the foreground.

Photo by E. Haskell 2015

On a recent visit to the World Trade Center in New York, I was impressed by the incredible role that trees play in the remembrance memorial of that devastating day on 9/11/2001. Before I left for NY, I had just written the above article about the Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*). Coincidentally, upon arrival at the former site of the two World Trade Center buildings, I noticed that the two massive square fountains (the footprints of the two former buildings) were surrounded by an eight-acre urban forest of 400 Swamp white oak trees.

Amongst the forest of Swamp white oaks is the lone “Survivor Tree” that is distinct from the vast array of oaks. The single Callery pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana*) was discovered at Ground Zero - severely damaged, scorched, and truncated to eight feet. It was transported to a nursery in the Bronx where it received special care over many years. Replanted at the Memorial and now more than 30 feet tall, the “Survivor Tree” bursts into bloom each spring, embodying a living symbol of resilience. Seedlings from the “Survivor Tree” are sent to communities across the nation each year where terrible tragedies occur. The seedlings are raised by the Bartlett Tree

Expert Co. in Stamford, CT and are cared for by high school students at the John Bowne H.S. in Flushing, NY.

A complex mixture of gravel and nutrient-rich organic material and a unique cistern system were designed specifically to sustain the urban forest. The oaks were carried two by two on flatbed trucks to the site from a nursery in New Jersey, where they were grown. The Memorial grove is a symbol of hope and renewal as well as an attempt to create a vital new green space in the heart of Lower Manhattan. At their dedication in 2007, the Memorial President, Joe Daniels, said, “The trees will create a space of reflection, and remembrance apart from the sights and sounds of the City.”

And the tree stories don’t end at the oaks and the pear tree. A sycamore tree that grew for more than 70 years in the churchyard of St. Paul’s Chapel became a potent symbol of sacrifice after 9/11, when it was broken by the blast from the collapsing towers and helped to shield the church from damage. A bronze sculpture of the root system stands 18 feet high at the head of Wall St. in the yard of Trinity Church.

by Elizabeth Haskell

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

Tom Hoerth resigns 15-year position as Bath city arborist; will pursue organic farm business in north Bath

Tom Hoerth has spent the last 15 years as the City's steward for the healthy growth and development of Bath's forests and parks. During his years as City Arborist, Mr. Hoerth was one of the pioneering leaders of the Bath Community Forestry Committee along with Geraldine Coombs and Denis Hebert.

During Mr. Hoerth's tenure as arborist, the City of Bath has received an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Award every year and has also received a number of growth awards from the Foundation for achievement in publicity for the forestry newsletter; web page design; Earth Day celebrations; education of students in arboreal subjects; tree-related workshops for Bath citizens and overall arboreal leadership.

Former city arborist, Fred Pecci, who served the City of Bath from 1946-1998, was a mentor back in the early 1980's recalls Mr. Hoerth. "Fred was my inspiration," he said in a 2009 newsletter. "Fred and I worked together on the 1998 Ice Storm Recovery Grant when we inspected and assessed every street tree in Bath."

Mr. Hoerth has been actively involved with Project Canopy, Maine's urban and community forestry program that heightens public awareness of the community forest. He has promoted comprehensive community forestry management through sustainable local community forestry

programs and is responsible for receiving numerous grants for Bath to develop these programs.

As a former high school educator and graduate of the University of Maine in Plant and Soil Sciences, his educational projects with students never stopped. He donated his time to both Morse High School students and Bath Middle School students conducting inventory of the City's trees, tapping maple trees for sap and implementing the sugarbush program at Butler Head, doing risk assessment of the Oak Grove Cemetery trees, and instructing tree-climbing workshops for young people at Waterfront Park during Citizen Involvement Day.

When Mr. Hoerth is not planting, climbing or caring for trees, he can be found teaching as an adjunct instructor in the Horticulture Department at Southern Maine Community College. During his tenure with the City, he was active on numerous committees including the Bath Community Forestry Committee, Bath Conservation Committee, Project Canopy Leadership Team, Maine Arborist and Licensing Review Board, Maine Arborists Association, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Society of Municipal Arborists, New England Chapter of the ISA, Maine Landscape and Nursery Association, and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. He has received numerous awards



City Arborist, Tom Hoerth, with Bath Middle School students, planting fruit trees for the Apple C.O.R.E. project in 2013.

including the Morse High School Mainsail Award and the Green Leaf Award from the New England Chapter of ISA.

CAPS continued from page 1

MAINE SURVEY TO FOCUS ON THESE PESTS

Asian Longhorned Beetle
City Longhorned Beetle
Cotton Cutworm
Egyptian Cottonworm
Emerald Ash Borer
European Grapevine Moth
False Codling Moth
Goldspotted Oak Borer
Green Oak Tortrix Moth
Light Brown Apple Moth
Northern Corn Leaf Blight
Oak Splendour Beetle
Old World Bollworm
Pear Leaf Blister Moth
Rosy Moth
Sakhalin Pine Sawyer
Longhorned Beetle
Spotted Wing Drosophila
Summer Fruit Tortrix Moth
Variegated Golden Tortrix Moth
Zaprionus Fig Fly

Anoplophora glabripennis
Aeolesthes sarta
Spodoptera litura
Spodoptera littoralis
Agrilus planipennis
Lobesia botrana
Thaumatotibia leucotreta
Agrilus auroguttatus
Tortrix viridana
Epiphyas postvittana
Exserohilum turcicum
Agrilus biguttatus
Helicoverpa armigera
Leucophaea malifoliella
Lymantria mathura
Monochamus saltuarius
Monochamus sutor
Drosophila suzukii
Adoxophyes orana
Archips xylosteanus
Zaprionus indianus

from CAPS—USDA



City Longhorned Beetle
(*Aeolesthes sarta*)



Variegated Golden Tortrix Moth
(*Archips xylosteanus*)

Some exotic pests have not been found in Maine in the past.

The CAPS survey will determine if they are here now and what action needs to be taken.

The City Longhorned Beetle and the Variegated Golden Tortrix Moth are just a couple of pests that will be the focus of the 2015 survey and study.

Maps and other details are available at www.maine.gov/dacf/php/caps

Pictures and some text from Maine Forest Service & USDA

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

Bath Community Forestry Committee meets with state foresters and educators to evaluate future goals and activities for Bath's trees

It was an eye-opening meeting for the members of the BCFC this month when they met with forestry experts from the State of Maine. Tori Jackson from the Maine Cooperative Extension and Kevin Doran from the Maine Forest Service conducted a workshop to help the Committee evaluate its goals for the years ahead as Bath confronts the problems of an ever-changing climate.

"You have a lot on your plate," was the resounding sentiment of both professionals as the evening progressed and all the projects were reviewed. And there was one conclusion after the meeting—you can't do it all! The Committee will spend more meetings with Ms. Jackson and Mr. Doran in the coming months to determine the projects that must be ongoing, the projects that get put in the "parking lot" for a later time, and the projects that must be completed.

"I think it was fabulous!" said

Mary Earl Rogers, a non-voting member who has been on the Committee since 1999. She agreed, as did all members of the Committee, that this type of interaction was necessary to move forward. "We most narrow our focus and our energy so we don't forget why we are here," said Elizabeth Haskell, Co-Chairman of the BCFC.

Currently, the Committee projects include: Arbor Week activities, annual Landscape Awards, Photography Contest, Druid Park upkeep, Butler Head, Tree City USA and Growth Awards, local school planting projects, maintenance of the City nursery, fundraising events, pruning seminars, tree care and watering program, Project Canopy, and other educational projects as the need arises, such as the invasion of the Emerald ash borer in the near future. "Needless to say, we are always looking for volunteers," said Ms. Haskell.



Mary Earl Rogers, who has been with the BCFC since 1999, explains how the Committee started and its original goals and mission statement.

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: _____

Mail information and checks to the address above. Thank you!

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 would like to be notified to volunteer on future projects.



PHOTOGRAPHY
CONTEST
MAY 23, 2015
at 12:30 p.m.
Bath Freight Shed
See us on Facebook
for details

PRESTRT STD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 45
BATH, ME 04530

2015 Committee Members

Elizabeth Haskell, Co-Chairman
Wendy Everham, Co-Chairman
Lori Benson, Secretary
Andrea Babin-Wood
Thomas Barrington
Bruce Brennan
James Hummer
Aron Park
George Waldman
Mary Earl Rogers, Non-Voting
Steve Balboni, Ex-Officio
City Arborists, Ex-Officio

Bath Community Forestry Committee
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Bath, Maine 04530