

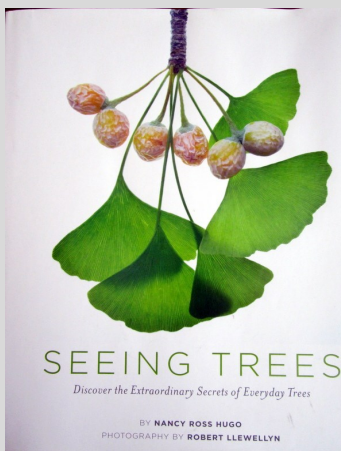
# Community Forest News

## City of Bath, Maine

Newsletter of the Bath Community Forestry Committee ♦ 1 Oak Grove Avenue ♦ Bath, Maine 04530

Spring/ Summer - 2015

### Forestry Committee Book Review



*Seeing Trees* makes tree watching as fun as bird watching. Nancy Ross Hugo's poetry of words and Robert Llewellyn's breathtaking photographs deliver a "steady stream of small astonishments" that underscore these miracles of nature. The authors decided to concentrate on ordinary trees and their exceptional traits rather than traveling the world to find trees that might be out of reach for the average citizen. Much to their surprise, the "backyard" proved to be an encyclopedia of tree information alerting them to a phenomena worthy of attention.

The book contains two years of intense tree observation divided into three sections: the challenges of tree viewing; tree traits; and, process of discovery. Both authors live in Virginia, thus their species observations were narrow, but diverse and rich in tree species. While many people look at trees as inanimate objects, others look at them as alive, brilliant works of engineering that have lived on earth for 397 million years and have adapted to extraordinary conditions. *Seeing Trees* will open your eyes to a new world!

by E. Haskell

## Kyle Rosenberg appointed Bath city arborist



**Kyle Rosenberg joins an elite group of arborists to serve the City of Bath following in the footsteps of Fred Pecci and Thomas Hoerth.**

For the past two decades Kyle Rosenberg has spent more time with trees than most of us will in a lifetime. His passion for trees and urban forestry is evident the minute you begin a conversation with him and his expectations and dreams for Bath are high. In a

recent interview with him, Elizabeth Haskell, chairman of the BCFC, asked him the following questions to get a better understanding of his ideas and background.

**Q: What was your motivation in getting a degree in Urban and Community Forestry?**

**A:** I originally enrolled at Unity College seeking a degree in Environmental Education. I grew up with a working knowledge of the woods and plants. I met some climbers who were enrolled in the Urban and Community Forestry program and was hooked.

**Q: Why is it important for Bath to have an arborist on staff?**

**A:** The City of Bath has an extensive and interesting history. Much of the history of Bath can be seen in the old houses and buildings throughout the city. Much of the older parts of Bath not only have old buildings but also have old trees and landscapes. It is the combination of buildings and plants (trees/shrubs, etc.) which really provide a sense of place. Trees can account for 12-20% of the landscape value on a given piece of real estate. Bath also has a great deal of parks, cemeteries, and infrastructure - all of which are filled with new, middle-aged and grand mature trees: the urban forest. The urban forest must have a steward who can maintain, plant, or remove trees as time moves along.

See *Rosenberg*-page 3

## Bath celebrates TREE CITY USA for 18th consecutive year; also receives Growth Award from Arbor Day Foundation

For the 18th consecutive year, Bath has received a *Tree City USA Award* from the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forestry management. Bath achieved the recognition by meeting the program's four requirements to have: 1) a tree board or department; 2) a tree-care ordinance; 3) an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita; and 4) an Arbor Day observance and annual proclamation. Because 2014 was an exceptional year for the Bath Community Forestry Committee (BCFC), Bath was also awarded the Arbor Day Foundation's *Growth Award* for achievement in producing a Facebook page, having a successful fundraiser with its Harvest Moon Dinner, putting Butler Head Preserve under a land conservation easement with the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, and starting a tree risk assessment in Oak Grove Cemetery.

"For Arbor Week celebration this year, the Committee gave away 60 evergreen trees and, with the help of Morse High School students we accomplished a thorough cleanup and weeding at Druid Park and the

City nursery," said Elizabeth Haskell, chairman of the BCFC. "The Committee plans to address the need of replacing some of the City's dead trees and preparing the nursery for next year's plantings. Under the guidance of Kyle Rosenberg, our new arborist, we hope to raise disease resistant trees, such as chestnut and elm, to replace those lost in years past," she said. "Bath is an old, historic city and it would be nice to plant healthy, historic New England tree species for replacements," said Ms. Haskell.

"These awards would not be attainable without City staff, the arborist, the Morse H.S. students, and the volunteers who make up the Committee," said Ms. Haskell. The awards are sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. "Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens make smart investments in urban forests," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. Kyle Rosenberg and Wendy Everham, vice-chairman of the BCFC, accepted the awards in Kennebunkport in May. See *ADF*-page 2

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



# TREES AROUND BATH – *Ginkgo biloba* ‘Autumn Gold’

The Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) is one of the most unusual trees in the world according to David Sibley, author of *The Sibley Guide to Trees*. There are no wild Ginkgo trees known to exist in the world today and the oldest, that appear to be wild, were planted over a 1,000 years ago by Chinese monks. Since the Ginkgo has no exact relationship to other living plants, it is in a division of its own called Ginkgophyta.

The most unique feature of the tree is its fan-shaped leaf which turns a brilliant saffron yellow in the fall. Sparse, tapered winter twigs covered with knobby spur twigs also make the Ginkgo a spectacular winter tree. The leaves are unique among modern trees: similar to ferns with a fan-like vein pattern that forks repeatedly.

The tree has an angular crown and long, somewhat erratic branches, and is usually deep-rooted and resistant to wind and snow damage. Young trees are often tall and slender, and sparsely branched; the crown becomes broader as the tree ages. A combination of resistance to disease, insect-resistant wood and the ability to form aerial roots and sprouts make Ginkgo trees long-lived, with some specimens claimed to be more than 2,500 years old. Most intentionally planted Ginkgoes are male cultivars grafted onto plants propagated from seed, because the male trees will not produce the malodorous (foul-smelling) seeds. The popular cultivar, "Autumn Gold", is a clone of a male plant. Only female trees produce seeds (August and November) which are oval in shape and hang at the end of a long stalk.

Ginkgo trees adapt well to the urban environment, tolerating pollution and confined soil spaces. They rarely suffer disease problems, even in urban conditions, and are attacked by few insects. For this reason, and for their general beauty, Ginkgoes, also known as maidenhair trees, are excellent urban and shade trees and are widely planted on many city streets for their beauty and longevity.

Bath has one of the oldest Ginkgo trees in Maine located at the home of Daniel and Mari Eosco on Washington St.



## Landscape awards and tree giveaway part of Arbor Day celebration

*ADF continued from page 1*



**Residential Landscape Award**  
**Catherine Skove**  
**51 High St., Bath**

The BCFC presented its annual residential and business landscape awards to 51 High Street and the United Methodist Church at 340 Oak Grove Avenue on May 21 during Arbor Week.

In 1864, 51 High St. served as the Free Will Baptist Church for almost 100 years. Under the guidance of the owner, Catherine Skove, the building was renovated beginning in 1998. The landscaping was a mass of scrub trees, invasive vines and a prickly tangle of shrubs. Majestic pines, birch, and other newly planted deciduous trees now serve as a backdrop for the restored building. "Reconstruction of the building and the grounds were a labor of love and historical perfection for Catherine," according to Tom Barrington, a BCFC member.

In the words of Rev. Neil Gastonguay of the United Methodist Church, "Our goal for landscape



**Rev. Neil Gastonguay of the United Methodist Church accepts Business Landscape Award from BCFC chairman, Elizabeth Haskell.**

and forest work is to offer Bath people a place to find comfort and peace and we encourage people to use our campus for walking, relaxing, and playing. We also welcome all people to the prayer garden and the forest meditation path." The Church members have done a beautiful job planting trees that will eventually grow large and contribute to the urban forest adjacent to Oak Grove Cemetery," said Ms. Haskell. *See ADF-page 3*



*Rosenberg-continued from page 1*

**Q: Why are trees important to you? Why are they important to all of us?**

**A:** Trees can be a glimpse into the past, a living sign post pointing to the past use of a property or stretch of land. Trees can respond to many changes around them that other living organisms cannot. Trees give us food, building materials, heat, shade, oxygen, fond memories, and a sense of place. Trees in the urban environment help with cooling of built up site, deflect storm water runoff and provide a shady spot for a picnic on a hot summer's day.

**Q: Was there a specific reason you wanted to apply for the job as arborist in Bath?**

**A:** I have been involved with tree care for nearly 20 years as a service provider. Working with the public and having an impact in a community is a real draw.

**Q: After only a month or so on the job, what do you think is going to be your biggest hurdle in Bath?**

**A:** I am looking forward to helping establish the City's nursery. Acquiring ornamental trees and shrubs to grow in the nursery and eventually place into the city landscape will be an exciting challenge.

**Q: Can you speak briefly about how a community like Bath can cope with global warming? (It is such a huge and controversial topic that it must be overwhelming to deal with it on a local level.) How do you deal with it or don't you?**

**A:** To the best of my understanding, climate change has been a part of the climatic history of the world since its beginning. Trends in heating and cooling at 30 + or - year intervals have been observed and recorded not only in human records, but also in the records of nature, like trees rings. Trees, shrubs, and other vegetation, when placed in a space where they thrive, can help with the extreme temperature swings we encounter in Maine on a seasonal basis. Deciduous trees planted on the south side of a building for summer shade would be one example. As fall approaches and the temperatures begin to fall, the deciduous trees lose their leaves, allowing for the sun to again warm the building.

On a city level, planting the right tree, shrub or perennial in the right place is the most important first step in improving the urban environment. Filling built-up spaces with vegetation is a close second step in improving the quality of life here in Bath. Encouraging community involvement isn't necessarily the third most important, but rather the primary driver to making everything come together.

**Q: What is your favorite and least favorite task of being an arborist?**

**A:** Working with trees, getting my hands dirty is great! Fighting the urge to rush things along, rather than being content with steady progress, is tough!

**Q: Pesticides and herbicides touch the nerve of many people. Do you think pesticides are necessary in an urban forestry plan?**



**A:** Products used to control unwanted insects, disease, or invasive plant species do play a roll in managing the urban forest. My goal is to manage the overall health of the forest to lessen our need for these products. Fortunately, many of the products used in the past were required to be sprayed onto the foliage of desired plants. Many products today may be applied in the soil, injected directly into the trunk, or even painted onto the bark.

**Q: Have you thought about how we in Bath are going to deal with the Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) when it arrives in Maine? Are we going to have to cut all of our Ash trees down?**

**A:** The Emerald ash borer (EAB), is a real threat to the Ash trees here in Bath. The insect sort of acts like locust when it arrives in an area in that it will come thru and feed on local trees until tree mortality forces them to move on. The City will be removing less desirable Ash trees while replanting various recommended tree species. Trees of value will be treated ahead of time to protect them.

**Q: What do you envision for Bath 10 years from now?**

**A:** My predecessor spent much of his career here planting what is now a well stocked urban forest. In the next decade I would like to see a well maintained urban forest of the plants which are here now and an expansion of the forest as space and land uses change. Bath is in its 18th year as a Tree City USA. It is my goal to have it continue as a Tree City for the next decade - planting trees today for Bath residents of the future.

Trees habitats are important to humanity, wildlife, and the environment, but they don't always receive the notoriety of saving rhinos from deadly poachers or polar bears from melting ice caps. Without trees, however, none of the fauna could survive on Earth. The BCFC strives to make Bath a healthy, prosperous, and beautiful community through the development and care of the trees, parks, and forests within the City. We welcome Kyle Rosenberg to our quest for a great and forested future in Bath!

*ADF continued from page 2*

"Bath residents are welcome to make suggestions for the BCFC landscape awards, but the properties must meet the criteria of having trees which contribute to the urban forest setting of Bath and all final decisions will be made by the Committee. Committee members and the City Arborist, Kyle Rosenberg, encourage individuals who have an interest in planting and growing New England forest species to contact us for advice and direction," said Ms. Haskell.

The BCFC is always looking for input on their projects and welcomes enthusiastic volunteers to dig in and help at Butler Head, Druid Park, and the nursery. All information and notifications of work days can be found on the BCFC Facebook page and [www.bathforestry.com](http://www.bathforestry.com).

**THANK YOU MORSE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!!!!**



## Who are we? What do we do?

The Bath Community Forestry Committee has existed since 1992 when it was founded by a handful of Bath citizens who saw a need for the care of the urban forest and city trees around Bath. The purpose of the Committee was, and still is, "to protect, to expand, to preserve, and use wisely, the forestry resources and green spaces found within the City of Bath, Maine".

Over the past 23 years, the BCFC has evolved from a tree care and watering organization to a full-fledged organization not only interested in the care and watering of trees, but also the future of trees and forests in an unsettling time of global warming, numerous tree diseases, and invasive insects that are threatening the very livelihood of New England's tree species.

Like the BCFC on Facebook, check out the City forestry website at [www.bathforestry.com](http://www.bathforestry.com); and watch for the arborist's updates at Bath Forestry Division on Facebook as well. The BCFC can be reached at [forestry@cityofbath.com](mailto:forestry@cityofbath.com). We want to hear what you have to say!

## NEGEF grant purchases watering system for nursery

The New England Grassroots Environmental Fund awarded the Bath Community Forestry Committee a \$2,000 grant in 2014 for the protection of Bath's trees. The Committee voted to purchase a watering system for the City nursery, gator bags for watering downtown street trees and tubular tree protectors for nursery trees.

The slow-release watering bags will provide 100% absorption for efficient deep-water saturation to prevent transplant shock and help attract roots downward into the soil. The tree protectors will help prevent damage to young tree trunks before and after initial planting. The watering system will allow the BCFC to finally grow the trees that will replace the dead trees in the City and those trees that must be removed due to disease, insect infestation, and age. The Committee will be raising bare root trees rather than potted trees which do not get the needed root growth before transplanting to a permanent location. This project would not be feasible without the NEGEF grant. NEGEF provides funds for organizations and non-profits in local initiatives that maintain healthy, just, and environmentally sustainable communities.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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](http://www.bathforestry.com) or on [www.facebook.com/bathcommunityforestrycommittee](http://www.facebook.com/bathcommunityforestrycommittee) or call 207-443-8345.

Bath Community Forestry Trust Levels

\_\_\_ \$300 Chestnut \_\_\_ \$100 Hickory \_\_\_ \$50 Hazelnut  
\_\_\_ \$25 Beech \_\_\_ Other

Bath Community Forestry Committee Operations Levels

\_\_\_ \$300 Oak \_\_\_ \$100 Elm \_\_\_ \$50 Maple \_\_\_ \$25 Pine  
\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_ Check here if you would like to be notified to volunteer on future projects. Thank you.

Mail to address above.

## VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR PROJECTS!

### CALL 443-8345

### Add your name to our list!



Elizabeth Haskell, Co-Chairman  
Wendy Everham, Co-Chairman  
Lori Benson, Secretary  
Andrea Babin-Wood  
Thomas Barrington  
Bruce Brennan  
James Hummer  
Aaron Park  
Mary Earl Rogers, Non-Voting  
Steve Balboni, Ex-Officio  
Kyle Rosenberg, Ex-Officio

2015 Committee Members

**Bath Community Forestry Committee**  
**1 Oak Grove Avenue**  
**Bath, Maine 04530**

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