



# Community Forest News

## City of Bath, Maine

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

Autumn - 2015

### Forestry Committee Tree Poetry

#### Under the Weeping Willow Tree



Do not fear for me,  
As you sit weeping,  
Underneath...

For I am ancient,  
Enemies I can see...  
Do not fear me.

Named by the worriers,  
Who fail to see...  
I will survive.

Please...do not weep for me...

Why?  
Because...  
The worry is for thee...

Soon to be "free from worry,"  
Underneath...

So to be...  
One with the tears you gave...  
When you named...  
*The Weeping Willow Tree...*

by D.E. Houghton

Used w/permission of the author

## Foresters for a day! Bowdoin College students volunteer at Butler Head for Common Good Day

*Common Good Day* is a yearly tradition at Bowdoin College that fosters collaboration among members of the Bowdoin community, local non-profit agencies, and municipal organizations in the greater Brunswick area.

In his inaugural address in 1802, Bowdoin President Joseph McKeen said, "It ought always to be remembered, that literary institutions are founded and endowed for the common good, and not for the private advantage of those who resort to them for education."

To carry his vision into the 21st century, each year nearly 500 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and Friends of Bowdoin volunteer on *Common Good Day* doing projects such as gardening, trail maintenance, visiting the elderly, painting, yard work, grant research, and spending time with children.

The Bath Community Forestry Committee took advantage of this enterprising day when seven students joined Committee members at Butler Head to complete trail clearing and a picnic area on Whistler's Trail along Merrymeeting Bay. Committee members Elizabeth Haskell, Tom Barrington, Jim Hummer, and Bruce Brennan welcomed the students on a bright, beautiful day in September with a goal to finalize clean-up in an area where many trees had fallen during previous winter storms.

All of the students who sign up to volunteer on *Common Good Day* do not choose where they go, but

are assigned to particular tasks in the area communities. The BCFC had a dynamic group consisting of five freshman and two juniors who were studying a variety of subjects for their majors including Spanish, African Studies, biochemistry, and anthropology.

The McKeen Center for the Common Good sponsors *Common Good Day* and offers students opportunities to explore themes of community responsibility, active citizenship and informed leadership through service and community engagement at the local, national and international levels. It creates avenues for community partners, alumni and staff to educate students by action and example. The McKeen Center's goals are to: 1) enhance student learning and leadership skills through reflective public engagement in the curriculum and co-curriculum while cultivating lifelong commitments to improving the well-being of society; 2) encourage and support publicly engaged teaching, research and artistic work; and 3) promote public engagement throughout the Bowdoin community by fostering discussion of the common good in campus-wide events that address issues of broad public concern.

Thanks to the McKeen Center, Andrew Lardie, Associate Director for Service and Leadership, and the students: Emily Charley from CT; Ben Troen from FL; Jessica Piper and Swapnika Mallipeddi both from CO; Sandro Cocito from LA; Jaana Singh and Charlotte Nash both from NY.



## TREES AROUND BATH – Weeping willow

The graceful Weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*) giant is known for its open crown of wispy, ground-sweeping branches and long, slender leaves. Often seen as one of the first indications of spring, the weeping willow's yellow twigs and green foliage appear early in the season—sometimes as early as March. The tree is easy to grow and quick to take root, reaching heights between 40 and 60 feet and can be as wide as 30 feet. It lends itself well to planting singly or in small groves near the edge of ponds, lakes and rivers, but not close to homes, wells, septic systems or underlying culverts or piping.

Among its attributes are the ability to thrive in a variety of soils; grow well in wet areas; produce lovely yellow flowers borne on short catkins in the spring; feature long, narrow leaves with a light green color and a finely toothed margin that appear early in the spring; and yield a brown fruit ¼" in diameter, leaving no litter to speak of.

The taxonomy of cultivated willows is very complex in North America. Variation and hybridization makes identification difficult even amongst the specialists. The weeping willow is a hybrid of the Babylon weeping willow and the Chinese weeping willow, thus the species genus and species name of *Salix babylonica*. It is one of the world's most celebrated and distinctive trees according to David Sibley's, *Guide to Trees*.

The weeping willow is an Old World tree with long, brittle-based twigs and branchlets that hang vertically, often sweeping the ground. Leaves are moderately narrow, fine-toothed, long-pointed, and white underneath and average 5-7 inches long. When landscaping with willows, one must remember that the tree grows very fast, requires considerably wet soil, and can grow to 60 feet high.

Willow trees have appeared in ancient Greek literature, Chinese culture and Scottish folklore for centuries. The tree has long been associated, in ancient societies, with healing, witchcraft, and death. Regardless of its legendary appeal, the weeping willow is a majestic and beautiful tree through all four seasons. One of the largest and most majestic weeping willows in Bath is in the North End on North Bath Road and two other weeping willows are located on Lemont St. at the former Anglim property.



*Salix babylonica* on North Bath Road

## Insect update from the Maine Forest Service for forest and shade trees

The Maine Forest Service has issued its final insect report for the growing season of 2015.

This year the traps were deployed for the **Asian Longhorned Beetle** (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) within and around the quarantine area near Worcester, MA. They caught their first adult ALB on August 14 within the current quarantine area. Looking for ALB this time of year has its advantages: the beetles are active until a hard frost; frass and sap are exuded from egg-laying sites and cracks in the bark and adult feeding activity may be visible. Adults feed on the main veins and stems of hardwood leaves and the tender bark of twigs; when significant, this can cause early leaf-drop. ALB has not been found in Maine, but early detection is critical. Monitor host trees (maple, birch, elm, willowpoplar, and others) for signs of damage from this pest.

**Browntail Moth** (*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*)—The browntail larvae have hatched and are skeletonizing the leaves of host trees. The larvae are so small that they do not bite all the way through the leaf - they just scrape off the good green stuff leaving the rest of the leaf intact. This is especially noticeable on the tops of red

oaks right now, but can also be seen on apple trees. This is a heads up to look at your oaks and apples in southern Maine. People generally are not bothered by the browntail rash now but remember that this is still an issue when raking leaves. If you do see browntail damage on the tops of your trees it is not too early to start thinking about whether or not you want to control them next spring. Webs that are within reach can be clipped out during the winter and burned or dropped in soapy water.

**Emerald Ash Borer** (*Agrilus planipennis*) – Emerald ash borer has not been found in Maine. Purple traps are beginning to be retrieved across the state. This fall and winter be on the lookout for “blonding” of ash trees caused by woodpeckers. These trees are worth a second look, as they may be host to emerald ash borer. The continuing concern surrounding the likely imminent discovery of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Maine has led landowners, foresters, and the general public to report the locations of many ashes and ash stands in an unhealthy condition. This heightened awareness is critical to our mission of detecting EAB as soon after its intro-

duction to the state as possible. We appreciate the vigilance and concern shown and encourage continued support and attention to the problem. Ashes and ash stands in Maine do have several significant health problems, and one or more of these has often been found as the cause of individual tree or stand decline reported to date. The following is a brief review of ash problems that are likely to be encountered, many of which have symptoms similar to those initiated by EAB.

**Hemlock Woolly Adelgid** (*Adelges tsugae*) – Dry conditions this growing season in the coastal region of the state will exacerbate damage from hemlock woolly adelgid. Accelerated hemlock decline and mortality as a result of a combination of hemlock woolly adelgid damage and drought stress may begin to accumulate. As might be expected, this is anticipated to be the worst on sites that are most prone to drought stress. *Managing Hemlock in Northern New England Forests Threatened by Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Elongate Hemlock Scale* is now available at [www.maine.gov/forestpests](http://www.maine.gov/forestpests).

See Insects page 3

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



# City nursery takes shape under new three-year goal of producing hardy trees for Bath cityscape

After years of sitting idle, the City's nursery on Old Brunswick Road is getting a new facelift! During the summer, the Bath Community Forestry Committee, with the assistance of the City Arborist, Kyle Rosenberg, rejuvenated a large plot in the nursery to begin growing bare-root saplings in the spring. The saplings will be planted into special cloth "grow bags" that will support healthy root growth and discourage stem-girdling roots. This growing system concentrates the root system within the bag and facilitates transplanting. These trees will eventually be planted throughout Bath as damaged and dying trees are removed.

The cleanup effort at the nursery started last May when Morse High School students volunteered their services for a day to remove hundreds of old pots and tree debris from a 50x100 foot area. All of the healthy evergreen trees were given away during May's Arbor Week celebration.

During the summer the ground was dug up to reveal an old layer of cloth that had been laid 25 years ago to protect the potted trees from weeds. Committee members pulled the cloth out and the land was rototilled in September to aerate the soil and prepare the area for a watering system in the spring. The watering system was purchased with grant money from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund.

Central Maine Power has generously donated many evergreen seedlings to the City over the years, but according to Rosenberg, evergreens don't necessarily work everywhere in an urban landscape. "We need smaller trees in certain areas like the downtown," he said.

"With a City nursery we can grow species of trees that are suitable for Bath and ideal for the future environment, which is changing decade to decade," said Elizabeth Haskell, chairman of the BCFC. "We would also like to raise the newer, disease-resistant species like elm and chestnut to sell for fundraising efforts to keep the nursery thriving for years to come," she said.

The advantages of having a City nursery are many: it saves money; trees adjust to the local climate; it increases diversity in the urban forest which in turn protects against large-scale invasive pests; survival rate increases; and, citizens, through volunteering, can take an active role in the care of the trees once they are planted.

"We hope to utilize some of the ideas used in the Burlington, VT program, 'Branch Out Burlington-BOB' that has been very successful," said Wendy Everham, vice chairman of the BCFC. "They have an annual tree planting day which attracts 70-80 volunteers of all ages. Refreshments are served when the work is done and everyone goes home with a door prize. It's a fun day with great results!"



Jim Hummer, Kyle Rosenberg, and Bruce Brennan remove old ground cloth from nursery and grade area for trees.



## Insects cont'd from page 2

**Gypsy Moth** (*Lymantria dispar*) – A gypsy moth outbreak snuck up on residents of southern New England this year. Forest health staff in Massachusetts attributed the caterpillar's success to a dry summer in 2014 and a dry spring in 2015 sparing the insect from the fungal disease, *Entomophaga maimaiga*. MFS will be conducting an egg mass survey later this year to try to forecast next year's damage. Dry conditions in areas traditionally hard-hit by gypsy moth may have supported building populations. Homeowners can also do their own surveys with the aim of

reducing next year's defoliation. Look for gypsy moth egg masses around your yard and destroy those you can reach.

**Where to look?** Almost anywhere! Gypsy moth females deposit their eggs very close to where they pupated. Therefore eggs are often in protected locations such as bark cracks, in building eaves, under stacked lumber, on the undersides of: branches, rocks, picnic tables, lawnmowers...wherever the caterpillar, and later the adult female, found a safe place.

**What to look for?** Egg masses will be buff-colored, irregularly shaped masses. They

usually are between 1/2" and 2" long, and ~1/2" to 1" wide. The eggs, which resemble tiny marbles, are covered with a protective layer of the hair from the female moth's abdomen.

**How to destroy?** Make sure to remove the eggs from the landscape. You can seal them tightly in a plastic bag and dispose of them in the trash; soak them overnight in a solution of warm soapy water; or treat them with in place with horticultural oil labeled for gypsy moth control. See more information at [www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications)

Maine Forest Service—Forest Health & Monitoring Report

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

## BCFC & Bath Forestry Division on Facebook

Are you in the know about what's going on with the trees in our fair City? Do you know the latest buzz on what's eating the leaves on your favorite maple tree? Do you know what those funny looking green bags clinging to the downtown trees are for?

Kyle Rosenberg, City Arborist, posts facts on the Bath Forestry Division Facebook page on a regular basis to keep citizens informed and involved with what he is doing around town.

Likewise the BCFC also has a Facebook page that not only

keeps you informed about the Committee's work, but also tries to keep readers up-to-date on important Maine and national forestry news. Both of the sites welcome your participation and comments, especially about your concerns and interests in Bath.

The future is full of surprises related to the changes in our urban forests so the intent of both the BFD and the BCFC is to keep you informed with the latest news as it may relate to you and your property. Go to FB and LIKE US! We will like you for doing so!

## Vacancies on Committee—Seeking Volunteers

There is an opportunity available for YOU to join the most active outdoor group in Bath, the Bath Community Forestry Committee. There are currently two vacancies and the only requirement necessary is that you need to be a Bath resident. We are especially looking for individuals with computer website knowledge, event planning experience, educational background, environmental planning, forestry, or any pertinent background experience that will contribute to the cause of preserving Bath's urban forest and

parks. The Committee also has five sub-committees: communications; finance; tree care; education; and Butler Head that any non-resident citizen can join.

Applications are available at the Bath City Clerk's office at 55 Front St. in Bath and on-line at [www.cityofbath.com](http://www.cityofbath.com) in the Boards and Committees section of the website.

If you have questions, please call Elizabeth Haskell at 443-4739 or the City Clerk at 443-8332.



## 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**



Elizabeth Haskell, Co-Chairman  
Wendy Everham, Co-Chairman  
Andrea Babbitt-Wood  
Thomas Barrington  
Bruce Brennan  
James Hummer  
Aaron Park  
2 Vacancies  
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**

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