

Spring 2018

MAINE TREE HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By JOE RANKIN

The Maine TREE Foundation, the state's premier organization dedicated to educating people about the values of Maine's forests, is preparing to enter its third decade under the guidance of a new executive director.

Henry Whittemore of Readfield took over at Maine TREE in February, succeeding Sherry Huber, who retired after 22 years. Whittemore is only the third executive director in the organization's history.

Whittemore said Maine TREE has played a tremendous role in helping the public understand the role of healthy forests to the state's environment and the economies of communities.

It has also been instrumental in guiding the debate over the future of those forests, he said, helping cut "across the dialogue that is often so contentious between industry and environmentalists. It's often an either/or mentality and I think Maine TREE has been able to bring a both/and mentality to the conversation."

Maine TREE was founded in 1989 under the auspices of the Maine Forest Products Council and became an independent organization a few years later. Huber became executive director in 1996.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed it," said Huber. She added that Maine TREE has managed to put people in real contact with the forest and its forest-based economy in ways no other organization has, especially though its annual teacher tours.

A variety of educational programs fall under the Maine TREE umbrella, including Project Learning Tree; the Long-term Education About Forests (LEAF) program, which sponsors the teachers' tours, the Certified Logging Professional (CLP) program, Maine Tree Farm Program, Forests for Maine's Future, and Keeping Maine's Forests. In 2015, Maine TREE became the owner of the Holt Research Forest in Arrowsic, a 300-acre research facility that holds 35 years of forestry research.

Whittemore said all of the programs are "interesting and compelling," but part of his mission will be to determine which are core to the organization's education and research mission, balancing that against "how many programs we can continue to support."

Right now he sees Project Learning Tree, LEAF, CLP and the Holt Research Forest as integral, with the research forest in Arrowsic offering particular promise. Decades of research data collected there, "could help glue together some of the science around the forestry puzzle," he said, if it's archived and organized to make it accessible.

Whittemore said he also thinks non-profits can benefit from adopting a slightly more "entrepreneurial" attitude. "I'm hoping I can bring that kind of sensibility to the Maine TREE Foundation, to ratchet us up a little bit and see how our programs can really have a measurable impact on the communities, the ecosystems and economies where forestry is practiced in the state."

Whittemore has a masters in forestry from Yale and worked as a forester for Boise Cascade and the New England Forestry Foundation. He's worked for the Trust for New Hampshire Lands and for Maine's Bureau of Public Lands. But most of his career has been spent acquiring and managing vast tracts of forestland all over the globe for forest investment firms such as Hancock Timber Resource Group and Fourwinds Capital Management. He now runs his own independent forestry consulting group, Crow's Nest Collaborative.

Whittemore notes that while much of his career has been on the finance side of forestry, he has also been involved in stewardship and the development of large-scale forest conservation easements. Whittemore and his wife, Darcy, have a son and a daughter and are big proponents of educating kids about the outdoors, he said. "They grew up in the woods and our home woodlot and camp are very much a part of who we are as a family."

"I really look forward to bringing new energy and enthusiasm to Maine TREE and to continuing to work on all of our programs with supporters and constituents."



Henry and Sherry cutting her retirement cake at the February Board meeting

MAINE TREE FOUNDATION
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Mission: The Maine TREE Foundation educates and advocates for the sustainable use of the forest and the ecological, economic and social health of Maine's forest community.

The Vision of the Maine TREE Foundation: The public values and supports Maine's healthy forest ecosystems, forest professionals, scientific forest management, and sound public policies that sustain Maine's forest-dependent people and communities.

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2017 OUTSTANDING LOGGERS AND NEW CLPS RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL BANQUET

The twenty-seventh annual Certified Logging Professional Banquet in December featured 2017 Outstanding Logger Awards and recognition of a number of the 126 loggers who completed CLP training during 2017. This year's class was comprised of 21 conventional, 90 mechanical, 5 associates and 10 contractor supervisor loggers.

Mike St. Peter, owner of St. Peter Safety Services and CLP Program Director, and Paul Cyr, Chair of the CLP Board of Directors, awarded certificates to graduates. Mike drew the numbers of many ticket holders to distribute articles of donated equipment. Marcia McKeague, Maine TREE Board President was the lucky ticket holder and won the chainsaw-carved bear, created and donated by CLP Mike Thurlow to benefit Make A Wish Foundation. Alden Robbins, of Robbins Lumber gave an excellent keynote address. Also, Eric Kingsley, Forest Resources Association spoke about the work they do.



(l to r) Paul Cyr, CLP Chair, Kenny Fergusson, Huber Resources, Marc Greaney, Stephen Hanington accepting for Armand Roussel, and John Chamberlain

The Mechanical Operator award went to Armand Roussel of Madawaska. John Chamberlain of Mercer received the Conventional Operator award and Marc Greaney, owner of Western Maine Timberlands of Fryeburg, was recognized in the Supervisor/Contractor category. Huber Resources sponsored the awards for the nineteenth year along with Conservation Forestry Partners. The recipients were nominated by co-workers and received a plaque, a monogrammed jacket and a check for \$1,000. They were recognized for demonstrating the highest level of professionalism throughout their careers.

2018 TEACHERS' TOURS TAKE YOU TO SOUTHERN MAINE AND THE DOWNEAST LAKES

The twenty-first offering of Teachers' Tours of Maine's Forests and Mills will be going to Southern Maine and to the Downeast Lakes region. Once again we will bring educators into close contact with modern harvest operations and wood products manufacturing, outdoor classrooms and wildlife habitats. We will make connections to the environmental and economic benefits that Maine's renewable natural resource, our forest, provides.

Our first Tour will be based at Poland Spring Resort (www.polandspringinns.com) from July 10-13 in Poland. The second Tour will be held July 24-27 at Leen's Lodge (www.leenslodge.com) in Grand Lake Stream. We expect the Tours will fill up quickly, so contact Maine TREE soon for more information and a registration brochure.

We will focus on the traditional manufacturing of lumber as well as the new generation of forest products, energy in all its forest applications, and the crucial role forests play in water quality. Pat Maloney, Maine Project Learning Tree Coordinator, and her team of facilitators will connect these subjects with activities you will be able to use in the classroom.

The tours will connect math, science, technology, language arts, and social studies with information about forest practices that protect our drinking water and aquatic

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Russell Black and family during the award presentation

RUSSELL BLACK IS MAINE'S 2018 OUTSTANDING TREE FARM

Russell Black of Wilton is the Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer for 2018; the award was made during the Forestry Forum by Governor Paul LePage. Black, a four-term legislator, currently serves on the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee.

Russell worked his grandfather's 65-acre woodlot in his youth, then inherited his father's 200 acres on the Black Road in 1973. His state award has been a long time coming; he was runner up for the Outstanding Tree Farmer award in 1976, and has won three annual Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation awards.

Black credits Abbott Ladd, former Maine Tree Farm Committee member and Maine Woodland Owners executive director, for his decision to join Tree Farm. The third generation of his family on the land, Black, his wife, four children, and 10 grandchildren all play active roles.

Tree Farm Chair Kyle Burdick also announced two county winners: Don Newell's 250-acre Tree Farm in Unity and Thorndike, and Brian and Susan Carlton of Jonesboro, who've managed 102 acres since 2009.

The Maine Tree Farm/Maine Woodland Owners Forestry Field Day which will be held on Saturday, September 8, will be hosted by the Black Family on their property.

MAINE WOODLAND OWNERS RECEIVES 2017 AUSTIN WILKINS STEWARDSHIP AWARD

The 14th Austin Wilkins Award, representing exemplary forest stewardship was awarded to Maine Woodland Owners. The award – a hand-carved wood plaque – was presented by Senate President Mike Thibodeau and House Speaker Sara Gideon; U.S. Senator Angus King, who was in Washington, DC, added his congratulations through a video message.

It was just the second time in the award's history it has gone to a non-profit organization, rather than an individual or business; Maine Tree Farm was the 2013 recipient. In 2016,

the Wilkins award went to Max McCormack, retired University of Maine research professor, who helped design the award when it was first presented in 2004. Austin Wilkins was the first recipient at the age of 101!

Ronald Lovaglio, representing the Maine TREE Foundation introduced the speakers. He was the commissioner of the Department of Conservation in the King Administration and he noted some of the past recipients, including Seven Islands, Robbins Lumber, the Baskahegan Company, Prentiss & Carlisle, Sherry Huber and John Hagan. Ron stated "These are our Golden Globes, and Maine Woodland Owners has earned a place in this distinguished company". Speaker Gideon said "At the State House, we understand that the working forest is central to our environment and our economy, as well as our way of life". President Thibodeau, also looking over the list of honorees, said, "What a prestigious award this is. They're all iconic names, companies that really drive the Maine economy ... we recognize that Tom Doak and his team do a terrific job at the State House representing the members of the Maine Woodland Owners."



Mike Thibodeau, President of the Senate, Jessica Leahy, President of Maine Woodland Owners, Scott Wilkerson representing Sen. King, Tom Doak, Executive Director, Maine Woodland Owners and Speaker of the House, Sara Gideon

2018 Teachers' Tours, Continued from page 2

environment and hear about promising research into the new generation of high value forest products. The tours offer the chance to experience modern technology in the woods and mills and to meet and talk with the people who work there.

If you are an educator (preK-12, Pre-Service student, youth group such as Scouts, home schooler, conservation commissioner, adult education leader, etc.) call (207) 621-9872, e-mail info@mainetree.org or visit www.mainetreefoundation.org for more information or to download a registration brochure.

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