

Maine TREE Foundation

TIMBER RESEARCH & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Fall 2018

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Fall is in the air as I write this. Most of our ash trees have lost their leaves; several hard frosts have nipped the tips of the few tender plants that remain in our garden. And our wood stove is back in action after a long, very hot summer. Soon, I will be watching for deer in my woodlot as hunting season begins. As I reflect on the last eight months since becoming Maine TREE's third executive, I am thrilled to be a part of this organization and to work with our staff, board and the many volunteers who work hard to bring forestry research and environmental education into our schools and communities.

The Maine TREE Foundation embodies much of the best about Maine and the communities that depend upon our forests for livelihoods, recreation, environmental services and a quiet refuge. Maine TREE brings Maine's forests into the classroom and we bring classrooms into Maine's forests! When kids get outside, education just happens.



Students at the China School Forest

New observations lead to new excitement about learning for both students and teachers. Our forests unite us as Mainers. They connect us to our families, friends and neighbors and to the communities where we live. And the Maine TREE Foundation works hard to make these connections in meaningful ways for Maine's schools, teachers, students and the many organizations that comprise the fabric of the forested rural communities where so many of us live.

This summer, we hosted two very successful Teachers' Tours of Maine's Forests and Mills. Please read the blog written about Jenny Wiltse-McClure's experience on our Downeast Tour that appears elsewhere in this newsletter. It provides a very good glimpse into the two tours that we offer every summer and captures the enthusiasm and interest in learning about Maine's forests that builds over

the course of the four days we are learning together as a group. Our website has more photos and a detailed description of each tour.

Speaking of our website, if you haven't already done so, please check it out at www.maintreefoundation.org. It was redesigned this past spring and provides a good overview of the programs we manage and the organizations we work with to bring students and teachers into a deeper understanding of Maine's forests and all the complex environmental, economic and social factors that influence them. On our website, we also have a new tab where online donations to the Maine TREE Foundation can be made quickly and easily using PayPal: <http://maintreefoundation.org/contribute/>. You may also contribute using a credit card by calling CJ Herlihy at 621-9872.

Some other big news for this small non-profit is that we have relocated our offices to 535 Civic Center Drive in Augusta where we are now co-located with the Maine Forest Products Council, the organization that first housed Maine TREE at its founding in 1989. It is interesting to see how things come full circle, as we get ready to celebrate our 30th anniversary! We will have more to share about that in later updates and announcements.

This brings my gratitude to all supporters of Maine TREE and our many volunteers. Thank you for helping us with your donations and with your time and energy for our work! We could not accomplish everything we do without you! Thanks for your support!

The Maine TREE Foundation has moved its offices to:

535 Civic Center Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

The phone and email addresses are the same.

www.maintreefoundation.org

MAINE TREE FOUNDATION
PO Box 5470, Augusta, ME 04332-5470
(207) 621-9872
info@mainetree.org
www.maineTREEfoundation.org

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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1930's. He has a healthy curiosity about how the forest responds to management and how we can improve on forest productivity in a sustainable manner. This led him to study forest management at the University of Alberta and eventually to graduate studies at Oregon State University and the University of Florida.

Brian writes: "I feel privileged to serve on the board of the Maine TREE foundation and assist in advancing its program of Timber Research and Environmental Education (TREE) through implementing research and education programs for schools, government, media, and the general public. There is something very powerful about going to the forest and making a discovery or learning something new. I have experienced firsthand those "aha" moments and when those happen when you're young it has a lasting impact on a person's life and future. We have a wonderful opportunity with the TREE Foundation to engage and connect our youth to our working forests through citizen science projects in 'outdoor classrooms' around the State of Maine."

Thanks for joining us, Brian – and welcome aboard!



Brian Roth with 24 year old costal redwood in Oregon

Maine TREE Welcomes Dr. Brian Roth to join the Board of Directors

We are delighted to welcome Brian Roth as the newest member of the Maine TREE Foundation's Board of Directors. Brian is the Program Leader of the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU) at the University of Maine (UMaine) in Orono. The CFRU serves as a connection between Maine's forestry community and the University. Every day, Brian works with the State's forest landowners, managers, and wood processors, connecting them with researchers and students at UMaine and supporting applied research projects on 8 million acres of working forests.

As a youth growing up in Northern Canada, Brian was a member of the Junior Forest Wardens – a Canadian volunteer-led organization focused on developing a wildlife and wildlands conservation ethic in youth since the

*** **SAVE THE DATE** ***

CLP BANQUET

November 30, 2018

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Jeff's Catering, Brewer, Maine



Sophia Horn giving Henry Whittemore the money she raised

A SPECIAL VISITOR

We had a special visitor at our office on Friday, October 19. Sophia Horn is an 8 year old girl who opened a lemonade stand in Hallowell this summer. She wanted to donate the money she raised to a non-profit and chose the Maine TREE Foundation because she loves trees and being outside. During her many adventures playing in the woods, Sophia has learned a lot about trees and wildlife. We were honored to meet her and are inspired by her generosity in donating her hard-earned lemonade stand money. We gave her and her mom, Julie, a tour of our offices and learned about why Sophia loves nature and trees. She is a very special little girl and it was so nice to meet her! Thank you Sophia. We wish you all the best for your adventures in the woods!

THE GREAT MAINE WOODS 2018 TEACHERS' TOUR BLOG

Sarah Perry, Carrabassett Valley Academy (CVA)

For dedicated educators, the summer is an opportunity to rejuvenate the passion that makes their profession worthwhile. This can mean taking some time away from the classroom, exploring other interests and hobbies, or for many - switching up the role and once again becoming a student themselves.

CVA College Advisor and Math & Science teacher, Jenny Wiltse-McClure, decided to take some time over the summer to do just that. For three days, Jenny participated in a workshop for a continuing education credit with the Maine TREE (Timber Research and Environmental Education) Foundation. The Maine TREE Foundation works with State of Maine Foresters and Project Learning Tree (PLT) to educate and advocate for the sustainable use of the forest and the ecological, economic, and social health of Maine's forest community. Participants are exposed to real-world applications of ecological field studies and relate these studies directly to sustainable forestry and wildlife management practices.

Jenny has utilized the PLT Forest Study curriculum to conduct field studies in CVA Environmental Science courses for the past three years, and she was excited to have the opportunity to see how to apply that curriculum in a more global perspective.

The workshop squeezed in a great variety of topic studies and visits in only a few days. The group toured a local sugar bush and commercial maple sugar site; participated in an outdoor classroom lesson with a state soil scientist; conducted studies in forest management and silviculture with a forester from Baskahegan Land Company; visited salmon habitat support projects with Downeast Land and Lakes Trust; went on a tour of a Passamaquoddy managed forest, where they were introduced to ground-breaking wildlife habitat management studies that the wildlife biologist is currently conducting; and also, went on a tour of Woodland Pulp and St. Croix Tissue Mill in Baileyville.

Jenny is excited to integrate her current curriculum with much of what she learned while attending this course. "This workshop will allow our students to join a statewide data tracking program for forests by helping us establish a Forest Inventory Growth plot (a FIG plot) right in the forest surrounding CVA." Jenny said, continuing, "A State forester will come to campus to work with students to identify, measure and examine the health of all trees



Dave Rocque, soil scientist, leads a discussion

within a set parcel of land, which becomes our FIG plot for each following year."

Jenny sees this as an opportunity to connect our students with a much larger effort throughout the state, as well as local landowners. She highlighted, "Data will be uploaded to a statewide website each year, and we will be able to compare the growth and health of our forest with many others in the state. This database will also provide helpful field study data to state foresters and local landowners."

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Later this school year, the Maine State forester, State Soil Scientist and other forest industry professionals (including Penobscot Nation foresters and wildlife biologists) will work with CVA students at various points throughout the Fall and Spring terms to explore further aspects of forest ecology and sustainable forest practices.

Of course, Jenny's efforts provided her with some great new take-aways, "It's good to know the foresters (employed by the government, industry and private landowners alike) are all working to manage forests in a way that supports wildlife and ensures the future growth and health of the forest system. This common goal maintains essential ecosystem balance with healthy forests and wildlife populations while still gaining income from forest plots for land owners."

Wrapping up, Jenny notes, "I'm really excited for our fall forest studies class in general; being able to just step outside of the classroom to conduct our own field studies is an incredible resource."

2018 TEACHERS' TOURS OF MAINE'S FORESTS AND MILLS

This summer, we hosted two very successful Teachers' Tours of Maine's Forests and Mills. During our first tour in southern Maine, Steve Chandler introduced our group of about 20 teachers to his remarkable Tree Farm, a 2,500-acre tract of forestland within 20 miles of Portland that has been owned and managed by the Chandler family since 1762. In 2018 the Chandlers donated their land to the Maine Woodland Owners. Portland Water District in Standish was our next stop where we learned how forest management and careful conservation of the many values in the district's watershed produce clean water, abundant wildlife and fisheries habitat as well as plentiful recreation opportunities. In West Paris, we had an opportunity to visit an inspiring venue for outdoor education. The Agnes Gray School has integrated forestry and environmental education while using the **Project Learning Tree** curriculum. Bridgton's Hacker Hill was the location for the group's discussion with Thom Perkins, of Loon Echo Land Trust and how it works to conserve the lands, lakes and other natural resources of the northern Sebago Lake region that encompasses seven towns. Our final visit was to Sappi Fine Paper's mill in Westbrook. We enjoyed a rare opportunity to tour this world-class facility that makes casting and release papers. These are the paper-based products that create the textured impressions for familiar surfaces such as automobile dash boards, luggage and many handbags. Our group enjoyed a fun exercise in paper making deep inside the mill.

Our second group of 25 teachers toured the Chandler family's Sugar Shack in Topsfield, visited East Grand School's outdoor classroom in Danforth, and saw active



Agnes Gray Elementary School Outdoor Classroom, W. Paris

forest management operations at Baskahegan Land Company. We had an opportunity to hear from the Downeast Lakes Land Trust folks about the balance between conservation and active forest management of their lands. We also looked at culvert restoration efforts that are critical in maintaining the quality of lake and river waters in this vast watershed.

We enjoyed an opportunity to visit the forestry operations and cultural museum of the Passamaquoddy people. Our final stop was a guided tour of the Woodland Pulp and St. Croix Tissue Mill in Baileyville where we observed, first hand, the beneficial impact on a small rural community when the region's major employer invests nearly \$200 million in capital improvements!

Many thanks to all the many volunteers who worked together to plan, organize, and facilitate our 2018 tours. And special thanks goes to all our hosts at the many stops



Paper making at the SAPPi Mill, Westbrook

along the way! Please consider joining us for one of the **2019 Teachers' Tours**. We will be announcing the locations, dates and itinerary early in the New Year. We plan to make the 2019 tours extra special as next year will be the 30th anniversary of the Maine TREE Foundation and 23rd year of conducting these popular tours.