



OverSTORY

Timber Research Environmental Education

Volume 3 Number 1

Spring 2021

Newsletter of the Maine TREE Foundation



Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours Return to In-Person

This summer, Maine TREE will host two sessions of our popular **Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours**, held live and in-person (and following all CDC protocols). Session 1 will run from July 13-16 in the Moosehead Lake Region, and Session 2 from July 27-30 in the Katahdin Region. Educators of all levels are encouraged to apply.

The Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours are an opportunity for Maine educators to gain and disseminate holistic knowledge about our forests – from ecology and tree growth to harvest and processing of wood products, with consideration of impacts on local communities. Over the course of four days, participants experience a Project Learning Tree workshop, site visits to local harvests and forest products companies, and interactions with forest professionals. The goal of the program is to prepare teachers to bring this knowledge back to their classrooms to inspire the next generation to consider forest-based careers.

In 2021 the Teachers' Tours will have limited enrollment due to enhanced safety precautions during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Priority will be given to teachers with a demonstrated interest in and experience with hands-on, experiential environmental education.

Teachers who have access to forests and other outdoor spaces for education are more likely to put knowledge and skills gained on a Teachers' Tour into practice, thereby supporting Maine TREE's mission to expand forest-based learning across the state. Participants will be asked to follow up the training with a forest-based learning deliverable (e.g. a Teachers' Tour-inspired lesson plan; a short video of their students using PLT).

Application is available here: <https://forms.gle/CFPVZcjX9PrNZgXa8>

Application Deadline: April 15, 2021

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Maine **TREE** Foundation

TIMBER RESEARCH & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

2020 Annual Report

A Message from the Board President



Dear Maine TREE Foundation Friends and Family,

It was an eventful year at the Maine TREE Foundation in 2020, and not because of the international pandemic, although that added its own twist and challenges to the year. The year began with succession planning for Henry

Whittemore, who after leading the organization for the past several years was about to welcome his and his wife Darcy's first grandchild. This exciting news led to a thorough search for an executive director, with many well-qualified candidates applying for the position. Although running a search for an executive director in the middle of a pandemic led to the utilization of different interview mediums, Maine TREE was thrilled to find and offer the position to Jonathan LaBonte in May and begin the onboarding process. For those of you who have had the pleasure to meet Jonathan, he has brought an exuberant and structured approach to the programs under the Maine TREE umbrella.

The Maine TREE team met the challenge of remote work and continued to provide safe and important outdoor curricula to our state's educators at a time when they couldn't be more important. This included shifting our venerable Teacher Tours to an online platform called "Window to the Woods." The feedback received from this

program and others provided since has allowed Maine TREE to create more content and resources for educators, the community, and people of Maine to learn about the forest and all that it provides.

Looking forward in 2021, Maine TREE has hired a new Director of Education, Jessie Rack, to lead education efforts at the foundation. We are also in the process of advertising for a Programs & Outreach Coordinator to enhance outreach and connections to our Maine TREE community. Maine TREE will also be returning to the woods in 2021 for our annual Teacher Tours. They will be slightly different than in the past in terms of process, available seats, and structure. A lot will remain the same, getting educators out into the forest to learn about the forest, the forest industry, and all that makes Maine TREE a key contributor to our forest communities. Lessons learned from the last year will also lead to more online programming and remote sessions that can provide a different sort of outreach to the Maine TREE stakeholders and new stakeholders that care about our Maine forests and communities.

Alexander Ingraham, President
Maine TREE Foundation Board of Directors

Maine TREE Board of Directors

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Maine TREE Foundation (207) 621-9872
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Augusta, ME 04330 www.maineTREE.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.

A Message from the Executive Director



A lot can happen in a year. At this time last year, Maine TREE was experiencing some of the same uncertainty that other organizations were facing. Shutdowns in operations. Cancellation of programs. Concerns about financial stability given the emerging economic challenges and the potential loss

of donations. Added to our list, as we weathered the COVID-19 pandemic, was the turnover of two key staff positions: executive director and Project Learning Tree Coordinator.

As I've learned about the resilience of Maine's forests, it has also become clear that the trait carries to the people around the programs of Maine TREE. While there has been much adapting, both in program formats and transitions to new team members, the work has persevered. You will see much of that in the numbers of our annual report, the program updates included throughout the newsletter, and the compilation of our generous supporters from 2020 that are making this work of forest education and community programs possible.

This coming year will include further evolution of Maine TREE, as two signature programs of Maine's forest community find their home fully within our organization. The Certified Logging Professionals (CLP), a critical training effort within the logging community that has helped prepare a generation of loggers to safely and efficiently

operate in the woods of Maine, is now managed by Maine TREE with program support from Mike St. Peter Safety Services.

In addition, the Maine Tree Farm program, which in 2022 will enter its seventh decade in our state, is being integrated into the forest community work of Maine TREE. This will position us to leverage our collective capacity and make the most of donations and other financial support intended to deepen the engagement of Maine's family forest owners and their connections to natural resource professionals.

There is much to be optimistic about in 2021, not the least of which is the return of our signature Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours to in-person. We hope you will share in our optimism and find a way to lend your time, talents, and treasure to continue the important work of educating about the sustainable use of our forests and the ecological, economic, and social health of Maine's forest communities.

Not sure how to plug in? We would welcome a chance to explore that with you!

Jonathan P. LaBonte, Executive Director
Maine TREE Foundation

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seedlings is delivered to your email inbox once a month and features program updates and news from around Maine's forest community.



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Program Highlights

Project Learning Tree



*Window to the Woods
Planning Team & Volunteers*

1,500 - Number of Maine educators that had participated in our Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours through 2020

58 - Number of participants in Window to the Woods, our first virtual offering of the Teachers' Tours Content

3 - Number of New England state PLT programs partnering in Maine TREE's first virtual PLT workshop

90% - Percentage of Maine TREE trained educators confirming in a recent survey that they have access to an outdoor classroom or learning space

Holt Research Forest

Harvest Tours

- **40** - Attendees at the educational tour hosted during our 2020 timber harvest
- **32** - Years since the last commercial timber harvest at Holt

Tree Measurement Data

- **15,993** trees measured
- **57 acres** measured with an average of **163 ft²** live basal area per acre, a 20% increase in basal area since 1996

Seed Collection Data

- **1,890** yellow birch seeds counted resulting in an estimate of 700,417 seeds per acre
- **200** acorns counted resulting in an estimate of 74,118 acorns per acre

Understory Plant Data

- **164** plant species found in relevé plots (120 - 25mx25m)



Scientist Jack Witham standing with new interpretive signs



Summer 2020 Interns

Certified Logging Professionals



1179 - Number of active loggers in the program at the end of 2020

6730 - Number of loggers trained through the program since its founding in 1991

Photo: Certified Logging Professional, Don Cole, of Trees Ltd. sustainably harvesting timber from the Holt Research Forest in Arrowsic

Maine Tree Farm

- **1,439** - Active Tree Farms
- **402,057** - Total Acres Enrolled
- **208** - Inspections Completed
- **44** New Tree Farms
- **25** - Tree Farmers trained through Project Learning Tree for Tree Farmers with PLT



PLT for Tree Farmers Participants in Augusta



PLT for Tree Farmers Participants in Holden



PLT for Tree Farmers Participants in Standish

Thank you 2020 Supporters!

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Forest-based Education & Project Learning Tree



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Jessie Rack, Director of Education

England. She earned her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Connecticut and has been an environmental educator and interpretive naturalist across the region. Adding to the diversity of her experience, she also interned as a science journalist for National Public Radio and worked as a writing professor at Princeton University.

Please join us in welcoming Jessie to our community!

Maine TREE Welcomes Jessie Rack as New Director of Education

We at Maine TREE are excited to announce Jessie Rack's hiring as our new Director of Education. This position is responsible for sustaining and expanding Maine TREE's capacity to meet the needs of schools, teachers, parents, students, and other partner organizations for environmental education programs connected to Maine's forests. In her most recent role, Jessie coordinated the University of Arizona's Supporting Environmental Education and Communities Program, providing environmental education outreach to Title I K-12 classrooms.

"I am excited to be joining Maine TREE because it gives me the opportunity to help connect Maine teachers and their students with the forest, giving them the tools to engage safely and effectively with nature," Jessie shared in starting in her new position. "I've used the Project Learning Tree curriculum for many years and love how it is both multidisciplinary and inclusive in its approach to teaching and learning."

While her previous position in Tucson, Arizona, found her using school gardens and outdoor spaces as living laboratories to teach students about community science and the scientific method, Jessie is no stranger to New

Places We Live Workshop

MaryAnn McGarry

A collaborative team offered an environmental place-based writing workshop over four evening sessions in January/February 2021 for writers and educators. We incorporated the National Project Learning Tree "The Places We Live" Secondary Module, and integrated the themes of: Respect For The Land- promoting "Leave No Trace" principles and Land Acknowledgements, honoring indigenous cultures who first traversed, camped, or settled on the places we now find special. Our purpose in coming together was to write and share our writing.

Offering this workshop *virtually* meant we had educators from a wide range of locations, settings and roles who joined forces to write about their heartfelt relationship to the land. Each week the instructors provided new writing prompts and then all participants took time to write and share our ideas about how different, specific natural environments are important to us. Everyone had the chance to post their writing; so, we were exposed to personal, moving, and creative expressions. What a rich

way to develop a sense of community with like-minded folks during the pandemic!

As one of the facilitators, my honored role each week was to create a synthesis, pulling key, meaningful lines from all the pieces posted online. I then read this composite piece at each subsequent session- what a privilege and a joy! We created an anthology of our final pieces as a legacy of our time and work together. One participant shared her enthusiastic endorsement of her experience, "I loved learning specifics from our presenters and then applying... knowledge in writing prompts... [and] immediately sharing with others... This was so engaging and everyone's writing was so inspiring."

Offering this workshop was a sabbatical project for MaryAnn McGarry, Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at Plymouth State University, in Plymouth, NH and former Project Learning Tree coordinator in Maine. MaryAnn would like to thank her collaborators: Tom Mullin Project Learning Tree Associate for Maine Tree, Rebecca Roy of VT State Parks and the VT PLT coordinator and our two guest presenters: Susan Cox of the USFS and Maria Sanders, Philosophy Professor of Plymouth State University. Also, thanks to Jessie Rack, the new Director of Education for Maine Tree who came on board just as we started our workshop, Jonathan LaBonte, the new Executive Director of Maine Tree for his encouragement and sponsorship of the initiative, and Cathy Jo Herlihy, Office Manager of Maine Tree, for her administrative assistance.



Engaging Learners with Forest-Based Activities

Want to get your students outside more? How about minimizing their screen time and promoting engagement in fun, hands-on ways? Educators looking for fresh tips, tricks, and tools to supplement their teaching can tune in to Maine TREE's new bi-monthly series, "Engage Learners with Forest-Based Activities." These 30-minute workshops, presented by Director of Education Jessie Rack, are drawn from the standards-aligned, forest-based Project Learning Tree curriculum. Each session will discuss adaptations to remote, hybrid, or in-person learning. For a fully interactive experience, participants can sign up to attend the zoom events (every other Thursday from 3:30-4pm). The series will also be streamed live on the Maine PLT Facebook page and recorded for later viewing. Upcoming topics include: observations and nature journaling, scavenger hunts, gamification, mapping, forest-based language arts, and more!

Mt. Ararat Students Use Maine TREE Protocols to Analyze Forest Growth



Students measuring a tree's diameter at breast height (DBH). Photo Courtesy of Kevin Doran

This fall, students of Mr. Glenn Evans' sophomore Honors Biology class at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham, Maine conducted an analysis of forest growth using community science protocols established by Maine TREE. Mr. Evans and his students are long-time contributors to what is now known as the Forest Ecology Research Network (FERN). Formerly the Forest Inventory Growth (FIG) project, this program supports schools or community groups in establishing research plots. Each site requires only a 1/10th acre plot of forest, and dozens already exist statewide.

In 2020, due to the pandemic, Mr. Evans' class in Topsham was unable to visit the Cathance River Preserve, where they've collected data since 2006. Fortunately, a student first collected data at the Mt. Ararat research plot as part of their capstone project in 2016, giving them a foundation for this year's research effort.

As with many programs emerging from Maine TREE, these students had support from our network of professionals: retired Maine Forest Service and Maine Project Learning Tree trained educator Kevin Doran taught the students how to collect forest inventory data at the plot, and they borrowed supplies and resources from the Cathance River Education Alliance (CREA).

According to Mr. Evans, "Over that time a portion of the plot was cut for construction of the new school. Nevertheless over half the plot remained and students were able to analyze growth in the plot over the four years."

Their question: "Which size of tree has grown the most since the last time the data was recorded in 2016?"

Their hypothesis: "The larger trees with [diameter at breast height (DBH)] greater than 10 inches DBH will have grown the most since 2016."

Want to find out what they learned? Read the full report by Mt. Ararat Sophomore Honors Biology Students Nick Picard, Parker Libby, and Luke Spooner on mainetree.org.



**Certified
Logging
Professional**

The Top Cut CLP Updates

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Mechanical Logger of the Year

Scott Arnold of Chelsea, Maine

Scott began logging in the early 1980s, first with a chainsaw and a skidder, and more recently with a cut-to-length system. According to Scott’s nominator, “he is a professional who works hard to achieve the goals of numerous foresters and landowners.” He goes the extra mile to ensure he understands the overall objectives of a harvest and fine details important to the landowner.

“Every harvest is an improvement, leaving the forest in better condition,” said his nominator. “He leaves trails and waterways protected, carefully following any applicable shoreland zone regulations.” Scott and his employee have an excellent safety record. His work is in high demand by foresters and landowners, and “he is worth waiting for!”

CLP’s New Board Chair



Bruce Linkletter became the new Board Chair of the Certified Logging Professional Program at the December Board meeting. Bruce works at Linkletter & Sons, Athens, Maine. We are happy to welcome Bruce to the Maine TREE family!

Bruce Linkletter



Scott Arnold (l) with employee Gary Grenier

2020 Logger of the Year Awards

Each year, Maine TREE’s Certified Logging Professionals program honors three loggers for promoting excellence in Maine’s logging profession. The Loggers of the Year are nominated for the award by fellow employees, employers, foresters, and other stakeholders in the forest products industry. The three categories for Outstanding Loggers of the Year are Conventional, Mechanical, and Contractor/Supervisor. As you can well imagine, the nominees all excel in their profession and exceed forest industry standards.

Conventional Logger of the Year

Danny Weed of Sedgwick, Maine

Safety conscious and hardworking, Danny has carved his niche, proving that making a living as a conventional logger is a true possibility. He is a well-respected member of the mid-coast logging community. He is known for adapting to landowner needs and absorbing the new technologies available to make work safe and efficient.

A landowner supporting Danny’s nomination states, “Danny has been working on our land in Deer Isle for

ten years. As we harvested and cleared deadwood fire hazards, he has improved the [forest's] overall health. The property has gone from nearly impenetrable to a network of chip paths that highlight interesting hardwood specimen trees while providing accessibility for continued forest management. We are delighted to find that our logger is clearly, part tree spirit."



Danny Weed



Left to Right: Gavin McLain & Kyle Overlock

Contractor/Supervisor Logger of the Year

Gavin McLain & Kyle Overlock, co-owners of CTL Management Services of Washington, Maine

Gavin and Kyle started their business, CTL Land Management, in 1988. Since then, they have built a logging business that features two cut-to-length systems, four trucks, a feller buncher, and 22 employees (including two of their sons). They've diversified their business by establishing a sawmill and concentration yard and produce kiln-dried firewood and bridge mats, in addition to harvesting pulpwood and saw timber.

CTL has an excellent safety record and, when harvesting, protects soil and water resources, often utilizing bridge mats. They serve diverse organizations such as Maine Woodland Owners and Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT), which- have sponsored tours of their operations. They've worked on several high-profile harvests such as KELT properties in the City of Bath and on Baxter State Park Authority's property in Harpswell.

According to their nominator, "Gavin is an articulate spokesman for the logging profession [and] always meets the challenge of doing a professional job in the woods. He is always communicating clearly and convincingly with the public about the values of managing land and harvesting trees."

You can learn more about how Gavin works to meet landowner goals by watching this video produced by Professional Logging Contractors of Maine and Northeast Master Logger.

Thanks to our award sponsors' generous support, Huber Resources and Conversation Forestry Partners, each Logger of the Year will receive a check for \$1,000.00, an engraved plaque, jacket, and the honor of being recognized by their peers in the logging community.

In Memoriam



The CLP program is sad to report the recent passing of Erik Carlson of Edgecomb, owner of C and L Forestry. Erik was a graduate of the University of Maine and had a career full service across Maine's forest community. We are grateful for his service as the Chair of the Board of Directors for CLP for a number of years, only recently stepping down due to his health.

Mike St. Peter, a longtime coordinator for the CLP program, said it best when he shared that "of Erik's many talents and accomplishments, his skill and passion for cutting wood are at the top of the list. He did so with ability and integrity." Understanding the time horizon foresters and loggers take into account in their work, Mike noted that "forest stewardship was always Erik's priority, and his legacy will remain in every woodlot he has touched." We couldn't agree more.

2021 Certification & Recertification

The CLP Board of Directors has released the Spring 2021 Certification and Recertification Course schedule. It includes the return to in-person training options throughout the state, as well as virtual options for those seeking that flexibility. A full copy of the schedule, as well as the newly revised Reinstatement Policy, can be found at the CLP website. Should you have any questions, please contact Maine TREE at 207-621-9872

Visit CLPLoggers.com to learn more

Maine Tree Farm Committee News



Executive Committee

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Julie Davenport , Leeds	Pat Sirois , Litchfield
Kirby Ellis , Hudson	Pam Wells , Old Town
Dave Griswold , Auburn	Don Winslow , East Parsonfield



Logan Johnson, Interim Chair, Maine Tree Farm Committee

Serving Maine's Tree Farmers & Family Forest Owners

The Maine Tree Farm Committee is dedicated to serving Family Forest owners throughout the state. Certified Maine Tree Farmers and those interested in joining the program receive free woodlot visits from licensed forestry professionals. During a visit, the forester will help answer any questions the landowner might have about their present or future forest and check if the property's forest management plan meets the American Tree Farm System's Standards of Sustainability.

These visits are entirely free to the landowner! 100% of your donation directly offsets the cost to the Program for these visits. With your support, we can ensure that every Maine Tree Farmer who wants a visit from a Maine forester gets one.

American Tree Farm System Launches New Standards of Sustainability

As many in the Maine Tree Farm community have noticed, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) has announced the 2021 Standards of Sustainability.

According to ATFS, the new Standards "were approved

by AFF's Board of Trustees on November 11th, 2020, and enacted January 1, 2021. These new Standards, which serve as the basis of the American Tree Farm System® certification program, will replace the 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability. Adoption of the new Standards will take place throughout 2021."

Inspecting Forester Training

With the new Standards, all Inspecting Foresters will need to participate in an inspector training to begin completing inspections to the new Standards. To date, **78** Maine Inspecting Foresters have already completed the training.

Additional online training formats are to be released by ATFS later this spring. Depending on need, we will still conduct local training for inspectors.

An important note: Once an Inspecting Forester is trained to the new standard, the credential remains in effect for the life of the Standard, meaning foresters will only need to take the training once.

2021 Required Inspections

The Maine Tree Farm Committee must complete 43 Required Inspections in 2021. If you are a Tree Farmer on the list, you will be contacted by the Committee to arrange your inspection. If you are not on the required inspection list, but would like a visit from an inspecting forester, please contact your County Chair (www.maintreefarm.org/about-us) or consulting forester to arrange one.



Don & Patricia Newell, 2019 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year wear their Maine Tree Farm hoodies they purchased through Tree Farm fundraising campaign in 2020.

Visit MaineTreeFarm.org to learn more

Celebrating Don Winslow's 47 years of Service



Don Winslow

Don Winslow, the long-time York County Tree Farm Chair, recently retired from his post after 47 years of service in the Maine Tree Farm Program. Don graduated with a forestry degree from the University of Maine in 1973. Right out of school, Don went to work as a forester for the Maine Forest Service, where he first got involved with the Tree Farm program.

In the early 1980s, he went to work for S.D. Warren Co., which was heavily involved with the program, and the S.D. Warren Tree Farm Family, where he enrolled "many many" landowners in the program. While working for S.D. Warren he became the York County Chair, a position he held through 2020. He was with the company as they transitioned to Scott Paper and finally SAPPI.

In 2008, Don went into business for himself, opening "Maplecrest Forestry," where he's provided forestry services for landowners throughout York County and beyond. In his time with Tree Farm, Don personally worked with over 100 Tree Farmers and fulfilled the County Chair and Tree Farm Forestry Field Day planning committee duties."

Andy Shultz, immediate past Chair of the Tree Farm Committee, and IF #17157, says, "It's been a pleasure to work with Don over the years. He's quiet yet thoughtful and has always been a strong voice for the Tree Farmers he's represented and worked with. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement years!"



Updates from the Forest

Holt Research Forest Management Committee

Barrie Brusila, Chair, Warren, Mid-Maine Forestry

John Hagan, Georgetown

Logan Johnson, Westbrook, Forest Stewards Guild

Jonathan P. LaBonte, Auburn, Maine TREE Foundation

Marcia McKeague, Blue Hill

Brian E. Roth, Ph.D, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada,
Forest Growth Organization of Western Canada

A Harvest at Holt Research Forest

In the fall of 2020, a harvest occurred at our Holt Research Forest, a Tree Farm in Arrowsic, Maine. We produced a video about the harvest with the goal of educating stakeholders and community members about the process. You can check it out on our YouTube channel. In this video, you will hear from Maine TREE Executive Director Jonathan LaBonte and Holt Research Forest Scientist Jack Witham about the history of Maine TREE and the Holt Research Forest and the research opportunities this harvest will provide.

You will also learn how Forester Barrie Brusila of Mid-Maine Forestry and Logger's Will and Don Cole of Trees Ltd work with landowners to implement a timber harvest designed to improve the overall health of the forest.

Watch "A Harvest at the Holt" on YouTube!



Tour participants watch as Don Cole of Trees Ltd. demonstrates how a processor harvests a delimits a tree.

Harvest Tours

Maine TREE hosted tours at the Holt Research Forest on Saturday, November 7, 2020, to exhibit the timber harvest. Thirty participants heard from consulting forester Barrie Brusila, harvest loggers Will and Don Cole of Trees, Ltd., and longtime UMaine Research Scientist Jack Witham about the benefits of having a timber harvest both economically and for continuing research efforts.

The tour leaders guided participants through the log yard, a harvested area, an area not yet harvested, and to see a temporary stream crossing installed to protect water quality during the operation. The tour concluded with a demonstration from Don Cole and how he uses a processor to fell, limb, and cut trees to length in one smooth process throughout the harvest.

Participants ranged from local townspeople to woodland owners around Maine and natural resource professionals. Topics discussed included maintaining the forest's ecological integrity by managing water resources and considering forest health issues such as invasive plants and insects and climate change.

According to research scientist Jack Witham, the last harvest on the property was in 1988. "As far as I know, that was the last commercial harvest in the town of Arrowsic," said Witham. He continued, "It's a new and exciting thing for the town of Arrowsic. Most people are pretty supportive of it." Following the harvest, Maine TREE will look to invest in research that will explore the impacts of its management decisions on herbaceous plants, trees, and wildlife.

Forester and Maine TREE Board member Barrie Brusila expressed the importance of demonstration forestry. "Virtually all landowners I work with manage [their land] for a multitude of objectives," said Brusila, "It's usually a mix of recreation, timber production for income, but the basic thing most people seem to want to focus on having a healthy forest."

Logger Will Cole, who is also on Maine TREE's Board of Directors, stressed the importance of sustainable wood product markets. He says, "industry is why we can do forestry, if you take the industry out of forestry then

everything we do becomes a service, and it is impractical to apply. We have to maintain [commercial] infrastructure, or we could not do what we are showing you today.”

Maine TREE owns the 350-acre Holt Research Forest in Arrowsic, the site of a long-term forest ecosystem study conducted through a contract it funds with the University of Maine. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) holds a conservation easement on approximately 285 acres of the Holt Research Forest. The current harvest is happening on 125 acres of the forest and will provide researchers insights into timber harvesting impacts, especially on small family-owned forests.



Barrie Brusila, Maine TREE Board Member and Consulting Forester for Mid-Maine Forestry discusses the placement of a water crossing to protect a stream at the Holt Research Forest.

Holt Research Forest Strategic Research & Management Plan

The HRF is the crown jewel of the ‘R’ in the Maine Timber Research & Environmental Education (TREE) Foundation. Maine TREE acquired the 350-acre property, including buildings, in 2014 through a merger with the Holt Woodland Research Foundation with research conducted through a contract with the University of Maine. This 350-acre property in Arrowsic, Maine was originally set up in 1983 by the Holt family and their Holt Woodland Research Foundation and the University of Maine to conduct long-term forest and wildlife research.

In 2019 an Ad Hoc sub-committee was formed to provide advice and direction to the Maine TREE Foundation Board of Directors and Executive Director on decisions relating to research and management at the Holt Research Forest (HRF). One recommendation was to draft a research and management strategic plan to serve as a living document that evolves along with continued development of the HRF. Components of this plan include research focus and goals, objectives, core experiments, data sharing agreements,

database and maintenance, access to facilities and property, knowledge transfer plan, public outreach, and development of partnership agreements.

The original research goals for the HRF are maintained: to monitor long-term changes in the forest’s plant and animal populations and to document the effect of ecologically based forest management on these populations. In parallel, the management goals for the property were to provide a continued economic return from the sale of forest products, to maintain and improve the diversity and abundance of wildlife on the property, and to maintain and improve the aesthetic appeal of the HRF. Almost 40 years later it is necessary to revise these goals to meet the current research needs from challenges faced by forest landowners, natural resource managers, and the forest industry from a small non-industrial landowner’s perspective.

The HRF research and management strategic plan will advance the Maine TREE Foundation’s mission to educate and advocate for the sustainable use of the forest and the ecological, economic, and social health of Maine’s forest community. Research goals and objectives at the HRF are in alignment with programs at the University of Maine which should generate additional collaboration with faculty, staff, and students. Strategic collaborative partnerships with other organizations and institutions will continue to be fostered.

If you would like to learn more about the strategic plan or provide input, please contact Jonathan LaBonte, executive director, jonathan@mainetree.org.



Tour participants view a recently harvested area at the Holt Research Forest.

Keeping Maine's Forests

Program Update Hannah Stevens, Chair

Keeping Maine's Forests has continued to convene for discussion and collaboration during this time of remote gathering. Undoubtedly, there is a benefit for this diverse membership to meet in person, but the shift to a virtual platform has not been without some positives, including less travel time for such a wide-ranging group. In the future, there will likely be some combination of in-person and virtual meetings, now that we're all getting used to the format and can see its usefulness.

The Steering Committee recently surveyed the membership to garner ideas for future meeting topics and format and, not surprisingly, the forest economy and innovation, land conservation, and climate change came out on top as issues of interest. As anyone interested in forests knows, these are not distinct issues and how they intersect brings challenges and opportunities. KMF aims to be a forum for differing perspectives to be heard and common goals identified.

At our March meeting, Hannah Pingree - Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and co-chair of the Maine Climate Council, joined us to present Maine's Climate Action Plan and the important roles that forest products innovation, working forests, and conservation play in the plan. Members were glad to have the opportunity for the Q&A session that followed to be able to dig in a bit more.

We will be pulling future meeting topics from our survey results and membership input and look forward to reconvening late summer/early fall, whether that be in person, virtual, or a combination of both.



Keeping Maine's Forests Steering Committee

Andrew Beahm, Falmouth, Maine Audubon
Mary Berry, Brunswick, The Nature Conservancy
Don Kleiner, Union,
Maine Professional Guides Association
Jonathan P. LaBonte, Auburn, Maine TREE Foundation
Christopher Meaney, Bangor, US Fish & Wildlife
Hannah Stevens, Bangor, Seven Islands Land Company
Patrick Strauch, Exeter, Maine Forest Prodcuts Council

Members

John Banks, Penobscot Nation
Keith Bisson, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Benjamin Carlisle,
Prentiss & Carlisle Management Company
James Connolly,
Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Betsy Cook, Trust for Public Land
Patty Cormier, Maine Forest Service
Sarah Demers, Land for Maine's Future Program
Tom Doak, Maine Woodland Owners
Dana Doran,
Professional Logging Contractors of Maine
David Montague, Downeast Lakes Land Trust
Tom Duffus, The Conservation Fund
Chris Fife, Weyerhaeuser
Alec Giffen, New England Forestry Foundation
Walter Graff, Appalachian Mountain Club
Anna Harris, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Juan, Hernandez,
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Robert Howe, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine
Eugene Mahar, LandVest
Spencer Meyer, Highstead Foundation
Bob Perschel, New England Forestry Foundation
Rob Riley, Northern Forest Center
Stephen Shaler, University of Maine
Steve Tatko, Appalachian Mountain Club
Karin Tilberg, Forest Society of Maine
David Trahan, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine
Peter Triandafilou, Huber Resources
Nate Webb, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
David Wilson, Katahdin Forest Management, LLC
Mike Wilson, Northern Forest Center

Forests for Maine's Future

Celebrating a Decade of Storytelling

Forests for Maine's Future (FMF) began in October of 2010 by publishing 18 stories to FMF's "Fresh from the Woods Archive." Since then, we've published over 100 articles that tell stories from the Maine Woods. Topics range from forest ecology all the way to the communities that depend on forests and everywhere in between.

The program started as a partnership between Maine TREE, Maine Woodland Owners, Maine Forest Service, and the University of Maine's Center for Research on Sustainable Forests. In recent years, Maine TREE continues the program, finding immense value in sharing stories from Maine's forests to provide insights about the future.

Since the beginning, FMF's mission has been to "promote sustainable forestry and educate people about the benefits and wonders of the forest that covers some 90 percent of our state." That 90 percent includes 17 million acres of forest resources vital to Maine's social fabric and economy.

The future is here, and more is still to come. You may have noticed that FMF has a new format, appearing

as "Featured Articles" in Maine TREE's new monthly e-newsletter, seedlings. This new format continues to provide you with the same great articles you wait for each month while delivering highlights about Maine TREE's many programs, including Maine Project Learning Tree, Holt Research Forest, and Certified Logging Professional.

Maine TREE looks forward to delivering exciting, engaging, and informative stories to your inbox, month after month. We are also exploring how to share these stories in new media formats, expanding how people interact with the Forests for Maine's Future program. If you'd like to support FMF or any of Maine TREE's outstanding programs, we encourage you to donate today.



Support Our Work

Your generous contribution supports all of our programs and provides opportunities for wide-ranging inquiries in the ultimate outdoor classroom – Maine's Forests! You can mail in this form to our return address or donate online at www.maintree.org. Thank you for your support!

- \$5,000 – King Pine \$2,500 – Red Spruce \$1,000 – Sugar Maple \$500 – Yellow Birch
 \$250 – White Ash \$100 – White Birch Other _____

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