



2021 Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours

THE NORTH WOODS, Maine - This last July, Maine TREE hosted two in-person sessions of the Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours. After hosting this tour virtually in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone was thrilled to be back in person, and teachers were able to participate in these interactive sessions that took place in the Moosehead Lake Region (July 13th – 16th) and the Katahdin Region (July 27th – 30th).

During these tours, K-12 educators from all corners of Maine were able to learn about the world of forest stewardship and how those components uphold Maine's forest communities. Both tours kicked off with a Project Learning Tree workshop, where the educators were introduced to a number of PLT activity guides, with a particular focus on Green Jobs: Exploring Forest Careers. Educators spend focused time with their grade level peers to begin brainstorming how to incorporate these learning opportunities into their classrooms.

For those familiar with Maine TREE's model for these tours, which have been replicated by many other states, days are spent on a charter bus getting hands-on learning experiences from professionals in the forest sector. These included mill tours, learning about unique forest products, exploring the connections to conservation, witnessing timber harvests up close, and learning about ecology and sustainability from experts.

With an added focus on pathways into careers in Maine's forests, each tour stop highlighted the diversity of skills and jobs available and the training needed to secure them.

The goal of the Forests of Maine Teacher's Tours is to help teachers feel prepared to use and disseminate the forestry and environmental knowledge they learned for the benefit of their students. We have planned follow-up sessions throughout the academic year to support these teachers.

These tours wouldn't have been possible without the underwriting support of Pleasant River Lumber and Robbins Lumber and lead grant funding from the Davis Conservation Foundation and Farm Credit East's AgEnhancement program. We are also so thankful that, for the first time in the 24 years of hosting this program, Maine's forest sector ensured every teacher was sponsored to attend. To read more about the experiences of each tour, and see our list of generous supporters that helped make it possible, check out the Forest-based Education section of this newsletter.

Program Updates Inside this Issue:

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A Message from the Board President



Dear Maine TREE Foundation Friends and Family,

As we enter the fall of 2021 and look back over the previous six months, it has been a busy Spring and Summer season. We returned to the forest for our annual Teacher Tours in July. We welcomed Kelly

French onboard in July as the Programs and Outreach Coordinator for Maine TREE. Jonathan celebrated his first full year at the helm as Executive Director, and CJ continues to work tirelessly, keeping us all in line.

Maine TREE’s annual Teacher Tours returned to the woods in 2021, with one tour based out of Millinocket and the other out of Moosehead. I would like to thank our generous title sponsors, Robbins Lumber Company and Pleasant River Lumber, for making the two tours such a success. Of course, these tours wouldn’t be possible without the generous support from our many industry and individual supporters. Thank you all for taking your time and resources to support such an important Maine TREE event that helps connect Maine’s teachers and students

to the forest products industry and all of the opportunities that the forests provide our great State of Maine.

This is my last Over Story letter as President of the board for Maine TREE Foundation. We have seen a lot of change and progress over the last few years during my term, and I am excited to see the new growth and continued support the foundation provides to the forests and people of Maine. Ethan Bessey of E.D. Bessey and Son’s will begin his term as President of the organization this January. Ethan’s leadership and support as Vice President of the organization has been key to the progress and ability of Maine TREE to provide improved and efficient delivery of our programs to the State of Maine. Maine Timber Research and Environmental Education continues to serve Maine’s forest communities, helping to grow the next generation of forest and forest product professionals.

Alexander Ingraham, President
 Maine TREE Foundation Board of Directors

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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.

A Message from the Executive Director



With a little over a year under my belt supporting Maine TREE as its executive director, I am not exactly at a point where I can sit back and provide deep reflections or insights. That being said, much has been learned as our organization navigates the on-going pandemic, how to best support Maine educators in a changing classroom environment, and the realities of market challenges facing our supporters in Maine's forest sector.

Perhaps despite the turbulence of the last year and a half, we can all agree that change is one of life's few constants, and some years bring change on a grander scale than others. Each of Maine TREE's programs faces near term difficulties with achieving their desired outcomes under the financial challenges of the day, but those difficulties present new ways to think about our overall mission to educate and advocate for the sustainable use of the forest and the ecological, economic, and social health of Maine's forest communities.

The need to take the long view abounds in a sector dependent on generations of growth to yield the results (and returns). There's no better example of that than in the recently released workforce development report of the Forest Opportunity Roadmap/Maine (see formaine.org). This study provided a 10-year projection of workforce needs in Maine's forest sector. As we like to remind folks, today's second and third graders are the workforce 10 years from now. Engaging those students, and their teachers, in understanding and being connected to Maine's forests is our best opportunity build their interest in the sector.

That long view of engagement, whether it's with educators through Project Learning Tree and related programs or small family forest owners through the Maine Tree Farm Program, can only be sustained with generous support from individuals and businesses that share that commitment to a vibrant forest sector today and for the next generation. In that spirit, we hope that you will consider renewing your financial support before the end of 2021, or perhaps considering your first investment in this vital work.

Welcoming Kelly French as Program and Outreach Coordinator



Kelly French in the field with her dog Koda.

Maine TREE has hired Kelly French as its new Program and Outreach Coordinator. This position is responsible for sustaining and expanding the reach of Maine TREE's forest-based community programming, including the coordination of the Maine Tree Farm Program and its more than 1,400 Tree Farms totaling over 400,000 acres.

Kelly grew up in northern New York but has spent a great deal of her life on her family's Tree Farm in western Maine, where her love for woodland ecosystems grew. She received her B.A. in Biology from Colgate University in 2015 and is about to complete her graduate education, receiving an M.S. in Forest Resources from the University of Maine.

"In the face of many pressing natural resource issues including climate change, being good stewards of our forest lands is more important than ever. As such, I am extremely excited to be coming on board in this role, where I will be able to actively serve our forests and communities here in Maine," Kelly shared in starting this new role.

With the economic importance of Maine's forest sector, the ecologically significant role for forests to play in addressing climate change, and the central role forests play in the social fabric of our communities, this new position will strengthen the breadth of outreach at Maine TREE, with a special focus on engaging the thousands of family forest owners in our state.

Barrie Brusila honored as Society of American Foresters District 6 Presidential Field Forester

Maine TREE would like to congratulate Barrie Brusila, as she was recently announced as Society of American Forester's (SAF) 2021 Presidential Field Forester for District 6. Barrie has operated Mid-Maine Forestry since 1983 and is a highly valued member of the Maine TREE Board who has dedicated extensive time and effort to ensure the success of many of Maine TREE's programs.

Barrie was chosen as the recipient of this award due to her many years demonstrating excellence in the field application of forestry, her understanding of forest science and adaptive management processes, and her dedication to ensuring forest sustainability. Throughout her career, Barrie has served hundreds of landowner clients, worked tirelessly to promote conservation tools and connect forestry and land trust communities, and is always willing to help provide natural resource education.

Barrie is truly a trailblazer and an inspiration to many in the forestry field. Morten Moesswilde of the Maine Forest Service writes, "Barrie exemplifies in so many respects a dedicated practicing professional, one who participates thoughtfully in advancing the profession while serving her clients and her community. In the sometimes difficult and contentious conversations that have arisen over the years around forestry, she has consistently listened carefully to alternative views, spoken at all times respectfully, and addressed issues in a principled way, setting a high standard of compassion and ethical conduct."

Director of the Maine Forest Service, Patty Cormier, also testifies to Barrie's qualifications for this award, writing, "Barrie has been a great source of knowledge and support for myself, her clients, and other forestry professionals. She is a forester that never hesitates to help when asked



Barrie Brusila with dogs Emma and Annie.

to assist with or speak to educating landowners or kids on natural resource education, and she is always well received and asked back."

"I'm very honored to receive this SAF award," said Barrie. "At this point in my career, sharing knowledge and experience with young foresters is important to me. I'm encouraged by the increasing number of young women entering the profession. There's a significant need for younger consultants since many of us are in the mature age classes without a lot of "regeneration" coming along."

Please join Maine TREE in sending a hearty congratulations to Barrie on this well-deserved recognition of her excellence. Thank you, Barrie, for all of your hard work and your ceaseless dedication to stewarding Maine's forests.

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Forest-based Education & Project Learning Tree



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Maine PLT Committee member Tim Surette, an education faculty member at UMaine Augusta, helps students in the Tree Street Youth summer camp water their seedlings.

Bringing Maine TREE to Lewiston's Tree Streets

LEWISTON, Maine - During the summer of 2021, Maine TREE delivered a program partnership with Tree Street Youth in Lewiston. For those unfamiliar, Tree Street Youth, as described on their website, is a Lewiston-based community of youth and adults who use their diverse lived experiences and collective empowerment to co-create youth-centered programs and partnerships that encourage leadership, learning, exploration, and growth.

Recognizing that a number of our traditional audiences for forest-based programs have long had access to nature



PLT-trained educator Mike McGraw, also the former state champion soccer coach for Lewiston High School, works with students to tend to their radish seedlings as part of the Here We Grow Again activity

and environmental education, Maine TREE sought out Tree Street Youth because they engage with an underserved population, both in access to nature and to environmental education. We knew there was much to learn engaging with new partners and providing direct activities to youth. Plus, it should be a given that New Mainer youth growing up in a neighborhood called the Tree Streets should learn through trees!

Rather than provide a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop for Tree Street staff, we recruited Lewiston public educators and Lewiston-based PLT trained educators to deliver activities directly to students over the course of Tree Street Youth's six-week summer program. With a local kindergarten teacher, two Lewiston Middle School teachers, a Lewiston High School teacher, and Tim Surette from our Maine Project Learning Tree Steering Committee, we brought a handful of PLT activities to life.

Our focus in this first year was bringing forest-based learning activities to nearly 40 elementary-aged students, and it was a great success. And on the last day of the programming, each child was provided a forest-based, age-appropriate book to bring home to help build their home libraries. We are thankful to Tree Street Youth for being open to this partnership and the Onion Foundation for investing in this pilot effort.

University of Maine Students Participate in PLT Workshop

OLD TOWN, Maine - Maine TREE is always eager to support and help facilitate Project Learning Tree workshops, and we were thrilled to work with Dr. Jessica Leahy and her Environmental Interpretation class this last September. PLT Facilitators Joanne Alex and Kenny Fergusson led a professional development PLT workshop with Dr. Leahy's class, comprised of mostly Parks, Recreation and Tourism majors from the University of Maine at Orono.

The workshop was held at the Halsey Memorial Outdoor Classroom and Demonstration Forest in Old Town, where Dr. Leahy's students could actively engage with their surroundings while learning how to administer PLT activities themselves. Many of these students will pursue careers that involve facilitating environmental education opportunities for children and adults alike, and thus learning how to use the PLT guide and efficiently run PLT activities is a very valuable skill.

All students were given a copy of the new K-8 Curriculum Guide for their future use, and Joanne and Kenny led

them through several example activities, speaking on how you could tailor them to fit the needs of your audience. Activities included the famous "Every Tree for Itself," where the UMaine students learned how they can convey complex concepts like forest competition to a younger crowd by using colored chips to represent what trees need to survive: water, light, and nutrients.

Students enjoyed the workshop greatly, and by the end of the afternoon were already discussing ideas they had about what activities they were eager to try. Dr. Leahy had the students break up into small groups, and pick an activity from the new K-8 guide that they would lead the entire class in during the next week's meeting.

To learn more about PLT activities you might be interested in doing, whether in a classroom or at home with your children, please visit mainetree.org/project-learning-tree/.

Project Learning Tree releases the new K-8 Curriculum Guide

This past spring, Project Learning Tree (PLT) released the newest edition of the K-8 activity guide, which contains 50 hands-on environmental activities that strive to get students engaged with many fields, including STEM, social studies, arts and crafts, languages, and more. PLT's guide uses the environment to inspire and excite students of all ages to learn more about their surroundings, and each clearly laid out and field-tested activity can be easily adapted to fit the educational needs of other age groups.



With the age of e-learning in full swing, having guides that can incorporate remote learning and improve access to education outside of a traditional classroom is more important than ever. Maine PLT facilitator Joanne Alex was excited to receive and start using her new K-8 guide, saying, "I was floored when I saw how it follows the e-units so closely! I am very excited with the new format ... it is visually striking and easy to follow."

The new guide is available to participants who attend a local PLT professional development workshop. If you are interested in a workshop for your school or organization, please contact Maine TREE at info@mainetree.org to discuss. If you've been trained in PLT in the past, we can bring these new guides to you with a refresher session thanks to support from our funders. Email us for more



(Above) University of Maine Forestry students participate in a PLT activity. (Below) The students receiving instruction from longtime PLT volunteer, Joanne Alex. (photos courtesy of Joanne Alex and Jessica Leahy)

Moosehead Lake Region Teachers' Tour

The Moosehead Lake Region Tour, hosted at The Birches in Rockwood, began with an outdoor PLT workshop led by facilitators Anita Smith (China School Forest and PLT Committee Chair), Rob Taylor (Spruce Mountain High School), and Jason Cyr (Mid-Maine Technical Center). This was the first tour where the workshop activities were divided between elementary, middle, and high school educators and the feedback was very strong for this focus on peer to peer learning. Former Robbins Lumber President Jim Robbins provided remarks at our opening dinner and entertained the teachers with his quick wit, story telling, and command of sustainability within the forest sector.

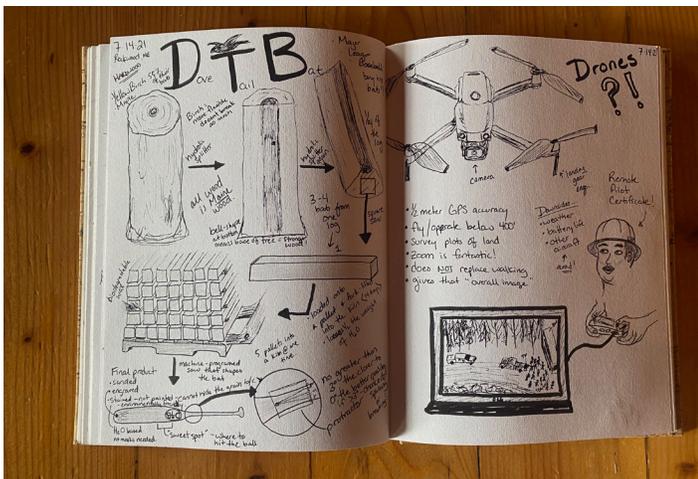
Our first tour stop was at a unique forest products business that was in the midst of major national news coverage thanks to its product being used to win the Major League Baseball homerun derby two days prior. Dove Tail Bats, based out of Shirley Mills, hosted an insightful tour that was equal parts baseball culture and the science of wooden bats made of yellow birch or rock maple.

Before moving on to visit our first timber harvest of this tour, a presentation from safety consultant Mike St. Peter was offered, including highlighting how Maine TREE's Certified Logging Professionals program, a credential for individual loggers, has played a role in keeping workers safe in the Maine woods.

21st century forest management techniques were on full display during our visit with Weyerhaeuser as the diversity of career tracks and technological tools were modeled for the teachers, including use of drones to oversee harvest operations. One teacher's interpretation of that visit is show in the nature journal photo on this page.

Continuing on the theme of understanding timber harvests, a visit to Appalachian Mountain Club owned forestland included hearing the logger's perspective from Molly and Alex London of WW London Woodlot Management out of Milo. Molly and Alex are young professionals that started their own logging company and were recently certified as Master Loggers. After an exciting second day of the tour, the teachers were eager to get out there for more on day three, and we headed to the Pleasant River Lumber Mill in Dover-Foxcroft for a tour with the Brochu Brothers. Here, teachers got to learn about the advances in technology that help mills operate at maximum efficiency. After the tour, one teacher wrote "I was amazed by how technical and computerized everything is. Right from the machinery in the forest to the mills." The teachers then took the bus over to Drs Jessica Leahy and Bob Seymour's Tree Farm, Wicopy Woods, to learn about silviculture, ecology, and the rare wicopy plant. Afterwards, our educators got to witness a logging operation led by Thomas Douglass with Thomas Logging & Forestry Inc. The day concluded with a visit to the Moosehead Historical Society & Museums in Greenville, before heading back to The Birches.

The Moosehead Tour ended on Friday with a wrap-up session where teachers broke into small groups to discuss how they plan to use what they learned on the tour in their classrooms. When asked what aspects of the tour were most enjoyable, one teacher wrote "I thought we went to an awesome variety of different forests maintained by different people and organizations. We explored varying companies and industries that rely on these forests and spoke to so many people who play varying parts in this dynamic industry. These visits and conversations were key in my learning."



(Left) A Sanford educator uses journaling as a tool for her and her students to explore concepts and their understanding of those topics in a visual format. Shown here is her journal entry from a tour of Dove Tail Bats in Shirley Mills and a tour of Weyerhaeuser forestland to learn about technology and careers in forest management. (Right) Moosehead Lake Region Teachers' Rour participants at the Pleasant River Lumber Mill in Dover Foxcroft.

Katahdin Region Teachers' Tour



(Left) A teacher records some video of an A&A Brochu Logging staff member operating a processor at a timber harvest off the Golden Road. (Top Right) Steve Tatko of AMC and Ted Shina of Huber Resources talk about the response of a forest to a timber harvest during a tour stop. (Bottom Right) Katahdin looms large in this photo overlooking Millinocket Lake at our home for this Teachers' Tour, the New England Outdoor Center.

Maine TREE's Katahdin Region Tour began on July 27th at the New England Outdoor Center, Twin Pines in Millinocket. The afternoon PLT workshop was led by Laurie Haines, Anita Smith, and Barry Burgason. Afterwards, the Katahdin tour participants were lucky to be able to hear from Jim Robbins who also joined our Moosehead tour. There was no shortage of interested questions posed by the teachers, ranging from where Robbins Lumber is sourced from, what education students should have to work in a mill, and what happens at a site post-harvest.

Our first full day of the tour, our teachers started off by learning about the Certified Logging Professionals program while touring a harvest site managed by Katahdin Forest Management. We then drove off to Enfield where our teachers got to tour another Pleasant River Lumber mill site and learn about what jobs in a spruce-fir mill looks like. With Green Jobs on the brain, our educators then got to visit with the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine and speak with the current class enrolled in PLC's Mechanized Logging Operations Program. MLOP provides training for students interested in pursuing a career in logging, and the teachers were excited to be able to bring information about MLOP to their students who have shown a vested interest in working outdoors. After this meet and greet, the teachers visited Law Farm, a Tree Farm managed by the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District, and we all gathered at Bissell

Brothers Brewing for dinner and beers before heading back to Twin Pines.

The second action packed day began with back to back trips to Seboeis Public Reserve Land and Appalachian Mountain Club conservation lands. We then visited the former Great Northern Paper mill site in East Millinocket, where Standard Biocarbon Corp. will soon be building a pyrolysis plant. The teachers were fascinated to learn about biochar, how it is made, and the benefits that it can have on our environment. Next on the tour was a stop at Maine Heritage Timber, where teachers got to see the many purposes of reclaimed wood made from logs that fell to the bottom of the Penobscot River during log river drive. We concluded the day visiting with members of Our Katahdin, and had our wrap-up session the following morning.

Maine TREE asked the participants what parts of the tour they enjoyed, and we were thrilled with the responses. "Watching the MLOP students and interacting with them was great," wrote a teacher, who continued to say that they appreciated "learning about the training program to introduce it to our guidance counselors." Another teacher wrote that they benefited from seeing Green Jobs in action, writing "To see the actual work in the forest, in the mill, and in a wood industry. I can now tell my students about those jobs."

2021 Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours

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The Top Cut CLP Updates

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CLP Logger/Forester from Rumford wins Game of Logging

GREENVILLE, Maine - It came down to the directional felling final event for Steve Pinkham of Rumford to pass the field of competitors to win the 26th Annual Game of Logging competition in Greenville, Maine, on August 14th, 2021. Steve, with a total of 224 points, competed against 5 other skilled loggers and beat the 2019 champ, Andrew Marquis of St Agatha by 7 points. Jeremy Grignon from Dixfield finished in 3rd place with a respectable 208-point total. All six competitors had a shot at winning until the last event.

Rain showers did not deter the larger than usual crowd, which stayed to the end cheering on the competitors. Last year's competition was postponed due to COVID, and everyone was glad to see the event return as part of Forest Heritage Days. Andy Wood-MEMIC, head judge and event coordinator, thanked the crowd for raising \$1000.00 from the sale raffle tickets to benefit The Children's Miracle



GOL Competitors and Judges photo (back row L to R) Mike Thurlow -judge, Steve Tatko-judge, John Grignon, Steve Laweryson -judge, Chris Roberts, Tyler McIntosh, Any Wood-head judge and MC, Barrett Carle-judge, John Cullen-judge. (Front row L to R) Jeremy Grignon – 3rd, Andrew Marquis-2nd, Steve Pinkham winner



Network, Log -A-Load for kids program awarding the proceeds to the Northern Light neonatal unit in Bangor. The raffle winner

of the wooden bear carved by logger Mike Thurlow was Melissa Carrier of Shirley. The Husqvarna chainsaw was 5-year-old Brock Guay of Greenville.

The Game of Logging competition is a test of precision felling and chainsaw skills, which includes 11 different stations. The overall goal of the training system is to help loggers be safe and productive, improve the quality and utilization of forest products, all while considering the environmental impact of the harvest site. In short, chainsaw operators develop skills to fall trees in the intended direction. In addition, the Colby College Woodman’s team provided demonstrations of more traditional logging events to include Axe throwing, crosscut saw, wood chopping, and the popular campfire building competition.

Steve Pinkham credits his incentive to practice safe logging techniques from an unfortunate incident resulting in a fatal injury that occurred to an associate. He states, “that loss of a friend hit close to home.” In previous competitions, Steve finished 4th and twice in 3rd place. Tracy Pinkham, Steve’s wife, stated, “I am happy to see that all the practice time and effort Steve spends on improving his skills has paid off

This event prizes of \$1000 for first place, chainsaw for second, and safety equipment for third place along with the hundreds of hours for setting up could not happen without the support of numerous sponsors to include MEMIC, Maine University Forests, Weyerhaeuser, Appalachian Mountain Club, Certified Logging Professional program, Tel-Power, Husqvarna, and many other supporting contributors. Forest Heritage Days and the sponsors wish Steve Pinkham and Andrew Marquis the best of luck in the national competition in spring 2022.



Colby College Logging Team at Forest Heritage Days



2019 Logger of the Year Winners (Left to right) Ed Bauzenburger – conventional, Josh Rich - contractor/supervisor, Brandon LeBlanc - mechanical

We Need Your Nominations for the CLP Logger 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 Loggers of the Year are Conventional, Mechanical, and Contractor/Supervisor.

There are a couple of ways to submit a nomination. You can visit www.clploggers.com and fill out the nomination form online or you can submit a nomination typed or in writing that contains the following information:

- A one page description of their qualifications, with attention to their safety, business practices, resource protection, and community activity.
- Names, addresses and phone numbers of at least two references per nominee, including at least one landowner.

Online or mailed forms must be received by **November 19, 2021**. Mailed forms should be sent to Maine TREE, ATTN: CLP Program, 535 Civic Center Drive, Augusta, ME 04330

Register now as we return in person!

CLP Banquet

Friday December 3, 2021

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Social hour, dinner, and awards presentations

Jeff’s Catering, Brewer, Maine

Register online at www.clploggers.com or by calling Maine TREE at 207-621-9872

CLP Mike Thurlow's Team on the Run!

MILLINOCKET, Maine - CLP Logger Mike Thurlow of Lee is looking to make a difference for Make – A – Wish Foundation by running half of the Millinocket Marathon on December 4th, 2021 in full logging gear. In 2019, Mike and his team of supporters raised \$10,000 to grant a wish for a child in Maine. This year, Team Thurlow hopes to raise \$20,000 and Mike has promised to carry a saw once \$7000, the average cost of a wish, has been raised.

The Millinocket Marathon webpage states “this free event started in 2015 to help a struggling Maine Mill town that was devastated by the closing of their major employer”. The only requirement for runners is that they support local businesses and contribute to the Katahdin region in some way. Millinocket welcomes the patronage of over a thousand runners and as many spectators, from the US.

In sharing his commitment to this challenge, Mike share “I have worked over 40 years supplying wood to these mills and I’m running to represent all the loggers who spent their lives in the Maine woods feeding these mills. In addition, I look forward to the possibility of contributing to a worthwhile cause”. Mike invites representatives of the forest products industry to join him in the event, or by donating to the cause. Three previously tested runners, Terri Coolong- Maine Forest Service, Andy Wood -MEMIC, and Tom Fox- logger from Orland have committed to support Mike this year.

Every dollar pledged for this event can help make a difference to a child with a critical illness here in Maine. The Certified Logging Professional Program, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (Maine SIC) are proud supporters and encourage you to participate. Please contact this link to help **Mike Make Wishes Come True**.

<http://site.wish.org/goto/runwithmike>



Forests 
for Maine's
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Visit mainetree.org/forests-for-maines-future/ to learn more and access the archive.

Forests for Maine's Future educates people about the contributions of Maine's millions of acres of forestland make to our economy, our environment, and our quality of life by sharing stories from the Maine Woods.

Fresh from the Woods feature articles focus on the aspects of the forest economy, science, biology, recreation, and stewardship.

Our archive contains over 100 articles on subjects as varied as new uses for wood, the eastern white pine, how research forests improve our knowledge of the woods, Maine moose, old-growth forests, and carbon offsets. You can find all of those articles by accessing the Forests for Maine's Future Archive.

Maine Tree Farm Program News



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 Maine Forest Service

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Mike Dann, Dixmont
Julie Davenport, Leeds
Kirby Ellis, Hudson
Dave Griswold, Auburn
Katie Manende, Alfred

Richard Morse, China
Don Newell, Unity
Andy Shultz, Augusta
Pat Sirois, Litchfield
Pam Wells, Old Town
Don Winslow, East Parsonfield



Maine Tree Farm Chair, Randy Lagasse, presents Drs. Bob Seymour and Jessica Leahy the 2020 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year a plaque commemorating their accomplishment.

A Note from the Maine Tree Farm Chair

As we move slowly to a non-pandemic situation in the Tree Farm realm, Tree Farm has had some of the same aches and pains as other industries. From adjusting to market changes, shortages of labor ie; loss of inspecting foresters, changing land ownership and learning about Forest Carbon.

Fortunately, Tree Farming is not a bad occupation to be in during these times. People are literally heading for the woods. Timber markets have kept almost all parts of the forest economy going quite well and land sales are skyrocketing bringing in a new cohort of small landowners that may or may not have good knowledge of the forest. This is the challenge Maine Tree Farm faces along with what climate change can do to our forests.

Maine Tree Farm is dedicated to helping small landowners and with its dedicated staff at Maine Tree and volunteers committee members we are ready to take on the challenges Tree Farmers have.

Randy Lagasse,
 Maine Tree Farm Chair

Forestry Field Day at Wicopy Woods

SEBEC, Maine - After postponing for a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maine Tree Farm Program was pleased to see the return of celebrations for the Outstanding Tree Farm of Year as part of the Maine Forestry Field Day. The event took place on Sunday September 12th at Wicopy Woods Tree Farm in Sebec, honoring the 2020 award winners, Drs. Jessica Leahy and Bob Seymour.

Wicopy Woods Tree Farm is a 130-acre forest known for its remarkable merchantable timber products and embrace of forest ecology. The former owner of the property, Ron Locke, was awarded the Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year in 1984 for his stewardship of Wicopy Woods, and as such, this Tree Farm is no stranger to this recognition. Leahy and Seymour purchased the property from Locke in 2015 and have strived to continue and expand his exemplary woodland management.

The event kicked off at 8:30 am and the attendees were offered options to participate in various walking tours and exhibitions. While the more advanced hikers accompanied Seymour on his extended morning silviculture tour, other participants joined shorter tours led by Leahy on small-scale forestry and Dr. Amber Roth on silviculture and birds. Attendees were also able to visit the numerous education stations and exhibitions on-site, with topics ranging from tree identification to learning skills in Avenza mapping.

After a fun-filled morning, everyone gathered back together for lunch and drinks, with plenty of forestry-themed door prizes raffled off to attendees. Roger Merchant provided live acoustic music, singing songs about nature which perfectly accompanied the feel of the day's celebrations.

Then Maine Tree Farm Committee Chair Randy Lagasse presented our hosts with their Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award. "Since purchasing this property in 2015, Bob and Jess have continued the extensive documentation of harvesting and silviculture practices," stated Lagasse.



Dr. Jessica Leahy demonstrates an equipment set up used for low-impact harvesting projects at Wicopy Woods.

"Beyond their commitment to managing the land, Bob and Jess have collectively trained thousands of forestry and natural resource professionals. Their dedication to forestland and the profession of forestry is inspiring."

Several elected officials attended the event and presented sentiments in support of Leahy and Seymour, including representatives for US Senator Angus King and Representative Jared Golden, State Representative Allison Hepler, and State Senator Paul Davis. Attendees then heard from Logan Johnson of the Forest Stewards Guild, Kayti Wilson of the American Tree Farm System, Patty Cormier of the Maine Forest Service, and Commissioner Amanda Beal of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

After lunch wrapped up, Seymour led many Field Day participants in another extended silviculture tour, while others remained around the education tent to peruse the exhibits and speak with their forest-loving peers for the remainder of the event. All in all, with the perfect end-of-summer cool weather, enthusiastic volunteers and participants, and of course our amazing hosts and their beautiful Tree Farm – Forestry Field Day 2021 was a tremendous success. The Maine Tree Farm Program would like to thank all who contributed to this great event, and we are looking forward to next year!



Field Day attendees listen to opening remarks.



Dr. Bob Seymour leads a group of enthusiastic Field Day attendees on a silviculture tour of Wicopy Woods.

Andy Shultz presented the American Tree Farm System Leadership Recognition Award

The Maine Tree Farm Committee would like to extend their utmost gratitude to Andy Shultz, former Committee Chair and long-standing Committee member, for his tireless efforts to support the program throughout the years. Andy has recently retired from the Maine Forest Service, where he served as Landowner Outreach Forester, but remains very involved in many woodland stewardship programs, including Tree Farm, and is a highly valued and respected member of Maine's forest communities. At Maine Forestry Field Day, former Maine Tree Farm Coordinator Logan Johnson presented Andy with the American Tree Farm System Leadership Recognition Award in appreciation of all of Andy's hard work. Andy received this award due to his outstanding service to the national, regional, and state Tree Farm programs as Maine Tree Farm Committee Chair from 2019 – 2020.



Andy Shultz (right) is presented with an American Tree Farm System Leadership Recognition Award by former Maine Tree Farm Coordinator, Logan Johnson (left). *Photo courtesy of Maine Woodland Owners*

Maine Tree Farm Launches Peer Network

Maine Tree Farm would like to encourage you to learn more about and get involved in our Tree Farm Peer Network. This Peer Network is a program that promotes connections and establishes relationships between Tree Farmer Ambassadors and landowners. Peer Ambassadors will actively engage with and subsequently recruit landowners across the spectrum of forest stewardship, including those who care about their land, are interested in its long-term health, but are not yet actively doing significant management (i.e., are not currently enrolled in the Tree Farm Program). This Network will foster open and honest dialogue between fellow landowners while strengthening the Tree Farm community.

As a Peer Ambassador, you would serve as a friendly point of contact for interested landowners while acting as a strong representation of the Tree Farm Program. Our peers demonstrate leadership qualities and should be comfortable speaking about Tree Farm in everyday language, as accessibility and understanding are key to promoting new landowner engagement with Tree Farm. If you would like to become a Peer Ambassador or would

like to be connected with an existing Ambassador in your area to learn more about Maine Tree Farm, please contact Maine TREE's Program and Outreach Coordinator, Kelly French, at kelly@mainetree.org or by calling 207-613-6837.

Family Forest Stewardship Hubs

The Stewardship Hubs program established within the Maine Tree Farm Program serves to connect Tree Farmers with a "Hub" of other Tree Farmers in their region while engaging and recruiting other landowners who are not yet actively managing their lands. To create a Hub, land trusts/conservation organizations/watershed managers currently enrolled in the Maine Tree Farm Program will establish groups of local Tree Farms that enroll into their regional Hub. Hubs will host events and opportunities that promote sharing and learning opportunities about the Tree Farm Program and sustainable forest management. Please read the following article for a highlight of our Sebago Stewardship Hub event that took place in the spring. For more information on joining the existing Sebago Hub, or if you're interested in how you can get involved in creating a Hub in your area, please contact Kelly French at kelly@mainetree.org or 207-613-6837.

Loon Echo Land Trust Hosts Sebago Stewardship Hub Event

Loon Echo Land Trust hosted a group of current and prospective tree farmers from around the Sebago Lake region at their American Tree Farm System Certified, Crooked River Preserve in Harrison on May 22. The group started and ended their journey at Fluvial Brewing, which was a welcome spot for some post-hike libations and socializing on a hot spring day.

Cumberland County Tree Farm Chair and Inspecting Forester Paul Larivee and Oxford County Tree Farm Chair and Inspecting Forester Jesse Duplin were on hand to talk about some of the recent management on Loon Echo's tree farm and answer questions about the Tree Farm program.

The event also offered a chance to unveil a new model being developed in partnership with American Tree Farm System, Maine TREE and Maine Tree Farm Committee, and Loon Echo Land Trust; the "stewardship hub." Harkening back to the early days of tree farming where "families" existed as a way to connect local tree farmers, the "Sebago Stewardship Hub" is a first of its kind model for developing connections between existing tree farmers, prospective tree farmers, and other interested parties seeking information about how to best manage their woodlots. Members of the hub are eligible for a nameplate to add to their existing Tree Farm signs, designating them as a member of this geographic "hub" of woodlot owners.



Updates from the Forest

Kennebec Estuary Land Trust Holds Summer Day Camp at Holt Research Forest

ARROWSIC, Maine - During the winter of 2020 – 2021, Maine TREE completed a timber harvest at the Holt Research Forest, which opened the doors for an educational opportunity to introduce children to sustainable forest management. This summer, Maine TREE empowered the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT) to host a Kids Summer Day Camp at the Holt Research Forest, where the children ages 6 through 12 were able to explore and learn about forest ecosystems in an outdoor classroom setting.

Two camp sessions were held in July and August, and activities ranged from art projects to experiments to activities led by forestry professionals. Will Cole of Trees LTD came to speak with the children about logging and forest management while highlighting some of the many things you can learn from trees. When asked about the importance of introducing young people to sustainable forest management at an early age, Will stated, “Our culture needs to be reconnected to its roots. Overlooking the next generation is how agendas and half-truths get traction. Pure exposure to the facts creates our biggest allies.” Will continued, quoting Proverbs 22:6, “Bring up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it.”

The camp attendees were fascinated to learn from Will, and by the end of their session, many students acknowledged Will’s lesson had opened their eyes to the benefits of forest management. Thank you to the KELT team for your hard work, which made this camp a success. Maine TREE looks forward to supporting more educational opportunities for young people in the future.



Will Cole, of Trees Ltd. in Sydney, Maine leads an activity for Kennebec Estuary Land Trust Day Campers.

Day campers enjoying the Outdoor Pavilion at the Holt Research Forest



Holt Research Forest Committee

- Barrie Brusila**, Chair, Warren, Mid-Maine Forestry
- John Hagan**, Georgetown
- Logan Johnson**, Westbrook, Forest Stewards Guild
- Marcia McKeague**, Blue Hill
- Brian E. Roth**, Ph.D, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Forest Growth Organization of Western Canada

2021 Holt Research Forest Interns

ARROWSIC, Maine - Each summer at the Holt Research Forest, Maine TREE funds an internship program through its research partnership with the University of Maine. This program allows research interns to develop valuable hands-on skills in the woods and gain knowledge about the variety of Green Jobs in Maine's forest sector. Under the guidance of Associate Scientist Jack Witham, Andrew Kookan, Gia Francis, and Noah Smith joined us this summer to continue this long-term forest ecosystem project.

Andrew, a sophomore at UMaine Fort Kent, is working towards a degree in forest science. His favorite part of interning at the Holt Research Forest is "finding the little things you wouldn't normally see" if you were merely walking through the forest, including interesting species of plants, trees, and animals. Andrew plans to pursue a career with the US Forest Service.

Gia also attends UMaine Fort Kent and is a rising sophomore. As a first generation college student, she was very determined to pursue a degree in natural resources to open doors to a career in a field that she truly loves. Gia aspires to be a forest ranger or a game warden in the future. "I have learned so much by interacting with nature, and I feel much more prepared for my dendrology class I will be taking in the fall," Gia stated.

Noah is from New Jersey, attending Stockton University as a senior. His concentration is environmental science, with a concentration in forest management. Noah stated that he "loves to work outside whenever possible" and greatly prefers working in the woods over his old summer job as a roofer. He plans to pursue a career with the New Jersey Forest Service after graduation.

The projects of focus this year included forest inventorying, monitoring species changes, assessing tree regeneration, repairing damaged seed traps, and reestablishing quadrant boundaries. Furthermore, the interns worked on installing fencing that will serve as deer exclosures to study the impacts of deer browse on regeneration.



Holt Research Forest Summer 2021 Research Team (left to right): Andrew, Noah, Gia, and Jack.



Jack Witham and our team of interns installing deer exclosures at the Holt Research Forest

Maine TREE Awarded Maine Outdoor Heritage Grant for Holt Research Forest Project

ARROWSIC, Maine - Following the first harvest at the Holt Research Forest in more than three decades, Maine TREE has secured a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund to advance new research opportunities that include the impact of deer. Through the grant and investment from the timber harvest proceeds, Maine TREE plans to erect at least four deer exclosures this summer to determine the long-term impacts of deer on tree regeneration and understory herbaceous and woody

vegetation. While it is widely known that deer browse has a significant impact on regeneration, the ability to study that impact in detail and its relationship to other factors presents a unique opportunity in Maine for applied research relevant to family forest owners and community members. For those interested in learning more about this project or to ensure you receive other updates on Holt Research Forest, including public tours, please email info@mainetree.org.

Forest Stewards Guild Hosts Work Day at the Holt Research Forest

ARROWSIC, Maine - On May 15, Forest Stewards Guild members participated in a joint service project and Guild Gathering at the Holt Research Forest. The group's task, reestablish a research grid in the nearly 100-acre study area in the forest, where a timber harvest occurred in the fall and winter of 2020/21, the first since 1988.

The consulting forester who worked on the Timber Harvest project was no other than Guild founding member Barrie Brusila, working off a plan by fellow long-time Guild member, forester, and wildlife biologist Rob Bryan. After the harvest, Barrie approached the Guild about hosting a service day to help Maine TREE reestablish the research grid, crucial to the ongoing data collection. Of course, Northeast Guild members were up for the task.

Jonathan LaBonte, Maine TREE's Executive Director, expressed the value of this service day for the organization. "With only a small staff team, Maine TREE depends greatly on the generous contributions of time and talent from members of the forest community to advance our programs. We were excited at the prospect of the Forest Stewards Guild hosting a service project in support of reestablishing our research grid, and are thankful for their leadership in many areas of the forest stewardship in our state."

Six graduate students joined the work party, four from the University of Vermont and two from the University of Maine. Five of the students were able to stay overnight at the Holt Research Forest and enjoyed dinner in downtown Bath, just 10-minutes from the facility. A focus for the workday was to provide networking opportunities for the students. They were assigned to crews with professional members to learn about the different types of work that Guild members do.



Holt Research Forest Scientist Jack Witham (front) talks with volunteers after they stumble upon a deer antler shed while reestablish research grid points.



Forest Stewards Guild Deputy Director Amanda Mahaffey (right) works with a team of graduate students from the University of Vermont to re-establish sampling points.



After a morning of service work and lunch, Guild Gathering participants enjoy a tour of the harvested area.

After a few hours of work, the volunteers reconvened for bagged lunches provided by Maine TREE. Each spoke in the introductions circle, a Guild staple, where they shared how they became involved with the Guild. If not yet, members they spoke to why they chose a forest-based career path.

Following lunch, the group returned to the woods for a post-harvest tour and silviculture discussion led by Barrie, and Holt Research Forest Scientist, Jack Witham.

"This service day at the Holt Research Forest was the perfect way to gather our community together – safely – to learn and work together in the woods," said Forest Stewards Guild Deputy Director Amanda Mahaffey, "This is an exciting start to a new chapter of gatherings for Maine's forestry community."



Steering Committee

- Andrew Beahm**, Falmouth, Maine Audubon
Mary Berry, Brunswick, The Nature Conservancy
Don Kleiner, Union,
Maine Professional Guides Association
Christopher Meaney, Bangor, US Fish & Wildlife
Hannah Stevens, Bangor, Seven Islands Land Company
Patrick Strauch, Exeter, Maine Forest Products Council

Members

- John Banks**, Penobscot Nation
Keith Bisson, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
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James Connolly,
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Betsy Cook, Trust for Public Land
Patty Cormier, Maine Forest Service
Sarah Demers, Land for Maine's Future Program
Tom Doak, Maine Woodland Owners
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David Montague, Downeast Lakes Land Trust
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