



Timber

Research

Environmental

Education

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Newsletter of the Maine TREE Foundation



*Edna Drinkwater Students collect tree data to study the climate change effects on trees around their school.*

## Edna Drinkwater School Students Research Climate Change Effects on Local Tree Species

Over the past few months, Maine TREE has worked with a 6th-grade science class at Edna Drinkwater School (EDS) in Northport, ME, to help them develop a project investigating climate change effects on their school campus' trees. Their research question is one that many professional researchers still seek to answer, as many tree species respond differently to disturbances and conditions brought on by the changing climate. This project, part of a citizen science program called WeatherBlur organized by the Maine Math and Science Alliance, allows students to ask their own questions, investigate and design protocols, collect and analyze data, and then share their results with the scientific community.

Maine TREE Programs and Outreach Coordinator, Kelly French, has been working with the class and their teacher, Abby Plummer, to help develop a protocol and understand how to analyze their data. After reviewing and

offering feedback on the class's research questions and methods, Kelly has met with the class twice for in-depth lessons on climate change research in Maine's forests. The students have used tree borers to collect tree cores from several tree species on their campus, and plan to use dendrochronology (the study of tree rings) to look at how the trees grew each year. Then, the class plans to use a dissecting scope and a scanner to measure tree ring widths on all the cores, and compare the growth patterns with local climate data records. In one student's words, "trees are highly affected by climate change, and since we are looking at the tree rings, we can see if the tree growth has been affected by climate change. The rings will help say if it was warm, cold, wet, or dry."

"My students and I are so grateful for the tremendous support we've had from our school, WeatherBlur, Nikki Becker at NOAA, Acadia National Park, and Kelly at Maine TREE, whose expertise was invaluable in refining our protocol and data analysis methods, and who also helped my students see that their ideas and contributions are not only important, but also on par with what scientists are actually studying about trees and climate change," said

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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.

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## A Message from the Board President

Greetings, and welcome to the latest addition of OverStory! This is my first edition as President of the Board of Directors of Maine TREE, and I am excited and optimistic about our programs and where we stand as an organization heading into this year.

The past two years have been difficult in many ways, but one bright spot has been more teachers and students going outside to learn. Outdoor classrooms, nature-based education, and looking to the forests to reinforce lesson plans in everything from science and math to language and arts is something that Maine TREE, through Project Learning Tree, has been doing for over 45 years.

Through our Forests of Maine Teachers Tours held each summer, more teachers get to see the working forest in person and to remove any stigma or preconceived notion's about forest products, timber management, and the jobs that are available in the Maine forest products industry. Now in our 25th year, this year's teachers' tours are shaping up to the best ones yet.

I hope you will join me in supporting this great work and making sure that Maine TREE continues to thrive and provide these valuable first-hand educational opportunities for teachers, students, loggers and legislators alike.

Thank you for supporting Maine TREE and keeping these great programs going.

Sincerely,

Ethan Bessey, President  
Board of Directors

## Welcoming Lena Ives as Director of Education

Maine TREE welcomes Lena Ives as its 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.

Lena graduated from the University of Connecticut, with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Management and Wildlife Conservation. After spending a few years working on different wildlife-based research projects, contributing to management plans, and expanding her outdoor recreation experience, she transitioned into serving as an environmental educator.

Lena initially served as the Naturalist at Goodwin State Forest in Hampton, Connecticut. Through this position, Lena worked under one of the state's Project Learning Tree coordinators, which introduced her to the curriculum and allowed her to assist in leading teacher workshops and working with facilitators. For the past year and a half Lena has served as an environmental educator at ecomaine, where she further developed her capacity to speak about environmental topics to a wide variety of stakeholders and public groups, from preschool to retirement age.

"I am incredibly excited to join Maine TREE and work to sustain and expand the demand in Maine from schools, teachers, parents, students, and other partner organizations for outdoor environmental education programs that connect to Maine's forests, both urban and rural, and support pathways to forest-based careers in our state," Lena shared in accepting the position.



In her free time, Lena enjoys serving as a member of the Wilderness Rescue Team, recreating on trails, making things from scratch, and caring for her small farm.

To learn more about Maine TREE's forest-based education efforts, visit [www.mainetree.org](http://www.mainetree.org). To inquire about bringing our environmental education programming to your school or organization, including the Project Learning Tree curriculum, please email at [info@mainetree.org](mailto:info@mainetree.org).

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## Ken Laustsen Receives 2021 Austin Wilkins Award



**Ken Laustsen**  
(retrieved from New England Society of American Foresters)



**Maine Forest Service Director, Patty Cormier, presents Ken Laustsen with the 2021 Austin Wilkins award**

Maine TREE Foundation and the Commissioner of Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry selected Kenneth Laustsen for the 2021 Austin H. Wilkins Forest Stewardship Award. The award was presented to him at the 2022 NESAF meeting in Portland.

Ken started his career as a right-of-way foreman doing brush control work. Through decades with Great Northern Paper, and finally with the State of Maine, his career was directed towards work in Maine's forests. He also served in many other ways, including with community groups such as the Girl Scouts, Ducks Unlimited, the Society of American Foresters and with Maine TREE programs such as Project Learning Tree and Tree Farm.

Ken's plaque states: "In Recognition of your public service to the forest products industry and the State of Maine as the now retired state biometrician, and for your unique ability to make a complicated subject easily understood. Throughout your career, you advocated for improved forestry communications and helped people evaluate the

credibility and usefulness of forest resource information so that they could make better informed decisions. Your ability to bring that often complex information to the level of your audience is evident with your success in working with many students, teachers, stakeholders, and resource professionals over the years. We owe you our gratitude."



**2021 Austin H. Wilkins Forest Stewardship Award**

# Forests for Maine's Future

**EST.  
2010**

Visit [mainetree.org/forests-for-maine-s-future/](http://mainetree.org/forests-for-maine-s-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, and more. You can find all of those articles by accessing the Forests for Maine's Future Archive.

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# Forest-based Education & Project Learning Tree



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**Steve Tatko** of the Appalachian Mountain Club shows students how to estimate the height of trees.

## Appalachian Mountain Club Brings Green Jobs to Piscataquis County Classroom

After completing a climate change unit, middle school students from Sedomocha and Piscataquis Secondary School were excited to see what they could do in their local communities. Appalachian Mountain Club's (AMC) Director of Maine Conservation and Land Management, Steve Tatko, joined students for a day in the life of a Forester. Students explored their school's nature trails and learned about sustainable forest management, including how to measure trees! The day concluded with students interviewing a forester and then taking the "Find your Green Job" Quiz provided by Project Learning Tree (PLT). This quiz allows students to explore the many Green Jobs that exist by matching their personalities and strengths with a career. Students were excited to see the many opportunities that exist to have a meaningful career right in their own backyard!

Green jobs, or careers that produce goods and services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources, have been noted nationally and in Maine as one of the fastest-growing industries. The growth and impact of this industry make it crucial to introduce students to these purposeful opportunities during their primary education. To further stimulate the growth of the forestry industry, Project Learning Tree created the Green Jobs curriculum. From middle school through secondary education, the curriculum introduces students to different opportunities and careers within the green jobs industry. Stephany Perkins, who serves AMC as the Piscataquis County Youth Education Coordinator, is doing just that with her local middle schoolers.

Stephany has facilitated "Day in the Life of a Forester" excursions for 7th and 8th graders in partnership with AMC's Director of Maine Conservation and Land Management, Steve Tatko. Stephany described the experience she and Steve created as an opportunity for the students to "explore their school's nature trails and learn about sustainable forest management, including how to measure trees!"

The trip to the woods was combined with a climate change curriculum in the classroom, which connected back to the student's local communities and ecosystems. To help the students become aware of career opportunities in the forest, Stephany has the "students interview a forester and then take the [PLT] Find your Green Job Quiz. The quiz allows students to explore the many green jobs by matching their personalities and strengths with a career. Students were excited to see the many opportunities that exist to have a meaningful career right in their own backyard!"

Creating meaningful connections for students between the forestry industry, opportunities available to them, and global concepts like climate change are foundational in our effort to enrich the next generation with the capacity to sustain and conserve our natural resources. Maine TREE is excited to expand the use of PLT's Green Jobs curriculum in Maine to foster greater educational opportunities and awareness of the forest products and natural resources sectors among Maine's students.



***Steve Tatko of the Appalachian Mountain Club shows students how to measure the diameter of a tree.***

## **LD 1902: A Resolve To Establish a Pilot Program To Encourage Climate Education in Maine Public Schools**

Since 2020, the Nature Based Education Consortium's (NBEC) Climate Education Advocacy Working Group has been committed to expanding the access to outdoor and environmental learning for all of Maine's students. One of their early successes came in the inclusion of climate education in the Maine Climate Council Climate Action Plan. To create a state of citizens informed about forests and all the factors that impact them, of which climate change is the most pressing, the investment in and dedication to expanding access to climate education in Maine is crucial.

On Earth Day this year the NBEC Climate Education Advocacy Working Group's accomplishments grew exponentially with the funding of LD1902: A Resolve to Establish a Pilot Program To Encourage Climate Education in Maine Public Schools. This bill was created in response to educator and student reports of a lack of assistance in discussing an issue as unbounded and prodigious as climate change in Maine classrooms. In partnership with Representative Lydia Blume, the Climate Education Advocacy Working Group wrote and introduced LD1902 to be considered by the Maine Legislature. The bill, now passed by both the Maine House of Representatives and Senate and funded by the Appropriations Committee, will support climate education in two ways: by creating funds for professional development on climate change education for interdisciplinary K-12 educators and fostering partnerships between schools and community organizations (like Maine TREE!). Many of Maine's classrooms are lucky to have an outdoor component to their education and are able to explore climate change in a way that's understandable and approachable, but certainly not all. LD1902 will create support for educators in bringing discussions of climate change back to concepts, models, and examples that are tangible for students to comprehend by funding professional development and community partnerships.

For decades, Maine TREE has supported Maine classrooms in discussing environmental topics and climate change through our programs, like the Forest Ecology Research Network and Project Learning Tree professional development offerings. With more funding available for educators to acquire and implement these resources, Maine TREE aims to continue bringing classrooms outdoors to use forests as a system students can interact with to understand topics as global as climate change.

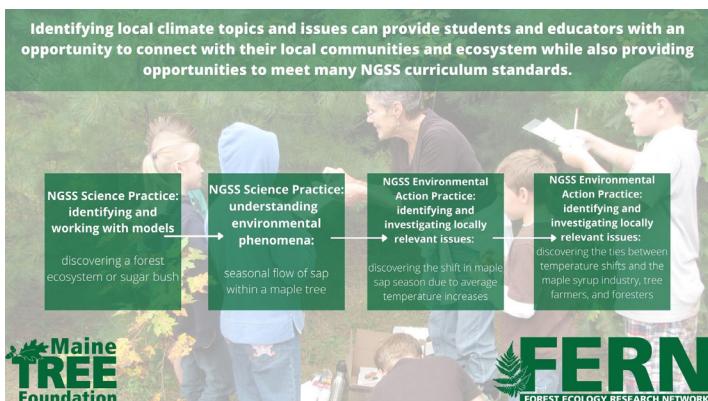
# Connecting Students and Teachers to Maine's Forests

The past three school years have had an upending impact on students, teachers, and parents alike. From countless days spent virtually learning and learning to educate in a hands-off and distanced manner, all educators (formal and non-formal) and school staff deserve our utmost respect for their resilience and dedication to their craft. One of the bright sides that has come out of such an unprecedented time has been outdoor classrooms. Before the pandemic, it was common for educators to see barriers in getting their students outdoors in a way that meets administrative or curriculum requirements. But having fresh air and space to spread out has become an enormous asset since 2020 and expanded the use of outdoor classrooms rapidly in Maine and the country.

The Maine Math and Science Alliance, a nonprofit organization that creates ways to engage students and educators in science, technology, engineering, and math, conducted a survey in 2019 on the state of community-based environmental learning in Maine. The purpose

of the Community Based Environmental Learning Report has been to understand the inequities in these programs throughout Maine and also gauge the need for professional development offerings that help teachers meet their curriculum requirements. Conducted before the pandemic began, one of the needs recognized by the CBEL report was the need for educator professional development that aligns outdoor learning with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that Maine teachers are required to provide their students.

One of the goals of the environmental education efforts at Maine TREE is to reach more classrooms with these tools and to provide more students with the opportunity to learn outdoors, interact with forests, and experience the possibilities of future careers in the forestry sector. At Maine TREE, we're busy preparing for the 2022 Forests of Maine Teachers' Tour to create an immersive professional development experience for formal and non-formal educators to interact with Maines' Forest Products community. The four-day retreats held in July will provide ample opportunities for Maine educators to explore different methods of connecting their students with the ecosystems and local natural resource and forest professionals that surround them. With the help of our industry partners who support our Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours, our education efforts provide extensive opportunities to link NGSS curriculum standards to outdoor spaces and Maines' forests. In discussions surrounding complex issues like changes in climate, forests and outdoor classrooms can serve as a model to engage students while bringing these complex global issues to a tangible, local topic.



## Trees & Me: Activities for Exploring Nature with Young Children

With the continuous evolution of education pedagogy, Project Learning Tree (PLT) is consistently creating and revising curriculum for all ages of students to create captivating activities for students and educators. PLT's newest addition, Trees & Me, was released this March and contains hundreds of ideas for fun, easy-to-do, hands-on experiences to connect young children to nature, with a focus on trees and forests. Through both outdoor and indoor activities, children explore nature through their five senses, experience trees throughout all four seasons, and connect with their community.

The 12 hands-on Trees & Me activities are designed for families and teachers to use with children ages 1–6 in a range of settings, including preschools, childcare centers,

and nature centers, at home, or with families and friends spending time together. Special instructions tailor many experiences to children under 3 years of age. Families and caregivers, childcare providers, and early childhood educators can easily adapt the activities as necessary to meet each child's unique needs, the environment where they live, and the materials available.

Children learn concepts necessary to succeed in school, including age-appropriate literacy, math, and critical thinking skills. They make music, create things, and gain physical dexterity. They are empowered to work independently and in groups. Through dramatic play and skill practice, they explore careers which plants ideas for a child's future.



What's more, research indicates that early exposure to nature and the outdoors improves emotional and physical well-being, enhances learning, promotes positive social behavior, and makes children more likely to care about their environment throughout their lives.

Each activity contains background information for adults, preparation steps, and materials, plus explicit connections with early learning standards in science, English language arts, math, and social studies, as well as programs such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children and Head Start.

Art is integrated throughout every activity and STEM is practiced through ten essential skills, effectively integrating the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Each activity suggests concrete ways that families and friends can enhance the learning experience at home, including helping out in the community. The activities also provide reading suggestions, as well as musical selections and sound samples to accompany experiences. Scannable QR codes that most smartphone cameras can read direct those interested to specific tracks.

The guide also includes valuable appendices, such as tested techniques for engaging early learners, tips for outdoor learning, bringing nature inside, and woodworking, that not only support the activities, but also serve as a resource in a range of situations.

## Edna Drinkwater School continued

Abby. "These young environmental activists came up with the investigation idea on their own, and worked tirelessly to research the topic and write a protocol. Their passion for protecting the environment is truly admirable."

When asked about the project and their experiences, the students' enthusiasm was evident. "Kelly helped a lot because she explained types of trees that we could possibly see out there, tips for what to do with the increment borers, and after our conversation, we got a bit of a boost of confidence. Kids should be able to do WeatherBlur and Maine TREE projects like this because it's a great thing to do. It makes them know one more thing about their surroundings on our planet and gets them a taste of what's going on out there in the forest," said one student. Another student noted, "I love this investigation because I know it's really important. On the news and on websites is one way to learn about climate change, and I would find myself blowing it off thinking I can't do anything about it, but it means a lot to me that now, I can help."

This study encourages the EDS students to think creatively and learn to ask and answer their questions while gaining knowledge about Maine's forests and the vast opportunities that exist in the world of forestry research. As the EDS 6th graders continue their work on such an advanced project, Maine TREE applauds them and recognizes this as a perfect example of how powerful a tool outdoor-based learning is. Through the Project Learning Tree, Forest Ecosystem Research Network (FERN), and Holt Research Forest programs – Maine TREE is excited to continue supporting educators throughout the state to develop outdoor and forest-based curriculums and teach their students about timely topics such as climate change.



*Edna Drinkwater Students measure the diameter of a white pine.*

# UMF Early Childhood Preservice Educators Participate in PLT Workshop

by Joanne Alex

FARMINGTON, Maine - On a cold day in January a request was received by Maine TREE for an early childhood workshop for a class at the University of Farmington. Patti Bailie, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, wanted to integrate the PLT Professional Development into her class on nature-based education for early childhood educators. Answering the request for PLT facilitators for this workshop were Anita Smith and Joanne Alex, both PLT facilitators and retired educators in elementary and early childhood education, respectively. With a few exciting ZOOM planning meetings in preparation for the workshop, Patti, Anita, Joanne, and Helena Ives, the Director of Education & Maine Project Learning Tree Coordinator, developed a plan for a March 2nd workshop for Patti's class. Her class has 15 students: 11 early childhood education majors, 3 elementary education majors, and a graduate student in education. The workshop created a wonderful opportunity for the PLT facilitators to showcase the depth, breadth and continuity of the PLT curriculum spanning the ages pre-K to 5th grade to a targeted audience of early childhood educators.

The PLT workshop was held on campus where Patti's students were actively engaged with their surroundings while learning and doing the PLT activities and discovering the adaptability of these lessons to both indoor and outdoor experiences. While outside, Anita and Joanne led the students through the activities of The Shape of Things, Adopt a Tree, Nature Journaling, and The Closer You Look. While drawing from observation, many students commented on how much they enjoyed doing the activity and how the activity helped them realize the incredible detail and structure of trees; their drawings were impressive! A highlight for the students was the activity, Every Tree for Itself, which guides students to understand how trees compete for resources- water, light and nutrients- to survive. This favorite activity clearly

illustrates the active role trees take on to meet their needs, even when they appear to just "stand still." To demonstrate how activities meet the needs of diverse learners, Anita and Joanne set up PLT activities as learning stations that the students could explore independently and engage with each activity in a variety of ways while still reinforcing the intended learning outcome. For instance, with Sounds Around, students created a forest concert using various wooden instruments, listening for matching pairs and making their own egg shaker. With students interested in elementary education, Anita shared an activity on how to measure the height of a tree and use tree cookies to tell a story about a tree's growth.

Throughout the workshop, students saw how these activities connect children to environmental education while meeting the benchmarks and standards required of them in the academic curriculum. Through art, movement, STEM activities, and exploration of children's books and online resources on the PLT website, these pre-service educators engaged in all aspects of the PLT curriculum and loved learning along the way. Evaluations following the workshop included positive feedback on all aspects of the day: "the materials supported a variety of learning styles and were amazing," "I loved having resources for the upper levels," "very fun and interesting," and "I am excited to use the new tools I learned." In the end, they came away from the workshop with copies of either the PLT Early Childhood Guide or the PLT K-8 Guide and a wealth of activities and lessons to use with their future students. This workshop further affirmed that PLT is a perfect program to launch or enhance environmental education into our schools.

To learn more about PLT workshops tailored to your needs (classroom, nature camp, homeschooling, etc.) please visit [mainetree.org/project-learning-tree/](http://mainetree.org/project-learning-tree/).



# Certified Logging Professional

# The Top Cut CLP Updates

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**Kirby McCarthy, 2021 CLP Conventional Logger of the Year**

## 2021 CLP Logger of the Year Award Winners

Recognition in this business doesn't just fall from the trees. You must earn it. The nominees were submitted for the awards by fellow employees, employers, foresters, and landowners. The winners were chosen by a panel of industry stakeholders, and all must meet and exceed in the respective categories.

The awards, sponsored by Huber Resources and Conservation Forestry Partners, are presented each year, along with \$1000, an engraved plaque, and a jacket to a logging operator in each of three categories- Conventional, Mechanical, and Contractor/ Supervisor. They are given to loggers who have demonstrated the highest level of professionalism throughout their careers.

The CLP award winner for 2021 in the Mechanical logger category is Kenneth Jandreau from St Francis, Maine. Ken has been in the program since 1996. His nomination states, "His work is second to none. He takes care to protect the regeneration and not to damage any residual trees. I have been a forester for 36 years and he is in the top two operators I have ever worked with in the woods."

The winner in the Conventional logger category is Kirby McCarthy from Macwahoc, Maine. Kirby has been CLP since 1999. A forester for a land management company states, "Kirby, a third-generation logger, specializes in environmentally sensitive areas and lots that require a light touch. His directional felling is exceptional and because of that his residual stand damage is minimal."

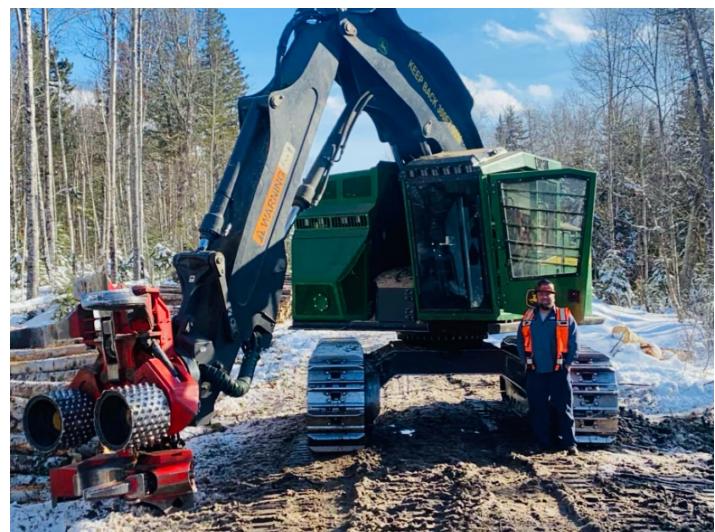
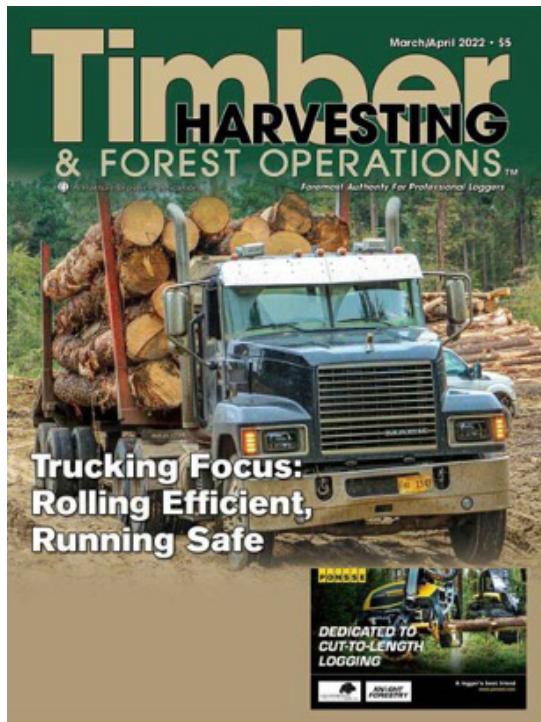
The Contractor/Supervisor winner is Jerod McBrairy, owner of JMM & Sons Logging in Fort Kent, Maine, CLP since 2008. A landowner forester states, "JMM & Sons is cultivating the 5th generation of loggers in the family, and they have a good understanding of how today's actions can affect future generations. Jerod's focus on long term stewardship of the forest, employee wellbeing, and commitment to the logging industry makes them an excellent candidate for logger of the year".

Since 1991, the Certified Logging Professional program has provided certification for Maine loggers. The program's mission is to promote continuous professional growth, based on education & training, complemented by an onsite performance-based review of worksites.

## Sign up for Timber Harvesting Magazine

The publishers of the magazine Timber Harvesting is offering their magazine to all loggers, you just need to contact them to sign up. You can go to their website: <https://timberharvesting.com/> for your free subscription.

They contacted us for our CLP database, but we value your privacy and do not share the information with anyone. The CLP Board thought it was worth letting you all know about the offer and if you are interested you can sign up!



(Above) Jerod McBrearity, 2021 CLP Contractor/Supervisor Logger of the Year. (Below) Kenneth Jandreau, 2021 CLP Mechanical Logger of the Year.

## Upcoming Recertification Schedule

### Mechanical

- Fort Kent – Friday, May 13

### Supervisor/Contractor

- Augusta – Thursday, May 19
- Fort Kent – Friday, May 13 12:30 – 4:30

### Virtual (English)

- May 20 – 7:00 – 10:00 am
- May 20 – 12:30 – 3:30 pm

### Conventional

- Rumford – Wednesday, May 4 – Morning or Afternoon
- Skowhegan – Thursday, May 5 – Morning or Afternoon
- Bangor – Friday, May 6 – Morning or Afternoon
- Fort Kent – Thursday, June 2 – Morning or Afternoon

## Initial Certification Schedule

Fort Kent – May 9, 10, 11 & 12

Register at [CLPLoggers.com/certification](http://CLPLoggers.com/certification)

# Maine Tree Farm Program News



## Executive Committee

**Randy Lagassee**, Chair, Ashland, Maine Forest Service  
**Jack Hernandez**, Vice Chair, Bath, Maine Forest Service  
**Dan Mahns**, Treasurer, Searsport,  
American Forest Management  
**Larry Beauregard**, Secretary, Brewer

## County Chairs

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Aroostook County</b><br>Randy Lagasse,<br>Maine Forest Service                  | <b>Oxford County</b><br>Jesse Duplin,<br>Northwest Forest<br>Management    |
| <b>Cumberland County</b><br>Paul Larrivee,<br>207 Forest Consulting                | <b>Piscataquis County</b><br>Gordon Moore                                  |
| <b>Franklin County</b><br>Robert Leso  | <b>Somerset County</b><br>Cody LaChance,<br>SAPPI                          |
| <b>Hancock &amp; Penobscot<br/>County</b><br>Kevin Allcroft,<br>Forestree Concepts | <b>Washington County</b><br>Brittany Mauricette,<br>Downeast Forestry, LLC |
| <b>Kennebec County</b><br>Vite Vitale  | <b>York County</b><br>Karl Buckley   |
| <b>Knox &amp; Waldo County</b><br>Morten Moesswilde,<br>Maine Forest Service       |  |

## At-Large Committee Members

**Kyle Burdick**, Brookton  
**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

## A Note from the Maine Tree Farm Chair

If a new Northern Maine woodlot owner was looking for information on managing his or her timber, they could contact the local Maine Forest District forester. For he or she would most probably have adequate knowledge and information or at least send you in the right direction. But if they really needed more detailed hands-on information with a flare of enthusiasm, like growth rates on hybrid larch, tractor logging, restoring cut over tracts of forest land in the Acadian forest or which YouTube videos to search for on working safely on your woodlot, the persons to contact would surely be Vince and Kathi Seiwert. Vince and Kathy are the 2022 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. This great award goes to woodlot owners that deserve recognition for not only managing the greatest natural resource ever but also for helping disseminate valuable knowledge to Maine landowners. Education is the biggest bang for the forest industries buck in promoting sustainable forestry and Vince and Kathi have that great ability. I am proud to have Vince and Kathi in my district and look forward to the Forest Field Day on Saturday September 10th where they will be hosting this annual event. Maine Tree Farm and Maine Woodland Owners will be recognizing this years award at Vince and Kathi's Tree Farm in Ashland Maine. Please, if you have never been to this event and have not been to Northern Maine in a few years, come on up! It will be good day to celebrate great forestry.

Randy Lagasse  
Northern Maine District Forester MFS  
Maine Tree Farm Chair

## 2022 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

The Maine Tree Farm Program is proud to celebrate members who display superior stewardship of their woodlands through the annual Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year recognition program. These landowners are recognized for their remarkable efforts to enhance and sustain their forests, while spreading the word about practicing sustainable forestry.

### 2022 Hancock County Tree Farmers of the Year: Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust

GPMCT is a public-supported nonprofit land trust established in 1993. The Trust owns and manages the 5000-acre Wildlands in East Orland, managed for recreation, wildlife habitat, and sustainable forestry. Of this 5000-acre parcel, 4500 acres are enrolled in the Maine Tree Farm Program and have been for over 11 years. The Wildlands are open to the public for hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding as well as hunting, fishing, and trapping.

"We are a Certified Tree Farm because we want our visitors to know that sustainable forestry is an integral part of our mission. We also benefit from the resources available to us for educational materials and access to forestry professionals," said GPMCT Executive Director, Landon Fake. "GPMCT's board and staff are thrilled to receive the Hancock County Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award. It recognizes our commitment to sustainable forestry, the hard work of our forester, Roger Greene, and our productive relationship with the Ellsworth Field office of the NRCS."



*Aerial view of recent wildlife-focused harvests at Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trusts*

## 2022 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year: Vince & Kathi Seiwert



Vince and Kathi are the proud owners of Bombadil Tree Farm, a 210-acre woodlot located in Ashland, Maine. Their property has been a part of Maine Tree Farm since 1978. Vince works diligently to fulfill their ownership goals of sustainably growing and harvesting trees and other forest products, protecting the watershed, enhancing wildlife habitat, and supporting recreational use of the property. Due to Vince and Kathi's longstanding forest stewardship and commitment to Tree Farm's values, they were awarded Aroostook County Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year in 2020. This year they were enthusiastically nominated for the State award by their Tree Farm Inspecting Forester, Shawn Bugbee.

The Seiwerts demonstrate outstanding efforts to enhance and sustain their forests while promoting spreading the word about sustainable forestry with other small woodlot owners. In addition, Vince produces high-quality educational videos on his Bombadil Tree Farms YouTube channel, which conveys impactful conservation messages and themes. These videos highlight silvicultural clearcutting, salvage cutting, creating access trails, firewood splitting safety, and more.

### Save The Date!

**2022 Forestry Field Day at Bombadil Tree Farm  
September 10, 2022**

Join us for this year's Forestry Field Day event: Saturday, September 10th hosted at Bombadil Tree Farm. At this event, Maine's small woodland owners will gather and celebrate the Seiwerts and their exceptional Tree Farm. More details to come!

# Maine Tree Farm Peer Network

By Larry Beauregard

Okay, I admit it, I love the woods. From my youngest age, most of my best times were spent roaming in the woods surrounding our home and family camp in Rhode Island. I spent that time just admiring the huge oak and pine trees, enjoying the seasonal wild flowers, scouting for signs of animals and foraging for wild berries and mushrooms. Forest immersion was my recreation and opportunity to learn about a wide range of natural sciences.

Shortly after my wife and I moved to Maine, we decided to purchase a 120 acre piece of land in Old Town as an investment but also as a place where we could enjoy a bit of quiet time in a natural setting. The woods here differed from the oak-pine forests that I was familiar with in Rhode Island. There was so much more spruce and fir; so much more hemlock, aspen and maple. I was beginning to learn what it meant to be in the Acadian Forest.

At that time, I was not familiar with sustainable forest management practices but it didn't take too long for my neighbor to get me thinking in that direction. Ted Tryon was a forester with the J.W. Sewall Company who owned a 900 acre parcel that abutted our own. He is the one who got us thinking about ways to actively manage our woods, to improve the over health of the forest and, yes, to consider harvesting some of the timber. Ted introduced us to a consulting forester and, with his help, we identified our initial goals and implemented our first timber harvest in 1983. Since that time, we have had the opportunity to learn so much from fellow woodland owners, the staff of the Maine Forest Service, the faculty of the University of Maine School of Forestry, members of the Maine

Tree Farm Program and the Maine Woodland Owners Association and, of course, from Dave Wardrop, our consulting forester. As a retired teacher and mentor, I have been looking for ways to share what I have learned with anyone who is interested and willing to listen to me brag about my woodland experiences.

One of the great things about the small woodland owners community of Maine is the general willingness to share what we have learned with like-minded individuals. Recently, the Maine Tree Farm Program established a Peer Network that is specifically designed to connect experienced woodland owners with new landowners or with landowners who are looking to become more active managers. The idea is to foster opportunities for the Peers to share their experiences – good and perhaps not-so-good. The objective is to encourage landowners in a non-committal, collegial way to think about ways to sustainably manage their woodlands and to access the multitude of services that are available to help them reach their goals. The Maine Tree Farm Program is currently recruiting motivated individuals to serve in the Peer Network. If you are a Tree Farmer with a passion for promoting good forest stewardship and a willingness to share that passion, please consider becoming a peer mentor. If this is of interest, please contact the Maine Tree Farm Coordinator at (207) 613-6837 or coordinator@mainetreefarm.org. Candidates will participate in an orientation session to learn tips for landowner engagement and to learn about resources available to support forest stewardship.



**Larry Beauregard demonstrates how to collect sap from maple trees during an event for landowners**



**Peer network event participants discuss forestry topics.**

# Celebrating Maine Tree Farms 70th Anniversary



**Photo Contest Submission: Dodd Family Woodlot in New Portland, Maine (Photo Courtesy of Thomas Dodd)**



**Photo Contest Submission: Kraske Family Tree Farm in Hartford, Maine (Courtesy of the Kraske Family)**

## Submit Your Photos!

As part of the celebrations our 70th anniversary celebration, we invite Tree Farmers to share photos of their property for our “Maine Tree Farm Photo Contest,” we will share submissions throughout the year. Each photographer may submit a maximum of five photos total. Please send your submissions to [coordinator@mainetreefarm.org](mailto:coordinator@mainetreefarm.org). When submitting your photos, please include your name, your Tree Farm name, town, and acreage, along with your email address, age (if under 21), mailing address, and the month/time of year the photo was taken. Share additional fun facts or history about your Tree Farm.

*Disclaimer: By sending us your photos, you are agreeing to let Maine Tree Farm use them for publication purposes on our website, social media pages, and newsletter.*

This year, the Maine Tree Farm Program is celebrating its 70th anniversary. From 1952 to 2022, “tree farming” has grown into a true Maine tradition, with the original program consisting of two farms growing to the system of over 1,400 family woodland owners that exist in the state today.

When an investigative committee of forestry professionals was formed in 1951 to discuss establishing a Tree Farm Program in Maine, one important topic discussed was the need for Tree Farm standards that recognized the differences in management strategies for various forest types throughout the state. Maine is home to a diverse range of forest types ranging from southern oak-pine to northern spruce-fir, and when it comes to management, there is no such thing as one size fits all. There are, however, four fundamental components of the American Tree Farm System Standards of Sustainability that all management plans incorporate: wood, water, wildlife, and recreation.

Over the last 70 years, the Maine Tree Farm Program, governed by the Maine Tree Farm Committee, has helped many landowners with a multitude of management goals and objectives. And while no two landowners (or their lands) are the same, the four pinnacles of the Tree Farm Program can be seen on the signs hanging proudly on all Tree Farmers’ properties. “The sign of good forestry” is representative of all the hard work that Tree Farmers put into stewarding their lands. Tree Farmers recognize the multidimensional nature of forests, appreciating and promoting all the aspects that lead to truly healthy ecosystems.

Not only does the Maine Tree Farm Program recognize the importance of Maine’s forests – it recognizes the importance of the people that comprise the program. In fact, Maine was the first state to make an official annual celebration of the superior stewardship of its members, and in 1954 created the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award. The first OTFY was awarded to W. Lawson Dauphinee of Piscataquis County, and the tradition has continued ever since, with the most recent recipients being Vince and Kathi Seiwert of Aroostook County for 2022.

As part of the Maine Tree Farm Program, Tree Farmers not only receive recognition for their stewardship, but they also have access to professional forestry advice, education resources, and are able to join a community of like minded individuals dedicated to sustainable forestry. The Maine Tree Farm Committee is proud to celebrate the program’s 70th anniversary and all past, present, and future Tree Farmers throughout 2022!



## 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



*Children utilizing the Holt Research Forest Outdoor Classroom  
(Photos Courtesy of Kaylee Trefethen)*

# Updates from the Forest

## Outdoor Learning at Holt Research Forest

by Kaylee Trefethen

Two Kindergarten girls and I have been very fortunate to spend time in Maine TREE's Holt Research Forest during the end of winter and early spring. I help homeschool the girls while we learn and explore in different wooded spaces around the Mid-coast area. We spend most of our time playing and exploring in the woods. The two Kindergarten girls and I love spending time outdoors and we truly embrace the seasons here in Maine.

On snow-covered days at Holt Research Forest, we love climbing the big rocks and sliding down over and over again. The children often make features such as root balls and low branches into pretend homes where they roleplay family and other games. They love finding sticks and making hideaways for other imaginary play spaces. When we are not immersed in rich and meaningful play (the most important part of early childhood education), we are gathered together to eat, read stories, and practice writing and math skills. We love to bring our own hammocks to the woods to swing on or find a cozy space to sit and listen to nature or a story. We paint, we write, we sing, and we explore.

The young children are gaining such an appreciation for the natural world while practicing math and literacy skills with their teacher. There is really nothing like being outside with children. Every day is an adventure and we love embarking on it in Maine's beautiful woods.

## Maine TREE Hires Summer Research Technicians

Maine TREE is thrilled to introduce Marin Harnett and Jack McCann – our new seasonal research technicians who will be working at Holt Research Forest this summer.

My name is Marin (she/her), and I was born in New Jersey but have lived in North Carolina for most of my life. I graduated from NC State University in 2021, earning a degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

Management with a minor in Forest Management. My passion for forest ecology and conservation has been fostered through my time spent outdoors and my experiences doing fieldwork throughout my studies at NC State. Though I love all things nature, I have particularly enjoyed studying forest succession, fire ecology, and birds! I have worked as a dendrology tutor, interned with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, and more recently, spent six months working as a naturalist in Colorado, where I enjoyed teaching others about Rocky Mountain ecology. In my free time, I love hiking, birdwatching, and rowing, as well as reading, painting, and playing with my family dogs, Ziggy and Finley. I am really looking forward to spending my summer at the Holt Research Forest, gathering data about the forest and its inhabitants (especially the birds), and getting to know the Maine TREE team!

-Marin Harnett

Hi! I'm Jack McCann and I am finishing up my third year at the University of Maine studying Wildlife Ecology. I'm from southern Massachusetts but decided on UMaine because of the really interesting coursework and hands-on experience it provides for wildlife management. I have found small mammals to be the most interesting, particularly with their role in seed dispersal. Outside of school I love to rock climb, ski, and just generally be outside. I can't wait to start and be a part of the Maine TREE team at the Holt Research Forest!

-Jack McCann

Marin and Jack will be working on a range of dynamic projects, from small mammal trapping to regeneration surveys. Please join us in welcoming Marin and Jack to the Maine TREE team!

## Items needed at the Holt Research Forest

Maine TREE staff is working to get the log cabin at Holt Research Forest ready for the coming field season and our research technicians, and we are looking for some household items that you might be able to help us by donating. Anything that could be donated would be a tremendous help. If you have items to donate, please reach out to us at [info@mainetree.org](mailto:info@mainetree.org) or by calling 207-305-0285. Thank you so much for your support of Maine TREE and Holt Research Forest!

### Kitchen

- Coffee maker
- Microwave (2)
- Toaster or toaster oven



*Jack McCann*



*Marin Harnett*

### Living/bedrooms

- Twin, full/queen sized linens and bedding
- Trash cans (small and large)

### General household items

- Vacuum cleaner
- Cleaning supplies
- Large plastic totes for winter storage
- Lightbulbs



## Steering Committee

**Andrew Beahm**, Falmouth, Maine Audubon  
**Mary Berry**, Brunswick, The Nature Conservancy  
**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.  
**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  
**Bob Perschel**, New England Forestry Foundation  
**Rob Riley**, Northern Forest Center  
**Steve Tatko**, Appalachian Mountain Club  
**Karin Tilberg**, Forest Society of Maine  
**David Trahan**, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine  
**Nate Webb**, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife  
**David Wilson**, Katahdin Forest Management, LLC  
**Mike Wilson**, Northern Forest Center

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