

Maine Tree Farm NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016

A publication of the Maine Tree Farm Committee

Issue No. 8



2016 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year - Pine Tree Camp

“They chose a good name and they have the pine trees to back it up.” That’s how Andrew Shultz, Landowner Outreach Forester for the Maine Forest Service describes the Tree Farm at [Pine Tree Camp](#). Pine Tree Camp, a project of the Pine Tree Society, was selected by the Maine Tree Farm Committee as the state’s [Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year](#) for 2016.



Located in Rome on a mile of pristine North Pond shorefront and bordered by over a mile of Great Meadow Stream, Pine Tree Camp is a place where people with disabilities have come to enjoy being in the Maine woods since 1945. The 285-acre facility is fully adapted to meet the special needs of campers and the barrier-free setting allows them to do things they otherwise wouldn’t be able to experience, like hiking on accessible nature trails, going swimming, fishing, sleeping overnight in a tent and climbing up into a fully accessible tree house – all designed for people who use wheelchairs and other mobility devices. “Pine Tree Camp gives people with disabilities a unique opportunity to experience the outdoors in a way that typically is not easily accessible to them,” said Noel Sullivan, president and CEO of Pine Tree Society. “We recognize

that our beautiful, barrier-free campus is an incredible asset to our organization and we work hard to ensure that we are managing it properly.”

Paul Jacques, former Deputy Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, is Pine Tree Society’s board president. He has been involved with the camp since the 1970s when he volunteered as a teenager, shingling buildings, building decks and doing whatever was needed. For him, forest management is not something you do alone and not something you do overnight. “Owning and managing land in Maine is a heck of a responsibility,” he said. “And Pine Tree Society has done it right.” Just 20 feet away from any of the Camp’s buildings you are in the woods. “The uninterrupted forest envelops and surrounds you.” The Camp also made a conscious effort to maintain the property so it looks beautiful from the water. “When you canoe by with your family, it looks like something right off a postcard.”



Pine Tree Camp was up against strong competition to win this award and the Camp’s unique combination of managing its timber value with its recreational value is what set them apart. “Pine Tree Camp’s mission is first and foremost serving the needs of their campers,” continued Shultz, who nominated them for this award. “They didn’t have to have a long-term vision for managing their forest, but they did.” Shultz, who is also a Tree Farm Inspector, has a long association with the Camp. In 2005, prior to working for the Maine Forest Service, he wrote a comprehensive Forest Stewardship Plan for their woodlands, recommending many of the forestry activities that have since taken place.

As a result, they’ve harvested their woodlands in a way that allows campers to enjoy a trail system in a healthy forest that’s a habitat for creatures like deer and pine marten, which campers can have the thrill of seeing -- perhaps for the first time in their lives. John Starrett, Forester for Sappi North America, and [Tree Farm County Chair](#) for both Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties, concurs. “They’re very deserving of this award. The services Pine Tree Camp provides are unique and to have the backdrop of 285 acres to support that mission is rare. They could have been passively involved and just focused very narrowly on the needs of campers. They could have only had one vision. But they saw more.” Starrett has been involved with Pine Tree Camp for 25 years. Through the 1990s he oversaw a round of improvement harvests under the auspices of International Paper Company’s Landowner Assistance Program. He is now implementing the next phase of active management along with D.R. Pepper Wood Harvesting, an independent logging contractor from Fayette. *This article continues on page 2.*

We want to hear from you! Have questions about the management of your woodlot or a story about your Tree Farm that you would like to share? Submit stories, photos, and questions to info@mainetreefarm.org or 207.613.MTFP (6837)

Early on, Pine Tree Society recognized the quality and diversity of the trees and the value they bring. They saw the long-term potential for the property and understood the importance of working with experienced foresters and loggers to fulfill the vision. As a result, they not only set clearly defined goals and objectives but actively engaged professionals to give them guidance. “Which is the key to their success,” continued Starrett. “If not for the quality of the loggers involved with the Camp, the property would not be what it is today. Right from when they first purchased the land, they’ve worked with educated and experienced professionals each step of the way.”

Facilities manager Harvey Chesley has been with Pine Tree Camp since 1994 and is whom Starrett calls “the boots on the ground.” “I actually put my boots on just yesterday and walked the area we’re currently logging,” laughed Chesley. “At the very start, the foresters we worked with had the idea to work with our name and make pine trees the centerpiece of our property. When you drive in on the road, there are stately pines on either side. That’s by design.”

Maintaining water quality is an important component of the Camp’s forestry plan and involves managing roads and trails. “The Camp’s main access road pitches steeply towards the water’s edge, yet there is no run off into the pond,” noted Shultz. “It speaks to the good forestry management of the Camp that there is virtually no road or trail erosion and the excellent water quality of the pond and surrounding streams is maintained and protected.”

Looking ahead, Starrett’s hope is that Pine Tree Camp can sustain the long view forestry management plan the same way they have for the past 75 years. “Not many landowners own 200 plus acres continuously for 75 years. This is a unique piece of Maine forest that spans generations and has the potential to keep doing so long into the future.” “Pine Tree Society is committed to stewarding our precious resources,” said Sullivan. “Our forest management plan helps to ensure that this access is available long into the future.” *Article reprinted with permission from the Pine Tree Society.*



Forestry Focused Adult Ed Classes

Prentiss and Carlisle and the Maine Forest Service have been hosting a series of Forestry Focused adult-ed classes across the state. The classes, held in the evening, are designed to educate forest landowners, future forest land owners, or people that are otherwise interested in learning about small woodlot management. Nights are typically themed, covering topics such as the basics of silviculture, wildlife management, firewood, working with foresters, working with loggers, Tree Growth Tax Law, Tree ID and Tree Farm! Attendees brought their notebooks, questions, and even a few twigs with questionable insect and disease damage.

Steve McDonald, a Prentiss and Carlisle Forester, and Sandy Walczyk, Maine Forest Service District Forester for the Jonesboro region, hosted a class at RSU24 in Sullivan in the fall of 2015. There were approximately 20 people in attendance. In Lincoln, Maine Forest Service Old Town District Forester Terri Coolong also hosted a similar event at the Northern Penobscot Tech Region III.

In addition to the scheduled topics, many other issues were discussed including land use history, climate change, and mill closures. A Tree Farm presentation was administered by TF Vice chair Kyle Burdick, primarily introducing Tree Farm to the attendees. Many had seen the green and white diamond signs, but most didn't know what tree farm was all about. More classes are expected to be taught around the state, including another hosted by Terri Coolong as a “201” class in Lincoln. Other classes will also likely pop up throughout the state. For more information, please visit <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/events.html> or please feel free to contact us at 207.613.6837 and speak with our Program Coordinator, Gretchen.

Reminder: Switching to an electronic version will help us save on printing and postage costs, and stretch our limited budget even further. You can access the online version and subscribe today at: www.maintreefarm.org/newsletter.html

We Want To Hear From You!

We're always interested in your questions, stories, and thoughts about your woods and the Tree Farm program. What topics do you most want to learn more about? *Please check all that interest you:*

<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat <input type="checkbox"/> General info <input type="checkbox"/> Specific species: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Legacy planning for the future of your Tree Farm
<input type="checkbox"/> Markets <input type="checkbox"/> Wood products <input type="checkbox"/> Non-timber forest products	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Farm Standards
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation trail layout and maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Managing recreation users

Please detach this form, place in envelope, and mail back to us at: Maine Tree Farm Committee, PO Box 5470, Augusta, ME 04332. Thank you for your input! Your responses will help determine future newsletter articles and Tree Farm communications.

Growing Your Plan Along With Your Trees

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) [Standard](#) Number One is all about written **forest management planning**, with an emphasis on the "...ing." The performance measures for this Standard essentially asks Tree Farmers to develop and carry out written forest management plans consistent with the size of the woodlot and the scale of woodland activities. Plans should be "active and adaptive," and always embody landowner objectives and goals, as well as reflect current conditions of the woods, markets, and the best available knowledge regarding woodlot management.

So, how often should you update your Plan to keep it active? Most woodland owners hold to a 10 year planning schedule, consistent with the [Tree Growth Tax Law](#) or the [WoodsWISE Incentives Program](#)™*. These Plans are fairly formal documents, involve licensed foresters, and meet minimum specifications set forth either in the law or in the program requirements. However, even when your Plan serves these purposes, you can always add your own hand written notes as things change. For instance, the period shortly after a harvest is an ideal time to reassess and recalibrate stand descriptions and recommendations for future action. Also, insect or disease outbreaks, severe weather events, or big changes in your personal or family situation can create a need for an update.

If you want to use an electronic template to help organize your planning, you might want to check the American Forest Foundation's "[My Land Plan](#)." "My Land Plan" provides easy to use tools that help you map your land, set and document goals, keep a journal and learn more about forestry and woodland stewardship. Talk with your forester about incorporating this tool into your overall Plan.

ATFS also offers a "[Management Plan Addendum](#)" form. This form is organized along the current ATFS Standards, to help with conformance. However, it also provides space to just document items that may not have made it in to the original Plan. It's up to you how much to fill in. You can also request a paper version from your Tree Farm Inspecting Forester, or from Gretchen Heldmann, the Maine Tree Farm Coordinator. Gretchen can be reached at 207.613.MTFP ([207.613.6837](tel:207.613.6837)) or coordinator@mainetreefarm.org, or PO Box 5470 | Augusta, ME 04332.

Thoughts of Plan updates may prompt you to have your forester come out to the Tree Farm for a walk around and some more formal written recommendations. This site visit could also serve as a Tree Farm Inspection---just be sure to have your forester document it with the Maine Tree Farm Committee! Depending on the circumstances, some or all of your forester's time may be covered by a stipend from the Committee; check with your forester or Gretchen about current availability of the stipend.

Maybe you aren't able to spend all the time you'd like on your Tree Farm, or maybe when you do it's really more about enjoying the woods and just having fun, not thinking about jotting down notes about stand conditions. Not to worry! As long as you renew your Plan when it expires, you will be current as far as Standard #1 is concerned.

For more information about either the Tree Growth Tax Law or the WoodsWISE Incentives Program, contact Andy Shultz, the Maine Forest Service's Landowner Outreach Forester, at (207) 287-8430, or by e-mail at andrew.h.shultz@maine.gov.

Inspections, Inspections, Inspections!

Inspections are the heart of the Tree Farm program. In reality, most “inspections” are more a walk in the woods and a talk at the table, rather than a rigorous review of the property. Inspections are the moments that Tree Farmers and foresters share experience, advice and stories about the woods.

2015 was a fairly busy year for Maine Tree Farm inspections. A total of 175, including 21 initial certifications and 82 recertifications, were completed by 42 trained Inspectors. Here are the top inspectors by number of inspections completed:

Don Winslow — 19

Rob Nelson — 13

Jesse Duplin, Jack Wadsworth — 10 each

Vite Vitale, Kirby Ellis — 8 each

Harold Burnett, Paul Larrivee, Chip Love — 7 each

Daren Turner, Bob Leso, John Starrett — 6 each

Thanks to all of our Tree Farm foresters for all the work they do providing the key activity of the Maine Tree Farm program!

Inspections - Did You Know?

Each year, the American Tree Farm System assigns a list of randomly selected Tree Farms to the Maine Tree Farm Committee. The Committee is then required to inspect all Tree Farms on that list during the given year in order to maintain funding and certification status. This year, the Maine Tree Farm Committee received a list of 62 Tree Farms across Maine to inspect to ensure conformance with the current [ATFS Standards](#). Informational letters have gone out to Tree Farmers that were selected this year.

Maine Tree Farm Committee
American Tree Farm System
PO Box 5470
Augusta, ME 04332
*The American Tree Farm System is a
program of the American Forest Foundation*

