

Maine Tree Farm NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016

A publication of the Maine Tree Farm Committee

Issue No. 11



2017 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

The Maine Tree Farm Committee is happy to announce the 2017 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer. The recipients are Pam and Bryan Wells, owners of the Wells Demonstration Forest which encompasses over 1,000 acres in Milford and Greenfield. They have worked diligently to bring their woods back from a heavily cut, high-graded situation. The results so far are remarkable, which is why their forester, Kirby Ellis, nominated them to be Outstanding Tree Farmers. Future issues will feature a more in-depth profile of Pam & Bryan.

An award ceremony will be held on January 11, 2017 at 1:00 pm, as part of the Small Woodland Owner's Association of Maine's Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the Agricultural Trades Show, at the Augusta Civic Center. We invite you to join us!



Getting Ready for the (3rd) Party!

About every four years, a sample group of Maine Tree Farms are selected for a visit from an independent, 3rd party certification company. This is how our Tree Farm Certification system maintains its credibility. The last time this occurred was in 2013. Approximately 37 Tree Farms were visited. The results of that visit confirmed that the Maine Tree Farm program is right on track!

In the spring or early summer of 2017, we will once again play host to independent forest certifiers, from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The selection of Tree Farms will be made in January; we expect a similar number as in 2013. All the Tree Farmers drawn will be notified and asked for permission to visit and look at their Tree Farm and their Forest Management Plan. This will be a good opportunity to show off the great work we do in Maine. If your Tree Farm has not been inspected within the last five years, now would be a good time call your Tree Farm Inspecting Forester and set up a meeting to look over your management plan. If you are not sure who your Inspecting Forester is, please contact your County Chair (see list below), or Gretchen Heldmann, Maine Tree Farm Coordinator, at 207.613.6837, or coordinator@mainetreefarm.org

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A Lot Going On At The Annual Tree Farm/SWOAM Field Day

-by George Smith (Adapted with permission from an article originally appearing in the Bangor Daily News available at <http://georgesoutdoornews.bangordailynews.com/2016/09/21/conservation/theres-a-lot-more-going-on-in-maines-forests-than-you-know-about/>)

The Pine Tree Camp on North Pond in Rome hosted a fantastic Maine Tree Farm/SWOAM Forestry Field Day on September 10. I thought I knew a lot about what's going on in our forests, including the programs and projects currently underway, but boy, did I learn a lot at this great event, the 62nd annual Field Day.

First of all, I was very impressed with the Pine Tree Camp, which was chosen as the 2016 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer. A project of the Pine Tree Society, the Camp incorporates forest management into a setting that provides unique outdoor recreational experiences for people with special needs. Harvesting trails open the woods up to "remote" places to swim, fish or camp overnight, activities that may be completely new for some campers. My good friend, former legislator and DIF&W Deputy Commissioner Paul Jacques, has dedicated a lot of his time to the camp, and I'm pleased I finally got to see this amazing place.

I was particularly appreciative of a tour of the camp's forestlands that John Starrett took me on. John, a procurement forester with SAPPI North America, has managed Pine Tree Camps 285 acres of forest for 25 years. And boy, has he done a superb job. At one spot, he pointed to a stump and told me, "There's an oak stump we cut in 1991." Yup, he knows every tree and every stump!



I was especially impressed with the work that Dirigo Timberlands is doing, building concrete culverts that provide environmentally friendly and cost effective options for stream and brook crossings. Blaine Miller showed me, and the many others on the tour with me, one of those culverts, installed on the Pine Tree Camp property, and it is really impressive. I hope to write another column on culverts sometime soon, a very important subject for all of us who love to fish.

Pat Sirois, Director of the Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative, had a very interesting display demonstrating how forest landowners are helping to rebuild fisheries habitat in our rivers, streams, and brooks, principally by dropping trees into them. Pat's "flume table" demonstrated how this works, with a stream of water running down the table, and spawning habitat being created as he placed toy-sized "trees" in the flowing water.

There was a ton of information available here. I had a great talk with a representative of "Local Wood Works," a project of the Kennebec Woodland Partnership, which includes the Kennebec Land Trust, a local land trust that has done great work in my area. The effort is focused on collaborative pathways for an enhanced local wood economy in Maine. You can learn more at www.localwoodWORKSmaine.com.

Shelby Wright was there with a booth, promoting the new Keep Maine Clean program that her Maine Resource Recovery Association recently launched. The Camp served a very tasty lunch and even had my favorite singing group, Stan Keach's Sandy River Ramblers, (photo at right) entertaining us outside on a beautiful sunny day. Yes, it was a fun day!



Maine Tree Farm Committee Receives Partnership Award

Thank You to our Tree Farmers!

The Maine Tree Farm Committee received a “Forward for Forests” plaque from the American Forest Foundation (AFF), as a Valued Forest Stewardship Partner to the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). Tom Martin, President and CEO of AFF, presented the award at the 62nd Annual Forestry Field Day. The Forestry Field Day, held on September 10th, was co-sponsored by the Maine Tree Farm Committee and the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM), and was hosted by the current 2016 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year, Pine Tree Society, which owns and operates Pine Tree Camp.



Paul Larrivee (left), Maine Tree Farm Committee Chair, accepts a Valued Forest Stewardship Partner Award from Tom Martin (right), President and CEO of the American Forest Foundation.

This year marked the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System. As we wrap up the year of celebrating this milestone, the Maine Tree Farm Committee (MTFC) would like to thank you, our Tree Farmers here in Maine, for the hard work you have put into your forests over the years. The success of the Tree Farm System is in large part because of the work you and your families have done to help family-owned forests continue to provide a home for wildlife, clean water that flows to our faucets, wood for homes, furniture and other goods, and so much more. Without your efforts and dedication, the honor of the MTFC receiving the Valued Forest Stewardship Partner award would not be possible.



The MTFC is a volunteer collaboration of Tree Farmers, foresters (Inspectors), the Maine Forest Service, and representatives of the wood products industry. For more information, including a list of sponsors, please visit <http://mainetreefarm.org/index.html>

Valued Forest Stewardship Partner Awards were also presented to the Maine Forest Service, SWOAM, and the Maine Tree Foundation - all of which are valued partner organizations to the Maine Tree Farm Committee. Thank you.

Maine Project Learning Tree Brings Students, Teachers, and Forests Together

- Submitted by Pat Maloney

In my role as the State Coordinator for Maine Project Learning Tree (MEPLT), I often hear woodland owners voice their concerns about the future of forestry. What better way to help address this than to connect students with a Maine Tree Farmer? Tree Farms like yours are great models of responsible, sustainable woodland stewardship. You may be interested in inviting a local school class to visit your Tree Farm for a woodlot tour. You might go further and have local students set up permanent study plots using MEPLT's Forest Inventory Growth (FIG) program, to be re-visited annually for measurement of growth and change. You could consider working with PLT and your forester to plan a Forest Field Day, as a chance to offer even richer educational opportunities for students, neighbors and others.

MEPLT, sponsored in Maine by the Maine TREE Foundation, is part of a national program which offers curriculum and professional development for teachers, educators, community leaders and natural resource professionals, primarily through a six hour workshop. These workshops bring people together who are interested in getting young people outdoors and into the forests of Maine to learn about trees, forest health, land ownership, and much more. We at MEPLT believe that whatever is taught indoors can also be taught in the woods! The national motto for Project Learning Tree is “to teach students *how* to think, not *what* to think.” Another way Tree Farmers can connect with MEPLT could be to host a teacher workshop. *(continued on page 4)*

Did You Know?

Having accurate data on all Tree Farms is important, both for good record-keeping and for the credibility of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). A recent development of ATFS calls for a standard procedure for counting the number of Tree Farms that are part of the Maine Tree Farm program. In cases where an ownership with more than one separate parcel has historically been identified as a single Tree Farm, the ownership can be easily broken out into multiple Tree Farms using a simple decimal extension for the original Tree Farm number. For example, if Tree Farm # 9999 includes 3 separate, non-contiguous woodlots, then each lot gets a unique identifier as follows: TF# 9999.1, TF# 9999.2 and TF# 9999.3. Doing this will help the Maine Tree Farm Committee more accurately show the full scope of our program. If your Tree Farm fits this situation, or if you have any questions about this, contact your Tree Farm Inspecting Forester, or Gretchen Heldmann, the Maine Tree Farm Program Coordinator, at 207.613.MTFP (207.613.6837); coordinator@mainetreefarm.org ; or PO Box 5470 | Augusta, ME 04332.

(continued from page 3) MEPLT also participates in Maine TREE's Summer Teachers Tours series. These tours bring together educators of various backgrounds to visit large and small woodland owners, experience logging operations up close, and see the inner working of wood products manufacturing businesses. Stay tuned for more information about the 2017 Tours in an upcoming issue.

To learn more about MEPLT visit <http://www.mainetreefoundation.org/programs/plt-index.html> and www.maine4g.org , or contact me at Maine Project Learning Tree, 153 Hospital Street, Augusta, ME 04330; 207 626 7990; meprojectlearningtree@gmail.com

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*The American Tree Farm System is a
program of the American Forest Foundation*

