

# Maine Tree Farm NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020

A publication of the Maine Tree Farm Committee

Issue No. 22



## POSTPONED:

### 2020 Annual Field Day

After much thought and deliberation, the Maine Tree Farm Committee and Maine Woodland Owners have elected to postpone the 66th Annual Forestry Field Day at Wicopy Woods in Sebec.

Read about the Wicopy Woods Sneak Peek Tour on page 6 of this Newsletter



## Newell Family Reaches “Elite Eight” of the National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Award



Don Newell and family are a finalist in Northeastern Tree Farm of the year award and one of eight Tree Farms under consideration for the next National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year award.

As the 2019 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, the Newells hosted the 65th Annual Forestry Field Day in September of 2019. Don also attended the 2020 American Forest Foundation National Leadership Community Conference, among many more activities.

Please join the Maine Tree Farm Committee in congratulating the Newell Family and wishing them luck on their continuing journey.

## Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Process Postponed

As we continue to work together to lessen the impact of COVID-19 in our community, the Maine Tree Farm Committee has elected to postpone the annual Outstanding Tree Farmer of the year process until 2021. What does this mean?

First, we will honor the 2020 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, Drs. Bob Seymour and Jessica Leahy, at the 2021 Forestry Field Day. Second, there will be no 2021 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

The American Forest Foundation also suspended its search for a 2021 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. This decision means Don Newell and Family will continue their candidacy when the process resumes next year.

## Maine Tree Farm Receives Two Grant Awards



The American Tree Farm System has awarded the Maine Tree Farm Committee two \$10,000 Outcome-Based Grant Awards. Each of the grants will support the development of two community-building projects, a Peer Ambassador Network and Tree Farm Family Forest Stewardship Hubs.

The Peer Ambassador Network's goal is to develop a network of Tree Farmers who can be a resource for landowners in their community who have questions about forest management but aren't yet ready to work with a professional. The ambassadors in the network will answer questions their peers may have and tell their own stories about the importance of sustainable forest management.

The Tree Farm Family Forest Stewardship Hubs project may sound familiar to those who remember industrial sponsored "Tree Farm Families." The project's goal is to build communities of landowners in areas where organizations are actively working to connect with landowners promote forest stewardship.

"The Tree Farm Committee is excited to work with our partners on these projects," said Maine Tree Farm Coordinator, Logan Johnson. "Both projects serve to address the critical needs of landowners, and the opportunity to connect with their peers, professionals, and community."

## T-Shirt Sale Raises over \$1,400

In June, the committee launched a Bonfire t-shirt campaign. Bonfire is an organization that takes orders on behalf of an organization, bulk prints shirts to order, and ships them on the organization's behalf. Our initial campaign sold 106 shirts, and raised over \$1,400 for the Maine Tree Farm Committee, which will use the proceeds to continue providing services to forest landowners in the state.

Thank you to all of those who purchasaed a shirt!



## Sweatshirts and Hoodies Now on Sale



Due to the success of our first Bonfire campaign, we are excited to announce the launch of a second fundraising campaign. This time around, we are taking orders for hoodies and sweatshirts, which will be great for walking the woods this fall season.

Don't forget, every sweatshirt purchased directly benefits Maine landowners by helping to cover the cost of site visits from Tree Farm Inspecting Foresters, signs for Tree Farm properties, and community recognition and outreach such as this newsletter and the Annual Forestry Field Day.

The campaign will last 21 days so order yours today before time runs out. To order, visit:

[www.bonfire.com/maine-tree-farm-fall/](http://www.bonfire.com/maine-tree-farm-fall/)

## Community Features



### **INSPECTOR PROFILE: Mallory Bussell**

*Representing Counties:*  
State-wide

*Involved since:* **2020**

*Other Organizations:*  
Society of American Foresters  
Professional Logging Contractors of Maine  
Northeast Master Logger

## **Featured Inspector: Mallory Bussell**

Mallory Bussell is a forester in the Woodlot Management Services Division of Prentiss & Carlisle. Mallory works with a very wide variety of private landowners who own anywhere from 2 to 10,000 acres. Her clients range from small family owned lands to private businesses with multiple land holdings and unique objectives. Mallory provides woodland analysis, in-depth harvest planning and timber harvest execution, project management services, and enjoys solving challenging access issues!

She has been Secretary of the New England Society of American Foresters Executive Committee since 2016. Mallory remains active with the state's logging contractors by volunteering and participating in events and charity fund raisers with the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine and Master Logger. She loves meeting new people and helping landowners achieve goals they never thought possible on their woodlands. She got involved with Tree Farm to continue to meet passionate landowners and walk beautiful properties.

The Maine Tree Farm Committee is excited to welcome Mallory to the Tree Farm Inspecting Forester ranks. The Committee is always seeking foresters of any experience level to connect with landowners around the state.

## **Baskahegan Sells Carbon Offsets From Maine Forest**

Located in Northern Washington County, “Baskahegan is a family company dedicated to the long-term stewardship to develop the natural potential of Baskahegan’s forest to produce value for both present and future generations.” Baskahegan Company has been a certified Tree Farm since 1969. Baskahegan’s Woodland Manager, Kyle Burdick, is a past chair of the Maine Tree Farm Committee. According to Burdick, “under the ‘improved forest management’ options in the carbon market, the American Tree Farm Standard (ATFS) is an acceptable prequalifier to both get paid for carbon, and to sustainably manage the forest. Baskahegan maintains both ATFS and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.” Use the link below to learn about their recent activity, selling carbon from their forest!

<https://maineforest.org/baskahegan-sells-carbon-offsets-from-maine-forest/>

## **Remembering Maine Tree Farmer #3**

WINDSOR – Longtime Tree Farmer, and lifelong resident of Windsor, Carroll Raymond York passed away peacefully surrounded by family, on Sunday, August 23, 2020, at the age of 95. He was a leader and member of the Maine Tree Farm Program starting in 1952. His Maine Tree Farm Number was “3.” He was a decorated World War Two veteran and one of the founders of the Windsor Volunteer Fire Department in 1946, serving as chief and assistant chief for more than 70 years. He was honored to receive the Spirit of America Volunteer award from the Town of Windsor. Vite Vitale, the Kennebec County Tree Farm Chair had this to say about Carroll: “I was always impressed by Carroll. Everytime the woodlot had an inspection, he wanted to show you everything. He loved his Tree Farm. He didn’t just look at it, he used it.” For a full obituary, see---

<https://www.centralmaine.com/2020/08/26/obituarycarroll-raymond-york/>

# Hold the Curtain: The Show-stopping Canada Warbler Needs Help From Family Woodland Owners

*Forestry for Wildlife Habitat project focuses on Western Maine*

by Christine Parrish, New England Forestry Foundation Western Maine Project Coordinator



Photo Credit: Ken James

***Technical and Financial Assistance is Available to Western Maine woodland owners with more than 10 acres to use forestry to create homes for songbirds, native trout, and wildlife.***

The male Canada warbler arrives in Maine looking like he blew in from a Broadway Musical. With his neon-yellow chest decorated with a bold black necklace topped off with a pair of yellow-and-white spectacles and orange legs, this woodland songster is one of the easiest of the warblers to identify – if he would only hold still.

Flitting from one low branch to another, looking under leaves to snap up spiders and small insects in the shady wet woods, the busy Canada Warbler is doing triple duty. While he eats, he is also defending a

nesting territory while advertising for a mate. He is as flashy as an opera singer when he stops on a branch about 10 feet off the ground, flicks his tail and belts out his sweet warbling song to alert the less-showy females that he's available and to advertise to all male Canada warblers that he will defend this half-acre to three acres of buggy forest floor. Then he ducks back under the leaves and continues his feeding frenzy.

In Maine, Canada warblers won't be found in the treetops, at the bird feeder, or in the open woods. They will be low in the woods among a damp tangle of downed trees, ferns, and moss beneath the shade of taller trees.

As the male stands guard from the branches, the female Canada warbler chooses a hidden spot in the moss, or on a mossy stump, or a tipped-over tree and spends up to 5 days weaving together strips of bark, leaves, moss, and grasses to form a loose cup of a nest right on the ground. After lining it with fine grasses, animal hair, or fine rootlets, she lays 2-6 creamy eggs with small brown spots or blotches and then settles in to sit on the nest for up to 12 days.

Once the eggs hatch, the nestlings will stay another week in the nest while both parents bring them food. If disturbed, the female will drag a wing and try to lure the predator away from the nest with the broken wing trick.

One of the last woodland songbirds to arrive in the cool northern hardwood and northern mixed wood forests of Maine and Canada during late spring, Canada warblers stay on the breeding grounds for a brief two months to raise a family. If they are late to arrive, they are also early to leave, traveling by night to fly the return trip of 3000 miles to the lower slopes of the South American Andes by early August and spending fall, winter, and spring with most of the world's population of Canada warblers in the dense understory of cloud forests and shade-grown coffee plantations.

But life is not just The Sound of Music stage for the Canada warbler. They are trying to out-fly a threat that pursues them year after year.

Over time, this woodland songster has developed a specialized requirement for nesting and raising young. Not only do the small understory trees in Maine provide good perches for the male to show off during courtship,

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but the wet woods also provide a good source of protein-rich insects necessary to raise young. The tangle of vegetation from the ground to about six feet up offers a good mix of hiding places where Canada warblers can forage for food and tuck a nest and the nestlings out of sight.

Here is the right stage set: tall trees that block out from 50 to 70 percent of the sun, a shorter tree layer below that blocks out another 30 percent of the sun, and a mossy forest floor with blow-downs and downed logs, ferns, and shrub-sized trees.

That combination of breeding and nesting habitat is increasingly hard to find in northern forests. Today, the once-common Canada warbler has become a poster child for global habitat loss. They have declined over 60 percent in the past 50 years and are now listed on the Yellow Watch List by Partners in Flight as a bird species of continent-wide concern. At this rate of habitat loss, the remaining global population of Canada warblers is expected to decline by half again over the next 50 years.

One solution to stopping the decline is to use forestry as a wildlife habitat tool to create Canada warbler habitat so they can make more baby birds.

Over the next two years, the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) is working with woodland owners in Western Maine who have more than 10 acres to help them improve nesting bird habitat, woodland vernal pool habitat, create habitat for furbearers like the American Marten and Canada Lynx, and improve conditions for wide-ranging animals including moose, wintering deer, wild trout and more wildlife that need room to roam and clean water to thrive. Creating habitat for one creates homes for many.

If the property is a good fit for the project, the NEFF Western Maine staff will work with the landowner to create a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Plan at no cost. Then NEFF will assist the landowner in establishing eligibility for Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) funding through the Healthy Forest Reserve Program to offset the cost of recommended forest practices. Additional financial assistance is available on qualifying properties through the NEFF partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

For more information on the NEFF forestry-for-wildlife habitat project, see the project web page and contact the Western Maine Project Coordinator at the Farmington Maine office of the New England Forestry Foundation at [cparrish@newenglandforestry.org](mailto:cparrish@newenglandforestry.org) or at (207) 203-9006.

*The graphic below, from Maine Audubon's Forestry for the Birds program, depicts where to look for Canada warblers in the woods. While they nest on the ground, they are often found in the mid-story, between 6 and 30 feet.*



# Tree Farm Award Winners Must Wait until 2021 to Hold Celebration Amid COVID Concerns

Story and Photos Courtesy of Maine Woodland Owners and Jenn Hicks



In ordinary times, the Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year hosts Forestry Field Day, a highly anticipated, festival-like event. Sponsored by Maine Woodland Owners and Maine Tree Farm, this celebration draws a broad spectrum of the forest industry to tour the land and learn about the award recipients' thoughtful forest management efforts. This year's winners are Drs. Jessica Leahy and Bob Seymour for their 130-acre tree farm, Wicopy Woods, in the Piscataquis County village of Sebec. However, with gathering size restrictions in place in the state because of the pandemic, the Wicopy Woods event will have to wait until sometime in 2021.

Every year, the Maine Tree Farm Program honors a woodlot owner who demonstrates a level of forest stewardship that is exceptional. The Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year is a highly coveted recognition that started in 1954 to reward good forestry practices on properties 10 to 10,000 acres, primarily family-owned. These small woodland owners maintain nearly  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Maine's 15.5 million acres of privately owned forests and produce 40% of the state's wood supply. There are 87,000 woodlot owners in Maine and many of these forests are certified as Tree Farms - but only one award is given each year.

Despite the postponement, many felt that some public recognition should be given to Leahy and Seymour in 2020 for such a noteworthy achievement. So on August 30, a small group of masked forest enthusiasts and fellow woodland owners were welcomed by the couple and Maine Woodland Owners to Wicopy Woods for a "sneak peak" tour to learn what makes this parcel so exemplary.

When they acquired the land five years ago, the couple set forth to build on nearly a half century of exceptional management. A Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year himself in 1984 for his work on this very parcel, Ron Locke maintained voluminous notes, records and photos of the property, which Leahy and Seymour have used to develop and implement plans that ensure a healthy and vibrant forest for generations to come.

"Our aim from the beginning was to continue Ron's work on this woodland. Our decisions about harvests and forest regeneration for Wicopy Woods are informed by a combination of Ron's past management and the goals we have set for ourselves." said Leahy.

Leahy and Seymour have a forestry background, themselves. For one, both are licensed foresters. Additionally, Dr. Leahy is professor of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources at the University of Maine's School of Forest Resources and Dr. Seymour has recently retired from the University of Maine School of Forestry Resources faculty after over 30 years as Curtis Hutchins Professor of Silviculture.

**Tell us how you and your woods are doing!**

Forest thoughts and Tree Farm ideas are always welcome at [info@mainetreefarm.org](mailto:info@mainetreefarm.org)

The hosts kicked off the program by telling the story of Locke's effort to turn a run-down farm and woodlot into an example of forest health and productivity. The attendees were then given a tour of the results of their forest stand "prescription" regime where growth and harvest targets were set and regeneration strategies were developed based on anticipated economic outcomes and ecological benefits.

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“Wicopy Woods is forest management at its best, where other woodland owners can learn and be inspired by their efforts. We are thrilled that two very dedicated members of Maine Woodland Owners have received this well-deserved recognition. We look forward to properly honoring them in 2021.” said Tom Doak, Maine Woodland Owners Executive Director.

Wicopy Woods is named after the tree species Eastern leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) which is also called wicopy. It is estimated that at least 300 individual wicopy plants reside in this forest - the largest plants may be over 100 years old!

To learn more about Maine Woodland Owners, visit [www.mainewoodlandowners.org](http://www.mainewoodlandowners.org). More information about the 2021 Forestry Field Day at Wicopy Woods will be announced once the date is determined.

### Special Offer:

Inspecting Foresters who complete an Inspection in 2020 will receive a FREE Tree Farm Inspecting Forester Hat. Tree Farmers who haven't had an inspection recently are encouraged to reach out to their forester to schedule an inspection in 2020.



### **Gold “50 Years” Signs Available for Eligible Tree Farmers**

Are you a long time Tree Farmer? If you have been Tree Farming since before 1970, you can receive a gold 50-year Tree Farm sign to display on your property, like the one displayed at Wicopy Woods in the image at the top of the page. Contact your Inspecting Forester, County Chair, or the Tree Farm Coordinator to get yours!

### **A Message from Maine Tree Farm Committee Chair**

We’ve all heard it many times—“the only constant is change.” As Tree Farmers and Inspecting Foresters, we see change all the time, both the slow and incremental kind, as a forest grows, and the sudden variety, such as when wind or ice storms strike. And then there is the measured kind, when well planned timber harvesting happens. In any case, I thank you for taking part in the Maine Tree Farm Program during this period of constant change.

*Analy*



**Maine Tree Farm Committee  
American Tree Farm System  
535 Civic Center Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330**

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

## Thank You 2020 Tree Farm Supporters!

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\$250       \$150       \$100       \$50       \$25       Other: \$

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**Please make checks payable to: The Maine TREE Foundation**

Mail checks to: Maine Tree Foundation, 535 Civic Center Drive, Augusta ME, 04330

Please indicate *Maine Tree Farm* on the check

**Donate online using this link: <http://mainetreefarm.org/contribute/>**

Thank you so much for your support!

**Please note:** The Maine Tree Farm Program works very closely with the Maine TREE Foundation for administration support and fundraising. By making checks payable to the Maine Tree Foundation you will be able to take advantage of their non-profit 501c (3) status. **100% of your donation will go to the Maine Tree Farm Program.**