

Maine Tree Farm NEWSLETTER

Summer/Fall 2019

A publication of the Maine Tree Farm Committee



Issue No. 19

65th Annual Forestry Field Day is September 7!

On Saturday, September 7th, the 65th Annual Forestry Field Day, co-hosted by Maine Tree Farm and Maine Woodland Owners, will be held at the Newell Tree Farm, in Unity and Thorndike. The event will celebrate the achievements of the 2019 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer (OTF), Don Newell and family.

The event will feature wagon and walking tour options. The two wagon tours will take you to various locations on the woodlot to explore the management and stewardship of the property. On one wagon tour, participants will be guided by Don Newell, as he displays the woodland he has actively managed for 40 years. On the other wagon tour join Rob Nelson, consulting forester and Maine Tree Farm Committee's Somerset County Chair, to learn about active stewardship projects on the property, including a hemlock bridge installed with cost-share assistance from the Natural Resource Conservation Service. There will also be a Forests For Maine Birds walking tour hosted by the Forest Stewards Guild's Amanda Mahaffey and Maine Audubon's Sally Stockwell.

There will be many educational exhibits and demonstrations throughout the day, including a Project Learning Tree children's activities tent. All generations are welcome!

Please join us from 8 am to 3pm for a day of fun, learning, and community at this year's Forestry Field Day. Following the event, the Newell Family will be hosting a reception with recorded music, knacks from the local Amish Charcuteriere, and locally brewed beers as a thank you for all those who contributed and attended the event. Find more details in this newsletter and at mainetreefarm.org.



Lat year's (2018) Forestry Field Day Introductions



2019 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmers and 65th Annual Forestry Field Day hosts, the Newell Family.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need volunteers to help staff the Tree Farm booth at the following events:

Maine Farm Days: August 21 & 22, 9am to 4pm – Clinton, ME

65th Annual Forestry Field Day: September 7, 8am to 3pm – Unity/Thorndike, ME

Common Ground Country Fair: September 20 – 22, 8am to 5pm – Unity, ME

Fryeburg Fair: September 29 – October 6, 8am to 8pm most days – Fryeburg, ME

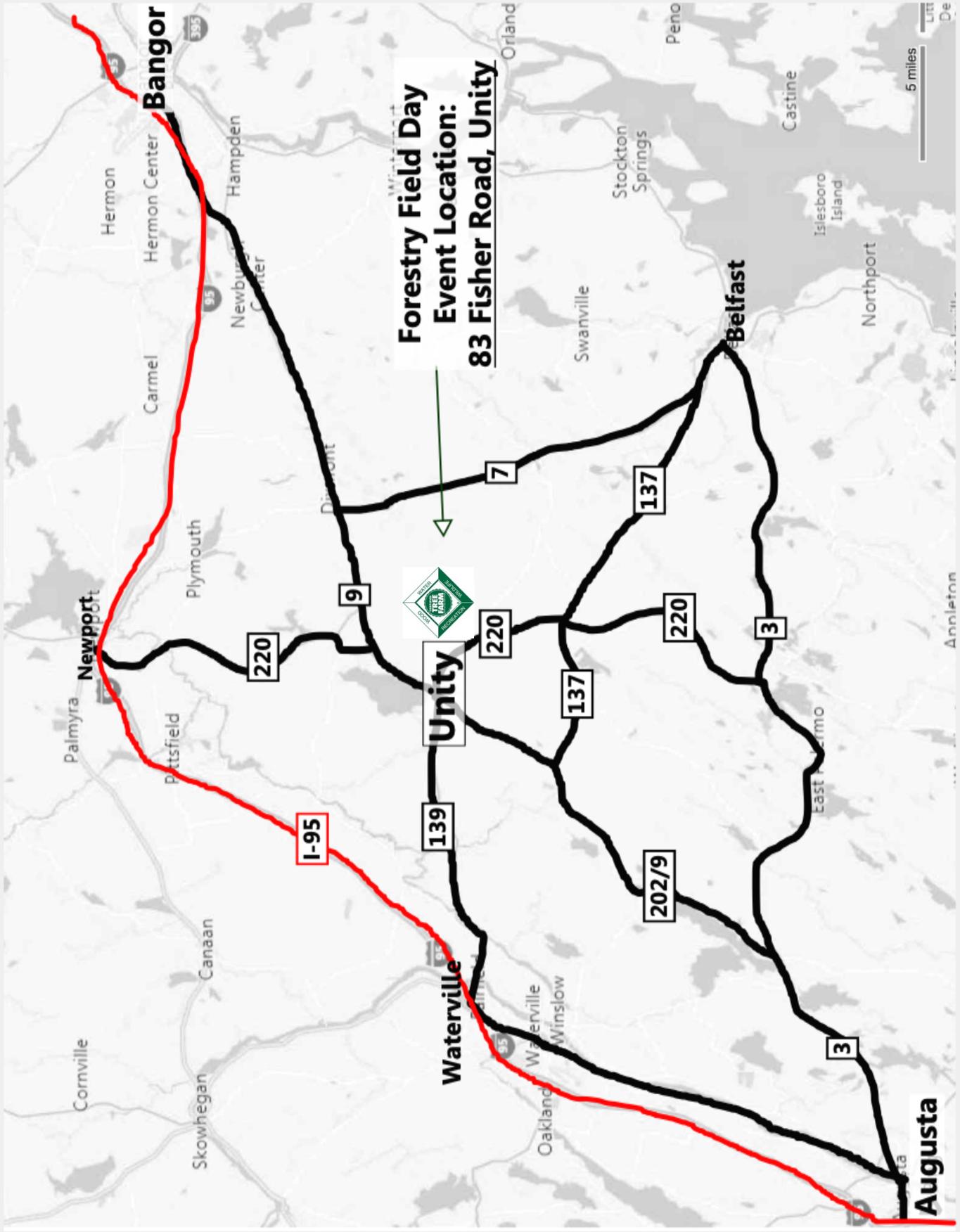
As a thank you for your service, all volunteers will get a Tree Farm t-shirt or coffee mug!
Please contact Logan Johnson (Program Coordinator) if you are interested in volunteering by emailing coordinator@mainetreefarm.org or calling 207.613.6837.

**Forestry Field Day
Event Location:
83 Fisher Road, Unity**



5 miles

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Forestry Field Day Tour Schedule

<i>Time</i>	<i>Tour</i>
8:00 – 8:30 am	Event Registration
8:30 – 9:00 am	Welcome and Introductions
9:00 – 11:30 am	<p><i>Wagon Tour: Exploring 40 years of stewardship</i> Join 2019 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer Don Newell at the “Cabin Lot” for discussions on the relationship between ice storm impacts and north slopes vs. south slopes; the results of 40 years of active management on northern hardwoods and pine; the role of soils on types and quality of trees; and more!</p>
9:00 am – 11:30 am	<p><i>Wagon Tour: Active Stewardship Projects</i> Rob Nelson, the Newell’s consulting forester shows the Tree Farm’s active projects such as healthy natural regeneration of hardwoods; a “pre-commercial thinning” and a “crop tree release”; timber harvesting using low impact equipment; and a recently built bridge designed and supervised by NRCS engineers and built by the landowner.</p>
9:30 am – 10:30 am	<p><i>Walking Tour: Forests for Maine Birds</i> Guided by Maine Audubon’s Sally Stockwell and the Forest Stewards Guild’s Amanda Mahaffey, learn why birds are indicators of a healthy forest and why messy is good!</p>
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<p><i>Walking Tour: What does the soil tell us?</i> Led by state soil scientist Dave Rocque, participants will visit soil pits to learn about the effect soil has on the forest.</p>
10:30am – 11:30 am	<p><i>Walking Tour: Invasive species identification and management</i> Learn from Waldo County Soil and Water District’s Aleta McKeague about invasive species, their impact on the forest, and control techniques.</p>
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Lunch (<i>and door prizes!</i>)
12:30-1:00	Recognition and Remarks (<i>and more door prizes!</i>)
1:00pm – 3:00 pm	<p><i>Wagon Tour: Active Stewardship Projects</i> repeat above</p>
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<p><i>Wagon Tour: Exploring 40 years of stewardship</i> repeat above</p>
1:15 am – 2:15 am	<p><i>Walking Tour: Forests for Maine Birds</i> Guided by Maine Audubon’s Sally Stockwell and the Forest Stewards Guild’s Amanda Mahaffey, learn why birds are indicators of a health forest and why messy is good!</p>
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	<p><i>Walking Tour: What does the soil tell us?</i> Led by state soil scientist Dave Roque, participants will visit soil pits to learn about the effect soil has on the forest.</p>
1:45 pm – 2:45 pm	<p><i>Walking Tour: Invasive species identification and management</i> Learn from Waldo County Soil and Water District’s Aleta McKeague about invasive species, their impact on the forest, and control techniques.</p>
3:00 pm	Field Day Event Ends & Host’s Reception Begins—All Welcome to Stay!

** All times are subject to change**

Community Features



VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

Kirby Ellis

Representing Counties:

Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo, Hancock,
York, Washington, Aroostook

Years Involved: 27

Other Organizations:

Master Logger Certification
Maine Society of American Foresters

Featured Inspector and Volunteer: Kirby Ellis By Pam Wells – 2017 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer

Welcome to my forester Kirby Ellis. Kirby has helped me learn how to take care of my Tree Farm forest. He has helped me get funding for pre-commercial thinning as well as making new trails on my forest. And best of all: helping me know how to see what's going on in my forest trees.

Without Kirby, I probably wouldn't have been the 2017 Tree Farmer of the Year for Maine. He allowed me to learn how to measure the width and height of trees while making my management plan for my forest. And he encouraged me to be attached to the NRCS local working group Committee as well as the Master Logger committee and well of course - the Tree Farm Committee.

Kirby has been active in Maine Tree Farm since 1992, first as a Tree Farmer and then as an inspector. Kirby was introduced to the program by his friend Rod Kennedy, International Paper Land Owner Assistance Program forester.

Kirby is currently an auditor for the Master Logger Certification program which is administered by The Trust to Conserve Northeast Forests, has been a Member at Large of the Maine

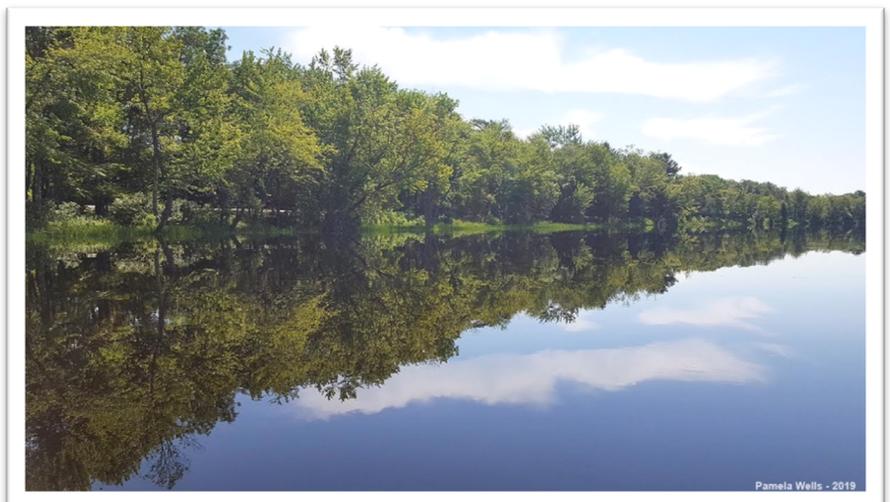
Society (MESAF) of American Foresters for three years and is currently the chair of that committee. He was the Tree Farm Penobscot County Chair for 5-6 years then chaired the Maine State Tree Farm Committee for one year. He is currently a "Member at Large." Kirby is also a Technical Service Provider (TSP) for NRCS forestry practices.

When asked, what impact does the Maine Tree Farm program have on landowners and communities, Kirby replied:

"Tree Farm is only as good as those representing it. The general public doesn't know what Tree Farm is, or else associates it with the Tree Growth property tax law or Christmas tree plantations. I think Tree Farm continues to operate under the radar as most people, especially younger people, don't own woodland or understand the satisfaction the ownership provides."

He's right! Again.

Thank you so much Kirby for being smart, caring about our forests, and being a wonderful teacher for a landowner. And if you are Tree Farmer, I say, have a chat with your magical inspector or forester. If they're like Kirby, you'll be able to learn soooo much!!!



Brown Memorial Tree Farm Tour – April 24, 2019

By: Logan Johnson, Tree Farm Coordinator

It was a rainy spring day at the Alton “Dude” Brown Memorial Tree Farm, when owner, Mark Brown, hosted landowners, biologists, and representatives from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for a small field day event. The purpose of the event was to explore the many stewardship practices implemented on the woodlot as well as to discuss the future activities that are in the works.

Much of the active stewardship on the property is done with the financial assistance of NRCS programs. The funding for the Brown Memorial Tree Farm focuses on enhancing wildlife habitat. Activities to date include the creation of brush piles for small critters to use as shelter; the creation of snags, or standing dead trees, that provide valuable habitat for many bird species; and an approximately 5-acre mast tree release area. Mast trees are large trees of various species that provide a source of food for wildlife, usually seeds or fruit. Releasing them means harvesting competing trees and opening the crowns to more sunlight, which maintains or increases the growth and vigor of the mast tree. The added sunlight on the forest floor also promotes the regeneration of the forest. Projects in the queue for the property include installing a bat box, a kestrel box, and a heron platform.



Mark Brown (3rd from left) discusses conservation projects with other natural resource professionals.



Tour participants enjoying the sights and sounds of a beaver pond that is also a heron rookery.

Beyond the active stewardship to promote wildlife, invasive plant species are also an issue on the property. In a trial attempt to control the establishment and spread of the invasive, Mark, a consulting forester and experienced wildfire-fighter, conducted a prescribed burn during the 2018 field season. The goal of the low-intensity burn was to assess the effectiveness of fire in controlling invasive plant species on the property. While it was too early in the current (2019) season to do a full review of its effect, early signs were encouraging.

Not only was there a lot of learning at the Brown Memorial Tree Farm, there was a lot of fun to be had as well. Mark, who also hosted the 2012 annual Maine Tree Farm and Maine Woodland Owners Forestry Field Day, served up a barbecue lunch at a campsite on the property. It was a terrific opportunity for landowners and resource professionals to interact and learn from each other.

During the event Mark, who once served on the Maine Tree Farm Committee, said “[I] love Tree Farm, and I wouldn’t have the woodlot I have if not for the funding provided by NRCS.”



TREE FARM PROFILE:

Alton “Dude” Brown Memorial Tree Farm

Owners: Betty Foster & Mark Brown

Town, County: Vassalboro, Kennebec

Tree Farm Since: 1985

Acres: 250



Beauregard Woodlands Hosts Forestry for Maine Birds Workshop

By: Logan Johnson, Tree Farm Coordinator

On May 11, 2019, Tree Farmers Larry and Barbara Beauregard, hosted a Forestry for Maine Birds Workshop sponsored by Maine Audubon and Maine Woodland Owners. The event brought together Tree Farmers and natural resource professionals to explore the importance of habitat for Maine’s resident and migratory birds. Facilitators for the workshop were Maine Audubon’s Director of Conservation, Sally Stockwell, and Maine Forest Service Landowner Outreach Forester and Maine Tree Farm Committee Chair, Andy Shultz.

During the workshop, participants explored the various improvement projects the Beauregards have conducted on the property, including, converting timber harvest wood yards to wildlife plots, managing former skid roads as walking trails, building bird boxes, and installing a “stream smart” water crossing from lumber harvested on the site.

While addressing the participants, the hosts spoke about their major motivation in owning a woodlot. Larry said “sustainable forestry to us is our recreation, our enjoyment. We think in terms of wood, water, wildlife, but most definitely recreation.”

Throughout the workshop, participants learned how to perform a Forestry for Maine Birds “handy” habitat assessment, as a way assess the structural diversity of an area and its impact on forest habitants. Participants then used this process at contrasting sites to practice using the method and to compare prospective silvicultural methods. According to facilitator, Sally Stockwell, when assessing the habitat of a given area for birds, “messy is good!”



Tree Farmer Larry Beauregard addresses the attendees of the Forestry for Maine Birds workshop.



Sally Stockwell of Maine Audubon displays “A Woodland Owner’s Guide to Forestry for Maine Birds” as Andy Shultz of the Maine Forest Service and Maine Tree Farm Committee looks on.



Participants enjoying a stroll through Beauregard Woodlands.

For more information about Forestry for Maine Birds and upcoming workshops visit: <https://www.maineaudubon.org/projects/forestry-for-maine-birds/>



TREE FARM PROFILE: Beauregard Woodlands

Owners: Larry & Barbara Beauregard
Town, County: Old Town, Penobscot
Tree Farm Since: 2008
Acres: 116



We want to hear from you!

Please consider sharing a story about you, your Tree Farm, and/or your Tree Farm Forester with the Maine Tree Farm Committee. It will go along way in telling the story of Maine Tree Farm.

email: info@mainetreefarm.org

or

mail: 535 Civic Center Drive, Augusta ME, 04330.

Please include your town, Tree Farm number, and any photos you may have of you with your sign. If sending photos, please indicate if the Committee can use them in their publications.

Home Firewood Production Workshop held at Hidden Valley Nature Center

By: Logan Johnson, Tree Farm Coordinator



Workshop instructor, Kirk Niese, describes the burning properties of wood.

Spirits were high, despite the ferocious mosquitos at the Hidden Valley Nature Center, in Jefferson on June 8, 2019. The occasion was the first Home Firewood Production workshop, sponsored by Midcoast Conservancy and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA). Hidden Valley Nature Center, off the Egypt Road, is a 900+ acre Tree Farm now owned by the Midcoast Conservancy. The Conservancy purchased it from cofounders Tracy Moskovitz and Bambi Jones, the 2014 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmers and Northeast Regional Finalists for the National OTF prize.

The workshop was instructed by Kirk Niese, owner and operator of Niese Forest Works, LLC, which provides low impact logging, trail cutting, and chipping services for landowners in southern Maine. Niese is also an 8th grade science teacher at Mt. Ararat Middle School in Topsham and has attended Maine TREE Foundation's annual Teacher Tour program. Assisting Niese was Tim Libby, Midcoast Conservancy's Forest and Facilities Manager. Libby also serves as the Chair of MOFGA's Low Impact Forestry Steering Committee.

The workshop introduced participants to the basics of home firewood production, from tree length roundwood to stove length, split, dried and stored in wood sheds. Topics included bucking logs to a desired length for your wood stove, hand and mechanized splitting operations, and techniques for stacking and drying your wood.

Niese discussed the different burning seasons, describing the late fall and spring months as the shoulder season, where faster burning woods such as pine, hemlock, and spruce are used for quicker, hotter fires, and the winter season where hardwoods such as maples, oaks, and ashes are used to burn longer sustained fires. He also gave tips for determining the moisture content by either using a moisture content reader or by calculating weight reduction.



Participants getting hands on experience preparing to cut wood to length to be burned in a woodstove.

According to Niese, the moisture content of the wood needs to be reduced from around 50 percent to 20 percent. He said to reach the desired moisture content you need “time, temperature, and turbidity” which means give it time to dry, high temperatures (the higher the better), and plenty of air flow. He also recommends keeping wood out of important structures like your home to prevent mold and insect infestation.

The event was thorough, informative, and hands-on for landowners interested in producing their own firewood for a variety of reasons. Niese said he started his own firewood production operation because he was interested in “producing something for [his] own home.” Other benefits include economic, environmental, and overall health and quality of life.



Tim Libby of MidCoast Conservancy describing how the organizations wood splitter operates.

For more information about Midcoast Conservancy visit <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/> More information about Maine Organic Farmers and Gardener’s Association can be found at <http://www.mofga.org/>.

<p>Source: Maine Office of GIS</p>	<p>TREE FARM PROFILE: Hidden Valley Nature Center <i>Owners:</i> MidCoast Conservancy <i>Town, County:</i> Jefferson, Lincoln <i>Tree Farm Since:</i> 1990 <i>Acres:</i> 941 <i>Honors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maine Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year - 2014 	
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Tree Farm Committee Update

A recent edition of this newsletter featured Maine Tree Farm Secretary, Patty Cormier. She was praised for her more than 20 years in the position and for being the “rock” of the Committee. This makes it bittersweet to announce that Patty has resigned from her roles as Secretary and Somerset County Chair to take the helm of the Maine Forest Service as the State Forester. The Committee is saddened by her departure and wishes her the best in her new role. Thank you, Patty!

Current Tree Farm County Chairs

County	Chair	Phone	Email
Androscoggin & Sagadahoc	John Starrett	(207) 242-2942	john.w.starrett@gmail.com
Aroostook	Randy Lagasse	(207) 557-1086	randy.lagasse@maine.gov
Cumberland	Paul Larrivee	(207) 431-6153	paul.larrivee@gmail.com
Franklin	Bob Leso	(207) 778-2000	bobmimi@midmaine.com
Hancock	Kevil Allcroft	(207) 299-8012	allcroftkk@roadrunner.com
Kennebec	Vite Vitale	(207) 437-9260	vitale@uninets.net
Knox & Waldo	Morten Moesswilde	(207) 441-2895	morten.moesswilde@maine.gov
Lincoln	Julie Davenport	(207) 931-6534	julie.davenport@sappi.com
Oxford	Jesse Duplin	(207) 776-9006	jduplin@nwforestmanagement.com
Penobscot	Brett Gerrish	(207) 949-0281	bhgerrish@prentissandcarlisle.com
Piscataquis	Gordon Moore	(207) 997-3297	gmmappleview@gmail.com
Somerset	Rob Nelson	(207) 278-2361	
Washington	Michael Heath	(207) 454-7161	mickeytree@hotmail.com
York	Don Winslow	(207) 793-2894	maplecrest.forestry@hotmail.com



**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 Tree Farm Supporters!

King Pine (\$10,000)

SAPPI

Sugar Maple (\$1,000)

Lumbra Hardwoods

Red Spruce (\$500)

E.D. Bessey & Son

Katahdin Forest Management

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Yes! I will support the Maine Tree Farm Committee with a donation of:

\$100

\$75

\$50

\$10

Other: \$

If needed for your record keeping, please check here if you require an invoice be generated and sent.

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

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.**

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: <http://mainetreefarm.org/features/newsletters/>