

JULY/AUGUST

2007



Trees on Maine Street Bulletin

IN THE WORKS



'Heritage' river birch (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage')

A North American native, 'Heritage' river birch can grow 50 to 80 feet tall but is often seen at 40 to 50 feet. It has a narrow, pyramidal to oval crown with many fine branches when young, spreading wider and becoming more oval with age with several branches eventually becoming dominant. It has scaly, beige or creamy white bark, which remains an attractive pinkish-white for a longer period of time than the species.

The leaves are generally shaped like a triangle. It is very well-suited for planting along stream banks and in other areas which are inundated with water for weeks at a time. River birch is seen in the wild almost exclusively along stream banks. 'Heritage' river birch tolerates low soil oxygen, periodic flooding, clay, and prefers moist soil. The tree requires an acid soil, otherwise it becomes chlorotic. 'Heritage' river birch is reportedly resistant to the bronze birch borer.

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION MAINE FOREST SERVICE

R. ALEC GIFFEN
DIRECTOR

FOREST POLICY AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

We help you make informed decisions about
Maine forests



MAINE FOREST SERVICE PROJECT CANOPY

Planting tip: When planting balled and burlapped trees, place short pieces of plastic pipe or electrical conduit around the edge of the root ball before backfilling the planting hole. Allow them to stick up about three to four inches from the ground and use them for deep watering of the new trees. They also serve as a visible guard for the trunk against lawn mowers. If you are watering with a hose, the water in these pipes helps the trees roots to grow down to the water level, which may eliminate the drying of roots that grow near the surface to take advantage of the water in the mulch ring. You can get these short pieces of one inch diameter pipe from plumbers and electricians. Use at least three or preferably four per tree. Water weekly after planting and make sure the tree gets the equivalent of one inch of water a week, more during extended dry spells. For more information, please visit the Project Canopy website at www.projectcanopy.org or contact Becky Tavani, Project Canopy Director, at (207)287-4987 or becky.tavani@maine.gov.

FY2008 BUDGET UPDATE

In late-June, the Senate Interior Appropriation Subcommittee recommended a FY08 budget of \$30,846,000 for urban and community forestry programs, a \$13,410,000 increase above the President's budget request and \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2007 level. The committee expects the USDA Forest Service to focus funding allocations on efforts in large urban areas and on various efforts to enhance green infrastructure, including strategic selection of several projects of national and regional significance. Earlier in the month, a House Subcommittee recommended \$31,130,000 in UCF funding. A conference committee will meet between now and August recess to find common ground before sending the bill to the President, who has threatened a veto.

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID QUARANTINE – PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

The Maine Department of Agriculture and the Maine Forest Service are working to update the state's Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Quarantine. The rule was last amended in 2001. HWA was detected in Maine forests in 2003 and has since been found in the six southernmost towns in York County. To reflect these detections, six Maine towns (Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, South Berwick, Wells and York) will be added to the area under quarantine. Additionally, several counties in other states with HWA detections since the original rule-making will be included in the quarantined area. To see a list of counties in the eastern United States with HWA detections visit the USDA Forest Service website: www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/hwa/infestations.shtm or request a paper copy from Allison Kanoti at (207) 287-3147.

A public hearing is scheduled for July 9, 2007 at 3 PM at the York County Cooperative Extension Office, 21 Bradeen Street in Springvale. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments will be accepted until 4 PM on July 23, 2007. To access the proposed rule on line go to www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/ and click on Featured Topics. If you would like a paper copy of the rule, to send comments or you have questions regarding this proposal please contact Ann Gibbs with the Maine Department of Agriculture at (207)287-3891 or ann.gibbs@maine.gov. For more information on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, visit: www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/hemlock/hwa05.htm.

STREAM CROSSING INVENTORY ON LOWER PENOBSCOT

The Maine Forest Service, in partnership with numerous state and federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations, is surveying approximately 1,000 culverts at road-stream crossings in the lower Penobscot River watershed during the summer of 2007. Dams and road crossings often keep fish from reaching upstream habitat and affect stream health. This project is part of a larger statewide effort to inventory barriers to diadromous fish such as Atlantic salmon and alewives, and native freshwater fish such as brook trout.

To collect survey data, crew members generally remain in the immediate vicinity of the crossing. Crews record the dimensions of the culvert to determine if it is undersized, and make assessments of factors such as water depth, velocity and substrate in the culvert compared with those in the natural stream channel. Collecting this information on road crossings will help towns and state agencies most effectively prioritize and replace structures to improve fish passage. Priorities set in this way also can be helpful to direct private, state or federal funding to replace crossings so that they meet current standards for effective fish passage. For more information, contact Chris Martin at (207)287-1073 or chris.martin@maine.gov.

COMMUNITY TREE BOARD SUMMIT

The Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board and Project Canopy seek to host a one-day Tree Board Summit in September. The summit's goal is to gather a number of tree boards from around the state to provide a venue to share best practices, highlight success stories, share experiences with other boards as well as learn more about storm preparation and planning. If you are interested in attending this event to strengthen your community forestry board and share ideas with others who have similar public greening goals throughout the state, please contact Dave Griswold at (207)897-1315 or Becky Tavani at (207)287-4987 for more details.

URBAN WATERSHED FORESTRY PUBLICATION PART 3

The Center for Watershed Protection (CWP), in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, has produced a three-part manual series on using trees to protect and restore urban watersheds. The contents of the manual are the result of extensive research as well as design workshops on using trees for storm water treatment and planting trees in the urban landscape. These workshops were attended by more than 40 local, regional and national experts, including foresters, storm



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IN THE WORKS (continued)

“A town is saved, not
more by the righteous
men in it than by the
woods and swamps that
surround it.”

-Henry David Thoreau

LINKING UP

UP AND COMING

PROJECT CANOPY

assists communities and nonprofit,
grassroots organizations in building self-
sustaining urban and community forestry
programs with strong local support.

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water engineers, landscape architects, arborists, urban soil scientists, watershed planners and representatives from parks, transportation and utility companies. Part three, just released, provides detailed guidance on urban tree planting that is applicable at both the development site and the watershed scale. Topics covered include: species selection, site preparation, tree planting and maintenance techniques, and special considerations for urban tree planting. Access it here: www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/publications.shtm.

SEEK AND YOU SHALL FIND ON THE URBAN FORESTRY INDEX

The Urban Forestry Index (UFind) is a database of current and historic urban forestry and arboriculture publications and other media that can be searched by topic, author, title, description, or keyword. The Urban Forestry Index provides a comprehensive place to search for informational resources that have been produced by a wide variety of organizations—in all types of formats. The goal is to increase awareness of urban forestry publications and other media, increase access to these materials, and prevent duplication of products that have already been developed. Visit: <http://www.urbanforestryindex.com/>.

ACT LAUNCHES MONTHLY WEBCAST SERIES

Alliance for Community Trees (ACT) has launched a Brown Bag Lunch Series via a webcast held at the lunch hour on the third Thursday of each month. Webcasting is a conferencing tool that allows one to guide a remote audience through an electronic presentation, such as PowerPoint, in real time. Audience members simply login to the given URL and dial-in to the given conference call. The overall goal is to create informal training opportunities for local urban and community forestry practitioners. The trainings leverage local successes by amplifying to a larger audience the model organizations' methods, materials, and approaches. The series is geared to mainly serve the needs of volunteer organizations and community groups. Audience members need only internet access and a telephone to participate. Visit: http://actrees.org/site/stories/act_launches_monthly_webcast_series.php.

July

9 Public Hearing Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Quarantine – proposed rule changes. York County Cooperative Extension. Contact Ann Gibbs at (207)287-3891 or ann.gibbs@maine.gov.

10 Arborist Climbing and Rigging Seminar. Bicentennial Nature Park, Rt 3, Augusta. FMI or to register contact Tom Hoerth at 443-8347.

18 MNLA & MFGA Annual Summer Meeting, Tower Hill Botanical Garden

Keynote: Dr. Bonnie Appleton - Bare Root Trees. For more info visit www.mnla.com.

19-21 New York ReLeaf State Conference. Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York. Contact Betty Shimo at (315)826-5743 for more info.

21 Wildlife in the Woods Walk. Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest, Manchester, ME. 10am-noon. Visit www.newenglandforestry.org for more details.

24 “Moon, Tune, Croon” hosted by UMaine Cooperative Extension featuring music and readings in celebration of the July full moon. Rogers Farm in Stillwater, 6pm. Call 1-800-287-1485 for more info.

28-August 1 ISA 2007 Annual Conference and Trade Show. Sheraton Waikiki Hotel and Conference Center, Honolulu, HI. FMI or to register visit ISA's website at www.isa-arbor.com.

21 “Something Old, Something New” hosted by UMaine Cooperative Extension featuring discussion on new and unusual plants along with some old favorites. Rogers Farm in Stillwater, 6pm. Call 1-800-287-1485 for more info.

25 Achieving a Vision for your Woodlot, Forest Working Group. Steve Hobart Lot, Blanchard. Contact Tessa Burpee at tessa@heartofmaine.org.

26 Mushroom Walk, Ducktrap Preserve. 2-5pm. Contact Kim Vogel at ducktrap1@tidewater.net.

September

13 Tree Identification Workshop with MFS Forester Morten Moesswilde, hosted by Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, Belfast Library 6.30pm. Contact Skip Pendleton at (207)338-4427 or Cloe Chunn (207)338-1147 for more info.

15 Tree Identification walk with MFS Forester Morten Moesswilde, hosted by Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, Newman Preserve, Northport. Contact Skip Pendleton at (207)338-4427 or Cloe Chunn (207)338-1147 for more info.

22 Creating a Vision for your Backyard Woods. Mather Auditorium Wells Reserve. Contact Zack Steele at the Wells Reserve at (207)646-1555x157 or zsteele@wellsnerr.org.

If you would like to put your community's activity on the calendar, please let one of the editors know by the 15th of each month.

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