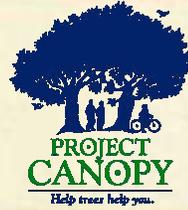


Trees on Maine Street

∞ *The Project Canopy Bulletin* ∞



March—April 2013

Maine Arbor Week is Fast Approaching

The idea for Arbor Day originally came from the state of Nebraska. A visit to Nebraska today wouldn't disclose that the state was once a treeless plain. Yet it was the lack of trees there that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800's.

J. Sterling Morton, from Detroit, Mich., was among the pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854. He and his wife were lovers of nature, and the home they established in Nebraska was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers.

Morton was a journalist and soon became the editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. Given that forum, he spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to an equally enthusiastic audience. His fellow pioneers missed their trees. More importantly, Nebraska needed trees for windbreaks to keep soil from blowing away, for fuel, building materials, as well as shade from the hot sun.

Morton not only advocated tree planting by individuals in his articles and editorials, but he also encouraged civic organization and groups of every kind to join in. His prominence in the area increased, and when he became secretary of the Nebraska Territory, that provided him another opportunity to stress the value of trees.

On January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for planting properly the largest number of trees on that day. It is estimated that more than 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day was officially proclaimed by the young state's Gov. Robert W. Furnas on March 12, 1874, and the day itself was observed April 8, 1874. Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska, and April 22, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for its permanent observance. Arbor Day is now observed in every state across the nation and in many foreign countries as well.

J. Sterling Morton was proud of the success of Arbor Day and noted, "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposed for the future." He thought trees much superior to cold marble as a memorial to persons or events. "How much more enduring are the animate trees of our own planting," he said.

In 1978, Maine first celebrated Arbor Week during the third full week of May. Previously, Arbor Day in Maine had been observed in late April, a time of the year when much of our state experiences cold, winter weather. Thwarted by snow and frozen ground in their efforts to observe Arbor Day, a group of students and their teacher from Dover-Foxcroft requested that the Maine Legislature establish Arbor week in May. The Legislature was impressed by the arguments of the sixth graders who came to Augusta as a class to speak for their bill and agreed to make the change.

Arbor Week in Maine continues to be celebrated during the third full week in May.

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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*"I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech-tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines."
- Henry David Thoreau, 1817 - 1862*

News and Updates

Forest Landowners' Guide to the Federal Income Tax - NEW EDITION - Available Online

A NEW EDITION of the Forest Landowners' Guide to the Federal Income Tax is now available Online at : http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/fs_landowners_tax_guide.pdf.

You can also find the link on the USDA Forest Service Website under "What's New" on the Cooperative Forestry Webpage.

This publication is the latest in a series of income tax handbooks for family forest owners that began in 1953. It represents a major revision of the previous Guide. It updates that publication to include tax legislation that was passed and administrative changes that were promulgated through late 2012.

The primary purpose of this guide is to foster good management of family-owned forest land by explaining the provisions and incentives related to forest ownership and management under Federal income tax law. It does not provide guidance on managing timber or other forest products. That type of information is available from the Maine Forest Service, private forestry consultants, and others.

Hard copies will likely be available for purchase in a month or so. Stay tuned for future announcements when that happens.

Arbor Day Ideas

- Give away seedlings to elementary students in your community
- Host an Arbor Day Festival.
- Sponsor an Arbor Day cleanup to clean up street trees in the community.
- Host an "Ask an Arborist" event in town.
- Hold a Tree Discovery Day at the library for youngsters.
- Put on an assembly for students (Tree Benefits Jeopardy! is always a favorite!)
- Plant trees and hold a ceremony.

This newsletter is made possible by a grant from the USDA Forest Service. The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. To file a complaint call (202) 720-5964.

Woods Neighbor Network

6-8 p.m. Wednesday March 20

Willowbrook 19th Century Village in Newfield (in building on left just past the post office and before the fork in the road)

Bring us your ideas and we'll feed you a delicious meal. Forest Works! is seeking volunteers with a love of the woods willing to learn from others and spread the word about one of their favorite activities. The meeting will be an opportunity to ask questions, share experiences and help develop a local neighbor-to-neighbor program. The way neighbor-to-neighbor programs have worked elsewhere is this: Volunteers receive training in basic forestry practices, wildlife attraction techniques, landowner assistance programs, and conservation tools. Throughout the year, these people provide guidance and referral assistance to neighbors who request it. Volunteers are not expected to provide actual forestry instruction. We'd like to know how you think this could work in our area. If you are interested, please come. Forest Works! is inviting the participation of all kinds of citizens. We are looking for landowners and also for active community members who love the woods – men and women of different ages and backgrounds. Although residents of any town are welcome, we are focused on the towns of Parsonsfield, Cornish, Limington, Limerick, Newfield, Acton, Shapleigh, Lebanon, Sanford, and Alfred. RSVP Lee at 324-1596 or forestworksme@gmail.com

Arbor Day Grant—New for 2013!

The Arbor Day Grant was created in 2007 to support small town and communities who needed help to build their Arbor Day Programs. This grant awards one \$1,000 grant to a town, organization, or community that demonstrates a need to promote and support their Arbor Day celebration.

Communities must complete and submit their Arbor Day Grant application by the Deadline: March 25, 2013.

Get more information and download the grant application here: http://www.newenglandisa.org/files/2012/2012_ArborDayGrantApplication.pdf



"It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit."
- Robert Louis Stevenson

New England Leaf Out Project

Scientists at Boston University need your help monitoring leaf out times of trees in New England (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut). They are interested in how rapidly trees are responding to warming temperatures across the region. Are trees leafing out earlier now than in the past? Do trees leaf out at different times across New England? You are invited to gather observations of leaf out times of trees in the spring of 2013. You can join this effort by periodically checking individual trees in your area and reporting your observations via Nature's Notebook (or by sending your observations to Dr. Richard Primack). More information can be found on the National Phenology Network website: <http://www.usanpn.org/NELOP>.

Scholarship Opportunity

Since 1990, the NEC-ISA has awarded scholarships to students pursuing an education in a plant material oriented field. The purpose of the awards is threefold: to help promote interest in shade and ornamental trees, to recognize scholarly endeavors, and to assist in financial aid. The New England Chapter grants two scholarship awards of \$1,500.00. Each recipient will receive \$1,500 toward their educational expenses. We encourage recipients of our scholarship to be involved in the profession of arboriculture. The NEC-ISA also provides recipients with a full conference registration, one night of lodging, and two complimentary banquet tickets for an accompanying guest. The recipients of the scholarship will receive a free 1-year membership to the New England Chapter. They will receive an electronic version of our quarterly newsletter. **The deadline for application is April 8, 2013.** For more information, visit: <http://www.newenglandisa.org/scholarships.html>

"No town can fail of beauty, though its walks were gutters and its houses hovels, if venerable trees make magnificent colonnades along its streets."
- Henry Ward Beecher, *Proverbs*, 1887

"I believe in the cosmos. All of us are linked to the cosmos. Look at the sun: If there is no sun, then we cannot exist. So nature is my god. To me, nature is sacred; trees are my temples and forests are my cathedrals."
- Mikhail Gorbachev, 1990

Emerald Ash Borer purple trap update

Maine began participating in a national purple trap survey program in 2007. The number of traps hung in Maine has increased as EAB has been detected closer to our borders. In 2011, 200 traps were deployed in Maine. In 2012, more than 955 traps were hung across the state with the majority in Oxford and Franklin Counties. The program is made possible by USDA APHIS, PPQ and cooperator resources. The Maine Forest Service, Maine Department of Agriculture, Penobscot Nation Department of Natural Resources and USDA APHIS, PPQ all played roles in conducting the Maine survey in 2012. Maine Forest Service and its partners plan to deploy more than 850 traps in 2013.

Perhaps the best tool for invasive insect detection is public awareness. Please learn more about EAB, and keep your eyes open for signs of its presence. If you think you've found it, please let us know.

Approximate Timeline for 2013 Purple Trap Survey in Maine:

December 2012: Locations of grid cells identified through US Forest Service modeling efforts shared with the states. Emerald ash borer would be found beneath the bark this time of year. Woodpecker damage picks up this time of year, and can be an important clue in locating infestations of emerald ash borer.

January 2013: Maine Forest Service and its cooperators began locating trees in the selected grid cells and seeking landowners' permissions to deploy traps. Cold winter temperatures will not control emerald ash borer. They are protected under the bark of the tree and are adapted to cold climates.

May-June 2013: Traps to be deployed by Maine Forest Service; Maine Department of Agriculture, Plant Health; USDA APHIS, PPQ; and Penobscot Nation Department of Natural Resources. We expect adult flight period would begin in ~mid-June in Maine--as the adult leaves the host tree a characteristic "D" shaped exit hole is created. Many of the little green beetles people turn in beginning in early May are tiger beetles. They are beneficial, they prey on other insects including many pest species.

Find us on the web at projectcanopy.me, on Facebook at [facebook.com/ProjectCanopy](https://www.facebook.com/ProjectCanopy) or on twitter [@ProjectCanopy](https://twitter.com/ProjectCanopy)

Community Wrap-up

Harvest Benefits Animal Shelter

The Franklin County Animal Shelter (FCAS) is one step closer to improving their trails for walking the resident dogs. They recently had a timber harvest done on their 22 acres which expanded on the network of trails they had in place, provided some income and improved the health of their forest. It all started with Executive Director Heidi Jordan, seeing an ad in the paper for funding through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for forest management planning. She contacted local consulting forester Peter Tracy who wrote them a comprehensive plan, which included recommendations for improving their trails and a harvest. Heidi said "We have many volunteers who come by to walk the dogs, some of these volunteers are in wheel chairs and need a more even walking surface; this harvest was the start of improving on those trails." Heidi also said "This harvest was certainly not at all about the money, more about getting better trails and a healthy forest, but any extra income will be nice and will be put back into improving the trails."



The harvest was done by George and Justin Merrill of George Merrill and Son Logging. Heidi added "I couldn't be happier with the job the Merrill's did and what

Peter has done orchestrating it all." The Merrill's used their processor and forwarder, or "cut to length" system and for three weeks thinned out lower quality stems using trails Peter laid out; trails which will now be improved upon further. The harvest provided almost \$5,000.00 in stumpage for the shelter. The FCAS has also been approved through the NRCS for further erosion control on the trails, and some better surface material applied for easier walking. Much of this work will also be done by volunteers. Heidi said "We very much appreciate all the work volunteers do, and are always looking for any volunteer time anyone can put in."

To read the latest Forests for Maine's Future Newsletter

<http://www.forestsformainesfuture.org/new-from-the-woods/>



Calendar

March

- 20 Seven Habits of Highly Effective Tree Boards (Webinar), VT Urban & Community Forestry, www.uvm.edu/extension/environment/soul/
- 21 Conserving Sustainable Landscapes: Using Canada Lynx and American Martens as Umbrella Species to Enhance Landscape Planning - Wayne
- 23 Harvesting in Deer wintering Areas (DWA's) - Mercer
- 28 The Challenges of Deer Management in Maine: Population Trends and Habitats from Southern to Northern Maine - Wayne
- 28 Wet Weather Logging Techniques and Equipment Workshop - Wells
- 30 ISA Exam, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA, www.newengland.isa.org

April

- 4 Maine's Black Bears: Ecology and Habitat - Wayne
- 9 Free Training on Statewide Standards for Timber Harvesting in the Shoreland Zone - Houlton
- 13 ISA Exam (with Tree Worker Skills test), UMass Amherst, www.newenglandisa.org
- 17 Tour of Irving Pine Mill and Scaling Pine Logs - Dixfield
- 17 Community Gravel Beds for Bare Root Planting (Webinar), VT Urban & Community Forestry, www.uvm.edu/extension/environment/soul/
- 17-22 SMA Municipal Forestry Institute, Lied Conference Center, NE www.urban-forestry.com
- 18 EAB Workshop, UMass-Dartmouth, (Look for more information soon.)
- 19 Beginner's Handheld GPS Workshop - Sanford
- 26 National Arbor Day

May

- 8 Massachusetts DCR EAB Workshop, Shelburne Falls area (Look for more information soon.)
- 18 New England Chapter - International Society of Arboriculture Tree Climbing Competition, Goddard Park, Warwick, Rhode Island, www.newenglandisa.org
- 19-25 Maine Arbor Week. State celebration May 20th (Look for more information soon)

*"A grove of giant redwoods or sequoias should be kept just as we keep a great or beautiful cathedral."
- Theodore Roosevelt*

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Maine Forest Service

DOUG DENICO

DIRECTOR

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