

MAINE WOODLANDS

A Monthly Publication of Maine Woodland Owners

August 2020 Vol. 45 No. 8

COMMUNITY ♦ ADVOCACY ♦ KNOWLEDGE ♦ LEGACY

50 Years of Exemplary Forest Management

By Jennifer Hicks

In the geographic center of Maine, in the town of Sebec in Piscataquis County, you'll find Wicopy Woods Tree Farm, a 130-acre woodlot known for its remarkable merchantable timber products and embrace of forest ecology. In 1968, Ron Locke, a forester and a current Maine Woodland Owners member, purchased the land and transformed it to an example of thoughtful forest management. In 1984, Locke was awarded the Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for his stewardship of Wicopy Woods. Nearly four decades later, the current owners, Drs. Jessica Leahy and Bob Seymour, professor and professor emeritus with the University of Maine's School of Forest Resources, are this year's winners of the same honor.

As you may know, Jessica is the past President of Maine Woodland Owners Board of Directors and Bob is a regular contributor to this newsletter. Needless to say, we are thrilled that strong advocates for small woodland owners have been recognized for their achievement. And, in a normal year, we would be looking forward to the 2020 Forestry Field Day at Wicopy Woods, which is co-lead by Maine Woodland



Jessica Leahy and Bob Seymour are the winners of the 2020 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

Owners and Maine Tree Farm. It would have been held at Wicopy Woods on September 12, but in July, Maine Tree Farm officially announced the postponement of the event, and now it will be held sometime in 2021.

The couple acquired the land in 2015 and began planning a harvest. "Our aim from the beginning was to maintain Ron's exemplary

stewardship, while also documenting, summarizing and publicizing his voluminous notes, records and photos," said Jessica.

They installed 149 permanent prism plots, compared these data with previous inventories, and developed detailed prescriptions for each stand. All trees were marked to cut except balsam fir, all of which was prescribed for removal. Harvesting began in mid-September 2017, using Prentiss and Carlisle's Ponsse Ergo mechanized cut-to-length harvester and Ponsse Buffalo forwarder, and was completed in early December after removing about 1,600 cords over nearly the entire 130 acres. In addition, a detailed forest bird census, first conducted in 1997 by Dr. Leroy

Wicopy

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Forestry Field Day Postponed

Maine Tree Farm has announced that the event celebrating the 2020 Tree Farmer of the Year will be held in 2021.



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President's Message

By Paul Sampson
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Chestnut Restoration on Our Land

On a hot July day, I traveled to Probert Memorial Forest in Searsport, one of Maine Woodland Owners' land trust properties. I, along with a few other volunteers, had been enlisted to chainsaw and haul trees under the supervision of Eric Evans, Breeding Coordinator for the Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (ACF).

We thinned two plots of American chestnut trees that I helped plant seven or eight years ago. The thinning will allow the trees with the most potential for blight resistance grow so it can be studied further. I admire the dedication of people like Eric, and the many volunteers, who put in thousands of hours toward a project that may outlive them.

Probert is one of the two locations where Maine Woodland Owners is partnering with the ACF to grow experimental Chestnut orchards. Our property in Winthrop, the Georgia Fuller Wiesendanger Wildlife Protection Area, is the other. We are fortunate to have land trust properties that are suitable and desirable for many types of forestry management like reviving a species lost to blight.

The chestnut trees thinned in July had grown to an average of three inches in diameter and 24' tall. The removed chestnut trees ended up on burn piles to be destroyed. Remaining trees will hopefully produce seeds that can be planted to grow another generation of chestnut trees closer still to a blight-free chestnut species in America.

As a woodworker, I have enjoyed working with reclaimed chestnut that once was part of a barn, wall paneling, furniture or door. I noticed that pre-blight chestnut had many properties similar to white ash. It will be exciting to work with chestnut direct from the log again.

If you would like to help with the maintenance of these chestnut stands or help in other ways to promote the restoration of the American chestnut, contact Eric Evans by emailing ericevans45@gmail.com or calling 236-9635. Visit the ACF website to see the various volunteer opportunities that are available: www.acf.org/me/volunteering/

Wicopy Continued from Page 1



Bob Seymour next to one of the many Eastern leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), also called “wicopy” – the namesake of the parcel.

Bandy, was repeated by Dr. Amber Roth both prior to, and after, the harvest. In May 2018, 100 red oaks and 500 white pines were planted in harvest gaps, and in July 2020 another 100 red spruce were planted for enrichment. A program of understory beech and fir control is also underway

Jessica and Bob follow what is called an irregular shelterwood paradigm, which includes both strategic releases that encourage robust regeneration of high-value timber and enrichment planting. Among their many recommendations they offer other woodland owners, their universal piece of advice is, “Walk over every square foot of the property multiple times and make decisions about your land that you think are right. Remember, this is YOUR land!”

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 plants reside in their forest, made up of a mix of older and younger species. It is slow growing and often goes unnoticed, but, the largest plants here may be over 100 years old! Dr. Bryan Peterson, an expert in wicopy, was consulted before the harvest to provide advice on how to conserve this shrub.

There will be an opportunity to celebrate Jessica and Bob in 2020. Maine Woodland Owners is sponsoring a woodlot tour on the property on Sunday, August 30, which will offer a “sneak peak” of what attendees will see during the Field Day next year. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Jennifer Hicks is the Director of Communications and Outreach with Maine Woodland Owners.

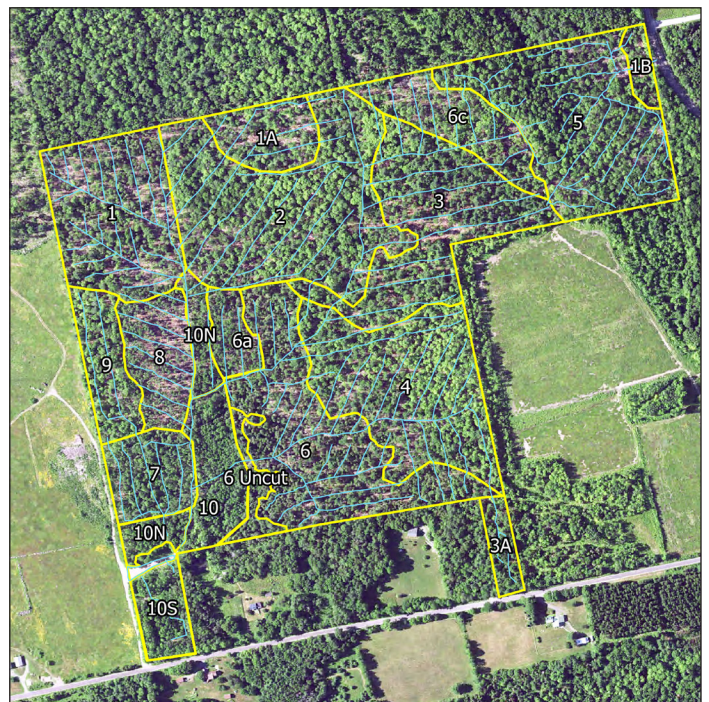
Wicopy Woods Tour

Sunday, August 30; 9:00am – 12:00pm
Sebec, Maine

Join the winners of the 2020 Maine Tree Farmer of the Year, Jessica Leahy and Bob Seymour, for a tour of their woodlot showcasing forest management practices. The program will take a look at enrichment planting and understory treatment, irregular shelterwood silviculture, large pine management, and the aim to promote the growth of valuable timber and healthy wildlife habitat. Information about tools and supplies, guiding principles, and wildlife data will be provided.

The workshop will be limited to 10 individuals and pre-registration by August 22 is required. Once registered, participants will receive further event details and information about COVID-19 safety measures. A good amount of strenuous walking will be involved, which means in both distance and terrain.

Register by contacting Jenn Hicks by phone (207) 844-0348 or email jenn@mainewoodlandowners.org.



Wicopy Woods is comprised of several distinct stands that vary in forest type from old field hardwood to white pine plantation to late successional sugar maple.

A New Series Profiling Traditional Loggers

By Tom Doak

The logging industry in Maine has seen many changes over the years.

You probably have witnessed or read about timber harvesting with axes and handsaws, wood yarded using animals and how that gave way to the widespread use of chainsaws and crawler tractors, then skidders. More recently, we have seen the use of fully mechanized harvesting where trees are cut by machine and moved by yarding equipment in a variety of forms.



Photo: Patten Lumberman Museum

Bryson Logging Team, Aroostook Woods, Patten c. 1915

Those changes continue today. One thing for sure is that more changes are coming.

The majority of wood harvesting in Maine is now carried out by machines (an example is shown below). There are many reasons for this. Logging is difficult, risky work and people interested in doing this work are often in short supply. Logging contractors have to compete for available labor with other industries that often can offer more certainty and regular schedules. Modern logging equipment is expensive and markets are uncertain at times so production efficiency is critical.



Photo: Professional Logging Contractors of Maine

Mechanical harvesters, like this one, are becoming more prevalent in Maine's forests.



Photo: Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation Service

Chainsaws and cable skidders are still a good option for sustainable harvesting.

Logging standards have evolved too. When ground conditions are not favorable, harvest operations shut down. In past years under different standards, they might have continued. The unpredictable weather and climate means unplanned down time. All these factors and others have driven the move to highly mechanized harvest operations.

On lands owned by Maine Woodland Owners, we have had excellent results with both loggers who are fully mechanized, as well as, those so-called "traditional loggers"—those cutting the trees by hand with a chainsaw and generally bringing them out of the woods with a skidder.

The exact number of loggers who use chainsaws and cable skidders in Maine is not easily determined. The best information we have found indicates there may be 300 or so individual traditional loggers.

While we are not at risk of losing these types of operators completely, this is a shrinking and aging segment of the industry. We thought it would be interesting for our members to know more about these traditional loggers and their challenges, so in upcoming issues of the newsletter we will be profiling some of them.

Tom Doak is the Executive Director of Maine Woodland Owners. He can be reached at tom@mainewoodlandowners.org

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Generosity During These Challenging Times

For any organization, generating and maintaining a reliable revenue flow is both an art and a science. Just like every other group, the uncertain economic climate we have experienced these past few months has us spending a lot of time planning for a variety of scenarios.

In this context, two recent significant donations have reinforced that our services are of value, more so now than ever. Both contributions were from members who expressed their deep appreciation for the work we do and a desire to ensure that we can continue promoting woodland stewardship. These unexpected gifts are a reminder that what we do provides a broad, positive impact to so many.

These acts of generosity build a foundation that enables us to weather economic storms and continue to be the voice of Maine small woodland owners. These gifts also serve as a vote of confidence that our mission makes a difference to our community. One of the contributors made it clear that our efforts in the

legislature over the past few years, protecting the interests of owners, was the driving force behind their support. The other has been a long time member and generous supporter and sees our success as part of their own legacy.

Despite our exciting organizational growth over the past few years, COVID-19 virus has forced us to operate in a new normal – including re-thinking how to deliver information and resources and keep in touch with members. But, it also has allowed us to look for ways to add to the services and assistance we provide.

If you are interested in joining these and many others who have given significantly to Maine Woodland Owners, or would like to include Maine Woodland Owners in your estate planning, please reach out to Executive Director, Tom Doak, to discuss the various ways you can give: (207) 626-0005 or tom@mainewoodlandowners.org. To make a gift online, visit our donation page on our website: www.mainewoodlandowners.org/donate.

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Soil-Site as it Relates to White Pine

By Cliff Foster

Next to genetics, soil plays a significant role in the growth of white pine, as it does for all trees. Back in 1959, when I went to work for the Maine Forest Service, I spent the better part of three months working with a number of soil scientists from the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). They dug pits and described the soil while I measured the height, diameter, and age of dominant white pines in pure stands. This work with soils questioned whether soil type made a difference in the growth of white pine. What became apparent to me was that soil depth, water regime, and slope were also factors in white pine growth both in regard to diameter and height.

Generally speaking, the deeper the soil, the better the height and diameter growth. Soil depth in Maine for white pine can reach a maximum of about 30". Limitations to depth include bedrock, hard pans (layers of soil that prevent root and oxygen penetration), and water levels. The other limiting factor is the depth to which oxygen is available to tree roots which offer the same as the three factors previously mentioned.

For those hoping to grow white pine, knowing the site index of the plot is crucial. Site index is an indication of growth potential based on tree height at age 50 years, and, on the soils where it grows. The higher the number, the more productive the soil. Some 34 soils were measured in Southern Maine and their site index figures run from about 53 for Colton soils to about 95 for Dixmont soils. The data was taken from natural, pure, or nearly pure, stands of different total age. Site index figures for those 34 soils can be found at www.mainewoodlandowners.org/links-apps. For more information about other soil surveys contact your county USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) office.

There are exceptions to every rule and so it is with site index based on soils. An example is Allagash, which is a deep soil but has a site index of only 61. That is because Allagash does not hold water well due to the fact that it is sandy. Other factors play a part in white pine productivity, as well. In some soils, as tree position proceeds down slope, height growth improves due entirely to the water regime.

If you're really into volume production of white pine and you wish to pursue this, remember that the higher

the site index, the more you will pay (if you are buying the land) or the more you can ask (if you are selling the land). If you own woodland with a higher site index, you can invest more in intensive management for higher white pine production – or production of other species, for that matter.

Remember, forestry is not an exact science, and these figures are not set in stone. As always, I recommend that owners work with foresters on these matters.

Cliff Foster is a professional forester and lives in Gray.



The white pine pictured (with the author) is growing on Paxton soil on timberland on Little Hill in New Gloucester. Its dbh (at 4.5 ft. diameter) is 44.5 inches. Total volume is in excess of 3000 board feet. Its age is estimated to be not more than 140 years. The site index for Paxton soil is 90.

Project Focuses on Resources for Female Landowners

Olivia Lukacic is looking for a few good women. The Master's student at University of Massachusetts Amherst is conducting a study for the Family Forest Research Center (www.familyforestresearchcenter.org) that seeks to understand the experiences, challenges, and goals of female woodland owners across the northeast and midwest areas of the United States. The result will be a resource publication for women who have woodlots and are in need of more support.

The Family Forest Research Center is a non profit organization that studies the behaviors and attitudes of the people who own forests, and, works to understand the needs of forest owners, communities, and society.

In the November 2016 edition of *Journal of Forestry*, it was reported that women in the United States are increasingly choosing or inheriting the role of primary decision-maker for their land. According to the study, the percentage of woodland owners in the US who were female and served as decision-makers, doubled from 11% in 2006 to 22% in 2013. However, most



Photo: Shutterstock

landowner resources don't meet the specific needs of women owners – most who are learning about forest management for the first time.

Lukacic wants to interview female landowners to document the stories of this growing segment of the woodland owner demographic and learn more about what they need to feel more confident in what has been a male-dominant world.

“So far I have been able to identify and interview many wonderful women that I would consider to be ‘engaged landowners,’ explained Lukacic. This means that they might have utilized state and federal programs, met with foresters, or have management plans.

But, data show that most landowners are not like this, but rather “unengaged.” So, in order for the study to reflect this reality, Lukacic is in search of women who own, or co-own, forests of 10 or more acres but have not been directly engaged in the management of the property.

If you or someone you know fits this description and would like to contribute to this study, they are encouraged to contact Olivia Lukacic either by email at olukacic@umass.edu or by cell phone at (978) 394-9186.

Interviews will be conducted through the end of August. The aim is to have a publication ready in early 2021 and will be available both in pdf format and in printed copies by request.

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White Pine Needle Disease Impacts Maine Stands

By Aaron Bergdahl

Many of us are used to the natural shedding of white pine needles as a sign of autumn. However, in recent years people have also become accustomed to white pine needles being shed in June, littering the forest floor, roadsides, and pickup beds with a layer of light-orange needles. Unlike the loss of older needles in fall, caused by the normal physiological process of needle senescence (deterioration due to age), the loss of white pine needles in June is the result of a complex of needle cast diseases negatively impacting this ecologically and economically valuable species.



Photo: Maine Forest Service

View of white pine crowns impacted by white pine needle diseases from the ground.

The white pine needle disease (WPND) complex has been impacting eastern white pine (EWP) trees for more than 12 years and is continuing this spring and early summer 2020 across Maine's white pine resource. The abnormally wet weather in spring 2019 led to higher rates of infection leading to severe symptoms in many areas of Maine this summer. By the beginning of June, the Maine Forest Service (MFS) started to receive calls about yellowing white pines and raining needles from southwestern Maine. By late June, similar observations were being reported from Oxford County, across central Maine to Washington County, and north to Penobscot County.

The most commonly observed WPNDs in the

northeast are brown spot needle blight (*Mycosphaerella dearnessii/Lecanosticta acicola*), *Bifusella linearis*, Dooks needle blight (*Lophophacidium dooksii*) and *Septorioides strobi*. The prevalence and distribution of these diseases vary across the region. In a 2018 EWP health survey funded by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and conducted by the MFS, 42 EWP stands were evaluated in Maine, revealing brown spot needle blight as the most common pathogen. Also noted were significantly reduced live crown ratios, a measure describing the proportion of living crown in relation to the total height of a tree. This variable is an important indicator of EWP health and resilience.

Generally, WPNDs are favored by prolonged periods of wet weather in spring, as the diseases need free moisture to produce spores that are spread by rain splash and infect newly emerging needles. Some have asked, "Why are the symptoms so bad this year when so far it has been unusually dry throughout most of Maine?" This is because of the two-year life cycle of the WPNDs. Initial infection of current-year needles happens in spring/early summer, and it is not until the following year that these needles become symptomatic. At this time, fungal spore-producing structures erupt from these needles, and spores are released that infect that current year's new growth as the needles are cast from the tree, completing the disease cycle. Typically, some shed needles are hung up in the tree and continue to produce spores and infect the current year's needles during periods of moisture.

A needle that is girdled by infections from WPNDs is killed. That needle's contribution to the tree's overall photosynthetic capability is eliminated. Thus, heavy WPND pressure can result in branch dieback in the lower portions of trees and, over time, lead to smaller living crowns. White pine regeneration in the understory of infested pines is often severely affected, which is an additional concern to foresters managing white pine for the future. Crowded plantings and other site conditions favoring high relative humidity can make the severity of WPND infections worse. The chronic stress caused by WPNDs may make young and mature trees susceptible to secondary insect and disease agents of decline, compounding tree health concerns (e.g., bark beetles, *Caliciopsis canker*, and *Armillaria/shoestring rot*). In some areas, and especially on poorer sites, this chronic condition has led to EWP mortality.

FONS Going Online

For over 30 years, the Forest Operations Notification (FONS) system has been paper-based. Landowners and managers submit paper copies to the Maine Forest Service (MFS); data is entered by hand; acknowledgement letters printed and mailed; FONS filed, etc. Repeat the process with amendments. Then paper copies of landowner harvest reports are sent out at the end of the year. More paper, more data entry, more filing. That's all about to change.

Starting in January 2021, FONS will become Forest Online Resource Tool (FOReST), and it will be all online. Landowners, Designated Agents, Foresters, and Loggers will need to create individual accounts in FOReST to participate in harvest notifications.

MFS currently is testing the system with a small set of users to identify and fix glitches before the system goes fully live. We will continue to offer additional information, including how-to videos, as the year progresses.

This is from a press release received from the Maine Forest Service.



Photo: Maine Forest Service

White pine seedlings with white pine needle disease symptoms in the understory of a diseased stand.

Concluding on a positive note, the dry, early summer of 2020 should be predictive of a much better year for white pine in 2021, with lower disease levels, higher needle retention, and a return to better looking and growing white pine in Maine.

Aaron Bergdahl is the Forest Pathologist for the Maine Forest Service. For more information on White Pine Needle Diseases, go to www.mainewoodlandowners.org/links-apps.



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Hardwood Quality: Stain and Compartmentalization

By Bob Seymour

“Animals heal, trees compartmentalize.” – Alex Shigo

Some people believe that you can't do anything to control "heart" in northern hardwood logs, but this is simply untrue. I grew the trees on the log pile, shown below, from saplings starting over 40 years ago. Note the predominance of white wood in the red maple. How did I accomplish this?

Practical Silviculture



Fig. 1. Northern hardwood logs (mostly red maple and white ash) on the landing of the author's woodlot in Kenduskeag, showing a range of stained centers.

As you've learned from my columns, one cannot confidently manage any silvicultural issue unless you first understand its biology. Here, we turn to the work of Dr. Alex Shigo, preeminent forest pathologist who spent his distinguished career studying the phenomenon he called CODIT – compartmentalization of decay in trees. Trees can develop “infections” in the center of the trunk as organisms enter the wood via recently shed dead branches or other wounds that expose bare wood. Viewed longitudinally (Fig. 2), note that the dark wood – the “stain column” – is confined to the outermost growth ring that was alive when the live branch at right was pruned off or shed. Stain will extend inward to the pith and move vertically within the same growth rings, but is prevented from moving outward to the newly formed wood (white in the photo) by a barrier zone, special biological tissue that forms in response to this invasion.

Unlike humans that must either kill an infection or die, trees simply wall off (“compartmentalize”) these invasions and grow healthily outward and upward.

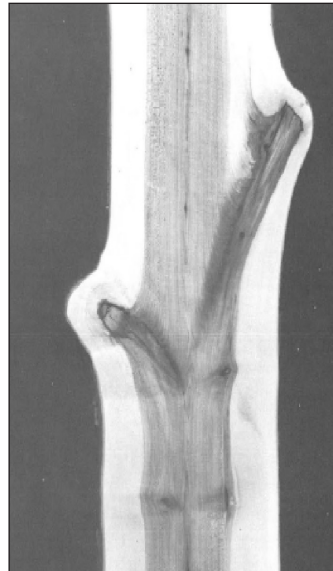


Fig. 2. Longitudinal section of a sugar maple, showing discolored wood in the center of the stem that originated when the branches either died or were pruned off. [Fig. 16 in Shigo, A.L., 1983. *Tree Defects: A Photo Guide*. US Forest Service Gen Tech Rep. NE-82.]

Since the center of any large tree is mostly non-living, no long-term harm results unless the wound remains open for many years and decay fungi invade, causing the tree to eventually become hollow.

Viewed in cross-section, as in my log pile, we see mostly circular stained centers, with light-colored unstained outer shells of growth rings formed over the barrier zone. In most northern hardwood species known in the trade as “white woods” (sugar maple, red maple, paper birch, others), such stain is considered a cosmetic (not structural) defect,

and typically logs stained more than one-third of the diameter are down-graded and worth less at the mill.

Although this is called “heart” or “mineral stain” in the industry, these cells are not true heartwood. Heartwood forms as inner sapwood rings that are no longer needed as xylem (tissue that transports water and nutrients from roots to stems and leaves) and becomes non-living wood cells that fill with extractives. This process causes the distinct color change in lumber that humans value in species like black walnut, black cherry, and redwood.

To minimize staining via silviculture, we proceed exactly as described in my previous column on branch shedding. Stain columns, like knots, develop from branches as they die and are shed, so we must promote rapid branch shedding by keeping the crop trees crowded when they are young and small. This effectively confines the stain column to fewer, narrower rings near the center of the tree than if the tree and its branches grew larger before they died. Once the barrier zone has formed, ideally at a diameter of less than 4”, it will not change, and the stain will not spread outward. At this point, we release the tree

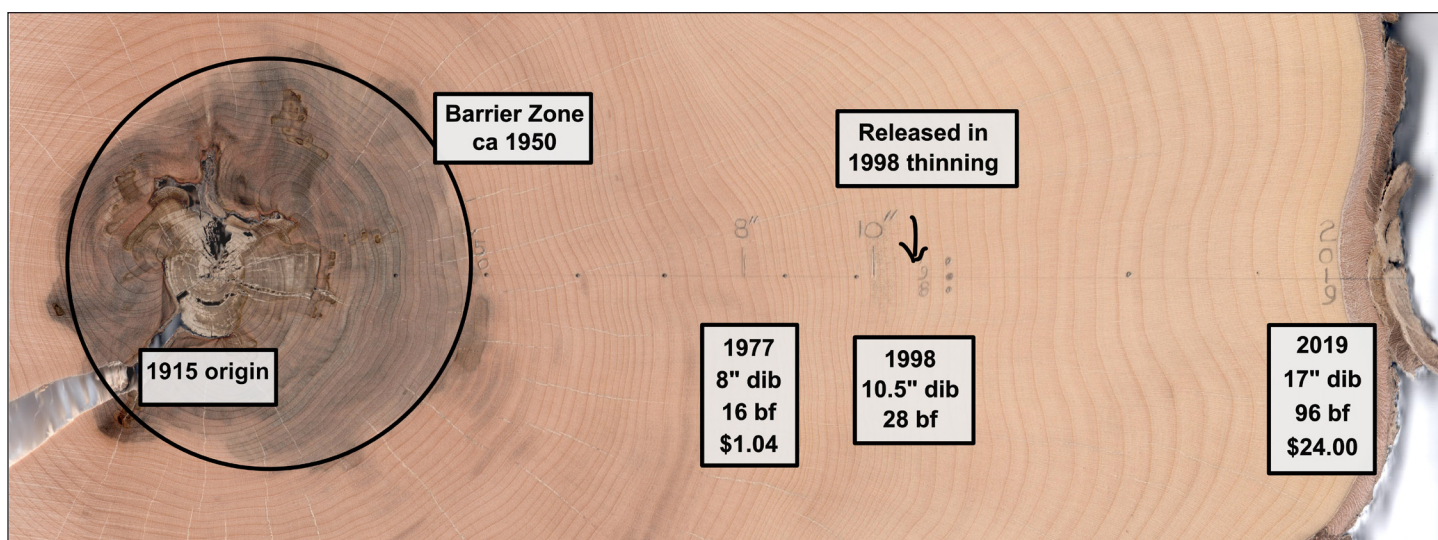


Fig. 3. Cross-section of a red maple log harvested this past winter on the author's woodlot in Kenduskeag.

heavily and grow white wood rapidly outward from the stained center. Also, we must not injure the tree during logging operations, which would cause the entire stem to become discolored.

The cross-section shown in Fig. 3 depicts a nearly ideal combination of events. Close inspection of the stained center reveals two piths dating to 1915, so this tree must have originated as a sprout clump that

quickly self-thinned to a single stem. At age 35 (ca. 1950), it had shed its branches at the height of this section, confining the barrier zone to a small diameter of only 3". Slow growth continued for another 20 years or so, until the 1970s, because it was either crowded by other trees of the same age or was in the understory of an older stand. Growth accelerated in 1998, at age 83 and a diameter slightly over 10", in response to an improvement cutting I made then. We harvested this tree this past winter at age 104, when the log shown was 17" diameter inside bark (dib).

When I bought this land in 1977, the 8-foot butt log from this tree was 8 inches dib, scaling 16 board feet (bf) and worth \$1.04 today at \$65 per thousand board feet (MBF), the current price for small-diameter pallet logs in central Maine. When I released it at 10.5" dib in 1998, it scaled 28 bf, worth \$3.36 at \$120/MBF as a grade 2 sawlog. When cut last winter at 17" dib, the log scaled 96 bf, worth \$24 at \$250/MBF, now grading "Prime" because of its large diameter, four clear faces, and small "heart." Had the stained center exceeded 5.7", the log would have been worth only half as much.

During the last 21 years, by not cutting this tree at 10" – and keeping my \$3.36 invested in red maple growing stock – I made a 9.8% compound annual return, above inflation. During the same period, the total stock market index fund in my retirement account earned 5.1% annually above inflation. Even better, I have hundreds of trees that will be even more valuable in the future (Fig 4).

Bob Seymour recently retired from the University of Maine School of Forestry Resources faculty after over 30 years as Curtis Hutchins Professor of Silviculture.



Fig. 4. Residual stand dominated by high-quality red maple, on a mediocre old-field site in Kenduskeag, Maine.

An Awesome Book of Moose Hunting Stories

By George Smith

We all enjoy seeing moose, and even though ticks are killing some of them, we still have a high population – between 60,000 and 70,000 – so we can offer moose hunting. This year, moose hunting applications reached a 15-year high, at 65,634. Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife (DIFW) increased moose hunting permits to 3,135, 11% more than last year, with the increases coming in northern Maine.

Around and About

DIFW moose biologist, Lee Kantar, told reporter Deidre Fleming, “Perhaps people also realize what a phenomenal resource we continue to have with moose despite struggles with winter ticks. Maine should be considered a top choice of anywhere for moose hunting.”

Maine moose hunting guide, Roger Lambert, and his clients certainly know this. Roger has lots of wonderful moose hunting stories and I am very pleased that he has published some of them in his book, *The Great Maine Moose Hunt*. Subtitled, *Celebrating 40 Years of Modern Moose Hunting in Maine*, it is all of that and lots more.

Roger would tell me some of his amazing moose hunting stories, and when I urged him to write them down, he would insist that he couldn't write. So I convinced him to tape record his stories, and our friend, James Cote, typed them up.

I think Roger made a good decision when he invited some of his clients and other guides to add their best moose hunting stories to the book. And, I was fascinated by all the wonderful photos in the book.

One of the stories and photos is about the time more than 1,000 of us, at the Skowhegan Fair Grounds, set a Guinness world record for the most people doing a moose call together. My wife, Linda, and I are in the crowd and photo. And the call was organized and led (of course) by Roger Lambert.

In 1980, Maine reestablished its moose hunt, and, a group quickly qualified a citizen petition to stop the moose hunt. I worked in the campaign to defeat that



Photo: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Roger Lambert's Maine moose hunting stories are captured in his new book, *The Great Maine Moose Hunt*.

initiative and was very pleased when the people of Maine did just that.

One of my favorite stories in this book was about Roger's moose hunt in 1980 with his dad, Elbert Lambert, who won a permit. They shot an awesome bull moose. There's a great photo of Roger and his dad with their moose. I can tell you that you'll feel like you are right beside Roger as you read his stories.

Fairly quickly after that hunt, Roger became a moose hunting guide, and earned a reputation as one of the best. Wait 'til you see all those huge moose his clients shot!

Maine's moose hunt is an amazing experience, even if you don't get the moose you wanted. While it is never – or at least not usually – an easy hunt, we have a surprisingly high success rate. Many moose hunters hire guides like Roger Lambert, which really improves their opportunity to be successful. Roger is a very busy guy, including work on his farm, and he knows the woods and just where those big bull moose roam.

Anyone who hunts with him is very lucky.

I've never won a permit, but I've enjoyed moose hunts with a friend who has a camp on the north end of Moosehead Lake. You can enjoy moose hunting with your friends, even if you are not the shooter.

As Lonnie Humphrey wrote in her story in the book, "Please remember, the hunt isn't about the trophy. It's about the scouting, the preparation, the meals, the time around the campfire, and most importantly, the time spent with family and friends in the great outdoors." That is so true.

You may be able to find Roger's book in your local bookstore, but you can also order it by emailing him at rmllambert@hotmail.com. A lot of people have been ordering a bunch of the books to give to family and friends.

I hope you enjoy a moose hunt this year. And I guarantee if you read Roger's book, you'll want to do that.

Outdoors writer George Smith lives in Mount Vernon and offers more news at www.georgesmithmaine.com



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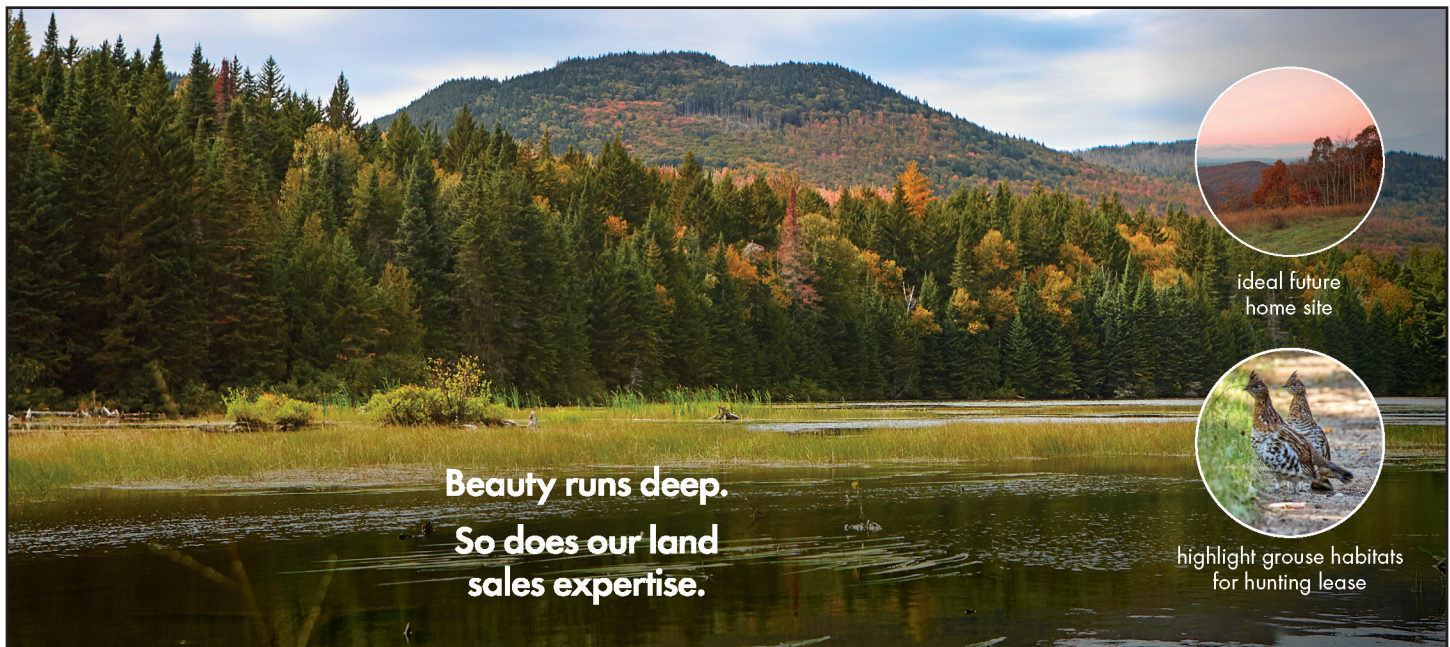
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Land Trust Staying Busy Despite Uncertainties

By Harold Burnett

It has been a while since I last provided an update on management activities on Maine Woodland Owners lands, though we've made

Land Trust News

good progress on a number of fronts. This includes four completed and one active timber sales, two completed and seven on-going management plans, approved funding for boundary line maintenance, and continued discussions with a number of potential land donors. Of course, we all have been dealing with the virus, which, so far, has had only minor impacts on operations and markets, though the long-term outlook is anything but certain. Unfortunately, on the more immediate front, the April explosion at Pixelle's Androscoggin Mill in Jay has done the opposite, sending damaging shock waves through Maine's forest products industry, including Maine Woodland Owners.

But, to winter first. We wrapped up timber sales at Probert Memorial Forest in Searsport, Goddard Family Forest in China, and Whitney Memorial Forest in Gray. Our too-short winter kept us from even beginning a second, much smaller, sale in China. The



Timber harvests were conducted at four land trust properties including one at the Goddard Family Forest in China.



With the Jay mill off line, harvests on Chandler Brothers Family Forest were focused on hardwood for firewood.

combined sales greatly reduced the percentage of at-risk ash in China, removed overmature fir, white birch, and low-grade maple in Searsport, and continued the long-term management direction in Gray by cutting mature hemlock while releasing oak and pine.

By March, winter waned and off to a 'mud lot' (a high and dry parcel – even in the spring) we went, to an unposted road at the Chandler Brothers Family Forest in New Gloucester. This parcel contains relatively well-drained terrain and an oak/hemlock stand where we saw just how well the Chandlers had managed their land. Though large and valuable oaks still dominate the property, logger Bill Taylor cut a few handsome ones. And though the primary focus of all of our sales was on silviculture – what we feel is the best long-term management approach – we nonetheless benefited from the income earned.

And, so as we looked at the summer, without a reliable softwood pulp market because of the Jay mill explosion (we were lucky when Bill Taylor's trucker was able to sell the two loads of hemlock we thought we sold to our usual pulp mill buyer to ND Paper in Rumford just after the explosion happened), I shifted away from the pine lot and focused on the hardwood lot. Bill, more than most loggers, can sell virtually all his hardwood as firewood, (see photo above). His cousin processes it in the yard, so at job's end the only wood left in the yard is sawdust. For now, this is how

we are side stepping the poor pulp market.

However, we are patiently awaiting news out of Rumford as to what they expect to be buying later this summer. This is holding up our harvest plans on our Skinner woodlot in Lovell, (another heavy low-grade hardwood property), where we are hoping to set up a 50+ acre sale. Work to improve the parcel has progressed steadily over the years, though the section he has targeted is separate from anywhere that has recently been harvested.

There are also management plans to create or update, and I am currently writing ones for the Hayden-Murdock Forest in Raymond, Merrill Forest in Cumberland, Chandler Brothers Family Forest in New Gloucester, Brownville Woodlots in Brownville, and Winkumpaugh Forest in North Ellsworth. Most of these are necessary to meet our obligation to Maine's Tree Growth Tax program. Though in the case of the Galley's recent gift in North Ellsworth, this will be our first detailed look and evaluation of the parcel.

And just like most of you, we have routine maintenance to attend to, including 93 miles of boundary lines. For the first time, the Maine Woodland Owners Board of Directors has allocated funds to reblaze and paint about six miles of lines this year. In the future we expect to revisit each boundary every 15 years, and thus, keep those lines relatively fresh and visible.

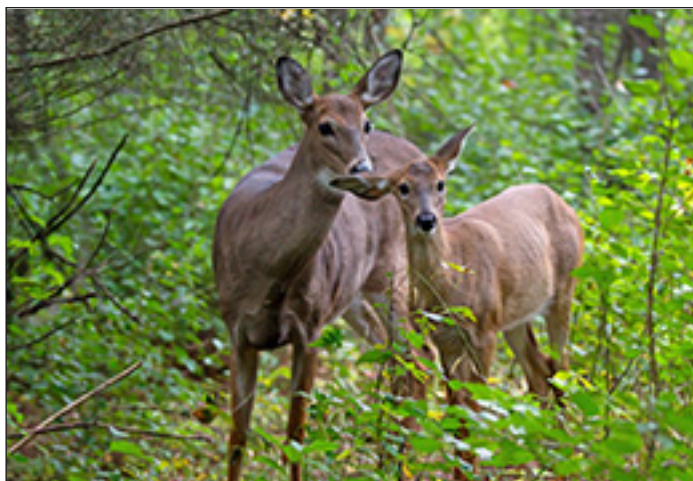
Finally, as is always the case, I've been in conversation with a number of landowners who are working on their estate plans and considering a land donation to Maine Woodland Owners. Though I can't predict when or if these discussions will result in an expansion to our land trust holdings, it is always encouraging to have these conversations as they help landowners make informed decisions and have the potential of someday becoming a gift. As Gary Stottler, the donor of the Alice Elizabeth Watjen Stottler Memorial Woodland in Cornville and Athens, reminded me during a recent Zoom presentation, "Our family started talking with SWOAM (Maine Woodland Owners' previous name) over seven years ago, about what last year became a memorial to our Mom."

Contact me if you have questions about our land trust or forest management. More information can be found on our website: www.mainewoodlandowners.org.

Harold Burnett is the Land Trust Forester for Maine Woodland Owners. He can be reached at: harold@mainewoodlandowners.org

Maine Deer Spy Project

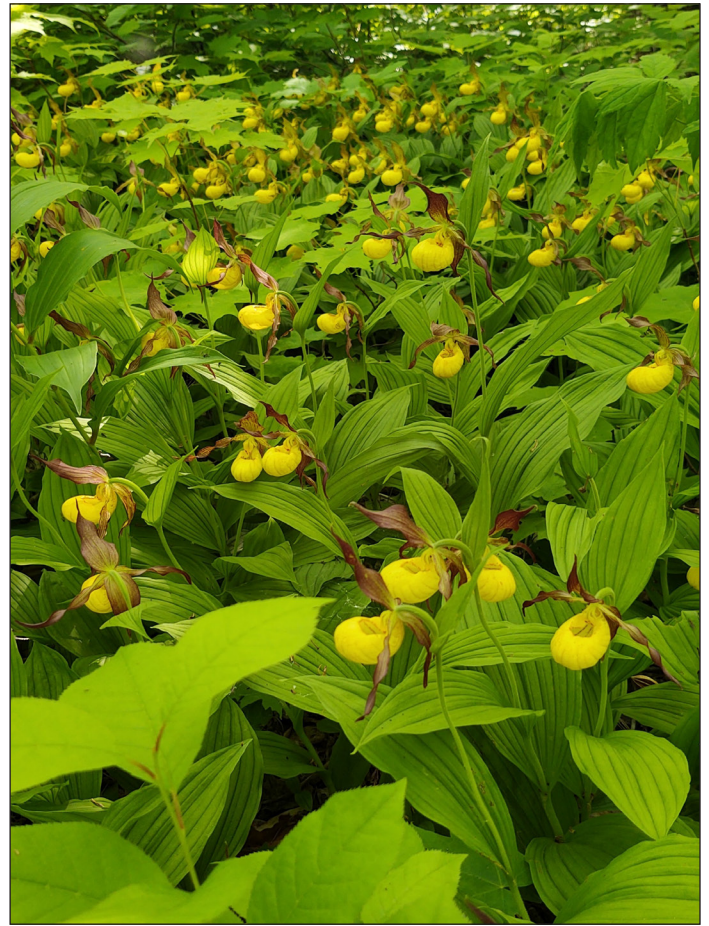
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) is looking for volunteers to help better understand the white-tailed deer population. Recently, the department launched a citizen scientist project called Maine Deer Spy, which will utilize the observations made by deer and wildlife enthusiasts to increase confidence in the data they are currently collecting. Specifically, it aims to bolster understanding of white-tail recruitment – how many fawns each doe is able to raise up until the hunting season.



For wildlife biologists, regulated harvest of antlerless deer is the primary means of controlling deer populations at a healthy level. Since 1986, DIFW has used the Any-deer Permit (ADP) system to regulate the number of antlerless deer harvested. When determining the number of ADP to issue each year, it is important to estimate recruitment rates so there is a count of how many deer have been added into the population each year. Additionally, it must be understood what proportion of the doe population can be lost and still keep the population healthy and stable. Currently, lactation and embryo rate data help provide an estimate of successfully reared fawns produced by each doe. But because there is little antlerless harvest during hunting season in much of the state (the primary opportunity to collect data), recruitment knowledge is limited in many areas.

Participation is simple. Volunteers are asked to record any deer observations made between July 20 and September 10 and submit the records, either by US mail or online, by October 1. Go to www.mainewoodlandowners.org/links-apps and click on the "Maine Deer Spy Project" link for more information about recording and submitting deer observations.

Summer Shots in the Woods



"This is a 'bird' in a black walnut tree in Phippsburg. The tree was planted by my father, Jan Bijhouwer, after an elm had to be removed because of Dutch Elm disease. He was a Maine Woodland Owners member for years." Submitted by Elna Joseph.

"Despite the extremely dry weather, our yellow Lady's Slipper colonies had a great season. *Cypripedium calceolus*, var. *parviflorum*." The photo was taken in June 2020 in Craig Troeger's forest located in Cyr Plantation. Submitted by Craig Troeger.

If there is a photo that you would like to submit for consideration for our newsletter, visit our Photo Gallery page on our website – www.mainewoodlandowners.org/photo-gallery-1 – and follow the instructions on how to submit your photo. Images can also be sent to Jenn Hicks by email: jenn@mainewoodlandowners.org



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Poetry Corner

Recently I've been researching the first settlers of our family's woodlot in Waldo County, awed by their vision and will that cleared land, made stone walls, dug wells and cellars in what, today, is again wild. – Chip Bessey

For Evidence

By Arthur Macdougall

The stones in walls along this road
 Were finger-printed by the men
 Who put them there a hundred years
 Ago and left them there to keep,
 Within their fortress walled and stout,
 What they had taken from the trees.

The waking earth has heaved its chest
 Against these walls, and stones are down
 Back on the level of the earth,
 But one can find the finger-prints
 Men left who knew a dream and came
 With beasts, and ploughs, and iron bars,
 And mighty chests and backs and arms
 To make a dwelling place against
 The odds that faced them from the start...
 Admitting mortal transience,
 But breaking ground as if for keeps;
 And placing stone on stone as if
 Forever, they were satisfied
 And proud to wall their acres in,
 And said, "these stones will last us out."
 Then weary, full of sleep, and aches
 The length of them, but real content,
 They said their prayers and went to sleep.

From: *Poems of the Upper Kennebec*, Arthur Macdougall



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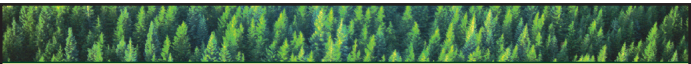


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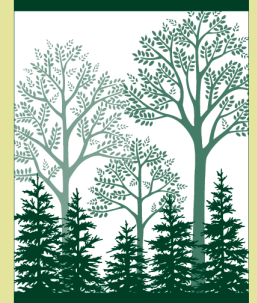
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Organizational News

Roots and Branches News From the Chapters

Upper Kennebec Valley

Beech Management Workshop
Saturday, August 29; 10:30 am – 1:30 pm
Solon, Maine

This workshop will demonstrate and discuss beech maintenance that promotes wildlife and tree species diversity, as well as, the stewardship of disease-free trees. This will be held at the property of Peter Pfeiffer, who will showcase his efforts managing beech for 45 years, and, his experimenting with different management strategies. Co-presenters, Jessica Leahy, professor at the University of Maine School of Forest Resources, and Bob Seymour, professor emeritus, University of Maine School of Forest Resources, will provide additional information on their approach to beech and ash management.

The workshop will be limited to 10 individuals and pre-registration by August 22 is required. Once registered, participants will receive further event details. A good amount of strenuous walking will be involved, which means in both distance and terrain. Register by contacting Jenn Hicks by phone/text (207) 844-0348 or email jenn@mainewoodlandowners.org.

Co-sponsored by Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation District

Western Maine

Tenmile River Demo Forest Tour
Friday, August 21; 9:00am – 12:00pm
Brownfield, Maine

This will be a woodlot tour looking at different management strategies and talking about working with a consulting forester. The demonstration forest is 328 acres with examples of various aspects of sustainable forestry.

Masks and pre-registration are required, as well as, practicing social distancing. Register by e-mailing Michele Windsor, Oxford County District Manager at oxfordcountyswcd@outlook.com



DownEast

James and Mary Turner

MidCoast

Lorenzo Exposito
Merle Parise
Gary Ramos

Out of State

Burt Adelman
Raina C. Barthelme
Ron Bruno and Elizabeth McCormick

Penboscot Valley

Haynes Timberland, Inc.
Moyse Environmental Services
Mike and Susan Richardson

Southern Maine

Thomas F. Kane III

Two Rivers

Robert Kyllonen

Western Maine

Steven Baty

Event Safety Protocol Information

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Maine Woodland Owners has developed a set of event safety measures for all of their in-person meetings. Until further notice, all events will be held outside and require pre-registration. Additionally, event leaders may require that all participants bring and wear masks during the program. Masks and sanitation equipment will be available at all functions.

To learn more about our safety measures for in-person events go to www.mainewoodlandowners.org/events.

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\$13.00/4 – These tick removal tools make it easy to remove those unwanted ticks. Just place the notch near tick and slide forward.



\$17.00 – This kit provides a great tick solution for people who spend their time enjoying the outdoors. The kit includes one pair of velcro pant-leg straps and 4 tick removal tools.



T-Shirts



\$25.00 – T-shirt, available in ash gray and navy blue. Screen printed with logo on both sides. Back reads, “Stewards of Maine’s Family Forests”

Tree Poster

Both educational and beautiful, this full-color poster was made by artist Lee Bean. Size: 24” by 36”

\$17.00 – Printed on glossy high-quality paper.

\$22.00 – Laminated.



Invasive Plant Guide

\$30.00 – This guide includes 46 different invasive species with color photos of each along with details about identification, control strategies, and more. The waterproof pages and small size makes this a practical tool in the field.



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August 2020

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Black Oak Champion is in West Sumner

By Jan Santerre

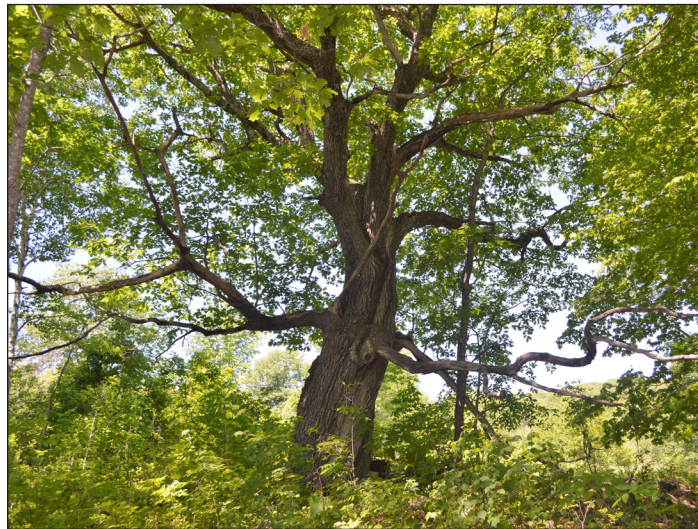
The state champion black oak (*Quercus velutina*) finds its home on the forested slopes

Champion Trees of West Sumner, across

the road from the First Universalist Society Church. It is our guess that the tree and the church are of a similar vintage, as the church, recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1867. Black oak is found

only in southern and western Maine and is relatively common on the sandy soils near Fryeburg. All previous champions were located in Fryeburg.

The Sumner tree was crowned in 2013 as part of the Oxford County Big Tree contest. The owners, Don and Lee Berry, are very fond of their champion and often escort tourists into the woods to visit after stopping by the church to admire the architecture and the sweeping views of the fall foliage. The black oak is distinguished from the red oak by the rusty hairs



The state champion black oak is in Oxford County and is admired by many visitors.

in the axils of the veins, the dark gray to black bark divided by deep fissures with broad round ridges, and the acorn enclosed by half of the cap. While this champion shows its age, having lost several large branches and with a hollow base, the tree still appears strong, and should weather many more storms from its perch.

To determine if a tree is a champion, the Maine Forest Service gives each tree a score based on a

formula that adds circumference in inches, height in feet, and ¼ of the crown spread in feet. The black oak has a circumference of 288" (dbh =7.6'), a height of 59', and an average crown spread of 63' for a total point value of 363.

For more information on Maine's Register of Big Trees please contact Jan Santerre, Big Tree Coordinator, at the Maine Forest Service, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333 or call 1-800-367-0223. The Register can also be viewed by visiting the Project Canopy website: <http://projectcanopy.maine.gov>.