



MAINE WOODLANDS

A Monthly Publication of Maine Woodland Owners

February 2018 Vol. 43 No. 2

COMMUNITY ♦ ADVOCACY ♦ KNOWLEDGE ♦ LEGACY

Land Donation, Wilkins Award Highlight Forum

Text by Douglas Rooks, Editor
Photos by Jeanne Siviski

When Executive Director Tom Doak said during the Maine Woodlands Owners Annual Meeting Jan. 10 that there would be a major announcement during the afternoon Forestry Forum, he wasn't kidding. He called the Chandler family of New Gloucester to the podium to reveal that Maine Woodland Owners will receive "the largest" land gift in its history – 2,500 acres, entirely within New Gloucester. By comparison, the Chandler's gift to Maine Woodland Owners is about one-half of the the organization's total land trust acreage. The Chandler family ownership dates back to the 18th century.

Steve Chandler, retired from the U.S. Forest Service, and who represented the family, (Steve, Natalie, Charlie and Bertha), said their history in New Gloucester began when Peleg and Sarah Chandler arrived in an oxcart from North Yarmouth in 1762. The Chandler sawmill, established in the 1890s, was one of the first such year-round operations in Maine, and provided steady employment for many in the community during hard times in the following century.

After beginning transition planning for the next



Steve Chandler (left) speaks about his family's land donation, as his wife Natalie and cousin Charlie listen.

generation of Chandler heirs, it became clear that seeking a permanent owner who would keep the land undeveloped as a working forest was the goal everyone shared. Earlier, the Chandlers sold 117 acres surrounding Lily Pond, also known as Chandler Mill Pond, to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Tom Doak said, "I don't think I've ever seen better long-term management. We're all in awe of

Forestry Forum

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Appeal Continues

Donations to the Maine Woodland Owners Annual Appeal are still welcome. For more information, call 626-0005. For an update, see page 13.



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153 Hospital Street, PO Box 836
Augusta, ME 04332-0836
Telephone: 207-626-0005
Toll Free: 1-877-467-9626

E-mail: info@mainewoodlandowners.org
Website: www.mainewoodlandowners.org

Staff

Tom Doak, Executive Director
Bill Williams, Deputy Executive Director
Debra L. Ladd, Administrative Assistant
Douglas Rooks, Editor

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President's Message

By Jessica Leahy
jessica.silviculture@gmail.com



Roses and Raspberries

It's February, which means Valentine's Day. It's also a month when our Legislature is in full swing. What better way to keep with the theme of the holiday, than to award some "roses" and "raspberries"? The roses represent a thank you, while raspberries represent "a sound made with the tongue and lips in order to express derision or contempt."

A rose is given to the Taxation Committee for rejecting harmful legislation, and requesting a committee review of the Tree Growth Tax Law. By all accounts, stakeholders have had productive conversations about how to maintain and improve this important program. There's a lot of promise that this diverse group will provide recommendations that are agreeable to those involved, including Maine Woodland Owners, Maine Municipal Association, Association of Consulting Foresters, Maine Farm Bureau, The Nature Conservancy and Maine Forest Products Council.

A raspberry is given to the administration for not allowing the Maine Forest Service or Maine Revenue Services to participate. Their knowledge and the information they possess would have been extremely valuable.

A rose, however, goes to the staff of the Maine Forest Service, and Maine Revenue Services, for providing continuing education classes for foresters about the Tree Growth law. This is a proactive way to ensure foresters know all the rules. We know from Forest Service research that most landowners follow the rules, and additional training can address the few issues that were identified.

While we're at it, we should give a rose to past legislatures that created our current use taxation programs, including Tree Growth, Open Space and Farmland. They help keep our forests and farms intact. Tree Growth requires landowners to have, and follow, a management plan promoting sustainable forestry. These programs make sure our woods and farms are producing goods and services all Mainers benefit from, whether forest products or food.

And I should add that the views expressed here are mine alone, and do not represent Maine Woodland Owners, nor my employer.

Important Decisions Await Legislative Action

The so called “short session” of the Legislature is underway. All new bills must first be approved for introduction by a majority of legislative leaders. This year leadership was particularly stringent limiting the number of new bills to about 100. However, add in bills carried over from last session and state agency initiated requests and the number is well over 400. This does not include any legislation the Governor submits, which he can do at any time. So there will be plenty of action at the Legislature. Most new bills have not been printed, so we do not know yet which ones will affect woodland owners. There are several important carry over bills which will be acted on in the near future. Here are three:

Tree Growth Tax Law. “LD 1599 An Act to Improve the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law”. (We oppose the bill). This Governor’s bill was released during the end of last year’s legislative session. The language of the bill was very similar to those that have been proposed by the administration in the last few years, all of which have been overwhelmingly rejected. We opposed the bill as harmful to the program and landowners, particularly small woodland owners. We did however support carrying the bill over given all the misinformation about the law and allowing for a thoughtful discussion of everyone’s concerns. The bill was carried over, and the Taxation Committee requested the School of Forestry Resources at the University of Maine chair a group over the summer and fall consisting of us (I represent us on the group), the Maine Forest Service, the Maine Forest Products Council, the Maine Farm Bureau, The Nature Conservancy, the Association of Consulting Foresters, Maine Municipal Association, and Maine Revenue Services to review the Tree Growth Tax Law and report any changes the group recommends to the Committee by February 1st. That group has been meeting, though unfortunately the administration has refused to allow either the Maine Revenue Service or the Maine Forest Service to participate or provide information. The group has met several times. I suspect there may be some tweaking or clarifying the law, but none of the committee members have expressed the need for major changes.

Landowner Relations. “LD 1391 An Act to Ensure the Continuation of the Landowner Relations Program”. (We support the bill). This bill would provide permanent funding for the Landowner



At the State House

By Tom Doak, Executive Director
tom@mainewoodlandowners.org

Relations program in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The program’s focus is assisting woodland owners who have problems created by the public use of private land. With 90% of Maine woodland privately held, Maine’s outdoor economy is dependent upon use of private land for hunting, bird watching, hiking, snowmobiling, etc. We heard numerous stories at our January Annual Meeting of landowners who were having problems caused by inappropriate public use of their land that were helped by the Department. The bill passed the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee unanimously and easily passed through both chambers of the Legislature, but stalled on the appropriations table and was carried over. The program is currently funded primarily with a portion of the Sportsman’s License Plate (with declining sales). The program will run out of money if additional funding is not provided.

Arming of Forest Rangers. “LD 8 An Act to Provide Training for Forest Rangers to Carry Firearms”. (We oppose the bill). Whether or not to arm forest rangers has been hotly debated for a number of years. Rangers serve a valuable function which we believe will be diluted if they become armed law enforcement officers. Their principal job is prevention and suppression of forest fires, along with forestry and environmental monitoring and inspection. And they do a fine job in their role. It is a unique role, which should not be lost. There are no records of injury of rangers by another person while performing their duties. The Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee voted to support arming while not requiring current rangers to receive the full training and certification that all other full time law armed officers in this State are required to complete. The proposal to arm all forest rangers stalled at the appropriations process. While it received approval in both chambers, any arming of rangers comes with additional cost for equipment, training and salary increases. The bill was not funded last session, so it was held over to keep the bill from failing, at least for now.



Austin Wilkins Award presentation: Mike Thibodeau, Jessica Leahy, Scott Wilkerson representing Sen. King, Tom Doak and Sara Gideon.

Forestry Forum

Continued from Page 1

this spectacular gift.” A more complete account will appear in the March issue.

The Chandler Brothers’ gift almost upstaged what was expected to be the highlight of the day – presentation of the 14th annual Austin Wilkins Award, representing exemplary forest stewardship – to Maine Woodland Owners. The citation – a hand-carved wood plaque – was presented by Senate President Mike Thibodeau and House Speaker Sara Gideon; U.S. Senator Angus King, who was in Washington, D.C., added his congratulations through a video message.

It was just the second time in the award’s history it has gone to a non-profit organization, rather than an individual or business; Maine Tree Farm was the 2013 recipient. In 2016, the Wilkins award went to Max McCormack, retired University of Maine research professor, who helped design the award when it was first presented in 2004. Austin Wilkins was the first recipient, at the age of 101.

In introducing the speakers representing the Maine Tree Foundation, Ron Lovaglio, who was commissioner of the Department of Conservation in the King administration, noted some of the past recipients, including Seven Islands, the Baskahegan Company, Prentiss & Carlisle, Robbins Lumber, Sherry Huber and John Hagan – and Max McCormack – and said, “These are our Golden Globes, and Maine Woodland Owners has earned a place in this

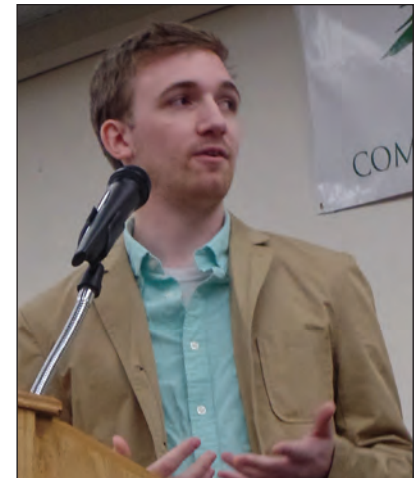
distinguished company.” Speaker Gideon said, “At the State House, we understand that the working forest is central to our environment and our economy, as well as our way of life.” President Thibodeau, also looking over the list of honorees, said, “What a prestigious award this is. They’re all iconic names, companies that really drive the Maine economy . . . We recognize that Tom [Doak] and his team do a terrific job at the State House representing

you and all your members.”

During the morning Forum sessions, Doak provided an overview of the Tree Growth Tax Law, and asked a series of 10 “True or False” questions about the program that challenged the audience, though most of the questions were answered correctly. While the administration has repeatedly sought major adverse changes to the program, Doak said the Taxation Committee has displayed a good understanding of the law and its purpose, and seems unlikely to sign off on any disruptive amendments.

Doak also stated that Maine Woodland Owners has agreed to amendments in the past “that make the program work better.”

University of Maine graduate student Casey Olechnowicz presented the best mobile device Apps for woodland owners. To read a full description of these Apps, see page 16.



Casey Olechnowicz presents the best Apps for woodland owners.

Board President Jessica Leahy gave a brief presentation on succession planning, subject of a long-running *Maine Woodlands* series that culminated

in a handbook, “Creating a Legacy.” A new publication, based on research at the University of Maine and other public and private universities, has just been released. Called, “Their Land, Their Legacy,” it’s intended for those who can help woodland owners with their succession plans, including foresters, loggers, tax professionals and land trusts. UMaine is now organizing workshops that will take place in the lower Saco River and

lower Penobscot River watersheds. The new report is available free online at the University of Maine website, as well as printed copies. “Creating a Legacy” is still available from Maine Woodland Owners.



Michael Wojtech, author of *Bark*, signs copies of his book.

It all started, he said, when he was surveying a forest stand in October, then realized all the leaves from hardwoods were about to be blown off by an approaching windstorm. Tree bark was the remaining characteristic for identification, and he soon realized bark was an under-studied part of forest ecosystems. With the encouragement of his mentor, Professor Tom Wessels, and motivated by “practical reasons for learning,” he soon found a field of study “that really connected me to this new place,” after relocating from the Pine Barrens of New Jersey to northern Vermont.

Wojtech traced the life cycles of trees that “all start with smooth and unbroken bark,” through the appearance of lenticels, horizontal peeling, “ridges



The usual full house was on hand for the 43rd Annual Meeting and Forestry Forum.

and furrows,” and scales or plates that mark the aging process, and showed how each species adapts over time. He showed key details, such as the fungi that create “a whitewashed look” on the trunks of many sugar maples. After his presentation, he signed copies of the book for numerous members.

For the third consecutive year, a film and musical presentation by Sumner McKane entertained Forum attendees. “The Northeast by Eastern” is based on the more than 75,000 glass plate negatives produced by Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Co., based in Belfast, whose salesmen-photographers fanned out all over rural New England and eastern New York State, selling black and white postcards that preserved images of countless rural communities. In contrast to generic color postcards that were mass-produced during Eastern’s heyday – the first half of the 20th century – the black and white images provide a detailed historical record of small-town life and work that is unmatched, McKane said. Most of the negatives are now preserved in the archives of the Penobscot Marine Museum.

Finally, Nancy Olmstead of the Maine Natural Areas Program gave a lively and fast-paced review of invasive plants in Maine. Her work, and that of student interns, was presented in *Maine Woodlands*, and will be amplified in a new guidebook due out this summer. The invasives program has increased public awareness markedly over the past two years, with the number of documented species, survey submissions and control efforts all growing rapidly. New workshops for the agricultural community, students, and Department of Transportation vegetation managers will be presented later this year.

Bylaw Changes, New Board Members Approved

Members approved bylaw changes, elected three new board members, and re-elected another during the Maine Woodland Owners 43rd annual meeting Jan. 10. The bylaw changes revised requirements for the 15-member Board of Directors, which previously had five officers, five members-at-large, and five regional representatives. President Jessica Leahy explained that the regional requirements have made recruiting board members difficult. The approved changes specify that 10 directors will be elected at-large, with new



Paul Sampson

language instructing the nominating committee to seek diversity in terms of landowning philosophies, relevant skills, as well as board members from all parts of Maine.

Joining the board May 1 for three-year terms will be Tom Allen, 1st District Congressman from 1996-2008; Nathan Webb, a wildlife biologist; and Erik Carlson, a forester and pellet mill owner. John Bozak will serve a second term on the board, while Gary Bahlkow, having reached the two-term limit, will leave the board but remain active in the organization. All five officers were re-elected to one-year terms: Jessica Leahy, president; Paul Sampson, 1st vice president; Doug Baston, 2nd vice president; Tom Abello, secretary; and Dan Crocker, treasurer. Paul Sampson presented the nominating committee report.

Dan Crocker's treasurer report depicted an organization with a "sound, conservative investment strategy." Long-time treasurer and investment manager, Bill Towle, stepped down shortly before his death last year, and the portfolio is now managed by Bangor Savings Bank. Membership dues account for 28% of revenue, Crocker said, with donations, especially from the Annual Appeal, adding 20%. On the expense side, events constitute 30%, while the newsletter and advocacy each weigh in at 15%.

The Land Trust has now surpassed 5,000 acres owned outright for the first time, while easements cover an additional 3,625 acres. Donations of two new properties were completed, while harvests were conducted or scheduled in Porter, Winthrop, Readfield and Brownville, and several properties saw

salvage harvesting after the Oct. 30 windstorm. Jessica Leahy said the Land Trust is exploring strategic acquisitions, particularly land adjacent to current properties, to increase management efficiency.

In Executive Director Tom Doak's legislative report, he recounted many hours spent defending the Tree Growth Tax Law Program, but said recommendations from the current Taxation Committee stakeholder group may produce some beneficial changes. He pointed out that change is normal; since being adopted in the 1970s, Tree Growth has been amended in all legislative sessions except the last two.

Doak also drew attention to the "highly successful" Landowner Relations Program now conducted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), which needs about \$150,000 each year in state funding to continue. The program attracted widespread praise from members, one of whom was "impressed beyond description" by the response to landowners having trouble with vandalism or trespassing.

In response to questions, Doak said that while the forest products industry in Maine is undergoing a major transition, the "solid wood" sector is expanding, amid demand for new wood building products. New wood-using companies are looking to locate in Maine following a decline in the pulp and paper industry, though paper production will still be very important. An oil industry specialist who serves on a Maine advisory board recently called the shift from petroleum to wood-based products "inevitable," including the use of bioplastics – with the remaining question being will Maine be competitive in the new markets.



Dan Crocker

As to whether landowners have a right to remove tree stands and unauthorized trail cameras, Doak said they do, though IF&W would prefer to monitor trail cameras to see if those placing them illegally can be apprehended. The Legislature is also considering use of drones over private land, and related privacy concerns, while one member suggested "treating them like a gamebird."

Russell Black Named Outstanding Tree Farmer

Russell Black of Wilton is the Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer for 2018; the award was made during the Forestry Forum by Gov. Paul LePage. Black, a four-term legislator from Wilton, currently serves on the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee.

Russell worked his grandfather's 65-acre woodlot in his youth, then inherited his father's 200 acres on the Black Road in 1973. His state award has been a long time coming; he was runner up for the Outstanding Tree Farmer award in 1976, and has won three annual Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation awards.

Black and his family work tirelessly to improve and expand their Tree Farm, which now encompasses 400 acres, and has a growing maple syrup business in addition to harvesting 150 cords

production. Retired Maine Forest Service forester Bob Leso long ago convinced him to manage his woodland as carefully as his farm acreage, which totals 100 acres.

Black credits Abbott Ladd, former Maine Tree Farm Committee member and Maine Woodland Owners executive director, for his decision to join Tree Farm. The third generation of his family on the land, Black, his wife, four children and 10 grandchildren all play active roles.



Russell Black receiving the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award from Governor Paul LePage.

Tree Farm Chair Kyle Burdick also announced two county winners: Don Newell's 250-acre Tree Farm in Unity and Thorndike, which hosted a 2016 Maine Woodland Owners/Society of American Foresters workshop in 2016; and Brian and Susan Carlton of Jonesboro, who've managed 102 acres since 2009.

Congratulations to Russell Black and the Black family. Watch this newsletter for information about the Maine Woodland Owners / Maine Tree Farm Forestry Field Day, which will be held in the fall on the property of the Black family.



Russell Black and family during the Jan. 10 awards ceremony.

of firewood a year. Since 2012, he's harvested 135,000 board feet of white pine logs, 35,000 of hardwood, and 650 cords of pulp.

Black has conducted multiple harvests over 45 years, but now emphasizes wildlife habitat and improving the sugarbush. A recent chapter event on his property featured beekeeping and maple syrup



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 317 Allen Hill Road
 Oxford, ME 04270
 207-539-8968
 gregseamans@gmail.com

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 P.O. Box 621
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Life Lessons in Stewardship and Gratitude

Story and Photos
By Bob Duchesne

Barkyard Birding

I started 2018 by cleaning the basement. I also decluttered my inbox. In so doing, I chanced upon an old e-mail I sent to Robbins Lumber years ago. I had just done some birding on Robbins land around Niatous Lake, and I couldn't help but admire how well-managed their forest was. I wrote to thank them.

A well-managed forest is a beautiful thing. I admire woodlands that sustain diverse habitat, and I especially respect forestry practices that prevent silting of trout streams. I see examples of great management all over the state, but what I observed on the Robbins land was so extraordinary that I felt I needed to write and say "thank you." I was back up there in November, and the beauty reminded me of my earlier visit.

Years ago, I wrote a letter to thank Baskahegan Company. One of their logging roads in Washington County is among my top three favorites in the state. The road has an unusually dense concentration of spruce, fir, and red pine. This makes it attractive to many of the northern forest birds that can be difficult to find. I've been visiting this road for 20 years, so I've been able to watch how fast the forest regenerates. The rapid regeneration happens because Baskahegan pays great attention to using its equipment lightly, so as to not damage the soil or choke regrowth with misplaced slash.

I'm currently serving my 12th year in the Legislature. Although it's rare, sometimes I get drawn into debates about what the forest should look like. I've heard arguments that the Maine forest is a pristine wilderness. It isn't. I've heard arguments that trees only have value if they are harvested. I guess beauty is in the eye of the beholder, or maybe the imagination.

As a bird expert, my perspective is uniquely focused on habitat. Maine is blessed with a wide variety of birds, and each species has its habitat niche. For instance, we have more than two dozen species of warblers nesting in the state – an unusually high number compared to other states. Some of our warblers like hardwoods, some prefer soft. Some like mature forest, some favor young. Some stay near the ground, some never leave the canopy.



Palm warbler

The same thing happens with our abundance of vireos, flycatchers, thrushes, sparrows and woodpeckers. The more habitat diversity there is in a woodland, the more variety of birds that can be found there.

Even patch cuts can be good for some birds. Mourning warblers are scarce and difficult to find in Maine, occurring primarily in the northern part of the state. What they love best are areas that are regenerating – areas that have dense brambles, usually with a thin overstory of young maples to provide a little shade and additional cover. They are secretive but noisy. Invariably, I hear them before I ever see them.

In pre-colonial days, Mother Nature relied on fires, floods, and beavers to open up the canopy and create habitat variety. Those conditions are now suppressed, and it's often the harvester who generates forest diversity. I had the pleasure of visiting a harvest site with a professional forester last year. The landowner's specific goal was to improve habitat for wildlife on the parcel, particularly grouse. I also walked one of the state's Wildlife Management Areas with a forester from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife last year. The department uses targeted logging as a key tool in managing its woodlands for wildlife.

I can usually look at a patch of forest and know what birds are likely to be present. In fact, one of

my favorite pleasures is to drive the logging roads of northern Maine looking for outstanding patches. Whenever I venture out the Golden Road and up the Telos Road, I am keenly aware of what a privilege it is to recreate on private lands, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity.



Mourning warbler

Such an opportunity comes with responsibility, which I preach to other adventurous birders every chance I get, including this one. I avoid active logging operations, stay out of the way of trucks, shun parking in the wrong places, and don't litter. I avoid damaging roads in mud season, or any season. And I say thank you every chance I get, including this one.

Bob Duchesne, a legislator from Hudson, founded the Maine Birding Trail (www.mainebirdingtrail.com), writes for the Bangor Daily News, and has a weekly radio show on Sports Radio 92.9.

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From the Woods to Your Garden: Bark on the Move

By Lloyd C. Irland

Forests in History Woodlot owners, foresters, and botanists learn to identify many trees by their bark. You can bet wood buyers and log scalers do – by the time they see the log they have little else to go on! For some species, with a bit of learning, you can use the



Four-foot pulp: Peelers at work

bark to judge how rapidly the tree is growing.

Bark is the outermost tissue of a tree or shrub that protects the living layers of the tree from dehydration, fire, disease, bugs, abrasion, and weather. Over the years, some kinds of bark have proved very useful to humans. The birch bark canoe is a prime example; at one time people also made canoes using elm bark. The use of oak and hemlock bark for tanning leather is well known, and has been mentioned in previous articles. The bark of many shrubs is used for flavorings, medicinals, or other purposes.

Many of you have probably been in old homes or barns where the rafters or floor joists still have the bark on. Today, builders do not want bark on their two-by-fours. Bark on an edge will almost always downgrade a board. What this means is that a primary wood product manufacturing plant produces large piles of bark. What to do with it?

In 19th century sawmills, the bark went into a pile with slabs and edgings. Since most mills were at dams along rivers, the slabs and bark went into the river where they became a hazard to navigation. In fact, the oldest anti-pollution law in the country was the 1899 federal Refuse Act prohibiting dumping into navigable rivers. At the time few cared if there were no fish or you couldn't drink the water, but anything that got in the way of shipping? That was serious! Mills inland burned their low grade residuals in a big "tepee burner" out back, some of which can still be seen in drier parts of the West where they don't rust away.

On the West Coast, sawmills had to do something with the mounds of stuff they could no longer dump into the Willamette or Grays Harbor. Somebody said, "There's a lot of fiber there – let's make paper out of it." But papermakers dislike bark. If it gets into the pulp, it consumes chemicals and leaves specks in the sheet that customers dislike. Bark must come off before chipping or grinding. Also on the Coast, large tonnages of sawmill chips went to export buyers. Specifications usually call for less than 1% bark.

So, what to do? The answer was to separate wood from bark before running the log through the sawmill. Bark goes into its own pile, and slabs and edgings, now free of bark, go into a chipper, then a truck or barge to the paper mill. For sawmills, this turned a



The modern way: Grinder at HMC Corp.

problem into an opportunity. Over the years, the idea spread around the country as chips gained a market price and began affecting stumpage prices. By the late 20th century, the sawmills depended on chips for significant revenue – truly a joint product, not a waste or byproduct.

Early pulp mills in the Northeast used cottonwood or aspen; for much of the summer the bark is readily peeled off using a bark spud. A few readers may have one in their barn. The mills moved North and relied on spruce, also peeled by hand during the summer. If you think life is hard now, think of earning a living doing that. Men are still around who can tell you about it.

Mills paid a premium to reflect the cost of peeled wood. Outside peeling season, four-foot sticks went into huge drum debarkers, where they tumbled until the bark came off. A certain amount of useful fiber came off too. This method was not practical at sawmills. So, from the 1960s onward, considerable innovation and investment went into debarking wood.

As oil prices rose, paper mills began building huge boilers to burn it for process energy. In the 1980s, cogeneration arrived. Some of the biggest pulp mills began generating electricity and not just steam (hence, co-generation) and could even sell what they didn't need into the grid. Next came free-standing, biomass-fired electric generating plants, which need low-grade fiber for fuel. New supply chains emerged to route low-grade residuals, bark, and even yard waste into paper mill and electric boiler systems. I was once told by a large co-generator that at some seasons they sold all the bark they produced, and then bought biomass and other fiber from others because bark was too valuable to burn.

At some point, it was noticed that bark makes a useful mulch for lawns, gardens, and decorative plots around buildings or trees in parking lots. A new supply chain emerged, involving specialized firms that bought the bark, ground or mulched it, and shipped, in bags or bulk, to customers in suburbia. Today, every lawn and garden store displays pallets of bagged bark, and if you need it in volume, you can get bulk delivery. Demand for bark became so great that contractors actually mined paper mill bark piles for landscape mulch. This was sold, unbelievably, as “bark stumpage.”

Some landscapers and homeowners are particular. Your supplier can now offer bark mulch tinted by



The business end: Commercial bark pile

color – perhaps to match the color of your house! In Maine, local bark processing cannot fill the demand, and at your lawn and garden store you'll find southern pine bark.

Yet another factor was involved. Under Ed Muskie's Clean Water Act of 1972, state enforcement of water rules accelerated. Protecting groundwater became a priority. It was soon learned that bark piles sitting outdoors for years pollute groundwater from the leachate into soil after percolating through mounds of bark. If this leachate could tan leather, it could also tan the inside of your throat. DEP inspectors came knocking, and bark piles disappeared. Burning water-soaked bark was unappealing, but some was taken by the landscape contractors.

How much bark is produced in Maine? Nobody really counts it, but we can estimate that out of every ton of roundwood, 6-8% will be bark. Roughly 15 million tons are used in Maine's plants every year. So total bark production must be 700,000-800,000 tons per year, not counting bark in the 2.5 million tons of whole-tree (biomass) chips fed into boilers until recently. Every spring, some might be finding its way into your garden.

Author Michael Wojtech recently published a charming book, *Bark: A Field Guide to the Trees of the Northeast*, which many Maine Woodlands readers will enjoy, including a presentation made at the Forestry Forum on Jan. 10.

Lloyd Irland, forestry consultant, teacher and writer, lives in Wayne. He is the author of The Northeast's Changing Forest, and his interest in history dates back to college.

Ought to Be a Crime? A History of Trespassing

By George Smith

When I was a kid, we hunted all over Winthrop and surrounding towns, never concerned about who owned the lands. I don't recall ever seeing a "No Trespassing" sign. Boy, things have changed. Today, I urge hunters, hikers, anglers, and all others who enjoy someone else's land to get permission, even if the land is not posted. I only hunt these days where I have permission.

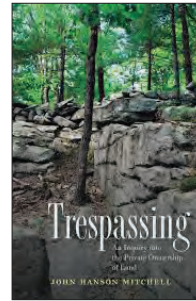
Around and About

We must recognize that hunters are a minority in Maine, and a shrinking minority at that, so we must focus on building alliances with non-hunters, including private landowners, if our favorite outdoor activity is going to survive and flourish.

Knowing this, I was eager to pick up a copy of *Trespassing*, by John Hanson Mitchell. The book, subtitled, "An Inquiry into the Private Ownership of Land," was given as a premium by Maine Woodland Owners to all who donated \$200 or more to the annual appeal.

Mitchell is an impressive guy, including his John Burroughs Award for nature essays. He's also the founder and editor of *Sanctuary* magazine. His childhood was a lot like mine: "I was born and raised in a town that seemed to have no clear demarcation of property. Kids wandered at large there, setting out after breakfast and ranging through private backyards and gardens and, as in my case, spending hours in a wooded plot of private land we regarded as our own Sherwood Forest."

Mitchell acknowledges that because of his childhood experiences, he became, as an adult, "a notorious trespasser." He was "periodically stopped and harangued by local landholders, and occasionally by the police."



All of that led to this book, "an attempt to better understand" how private land became "forbidden territory." Well, he certainly does that. I was fascinated as he examined land ownership in other countries. Apparently "control of land has been a source of contention" throughout history, and the world.

The story starts in the 17th Century, and moves from there to the late 20th Century, focusing on a plot of land where "some thirty generations of Indians, English, and Americans have lived on the site." There's a large cast of characters, from "The Green Man," a benign forest-dwelling figure, half-animal, half-man, to Linda Cantillon, an "employee at the local school cafeteria who halted a million-dollar development project west of the Christian Indian village site."

I especially liked the way Mitchell focused his story on a particular place. That helped me understand the changes that have occurred over several centuries in land ownership, and landowner rights. You will particularly enjoy chapters like "Should Trees Have Standing?" and "The Intelligence of Salamanders." But the entire book is interesting and informative, and you will finish with a much better understanding of the concept of land ownership – and trespassing.

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

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As a reminder, this book, "*Trespassing: An Inquiry into Private Ownership of Land*" is our thank you gift for anyone who contributes \$200 or more to our Annual Appeal. (For a contribution of \$100 or more you can receive the poplar Delorme "Maine Atlas and Gazetteer"). Our Annual Appeal runs until May 1st so there is still time to pick up one of these gifts. Annual Appeal contributions can be made on our website www.mainewoodlandowners.org or by mailing a check to our Augusta office (please indicate Annual Appeal on the memo line).

New Red Oak Guide Available to Landowners

A new guide to one of Maine's premier hardwood species, northern red oak (*Quercus rubra* L.), has just been published by University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. (See below for details.)

Red oak occurs naturally throughout New England. It contributes to our woodlot landscapes, and is a high-value species both for timber and wildlife.



This new publication brings together the knowledge of five experienced forest scientists, and incorporates the information from 140 cited references on red oak ecology, management, and habitat.

The content is well-organized and includes strong sections on regeneration, growth and yield, silviculture prescriptions, and wildlife considerations. It is a comprehensive literature review from which woodland owners can distill a broad range of information for improving red oak composition of woodlots in New England.

A free copy can be obtained via e-mail to annarie.vancoesant@unh.edu. Be sure to include your postal address with your request.

[Leak, W, B., M. Yamasaki, J. S. Ward, K. Demarais, and K. P. Bennett. 2017. Ecology and Management of Northern Red Oak in New England. University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, Durham, NH 03824. 50 pp.]

– Maxwell McCormack

We Are Almost There!



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Combining Business and Pleasure in Winter Woods

By Maxwell McCormack

My best pleasure walks in the woods are on snowshoes, atop a comfortable snow pack on a clear, crisp, Fahrenheit temperatures-in-the-teens day with minimal wind. Mornings are superb, but evenings, with a full moon coming into glow, are ecstasy as the soft crunching rhythm of footsteps breaks the snow-muffled silence. A personal woodlot is a physical and mental health club.

It's that time of year. Insect-free, easy access offers premier conditions for enjoying visual updates on your woodlots. Take advantage of the winter opportunities for keeping in touch, and carrying out routine property line monitoring. Modern camera capabilities facilitate incorporating winter shots of photo points. No established photo points? Select key locations on the ground, mark them, and establish the best angles for continuing photos. Include references: large rocks, ledges, or specimen trees.

Along with the usual hiking gear, I like to have a map or satellite image for navigating and making site-specific notes, such as points of interest, growth conditions, and cultural needs. Be prepared to mark locations and individual trees; bright colored flagging works well. A small pruning saw is handy, and anvil-type hand pruners. The pruning tools are useful in trimming trailside growth that might not be reachable without the snow. Occasional, strategic pruning of limbs helps mark trail routes and designate future crop trees.

It's not only the trees. Animal tracks mark fresh snow, showing the presence and movements of a variety of woodlot residents. Deer are most obvious, and readily betray feeding spots. Wing prints in the snow trigger imaginative thoughts; there may be piles of wood chips generated by a woodpecker. One winter we had a superb trail compacted by turkeys.

As you trek along, stop often, and look up. Check hardwoods for crown defects and upper bole quality. Project stands five, 10 or 20 years ahead while you have the long-distance winter views, and less understory

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foliage. Speculate the best bets for final crop trees in the mature stand. Will they have room to grow and to disperse future seed crops for natural regeneration?

As you make these analytical observations, note stand growth developments and changes since you last passed. Do conditions match your management plan, or are developments something to be considered in your next 10-year revision?

In addition to opportunities for pleasant winter walks through the woods, the open conditions and snow depth are advantageous for pruning crop trees. Visibility and mobility is better, and trees are better able to withstand wounding. The deeper the snow, the higher you go. It can make a difference in reaching up with a pole saw to prune the upper ends of future logs.



Nicely packed snowshoe trail along rough skid trail provides smooth travelling.

Winter snow conditions also provide benefits when applying herbicide stem treatments. This can include pre-commercial thinning in dense softwood stands, releasing softwood regeneration by treating overstory hardwoods, reducing soft maple components to favor desirable hardwood species, or removing diseased beech.

For these treatments it's best to avoid extremely cold conditions, but mild winter days on good snow cover provide comfortable conditions for targeting stems and applying treatments. And your tracks in the snow provide a record of which areas have been treated. Take advantage of the opportunities – and enjoy the winter.

Max McCormack is research professor emeritus, University of Maine, and lives in Unity. E-mail: mlm2@uninets.net



Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is a program that provides a convenient way to ask questions regarding specific forestry activities.

SFI commits to:

- Include public concerns in the management of industrial forestlands and foster the same philosophy on non-industrial forestlands.
- Inform the public about sound forestry practices already in place. This program is important for all of us: loggers, landowners, wood buyers and the public.

Forestry Hotline:

Do you have questions about a forest harvest in your neighborhood? If so, we invite you to call 1-888-SFI-GOAL (1-888-734-4625).

This call-in service, *although not an enforcement program*, will help Maine's SFI companies better understand issues of public concern and identify problem areas for improvement.

For more information on *The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)*
www.sfimaine.org

www.sfiprogram.org



Must-Have E-Tools for Every Taste

By Casey Olechnowicz

Apps are becoming some of the most useful tools woodland owners can carry in their arsenal, so as long as they are equipped with a smartphone or tablet (See December and January issues.) There are hundreds of apps that can aid woodland owners with tree identification, tree measurements, mapping and GPS, invasive species identification, and many other management goals. To help woodland owners start building an effective app toolkit, here are what I consider to be the “Top 10” apps for woodland activities.

SkyView

From all the stargazing apps on the market, SkyView is a unique “augmented reality” app where you can view all the stars and objects of the night sky through your device’s camera in your real-world environment. One major highlight of this app is that it’s both free and available for iOS and Android devices. The app has hundreds of astronomical objects you can search for, and the app will point to where those objects are in your night sky.

Planimeter

While the world of forest measurement apps is much thinner, Planimeter stands out as a useful GPS measurement tool that excels in accuracy. The app can measure the distances and areas of any location based on satellite imagery. It differs from other GPS measurement apps in that it allows users to take notes, place pins, share or save maps you’ve created, as well as upload information from the app onto Google Earth. For Android devices this app is \$2.99, and for iOS, \$7.99. If you’re looking for a free app that includes some of the features of Planimeter, GPS Field Area Measure is a good alternative.

LeafsnapHD

A large North American tree database and photo ID tool, LeafsnapHD allows you to view detailed photographs of tree leaves, needles, branches, flowers, bark, seeds, cones, and petioles to identify any tree. You can take photos of trees, label them, and pin them on a map within the app as well. The instant photo ID feature of this app is not overly reliable, but it still remains one of the more comprehensive tree identification guide apps on the market, and is free for iOS and Android devices.

Forinsects

This online North American guidebook was created by the U.S. Forest Service as a tool to identify and learn more about common forest pests and diseases. Forinsects has detailed photographs of the insects and pests, along with images of what the damage to trees looks like. The app also includes different fact sheets and articles, and is free for iOS and Android.



Best Apps

for Maine Woodland Owners

TickCheck ID

This is the most innovative tick app on the market, providing not only images and guides to various tick species in North America, but information on tick removal, tick diseases, and a free tick identification service. TickCheck ID allows you to submit a photo of a tick, and an expert will respond in one or two business days regarding the species. The app also offers resources for users to send ticks into a lab for disease testing, for a fee. The app is free for Android devices only; for Apple users, TickID is a simple alternative, with educational images and information about the three most common tick species in America.

Roger’s Mushrooms

This is the most comprehensive mushroom ID and guidebook app available, and includes detailed drawings and photographs of every mushroom species you can think of. Each species comes with a description of the characteristics, and where to find the mushrooms, and the app has a cookbook with recipes for any edible mushrooms you might find. Roger’s Mushrooms is available in a free “lite” version for both iOS and Android users, but it’s limited in comparison with the full version, which sells for \$4.99.

Avenza Maps

One of the most popular mapping apps, Avenza Maps allows you to download and view hundreds of maps of practically any location in the U.S. Types of maps range from remote imagery and topographic

maps, to simple satellite images. Once downloaded, these maps can even be viewed offline, and the app comes with the functionality to record GPS pins, tracks, notes, and to measure distances. Many of the maps are free, or available for a small charge, and the app itself is free for both iOS and Android.

Merlin

One of the most underrated birding apps available, Merlin has a guidebook similar to the comprehensive Audubon and Peterson bird apps. Where Merlin stands out is its location-based identification tool, detailed photographic images, range maps, and a huge database of bird calls and sounds. The app is location based, so it narrows the birds you can view based on your region, making it very simple to sort through. The app is free for Android users; for any Apple users looking for an alternative, Audubon Birds and Peterson Birds still are exceptional, and free.

WeatherUnderground

There are hundreds of weather apps on the market today, so it can be difficult to narrow down an app that stands out. Weather Underground meets this test on sheer forecasting accuracy alone, providing localized weather forecasts from a few of the thousands of weather stations it utilizes across the globe. The app allows you to choose activities you like, such as hiking or fishing, and assesses the weather conditions for those specific interests. It also automatically assesses whether there are conditions present for notable weather events, such as ice accumulation, lightning, or wildfire. It's one of the more detailed and comprehensive apps out there, while remaining simple enough so it's not overwhelming for users. It's free for iOS and Android.

About My Woods

While each of the apps previously mentioned are good at helping with one category of woodland activities, About My Woods excels in several. It's designed as a helpful tool for woodland owners in New England, and succeeds by providing woodland owners information and images of all types of flora and fauna they would expect to find on their land, based on the apps location filter. It can also assist in finding a nearby forester. Currently, this app is available for free on all Android products, and Apple smartphones.

Casey Olechnowicz is a UMaine School of Forest Resources graduate student. He comes from a military family that moved frequently, but was shaped by his time living in Eliot.

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News From the Chapters

Upper Kennebec Valley

Tour the Active Harvest
Saturday, Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Yankee Woodlot, Skowhegan

The state-owned Yankee Woodlot Demonstration Forest is in the second year of a two-year harvest schedule. Come see the equipment, meet with the managing team and contractor, and ask any questions you might have about harvesting. This is an informal session to allow folks to walk an active harvest, and learn why things are done the way they are. We'll meet at the Somerset County Cooperative Extension Office, 7 County Drive, Skowhegan. Please be prepared for the weather. Contact: Patty Cormier at 592-2238 or patty.cormier@maine.gov

Upper Kennebec Valley

Apple Pruning
Sunday, Feb., 18, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Yankee Woodlot, Skowhegan

Back by popular demand, the Yankee Woodlot is the place to be if you'd like to learn how to prune apple trees in your yard or woodlot, and brush up on pruning skills. Apple tree enthusiast Joe Dembeck will discuss methods and tools used to prune apple trees to increase their viability and production. After a brief indoor overview, participants will head out to learn, and test their skills. Dress warmly, and feel free to bring your own pruning equipment. There will be pole saws, hand saws and loppers to try. Registration is required, and limited to 20 participants. Contact: Joe Dembeck at 474-8323 ext. 3 or joseph.dembeck@me.nacdn.net. Sponsored by Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District, Somerset County Cooperative Extension, and Maine Woodland Owners. The Somerset County Cooperative Extension Office is at 7 County Drive.

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Two Rivers

Dealing with Beech Bark Disease
Saturday, Feb. 24, 8:30 a.m.-noon
Viles Arboretum, 153 Hospital St., Augusta

A half-day workshop on understanding beech bark disease (BBD) in Maine hardwood stands will be led by Maxwell McCormack, *Maine Woodlands* silvicultural columnist and retired research professor at the University of Maine. This is an opportunity to learn more about one of Maine's most common hardwoods, but one whose presence in the forest now creates management dilemmas for landowners. Topics will include BBD impacts on forest stand dynamics, treatment options, types and application of herbicides, and what to expect for outcomes. There will be time for informal discussion during breaks and at the end of the session. Contact: Jeanne Siviski at 626-0005 or Jeanne@mainewoodlandowners.org

UKV Plans 2018 Events

Following dinner at Bob and Mary Burr's Farm to Table restaurant in Mercer, the Upper Kennebec Valley Chapter planned monthly events for the rest of the year, including those listed on this page. The schedule is subject to change; dates and events will be listed here, on the Maine Woodland Owners website, and with the Maine Forest Service.

March: Forester Pete Tracy will return for another workshop on chainsaw maintenance, filing and troubleshooting.

March: Marketing of Wood Products, New Sharon log yard.

April: Pruning and Thinning your trees, concepts and practical applications at the Holt woodlot in Mercer

May: After the Harvest, at the Yankee Woodlot in Skowhegan.

June: Mapping and GPS with smartphones, and easy applications for landowners.

July: Invasive Plant ID and management, with Joe Dembeck and Maine Natural Areas Program.

August: Tools for the woodland owner, with a practical look at what's out there for managing the woodlot.

October: Stream Crossings in Starks. We'll see why it is better to do them right the first time.

December: Forest Management Plans; how to make it a working document, not a dust collector.

New Members January

Central Maine

Stanley E. Watson

Down East

Alex Blair

Randy Elden

MidCoast

Elizabeth Bickford

David Paffhausen

Upper Kennebec Valley

Trent Emery

Seth Emery

Joshua Sweet

Western Maine

Carlton N. Brown

Southern Maine

Anthony Butts

Andy and Heather Seymour

Wajih and Virginia Yazbeck

Out of State

Trevor M. Evans

Bill and Joan Alley

Mike Leahy and Gail Frazier

Tym and Leslie Park

Penobscot Valley

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Two Rivers

David and Lisbeth Murphy

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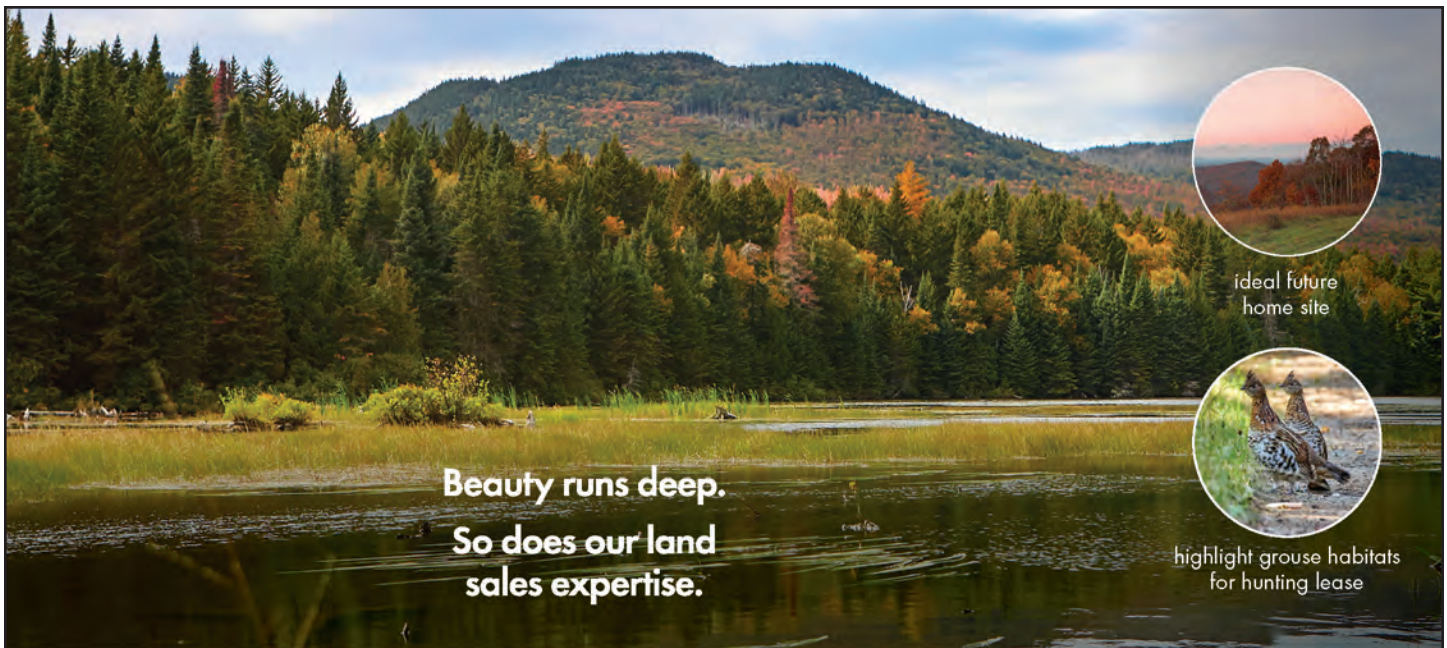
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February 2018

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Going, Going: Top White Pine Due for Removal

By Jan Santerre

Champion Trees Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) has been an important tree for the people of what is now the State of Maine for hundreds, possibly thousands of years. As citizens of the “Pine Tree State,” it’s no wonder we take pride regarding this particular species. Since the first publication of the “Maine Register of Big Trees” in 1968, only two trees have been listed in this category.

The first was a tree known as the “Punch Bowl pine,” located in Blanchard, and listed in 1970 as the National Champion in this category. Then, when the top blew out of the 147-foot giant, the current champion in Morrill took over, in 1979. Since then, the Morrill pine has had several runs at National Champion status, as well as maintaining its state status. The tree stands guard, practically in the roadway along state Route 131, just south of the Bowen farmstead.

For at least 225 years, according to farm records and recollections, the tree has dodged the dangers of both nature and humanity. While a testament to the strength of the mighty pine, time has taken its toll.

The double-topped tree is slowly spreading, and thus poses a danger to motorists passing by. If you want to get a glimpse at this tree, and the window into history that comes with it, you should make the trip soon. The Maine Department of Transportation plans to remove the tree later this year. While certainly not the end one would wish for the tree, the overall health and need for removal attests to the reasoning behind the lack of legal protection for such trees. When the time comes, owners and managers need the flexibility to be able to remove trees that pose a danger to the public.



Close to the highway, this state record-holder will be cut down in 2018.

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 $\frac{1}{4}$ of the crown spread in feet. The Morrill pine has a circumference of 245 inches (dbh = 6.5 feet), a height of 125 feet, and an average crown spread of 78 feet for a total point value of 390. Since nomination, the tree has gained more than 40 points.

For more on Maine’s Register of Big Trees, contact Jan Santerre, coordinator, at 800-367-0223, or visit: <http://projectcanopy.maine.gov>