

FALL 2016

DR. MAXWELL L. MCCORMACK, JR. RECEIVES 2016 AUSTIN WILKINS STEWARDSHIP AWARD



L-R: Commissioner Whitcomb, Doug Denico, Governor LePage, Max McCormack, Sherry Huber

The Austin H. Wilkins Forest Stewardship Award was presented by Governor LePage to Dr. Maxwell L. McCormack, Jr. during a recent Blaine House ceremony.

McCormack graduated from the University of Maine in 1956 and earned his masters and doctorate at Duke University. He taught silviculture at Southern Illinois University and the University of Vermont before returning to Maine in 1976 as research professor and head of the Cooperative Forest Research Unit. He helped to lead the recovery of the Maine spruce-fir forests after the 1970-1980 spruce budworm epidemic. Despite retiring in 1997, he currently serves on the Panel of Experts for Outcome Based Forestry and the Forester Licensing Board.

Also attending this year's award ceremony and commending McCormack were Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Commissioner Walter Whitcomb, Doug Denico, Maine State Forester and Sherry Huber, Executive Director of the Maine TREE Foundation.

The Wilkins Award is the major recognition for landowners and individuals who are outstanding examples of managing the working forest of Maine in an exemplary and sustainable way. Established in 2004, it is named after Dr. Austin Wilkins for his lifelong leadership in stewarding Maine's forests. The award recipient is chosen by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Maine TREE Foundation.

Previous recipients have included: Dr. Wilkins, Seven Islands Land Co. and the Pingree Heirs, John Hagen of the Manomet Center for Conservation Science, Sherry Huber of Maine TREE, Roger Milliken Jr. and the Baskahegan Timberlands Co., Jensen Bissell for his work in the Baxter State Park Scientific Forest Management Area, Prentiss and Carlisle, Robbins Lumber Company, Robert Linkletter and the Linkletter Family, the Maine Tree Farm Committee, Robert Chadbourne and Chadbourne Tree Farms and Irving Woodlands.

2016 TEACHERS' TOURS BRING ENERGETIC GROUPS TO WESTERN AND NORTHERN MAINE WOODS

Two energetic and engaged groups of educators made our 2016 Teachers' Tours of Maine Forests and Mills hugely successful this past summer. On our 19th year of offering these trips, we were also fortunate to again have knowledgeable and welcoming hosts at all the venues we visited, from timber harvests to mulch manufacturing and everything in between.

It is always gratifying to read comments on teachers' evaluations, especially when they say things like:

"I was impressed with the management and amazed by the regulations. Great care is given to the uses and the environment. Learning the economic side was very helpful. Loved the group. Everyone was eager to learn, participate and get to know each other. Loved our time around the fire. Thanks so much for giving us this experience. We were treated well and we learned a lot."



Teachers at Abol Bridge, Mt. Katahdin in the Background

Our first tour was based at Twin Pine Camps and the New England Outdoor Center on Millinocket Lake. The hospitality, as always here, was wonderful and the food excellent! A Project Learning Tree workshop led off the first afternoon, led by PLT State Coordinator Patricia Maloney, assisted by facilitators Terri Coolong, Maine District Forester and educator Anita Smith.

The next morning, we traveled on the Golden Road to an operations tour on Katahdin Forest Management land. Manager Dave Wilson led us through three stops where we saw a feller buncher, skidder and delimber in action and discussed subjects like operating in sensitive areas, managing natural regeneration and public access and recreation. Then it was on to lunch and traveled by boat to the Ambajeus Boom House where Chuck Harris takes care of lots of artifacts and photos at the Great Northern Logging Museum.

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MAINE TREE FOUNDATION
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Mission: The Maine TREE Foundation educates and advocates for the sustainable use of the forest and the ecological, economic and social health of Maine's forest community.

The Vision of the Maine TREE Foundation: The public values and supports Maine's healthy forest ecosystems, forest professionals, scientific forest management, and sound public policies that sustain Maine's forest-dependent people and communities.

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THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF THE 2016 TEACHERS' TOURS

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CLP BANQUET SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 2

Plan to attend the 26th Annual Certified Logging Professional (CLP) Banquet in Brewer on Friday, December 2. Logger of the Year awards will again be made in each of three categories, Conventional, Mechanical and Contractor/Supervisor.

PINE TREE CAMP NAMED 2016 MAINE OUTSTANDING TREE FARM



L-R Forester John Starrett with Pine Tree Camp's Director Dawn Willard-Robinson, Facilities Manager Harvey Chesley, Director of Development Tyler Carey

The Maine Outstanding Tree Farmers of 2016, Pine Tree Camp of Rome, Maine, were honored in September at the 62nd Maine Tree Farm and Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine Forestry Field Day. Maine Tree Farm Committee Chair Paul Larrivee and SWOAM President Richard Nass were masters of ceremonies and Tom Martin, President and CEO of the American Forest Foundation was the keynote speaker.

John Starrett, forester and member of the Tree Farm Committee, was recognized for his long-time work with the Camp. He has managed almost every harvest on the camp property since 1991.

A walking tour of the recreational facilities took place and a motorized tour was held twice to demonstrate in-depth aspects of forest management. Highlights included recent timber harvests on the 285-acre property, management of a deer wintering area, Best Management Practices for water quality, including stream crossing techniques, converting harvesting trails to recreational trails and the importance of aesthetics to Pine Tree Camp's mission.

Education Stations included a Flume Table showing stream crossing techniques for forest management activities, a display of invasive insects and information about controlling invasive plants and booths which informed about songbird and other wildlife habitat, water quality and lake health and landowner relations

Maine TREE will celebrate the Maine Tree Farm Committee and feature the award winning Pine Tree Camp at its annual fall fundraising event October 26 at the Augusta Country Club.

THANKS TO THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE 2016 AUSTIN WILKINS AWARD PLAQUE

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RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND CONSTRUCTION FILL SUMMER AT HOLT FOREST



The Holt Forest Management Committee has been busy this year! Following the Project Canopy grant award last spring has come a Project Learning Tree Workshop, the establishment of a Forest Inventory Growth (FIG) Plot, and other activities to encourage area schools to use the Holt Forest for hands on learning. PLT Coordinator Patricia Maloney, assisted by resident scientist Jack Witham and Forester Barrie Brusila, held the first PLT workshop with teachers from the Georgetown School. Pat has also outfitted and given to the school a “tree trunk” of forest implements and supplies to accompany the PLT activities the teachers were introduced to.

Another element of the grant, the contract for a comprehensive forestry management plan was awarded to Rob Bryan this summer and he is working to complete it by early in 2017. This is not to say that further research activity has been lacking at the Holt Forest. Indeed, Witham reported to the Maine TREE board this fall that work on data management continues, along with field work which focused on those projects where yearly collection of data is essential. That has included small mammal trapping and bird territory mapping. S-1 seedling counts and oak seedling plots were counted for the sixth year and students worked on a number of projects.



Other activities on the ground this summer were clearing of vegetation in the education area, site preparation, and the construction of an Outdoor Classroom. Back in June a group of people assembled at the Old Stage Road site to begin implementing the plan for new facilities approved by the Arrowsic Planning Board in April. The first order of business was to clear some 60 trees and brush from the area where the Outdoor Classroom pavilion and parking area would go. Certified Logging Professional Director Mike St. Peter brought several of his most experienced colleagues, instructors Steve Laweryson and John Cullen and logging contractor and CLP

Board President Eric Carlson. Carlson brought his excavator and Maine TREE rented a chipper.



Other volunteers were UMaine students Todd Douglass, Ethan Hill and Ryan Karroll, who also received instruction in directional felling. Clarke Cooper, a UMaine employee at the Holt Forest for the summer, and Witham completed the crew. St. Peter summed up the day, saying “The day went well with a safe and productive crew, great weather and no ticks! All merchantable wood was salvaged and skilled directional felling resulted in no damage to the adjoining residual stand.”



Following the clearing work, Maine TREE contacted its friends in the lumber business. Materials were generously donated and delivered by Huber Engineer Woods, Hancock Lumber, Viking Lumber and Mainely Trusses. Brian Elwell, with whom Maine TREE contracted to prepare the site, removed stumps, leveled the pavilion site, put in footings and spread wood chips. He will complete the parking area this fall. Witham and Pat Sirois, Director of Maine’s Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee erected the posts before the actual construction took place in late August.

Led by Sirois, the team proceeded to build the pavilion, facilitated by staging loaned for the project by local builder, Robbins Construction of Arrowsic. Volunteers included Dave Griswold, Al Kimble, Scott Pease, Tim Richards, Gordon Gamble, Kevin Doran, John Starrett, Kevin McCarthy and Witham. During construction, Al Cowperthwaite of North Maine Woods delivered and put in place a handsome outhouse donated by that organization.

Maine TREE is grateful to all who participated to date, and especially to Jack Witham who has been involved every step of the way and Pat Sirois who planned and purchased the necessary materials, as well as assembling the group of volunteers and ensuring that the actual construction went smoothly.

THANK YOU!

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The afternoon tour was on Twin Pine owner Matt Polstein's woodlot where his forester, David Irving of Shelterwood Solutions, led a conversation about management goals and objectives. On our return to Twin Pine, we enjoyed Pat Sirois' flume table demonstration of managing water during forestry operations, always a prime consideration for loggers and foresters alike. Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Walt Whitcomb joined us for dinner and remarks.

The second day we headed for a harvest on land managed by Prentiss and Carlisle. Forester David Dow and site forester Patrick Ward shared their Timber Harvest Plan with the group as we watched Hannington Brothers work with a processor to carry it out. Lunch followed in the company of State Forester Doug Denico and on to a tour of the Scotts Company mulch plant in Medway and a visit to Maine Heritage Timber in Millinocket, where reclaimed wood from the bottom of the nearby Penobscot River is used for flooring, furniture and wall paneling. We wrapped up the afternoon by hearing from Eben Sypitkowski, Baxter State Park Resource Manager in charge of the Scientific Forestry Management Area.

"This tour provided so much more than you could ever learn from a book or simple classroom setting A+++++ Sessions/visits are good not too long or short just enough for extended information and time for Q & A. Excellent accommodations! Thank you."



The Size of Skidder Tires Impresses Teachers

Our second Tour of the summer found us enjoying the location and amenities of Little Lyford Pond Lodge and Camps near Moosehead Lake. Once again, a Project Learning Tree workshop led off; this time facilitators Dawna Blackstone with Appalachian Mountain Club's Maine Woods Initiative and Barry Burgason, Certified Wildlife Biologist with Huber Resources Corp. assisted Pat. In addition, Maine State District Forester Gordon Moore joined us for our days in the field (and woods).

On Day 2 we headed for a harvest on AMC land with forester Ted Shina. We made a detour to catch up with teacher Mark Savage from Brewer High School. Mark's Student Forestry Summer School has two students this summer who demonstrated their felling technique for the educators. At Contractor Ben Savage's job site, we observed the processor and were impressed with the steepness of the slope on which the equipment operated.

Lunch at Katahdin Iron Works, Maine's only 19th century iron works operation, was followed by a brief stop at Silver Lake where Alan Hutchinson of the Forest Society of Maine

described the group's current conservation work in the KIW and Gulf Hagis-Whitecap Mountain area. Then on to Lumbra Hardwoods, operating in Milo since 1960, where Benny Lumbra took us through the sawmill's operations. The business has consistently upgraded and modernized its facilities allowing it to service customers as far away as Chicago and California.

"Nothing compares to actually seeing forestry practices in action and visiting the sites and mills. These are things that we would not do on our own"



Popsicle Sticks are Inspected Before They Meet Popsicles

From there we traveled to Hardwood Products in Guilford, where Brad Deane led our tour. Originally the firm was founded under the name of Minto Toothpick and Specialty Company, whose only product was mint-flavored toothpicks; today the company is the nation's principal manufacturer of a broad variety of tipped applicators, tongue depressors and other medical and non-medical disposable woodenware, such as ice cream sticks, spoons, stirring sticks, and skewers, all made from Maine white birch.

Back at Little Lyford, Bill Livingston, Associate Director for Undergraduate Education and Associate Professor of Forestry at UMaine joined us for dinner and conversation that evening and stayed on for our visit to Weyerhaeuser's active hardwood tree length harvest along the Katahdin Ironworks Road the next morning. Foresters Andrew Wopat and Nathan Edwards discussed silviculture, utilization and other issues as well as showing the group a recently established plantation. The afternoon included a tour of Moose River Lumber, where Steve Banahan, Spruce Sales Manager, gave a succinct overview of the mill's capabilities and helped the group negotiate the various buildings and operations.

We next made a brief stop at Hedgehog Checkpoint where we met Al Copperthwaite of North Maine Woods, the organization that manages public use of the area, including checkpoints and numerous campsites. Al brought us up to date about NMW and its 45th anniversary.

Thanks to Alan Cole of NMW, who accompanied us to ensure our bus did not meet a logging truck unexpectedly, and thanks to Northeast Charter & Tour Company president, owner and our bus driver and colleague on both tours, Scott Riccio, who took great care of us and maneuvered the large bus with ease!

"I was a person who didn't understand how foresters manage forests. Understanding how and why foresters do what they do will stay with me. I feel like an advocate now of managed forests!"