

OverSTORY

Timber

Research

Environmental

Education

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Spring 2019

Newsletter of the Maine TREE Foundation



President's Message

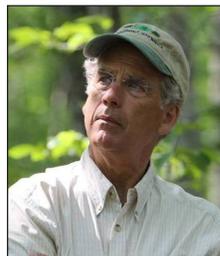
By Marcia McKeague, President

Greetings to Friends of Maine TREE Foundation near and far!

As you'll see from the rest of this newsletter, transitions are a strong theme with us; whether it's winter into spring, paying employment into retirement and volunteer activities or refreshing and rejuvenating our programs. Foresters and teachers have always been a strong foundation of this organization. The dedication and belief in the mission of the Maine TREE Foundation and in its programs is made clear as many people who were involved during their earlier "paying" careers continue their involvement into retirement.

I hope you'll enjoy hearing about what Maine TREE has going on and be inspired to join us either through a much needed financial contribution or perhaps volunteering to assist with a PLT workshop, outdoor classroom, or hosting a Forest Inventory Growth plot on your own land or nearby land trust property. There are lots of ways to become involved and we look forward to welcoming you to one of our events this year.

With best wishes to you and your families for a great 2019



With Spring, Comes Change

By Henry Whittemore, Executive Director

Late winter is one of my favorite times of the year. Cardinals arrive at our bird feeders in flocks of five or six pairs and the first "pee-wee" calls of courting Chickadees ring out in the woods. The deep snow pack is melting fast now in our woodlot and our hemlock stands are full of the smells of the many deer that have been yarding up on our southwest slopes. Sap is flowing, buds are beginning to swell and spring is just around the corner.

This is a perfect time to get students out into the woods to experience the joys of these rhythms for themselves. Just as the woods open up to new opportunities at this time of year, so does our work here at the Maine TREE Foundation. With our new logo, our recently renovated website, and this newsletter, OverSTORY, we have a new approach in delivering our tried and true messages.

The work we do to educate all Mainers about the forests of the Pine Tree State is moving in some new directions that build on our past strengths and successes and lead us toward new opportunities. We aim to expand our outdoor classroom network and to offer more opportunities for educators and students to engage in meaningful citizen science. Summer interns at the Holt Research Forest will assist in establishing new research baselines to measure the impacts of timber harvests on topics such as regeneration, small mammal populations, ticks and tick-borne disease, deer browse and climate change. And all of this work will support teachers and students in their use of the Project Learning Tree curriculum, FIG plots and outdoor classrooms. An important new audience for Maine TREE is the land trust community whose lands afford a platform for many of these inquiries. All of

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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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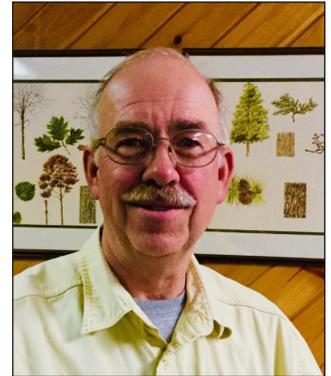
Jill Brigham, Barry Burgason, Kenny Fergusson, Stephen Gettle, Laurie Haines, Kayla Higgins, PhD, Betty MacWilliams, Sarah Medina, Anita Smith, Chair, Timothy Surette, Shari Templeton, Bernie Welch, Warren Whitney

Project Learning Tree

by Patricia Maloney

I write this with gratitude for and in honor of the MEPLT natural resource volunteers who have devoted between 20 and seemingly infinite numbers of years to PLT and who are now moving into retirement with enthusiasm for spending time with family, friends, and with a variety of hobbies and interests.

Barry Burgason cannot say for certain when he first became involved with the PLT network but he does speak with high regard for the Penobscot team with Bud Jeffrey at the helm and Joe & Joanne Alex hosting meals and meetings for the team gatherings at the Stillwater Montessori School in Old Town. As a MEPLT Steering Committee member, Barry acted as our secretary and recorded detailed and accurate minutes. His attendance at our meetings over the years has been close to 100%. Barry never missed an opportunity to facilitate PLT workshops whether with Joanne Alex's Early Childhood classes at the University of Maine or at our Teachers' Tours PLT workshops. He especially enjoyed delivering PLT activities from the back of his truck.



Barry Burgason

As a wildlife biologist, Barry worked for Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife before joining Huber Resources in Old Town. He represented Huber on the MEPLT Steering Committee, North Maine Woods Administrative and Public Affairs committees, and the Maine State Implementation Committee of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, among others. Barry is a supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, sings in his church choir and carves playful wooden "wobbly ducks".

PLT's motto of "teaching children how to think, not what to think" is one that Barry frequently quotes and he stands by that when he leaves his certified Wildlife Biologist hat at the door of all PLT workshops. The motto also supports Barry's knowledge of wildlife to further sustainable forestry. If you run into Barry be sure to ask for his retirement business card which displays the PLT logo.

After 20 years with the Maine Forest Service as the Natural Science Educator, **Kevin Doran, Ed.D.** announced his retirement with a plan to devote

more time to his family, his hobbies, to traveling and to teaching. Kevin joined the Maine PLT Steering Committee in 2000 and quickly became an active and enthusiastic PLT facilitator. He always enjoyed meeting with students in the woods whether delivering tree ID lessons, setting up FIG plots or teaching about forest management. Prior to joining the MFS, Kevin worked in various management capacities in the private sector. During his career



Kevin Doran

with the Forest Service Kevin completed an education doctorate with an emphasis on Adult Learning. What a benefit that has been to MEPLT! Kevin has presented his understanding of the adult learner at a few PLT facilitator gatherings and has contributed his expertise toward improving MEPLT's

outreach to teachers and foresters in our network. Professionally, Kevin enjoys facilitating meetings for natural resource leaders and health care workers. After completing his graduate studies, he began teaching in the Department of Adult and Higher Education at USM.

Kevin is known by a number of Mt. Ararat High School students because he has mentored their FIG research projects at the Cathance River Preserve for 13 years. He was recognized for his years of service and dedication to the students at a recent Student Exhibit at the Topsham Library to which he responded that he plans to continue working with students into the future because as Kevin says "I absolutely love teaching and consider it my life's calling".

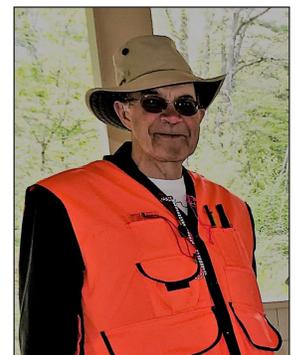
With his carpentry skills Kevin has built at least one wooden kayak and a new addition to his Topsham home. He and Lauren, Kevin's wife and best friend of 37 years, plan to visit beautiful places in our little world and spend time with their children and grandchildren. Kevin, of course, plans to continue teaching and playing a lot of golf with his sons and lots of his golf buddies.

Ken Laustsen, recently retired from the Maine Forest Service as the state Biometrician ("biometrics" literally means "measures of biology"), has willingly shared his data and statistical expertise with Maine PLT since 2000. While analyzing data on the forests of Maine, Ken found time to contribute many hours

to MEPLT and was pivotal in the development of the Forest Inventory Growth (FIG) program. Ken not only assisted in the creation of FIG but he has remained steadfast in his devotion to meeting students and teachers who have set up FIG plots, collected data and entered their data on our FIG website. Ken enjoys meeting with students and challenging them to interpret their own data using Forest Inventory Analysis data as well as crop yield simulation software. When, as educators, we speak of STEM, no one can compare to Ken's contributions that connect math and science to forestry during PLT workshops – how critical it is that Maine high school students understand the relationship between forests and the STEM disciplines. In fact, it was an "inspirational high school math teacher who challenged Ken to create a game of chance as a way to teach probability and statistics".

In a *Northern Woodlands Magazine* Spring 2018 edition, Joe Rankin wrote about Ken: he "got a call from a 'big city' inquirer wanting to know "how many sugar maple trees there are in Maine – and how Maine compared to Vermont, a state virtually synonymous with syrup production. It took Ken five minutes: 644 million sugar maples in Maine, 453 million in Vermont." Ken most likely smiled as he shared these numbers.

Before joining the MFS, Ken worked for the former Great Northern Paper Company for 24 years. "I spent a large portion of my early career measuring trees. And then going back and measuring the same trees again. I was measuring for change," he said.



Ken Laustsen

Ken's next tree adventures will most likely revolve around his little bit of forest and fruit trees in his new Oakland home. Ken's wife, Angela, has set up her quilt room in their home so we can be sure that it's a busy and creative numbers place both inside and out."

Sarah Medina is a member of the Maine TREE Foundation Board of Directors and recently retired from a 46 year career with Sevens Island Land Company. She joined the Maine PLT Steering Committee in 2016 as a liaison to the MTF Board. In 1972 Sarah graduated as the first female to pursue

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our work through all of our programs is becoming better integrated. We invite you to become an active part of Maine TREE by joining a Teachers' Tour, becoming a PLT facilitator, visiting the Holt Research Forest and supporting your local schools in outdoor and environmental education activities.

The changing of season also brings changing times for the Maine TREE Foundation. It is with very mixed feelings that I write to tell readers that Pat Maloney has announced her intention to retire after more than twenty years in her pivotal role as Maine's PLT Coordinator. Pat has been friend, colleague, confidante and trusted advisor to many of us. She captures the very essence of outdoor environmental education and has inspired all of us to help teach kids



Pat Maloney

“how to think, not what to think.” Her work with PLT has always been community inspired, respectfully offered, and warmly received by the network she has built so effectively. Pat may be retiring, but her work will continue. We plan to hire a new PLT Coordinator to work alongside Pat for the months of June and July and to assist in this summer's Teachers' Tours. I wish to thank Pat for her commitment to PLT and to the teachers and students whom she has influenced with such benefit over the years. Thank you, Pat! You will be missed.



Forest Research Plots in Belfast

By Aleta McKeage

During the summer of 2018, my two college interns navigated carefully through the woods with a GPS unit, to two specific locations on a local land trust preserve. One site had a conspicuous feature - a large stump that looked like it had been burnt in a forest fire, but was actually affected by fungus that made it look charred. The woods there are diverse, filled with ferns, uncommon native honeysuckle, dying fir trees and many other species. The other point couldn't have looked more different, with large aspen and oaks towering over a nearly bare

forest floor. The two college students each had a lively group of high school students in tow, and they were arriving to set up Forest Inventory Growth Plots (Maine FIG Plots, a program of Maine Project Learning Tree). That same summer, the students were doing the initial set up of these two long term study plots and were learning how to demarcate the radial plot and how to measure and mark each tree in the plot. Then, over the course of several weeks, they would collect the first-year baseline data in the plots: tree size, health, understory plants, signs of wildlife, lichen presence, and forest floor characteristics. The students marked each tree with metal tags, which would remain for successive classes to visit in the years to come. Each year students will learn techniques for observing and collecting data in



Students on FIG Plot

the field, as well as how to compare data over time to assess changes in the ecosystem. We set up two plots to allow students to observe differences in forest characteristics and also to provide a chance for students to work in a long-term study area, where they would have a chance to analyze impacts of invasive plants on forest regeneration. Our first plot, in the rich diverse area of young forest, was also on the edge of the moving front of a large infestation of exotic honeysuckle shrubs. Visit the Maine Natural Areas program to learn about various honeysuckles: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invsheets.htm

The Forest Inventory Growth Plot program has provided the perfect framework for a unit of study on forest ecology in Maine, as well as for teaching basic scientific field skills. The study plots allow students to keenly observe nature and to think analytically about trends and changes in New England forests. The FIG plot forms the core of the program of study which also includes mapping, presentation

of findings, and study of the effects of forest pests, other invasive species and climate change. This field research provides the next generation with an understanding of what Maine forests will face in the future while inspiring some to choose a career path that engages them with managing natural resources in the face of many changes. 🌿

Aleta McKeage is the Technical Director of the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District, which works with the Belfast Area High School to implement this program of study with science classes.

Holt Research Forest

By Jack Witham

Changes are in motion at Holt Research Forest. With funding from the National Science Foundation for a strategic plan, an effort has been underway for two years to evaluate and outline a future for HRF. We are on the verge of releasing a Strategic Plan to guide us through the next ten years as we strive to improve upon the past three decades of study. As part of this process, a Board of Visitors (field stations directors and scientists) came to HRF to offer their insights. They called for a bold new research plan that would capitalize on the existing data and push to address some of today's more pressing issues such as climate change and tick-borne diseases.

An effort is underway to fully integrate the various components of HRF and Maine TREE. The effort includes having PLT and a redesigned FIG program develop HRF as a site for their activities. Among the activities imagined are a place where students conduct their own research, where citizen science is learned and practiced, and where STEM learning is bolstered through the application of long term HRF data sets.

A new UMaine research plan is under development that will call for additional harvesting in the study area. Many of the baseline components of the current research program will be maintained as they work well to examine changes in the forest structure. Some new avenues will be pursued such as the use of deer exclosures to better understand the impact of white tail deer on forest regeneration and the flowers of the forest floor. Limited use of controlled burning is under consideration as a tool to improve oak regeneration.

A HRF data management project has been in progress for nearly a year. The work has the goal of making

the HRF data sets available online so they can be utilized by others. We chose the [Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative](#) (FEMC) website as it is a site for northeastern US research and part of the DataOne network, a national promoter of best practices in data management.

HRF continued its outreach and education efforts with several workshops in 2018. Check our website for 2019 offerings. Two videos about the Holt Forest have been created; please visit our website to find links to videos. A closing quote from Al Kimball, the original forester at HRF, highlights the importance of all of our efforts. In talking about a 3rd grader's visit here, he wonders what is one of the most important things you learn in school? Not necessarily what the answer is but knowing "where to find the answer – and Holt Forest is one of those places." 🌿

Maine Tree Farm Committee

By Logan Johnson

The Maine Tree Farm program has seen many changes over its more than 65 years in the state, but some things never change. Tree Farm has always strived to engage and recognize landowners for the sustainable management of their woodlands. The familiar diamond-shaped Tree Farm sign, with its 4 sides—Wood, Water, Wildlife, and Recreation—is the "Sign of Good Forestry."

As part of the American Forest Foundation's American Tree Farm System, the Maine Tree Farm program is administered by the Maine Tree Farm Committee. The Committee is comprised of forestry professionals from the Maine Forest Service, the Forest Products Industry, and consulting foresters, and most importantly Tree Farmers themselves.

All Tree Farmers adhere to the American Tree Farm System's Standards of Sustainability. Each year the Committee connects dedicated volunteers with woodland owners, to affirm their commitment to the sustainable stewardship of their woodlots, and offer valuable advice to help them meet their goals and objectives.

If you are interested in learning more about Maine Tree Farm visit www.mainetreefarm.org or email their coordinator at coordinator@mainetreefarm.org



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and earn a Forest Management degree from the University of Maine and in the same year joined Seven Islands as the first woman employed as a field forester in Maine. One of her “first jobs was interpreting aerial photographs to make broad forest type maps. In the field she cruised timber, laid out roads and harvest blocks, marked timber for harvests, inspected harvesting operations, dug soil test pits and performed other duties of a field forester.” During her rigorous career, Sarah was a Land Use Director which evolved into areas of recreation



Sarah Medina

administration, regulatory compliance, taxation, and policy and ownership issues.

She currently serves on North Maine Woods’ Administrative and Public Affairs Committees, IF&W’s Landowner Sportsman’s Relations Advisory Committee, Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust Board of Directors and

as an officer with the Girl Scouts of Maine. It’s no surprise that Seven Islands noted that Sarah is “often regarded as a mentor and keeper of vast amounts of historical knowledge” and most definitely a model for young women considering a career in forestry.

We are both fortunate and grateful that Sarah sits on the MTF Board and with the MEPLT Steering Committee in her first year of retirement. She has made a commitment to remain active with the Maine TREE Foundation and with PLT, the Girl Scouts and Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust. Of course that’s if we can find her somewhere between her camp, maybe on a snowmobile in winter, or rug-braiding and gardening at home. Wherever Sarah may be we can be sure that she is loving life to the fullest.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to two of our newest Maine Project Learning Tree Steering Committee members: Kayla Higgins, Ph.D., Experiential Education Coordinator at Unity College and Jill Brigham, Unity College student.

Kayla Higgins graduated from Unity College with a degree in Environmental Science and a Secondary

Education Certification in Life Sciences. Her studies led her to a job with Job’s for Maine Graduates where Kayla gained an understanding of the importance of non-profits and how middle school students began to develop an interest in civic mindedness. In 2016 Kayla received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Teaching when she learned at a scholarly level the importance of real life, outdoor, learning experiences and their connections that engage learners with an understanding of the natural world and its impact on our future. Kayla plans to become an active Steering Committee member and looks forward to learning about grant writing, policy and the intricacies of both a state and an international network of educators and natural resource professionals.



Kayla Higgins & Jill Brigham

Jill Brigham, Unity College student and MEPLT Youth Ambassador, is studying Parks and Forest Resources and Adventure Based Environmental Education. In 2017 she attended a Maine Emerging Environmental Changemakers Gathering and was introduced to PLT.

Jill’s chosen career path as an educational interpreter for the natural world grew out of family vacations at national parks where she was introduced to interpretative rangers. They answered her questions and shared their stories which led Jill to “knowing exactly what I wanted to be”. From working with the Ranger Conservation Corps in Central Park, to being a Youth Conservation Core enrollee in Yellowstone and to a Summit Steward in Acadia National Park, Jill continues to build upon her interest in becoming a naturalist interpreter. During the summer of 2018 Jill worked at Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota and while there, took a 3 day PLT training with the South Dakota PLT Coordinator.



Maine students/Maine forests – Observing, exploring and recording systems trends

By Pat Maloney

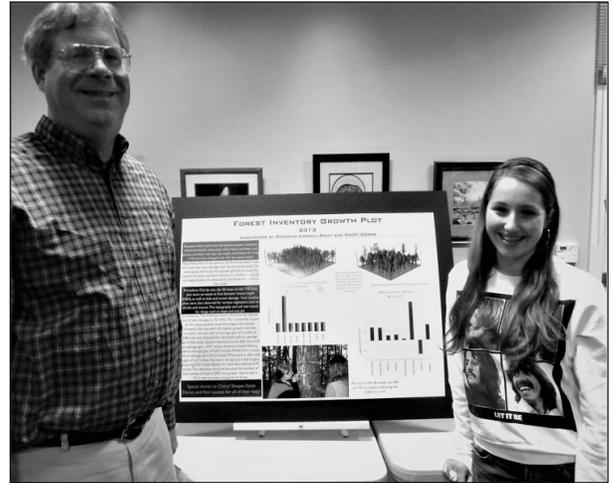
Thanks to Aleta McKeage for her article (Forest Research Plots in Belfast) about her work with Waldo county students and their Forest Inventory Growth (FIG) studies. Her story provides the back drop for sharing updates and plans for the next iteration of the FIG program.

The Maine TREE Foundation and PLT have met with teachers and foresters to gain an understanding of their interest in FIG, their suggestions for changes in the current program and the reality of including FIG in science, math and history classes. We talked about improving the existing website so that it has a stronger appeal to educators and land trusts. The program meets, STEM and NGSS standards, however our conversations reveal that by adding robust metrics related to forest trends over time FIG will greatly increase awareness of systems changes.



Lee Academy FIG Plot

MTF is committed to providing a vigorous citizen science forest monitoring effort through an improved FIG curriculum. Monitoring a forested study plot over time, as we seek to explore ecosystems trends, may lead to increased choices related to greater use of low cost technology, forest health, climate, soils or to human health studies. But to do this, we need YOU. Please watch for a FIG survey which will be concise (honestly) but will inform us about your needs and how a new and improved FIG will benefit your students and community. Watch for the FIG NEEDS survey and please complete and return it to the Maine TREE Foundation. We extend our thanks to the Maine Math & Science Association for their advice as we build a better FIG future!



Glenn Evans, teacher, and Mt. Ararat student presentation



The Maine TREE Foundation is celebrating its 30th anniversary! Saturday, September 21, 2019 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the Old Town Elementary School and then 5:00

pm – 8:00 pm at the University Forest Pole Barn in Old Town. Come and join us to help celebrate the past 30 years of environmental education to thousands of Mainers. For more information contact info@mainetree.org or 207-621-9872.

Maine's SFI contributes to support loggers

By Mike St. Peter

It has been several decades since we had such a feeling of optimism in our industry as a backdrop to the Certified Logging Professional (CLP) training program. It is heartening to hear that nearly every paper mill in the state is investing millions in their facilities to diversify product lines and increase consumption of pulpwood. Sawmills, after a lull in production for decades, are making investments that will result in production targets that challenge all-time highs.

It is in this environment that we are rolling out this year's schedule for CLP initial training and recertification sessions. As consumption by all mills grows, there will be greater need for logging capacity than we've seen in several decades. That logging capacity can only grow with additional logging personnel who are trained in efficient and environmentally sensitive practices and possess an ethic of safety for themselves and the other people they work with. We are at the dawn of a new era in our industry and the CLP program is well positioned to play a pivotal role.

To support this period of growth, we have received support from the SFI implementation committee to offset some of the costs of recertification in 2019. In 2019 the first 600 loggers who register for recertification will receive a discount of \$25 resulting in a net cost of \$125 for recertification. This offer applies to loggers to be recertified in 2019. Additionally, at the request of many CLP loggers wishing to see a greater frequency of visits in the field by CLP, SFI has funded an additional one hundred field visits. This means harvest operations will see a greater presence in the woods by the CLP program to aid with inspections, provide consultation and follow up with CLP trainings.

Because the CLP program has been the industry standard since 1991, we often take its benefits for granted. As a reminder, here is a list of some of CLP's attributes and accomplishments over its nearly 30 years of professional training and continuing education for Maine's professional loggers.

- Maine logging injuries and illnesses continue to be one of the lowest in the country.
- CLP is the largest training program in the Northeast with over 1100 current participants.
- CLP's success at reducing workers comp rates

for both conventional and mechanical operations since 1991 is recognized nationally. CLP mechanical rates are scheduled to go down 10.5% in Spring of 2019 with participating loggers paying up to 48% less for workers' compensation.

- CLP's significant focus on best management practices has resulted in making CLP recognized as Maine's DEP contractor certification equivalent. This allows for earthwork within the Shoreland zoning area such as that which occurs when installing permanent or temporary stream crossings.
- CLP board will look to improve forest industry workforce development through innovative training, education, and mentoring programs.

The camaraderie, information exchange and networking opportunities that occurs during CLP training sessions has resulted in many individuals improving their business relationships and, by extension, their businesses. Because we are a program of continuous improvement, CLP is embarking on a strategic plan this spring to improve our training programs and build a stronger business model that will keep us strong long into the future. Our commitment is to be the "go-to" continuing education and professional development safety program for the loggers and by the loggers.



CLP Logging Operation



Keeping Maine's Forest

By Alison Truesdale

Long-time readers of this newsletter may not be aware of the quiet, but key role that the Maine TREE Foundation plays in helping to maintain the state's forests. Since 2012, MTF has acted as the fiscal agent for Keeping Maine's Forests (KMF), a collaborative of people from all sectors who are interested in maintaining the state's forest resources.

KMF's mission is to maintain a stable or increasing flow of wood fiber; promote healthy, sustainably managed forests; safeguard key natural resources; conserve and enhance key fish and wildlife habitats; provide abundant recreational opportunities; and sustain local economies. Members come from the large forest landowner, recreation, conservation, state and federal government, tribal, university, and rural development communities. As the only organization that convenes these representatives on a regular basis, KMF plays a crucial role in creating and maintaining positive working relationships and communication. KMF is breaking down the proverbial silos and finding common ground among all these disparate interests.

KMF's projects include:

- Publishing *Sustainable Forestry Initiative Certification and Carbon Markets – Opportunities and Barriers for SFI Program Participants in Maine*;
- Hosting the Private Lands Partners Day Conference, attracting 200 attendees from across the country;
- Convening a forum to present the initial report from the Maine Spruce Budworm Task Force, and to solicit feedback from a broad spectrum of interests;
- Hosting another forum on issues related to public recreation on private forestlands;
- Promoting the removal of stream barriers on private forest lands to restore habitat for fish and other aquatic species;
- Publishing and distributing the *Welcome to the Maine Woods* brochure, educating visitors to privately owned forestlands in northern Maine about safe practices and responsible recreational use.

Please go to the KMF website to learn more:
keepingmainesforests.org.



The 2019 Summer Teachers' Tours

Have you attended a Maine TREE Foundation and Project Learning Tree Summer Teachers' Tour? If not, consider joining us on a 4-day tour of Maine's forests and mills. The tours include an introductory Project Learning Tree workshop, excellent field trips, visits with field foresters, small and large land owners, outdoor classrooms and time to share with colleagues. Learn about the Maine forest and experience the people who work there – all with connections to classroom ready lessons from National Project Learning Tree's preK-12 curriculum.

July 9 – 12 Libby Camps – Ashland Region

July 23 – 26 Grant's Kennebago Camps – Rangeley Lakes Region

Space is limited, so call or e-mail soon to receive an information/registration brochure. Contact us at 207-621-9872 or cj@mainetree.org. For more details visit: www.mainetreefoundation.org

Maine TREE is updating its records and we would like to increase the number and accuracy of email addresses we have. Could you please send us your email address for our files? Please send it to info@mainetree.org or call 207-621-9872. Thanks in advance!



Maine **TREE** Foundation

TIMBER RESEARCH & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



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