



Pine Tree State Arboretum

...to promote the knowledge and appreciation of Maine's trees and other flora for people of all ages by offering educational, recreational, and inspirational opportunities.

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Spring Announcements by: Toni B. Pied



Spring is a time when everything is new, so what better time to announce some NEW programs and events?!?!

“A Place for All Seasons”, our first ever **photo contest**. This contest will be an opportunity for photographers (both professional and amateur) to show off their photography skills on the Arboretum’s website, and to possibly be featured in a 2010 PTSA Calendar. The contest will run until March 1, 2009 and will have four categories (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall). Each person can enter up to 3 images into each category, and the deadline to submit photos is March 1, 2009. Please visit our website or call for contest rules and more information.

An Evening of Nature Poetry -

The peace and beauty found in nature can be truly inspiring. April is National Poetry month, and we are celebrating at the Arboretum by holding an evening of nature poetry readings on April 22nd @ 7pm (Earth Day seems a fitting day for this event, don't you think?). Please come with your favorite well know poem about nature, or one that may not be as well known. Perhaps you have a few of your own Haikus, or Sonnets laying around, this is an opportunity to share your own work, or just come and listen to what others have to share. This is open to the public, free, and open to ALL ages. (cont. pg. 2)

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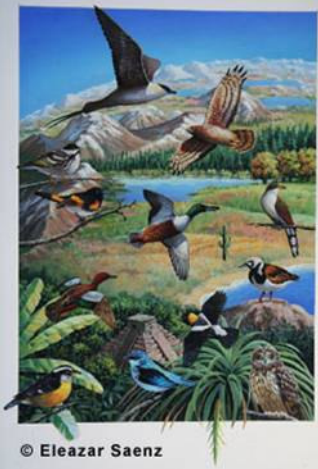
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Special points of interest:

- *Spring bird migration is beginning. Watch for the first redwings, woodcock and phoebes as the snow melts!*
- *Pussywillows have already started opening —snowdrops will be up soon.*
- *Volunteers are needed to tend our plant collections and help out with education programs—call Steve about gardens and Toni about programs at 621-0031 or check out the website: www.pinetreeestatearboretum.org*

* Picture by Toni Pied, February 2008

Spring Announcements (cont.) by: Toni B. Pied



May 10th will be the day of the Arboretum's first **International Migratory Bird Day Festival**. This event is open to the public, free, and a great event for families to attend. The Arboretum is home to over 150 different species of birds, and May will be a busy time for birds that are just coming back from

their winter migration. Events will include bird walks led by members of the Augusta Bird Club, information on caring for and attracting birds to your backyard, bluebird information and houses for sale, make-your-own bird feeders for kids, and many other activities. Please visit our website for an up-to-date schedule of events, or call for more information.

International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, & Central America, and was designated to help spread the awareness of birds & their conservation throughout the Western Hemisphere. The theme for this year's IMBD is **Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People.*

IMBD Website: <http://www.birdday.org/>

Ice Storm of 1998 - A Bird's Eye View by: Stephen Oliveri

One of the legacies of the 1998 ice storm has been an increase in one of my favorite birds, the pileated woodpecker. I see and hear the birds more regularly now than at any time that I can recall and even when the birds are not visible, signs of their activity are everywhere in the forest. Large rectangular holes in pines and hemlocks and the stripping of the exterior layer of standing snags speak of their determination to find insects that live in the wood of decaying trees.

The best source of information about bird population trends in North America is the Breeding Bird Survey conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Every year, hundreds of skilled birders travel 25-mile routes with predetermined stops every half-mile. According to the survey, pileated woodpecker numbers nationwide have been increasing slowly. This is probably due to the aging of our country's second growth forests and the increase in larger diameter trees that the woodpeckers need for feeding and nesting. Data for Maine shows the population increasing at a greater rate than in the rest of the country.

While there are many factors involved, the abundance of trees infested with wood-boring insects is one of the most important. These insects, mostly carpenter ants and beetle larvae, only infest trees weakened by internal decay. The broken limbs these trees sustained in 1998 opened a pathway for fungal infection that caused internal rot. Over

time, the fungi have worked their way into the trees' heartwood and the wood-boring insects have taken over. Though many of these trees appear sound, the woodpeckers can tell by drumming on them which ones are infested with insects. Once an infested tree is located, the woodpeckers return repeatedly, enlarging their holes to feed on the insects within. This increase in infested trees is bad news for timber growers, but good news for pileated woodpeckers and those who enjoy seeing these noisy denizens of the forest.



Yellow Rocket by: Mary Oatway

One of the first bursts of color in early spring is yellow rocket, with its hundreds of tiny bright-yellow flowers highlighting the fields and country roads.

This perennial plant, *barbarea vulgaris*, a member of the Mustard family, was brought to America by early colonists for food and medicinal purposes. It has established itself all over America except in the extreme south and some arid western states.

To prepare for the spring show, yellow rocket starts in late fall. It begins a rosette of bright green, glossy, six to eight inch leaves, with a large lobe on the ends and three to four smaller side lobes. Because yellow rocket is able to photosynthesize and grow in colder temperatures, this enables it to take advantage of warm spells in late winter when, or if, there is no snow cover. Then, the leaves are large and lush, and the rosette is ready to send up several branchy stalks from one to two feet tall. Glossy, deep-cut leaves clasp the stalk, and flowerbud clusters stand up at each stalk's tip.

True to Mustard family members, the blossoms have four petals and six stamens. The sum of the flowers makes up for size of the tiny, one-fourth inch blooms, that make the spots, splotches, and blankets of yellow that adorn the May and June countrysides.

As the flowers bloom, the stalks elongate making the developing pods evenly spaced out along them. Each pod stands erect, close to the stalk, usually about an inch long, and is called a silique. "It has two sets of seeds separated by a thin membrane called a replum." When the two halves of the pod split off, the seeds spring out. The replum, which is usually translucent, remains on the plant, and the dried flower stalk, with it attached, makes an interesting addition to a winter dried flower arrangement.

In his book, *Stalking the Wild Asparagus*, Euell Gibbons offers some ideas for preparing yellow rocket for food. "To be edible," he says, "the leaves must be gathered early while the weather is still cold. As soon as frosty nights are past, the plant becomes too bitter." He suggests using the leaves in salads or cooking them like spinach.

Also, he calls the buds wild broccoli. "The bud clusters can be gathered for food from the time they first appear until the last buds open, so the season extends over several weeks. This wild broccoli is neither tedious to pick nor difficult to prepare. Just pull the whole bud clusters and never mind if you get a few opened blossoms; they're good, too," he says.

Medicinally, this perennial has been successful as a poultice to promote the healing of wounds. Other common names for yellow rocket are, winter cress, upland cress, and garden yellow cress. Many people, traditionally foraging for it, simply call it mustard greens.

Whatever it is called, its faithful, countless, bright yellow flowers are a featured part of every Spring's promised kaleidoscope.



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 2: 177.



Schedule of Events

- April 22—**Nature Poetry Evening**, Bring a copy of your favorite nature poem (or one you wrote yourself) free, 7pm, all ages.

**Please Call Toni Pied, Education Director, to Pre-Register for events at 621-0031, or e-mail at ptsaedu@roadrunner.com*

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Schedule of Events

- May 10—**International Migratory Bird Day Festival**, free, all ages, Bird walks for adults 6 & 8am, Bird walk for kids @ 10am, Ongoing Festivities 9am-12pm (pre-registration required for bird walks).
- May 17—**Chainsaw Safety** Course, 10am, \$35 for members of SWOAM OR PTSA, \$50 for non-members, pre-registration required, 12 people max.
- May 19-23—**Arbor Week**, please see our online calendar for an up-to-date schedule of events, a tree seedling sale will be ongoing throughout the week 8am-4pm.

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31




Please go to www.pinetreestatearboretum.org for more information and the most up-to-date schedule.



Schedule of Events

- Thursdays in April—**"Take It Outside"**, natural history series, free, 12:15-1:00pm, Topics will include trees, insects, wildflowers & other various natural history topics, Please see our online calendar for an up-to-date schedule.
- June 20—**Guided Tour** of Arboretum as part of Augusta's "Whatever Festival", free, 9am.
- June 21—Maine Hosta Society Annual **Hosta Auction**, Silent Auction 10:30-12:15, Regular Auction starts @ 12:45, open to the public.
- June 26—**Volunteer Appreciation Picnic**, 4:30pm.
- June 27—**Invasive Species Program** @ the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, cost is \$10 (*members of The Gardens or PTSA receive a \$5 discount*), 10am-12pm (A similar program will be held at the Arboretum on July 18th).

*Please Call Toni Pied, Education Director, to Pre-Register for events at 621-0031, or e-mail at ptsaedu@roadrunner.com

June 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 	20 	21 
22	23	24	25	26 	27 	28
29	30					

A Farewell to Jan by: Stephen Oliveri

The Pine Tree State Arboretum wishes a fond farewell to Jan Santerre. Jan was the Arboretum's Project Canopy coordinator for eight years. During that time, the program provided grants to many Maine communities and organizations to plant and care for trees. Jan assisted them with developing plans and ordinances to protect community trees and conducted training programs for tree wardens, volunteer tree stewards and professional arborists throughout the State of Maine. Though most of her work was outside of the Arboretum, Jan was a valuable and highly respected member of our team. Jan is leaving the Arboretum, but she will remain with Project Canopy as the program administrator for the Maine Forest Service.

Project Canopy is a partnership between the Pine Tree State Arboretum and the Maine Forest Service. You can contact Jan at her MFS office at 287-4987 and you can learn more about Project Canopy at:

www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/projectcanopy/index.htm



PROJECT CANOPY

Super Sunday Table Tour IV was a big success!

Thanks to our sponsors and donors, the 2008 Super Sunday Table Tour was a great success. More than 80 participants toured the Arboretum trails and sampled delicious food donated by area restaurants & caterers. Together we raised over \$3000 for the Arboretum's education programs, plant collections and trails.

Thanks to our Sponsors and Food Donors

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Hattie's Chowder House ~ PFG North Center ~ The Liberal Cup
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And all of our wonderful volunteers!

Alice Wellman, Bernie Slofer, Betty Adams, Bob Marvinney, Cliff West, Craig Nelson, Dave Auclair, Dave Simard, Dave Wood, Dean Corner, Gaby Howard, Glenn Adams, Ian Simard, Issac McLaughlin, Ike McLaughlin, Judy Potvin, Kathleen Quintal, Kris Oliveri, Leif Dahlen, Linda Simard, Maggie Warren, Peter Wohl, Ricky Dunn, Rod Cumber, Sonya Skoog, Susan Cottle, Tom & Mary Sturtevant



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*Please make your check payable to: PINE TREE STATE ARBORETUM

153 Hospital Street, Augusta, ME 04330

or

You can donate online @ www.pinetreestatearboretum.org

The Arboretum is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Membership fees are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

A “Volunteer” Defined by: Bernie Slofer

A few years ago I read in the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden newsletter an excellent article by its then executive director, Tom Flood. The article inspired me to reexamine my own volunteer efforts. I sincerely hope it inspires you to do the same.

Volunteer: n (noun) one who offers oneself for a service without obligation to do so.

Why give yourself? Why give your time, talent or treasure? Perhaps it's the camaraderie and fun of working alongside others. Perhaps it's the great sense of accomplishment or the knowledge that you've done something for the good for your community, for the world. Perhaps it's because you really enjoy the challenge of building these gardens (collections) and this organization from the ground up. Whatever the reasons, we are deeply indebted to those who call themselves volunteers.

A Call for Volunteers by: Stephen Oliveri

As spring approaches, the Arboretum will need volunteers to take care of our plant collections. The areas most in need of help are:

1. Visitors Center area - weeding, mulching, dead-heading and pruning about once a week.
2. Lilacs - weeding and replenishing mulch about once a month. A nice challenge is for someone to identify the varieties we have during the flowering stage so we could re-label them.
3. Flowering crabs and pears - early spring removal of tent caterpillar, then monthly mowing around the base of each tree. The trees need some pruning too.

4. Rhododendron Grove - cut out the competing vegetation and do some pruning about once a month during the growing season.

If I could get volunteers to commit to these four collections, the Arboretum would be well on its way to being in its best shape ever! Even if you can come in only occasionally and do not want to take on a specific collection, there is always something that needs to be done. Call Steve to set up a time to get started on your volunteer gardening work this year.





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We're on the Web

www.pinetreestatearboretum.org

The Pine Tree State Arboretum Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Pine Tree State Arboretum, a nonprofit corporation. Subscriptions are available through membership. The Arboretum is dedicated to promoting the knowledge and appreciation of trees. The Pine Tree State Arboretum is located at 153 Hospital Street and is open during daylight hours to the public, free of charge.

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