



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.

October 2007—Volume 18 Number 3

Printed on recycled Paper

PTSA Hosts Northernmost Orchard Oriole Nest in Eastern US by: Mike Smith



Summer birding at the arboretum is always a treat, with the large nesting population of Tree Swallows, Bobolinks, and House Wrens, and the smaller number of Eastern Bluebirds and Eastern Meadowlarks mixed in as well. Farther out on the trails the wide variety of woodland and wetland birds never fails to please. In addition to these more expected species, this summer a pair of Orchard Orioles nested in the arboretum, in the northwestern corner near the DEP visitors lot. This is a small wetland area with cattails, willows, and shrubs. Orchard Orioles are a more southern spe-

cies, which in fact had never even been recorded at the arboretum until May 23, 2007, when a male was first seen singing and flying between the wetland area and the flowering tree collection. In the eastern US, the (former) northernmost nesting site was in Capisic Park in Portland. Orchard Orioles in the midwest do get a tad farther north, with small numbers in southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. They are much more common in southern states. Orchard Orioles are the smallest oriole in North America, being a full inch shorter, and much slimmer, than the more common Baltimore Oriole. Typically the adult male is a dark chestnut color, with a black head, back, and throat; that plumage is achieved when the bird is two years old. However, the male at the arboretum was not fully mature and had what is known as the "first-year" plumage - he was yellow with a black "bib" on his throat and some black up in his face. The female is drab yellow all over, with two subtle white wing bars. After the initial (cont. pg. 2)

Inside this issue:

Orchard Oriole @ PTSA	1-2
New PTSA Website!	2
White campion (<i>Silene latifolia</i>)	3
Strategic Planning Underway	4
Calendar of Events (Fall)	5
Mushroom Class Re-cap	5
Autumn Auction Re-cap	6
Apple Orchard Bears 1st Fruit	6
Why Support MaineShare?	7

Special points of interest:

- **Not too late to send in your annual appeal!!!**
- **Watch the magic of Autumn... Visit the Arboretum and check out the Fall Foliage**
- **Interested in Volunteering at the Arboretum???**
Contact Toni or Steve for more information, or go to our website

* First year male Orchard oriole, photo by Gayle Clement, 2007

PTSA Hosts Northernmost Orchard Oriole Nest in Eastern US (cont.)

May 23 sighting, the male was seen by several birders throughout late May and June, often near the DEP lot and at various places in the northwestern fields. However, it was not until June 25 that a female was seen near the visitor's center, at which point the idea that they must know each other passed through my head. After some searching on July 3, both birds were found in the shrubby area near the DEP parking lot, but this time they were in the company of two "hopper" fledglings - young birds only a day or two out of the nest and not yet capable of flight. Later we would see there were actually three young. Orchard Orioles require about 24 days between egg-laying and fledging, which means if the birds fledged on July 1st, the nest was started way back on June 6th. It is a little humbling to realize the female was in that area for at least three weeks before she was seen by anybody! Orchard Orioles split up their young after fledging, each parent taking them in different directions. This was clearly seen at the arboretum, as the male took one up towards the

Hosta Trail, while the female took her two out into the conifer collection. Often any or all of the birds were seen in the shrubby area near the DEP parking lot where their nest presumably was located (the nest itself, a hanging "bag" of interwoven leaves and grasses, still eludes detection). As the young grew, they were found further away, including down by the pond along Piggery Road, near Viles Pond, and across Piggery Road in the BMV gardens. They were last seen July 18, and have likely started their long migration back down to southern Mexico. We eagerly hope for their return next year!

*****A new bird list for the arboretum, complete with seasonal abundance estimates, has been compiled by Michael Smith and Steve Oliveri. Ask for it at the visitor's center.*****

New PTSA Website!!! by: Toni Pied

The Pine Tree State Arboretum would like to announce the launch of our newly designed website!

Please visit www.pinetreestatearboretum to see the new look of our website. You can get information about becoming a volunteer, becoming a member, participating in a program or event, and check out the latest news & publications. One of the biggest changes to our new website is the addition of many more pictures of our beautiful, ever changing Arboretum. Another new addition is the ability to donate/make a payment/become a member online, using a credit card. You can also make inquiries through the new website. Please check it out and pass the word along to others. Also, we would love to hear from you as to what you think of this newly designed website.

Pine Tree State Arboretum
153 Hospital St Augusta, ME 04330 - (207) 621-0031
Open 7 days a week Dawn to Dusk
Admission is FREE!

Navigation

- > Home
- > Education
- > Plant Collection
- > Membership
- > Facilities Rental
- > Volunteering
- > News
- > Events
- > Our History
- > Publications
- > Image Gallery
- > Contact us
- > Directions
- > FAQ
- > Links

The Mission of the Pine Tree State Arboretum is to promote the knowledge and appreciation of trees, shrubs, and other plants for enjoyment, inspiration, and recreation, for scientific research, and for educational and aesthetic purposes.

The five-mile, year round trail system is open to hiking, jogging, bird watching, non-motorized biking horseback riding, and cross-country skiing on groomed winter trails.

A number of trails have hard-packed surfaces suitable for wheelchair access. Enjoy a picnic, take some photos, look for birds (over 150 species have been spotted).

Pets are permitted on a leash. Trail maps are available at the Arboretum.

Check out our new look!

White campion (*Silene latifolia*) by: Mary Oatway

On a summer evening after darkness overtakes the fields and gardens, why not go outside to a spot where you know white campion is blooming, to experience the secrets of this exceptional plant? Its flowers open at night through a design that attracts night-flying moths with their long-tubed mouths that can reach the nectar within. This flower uses two methods to attract moths. Its pure white petals stand out in the dimness, and the sweet fragrance, absent by day, is reserved for these evening workers.

White campion, *silene latifolia*, starts its growth in the fall with a basal rosette that stays green all winter, and continues to grow in the spring. It is easily recognized with long, untoothed, lance-shaped leaves that are slightly hairy on top, bottom, and edges. Flower stalks grow from the rosette's center in late spring. They are hairy and have paired leaves growing from swollen nodes on the stems.

Flower buds that appear in early July start the long succession of blooms that last as late as October. Its five white petals are cut so deeply, they look like ten! Just behind the petals, an inflated light green sac with darker green veins is actually the sepals, all joined together to form the calyx, out of which the petals and pollination parts grow.

Female flowers and male flowers grow on separate plants. Female flowers are recognized by the five long, curved styles protruding from the center and an inflated calyx with twenty dark green veins.

Male flowers have ten pollen covered stamens that do not protrude from the calyx which has only ten dark green veins and is less inflated.

The flowers first open in the evening and partly close the next day. The second day, they open again and stay open until pollinated by the night-flying moths. When the flowers are open, they are horizontal to accommodate the hovering moths poking their long mouthparts deep into the floral tubes for nectar. After pollination, the flowers start to tilt upward and are vertical by the time the fruit ripens and the

seed capsule, like a shiny, brown urn, is ready to spill its 350 to 500 seeds to hungry birds and insects.

White campion, introduced from Europe and Asia, grows in fields, along roadsides, and in waste places throughout much of North America except Gulf states and southwestern deserts. It is a menace to grain farmers but a delight to "white garden" and "moon garden" growers through its appeal to the senses.

A perennial, *silene latifolia*, until recently, has been called *lychnis alba*. It is sometimes mistaken for bladder campion, *silene vulgaris*, and night-flowering catchfly, *silene noctiflora*, both of which have some of the same characteristics as *silene latifolia*.

Another common name for white campion is white cockle. Under either name, a plant can produce an average of sixty capsules. With an average of 350 to 500 seeds per capsule, the few that will germinate and reach maturity in the fields of the Pine Tree State Arboretum will pass on the secrets of this night blooming plant for years to come.



Silene latifolia

Line Drawing: Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913.

Strategic Planning Underway by: Steve Oliveri

Who reads all these surveys anyway? That was just one of the comments in response to the Arboretum's latest round of surveys that were used to gather information for a new strategic plan. To collect as much information as possible, the Arboretum conducted several different surveys using newsletter enclosures, the annual appeal form, and a web-based "Survey Monkey." The surveys targeted groups who are affiliated with the Arboretum. Many Arboretum members received multiple requests to participate and the overall response was good, with more than 200 replies. Sincere thanks to all who did respond!

So, who does read all those surveys? Working with a consultant, Carol Carriuolo, a strategic planning committee of five board members and the executive director evaluated the responses. A summary of the electronic survey can be accessed from the Arboretum website www.pinetreestatearboretum.org.

In June, board members, staff, and the City of Augusta's Community Services Director, Leif Dahlin, participated in a two day retreat to assess data and brainstorm about the Arboretum's future. Taking information from the surveys and ideas generated at the retreat, the planning committee hammered out a new Mission Statement, Vision, Values and Goals. Later, specific strategies and actions were added along with benchmarks for determining success and a timeline for reaching goals.

Like any good plan, this one is flexible enough so that new information and new opportunities can be factored in to make changes as needed. But the plan does provide a good solid starting point for the next five years. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the plan should contact Arboretum Director, Steve Oliveri.

**PTSA Strategic Planning Committee Members: Steve Oliveri, Susan Cottle, Bob Marvinney, Hillary Schultz, Bernie Slofer, & Cliff West*



PINE TREE STATE ARBORETUM SNAPSHOT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2012



VISION

To preserve and enhance for future generations:

- Exceptional open space in Maine's capital city
- A diverse collection of trees & other flora, emphasizing Maine's native species
- Natural landscapes for recreation and for exploring, experiencing and learning about nature

MISSION

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

GOALS

The Arboretum Will Have:				
1	2	3	4	5
A solid base of financial support that is diverse and meets our needs today and our vision of the future	Identified and built relationships with constituencies that understand, support and value our vision and mission	Well-developed, excellent programs that support the vision and our identified constituents	A well-articulated plan for land management	Systems and infrastructure to fully support the work of the organization

WE VALUE

- the preservation and enhancement of our special landscapes
- a diverse collection of flora, including trees, shrubs, and native plants
- environmental education for future generations of land stewards
- opportunities for outdoor recreation
- our dedicated volunteers, members, and partner organizations and businesses
- our highly qualified and dedicated staff



Calendar of Events

by: Toni Pied



Nature Photography Workshop:

Sponsored by the Capital Area Camera Club

Sat. October 13, 2007 9am-4:30pm

\$15-\$30 (lunch included) (all ages)

Pre-registration deadline is October 6th

Please contact Toni Pied for more info. 621-0031
(ptsaedu@roadrunner.com)

Batmobile – Bats of the World:

Sponsored by the Chewonki Foundation

Tues. October 30, 2007 6:30pm-7:30pm

Free (k-adult)

Pre-registration suggested (max. 30 people)

Please contact Toni Pied for more info. 621-0031
(ptsaedu@roadrunner.com)

Aquatic Plant Invaders:

Sponsored by the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed

Wed. November 7, 2007 9:30am-10:30am

\$3.50/person (Grades 3-8)

Pre-registration suggested (max. 25 people)

Please contact Toni Pied for more info. 621-0031
(ptsaedu@roadrunner.com)

Birds & their Adaptations & the Bird Olympics:

Sponsored by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Wed. November 14, 2007 9:30am-10:30am & 11am-12pm
(two sessions offered)

\$3.50/person (Grade 1 and up)

Pre-registration suggested (max. 30/session)

Please contact Toni Pied for more info. 621-0031
(ptsaedu@roadrunner.com)



Mushroom Class Re-cap

by: Toni Pied



Identifying Maine Mushrooms:

An Introductory Class on Wild Mushrooms

This class was held over two days in August (August 24th & 25th) and was taught by Greg Marley of “Mushrooms for Health”.

The class was both interesting and fun, and Greg was so knowledgeable! Please see the pictures below from our outing into the Arboretum to search for mushrooms.



The PTSA Program Committee is planning programs/events for Winter '07/Spring '08. We want YOUR input! Please contact Toni Pied if you would like to see certain programs/events held at the Arboretum



Autumn Auction Re-cap

By: Toni Pied



Autumn Auction – PTSA Fall Fundraiser

The Arboretum’s Fall Fundraiser (“Autumn Auction”) was held on September 8, 2007, and included a silent auction, live auction, delicious food, and a cash bar. We are excited to say that we raised almost \$3,000, exceeding our original goal of \$2,000. The Arboretum is sincerely grateful to the individuals and businesses who donated items for the auction and also to the

many volunteers who devoted their time to planning the event, soliciting donations, and helping out on auction night. Thanks too to the members and friends of the Arboretum who cheerfully spent their money on some truly wonderful and unique items! The cheerful and friendly atmosphere, and the spirited auctioneering of board member Jerry Nault, made it fun for all.



**2007 Autumn Auction Fundraiser, photos by Kris Oliveri*



Apple Orchard Bears First Fruit!

By: Steve Oliveri



**Sutton Apple Tree, Heirloom Apple Orchard, photo by Toni Pied*

When volunteer Kristin Sweeney approached Arboretum director Steve Oliveri about doing a special horticultural project at the Arboretum, neither of them knew how soon the collaboration would bear fruit. But after only a few months of Kristin’s weekly visits to the Heirloom Apple Orchard, the trees are not only in the best shape they’ve ever been in, but for the first time ever, the orchard is producing fruit. Three trees, a Pomme d’Or, a Sutton, and a Rolfe, produced the first apples since the orchard was established in 1995. This is exciting news and we are hopeful that even more of the trees will begin fruiting next year.

By consensus, the best tasting of the bunch was the golden skinned Pomme d’Or, although to be fair, it is still a little early for the other two to be fully ripe yet.

I want to: _____ renew my membership for 2007 _____ become a member _____ give a gift membership
Please make any necessary changes to your mailing label on the other side, or write the full name and address for a new or gift membership in the space below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balsam fir (Individual) \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar maple (Small Business) \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juneberry (Family) \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Red oak (Corporate) \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper birch (Sustaining)\$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> King’s Pine (Patron) \$500 |

*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.



Annual Appeal Still Underway– not too late to send yours in!!!

**Need a new form? Contact Us!*

Why Support MaineShare? by: Steve Oliveri

Many of you have heard of MaineShare and may even know that the Pine Tree State Arboretum is a member of MaineShare. Each year, my family & I ride in the MaineShare Hike & Bike fundraiser. Chances are, if I know you, I’ve asked you to pledge money in support of this MaineShare ride. This year, the Oliveri Team raised exactly \$2,000 to support MaineShare. All four of us rode the 15 mile loop from Bradbury Mountain State park. For my son, Lucien, it was his tenth year as a Hike & Bike’r having started out at the age of four riding in a trailer behind my bike. Now he’s among the first to finish the hilly course.

Like many small nonprofits, the Arboretum does not have its own development director. So, in a cooperative venture with 36 other grassroots nonprofits, the Arboretum works with MaineShare to tap into funding sources and to reach out to people throughout the State of Maine that we simply

would be unable to reach on our own. As part of our cooperative arrangement, the Arboretum helps MaineShare meet its financial goals. The investment is well worth it, as MaineShare has raised more than \$20,000 over the last four years for the Arboretum. As MaineShare grows its workplace giving campaign, so too does the pot of money that gets divided up among the Arboretum and the other MaineShare members. If your workplace offers a MaineShare campaign, please consider pledging some of your annual charitable donations through MaineShare. If there is no MaineShare campaign at your place of work, contact me – I would be happy to speak to your business manager about starting a MaineShare campaign. For more information, visit MaineShare.org or call Hildie Lipson or Sarah Fagg at the MaineShare office – 207-622-0105.



153 Hospital Street
Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-621-0031
Email: ptsaso@roadrunner.com

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUGUSTA, ME
PERMIT NO. 83

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.

Inquiries to: Stephen Oliveri, Executive Director

Phone: (207) 621-0031

E-mail: ptsaso@roadrunner.com

Website: www.pinetreestatearboretum.org

Board of Directors

President: Robert Marvinney

Vice President: Susan Cottle

Treasurer: Isaac McLaughlin

Secretary: Bernie Slofer

David Auclair

Dean Corner

Marilyn Mollicone

Jerry Nault

Mary Oatway

Kathleen Quintal

Lila Segal

Hillary Schultz

Dave Simard

Elsie Viles

George Viles

Cliff West

Scott Whipkey

Advisory Board

Alice Darlington

Richard Fecteau

Al Johnson

Joe Scott

Staff

Executive Director: Stephen Oliveri

Education Director: Toni B. Pied

Project Canopy: Jan Santerre

Maintenance: Michael Beaulieu

Newsletter Compiled By

Toni B. Pied

Steve Oliveri