



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.

December 2008 —Volume 19 Number 4

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Super Sunday Table Tour, 2009 by: Toni B. Pied



Picture by: Kris Oliveri

The Super Sunday Table Tour is an event that combines a love of winter activities with a love of food! This will mark the Arboretum's 5th year putting on this fundraiser which supports the Arboretum's plant collections, trails, and education programs. This event is always held on Super Bowl Sunday, and this year that date happens to be February 1, 2009. The event starts at 11am and goes until 2pm (with the last tickets being sold at 1pm), which gives you plenty of time to get home to prepare for "the big game". If you have never been to the Super Sunday Table Tour at the Pine Tree State Arboretum, it is a great family event! The trails are groomed for cross country skiing or snow shoeing, and there are tables set up along a marked trail

(there is also a great sledding hill along the way). The tables are supplied with food and beverages from local organizations and local restaurants. Many local businesses make donations to support this event. Tickets in advance are \$15 for adults, and children 12 and under are just \$5. Tickets at the door are \$20 for adults. If you are a member of the Pine Tree State Arboretum, you will receive a \$5 discount! This event is a great way to beat the cabin fever that sets in after January, and support a local organization at the same time. The Super Sunday Table Tour is rain or shine, snow or no snow. Call Toni or Steve at 621-0031 for more information, or to order tickets. Winter fun and wonderful food will be plentiful. We hope to see you there!



Picture by: Kris Oliveri

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Special points of interest:

- *PTSA Photography contest, "A Place for all Seasons" will end on March 2, 2009. Call Toni FMI.*

The Staff and Board of the Pine Tree State Arboretum would like to wish you a Peaceful Holiday Season!

Arboretum Seeks New Executive Director – see page 2

Arboretum Seeks New Executive Director by: Stephen Oliveri

The Pine Tree State Arboretum has long needed an Operations Director to manage its plant collections, trails, forest, and physical infrastructure. These things are the essence of the Arboretum and they are what attract our visitors, members, volunteers, and financial support. It is equally important that the Arboretum has strong and experienced leadership from its Executive Director. Though perhaps not as visible as the Arboretum's physical attributes, such things as governance, administration, fundraising, planning, and financial management are just as essential.

Like all organizations, the Arboretum has faced many challenges and changes since it became an independent nonprofit corporation 25 years ago. The Arboretum now stands at a critical stage in its development and it is time to meet a new set of challenges. To prepare for these challenges, the Arboretum's Board of Directors started a strategic planning process in 2007. One result of that plan will be the creation of a new, full time Operations Director position in 2009. Fortunately, thanks to sound financial management and generous gifts from our donors, the Arboretum has sufficient funds to move forward.

With someone dedicated to their full time care, the collections and grounds will be greatly improved. This will make the Arboretum better able to present programs and attract visitors, volunteers and donors. And with the Executive Director freed up from operational responsibilities, there will be greater focus on building relationships with local businesses, members and donors, and the philanthropic community that will be essential for long term financial health.

For almost 12 years as the Arboretum's Executive Director, I have juggled both the executive and

operational tasks. It has not been easy, but I have relished the challenge and variety they have presented. Now, as the Arboretum moves forward with redefining the job into two separate positions, it is time for me too to examine my role in the future of the Arboretum. My first love has always been the land itself. Though I have worked hard on the administrative and executive tasks, they are not my greatest strengths. My education, training, and temperament have left me much better suited to move into the soon to be created position of Operations Director. The Arboretum's Board of Directors has graciously allowed me to do so, and I look forward eagerly to this new opportunity.



Steve Oliveri (top left) meeting with members of the Board and Operations Committee.

The Arboretum will soon be seeking a new Executive Director. If you are passionate about the Arboretum, dedicated to its continued success, and have the skills and experience needed to step into the job, please contact Steve at 621-0031.

Major gifts/Bequests by: Stephen Oliveri

Donations in honor of David Dick totaled \$5795 from 24 people, including a very generous gift from Elsie Viles

Bay Wrap donated a percentage of their profits from the month of August totaling \$230

Maine Hosta Society donated \$250 for care and labeling of the hosta collection

The Annual Appeal received \$5310 from 76 members

A New Year, A New Stage by: Susan Cottle

As Steve Oliveri discusses on page 2, the Arboretum is entering an exciting stage in its development—one of greater focus on meeting its educational, recreational, and inspirational mission. All organizations go through changes as they try to better achieve their missions, and the Arboretum is no exception.

The vision of the Arboretum's strategic plan is to provide and enhance:

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

The Board of Directors has been working on five goals to reach that vision. The goals include the sound health of the Arboretum's (1) financial support, (2) supportive relationships, (3) high quality programs, and (4) sound land management. The fifth goal is to make sure we have the tools we need to pursue those other goals and, thus, the vision.

No tool the Arboretum has is more important than its staff. We need dedicated, well-qualified staff to help us manage all the Arboretum's natural resources and offer a wide array of educational programs to children and adults. Our cur-

rent staff has been working beyond the call of duty to keep up with all these tasks.

With 224 acres of land, six miles of trails, and hundreds of plants, along with buildings, roads, and bridges, we need an Operations Manager. We also still need an Executive Director to continue to build relationships with supporters, ensure sound financial management, and handle a wide range of administrative work.

So a change in our staffing is a part of the stage we are going through. With Steve's strong interest and background in natural resource management, we are fortunate that he wants to take on the new operations position. This leaves the board, with Steve's help, to fill the Executive Director slot—a significant but manageable change.

Change is always a risk. But like the turtle that only makes progress when it sticks its neck out, we are taking a very calculated risk focused on the future wellbeing of the Arboretum. We are working to provide the best care for the Arboretum and all it offers.

We will keep you posted on our progress in filling the position and with moving ahead with the goals. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have questions or have some support you would like to share with us.

PTSA Wish List

- Utility Vehicle with interchangeable wheels and crawler tracks for use on snow and mud
- 5000 Watt portable Generator (for using power tools in locations where electricity is not available)
- Heavy duty Cordless drill
- Replacement windows for the Visitors Center (57 x 45)
- Parking lot and walkway resurfacing
- Load of Gravel for overflow parking and trails
- Replacement carpet and tile for Visitors Center
- Portable computer work station for new executive director
- Commercial Grade mower
- Equipment Storage shed
- Heavy duty carpet cleaner



A Tale of Two Shrubs by: Stephen Oliveri



Nannyberry picture by: grownative.org

Five years ago, the Arboretum established a Native Plant Demonstration Garden, featuring trees and shrubs that are native to Maine. In those five years, we have learned much about how different native species

will fare in a home landscape environment and which ones are more suitable for specific applications.

A striking contrast between two closely related plants demonstrates this quite well. Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*) and Withe-Rod (*Viburnum cassinoides*) are two woody shrubs that resemble each other in many ways, especially when young. In fact they even share another common name, wild raisin, for the purple to black fruits that they both develop in late summer which persist into the fall. Both by the way are edible and quite tasty when picked before they become too dry, and wild birds find them irresistible. The fruits are derived from similar looking flat topped clusters of small flowers that appear in the spring and even their buds and leaves are similar in appearance.

But where they really differ is in growth and form. Nannyberry wants to grow into a more tree-like cluster of tall straight stems, while with-rod is content to remain a compact rounded shrub. Nannyberry is also a prolific sprouter, sending up many shoots in an ever widening circle around the central stems.

Withe-rod is much less prone to spreading and will remain pretty much where it is planted.

Both are terrifically hardy, have multiple season interest (though I must say that the fruiting display of with-rod is much more striking than the nannyberry's), and have great value as a wildlife food. Being native to Maine, they are unlikely to become invasive and out-compete other native plants. They seem to tolerate a pretty wide range of soils and as long as they get some sun for part of the day, can withstand some shade.

If you want a compact, showy specimen that requires little in the way of pruning and thinning, withe-rod is the better choice. Plant this one close to your house where space and height is limited or as a foreground specimen to a cluster of shrubs or a forested edge. If you have a larger space, particularly one where height is not a limiting factor, and you want an area to be filled in with a denser hedge of large shrubs or small trees, the nannyberry would be the better choice. Either way, these two natives are terrific additions to your home landscape.



With-Rod picture by: ontariowildflower.com

Planning Next Year's Garden by: Joe Scott

This time of year is a perfect time to plan next year's garden. Take a good look at your land and draw up a plan. Where do you have sun and where do you have partial or full shade. Perhaps there is an outcropping of rock, a slope, or a hill. These things are important to know when deciding which plants to plant, whether it will be trees (fruit or ornamental), shade or sun loving plants, a vegetable garden, a rock garden, or a water garden. You might try a raised bed for vegetables or flowering plants. Raised beds are easier to maintain and promote better plant growth. Walking in a garden causes soil compaction, which can cause problems with drainage and oxygen availability to plant roots. Raised beds allow you to plant, weed, feed, and harvest without ever walking on the soil. To install a raised bed, first choose a sunny location and decide on the size and shape. For a vegetable garden usually 4-5ft wide and 16ft long is satisfactory. The length depends on your needs and you may also choose to create several smaller raised beds.

For a raised bed flower garden or shrub border it may be curved to give extra interest. Raised beds can be filled with high quality soil and it is very easy to add compost or other organic matter. Deep rooted plants will do much better because the soil is not compacted and there are no stones to contend with. It is a good idea to till the soil before building raised beds, to provide additional room for root development. Raised beds are excellent for gardeners who have trouble with their backs, people that are in wheelchairs, or those with leg problems. Raised beds for gardeners with

physical disabilities are built higher than typical raised beds. The usual height for a raised bed is 12-16 inches. Build the frame with stone, cinder blocks, bricks, or untreated wood and be sure it is sturdy enough to hold together when filled with soil. A well constructed raised bed should last for years. Raised beds have been used for centuries and with good reason; they are better for plants and also much easier on the gardener. Plants in a raised bed get more sun and air circulation and they can make better use of water. You often can plant earlier and harvest later, because raised beds warm up early in the spring and stay warmer late in the fall. Fewer vegetable plants will produce a greater quantity of vegetables in a raised bed because the growing conditions have been improved. Remember to have a look at the new seed catalogs and enjoy seeing the many new varieties pictured. Also, be sure and enjoy the trails at the Pine Tree State Arboretum. There is always something beautiful to see at any time of year!



Picture by: www.raised-garden-beds.com/

Re-cap of Fall Education Programs by: Toni B. Pied



Picture by: Toni B. Pied

Every Spring and Fall, the Pine Tree State Arboretum offers a variety of natural history programs for schools and other groups. Programs vary in topic from Tree Identification, to Pond Study, to Wildlife Habitat, and many others. As the Education Director, it is my

job to schedule and organize the programs, line up volunteers to help out, and administer the programs with the help of our wonderful Education Volunteers.

This past Fall was a busy one for us. In total, we had 440 students visit the Arboretum from mid September through October. The students were from 3 different homeschool/private school groups, 7 different public schools, and we had 1 adult group this year.

The most popular program in the Spring or the Fall is the Tree Identification program. What better place to learn about identifying trees than an Arboretum! The second most popular program this past Fall was the Seed Dispersal program. Students learn about seeds, why plants have de-

veloped mechanisms to move their seeds around, and what those mechanisms are. The third most popular program this past Fall was the Wildlife Habitat program. Students learn about what wildlife and wildlife habitats are, as well as explore the different habitats we have here at the Arboretum. The other two programs we conducted this past Fall were a Pond Study (with the help of The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed) and Electricity and the Environment (with the help of the Maine Energy Education Program). All of our programs take place in a natural setting (with the exception of the Energy & the Environment program), and all of our programs provide an opportunity for hands-on learning.

We will be offering some snowshoe/tracking programs this winter, but the natural history programs will kick off again this Spring. If you know a school group or other group that is interested, contact Toni Pied at the Pine Tree State Arboretum 621-0031 or

ptsaedu@roadrunner.com.



Picture by: Toni B. Pied

Did you know that our newsletter is available online?!?!

If you are interested in receiving a *color* copy of our newsletter via e-mail, please contact Toni Pied at 621-0031 or ptsaedu@roadrunner.com.

Choosing to receive your copy of our newsletter via e-mail will help us save on printing and postage costs, as well as saving paper!

Would you like to receive our monthly e-newsletter???

Every month we send out an e-newsletter which highlights *events* and *programs* at PTSA. If you would like to receive our e-newsletter,

please contact Toni Pied at 621-0031 or ptsaedu@roadrunner.com.

Or, you can sign up online at www.pinetreestatearboretum.org.

I want to help support the Pine Tree State Arboretum's Plant Collections, Trails, & Education Programs!!!

Please _____ renew my membership for 2009 _____ 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:

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

Calendar of Events

<i>January 2009</i>	<i>February 2009</i>	<i>March 2009</i>
<p>January 9: <i>Children's Maine Author Series (Part 1)</i> 10-11:30am (free, all ages) Pre-registration is required, space is limited. In partnership with the Lithgow Library, we will be reading "Thanks to the Animals", by Allen Sockabasin. There will also be a <u>related craft</u> after the reading.</p> <p>January 22: <i>Tracking on Snowshoes</i> 10-11:30am (\$4/student, kids ages 6 and up) Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Kids can learn how to snowshoe and identify animal tracks in the snow! Bring your own snowshoes or borrow a pair of our's.</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Snowshoe workshop with EMS <i>Date TBA, please check our website or call 621-0031 FMI</i></p> </div>	<p>February 1: <i>Super Sunday Table Tour</i> 11am-2pm (tickets sold until 1pm) Tickets in advance are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets at the door are \$20 for adults. PTSA members receive a \$5 discount.</p> <p>February 13: <i>Children's Maine Author Series (Part 2)</i> 10-11:30am (free, all ages) Pre-registration is required, space is limited. In partnership with the Lithgow Library, we will be reading "The Very Best Bed", by Rebekah Raye. There will also be a <u>related craft</u> after the reading.</p> <p>February 26: <i>Tracking on Snowshoes</i> 10-11:30am (\$4/student, kids ages 6 and up) Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Kids can learn how to snowshoe and identify animal tracks in the snow! Bring your own snowshoes or borrow a pair of our's.</p>	<p>March 2: <i>"A Place for all Seasons" Photography Contest deadline</i> Photographs must be received at the Arboretum by 5pm on March 2nd. Contact Toni Pied FMI about submitting photos.</p> <p>March 13: <i>Children's Maine Author Series (Part 3)</i> 10-11:30am (free, all ages) Pre-registration is required, space is limited. In partnership with the Lithgow Library, we will be reading "Everybody Needs a Hideaway", by Dean Bennett. There will also be a <u>related craft</u> after the reading.</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>You can go to www.pinetreestatearboretum.org for the most up-to-date schedules</p> </div>



153 Hospital Street
Augusta, ME 04330

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

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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.

Inquiries to: Stephen Oliveri, Executive Director

Phone: (207) 621-0031

E-mail: ptsaso@roadrunner.com

Website: www.pinetreestatearboretum.org

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Maintenance: Mike Seaton

Newsletter Compiled By

Toni B. Pied
Steve Oliveri