

2014 TEACHERS TOURS OFFER ON THE GROUND AND UP-CLOSE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE IT FOR YOURSELF

Maine TREE's seventeenth year of offering Teachers' Tours of Maine's Forests and Mills will once again bring educators into close contact with the modern harvests and wood products manufacturing that contribute more than \$8 billion to Maine's economy while providing all the benefits of clean air and water, wildlife habitat, biodiversity and recreation.

Our first Tour will be based at the Birches Resort (www.birches.com) on the shores of Moosehead Lake near Mt. Kineo from July 15-18. The second Tour of the summer will be held July 29-August 1 at Mt. Chase Lodge (www.mtchaselodge.com) on Upper Shin Pond near Baxter State Park. We expect the Tours will fill up quickly, so contact Maine TREE soon for more information and a registration brochure.

We'll learn about the traditional manufacturing of lumber and paper as well as the new generation of forest products, energy in all its forest applications, and the crucial role forests play in the water quality. Pat Maloney, Maine Project Learning Tree Coordinator, and her team of facilitators will connect these subjects with teacher-friendly activities. We'll also learn about the energy contributions made by forests as sources of wood-fired energy and wind turbine sites. The tours will combine math, science, technology, language arts, and social studies with information about forest practices that protect our drinking water and aquatic environment and hear about promising research into the new generation of high value forest products. The tours offer the chance to experience modern technology in the woods and mills and to meet and talk with the people who work with it.

Our July 15-18 Tour will feature visits to harvesting and maple sugaring operations, tour the state of the art Moose River Lumber Company and watch a timber felling demonstration, among other activities. During the July 29-August 1 Tour, we'll observe different harvesting approaches, visit the Scientific Forestry Management Area in Baxter State Park and enjoy a beanhole bean supper at the Lumbermen's Museum, the Mars Hill Wind Farm and one or more manufacturing plants in the area.

Each tour will begin with a Project Learning Tree workshop where subjects like sustainable forestry, watershed protection and renewable energy generation will be introduced. There will be training in the PLT curriculum materials which are linked to all current standards including the Common Core standards and application to the new Science standards, and opportunities to use PLT activities throughout the week. Contact hours are available at the conclusion of the tour, as are 3.0 CEUs at an extra cost of \$20.00.

Non-formal educators are welcome as well. If you are an educator (preK-12, Pre-Service, youth groups such as Scouts, home schoolers, conservation commission members, adult education leaders, etc.) please call (207) 621-9872, e-mail mtf@gwi.net or visit our website, www.mainetreefoundation.org for more information or to download a registration brochure.

If you would like to sponsor a teacher on a Forests of Maine Teachers' Tour, please contact Maine TREE. While a minimal registration fee is required from all participants, sponsorships help to keep this amount low.