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fall 2016 Newsletter

Forest Management Sustains Palmyra Farm

“A village idiot can have anything given to him. It takes a genius to keep it,” Bill Randall jokes. Just in case being a genius is not enough, Bill is using the Sappi Forestry Program as one tool to keeping the family farm in Palmyra that he inherited from his father.

Bill Randall’s 400 acre family farm includes approximately 300 acres of woodlands. Bill has been managing his woodlots with the help of the Sappi Forestry team for about 10

years. He is currently working with two of Sappi’s foresters, Bryan Savoy and Julie Davenport, on a 95 acre selective harvest. He says that the Sappi team is good about watching the markets for him, and “they cut what you want cut and leave what you want left.” Bill says that since he started managing his land under Sappi’s Forestry Program “the woodlot is growing more logs now, the forest is cleaner, and the light can get right to the ground.”

Bill was raised on the farm, which his family started in 1871. The farm has been in the family for all but 15 years since then. Bill helped his father run a profitable dairy operation for many years, but sold his dairy herd and now keeps beef critters. He says that it is difficult for a small farm to compete with larger, more mechanized dairy farms.

Whether talking about the dairy industry or his woodlot Bill says “it is all about sustainability.” Bill has worked for 25 years for Cabot Cooperative, helping dairy farmers to ensure that their milk meets strict quality control standards. He sees his job with Cabot not as being a quality control specialist, but as keeping the dairy



Bill Randall

farms he works with and the company he works for sustainable.

“The dairy industry is a lot like the forest products and paper industry,” Bill notes. “Both make commodity products. The price for the product is highly influenced by factors not in control of the farmer, landowner or mill owner. Dairy farming and logging are natural resource based industries that have been around for years, but to be sustainable in today’s market requires large investments in equipment and a thorough knowledge of best practices and scientific principles.”

Bill compares improvements and mechanization in the dairy industry to the harvesting on his woodlot, being done by Delbert



Delbert Franklin

Franklin and his daughter, Megan Smith, of Franklin Forest Products. He says that a mechanized milking equipment, though very expensive to install, allows the production of milk at a lower cost with fewer quality issues.

Using a mechanical harvester Delbert and Megan are able to cut just the trees that should be harvested with minimal damage to the remaining forest stand.



Megan Smith

Managing his woodlot with the Sappi Forestry Program enhances tree growth, and produces a cleaner forest that is more aesthetically pleasing. Bill is using a portion of the income to restore the farmhouse on the property where he grew up. Forest management is keeping Bill Randall’s farm sustainable.

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maine invasive insects



Browntail Moth

Photo: Milan Zubrick, Forest Research Institute-Slovakia, Bugwood.org



Gypsy Moth

Photo: John Ghent, Bugwood.org



Winter Moth

Photo: Louis-Michel Nageleisen, Département de la Santé des Forêts, Bugwood.org



Tent Caterpillar

Photo: David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

Unwelcome Guests

Three invasive insects originally from Europe, the browntail moth, gypsy moth, and winter moth, are causing problems in Maine forests. The caterpillar stages of these insects are voracious leaf eaters. The eastern tent and forest tent caterpillars, native to North America, cause problems of their own.

The Maine Forest Service is an excellent resource on insect pests. Their website (www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs) provides information on these unwelcome caterpillars:

Browntail Moth

The browntail moth was accidentally introduced into New England from Europe in 1897. Browntail moth caterpillars feed on leaves of many hardwood trees and shrubs, and may completely defoliate their host. An even greater concern is that for many people exposure to the caterpillar's hairs leads to skin rashes similar to poison ivy, and may cause respiratory distress in sensitive individuals.

The range of the browntail moth has been declining, but large populations persist on islands and coastal areas in southern Maine, especially in the Brunswick-Freeport area. A large infestation also has been reported in Waterville.

The caterpillars emerge in the spring to feed on tender new leaves. They may devour the foliage as fast as it develops. By late June they are fully grown and pupate, emerging as moths in July. After emerging, the females lay eggs in masses on the underside of leaves and cover the eggs with brown hairs from their bodies.

Mature caterpillars are about 1 1/2 inches long, are dark brown, have a broken white stripe on each side of the body and two conspicuous reddish spots on the posterior end of the back.

Gypsy Moth

The gypsy moth was introduced into the U.S. from Europe in 1869. Gypsy moth outbreaks may appear suddenly and may continue for two to five years in any one location.

White oak, hemlock and pine are very vulnerable to this pest. When present in large numbers gypsy moth caterpillars and

their droppings can become a nuisance to homeowners in wooded residential areas.

Gypsy moth larvae have prominent knobs with hairs on each side of their head and paired blue and red spots on their back.

Winter Moth

Winter moth was introduced into North America from Europe in the 1930s. Winter moth showed up in eastern Massachusetts in the early 2000's and has since spread into coastal Maine from Kittery to Bar Harbor.

Winter moth feed on the leaves of many deciduous trees including oak, maple, apple, elm, and ash. Trees heavily defoliated by winter moth for three or more years can exhibit branch dieback and mortality.

Winter moth larvae hatch in early spring from eggs laid on the trunks of host trees. They crawl up the trees and burrow into both leaf and flower buds, feeding on the expanding buds and foliage.

Winter moth larvae are light green to brownish-green inchworms with longitudinal white stripes on each side of the body and are 1/2 inch long when full-grown.

Tent Caterpillars

Native to North America, eastern tent caterpillars and forest tent caterpillars defoliate hardwood trees. They have similar life histories, but the Eastern Tent caterpillars make tents while the Forest Tent caterpillars do not.

The caterpillars begin defoliating new leaf growth in early May, transforming into adults in June. The adults lay eggs in a band around the small living branches. The eggs remain in this stage until the following spring.

At the peak of feeding, small trees may be completely stripped of foliage which is normally replaced by secondary foliage by late summer. The eastern tent caterpillar has a single, solid, white stripe down its back and blue spots along each side of the stripe. The Forest tent caterpillar has a row of white keyhole spots on its back but otherwise is similar to the Eastern Tent caterpillar.

Featured Maine Mill Kennebec Lumber



Kennebec Lumber's Mill in Solon, ME

Kennebec Lumber opened their Solon hardwood lumber mill in 2000 with 18 employees, sawing 5.5 million board feet of lumber per year. By 2015 the company had grown to 180 employees, sawing 30 million board feet. The Sappi Forestry Program is one of Kennebec Lumber's largest suppliers of hardwood logs.

According to company president Denis Carrier, the key to their success is their great crew. "We couldn't do without them. Kevin

Coro, our first employee, helped build the facility. He has been sawing for us ever since." Kevin is now head of the Lumber Inspection department and helps train new employees on grade standards.

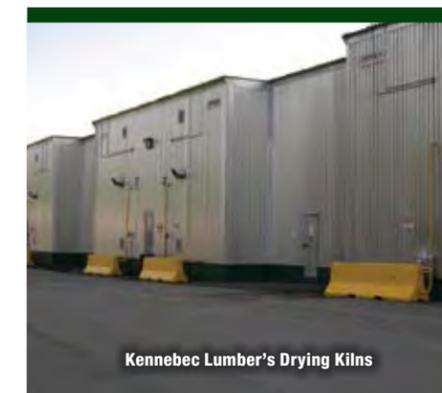
Built from the ground up just 16 years ago, the facility is one of the most modern and technologically advanced in the world. The facilities are fully automated. Just a few operators saw 1,600 logs per day, a volume that would have taken 100 workers in an

The Art of Drying Wood

Kennebec Lumber has nineteen kilns for drying and four T-sheds for storage and air drying. Still, they are short on drying capacity, and are currently building six new kilns.

There is an art to the drying of the wood. Maple is dried quickly while oak is slowly dried—the rate is controlled in the kilns by adjusting the ventilation rather than the heat in the building.

Oven tests are conducted to ensure final moisture of kiln-dried wood is between six and eight percent moisture content.



Kennebec Lumber's Drying Kilns

older mill. But grading must be done by hand—it can't be done by computer. Each grader has three seconds per board to accurately classify its quality.

A support crew loads, stacks and dries the wood. It is then delivered worldwide to be used in cabinets, moldings and flooring. Kiln dried hard maple accounts for over 40 percent of their volume; they also sell northern red oak, northern yellow birch, and northern white ash. Wood chips, sawdust, biomass and bark are sold as byproducts.

In 2010 Kennebec Lumber built a flooring facility, and are now their own distributor for their Maine Traditions Hardwood Flooring. They produce pre-finished, unfinished and engineered flooring, sold to brick and mortar stores across the country.

Kennebec Lumber focuses on quality control. They accurately laser-measure board thicknesses and widths to the nearest thousandth of an inch; board thickness may not vary by more than 1/2 the thickness of a sheet of paper. Daily internal audits are performed on all graders to insure National Hardwood Lumber Association standards are met.

Todd Plourde, VP for Procurement, says Kennebec Lumber buys approximately 40 million board feet of logs annually. Their logs are purchased strictly from the northeast region of the country; 90% of logs come from certified loggers and certified land. The Sappi Forestry program is one of Kennebec Lumber's largest suppliers of hardwood logs.

Kennebec Lumber is committed to sustainable business practices throughout their entire business operations, including 100% recovery and use of raw materials during manufacturing. Use of their products provides credits toward the LEED green building standards.

tree facts: hard maple vs. soft maple

Hard Maple typically refers to sugar or rock maple, the most common tree tapped for maple syrup. Sugar maple wood is heavy, close-grained, strong and hard, making it desirable for furniture, flooring and other applications where hardness and strength are important.

Soft Maple refers to a number of maple species, including red and silver maple. The wood is softer and less durable than hard maple, and has been used mainly for pulp. As sugar maple becomes more expensive red maple is becoming increasingly popular for lumber.



Red Maple

Silver Maple

Sugar Maple

Maple Leaves in Late Fall

Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

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Sappi Maine Forester: Julie Davenport

Finding Time

Julie Davenport has no trouble keeping busy. Currently licensed as an intern forester, a wood scaler and a pesticide applicator, Julie is helping landowners across central Maine as part of a two year internship under Bryan Savoy that will prepare her to sit for her forester's licensure exam. She serves as the Lincoln County chair on the Maine Tree Farm Committee.

Julie holds a degree in forestry from the University of Maine, where she served as the President of Xi Sigma Pi, the international forestry honor society. Julie was a pole climber on the Woodsmen's Team and rode horses as a member of the Equestrian Team. She worked for the Maine Forest Service during summers and her final year of school. Julie also worked in wood procurement at the Catalyst Rumford mill.

Her father is also a forester, but Julie didn't plan to follow in his footsteps. "I didn't spend much time in the woods with my Dad growing up. I knew what a skidder was, but not much else." But at Orono Julie found forestry more interesting than Parks and Recreation, the field she initially started in.

Julie is very excited to be a member of Sappi's Forestry Program. "I am super happy. The entire team is fantastic at what they do. They are a genuine group of people, fun to be around, with no cutting corners. It is fun to come to work."

Julie and her husband raise cows, pigs, laying hens, broilers, turkeys and vegetables at "The Brick House Homestead," the farm they recently purchased in Leeds. She has been a certified fire fighter since the age of 16, and currently serves on the Leeds Volunteer Fire Department. Describing herself as a "foodie," Julie loves to cook. She paints. She also sings and plays upright bass with the Sandy River Ramblers bluegrass band.

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