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Summer/Fall 2020 Newsletter

Timber Management Enhances Recreation at Dodge Point Reserve

Popular Recreational Area

Dodge Point Public Reserve in Newcastle, with over 8,000 feet of frontage along the Damariscotta River and six miles of recreational trails, is the most intensively used property in Maine's public reserve land system. It was also the first property purchased under the State of Maine's Land for Maine's Future program.

The Damariscotta River Association (DRA), now known as the Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, co-manages the property with the Bureau of Parks and Lands and provided key financial support for the State's 1989 purchase of the property for \$2,350,000. Stephen Hufnagel, Coastal Rivers' Executive Director, says that board members of his organization used their own homes as collateral to facilitate the purchase.

The reserve is bisected by the River Road. The river, and most of the public use is on the larger eastern section of the preserve. Although less used, the western section includes a trailhead for the River Link Trail, which runs for more than five miles from Dodge Point to the Schmid Preserve in Boothbay.



Continuing Forest Management

The forest on the reserve received the State of Maine Tree Farm of the Year Award in 1978 when owned and managed by the Freeman Family. The State continues the longstanding tradition established by the Freemans of sustainable timber management. The Bureau documents their commitment to responsible forest practices through dual third-party certification.



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Dodge Point Reserve cont'd

A 55-acre stand of red pine, planted on the eastern side in the 1930's, is now a towering red pine plantation. The western portion of the parcel has a diverse mix of red spruce, hemlock, red maple, oak, and fir.

According to the 1991 management plan, Dodge Point offers an opportunity to demonstrate that timber management and recreation can occur in proximity. Seizing on that opportunity, this winter the State conducted a scheduled harvest on a portion of the land west of River Road.

Sappi Forestry is helping to manage the harvest. Stephen Richardson, senior forest engineer with the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL), does much of the layout, marking and silviculture work on the property, while Sappi's senior forester Jeremy Stultz focuses on marketing and contractor oversight to get the most value out of each tree. Jeremy oversees the logging operations and ensures that best management practices are met.

Richardson says that his goal is to improve the forest by removing low quality stems and short-lived trees to encourage the regeneration of higher quality species. He wants to grow white pine, oak and spruce to maintain species diversity in a forest that is now heavy to hemlock and fir and threatened by the hemlock wooly adelgid.



Andy Cutko and Stephen Hufnagel inspect the harvest at Dodge Point

Improving the Forest and Funding Recreation at Dodge Point

While improving the forest is the primary goal of the harvest at Dodge Point, the State also relies on income from harvests for infrastructure projects to improve public access.

"The Bureau of Parks and Lands is managing more than 1/2 million acres of public lands," explains BPL Director Andy Cutko. "It costs a lot of money to do trail work, build bridges, and maintain docks for the public. In order to fund all that great work for recreation, our main source of funding is timber harvesting."

Sappi Forestry is helping to ensure that the State receives all the revenue it can from this harvest. A portion of the revenue generated from the harvest will go to pay for recently completed recreation projects including construction of a new parking lot, expansion of the existing parking lot, and improvements to the Damariscotta River dock.

With the help of the Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust the public has been well informed about the harvest, and it has been completed with public support. There will be an additional opportunity to demonstrate that recreation and harvesting are compatible in 2021, when the State plans to cut on the more heavily used eastern portion of the preserve.

Maine Quarantine Rules for Emerald Ash Borer and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Revised

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has announced revisions to the quarantine rules for both emerald ash borer and hemlock woolly adelgid.

The emerald ash borer quarantine area within Maine has expanded due to new detections in southern Maine, near and outside the boundaries of the previous quarantine area. Major additions include the northern half of Cumberland County and the five southernmost towns in Oxford County.

The emerald ash borer is one of the most serious invasive species threatening our ash resources and forests. Since its discovery in the United States in 2002 emerald ash borer has killed millions of ash trees.

The area under quarantine in Maine due to hemlock woolly adelgid now includes all of Knox, Lincoln, York and

Sagadahoc Counties and portions of Androscoggin, Cumberland, Hancock, Kennebec, and Waldo Counties.

The hemlock woolly adelgid is an invasive aphid-like insect that feeds on hemlock. Feeding damage leads to decline and can cause mortality of affected trees.



Emerald Ash Borer
Photo: David Cappaert
Bugwood.org



Wolly Adelgid
Photo: Connecticut
Agricultural Experiment
Station, Bugwood.org

Featured Maine Mill: Glidden Lumber



Nick Kennedy, Pete Glidden and Larry Glidden

Larry Glidden bought a sawmill in Parkman, Maine 20 years ago, making wide pine flooring. His son, Pete helped run the mill, but they had no employees. In 2008 Larry and Pete shifted to producing timber mats, and the business took off.

The Gliddens now sell 20,000 mats per year from their mill in Parkman and another in Hannibal, New York. They have 14 employees in Maine and eight in New York. "Every year the mats are in more demand due to their environmental benefits to our customers," according to Larry Glidden.

The mats are used to allow trucks, cranes and heavy equipment, weighing as much as 50 tons, to traverse wetlands with minimal environmental damage. The Gliddens sell mats throughout the northeast, primarily to utility line customers.

Pete Glidden, now owner of Glidden Lumber, oversees sales and procurement. Larry Glidden is semi-retired but remains involved with the business and keeps the books.

Nick Kennedy, a friend who has helped at the mill for many years, manages the Parkman mill. "Nothing goes to waste," according to Nick. In addition to the mats, the Gliddens sell firewood, blocks and chips.

Pete Glidden says that the mill has very little staff turnover. "I believe in treating people the way you want to be treated. Everyone is cross-trained, he says, and no one works more than 45 hours in a week. Nick and I will hop in the loader or get in the crane to help. We both know all the jobs at the mill."

The mill also helps landowners by providing a market for what can be a low-grade log. According to Sappi procurement area manager Forest Weston, the mill provides one of Sappi's steadiest markets. Larry Glidden says, "we buy the logs from Sappi and sell them the mats back." Nick adds, "We work together well, and know we can count on each other."

Making a Timber Mat



From a control room, logs are trimmed to uniform dimensions, typically 6, 8 or 12 inches. They are then bolted together, cut to uniform length and are ready for shipment. Initially many of the Glidden's mats were made from hemlock, now 95% are made from hardwood logs.

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Sappi Maine Forester: Stephen Sacks

Stephen Sacks is a licensed forester in the state of Maine. He graduated from the University of Maine with a B.S. in Forestry and a minor in Surveying Engineering Technology. Before joining Sappi in 2017, he worked as a forest technician/surveyor's assistant for Jones Associates in Auburn, Maine.

Stephen works primarily in central and eastern Maine assisting woodlot owners in the management of their properties. Working under Forest Briggs and Lucas Lamond, Stephen checks on logging crews; works on harvest layout; conducts inspections for best management practices; and, with his background in surveying, checks on boundary lines and conducts deed research.

"I like to look at the big picture and the long-term health of the forest," Stephen says. "Working at Sappi gives me the opportunity to do that and to get exposed to every facet of forestry. I appreciate Sappi's focus on sustainability and innovation and looking at new ways to use the product."

"One of my goals when working with landowners is to help them to understand their resource," Stephen says. "And I like working with the public, especially when I can help them make the connection that forest management is good for the environment."

When not working Stephen likes to spend time with his wife, family, and friends. He enjoys mountain biking and boating. Stephen and his wife love to explore—they will pick a destination on a map and go see what is there.