

Maine Conservation Corps visits North Haven

From April 16 through April 23, NHCP hosted a crew from the Maine Conservation Corps made up of 9 crew leaders in training, accompanied by a Training Coordinator and a Field Coordinator. These young people were from all over the country and are training to lead conservation crews throughout the state for the summer. They came to work with NHCP to gain chainsaw experience and skills after having gone through a two-day long State of Maine Forestry Service training. The work focused primarily on cleaning up blowdowns by limbing them and piling the brush and cutting up the logs. This was done both to “clean up” the trail corridor and to reduce the fire hazard throughout the property. The crew also cut buckthorn, especially at the North Shore Preserve, including clearing a picturesque birch grove at that property. In many areas the buckthorn was cut at chest height, so that it stem sprouts, as opposed to root sprouting, making it easier to cut again in the future. The crew also worked with volunteers to cut buckthorn and build a slash wall around an area that was then planted with cedar trees. This is an experiment to see if slash walls will keep deer from browsing the young trees. In total over 150 trees were planted on the Mill Stream and North Shore properties. In addition to working on the North Shore and Mill Stream properties, the crew spent a day working on Burnt Island opening the Middle and Shore Trails and clearing blowdowns from near the pier. They also cleared blowdowns and helped install a new kiosk at NHCP’s Pulpit Harbor Preserve. This kiosk will have information about NHCP, but also has a place for anyone to share information with the public. The crew also helped build an additional step at Narrow Place Beach in an effort to make access that much easier. To further help with access a railing has been ordered and will hopefully be installed by the time this article is published. The MCC crew worked a total of 672 hours on conservation projects here on North Haven. As important as the work and training was to the crew, the warm welcome they received from the North Haven community and the beauty of the island made the biggest impact on them. Members of the community brought them warm baked goods on a cold rainy day, delivered fresh eggs and greens, venison steaks and treated them to a dinner at Calderwood. They stayed at the staff cabins at the Turner Farm which was quite an upgrade from tents and even got to help Ben gather eggs. They walked the island’s beaches, watched sunsets and were totally smitten by the island’s charm.

NHCP staff have been working on cutting out brown tail moth nests, especially at the Mill Stream Preserve along the Middle Road. It’s a slow process and we won’t get them all, but hopefully the work will have some impact on helping control the population.

June is the start of NHCP’s summer program series. On Saturday, June 15 at 9:00 am there will be a family friendly Foraging and Wildflower hike at the North Shore Preserve. On Tuesday, June 25 NHCP is partnering with Crabtree Sessions to host Owen Howes and his band for live music from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Peleg Thomas Preserve. Bring a blanket and/or chairs and a picknick to enjoy live music in a beautiful setting. NHCP’s summer calendar will be going out in the mail soon listing on the summer events. As always check out our website www.northhavenconservation.org, email nhcp@northhavenconservation.org or call 207 867 2113 for more information.