

# BEAVER PARK



by Verla Ridley Director of Parks

## INTRODUCTION

Beaver Park is one of Lisbon's prized natural resources. I say 'One Of' because we now have the walking trail, 42 garden spots and Summer Street Park. Beaver Park is 337 acres of forest land and ponds nestled in the Town of Lisbon. The park provides a place where visitors can experience nature throughout the four seasons with outdoor activities such as: hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, picnicking and swimming. Park visitors obtain a feel of the natural wilderness by doing these activities among impressive forest stands and observing the numerous species of wildlife that abound on the park property. Jack and I have managed the park to preserve its natural state while providing maximum access, so visitors can enjoy the many opportunities the park has to offer.

## BEAVER PARK HISTORY

- \* 1961 - Robert Vachon purchased the Beaver Park property.
- \* 1963 - Mr. Vachon built the Upper and Middle Ponds.
- \* 1965 - Mr. Vachon opened the Beaver Park to the public.
- \* 1971 - Mr. Vachon sold the property to the Maine Department of Parks and Recreation.
- \* 1972 - Lisbon acquired a 20 year lease for the Beaver Park property from the State and assumed all administrative and financial responsibility of the property.
- \* 1972 - The Army National Guard built a cement bathhouse and installed power to the Middle Pond area.
- \* 1974-1978 - Due to vandalism the Town stopped funding Beaver Park. The park became a local hang-out and a liability to the Town.
- \* 1979 - 1983 - Jack Arndt as Chairman of the Lisbon Conservation Commission was asked by the State to improve conditions at Beaver Park. Thus, started the cleaning and development of Beaver Park as it is today.
- \* 1983 - First Park Ranger was hired to build and manage Beaver Park.
- \* 1985 – The Maine Department of Parks and Recreation gave Beaver Park to the Town of Lisbon.
- \* 1988 – Beaver Park became a certified tree farm.
- \* 1983 - Present - Beaver Park has become a valuable asset for the Town of Lisbon. The State of Maine has many State Parks but very few Maine municipalities have their own BEAVER PARK



Jack Arndt  
August 8, 1922 – August 19, 2009

Beaver Park would not exist as it does today without Jack Arndt's foresight and personnel commitment to make the project work. He didn't want the park to become a burden to the tax payers of Lisbon. He spent many hours of volunteer time and used his expert knowledge to teach me carpentry and forestry skills. His goal was to make Beaver Park as self-sufficient as possible. He worked with me cutting pine trees on the property which were milled into lumber. The lumber was used to build the park buildings and picnic tables. He often used his own portable sawmill to mill the trees into lumber. As you will see in the following slide presentation Beaver Park was built with an old fashion work ethic and a conservative budget.





The only structure that existed in the park in 1983 was the vandalized bath house at the Middle Pond. Vandals had used it for target practice and destroyed the internal plumbing facilities.

Doors donated by the Lisbon School Department were installed, the bullet holes patched and a fresh coat of paint made the building look more inviting.





Before structures could be built, trees had to be cut for lumber.  
I learned which trees to cut for lumber from Jack.



Notching and cutting the selected pine tree.



TIMBER!





The logs were then hauled to the cutting area and sawed into lumber for park projects.



Jack sawing logs into clapboards for the Lone Pine Lodge.

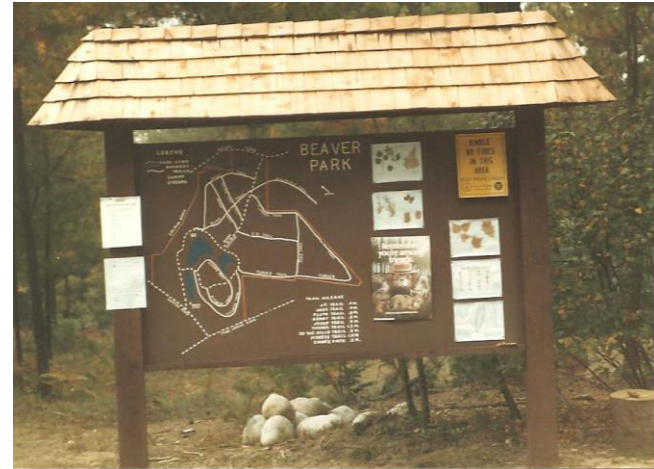


Lumber to build the picnic shelter, machine shed and picnic tables.

The original map board I routed in 1984 is still used today.



Bulletin board from 1984-2001.



The first structure built in the park was the bulletin board at the park entrance in 1984. In 2002, the original bulletin board was replaced with a more elaborate kiosk. The post had deteriorated, however the map board was in good condition and was used for the kiosk.



Construction continued with Jack and I building four outhouses throughout the Park.







Next the small picnic shelter at the New Pond was built.

Picnic tables were needed for the picnic shelter and the picnic areas at the Middle and New Pond. Jack taught me how to build the picnic tables and to mix cement to construct cement anchors to bolt the picnic tables to. The tables had to be built and installed as vandal proof as possible due to the past history of vandalism at the park. In previous years when tables were placed in the Park they were either stolen or used to build bon-fires.



Park lumber cut and ready to build a picnic table.





Assembling the picnic table legs using a special jig built by a park volunteer to make the assembly easier.



Assembled picnic table legs.



Assembling the picnic table.

The table assembled and ready for a coat of stain.







Before the tables are placed in the park these cement forms are built and buried at the site where the table will be located. The table legs are bolted to the metal bars so that the tables stay where they are placed.

Picnic tables and grill ready for use at the Middle Pond picnic area.





Cutting park benches from logs with Jack's alaskan sawmill and installing them.



Cutting the bench board.



Finishing touches.



Benches are located along the Park Road, at the beach areas, and around the tot-lot at the Middle Pond.

## Building the Lone Pine Lodge.



The trusses and pressure treated post were purchased.



The remainder of the needed lumber came from the park forest.



Boarding up the Lodge.



Live edge clapboard siding.





The completed Lone Pine Lodge. Half the lodge is used by the public for various meeting and public gatherings. The other half is used as the park workshop.

When I started working at Beaver Park in 1983, I lived in a mobile home that my ex-husband and I purchased. The Town placed it on the park property. In 1992, the log cabin was completed and the mobile home removed. The log cabin was built from a purchased log home kit and over a period of 3 years, Jack and I built the cabin with occasional volunteer help.







The log cabin kit included the logs and lumber to complete the exterior structure. The interior was completed with purchased tongue and groove boards and lumber cut in the park. All the cabin interior doors and cabinets were built on site by me via Jack's instructions.

Knee wall cabinets and draws built in the upstairs bedroom.

Jack taught me how to build the interior doors from park lumber to keep the cost down.





The completed log cabin serves as the rangers home and park office.







In 2006, the park was awarded a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund to build a machine shed and a large group picnic shelter with 9 tables. Although Jack was now legally blind, he still directed myself and volunteers on the construction of both structures. Manufactured trusses and pressure treated post were used along with lumber cut from the site to construct the buildings.

Building the machine shed.







Construction of  
the Middle Pond  
Picnic Shelter.



## CONSTRUCTION OF THE BEAVER PARK ROAD SIGN



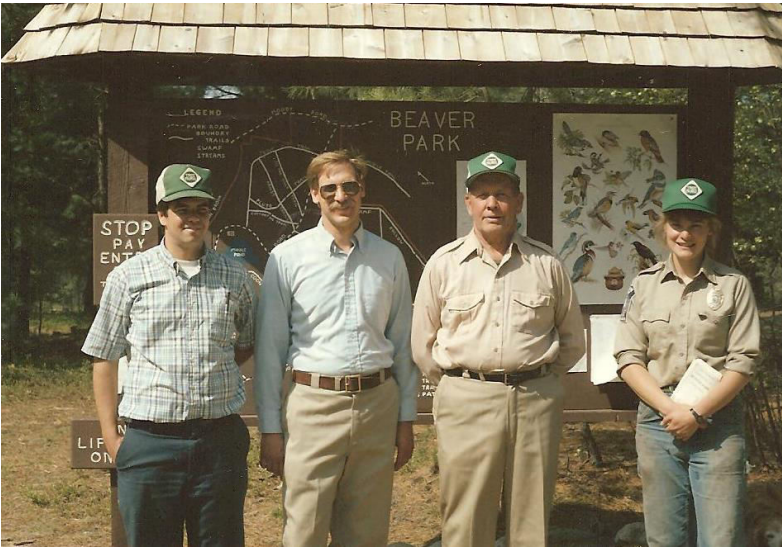
With the exception of the flower trail signs, all the park signs are made at the park by myself from Beaver Park lumber.



New sign completed.



## Implementing the Park's Forest Management Plan



Beaver Park became a certified Tree Farm in 1988



Forester marking trees to be harvested.



Harvested trees.



Forest area after thinning and brush removed.

# PARK ACTIVITIES

## TRAILS:

- Hiking
- Fitness Trail
- Cross-country running
- Self-guided wildflower Trail
- Cross-country skiing
- Snowshoeing

## ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

- Picnicking
- Swimming
- Tot-Lot
- Fishing
- School Outings
- Summer Camp
- Boy and Girl Scout Activities
- Ice Skating
- Wreath Classes
- Miscellaneous Park Programs

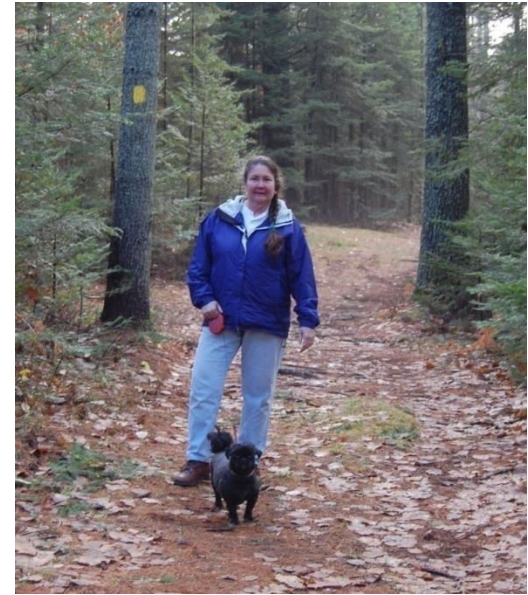




## HIKING TRAILS



The park trails all have trail head signs and paint blazes.



Enjoying a fall walk.



Dogs are welcomed on park trails.



Town employees during a lunch and learn program at the park.



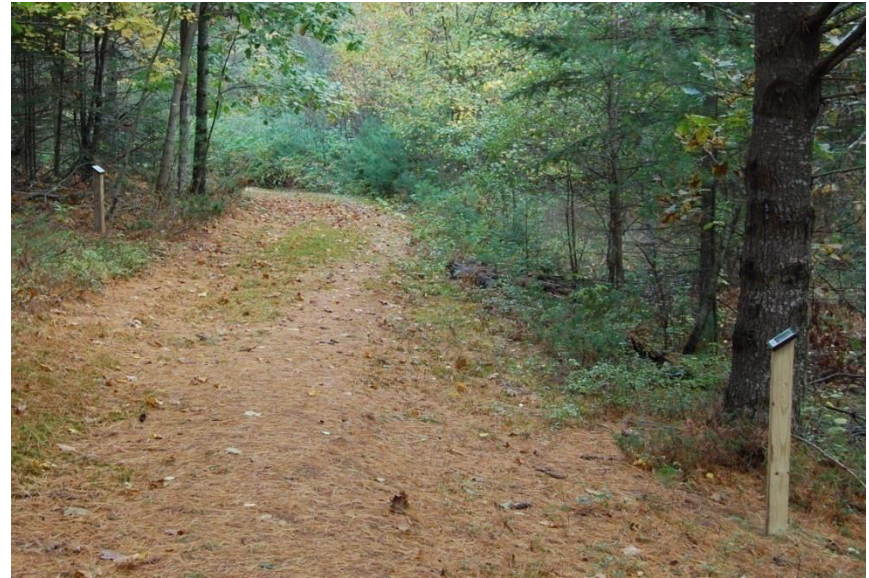
## FITNESS TRAIL



The Fitness Trail is one mile long and has 25 signed exercise stations.



## SELF-GUIDED WILDFLOWER TRAIL







The park road and a majority of the trails are excellent for horseback riding or a carriage.





Dogs are welcomed on the park hiking trails and the park road but not at the picnic or beach areas.





The Lisbon Cross-Country Team often boast that the Beaver Park cross-country course is the best in the state. A true cross-country course meandering through the Beaver Park forest.

## CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING



The summer hiking trails are groomed for traditional cross-country skiing once the snow is deep enough.





Winter storms often cause trees to fall across the trails which need to be removed before the trails can be groomed for skiing.



The chainsaw always accompanies the groomer.



The snowmobile hauls the groomer which sets the ski track.

The groomed trails are used by:



Cross-Country Skiers



Snowshoers



Wildlife





A wonderful winter wonderland day of skiing at Beaver Park.



Snowshoeing off the beaten path is always fun.



## PICNICKING



Middle Pond and New Pond both have picnic areas with tables, charcoal grills and shelters.



Middle Pond group picnic shelter.

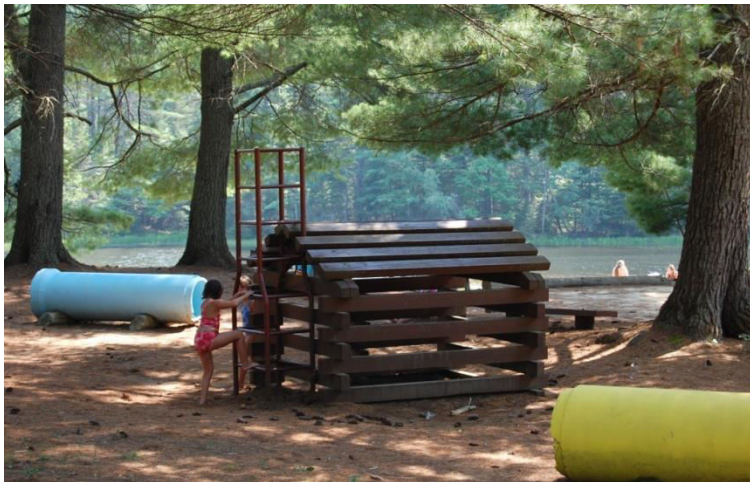


New Pond picnic area with grill and table.





## TOT - LOT AT THE MIDDLE POND





## Middle and New Pond Swimming Areas





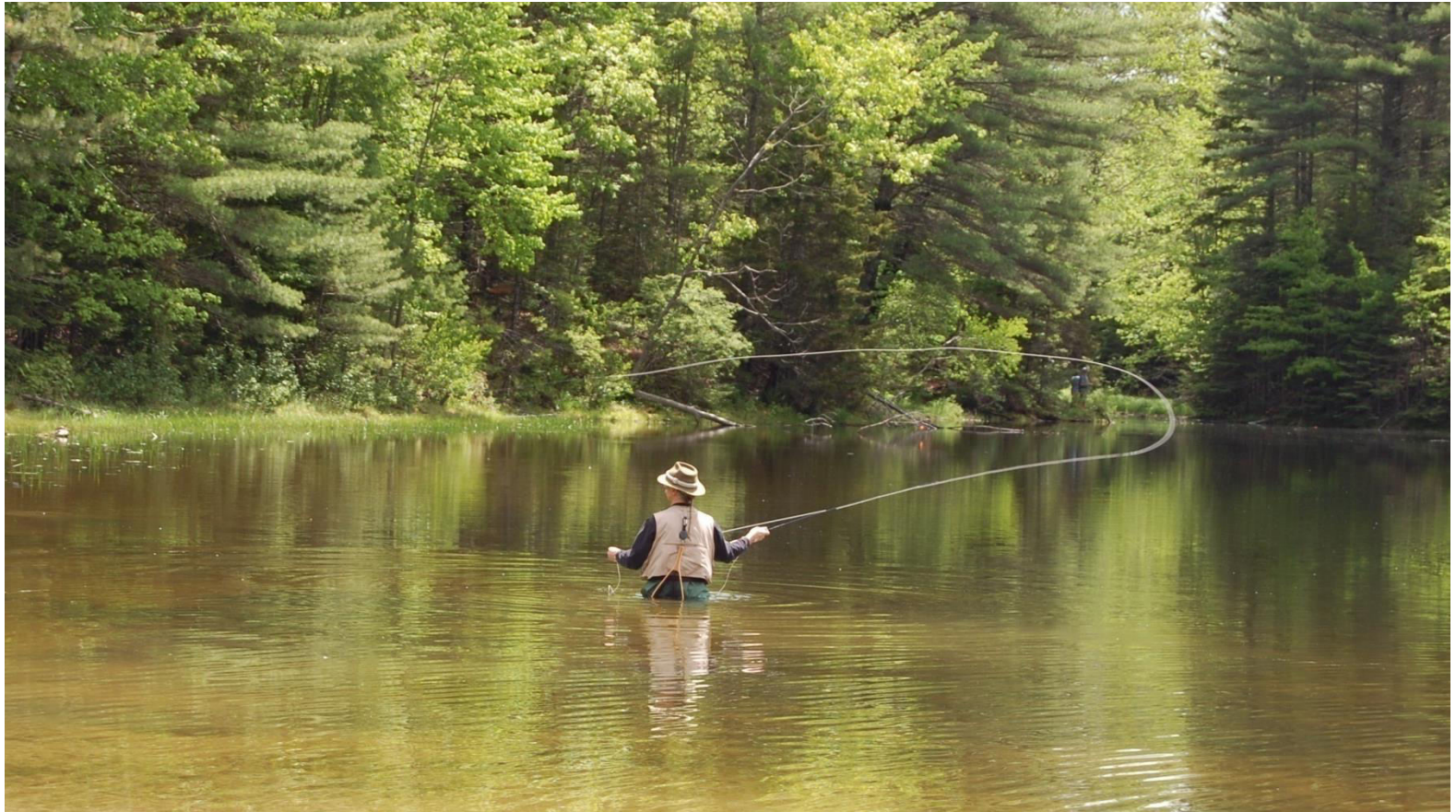
ICE SKATING AT THE MIDDLE POND

When ice conditions are good a skating area is maintained at the Middle Pond.





## FISHING



The park ponds are stocked with brook trout.



Stocking the ponds with brook trout.



The Annual Beaver Park Fishing Derby is now a 29 year tradition.





## The Beaver Park Fishing Derby is GREAT FUN!

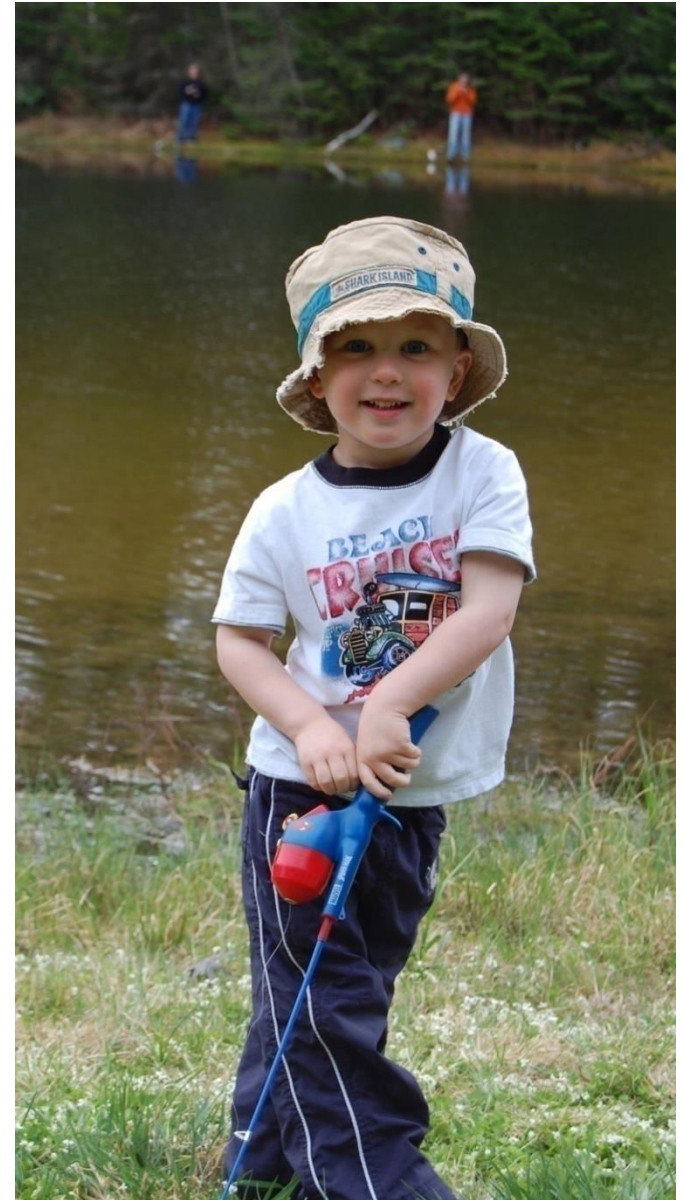


Early lessons learned, last a lifetime.



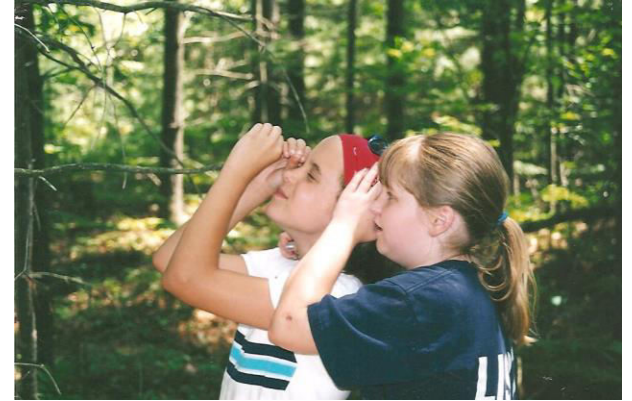


A perfect day of fishing at Beaver Park.





## Beaver Park Summer Camp



A fun time had by all.





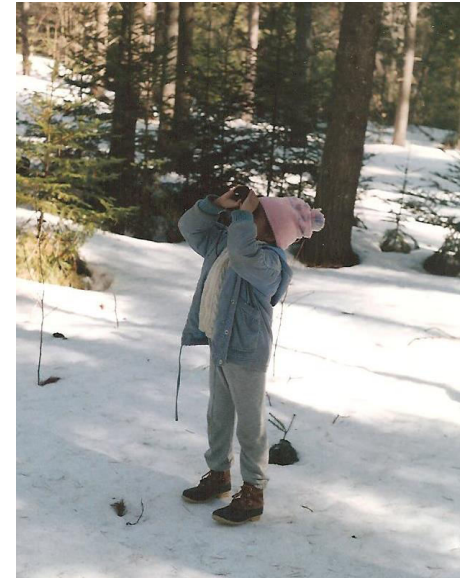
Lisbon and surrounding area schools use the park for field trips.



Third graders enjoying a pond study field trip.



Lisbon High School Physics Class at the Middle Pond Beach.







Lisbon High School Physics class building boats using cardboard, duct tape and plastic.

Success!!





## SCOUTING ACTIVITY



Local Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops use Beaver Park for various activities including camping.



## FIELD ACTIVITIES



Schooner Fare Concert



Kite Flying



Mowing



Softball Games

GPS Classes are taught in the Lone Pine Lodge by the Maine Forest Service.







CHAINSAW SAFETY CLASS





I teach wreath Classes in November and December at the park. The classes have become a Christmas tradition many participants look forward to annually. I cut all the fir boughs from park trees.





BEAVER PARK WORKING DOG



Wreath Classes are always a lot of fun and participants enjoy displaying their beautiful wreaths which they made at Beaver Park.



Beaver Park became a certified Tree Farm in 1988



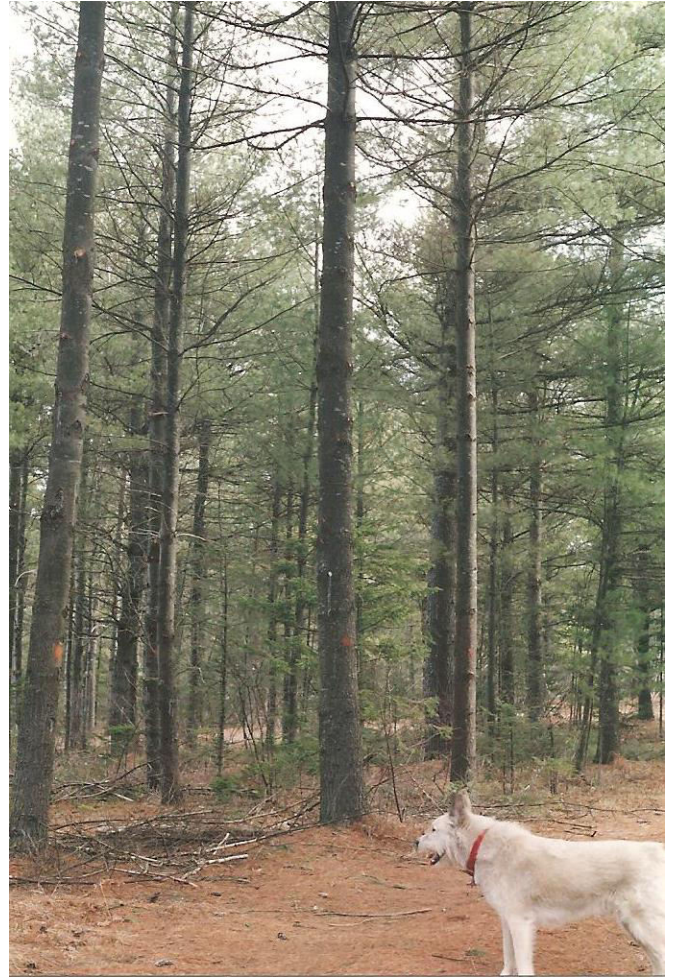
Beaver Park hosted an annual tree farm program and Jack Arndt was the guest speaker.



## Implementing the Park's Forest Management Plan



Forester marking trees to be harvested.



Forest area after thinning and brush removed.



Trees being harvested.





After each harvest Jack would have me plant 1000's of white and red pine trees in the thinned area. At the time the state would reimburse the town one dollar for every tree planted.

I planted these red pine trees in 1984 as plug seedlings and they are now at least 15 to 20 feet tall and have been pruned twice. They are now ready to be thinned.







A white pine tree struck by lightning.





## Wildlife you may encounter on a visit to Beaver Park



Red Fox



Skunk



Whitetail Deer



Porcupine



## Wildlife you may see at Beaver Park







Robins



Many bird species enjoy the Beaver Park pine -oak forest.



Scarlet Tanager





Great Blue Heron



## WILDFLOWERS



Touch-me-not



Bluets



Teaberry



Bunchberry Blossoms





Milkweed



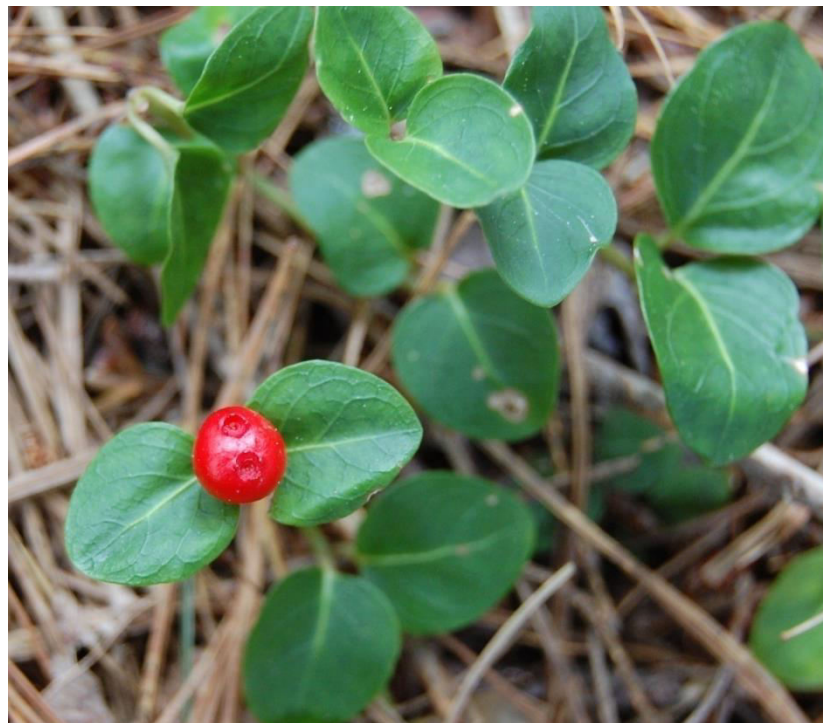
Painted Trillium





Pink Lady Slipper

Partridge Berry



See the two eyes looking at you!



Red Pine Tree Blossom





The park offers a peaceful get away in your own back yard.



The 'Park Working Dog' and I are off to new adventures.



I have been blessed with a 31.5 year career that most people only dream of. I thank God and Jack Arndt. Jack gave a 23 year old Aroostook county farm girl with a degree in R&P Mgt. the opportunity of a lifetime. In turn, I've given the Town of Lisbon and Beaver Park my best. The Park has become an oasis for many park visitors seeking quiet and solitude. I'm leaving the park in a good place, it is no longer a liability to the Town of Lisbon as it was when Jack and I started in 1983. It is a place of joy and pride for the folks of Lisbon. There are many state parks but no other municipality has a Beaver Park. It is no longer 'Lisbon's Best Kept Secret'. It has been discovered.!





THE  
END