

BOG-BRIDGING IN THE HUNTING SWAMP – 7/8/2019

Four members of the Loudon Trails Committee met at 8:30 on Monday morning, July 8th, 2019 to continue working on the bog-bridging project that began a week earlier on July 1st in the Hunting Swamp. On Friday, July 5th, Bob Lyons had dropped off several more of the heavy spruce logs he'd cut and debarked at his home and arrived early with his wheelbarrow so he could begin the long trek carrying them to down to the work site at the edge of the wetland. He and Denis Proulx had brought a variety of their tools for the project, including a pickaxe, sledge hammer, saws, loppers and other items.

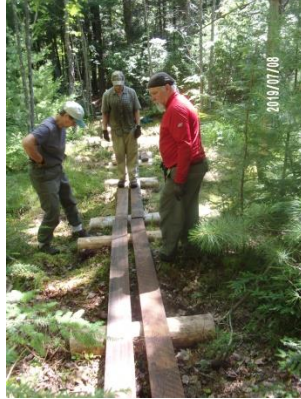
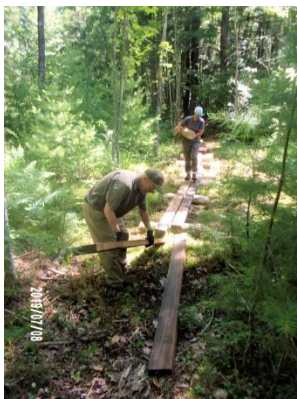
While waiting for Bob to return to pick up another load of logs, Denis worked with Martha Butterfield for a few minutes to reduce the pile of decaying brush located between Pine Island Brook and the parking area. Soon, Sandy Blanchard arrived with four additional 12' hemlock boards, Thompson's Water Seal, a wheelbarrow and long nails for fastening the boards to the logs.

Martha carried the staining materials to the area where she'd been staining boards on Sandy's sawhorses and resumed the work she started the week before, while Denis, Bob and Sandy carried the 12' boards to that spot. Throughout the morning, more of Bob's logs were transported down the long trail leading to the edge of the wetland, and work resumed on the bog-bridging over the open wetland. While the stained boards were drying, Martha took photos of Bob, Denis and Sandy while they worked.



Toward the end of the work session, Bob, Sandy and Denis had completed the bog-bridging across the open, boggy wetland, and Martha sealed the remaining cut edges of

the boards. She also moved some more decayed material from the brush pile.



Bob walked the wooded area beyond the open wetland and noted there were three more wet areas requiring bog-bridging. Some spots must be dug a bit deeper with a shovel to support the bridging. The next work session was planned for the following week, weather permitting. Bob estimated the bog-bridging should be completed by the end of July by meeting one morning per week for two or more work sessions. In contrast, he mentioned the remaining trail system ought to be completed fairly quickly. The work session ended at noon after 3 ½ hours, including Bob's extra hour hauling logs, a total of over 26 combined hours four people worked, including travel.

Martha Butterfield 7/9/19