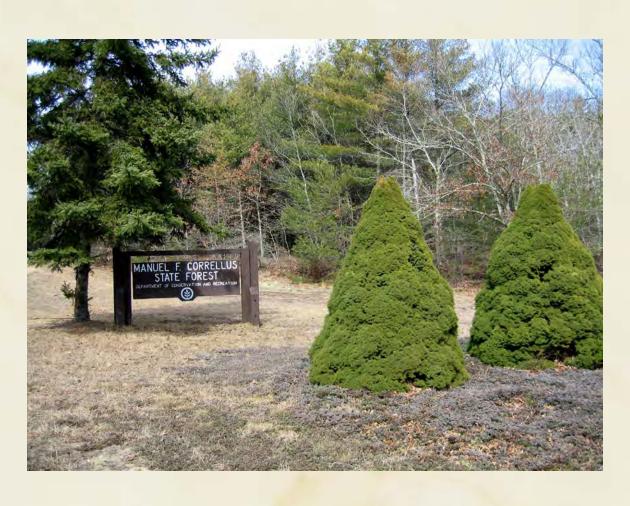
The Manuel F. Correllus State Forest on Martha's Vineyard Part 1 [2014]





Key Points:

- Why was it first established?
- How has it changed since then?
- How is it beneficial for the island?
- How is it not beneficial for the island?
- What is the future of the State Forest?



A typical view inside the State Forest





Some key dates in the history of the State Forest:

- 1908 612 acres (established as a Heath Hen Preserve).
- 1925 expanded to 1040 acres.
- 1926 expanded to 4484 acres.
- [1932] Heath Hen declared extinct.
- 1942 (WWII) Navy took one sq. mile for an airport.
- 1948-87 Manny Correllus served as first State Forester.
 Planted thousands of white and red pines.
- 1987 to present John Varkonda is State Forester.
- 1995 about 800 acres donated (The Flynn Property)

Total acreage today = 5343 acres (8% of the Island!)





First the Good News:

- 5343 acres of undeveloped and protected land in the middle of Martha's Vineyard!
- Over 300 acres (and growing) are "grasslands" mostly fire lanes and meadows.
- Provides good habitat (including some sandplain grasslands and scrub oak barrens).
- Possible grassland restoration?
- It's beautiful and peaceful.
- Serves as a NATURAL RECHARGE AREA FOR OUR AQUIFER. (For every one inch of rainfall, 140 million gallons of water land on the Forest.)



And now the Bad News:

- The Heath Hen didn't make it.
- Red pines died from a fungal disease.
- Major fire hazard today (dead wood).
- Too much monoculture.
- Trees "drink up" LOTS of water. So?
- Not the original vegetation of this area.