

News from the beach: no Christmas trees

Each year after the holidays, Duxbury Beach Reservation hears a similar question – why can't my Christmas tree help protect Duxbury Beach? For many years this was a common practice. Christmas trees would get a second life as a dune erosion control strategy – including on Duxbury Beach.

Erosion control has gone through many phases on Duxbury Beach over the decades, beginning in 1933 when damaged bridge material was used to construct a fence to act as a "sand catcher" following a three day nor'easter. This idea was finessed in 1962 when sand fencing was attached to the telephone poles that ran down Duxbury Beach to Gurnet. In 1966, DBR began experimenting with Christmas tree to trap sand.

The Blizzard of 1978 significantly eroded the dunes along the entire length of the barrier, with substantial overwash. Simple restoration measures of erected sand fencing, strategically placed Christmas trees to help capture wind-blown sand, and planting



American Beach Grass and other dune vegetation helped the recovery of the eroded dunes and beach.

Today regulators discourage placing dead plant material like Christmas trees on dunes because they limit the natural growth and establishment of plants and do not have roots that help bind the dune together. Christmas trees can actually harm the beach if they are removed by waves, increasing erosion. They also interfere with important coastal habitat by degrading nesting areas for shorebirds and interfering with chick movement.

The Reservation continues to utilize the years of experience, field experts, and new technology for improving and protecting the beach while retaining its natural character. In 1991, the first large-scale dune

renourishment was implemented on the beach. Other important measures, like planting beach grass and woody shrubs began in 1973 with the help of volunteers.

The Reservation has continued to experiment over the years with rows of sand fence, differing patterns of grass planting, and cobble berms to reinforce the back road and more. This long history work has guided today's efforts in large-scale planning to protect Duxbury Beach.

Learn about drone photography

The next meeting of the Duxbury Camera Club will be Jan. 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. via Zoom. The speaker will be Paul Nguyen, who has over 30 years of experience in film and digital photography. He will discuss using drones for photography and videography. Nguyen will discuss choosing the right quadcopter, the basics of how to operate a drone safely and legally, and the specific considerations surrounding the making of images and moving pictures from the air." Members will receive an email inviting them to the Zoom meeting. Anyone who would like to learn what the Duxbury Camera Club is all about, visit duxburycameraclub.org and look at "How Can I Attend a Meeting" for information on how to access a free Zoom meeting for prospective members.

The Sun Tavern
Restaurant & Bar

Happy New Year 2021!!!

500 Congress Street, Duxbury
781-837-1027 • Fax 781-837-1109 • www.suntavernrestaurant.com

TIME TO TRAVEL!

Massachusetts 20

CSIDE

LIVERY

CSIDE is well rested & ready to take you where you want to go!

Family Travel & Snow Birds are Booking Now!

Safe Clean Local Transportation You Can Count On

We will get you ANYWHERE you need to be!

WWW.RIDEWITHSEASIDE.COM

CALL OR TEXT TO SCHEDULE 781-760-2204

Wadsworth Estates - Cedarville, South Plymouth

New Single-Family Homes



36 Lots Available!

Special Preconstruction Pricing

- 1/2 Acre Lots
- Several Plans/Layouts
- Home Offices
- Low Maintenance
- Energy Efficient
- 10 Yr. New Home Warranty



Spring 2021 Delivery • Sign-up Today!

- Base Packages and Optional Upgrades (Semi-Custom) Available.
- GPS Location – 90 Herring Pond Road, Plymouth (Route 3, Exit 2)
- **Open Houses ~ Call 781-585-4114 for details.**

"Expect the Best"

CHAMPION BUILDERS, INC.
Since 1992

781-585-4114
championbuilders.com
Providing Unmatched Quality Since 1992

3, & 4 bedroom homes available
starting at \$569,900!