

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AT TRACY LIBRARY WELL ATTENDED

The lecture and slide show "They Sawed Up a Storm" was enjoyed by an audience of over 40 people. Sarah Smith, Forest Industry Specialist from UNH, shared her research and photos of the Hurricane of 1938 and its resulting effect on the timber and logging industry on Tuesday evening, August 29th. Bob Brown presented Sarah with a log end marked with the US Forestry seal that he found in 1976. It was from one of the many logs placed in Messer Pond when the pond was used as a log depository after the hurricane. Sarah was very pleased to receive this gift since she did not have a piece of any of the actual logs. While most of the logs from the 1938 Hurricane were not cut up at the temporary saw mill that existed at the end of Messer Pond, some still periodically surface. Sarah was nice enough to send a CD with many of the photos from her presentation to the MPPA. Special thanks go to Sarah for her wonderful presentation and to Tracy Library for generously providing the meeting room.



Sarah Smith presents a slide of the NH historical marker in Concord entitled "Turkey Pond - 1938 Hurricane." It reads "The Great Hurricane of 1938 devastated New England's forests. As a result, Turkey Pond was used to store almost 12 million board feet of salvaged white pine logs, more than anywhere in New England. From 1941 to 1943, the H.S. Durant mill operating on this site sawed most of the volume floating in Turkey Pond. On the pond's north side the U.S. Forest Service constructed a sawmill that was operated by a group of local women. Led by sawfiler Laura Willey, the women proved themselves to be an exemplary crew. 'Snow, rain or sub-zero weather never slowed them up,' wrote one Forest Service manager."



Turkey Pond Sawmill workers, Violet Storey and Barbara Webber - photographed by John Collier in 1943, Library of Congress LC-USW3-034163-C



Log end marked with U.S. Forestry seal from the Hurricane of '38 found in Messer Pond by Bob Brown in 1976.



More than 40 people enjoyed Sarah's presentation. It was both intriguing and enjoyable.

**For more information, see our MPPA website:
www.messerpond.org/TheySawedUpaStorm.html**

- Barbara Troxell, Education & Activities Director