

About this Preserve

In 1992, The Nature Conservancy transferred the Osborn Finch Wildlife Sanctuary on Waldoboro's Dutch Neck to the Pemaquid Watershed Association. This preserve includes 2 acres of grassy field and 9 acres of magical, moss-draped woodlands boasting some of the oldest white and red spruce trees in the Midcoast area.

The short trail from the parking area to the flat-rock banks of the Medomak River makes this an excellent picnic spot and an ideal walk for all ages. Explore the tidal marshland and the coastal geology visible from exposed bedrock, large granite boulders, and moraines. Overlooking the preserve's stunningly beautiful 300 feet of Medomak River shorefront is a rustic cabin available for public overnight stays from mid-May to September by reservation.

About Dutch Neck

Much of Dutch Neck was cleared for cropland between 1735 and 1800 by "Dutchmen" – German immigrants who had been encouraged to settle the land of the Muscongus Patent and thereby secure the Patent (and profits) for General Samuel Waldo. In the early 1900s, more than three-quarters of the Neck was still in sheep pasture and crops. Stone walls were created as farmers cleared their fields and piled the stones into rough walls along the edges of their properties.

Directions

From Damariscotta, take Biscay Road to Route 32. Travel north on Route 32 for 6.3 miles and turn right on to Dutch Neck Road. At the fork go left for 2.5 miles. Preserve sign and grassy parking area are on the left. To reach the preserve from Route 1 Waldoboro, turn onto Route 32 South, go 2.7 miles and turn east onto Dutch Neck Road.



The Pemaquid Watershed Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the Pemaquid Peninsula of Maine through land and water stewardship and education.

Est. 1966

☞ Member Supported ☞

☞ Volunteer Driven ☞



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OSBORN FINCH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Waldoboro, Maine



Photo by Paula Roberts



Pemaquid Watershed Association

Conserving the natural resources of the Pemaquid Peninsula of Maine.
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Enjoy Your Visit!

- ✓ Visitors are welcome to enjoy this preserve during daylight hours for hiking, skiing, and other low-impact uses.
- ✓ Please sign in at the kiosk.
- ✓ Well behaved dogs on leash are permitted. **Because this is a wildlife sanctuary, it is essential to keep pets on leash at all times.**
- ✓ Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- ✓ Please stay on preserve property — Do not go beyond preserve boundary markers.
- ✓ **Leave No Trace:** carry out what you bring in.
- ✓ Return this brochure to the kiosk so someone else can use it.
- ✓ Pick up a PWA brochure at the kiosk and join us!

From mid-May through September, the cabin on this preserve is available for public stays by reservation for a \$50 donation per night (2-night minimum).

Things to Look For

Coastal Geology:

The Sanctuary has many areas of exposed bedrock, large granite boulders, and moraines (accumulations of boulders, stones and other material deposited by a glacier). The shoreland displays granitic pegmatite (igneous rock); gneiss (metamorphic rock), both banded and foliated; and formations where younger igneous rock intruded the joints of the gneiss. Over many centuries, water has shaped the rock into marvelous forms, exposing intricate patterns of geologic beauty.

Intertidal Area:

The world where the land meets the saltwater is an area of perpetual restlessness — exposed on the ebb tide to the drying sun and on the flood tide to the inundation of sea water. Uncovered twice daily, it reveals limpets, barnacles, blue mussels, periwinkles, and dog whelks on the rocks. In cracks, crevices, and tide pools are sponges, sea urchins, starfish, green and rock crabs, slugs, flatworms, and roundworms. Many other creatures are buried in pockets of sand or under seaweed. Like most animals here, they are marine invertebrates (without backbones). Also here are blue-green algae, knotted wrack, rockweed, saltwort, sea lavender, seaside goldenrod, black grass, and lichens.

Medomak River:

Immediately downriver of the sanctuary is a summer colony of harbor seals. Seals and cormorants (shags) often are seen from the shore. The shag, unlike other birds, lacks oil glands at the base of its feathers, so they frequently are seen with wings outspread drying their feathers to improve floatation. Black back and herring gulls, osprey, bald eagles, kingfishers, terns, black-crowned night heron, and great blue heron may be seen flying over or standing along the shore fishing.

