



Canterbury Tales and Trails

*As written by
Dave Emerson, Mark Stevens, and others*

Edited by
Jacqueline Laufman and Ginny Litalien

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Dedication

To all Canterbury friends and family – past, present, and future – who, by your shared sense of community, have gifted us with this beautiful, peaceful town of hills, ponds, trails, marshes, stonewalls, cellar holes and woods to enjoy in all seasons, all hours, all weather.



Judy Elliott

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Judy Elliott

Preface

Since April 2016 Dave Emerson, Mark Stevens, and a few others, have been submitting trail write ups to the monthly town newsletter. Ginny would cut them out to save and later take the clippings with her on walks. One day when walking, both Jacqueline and Ginny hit on the idea of putting the trails into a booklet to make them easily accessible.

The trail descriptions are relatively unedited to maintain the local color and country essence of the tales our hiker-historians have told. A compass may be helpful on some trails. Hand drawn maps herein are not necessarily to scale. Neighboring town trails and other resources are referenced at the end of this book.

A digital edition of trails is planned on the Elkins Public Library website with more detailed maps. A framed wall map of Canterbury town with trail names is also planned for the library and perhaps a jigsaw puzzle of our town for gifts.

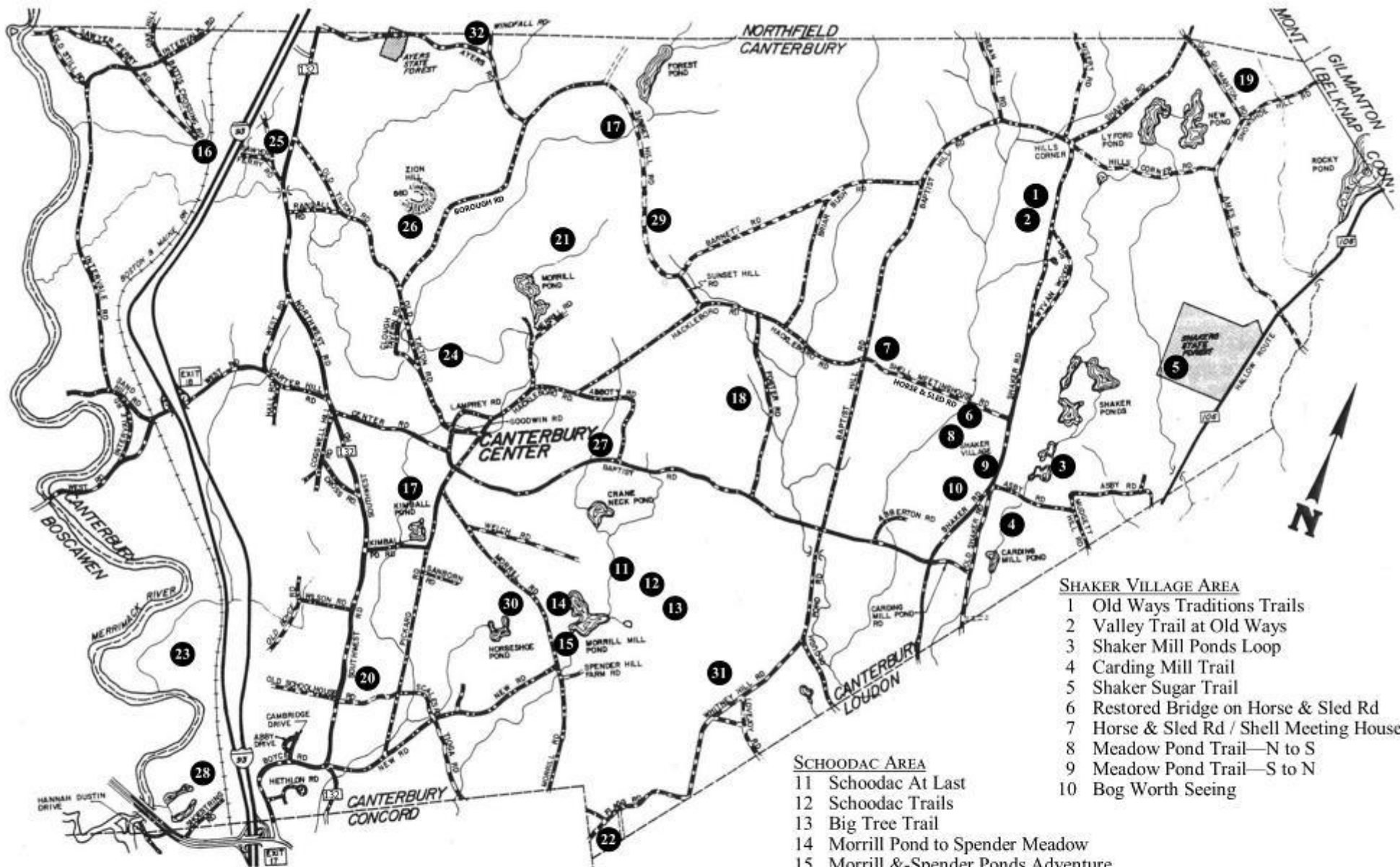
Acknowledgements

To the Trustees of the Canterbury Fund, we are deeply grateful for the grant which has made this printed book possible.

Special thanks go out to our trail-writing townies Dave Emerson and Mark Stevens – hiker-historian-storytellers who so willingly share their love of walking this land. Dave is an artisan woodworker, consummate trail junkie, bushwhacker and maintainer of trails. Mark is a surveyor, local historian, and a land rover with an abundance of folklore and legends of the area. He is also Canterbury's official Perambulator.

We extend appreciation to Elkins Public Library, Susan LeClair, Rachel Baker, and the Canterbury Church newsletter staff for sending out the trail write-ups all these years. We thank William Riley who eagerly took to mapping the many with app in hand (actually on wrist) to help create trail maps for the digital edition of our Canterbury trails.

We are grateful that these trails exist by virtue of volunteer blazing and clearing and to the mission and easements of the Conservation Commission, NH Forest Society, Canterbury Shaker Village and NH Fish & Game that are preserving these natural lands so we may wander and wonder at nature's beauty.



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CANTERBURY ROAD MAP

- LEGEND**
- CLASS
 - ==== STATE
 - PLANNED

SHAKER VILLAGE AREA

1 Old Ways Traditions Trails

I consider myself a trail junkie – just love being out on a trail. Less traveled trails which are more of a challenge to follow are best. Or trails which go along lively streams, accompanying your walk with all the variety of stream sounds. Or trails that lead to fine vistas.

So, no surprise that we have a trail system into the valley behind our place here on Shaker Road – Old Ways Traditions, 418 Shaker Road. For a while I was spending more time making trails than walking them and enjoying it as much. Our trails traverse the original Ham farm first cleared in 1785, of which 65 acres are under easement so always open to non-motorized recreational use. As are the contiguous Shaker Village lands and trails to which ours connect.

The Ham piece is a 100-acre rectangular piece running East to West the long way, the west end is in the woods. There's a band of fields across the middle North to South in the valley, 200 feet lower than Shaker Road bordering the East end. A brook runs north to south across the valley.



The trails start in our yard, plenty of parking. Stop by and get a map and verbal suggestions if we're home. But the trails are easily followed, mostly with good signage. They're challenging single track riding, but excellent snowshoeing, especially with good tracking snow. The brook Loop takes 40 to 50 minutes. Last winter we came upon the intersection of bobcat and deer tracks and right there were several clumps of deer hair. Maybe our best tracking find.

There is a dead-end route from the South end of this part into the marsh from an old beaver dam. Other sections of trail take you by a fine viewpoint of Bean Hill Ridge, a surface quarry where the stones for the Ham cemetery were quarried, and among a fascinating variety of stone walls. We've been known to do a guided tour "The Stone Walls Tell the Story of the Farm" – and indeed they do.

D. Emerson



2 Valley Trail at Old Ways

There's a new section of trail, part of the Valley Trails at Old Ways Traditions, 418 Shaker Road. The original Brook Loop, fine in the winter, but traversing two fields replete with ticks and poison ivy in the summer needed an alternative. (The North Loop needed more of the same.)

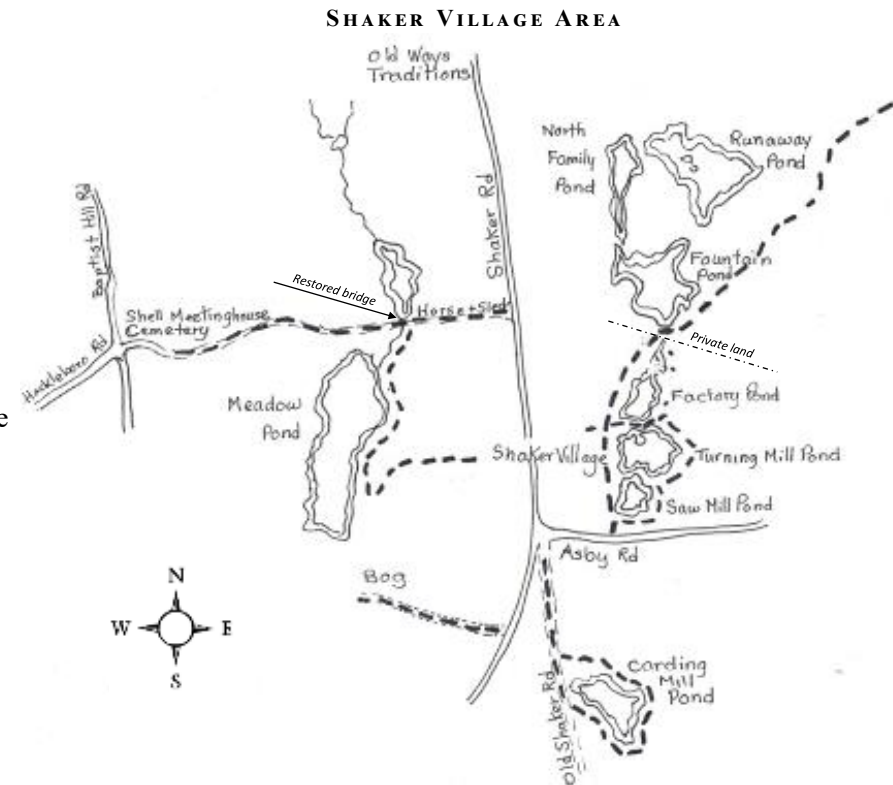
So now we have a new North Loop! It's actually an out-and-back trail. The new North "Loop" goes around the fields, offers much more interesting variety, and is only slightly longer. And the returning ascent up the 200 feet of elevation difference from the brook to Shaker Road is much more gradual.

Descend the original Valley Trail. Enjoy the views of Bean Hill Ridge. At the stonewall boundary of the East field continue along the east side of the stonewall, with similar views across the fields. Cross the Valley Road. Please do not go up the road onto private property. Then north northeast across an open space and a small flowage to a break in an east/west stonewall. The trail quickly gains the top of an unusual massive rock ridge and an easy stroll with good field and forest outlooks to its north end. Here you descend to the stonewall bounded northeast corner of the North Field.

The trail continues angling from the field wall to the boundary wall and back to the field wall where an old (but recently used) logging road becomes the trail. Where the road makes a left turn from its westerly direction to due south the original Brook Loop leaves the road connecting to the walk along the interesting and usually lively brook. You can return on the Brook Loop or return the way you came. 1-1 ¼ hr. in all.

Best to check with Dave & Anne for trail conditions. We're doing our best to keep this back section broken out. It's well flagged and pretty well brushed out. We'll finish brushing out, clean the treadway more and blaze in the spring. Enjoy.

D. Emerson

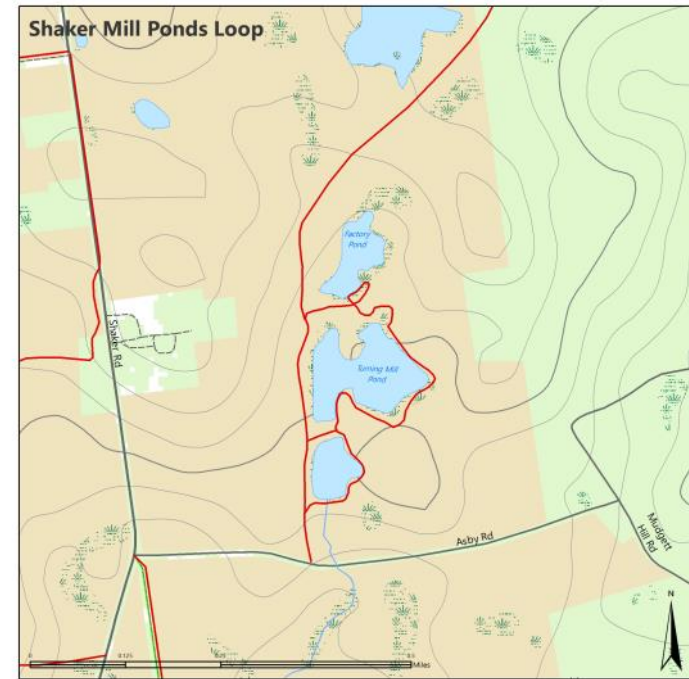


3 Shaker Mill Ponds Loop

Quite possibly the best hiking in Canterbury is at Shaker Village. The grounds are always open as the village sold an easement some years ago, and, as most easements do, it stipulates availability for non-motorized public recreational use at all times. The trail that includes the dike circles Turning Mill Pond and is very popular. The recently restored dam on the south end of Turning Mill Pond has now been cleared.

Most people start at the first gated opening (red steel gate, parking) on the left going east on Asby Road, right off Shaker Road at the foot of Shaker Hill. Walk up the road past the massive old saw mill foundation (leash your dog - porcupines live here) on the right just as you start. Cross the Saw Mill Pond dam, first pond on the right beyond the sawmill foundation, and proceed northeast across the field to the stonewall opening where the trail commences, through big pines and around Turning Mill Pond.

Go over the dike and through more large pine forest along the northeast side of the pond. Thanks to the help of Ruth Heath, Joe Egan, and Steve Fifield, who made sure we saved the blueberry bushes, it is now an open and more enjoyable walk. There's a short dead-end trail north along the east side of the remains of the Ice Pond, also known as the Factory Pond. At the north end of Turning Mill, you can walk out on to Boy's Island where Shaker boys gardened. Continue around by the old pump mill, be sure to take a peek inside, and back down by the new pump house. Walk out on to a sandy spit at the edge of the pond, scattered with opened mussel shells if the water is low. Head back to Asby Road with fine views of the east side of the Village. *D. Emerson*



Measurements:

- 0.81 miles to the Factory Pond Trail
- 0.1 miles on the Factory Pond Trail (round trip)
- 0.38 miles back to parking
- 1.29 miles total

Notes:

- Multiple electric fences to cross
- Long pants recommended because of pricklers

4 Carding Mill Trail

I'm not sure which is more fun, restoring old trails and building new ones, or just plain hiking them. For years I spent more time building our trail system down back of Old Ways than actually hiking.

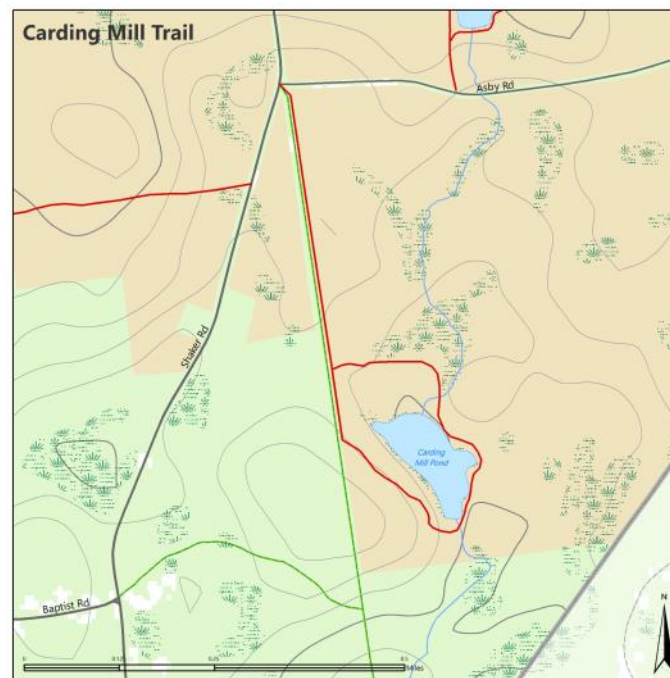
The most fun I've had recently was restoring the Carding Mill Trail at Shaker Village. Carding Mill Trail is one of three trails constructed by the Student Conservation Association some years ago. They are very well made and routed, real woods paths, quite a different experience than most of the Shaker hiking, on woods roads.

It was the excursion that Ruth Smith organized with Mark Stevens as leader which got me going. Thirty of us went out Old Shaker Road and then the side road to the mill site. Mark gave us a fascinating tour of the extensive mill stonework and some other highlights of the area. It was then that I recalled the actual Carding Mill Trail and an exquisite chinked, cut stone foundation nearby – my “favorite old foundation.” Maybe David Starbuck had guided some of us out there originally. I remembered that the water had been low in the pond due to the dam breach. Now the pond is near to its original size and beauty.

I knew that David Lamb had used the Carding Mill Trail within recent memory, so I got him to help me find and flag it. Since then, with the help of Charlie Krautman and my friend and trail buddy Joe Egan, we've blazed, brushed out and removed dead falls, so that the trail is close to its original condition. We limited signage to only the most necessary and created a new section of trail with a bridge below the dam. This is because there's a sink hole which I call the “elephant trap” in the middle of the dam.

To enjoy this scenic and historic trail, park at the foot of Shaker Hill where Asby Road comes in, using care not to block field or road entrances. Follow Old Shaker Road (now also a snowmobile trail) to where the long field on your left (east) ends, bounded by a stonewall. Go left by a stone post and along a road beside the stonewall. (Be sure and notice the two culverts covered by huge flat stones.) Before long, the trail goes right from the road and then along the top of the dam of the Wood Mill Pond – now dry.

Go right just before the old outlet at the height of the dam and soon skirt the east side of Carding Mill Pond. Cross below the dam. (The mill stonework will be on your left.) Be sure and check out my favorite foundation – “cellar” sign. Follow the roads back. Easily an hour excursion. *D. Emerson*



Measurements:

- 0.37 miles to the stone post where you turn left
- 0.18 miles later continue right
- 0.28 miles later you reach the cellar hole
- 0.17 miles later turn right onto the trail you started on
- 0.37 miles back to the parking
- 1.47 miles total

Notes:

- Until the cellar hole you are on the red blazed trail, but once you get there you turn onto the blue blazed trail
- Long pants recommended because of pricklers and ticks

5 Shaker Sugar Trail

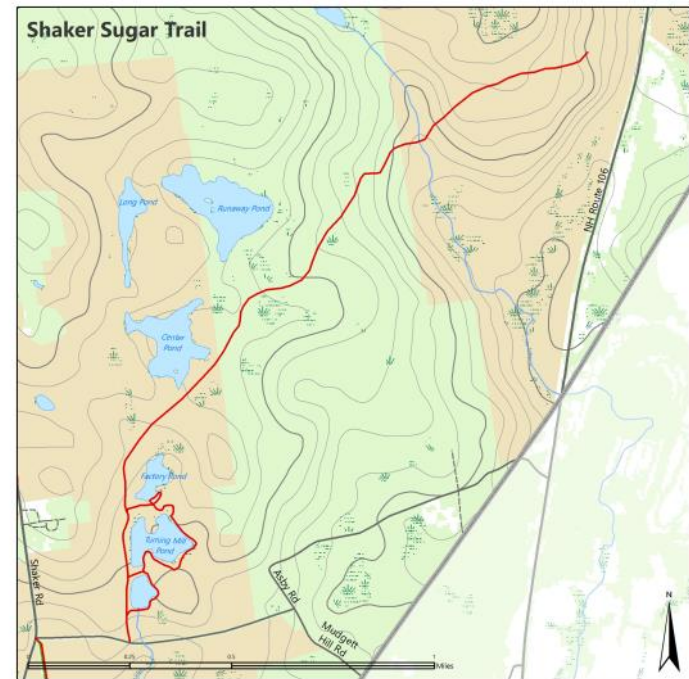
Throughout the 1800's and into the 1900's the production of maple syrup and maple sugar was an important activity of the Shakers at Canterbury Shaker Village. Records indicate that in 1864, at the height of American Civil War, the Shaker Village Church Family set out almost 1200 wooden buckets for the gathering of sap and produced almost 700 barrels of maple syrup. Maple syrup and maple sugar were not only important sweeteners for the many mouths they daily fed, but was also an important cash crop for sale to the outside world.

Rather than gather maple sap and haul it back to the village for boiling and bottling, the Shakers found it easier to move out into remote "sugar camps" and live there during the handful of weeks each spring when the sap was running. Temporarily living at the maple sugar camps, the Shakers spent their days gathering sap and their nights boiling maple syrup and making sugar. At the conclusion of the maple season, the Shakers would emerge from their remote camps and return to the Village with their sweet harvest in hand.

The remnants of one of these 1800's Shaker Village maple sugar camps can be found by following a 2-mile trail that was once the Shaker's horse and wagon road access to the camp. Portions of this trail are now on private property and portions are also used as a snowmobile trail and/or logging road so be prepared to share the trail, and respect private landowner rights to close the trail during logging operations.

Come in from Asby Road or walk through the village to the "pump house building" near the chain of ponds. The pump building is easily recognizable by the stone construction and the unique vent on the roof, which some of the locals have christened "the rooster tail widget." From the pump building head north following the woods road which skirts the west side of Factory Pond, which really isn't much of a pond anymore as the dam isn't holding back water.

When you enter the woods and leave the village proper behind you, stay on the main trail in a northeasterly direction for a little less than half a mile. Peek through the woods here on the northwest side of the trail and you'll see some mighty stonework where the Shakers built a retaining wall to hold back the natural drainage of Fountain Pond and divert it into the village for operating their water powered mills. (*Continues on next page*)



Measurements:

- 1.6 miles to the bridge over Gues Brook
- 0.35 miles to the Sugar Camp Foundation
- 2.05 miles out
- 4.1 miles round trip

Notes:

- Pants recommended because of pricklers and poison ivy
- Parking on Asby Rd

Continuing on, in a couple hundred feet and you'll come to an intersection with a nicely graveled logging road. Take a left onto the graveled road and stay on it heading north and east for another 700 feet, more or less. When the nicely graveled logging road turns and heads more northerly, look for the old muddy trail to peel off in a more easterly direction and begin dropping downhill.

At the foot of the hill, about 1¼ miles from our starting point, you'll cross over Gues Meadow Brook on a nicely constructed snowmobile bridge. Some people pronounce Gues Meadow Brook as "Guess" and others pronounce it as "Geese." I don't know which is correct but think Geese in a meadow might make more sense than a Guess in a meadow does. Whichever is correct, Gues Meadow Brook was once the cause of a contentious lawsuit fought by the Shakers. The Shakers desiring more waterpower for their village, grabbed the brook and diverted it so that it would flow through their mills in the Village. Abutting brook owners downstream of the Shaker's relocation dam suddenly found their property abutted only a dry streambed and sued the Shakers. The court sided with the abutters and ordered the Shakers to return the brook to its natural channel.

The old maple syrup trail now climbs uphill, and somewhat steeply in places. As the trail starts to descend the hill again, at about 2 miles from Shaker Village, look for the sugar camp foundation on the left (north) side of the trail. A little further along look for the barn foundation on the right (south) side of the trail. Look upon the foundation remnants here and imagine the activity of a thriving "sugar camp" during the maple sugaring season before you turn back. A journal entry written by a teenage Shaker boy circa 1880, describes how he once ran the 2 miles from the sugar camp all the way back to Shaker Village, non-stop, while racing the other boys. You can try that on your return trip, but I'll just walk, thanks. *M. Stevens*



Canterbury Shaker Village photo of 1800's sugar camp in woods.



M. Stevens

6 Restored Bridge on Horse & Sled Road

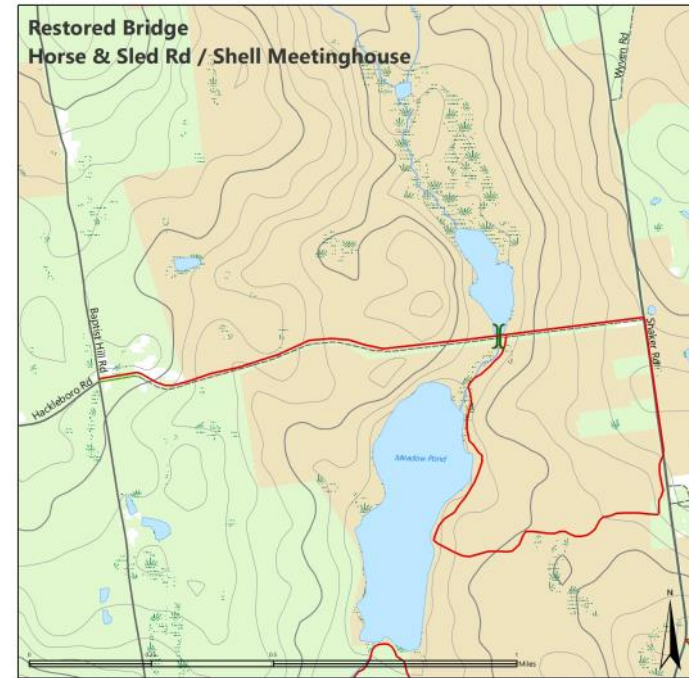
Down what we, over here on Shaker Road, call Horse and Sled Road (Shell Church Meeting House Road, according to some maps), is now a beautifully restored bridge done by Kevin Fife (dry stone mason) and Dennis Moore (operating the excavator). It is best viewed from the upstream side of the road for a better view of the huge stones with which it is constructed.

Replacing a crossing that carries a dirt road over an unnamed brook deep in the woods is no big deal, unless the crossing was originally built by the Shakers. Then it's practically a work of art. It was originally built eight decades ago and was carefully reconstructed in the summer of 2020. It is a marvel of granite blocks and local stone. The roof is made of multi-ton lintel stones as big as refrigerators lined up in a row.

Kevin stated they hand placed 30 or 40 tons of rock on top of the lintels. It could easily support the 12-ton excavator used to smooth out the dirt road on top. The crossing dates back at least to the 1820's when a small wooden bridge was built to carry wagons over a creek. Remnants of that were found during this summer's work, but apparently the Shakers found that the creek didn't provide enough flow to operate the grist mill properly. Fife was able to retain most of the foundation and reuse the stones, although not always in the same way. *D. Emerson with excerpts from David Brooks' Concord Monitor article of 9/8/2020..*



J. Laufman



Measurements:

- 0.3 miles from the Shaker Village Parking to the trail head
- 2.34 miles out and back on the trail
- 0.3 miles back to parking from the trail head
- 2.94 miles total

Notes:

- Parking at the Shaker Village is the most convenient and only adds on a short distance

7 Horse & Sled / Shell Church Meetinghouse Roads

Town maps call this “Shell Meetinghouse Road” rather than “Horse & Sleigh Road” or “Horse & Carriage Road” as some old-timers might. Whichever you prefer, it was so named because the Shell Meetinghouse once stood on the west end of the road and horses pulling carriages or sleighs carried meeting goers over the road to it. Now it’s a Class VI road, no longer maintained by the town but makes for a pleasant trek for hikers looking to explore portions of town they cannot see by car.

Why *Shell Meetinghouse*? In the early days of Canterbury settlement, when it was too difficult to travel from one side of town to the other, residents in the area of Baptist Hill Road decided they’d like a meeting house close by for their church service and civic meetings etc. They tried several times to raise the necessary funds and succeeded in generating enough money and volunteer labor to start construction of their new meetinghouse. Using the funds and energy that they had available, they were able to construct the basic shell of the meetinghouse with the idea that they would finish it later when they had more money. The planned construction for the church interior entrance vestibule and other amenities never came to fruition, only the “*shell*” of the meetinghouse was ever constructed. Years later during a windstorm it blew down and any salvageable lumber was hauled away. A sad story but it gives us an explanation for the neat naming of Shell Meetinghouse Road and Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery at the intersection of Hackleboro and Baptist Hill Roads.



J. Laufman

Heading east after crossing the restored stone bridge, in about ½ mile, look on the north side of the road for an old cellar hole, the house relocated over to Baptist Hill Road. A short distance further on the south side of the road, another old cellar hole can be found. Continuing another ½ mile will bring you out on Baptist Hill Road at the Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery. The Shell Meeting House (church) once stood inside the perimeter of this cemetery. Head back the same way you came.

M. Stevens

One road. Many names.

Shell Meetinghouse Road

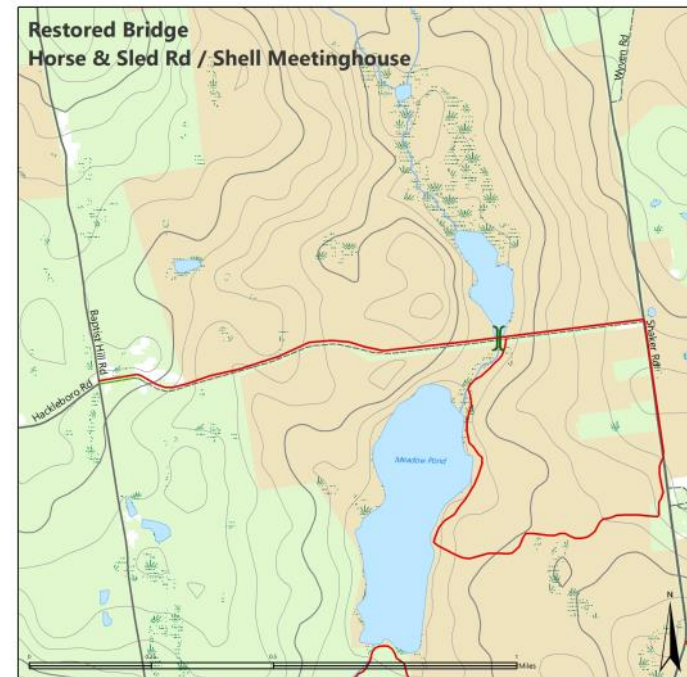
Shell Church Meeting House Road

Shell Church Road

Horse & Carriage Road

Horse and Sleigh Road

Horse & Sled Rd is the green road sign at east end at Shaker Road



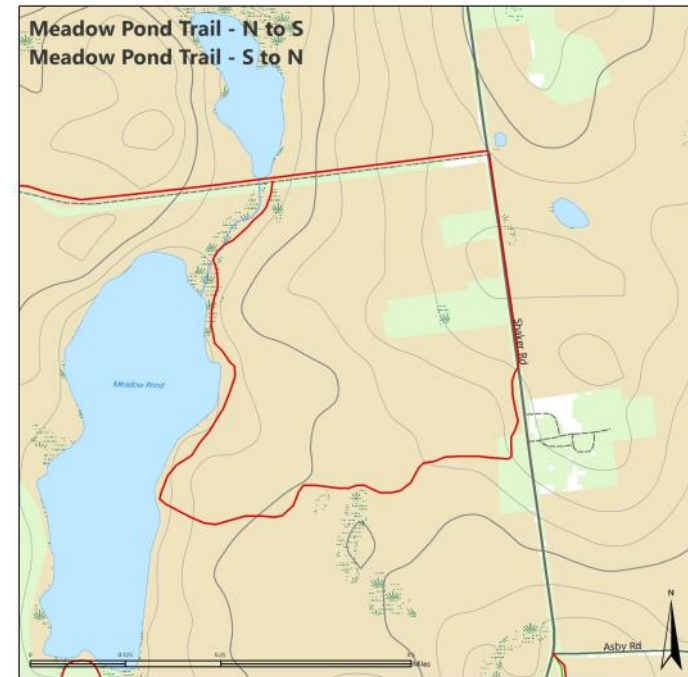
8 Meadow Pond Trail - North to South (Emerson)

This is one of the best loved trails at Shaker Village and may have the biggest pine and longest stone and earth-filled bridge in town. My favorite short walk is down the Horse and Sled Road, by the West Family mill site, then along the east shore of Meadow Pond by the largest pine I know of in town. The trail is well made by the Student Conservation Corps. You can pull off Shaker Road and park (not in front of gate) at the beginning of Horse and Sled Road which goes West just South of Greg and Hillary's brick Shaker house.

Just before the restored bridge over Peverly Brook the trail starts left at an old log landing. After passing the old mill site of large undefined stonework, it soon follows along the east bank of the brook. Be sure and look back to the stone arch of the bridge which is often so well reflected in the outflow pool that it's very difficult to tell the difference between the actual bridge and the reflection. The trail soon follows mostly pretty close to the edge of the pond, through nice woods with large trees. About a third of the way south down the trail the big pine is right by the trail close to the pond. You'll reach the pine in about 20 minutes.

Return or continue on to a bar gate with old stone posts near the pond edge. Go left up the woods road which comes out at Shaker Road directly behind the brick Trustees' building right at the top of Shaker Hill. Once blocked by a tangle of downed trees, with no alternative access, it now has an inviting new access on an impressive short range way opposite the space between the horse barn and the building just south of it.

The Meadow Pond Trail at Shaker Village has received the maintenance and improvement it deserves. The original entrance to this very popular trail, when going north on it, is directly behind the brick Trustees Building right at the top of Shaker Hill had become blocked by a tangle of downed trees, with no alternative access. Now it has an inviting new access on an impressive short range way opposite the space between the horse barn and the building just south of it. From the range way there's a diagonal trail southwest to the road from the original entrance. It's a well blazed (blue blazes) trail through interesting open woods. *D. Emerson*



Measurements:

- 0.36 miles to Shell Church Meeting House Rd
- 0.33 miles until the Meadow Pond Trail
- 1.05 miles on the Meadow Pond Trail back to parking
- 1.74 miles total

Notes:

- Parking is at the Shaker Village
- A very well maintained and cleared trail

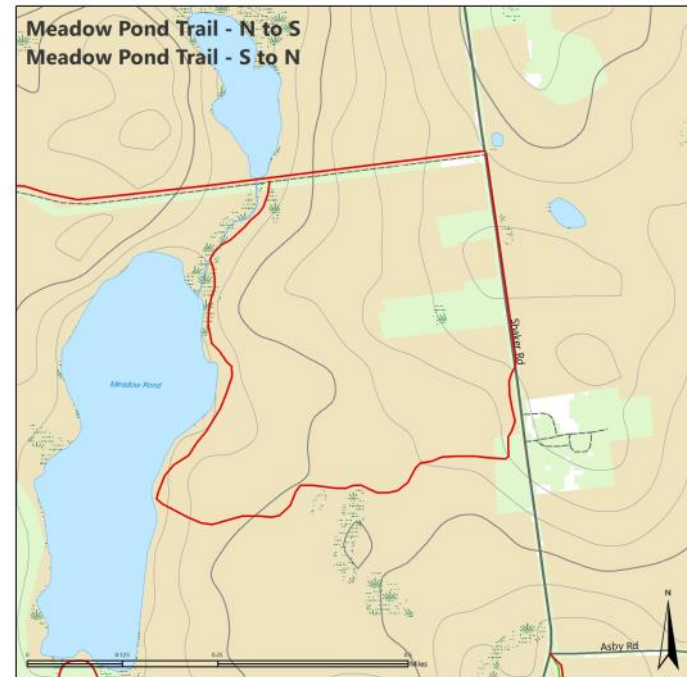
9 Meadow Pond Trail - South to North (*Stevens*)

Park and begin this hike in the parking lot behind the Visitor Center at Shaker Village. Head west on the Meadow Pond Trail that Dave Emerson and others have recently improved. Dave has written about this trail previously in this column, but there are a couple of new items to look for. Dewey School (2020) kids have been active in this area so look for their outdoor recreation area, the trail entrance skirts the perimeter of their play area and enters between some impressive Shagbark Hickory trees before heading west between two parallel stone-walls situated one rod (16.5 feet) apart, suggesting an old range road may have once been here.

The trail suddenly swings southerly and then back westerly again, as Dave re-routed around an obstacle and onto an old Shaker haul road that was once used to bring clay from the meadow up into the village for making bricks. In this area the Dewey School kids have left you a challenge as they have hidden unique 'ladybugs' along this trail. Read their posted rules and see how many ladybugs you spot.

The trail is well marked with blue blazes and follows the old haul road down to the meadow. If you approach quietly, you may see ducks, geese, heron, deer, turkey or beaver. Don't miss the 6-foot-tall granite gate posts at barways along the way. Shaker men must have been rugged to haul these granite posts out there and plant them solidly upright. The trail swings north following the edge of the pond on a footpath rather than haul road, continuing to follow blue blazes. You'll cross over a Shaker rock culvert at one of the inlets. Continue along the shore of the pond up to the main inlet and then follow the east side of this inlet in a northly direction to an old dam and rock foundation of a water powered early 1800's Shaker mill.

This mill is located on the old Horse & Sleigh Road and you can turn right here and head east up the hill back to the top and then south on Shaker Road to where you parked your car. That loop is about 1.7 miles. But for those looking for more exercise and adventure, turn left instead and head west, following the old Horse & Sled Road over the bridge, brook and through the woods to Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery at corner of Baptist and Hackleboro Roads. The distance is a 3-mile round trip back to the visitor center if that's where you started out. *M. Stevens*



Measurements:

0.36 miles to Shell Church Meeting House Rd
0.33 miles until the Meadow Pond Trail
1.05 miles on the Meadow Pond Trail back to parking
1.74 miles total

Notes:

- Parking is at the Shaker Village
- A very well maintained and cleared trail

10 Bog Worth Seeing

Easy walk brings you to the bog worth seeing on Shaker Road. I first went on it to check out a nice little bog David Lamb told me about. It's a Class VI road. Looked good but my Subaru Legacy didn't agree: \$220 in exhaust repairs.

Going north on Shaker Road, the road goes left – or west – about halfway between the Lamb's and the foot of Shaker Hill, with my Old Ways signs on the right and on the left a large field and then next is the road. It's easy walking. About fifteen minutes brings you to a level area. You pass the two entrances to the Shaker Village leach fields on the left. The road becomes rutted here and is sometimes under water coming out of the bog area on the right. (Walk on the stonewall.) The bog is just beyond the stonewall. It's a true bog, totally sphagnum moss and cotton grass.

Shortly after the bog, the road goes left parallel to the stonewall, bordering a long field. The entrance to the field is right at the turn. Walk down the long field beside the wall for the fine view of Oak Hill and Whitney Hill to the south. Walking north along the wall Meadow Pond comes into view appears and a short walk brings you to the southeast corner of Meadow Pond. Walk west to the southwest corner of the pond and the outlet dam. Not far downstream is Peverly Marsh.

The whole walk took 1½ hours. There are some very large hardwoods along the road and stonewalls. I'm already looking forward to hiking to the dam from Meadow Pond Trail. One hike seems to lead to another! *D. Emerson*



Measurements:

- 0.53 miles to the field entrance
- 0.18 miles further to Meadow Pond
- 0.07 miles further to the dam
- 0.25 miles further Peverly Marsh
- 1.03 miles out
- 2.06 miles total

Notes:

- This is a hike for the most rugged hikers
- There is not a definite set trail after ½ mile
- It is very important to bring a compass with you for this hike
- Long pants recommended because of pricklers

SCHOODAC AREA HIKES

Schoodac is a native American word for shallow water or marsh.

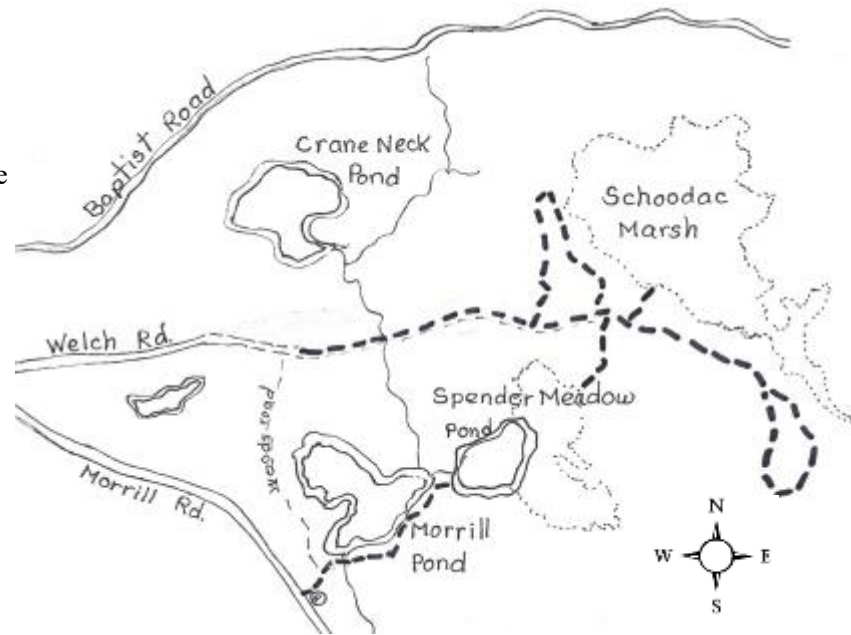
11 Schoodac At Last

For as long as I've been doing this column, I've wanted to get out to Schoodac. Looking across Spender Meadow from the dam, I knew Schoodac Marsh was somewhere beyond the far side. But the only way I knew to get there was by Welch Road from Morrill Road. I was sure my car wouldn't like Welch Road. I didn't want to walk that far or go alone. One day Charlie Krautman was free to go with me. He's done most of the trail maintenance out there. We drove to the first old log landing. From there it was about a 15-minute walk up the road to the next landing and the start of Schoodac Loop on the left. We did the loop in about 35 minutes. Good obstructed views of the marsh toward the end. Then we walked a short distance up the road to a left up to the overlook. It is one huge marsh.

Back down the road slightly to the trail to Spender Meadow – only 10 minutes and I was at last looking at Spender Meadow from the other side (from the north). I could see that it would be an easy bushwhack along the west side of Spender Meadow to the dam – open oak woods. 20 minutes back down Welch Road brought us to the car. 2½ hours of hiking.

Now I was anxious to try hiking over from Spender Meadow. It looked like way more fun than walking out Welch Road. The walk up to Spender Dam from Morrill Pond is one of my favorites. One November day Joe Egan and I did it. It's a fine walk, though there's a bit of trail work I hope to do between Morrill and Spender before you read this. Looking out over the sunlit fall colors of the marsh, I was puzzled that water along the east side had no ice skim while all the rest of Spender Meadow did (as well as all open water I'd passed coming over). Joe spied a beaver swimming into the marsh growth—the first beaver he'd ever seen!

As we began the bushwhack over to the north side of Spender Meadow and the trail to Schoodac Marsh, we soon saw well used beaver paths where they'd dragged their harvests to the water and established channels through the marsh grass along the shore edge. And there was no ice skim where the trails entered the marsh. We crossed at least eight trails. Many busy beavers had just finished their early morning work. It was an easy walk close enough to the shore for good views out over Spender. The beavers had trimmed what brush there was considerably. Still, it's probably a better hike when leaves are off. It would be even better across the ice.



Two thirds across the frozen water a small island will come into view with about twelve pines on it. Go straight across by the left, west side and you'll hit the shoreline about where the trail to Schoodac starts. By land as you come around the small inlet to the north side of Spender, you'll see a major boundary marker – three big red blazes on each of two trees next to each other. Just beyond is the sign for the Schoodac trail.

There's another sign here for Big Tree Trail. Do not follow the orange flags, they're there for a trail that didn't get made. You could end up lost in the Loudon Marshes if you miss the south end of Big Tree Loop trail.

We had lunch on the overlook. It took us an hour from the parking area for Morrill Pond (on left shortly after Morrill Road turns to dirt). Plan to spend time at the overlook to fully enjoy this wild and out of the way spot. *D. Emerson*

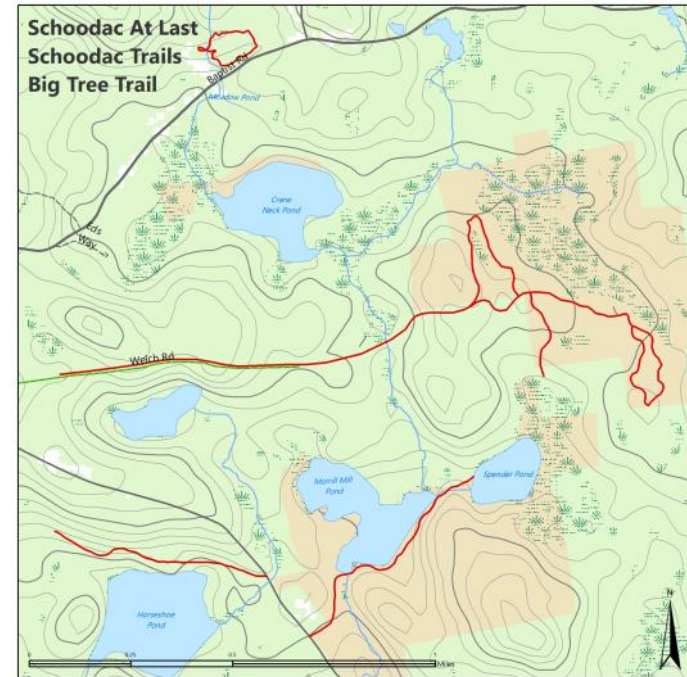
[See NH Fish & Game's details online at www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/wma/morrill-pond.html]

12 Schoodac Trails

The Town of Canterbury, through the Conservation Commission, oversees a couple of hundred acres of conservation land around the Schoodac Marsh wetlands complex. There are a few trails located within this conservation area that are worth exploring for the seasoned hiker. These trails should not be attempted by the unprepared or novice hiker, but if you can tag along with someone who is familiar with the area there are rewarding scenic overlook areas of the ponds and wetlands, and abundant opportunity for wildlife sightings.

These trails were developed by the Conservation Commission over 20 years ago. Because the Conservation Commission runs on volunteer labor, the maintenance of these trails has been on-again, off-again over the years and some of the trails need work. For the experienced hiker, this doesn't present a problem as the trails can still be found and navigated, even if they've grown in a bit. However, the inexperienced hiker should take care to not wander off the trails, which in places are not necessarily well marked anymore.

The Schoodac Conservation Area and its trails are located and accessed off the end of Welch Road which is a Class VI road and not maintained by the Town. For that reason, access to the trails and vehicle parking areas are subject to the whims of Mother Nature. During the dry



Measurements:

1.55 miles to the Big Tree Trail
0.6 miles on the Big Tree Trail
3.7 mile total

1.25 miles to the Spender Meadow Trail
0.46 miles on the Big Tree Trail
2.96 miles total

1.28 miles to the Overlook Trail
0.06 on the Overlook Trail
2.62 miles total

1.1 miles to the Schoodac Trail
0.49 miles on the Schoodac Trail
1.7miles total

Notes:

- Very well signed

season you'll be able to drive closer to the trailhead than you will during mud season or deep snow. For the well prepared this isn't a problem, but you need to plan to make hiking into the trail, part of your hike. In the winter, you can snowshoe or cross-country ski into the trailhead by following the old Class VI roadbed which is also a Canterbury Sno-Shaker snowmobile trail – so be prepared to share the trail.

The Schoodac Trail is a loop trail, about a half a mile long, that begins and ends on the north side of the Class VI Welch Road. This trail meanders through some Hemlock forests and has some nice overlook vistas of the Schoodac Marsh, before returning to Welch Road. The Spender Meadow Trail is on the opposite (south) side of Welch Road and is not a loop trail but is only ¼ mile long and will bring you to the north side of the Spender Meadow Pond. There is also a short trail that leads to an overlook of the Schoodac Marsh as well as the Big Tree Loop, which begins and ends on the south side of the Class VI Welch Road.

For some approximate distances consider the following: From the Fifield's house heading easterly on the Class VI road, it is approximately a ½ mile to the intersection with the snowmobile trail coming up from the south and the Morrill Pond area. At 0.8 miles you cross a snowmobile bridge over the outflow brook from Crane Neck Pond. At 1.0 miles +/- you come to the trailhead for the westerly loop of the Schoodac Trail. At 1.2 miles the trailhead for the Spender Meadow Trail is on the right and heads south. In this same area you will see a sign for the Schoodac Conservation Area as well as the spur trail for the overlook of the Schoodac Marsh on the north side of the trail. At 1.5 miles you come to a beaver dam pond as well as the trailhead for the Big Tree Loop to the south.

The trails have signs at their trailheads and are marked with red, 2x3 in. trail blazes nailed to trees. The Schoodac Trail and overlook are in good condition and easy to follow. The Conservation Commission is presently working on the Spender Meadow Trail so it should be in good shape by the spring. The Big Tree Loop is overgrown and difficult to follow.

Because of the limited accessibility of the area and the lack of regular trail maintenance, you shouldn't attempt to explore these trails alone or unprepared. However, for experienced hikers or those familiar with the area, these trails are a great way to spend an afternoon. *M. Stevens*

13 Big Tree Trail

The bushwhack Joe Egan and I explored along the west side of Spender Pond to the north side connector to Welch Road and Schoodac was the highlight of my 2019 hiking season. We discovered we could get to the Schoodac area by a lovely walk rather than along Welch Road up and down its hills. We did walk to where Welch Road ends at the long-established beaver pond and had seen there the sign for the Big Tree Trail with no sign of the trail beyond it. (It's since been thoroughly cleared and blazed.)

My mental explorations continued over the winter. In my mind the Big Tree Trail became the Big Pines Trail. Those I asked had told me the pines were big and numerous. For me big pines—really big pines are the holy grail of hiking in the woods. I fantasized pines I would only be able to reach one third around their girth.

Spring finally came, and with it the increasing motivation to find the pines. Would they be as big as the humongous King's Pines in Bradford, NH, once reserved for the English Crown for ships' masts?

At long last we headed out there to find and flag the lost trail, me, Craig Mabie, a Loudon trail group stalwart, along with Charlie Krautman and his two happy hiking progenies, 7-year-old Amelia and 4-year-old Peter. Charlie had previously found and restored the Schoodac loop and the Spender connector. And he succeeded in finding the nearly invisible and quite infrequent Big Tree loop blazes. We flagged the trail, but then left it to flag a bushwhack to the Spender connector. We found no humongous pines. Big, yes, humongous, no. But the view approaching Spender was gorgeous. Charlie went out later and did find the rest of the loop. Now all that remained was to marshal the troops and restore the trail. And, hopefully, find really big pines.

We finally collected our troops – me and Charlie with chainsaws, Bob Lyons, Craig Mabie and Martha Butterfield with loppers, and our expert blazing pair of Shaker Village blue blaze trails fame, Deb and Dennis Proulx – more Loudon crew. Charlie, Deb and Dennis took the east section, and me, Martha, Craig and Bob took the west. We met in the middle and retraced the east side.

There were the big pines. The biggest I could reach halfway around. But the glacial erratics (boulders deposited by glaciers) stole the show. Massive they were, and several pairs you could walk between. The largest was definitely one of the biggest I've ever seen. The trail winds up with nice views alongside the beaver pond.

This section of woods has to be part of the original 15% of New Hampshire woods that was never cleared. There's nary a stone wall ... an unusually rewarding hike.

Addendum

The Schoodac–Morrill Pond area provides a true destination location enough for a full day. The Schoodac outlook is a perfect lunch or break spot.

There are three trails at Schoodac that start at Welch Road: the short connector to lovely Spender Pond, the Schoodac Loop a section of which provides a variety of outlooks over Schoodac Marsh, and the spectacular Big Tree Loop through exceptionally large pines, boulders, major glacial erratics and views out to a Beaver Pond. Another access is from Morrill Pond following the woods road on the west side of Morrill Pond to Welch Road.

If you go it is imperative that you take a GPS device with which you are intimately familiar. And call me for further details. *D. Emerson*

[See Dave's essay, *Schoodac Exploration Leads to a Swampy Wander*, in the *REFLECTIONS* section of this book.]

14 Morrill Pond to Spender Meadow

A hike which has a great deal to offer and one I know many of you already love is Morrill Pond to Spender Meadow. Start from the Fish and Game orange gate (ample parking), at east side of Morrill Road a little before New Road. The mailbox goes to the house on the other side – it's not a driveway. Follow the road to Morrill Pond. The outflow from the dam goes through one of the most awesome mill sites I've seen. Huge boulders remain from the mill foundation. The mill was built by the Morrill Family, an up-and-down or sash sawmill. I have the blade from Stanley Morrill, for whom I once did remodeling. The mill was so slow that they'd get it to sawing, go milk the cows, and when they returned they'd have a board, as Stan told it. A bit farther downstream is a very well-made pair of bridge abutments.

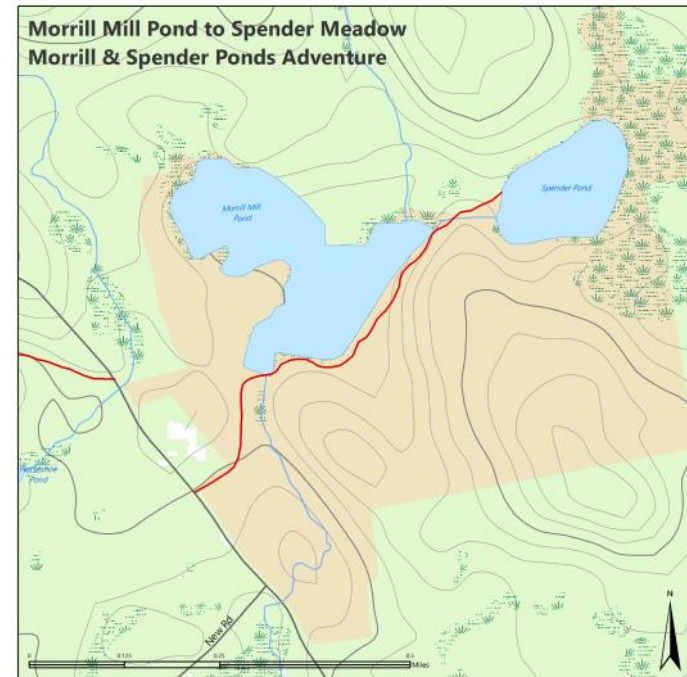
Across the Morrill Pond dam, a trail follows the shore through a fine stand of large pine to the road beside the outflow from Spender Meadow. Don't fail to stop and appreciate the stone culvert under the road. It's a short distance both along the trail and up the road to the Meadow. Anyone who's been there will tell you what a special place it is.

Also, you can do a loop on Jim Carter's beautiful woods roads which starts at the tree farm sign a bit further down Morrill Road on the left. You can loop around through lovely woods (unbeatable mountain biking) or connect to the outflow end of Spender Meadow and the trail by Morrill Pond. The original outflow dam is largely obscured by a beaver dam. Special thanks to Jim Carter for a most informative tour of all this.

He told us they used to drain the marsh and pond in the summer, hay the fields, then close the dams so the ponds would refill and they could run the mill.

D. Emerson

[See NH Fish and Game's Morrill Pond WMA online details of these 106 conserved acres.]



Measurements:

0.65 miles to Spender Meadow

1.3 miles total

Notes:

- Parking at the orange gate on Morrill Rd

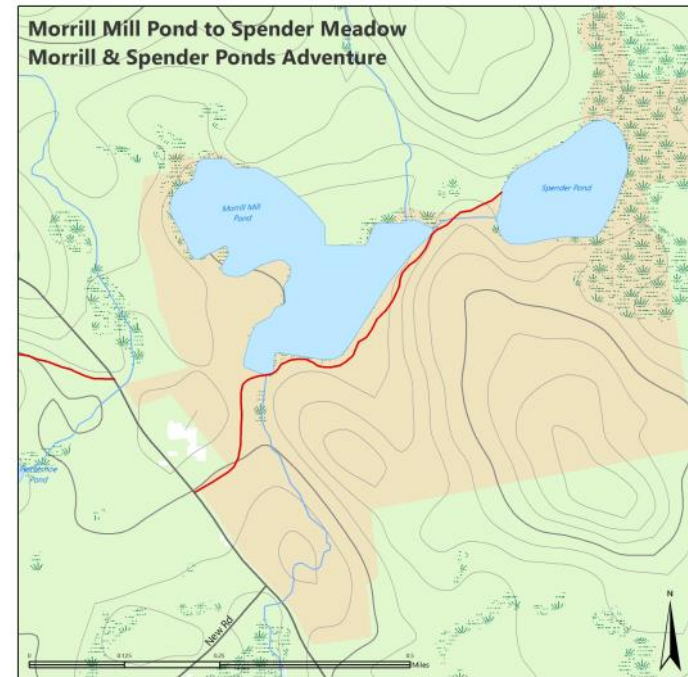
15 Morrill and Spender Ponds Adventure

The walk from Morrill Pond to Spender Pond/Meadow is one of my favorites in Canterbury, a lovely hour. But ever since Anne and I visited Spender for the first time in the spring of 2016 I've wanted to get out on it in a canoe. It looked like it would be really fun to poke around the many channels through the marsh. And it's just such a wild feeling place. We have wheels for our canoe which we've never used, and the road into Morrill and the one up to Spender are both short and easy; should be ideal for using them.

I checked it out with my friend Joe and we took the canoe and wheels over April 24. We knew the ponds would only be navigable in high Spring water. What we didn't know was how critical that would be. Both ponds are very shallow. Spender has many stumps and downed trees often below the surface of the water where they're very hard to see. We got better at avoiding them after fetching up on several. We found they were mostly avoidable by paying close attention to the stumps we could see. The channel to the right from the dam is easiest. Especially true in Morrill Pond—which is very shallow and requires close attention not to run aground.

We saw many herons, most on Spender, as well as lots of small turtles basking on the logs. There was one abandoned heron's nest. The herons seemed to be going and coming from the East. Morrill Pond was loaded with ducks when we came back.

The wheels worked well, though we had to drag the canoe through a couple of short sections of grassy, marshy shoreline to get around the ends of 2 beaver dams and reach the end of the road going up to Spender. About a half day's activity, with an hour going and coming back on Morrill and only a half hour on Spender when we found out about the stumps. A good little adventure but certainly not habit forming. *D. Emerson*



OTHER HIKES IN CANTERBURY

16 Battis Crossing Trails

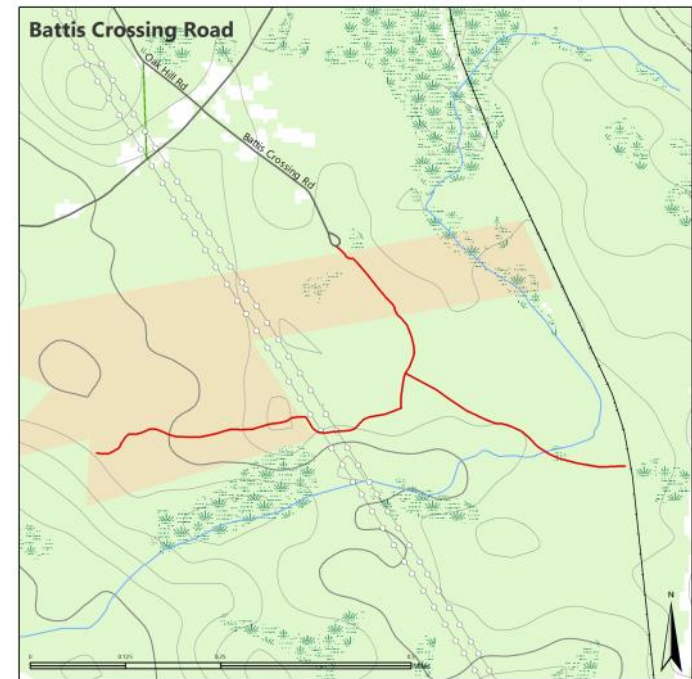
We checked out the Battis Crossing Trails—actually woods roads. Going North on Intervale Road, once you come out the top of the gully and the road levels off, Battis Crossing Road goes right almost at once. There's a turnaround at the end of the maintained portion, the old road continues straight. It's not immediately obvious, but easy to find.

The road goes through what looks to me to be grown up open space—scrabbly mixed open growth—blueberry barrens? It connects with well used woods roads, ATVs? Logging? We saw no sign of logging, but the most used road has pink double ties down it. This road goes South and was somewhat muddy.

We took a west bound road which crosses the power lines and went into tall white pine woods. It followed along a ridge between two gullies, then descended quickly to the intersecting gullies with no obvious trail beyond. The gullies are the most unusual feature of this area: some are narrow, dark and deep, and the one across the power line is wide and expansive.

We followed another road south east to signs “No ATVs permitted.” Level, soft roads, they'd be good for easy mountain biking. The power line would be best for fat tire. It has good views up and down and wooden poles. It's a very sandy area thanks to glacial Lake Merrimack. The interstate can barely be heard once you get to the power lines. We got in an hour of pleasant, easy walking.

Battis himself was quite interesting. Sampson Battis was the first black resident of Canterbury. Born c. 1750, he enlisted for the Revolutionary War in 1776. He married a woman from Boscawen who'd been a slave and they had many descendants. His grave is marked by a headstone in the Center Cemetery. The 2021 Town Report has more history on this. *D. Emerson*



Measurements:

0.2 miles keep right

0.08 miles later continue straight

0.06 miles later stay right

0.16 miles later turn left

0.77 miles out

1.54 miles total

Notes:

-The trail is unclear and not marked

-The end is a 3-way intersection with private property on either side

-There are many trails in the area to explore

17 Burnham Brook Trail

This trail will take you from Kimball Pond Road through the woods and out to Center Road mostly on town owned land managed by the Canterbury Conservation Commission. A portion of this trail does cross onto private property so respect land-owner rights and if posted seek alternative routes. A part of this trail is also a snowmobile trail so be prepared to share the trail with snowmobiles in the wintertime. To begin, park in the small Kimball Pond Dam gravel parking area on the north side of Kimball Pond Road and walk up onto the earth embankment dam.

This spot is perhaps the most scenic view of Kimball Pond and two granite memorial benches, placed in memory of a loved one, are positioned here to enjoy the view for a few minutes before trekking. Kimball Pond is a manmade pond built by Ed Kimball in 1930 and donated to the town of Canterbury about 1980. Kimball's dam was completely rebuilt by the town in 1998.

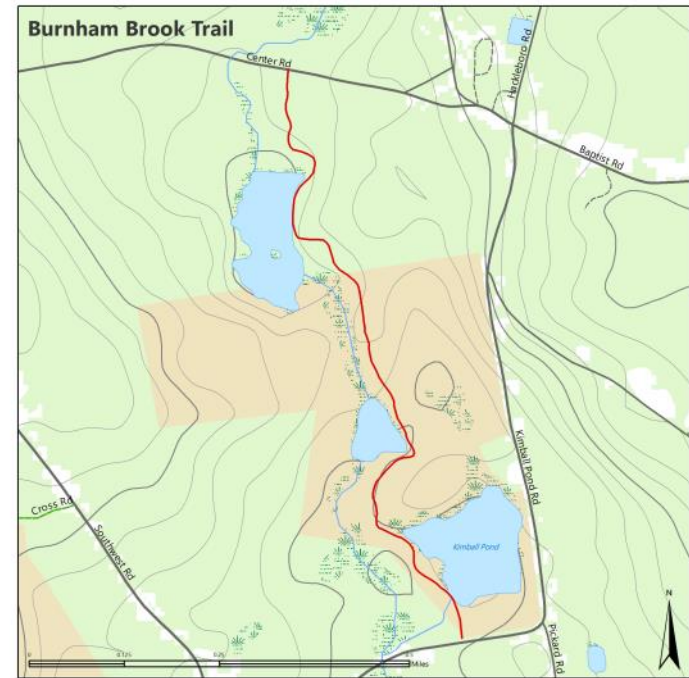
The trail skirts the toe of the embankment and crosses over the dam spillway outlet of the pond. Most of the year this is a delightful picking-your-way-across-splashing-rocks while trying not to get your feet wet exercise, but during high spring runoff this spillway can be roaring and you should avoid crossing at it.

Continue northerly and you'll come to the first of two earth embankment dikes also constructed by Kimball and rebuilt by the Conservation Commission. Stop for a moment here and see how many duck boxes you can find along the perimeter of the pond, also look for the beaver lodge hidden on the point of land between the dike and the dam.

About 1,350 feet from where you started you'll come to an intersection with a snowmobile trail—Burnham Brook is in front of you. If go left or west you'll come to a low rickety looking wooden bridge and then out to NH Route 132. But our trail today will go to the right (east) to follow alongside Burnham Brook.

About 1,600 feet, you'll come to a stonewall which is a property line separating the Kimball Pond property (behind you) from another Conservation Commission property.

Continue trekking easterly and northerly and at 1700 ft. look for curvy, wavy White Pine trees with multiple stems versus the tall and straight typical pine tree. This curvy wavy
(Continues on next page)



Measurements:

0.95 miles out
1.9 miles total

Notes:

- Trail is very clear
- Parking at the entrance to Kimball Pond

spooky looking growth was caused by a weevil infestation many decades ago. At 1,950 ft. the snowmobile trail turns and heads off to the east, but our pedestrian-only trail continues to the north.

About 2,200 feet we come to and cross over another stonewall property line. We now enter onto the newest of the Conservation Commission acquired properties. Many people in town know it as “Hildreth’s Field,” old-timers might refer to it as “Houser’s Field,” but the official name is the Robert S. Fife Conservation Area. An interesting trivia fact may be that although it is often called “Field,” more of the acreage is wooded than is field.

In this area Burnham Brook is a slow, winding, gentle flow looking more like a series of small ponds or beaver swamps rather than a babbling brook and is an excellent place to watch for wildlife. There are lots of downed trees along this trail, mostly poplar and pine, that have reached their life span or been uprooted in a windstorm. Speckled alder is present in the understory along the edge of the wetlands.

At about 2800 feet from the beginning, you can see where the old snowmobile trail used to turn off and run easterly across the “Field”, but no longer does. Re-routed due to a downed tree and the desire of an abutter for snowmobiles to stay off their property. A couple hundred feet later you come to the property line and leave town owned Conservation Land, entering onto private property. At 3,550 feet you’ll come upon a mostly downed tree but with limbs acting like legs holding it up above the ground horizontally. A cut has been made in the middle of it to allow trekkers to pass through the tree. This spot has a particularly nice view of Burnham Brook wetlands.

Turning a corner at about 4,100 feet and passing through another stone wall, you’ll come upon a clearing with a shed in the corner, and then an old, rusted plow. Crossing over a bridge, the trail continues now on the west side of Burnham Brook, whereas most of the trail is located on the east side.

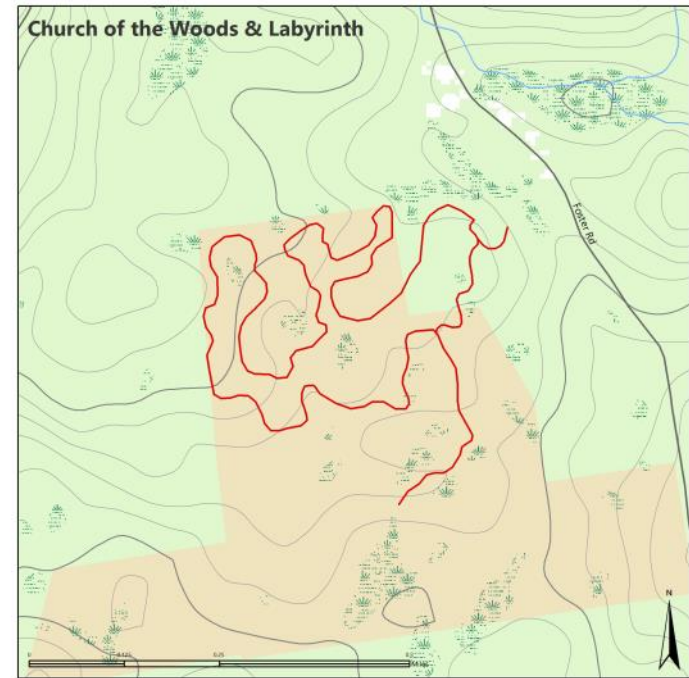
About 4,800 feet from where we started you end on a flat spot corner of land where the trail emerges onto Center Road. This is also the location where an interesting town character named Harry Hook once lived in a small camp shack ‘tiny house’ before tiny houses became a thing. Harry Hook was a sort of hermit-like character and many humorous stories and tall tales are told by old-timers who knew him. Find someone who can tell you these Harry Hook tall tales and enjoy your trek back to your car, ¾ mile back along this trail. *M. Stevens*

18 Church of the Woods Trails and Labyrinth

Church of the Woods, located on 106 acres of woods and wetlands at 92 Foster Road (wooden sign) is a church where the land itself is the sacred space. Trails are open for people to walk on at any time. (Please, no bikes.) A system of 3-4 miles of trails invites one to experience land that is rolling, dynamic, with many wetland areas and is forested with oak, pine and hemlock. twist and turn around the contours of the land, passing a wooded wetland at one moment, through a dense hemlock stand at another, along a rocky ridge at a third.

The network was designed by John Morton, a former Olympian who has designed more than 100 trails around the world, are well marked and maps are available at a small cabin kiosk near the parking lot. In addition to the woods trails, there is a formal labyrinth, modeled after the one in Chartres, France, by the parking area.

S. Blackmer



Measurements:

4.55 miles worth of trails

Notes:

- Trails are very clear and well marked

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Rev. Blackmer kindly requests that these trails **not** be posted by hikers on other socially shared hiking apps such as All Trails, Strada, etc., so that the sacred essence of this area continues to flourish for local folks and seekers of meditative walks. *Thank you.*

19 Elijah Huntoon's Trail

In the early 1800's there were remote farms in areas of Canterbury that today are vacant woodlands. One such area is in the corner of Canterbury where Gilman-ton, Belmont, and Canterbury all meet. A Class VI road here makes for an interesting hike and takes you past the site of Elijah Huntoon's farm.

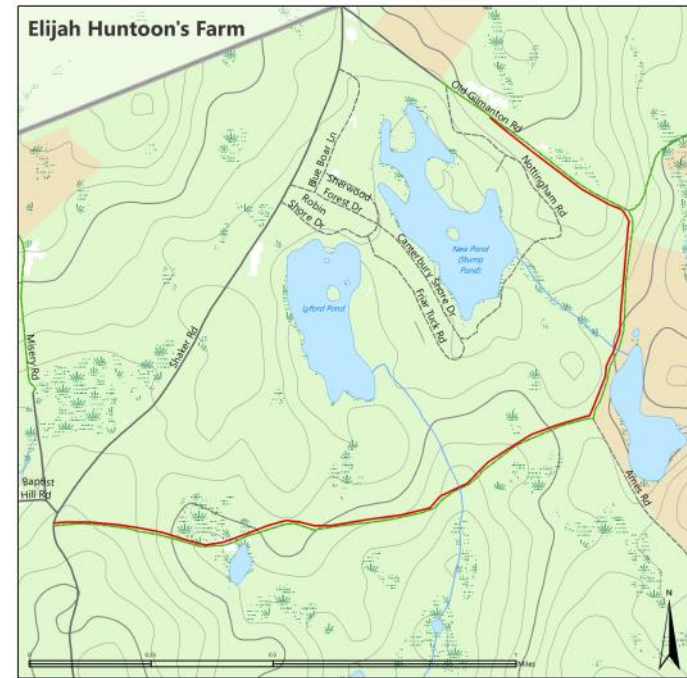
Drive to the end of Old Gilman-ton Road and park where it turns from a Class V town road into a Class VI road. Begin your hike following the old dirt road in a southeasterly direction. In about 400 feet you'll come to an intersection with another Class VI road heading off to the north. We aren't taking this road today, but if you were, this is the former Snowshoe Hill Road that would bring you to the Gilman-ton/Canterbury town line and the backside of Rocky Pond. Stay to the right at this intersection and head south instead.

In about 700 feet on the east side of the road, you'll come to some impressive stonework for the cellar holes of a series of interconnected buildings, perhaps a house with an ell woodshed and barn all attached? About 50 feet further down the trail on the same side (east) is a strange narrow channel of rockwork. Perhaps a root cellar or escape tunnel?

Continuing southerly down the old road/trail another 300 feet, look carefully on the west side of the road and up a rising grade for two granite gate posts. These posts are not noticeable unless you are looking for them, but they are the entrance into an old cemetery now maintained by the town.

There are several rows of upright, not-engraved fieldstones marking the burial locations for many unnamed Canterbury residents. One of the unnamed graves has an American flag beside it indicating a veteran. Only the grave of Elijah Huntoon who died at age 93 in 1860 has a headstone professionally carved with legible words. According to Lyford's *History of Canterbury*, Elijah and his wife, Hannah, came to Canterbury on horseback about 1805, settled in this Gilman-ton corner of Canterbury and had eight children who also lived in this area. Likely some of them now reside in this cemetery without headstones. One of Elijah's grandsons, Darius Nelson survived service in the Civil War, but died while re-turning home to Canterbury. Perhaps his grave is the one with the veteran's flag.

(Continues on next page)



Measurements:

- 0.08 miles keep right
- 0.22 miles later you reach the cemetery
- 0.23 miles later keep right
- 0.61 miles later you reach Hancock Rd, continue straight
- 0.67 miles later turn right onto Shaker Rd
- 1.25 miles later turn right onto Old Gilman-ton Rd
- 3.7 miles total

Notes:

- Trail is very clear
- Awesome trail, with great history

From this cemetery continue south on the road (trail) for another 300 feet and you'll come to a gated road on the east (left). This is a private road on private property. The sign on the gate says motor vehicles are prohibited, but foot travelers welcome. Another trail to be explored on another day. Continue on the first trail south for another 200 feet and you'll cross over a brook flowing out of New Pond into a wildlife marshy pond with no name. While it may be unnamed, it is not unknown as I see a Bob Fife duck box in it.

Further south 450 feet on the east side of the road is an unusual squared off stone pile. This was the site of Elijah Huntoon's house. The house burned down and a new house was built there by his son-in-law, Benjamin McClary, which also burned down. On the west side of the road is an old stone lined cellar hole and retaining wall from another long-ago farm. Much of the land in this area is posted so stay on the Class VI public road and off of private property.

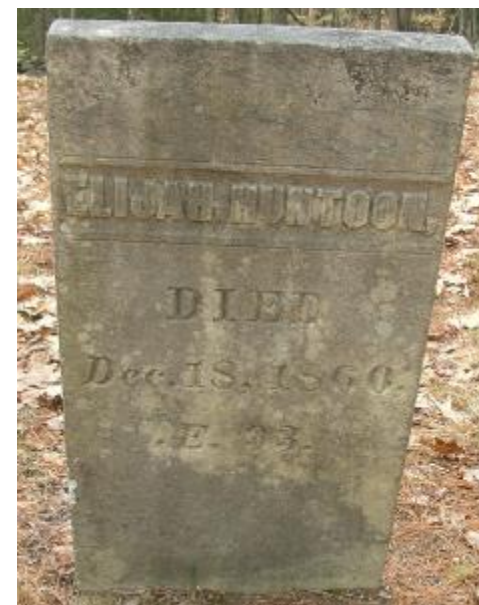
Continuing south another 150 feet you'll come to a Y intersection. Road (trail) heading east (left) is the old Ames Road and if you follow it for 1 ½ miles it will bring you out on Rt 106 in Loudon.

Today we are taking the other fork (right) and heading west onto the Class VI portion of Hancock Road also known as Hills Corner Road. In about 850 feet, you come to an old farmer's rock culvert allowing a stream flowing out of Lyford Pond to cross underneath the road and into a distant wetland. At this culvert if you look to the south at the knoll rising up in the direction you've just come, you'll see a ragged stand of White Pine and Sugar Maples. To the casual woods walker this might look like a typical forest, but the experienced woodsman will notice that the pine trees are all the same age and in a grid pattern. The grid pattern is not obvious because of the growth of maple, ash, and oaks mixed amongst the deteriorating pine stand. But if you move around enough you can place yourself into alignment with the grid pattern and observe the pines planted by the Brown family that owned the Hills Corner Farm for several generations up until about the 1960's.

This may be a good place to turn around and walk the ¾ mile back to your car, but if you were to keep going following this old road westerly, in about a ½ mile you'd come out on the lightly used portion of Hancock Road and in another ¼ mile you'd emerge from Hancock Road onto Shaker Road. If you were ambitious you could then walk northeasterly from Shaker Road to Old Gilmanton Road and then southeasterly back to your car completing a 3½ mile loop. *M. Stevens*



M. Stevens



M. Stevens

20 Hutchins Forest / Ambeau Memorial Forest

After riding by the trail head for the Mary and Quentin Hutchins Forest Tree Farm off 132 for so many years I finally hiked it. It's lovely – a varied, interesting ¾ hour loop. It forks not far from the road. I went left, then right at the **Tree Farm Loop Jct.** The right turn put me on the **Burnham Brook Loop** and the brook soon appeared. It's brushy and marshy with more white oak than I've ever seen anyplace. You can take a left off this trail to **Ambeau Forest Loop** off Pickard Road, but staying right completes the route back to the trail from 132. Best to have a compass or a device or pay attention to where the sun is. Highly recommended. Good for what ails you! *D. Emerson*

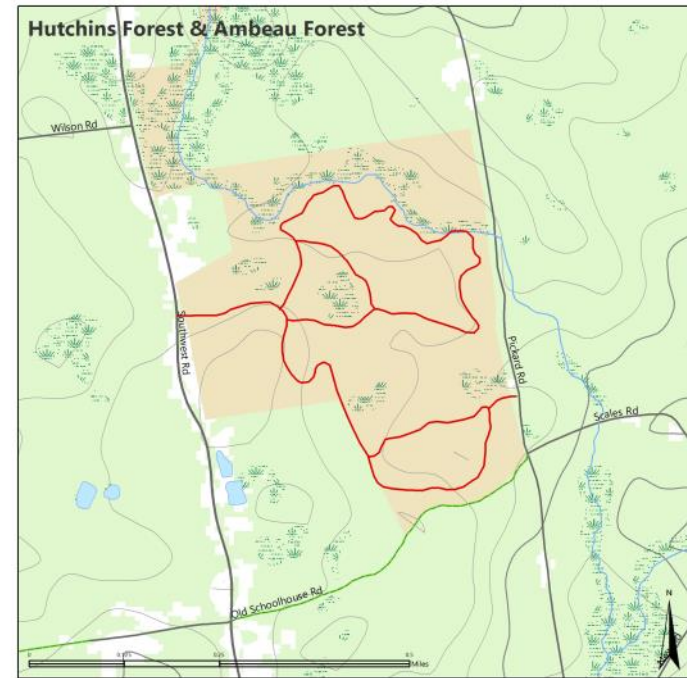
The NH Forest Society has provided the following info for these two areas, properly named *Mary & Quentin Hutchins Forest and the Paul & Thelma Ambeau Memorial Forest.*

Both properties can be accessed from either Rt. 132 or Pickard Road. The preferred entrance to the Hutchins Forest property is located on Rt. 132 with an official sign and small parking area. From Picard Rd. the trail is indicated by boulders but no sign. Access to Ambeau Forest from the east on Pickard Road has official property sign and a small pull-off area. Numerous old skid trails cover much of both properties.

The **Burnham Brook Loop trail** (1 mi.) runs along this brook and the **Tree Farm Loop** trail (½ mi.) is located in the center of Hutchins Forest. One trail segment is a part of both of these trails.

To access **Ambeau Forest Trail** from Rt. 132 enter the trailhead, go right at the first T intersection. Soon take another right after about 80 feet (do not follow the Tree Farm Loop). This trail will take you to the Ambeau Forest after crossing a footbridge over a small stream. Once in the Ambeau Forest, a 1 mi. loop trail can be traversed in either direction then return to the trailhead the way you came in. *The south border is a Class VI and there is a spur going out to it. Private properties border on the west.*

Like so much of New Hampshire, this land was all cleared for pasture by early settlers and remained in that condition until sometime in the early 20th century. It then was abandoned from farming and gradually reverted to forest predominated by white pine. When Quentin and Mary Hutchins owned the property in the latter half of the 20th century, they managed it for forest products, much of which Quentin harvested himself.



Measurements:

- 1 mile Burnham Brook Loop Trail
- 0.5 mile Tree Farm Loop Trail
- 1 mile Ambeau Forest Loop Trail
- 2.65 miles if you combine all the loops

Notes:

- Boots or waterproof shoes are recommended due to numerous wetlands on the trail

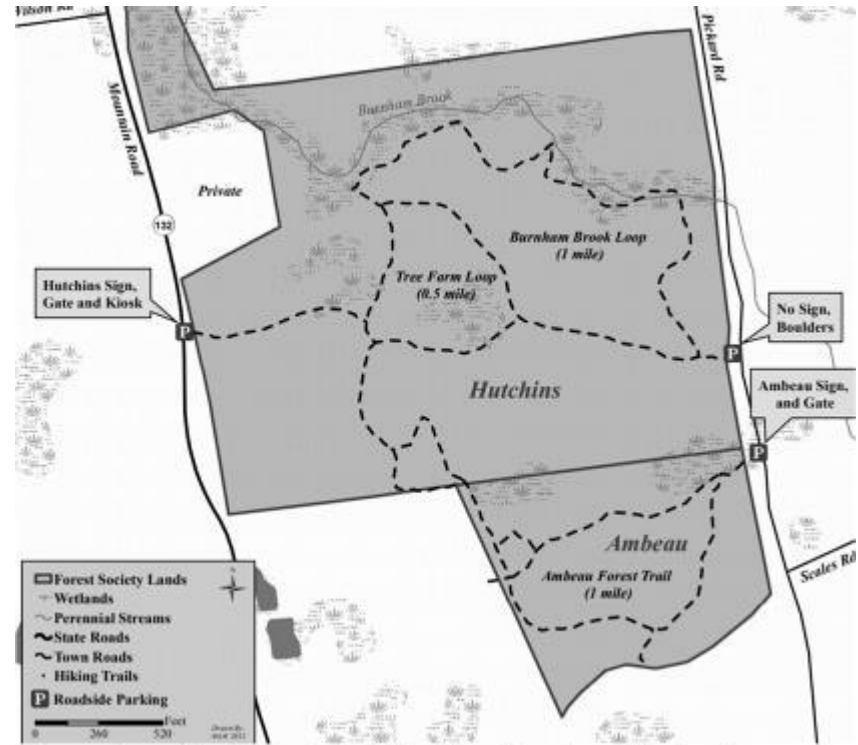
He had a small sawmill on his adjoining house lot. The Ambeau Forest has a similar history of land use, but with slightly better soils has hosted a more productive forest.

Quentin and Mary Hutchins were among the earliest New Hampshire landowners to enroll in the Tree Farm system, a program that recognizes good forestry and land stewardship. After reading about a gift of land to the Forest Society in the local newspaper, the couple decided that the best way to ensure that their land would continue to be a Tree Farm and remain available for conservation education and recreation was to donate their 88-acre property in 1989 to the Forest Society. Nearly 20 years later, Paul Ambeau decided to donate the adjoining 20 acres that had been in his family since 1939. It was also well-managed with mature white pine ready for harvest.

The properties abut one another and share access points and are managed jointly as a single forest unit. Property management objectives include the following: provide wildlife habitat; preserve water quality, especially of Burnham Brook and numerous smaller wetlands; provide recreational opportunities for hikers, fisherman, hunters, and other passive users; improve the commercial timber growing stock within the forest and harvest forest products when ecologically and economically appropriate; maintain or increase biodiversity; protect any ecologically sensitive areas that may be located within the properties. Most of the land is dominated by white pine, red maple and white oak.

The property is almost entirely forested and contains no significant high points or scenic views. Parts of the Burnham Brook Trail along scenic sections of the brook likely provide attractive spots for bird watching or wildlife viewing.

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Map courtesy of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

21 Lost Colony at Hackleboro

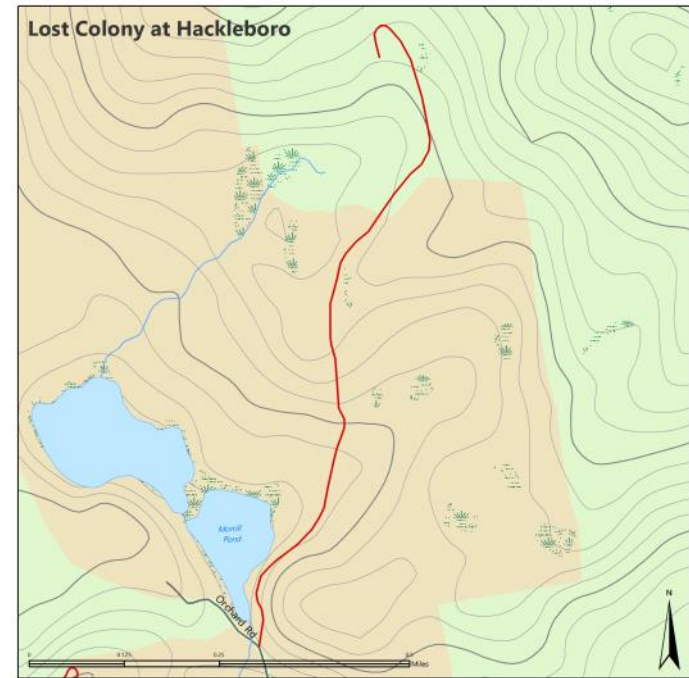
At one time there were lots of Morrills living in Canterbury so perhaps it is not surprising that there are two Morrill Ponds in town. Make sure you begin from the correct Morrill Pond to hike this trail up into the “Lost Colony” area. This trail begins near the outlet of the Morrill Pond on Orchard Road, and not at the Morrill Pond on Morrill Road. The “Morrill Pond” located off of Morrill Road is more correctly named, “Morrill Mill Pond” after the water powered sawmill George Morrill once operated there, but map makers and people in general often shorten “Morrill Mill Pond” to just “Morrill Pond” leading to the confusion between the two ponds. Morrill families were once plentiful in Canterbury but have since died off or moved away, leaving us with the running joke that, “we no longer have any Morrills (morals) in this town.”

On the right as you head up the hill into Hackleboro Orchard, look for this trail heading off to the northeast just after the old concrete block charcoal kiln (see Gems), and just below the outlet of Morrill Pond. There is a cable gate blocking access here. This private property is posted against trespassing, so obtain permission before beginning this trek.

The trail heads in a northeasterly direction following around the east side of Morrill Pond. About 150 feet from the start look for a splendid overlook of Morrill Pond on the west side of the trail and a stone retaining wall on the east side, indicating that this trail was once an access road for horse or oxen teams in the days before vehicles. Someone worked hard stacking rocks to make this trail a useable road on this side slope. On the west side are a few large and straight red pines or “pole pine” as old-timers tended to call them. These red pines typically were planted and not naturally seeded so they stand out in this white pine forest.

Approximately 500 feet from the starting point, the trail passes through a dark dense hemlock grove. Look for a nice stonewall on the east side paralleling the trail which might make you wonder who and why anyone would work so hard to build a stonewall and roadbed on this steep and unfarmable side slope. At about 900 feet we leave the hemlock stand and enter an opening of hardwoods.

About a half-mile in, we come to an intersection where another trail heads west (left). This trail is also an old roadbed and is lined by parallel stonewalls leading to a private camp, reconstructed on an existing old cellar hole. Respect the private property’s ownership and continue straight in a northerly direction at this intersection. The trail begins *(Continues on next page)*



Measurements:

- 0.83 miles to the cellar holes
- 0.06 miles more to the turn off
- 0.09 miles from here to the dam
- 0.98 miles out
- 1.96 miles total

Notes:

- The landmarks are very clear and easy to see
- Boots recommended if you walk it after it rains

to climb uphill moderately in places and steeply in other places, and the red maples give way to sugar maples and black birch trees on the higher drier ground.

At just a little less than a mile from where we started, look for a pair of old cellar holes on the west (left) side of the road/trail. A short distance later, look on the east side (right) for the remnants of a very old man-made pond excavated out of a marshy area, and banked up with an earth embankment dike blocking the natural outlet. On the opposite end of this pond, look for a hand dug ditch where some ambitious individuals desired to make water flow uphill and excavated deeper and deeper against the natural topography to do so.

At just about 1 mile from where we started this hike, the ditch digging project crosses beneath the road/trail at an old farmer's rock culvert and joins with a natural stream heading downhill, coming in from the opposite direction. Our unknown ditch digger had hoped to increase water flows by joining these two streams.

Leaving the trail here and following the watercourse downhill for a couple hundred feet, we come to the reason for the ditch digger's exertions. A massive stone dam crosses the stream from bank to bank and indicates the potential to flood the little valley. The dam is dizzyingly tall and wide, filled with soil and lined with rocks and boulders on both sides that are too large for any man to move. Rock pedestals below the dam that would support a waterwheel are visible and stone foundation remnants suggest where a water powered sawmill or gristmill stood.

There are several old cellar holes in the general vicinity, and Lyford's *History of Canterbury* indicates at least four early settlers lived here from at least 1760 on, most of them named Morrill. However, all of them were gone by 1800, begging the question, why? The amount of manual labor expended in this little village constructing the dam, digging the ditches, creating the pond, building roads, digging cellar holes and building houses indicates that they were not lazy and must have taken decades and generations to complete. So why would this colony of early settlers that worked so hard, suddenly give up and abandon it about the time of the Revolutionary War?

Lyford's is silent as to why this little colony did not succeed and there are likely multiple reasons why it was abandoned. The explanation that I like best was shared with me many years ago by some elderly WWII veterans who deer hunted the area in the 1950's and 1960's. These hunters were very familiar with the lay of the land and the Lost Colony remnants. I suspect they also are the originators to the nickname, "Lost Colony" as I've found no written reference to it anywhere, just legend.

The WWII Veterans pointed out that the dam is built near the crest of Sunset Hill and at a watershed divide. One of the brooks here flows westerly towards Forrest Pond Brook, beneath Old Tilton Road into the Big Meadow and out to the Merrimack River. The other brook flows southwestly towards Morrill Pond and into Burnham Brook beneath Kimball Pond Road and into Concord. Connecting these two brooks near their headwaters does little to increase water flows for operating a nearby water powered mill. Could it be that the ambitious dam builders in this colony goofed in trying to build a dam and water powered mill at such a high elevation?

Despite the years of labor invested in building this dam, it seems likely it was abandoned because it never would have sufficient and reliable waterflow to power their mill. Without a functioning sawmill/gristmill the colony couldn't survive and was abandoned. While this explanation seems plausible, I have to wonder why the dam builders didn't thoroughly evaluate the potential waterflows before beginning their project? Ponder this as you walk the mile downhill back to your car. *M. Stevens*

22 Maxfield Monument Trail, Flaghole Road

In the corner of the world where Canterbury, Loudon, and Concord all come together, there is a network of mostly forgotten Class VI town roads for the hardy trekker to explore and some unexpected things along the way to re-discover. Class VI town roads are still public ways but are no longer maintained by any of the three towns, so you pass at your own risk.

Take Morrill Road to Flaghole Road and then drive Flaghole Road to the dead-end at the Flaghole Meadow swamp; you have now crossed in and out of Canterbury (and Concord) a couple of times, but where you park and start hiking is in Canterbury. Note that it is Flag-Hole Road and not Flag-Pole Road. A lot of NH towns have a road named “Flag-Hole” and if you’re curious why that is, or what a “flag-hole” is, track down some old-timer that can tell you the reason for the numerous “Flaghole” road names all over NH. (See GEMS at end of this book.)

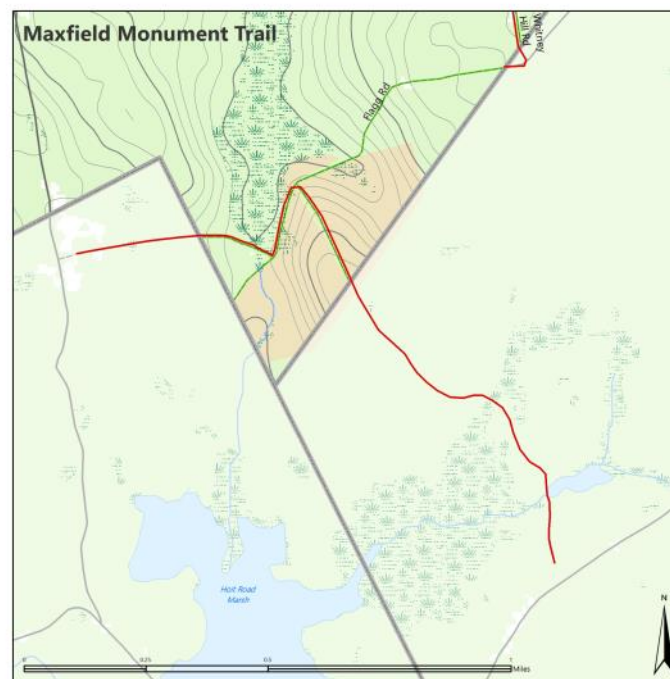
To begin this hike, you first need to find a way across Flaghole Meadow swamp to the other side. In the winter you can cross over on the ice, but the rest of the year you’ll cross over on top of a beaver dam and likely get your feet wet, don’t let this deter you.

Once across the meadow, you are now on “Fletcher Road” which is really just a trail through the woods but retains the old road name. If you go south, it will bring you out on the back side of the Hoit Road Marsh in Concord, but don’t go that way.

Head north on Fletcher along the east side of the meadow for about 700 feet or about .14 miles from where you parked your car and started on foot. You’ll come to an unmarked trail intersection with Flagg Road, named after Billy Flagg and which has nothing to do with the ‘flag’ in Flaghole Road. The trail to the northeast goes to Flaghole Road in Loudon, or Whitney Hill Road in Canterbury and then emerges near the Sno-Shaker Clubhouse, but that is another hike for another day.

Today we are taking the southeast road at this three-way intersection and heading up the hill. This is known as Flagg Road in Canterbury but becomes William Maxfield Drive when you cross over the town line into Loudon. And while you are still in Canterbury, much of the land in this border area is owned by the Town of Loudon. So which town are you really in?

(Continues on next page)



Measurements:

- 0.58 miles to the Maxfield Monument
- 0.12 miles further to the Abbott Cemetery
- 1.32 miles out
- 2.64 miles total

Notes:

- There is a very skinny beaver dam crossing
- It is very slippery, wet, and difficult to cross
- After this the trail is very simple

About 1000 feet from the intersection or .34 miles from your car, on the west side of the road, is a terrific old cellar hole complex for what must have been a thriving farm at one time. Pick the right spot in this wooded area of old cellar holes and you have views of Pats Peaks off in the distance.

Continuing south on this trail a short distance you'll come to the Maxfield Monument and be startled to find such an important looking monument in the middle of nowhere. Maxfield was an old NH farmer who sold apples door to door in the late 1800's from a broken-down horse and wagon. He appeared not to have a dollar to his name, but when he died in 1905, he left enough money in his will to the Town of Loudon "to be used to establish a public library." In 1909 the William Maxfield Public Library was opened in Loudon village. Maxfield also left money to the Baptist Church in Canterbury (now gone) and left his farm to the Town of Loudon, even though a lot of his acreage was in Canterbury, which is why Loudon owns some of Canterbury today.

Directly across the road from the Maxfield Monument is another complex of old cellar holes and farm outbuildings worthy of exploration. Continuing down the trail in a south-east direction another ½ mile you'll come to the old Abbott Cemetery on the east side of the trail and a short distance later you'll find the old Abbott house cellar hole remnants. The Abbott's looked to have been prosperous at one time and I wonder if they were part of the Abbott Downing family that built the famous Concord Coach stagecoaches??



M. Stevens

Continuing southeast on the trail for 1/3 of a mile, you'll come to two snowmobile bridges crossing over major inflows to the Hoit Road Marsh. If you turn off the trail here and follow either watercourse, you'll come into the back side of the Hoit Road Marsh in Concord.

If you continue southeast on the trail, at 1.65 miles from where you started, you'll pop out of the woods on Old Shaker Road in Loudon. It is of course 1.65 miles return trip back to where you parked your car, and you'll have to cross over Flaghole Meadow and through three towns to get there. *M. Stevens*



M. Stevens

23 Muchyedo Banks

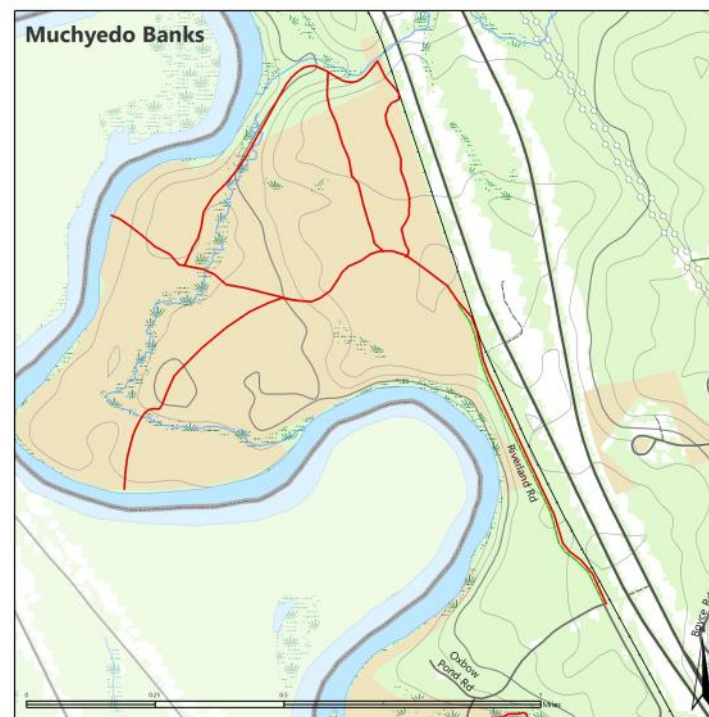
The legend tells that the Muchyedo Banks got their name from an incident that took place during the Colonial era. It seems that an athletic young Native American named Pawgemucket stole the “stylish, ancient, velveteen go-to-meeting britches” of one of the settlers in Boscawen. Pursued by an angry mob, Pawgemucket dove into the Merrimack River and swam across to the steep banks on the Canterbury side, where he then scrambled up the 80-foot-high banks “like a squirrel,” (easy to imagine). At the top of the bank, he waved the britches over his head and taunted his pursuers to come and get them. Later, Pawgemucket was asked how he managed to climb the steep and slippery loose banks. His reply was brief and to the point: “Much ye do” to climb those banks. Other variations of the story suggest that he had stolen a sack of potatoes instead of pantaloons and refer to the banks as “MuchIdo” instead of Muchyedo.

Whatever the truth may be, the Muchyedo Banks are worth going to see. This 290-acre wildlife management property is owned by the NH Fish & Game Commission as a WMA – Wildlife Management Area. *“The primary purpose of these lands is to protect and improve habitat for wildlife, but these lands are also open for public recreation including hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife watching.”* Take a right onto Old Boyce Road off of Rt. 4, continue onto Riverland Road until you see a kiosk, gate and small parking area straight ahead, next to the railroad tracks and gravel road. (Oxbow Pond Rd. goes to the left, steeply down to the Riverland Conservation Area and town beach.)

From this top of the world vantage point, you can see any boats, canoes, or tubing activity on the river as well as any Canadian geese or flocks of ducks or other wildlife floating or following the river. Across the river in Boscawen there is a giant cornfield and perhaps farm tractor activity going on. When the Continental Ice Sheet retreated, it formed glacial Lake Merrimack from below Manchester up to Plymouth. Over time, the lake became a river flowing into the ocean in MA; the high land of Muchyedo Banks remained, now protecting a deep aquifer. The Banks have eroded more than 35 feet in recent years so **use extreme caution** – do not go near the open edges of the steep banks.

This WMA is surrounded by the river on three sides and the railroad on the fourth, so you can't really get lost unless you wander around in circles. There are many opportunities for meandering out and back. You'll likely notice several monitoring wells that were installed when the property was once proposed as a landfill site. Now it's a sanctuary for birds, fish and game thanks to the foresight of Canterbury citizens and several towns that formed the “Oxbow Initiative” which funded and safeguarded this area for conservation in perpetuity. See NH Fish & Game's info at www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/wma/muchyedo-banks.html.

You could log well over five miles viewing wildlife as you trek around this area, so save enough energy to get back to your vehicle. Be careful not to twist an ankle or muchyedo to get back to your car. *M. Stevens*



Measurements:

5.41 miles total

Notes:

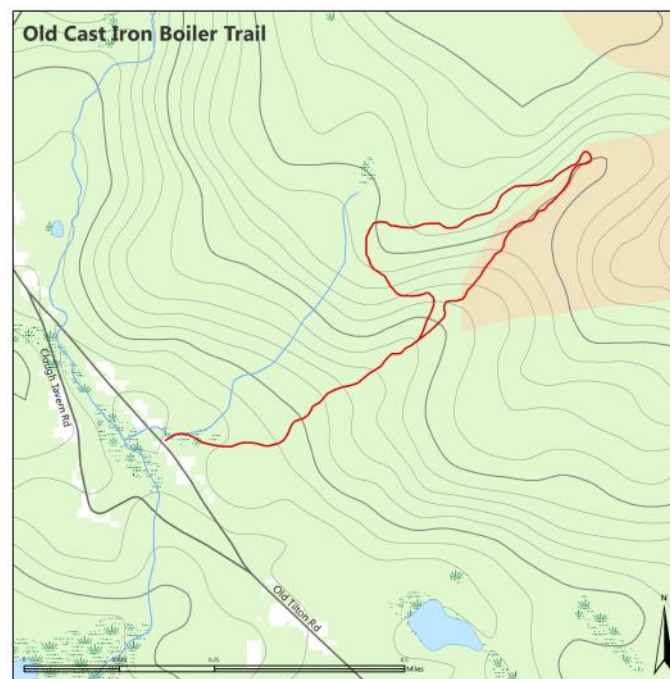
- Trails are not well maintained, marked or named
- Many private property signs, stay on the trail
- Long pants recommended
- Banks erosion continues, **use extreme caution**

24 Old Cast Iron Boiler Trail

Back in the early 1900's portable sawmills and men living in temporary logging camps were commonplace in Canterbury. These portable sawmills were sometimes powered by wood-fired steam boilers made of heavy cast iron segments all riveted together. One of these forgotten big old iron boilers remains hidden in the Canterbury woods little known except to a few abutting landowners, hunters, and surveyors.

A well-maintained trail to this boiler exists off of the back of Kent Ruesswick and Doneta Fischer's property. The trail zig zags back and forth on rustic plank bridges across the brook that empties out of Morrill Pond. The brook water splash makes ice formations on the rocks and bridges and makes this a pretty winter hike. The loop trail is about 2 miles but there are several sub-loop options that can shorten or extend your hike as you like.

In addition to the boiler and logging camp site, there is also an old cellar hole and rock lined well on the height of land and many other things to find: hiding trolls, square dancing couples, kerosene lamps, a windmill, tree swing, balancing sticks, rock formations, a money tree, knick-knacks, a pledge rock. Bonus points if you spot the hunter's tree stand.



M. Stevens

The trailhead to start this adventure is in Kent and Doneta's dooryard, 99 Old Tilton Road. They welcome hikers on their private trail, but please respect the landowners' wishes, do no damage, and leave no trace. Cross over the arch bridge and head east uphill following the brook. The trails are easy to follow but if you get confused, following the brook downhill will always bring you back to your car.

If you are pacing or have an exercise step counter, about .62 miles in from the trailhead, you'll come to a rock mid-trail shaped like Napoleon's hat. If you sight along the crest of the hat and look sharp, about 100 feet south of the trail into the woods you'll find the old cast iron boiler and logging camp site. Old timers tell of using this remote boiler as a rendezvous spot when different deer hunters would start from Old Tilton Road, Lamprey Road, Hackleboro Road, and Borough Road and move towards each other, meeting at the boiler at some designated time.

Measurements:

1.64 mile loop

Notes:

- Very well marked with arrows
- Super cool moss

About .8 miles in you'll come to the ledge headwall where the brook splits into two sub-brooks coming together from opposite directions. At this point you cross over the brook one more time and turn 180 degrees and climb up above the brook to the height of the land where a scenic remote cellar hole begs with questions to be answered. Who lived way up there? How did they get there? Why? And where did they go?

Head back downhill following the stone lined paths and enjoy the green 'emerald isles' feeling as you are surrounded by green moss growing along the banks of the brook. If you enjoyed this hike, leave a coin or two at the money tree on your way by it. *M. Stevens*

25 Old Depot Road

Before the interstate highway was built, the railroad was the lifeline that connected Canterbury to the outside world. As many as 29 trains a day went through town moving freight around and picking up and dropping off passengers at three Canterbury depot stations. The northernmost depot station was actually located just over the town line in Northfield, but train tickets sometimes called it the “North Canterbury” station. The importance of these three railroad stations meant that all east-west running roads in town eventually led to one of the depot stations.

When Interstate 93 was constructed in a north-south direction through Canterbury, it severed most of these east-west roads. In some places the severed roads became dead end roads: Rum Brook Road, Battis Crossing Road, Sawyers Ferry Road. Other severed roads were re-routed to connect into other roads such as Boyce Road. A few were voted to be discontinued by the town: Old Schoolhouse Road, Depot Road and Lambert Road. Lambert Road is now a driveway access to the backside of the Canterbury Rest Stop on I-93 northbound. Old Depot Road which used to lead to the North Canterbury Station has been unused and unmaintained for years and has grown up into woods largely forgotten. For the discerning woods walker, the old road is still findable, however.

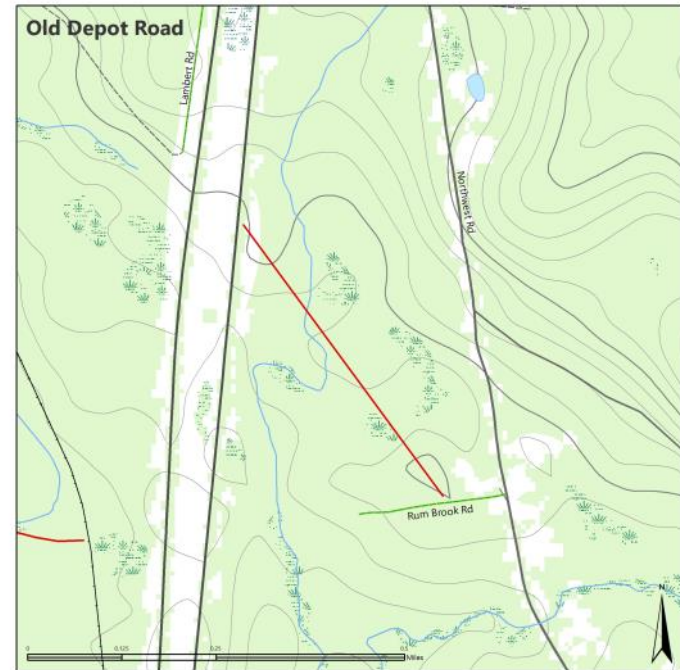
Depot Road used to originate at an intersection with Northwest Road (NH Rt. 132) near the Parkinson Manse. One of Canterbury’s one room schoolhouses used to sit in this intersection, but now both the intersection and the school building are gone and unless someone pointed out the location to you, you’d likely drive by and never notice where the beginning of the old Depot Road was. To hike this old road, drive a short distance down Rum Brook Road and park off the side of the road in the woods behind the house formerly owned by Canterbury legend, Harry Lamprey. Near where you will likely park there is an old cellar hole on private property. Take only pictures and stay off posted private property.



M. Stevens

Head out in a northwesterly direction following old wheel rut topography and intermittent stonewalls paralleling the old road. About 1500 feet in from where you parked, on the easterly side of the old road on a slight rising knoll is a small old family graveyard. I count four discernable depressions that are likely graves, perhaps there are more. Three of the four graves have no headstone only an upright fieldstone rock. The fourth grave has a broken white marble headstone that reads **BETSEY**.

If you continue northwesterly beyond the burying ground, in another 1,000 feet you’ll bump into the interstate right of way fencing but can observe where in the days before I-93 the road continued on through to the railroad depot. You can’t cross over the interstate so you’ll need to turn around and walk the half mile back to your car, and if your timing is good, you might hear a distant train whistle blow. M. Stevens



Measurements:

0.15 miles out

0.3 miles total

Notes:

-Very easy walk

-Make sure to park on the side of the road out of the way of other traffic

26 Osgoodites Trail

For those interested in a woodland hike back into some Canterbury history, the trail up into the site of the former Osgoodite community on and around Zion Hill, may be worth exploring. Osgoodites were followers of Jacob Osgood and made themselves known in Canterbury about 1814. Their religious faith lasted not quite 100 years, when the last of the believers died out. Osgoodites believed in community living similar to the Shakers, but unlike the Shakers they did not believe in celibacy. At one time there were about 30 families of followers in Canterbury and other communities in surrounding towns.

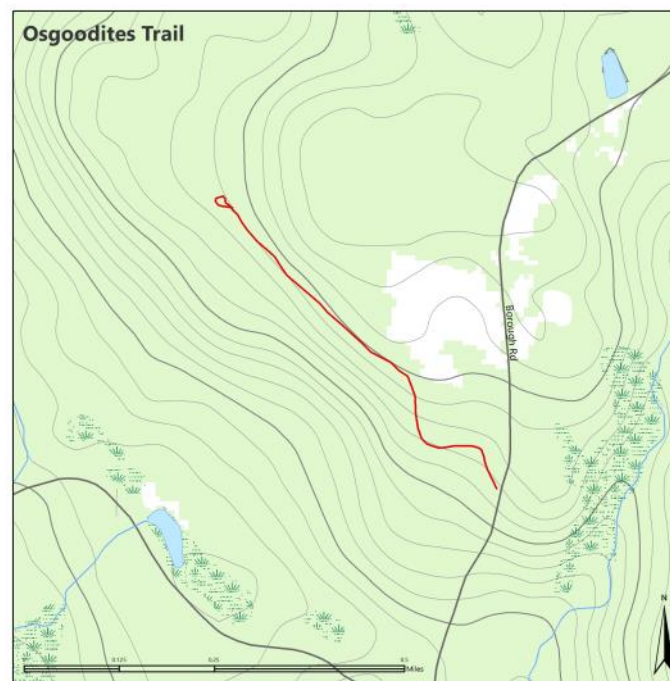
Start your hike about halfway up the first hill on Borough Road, look for the Hampton's driveway on the west side of the road. Park here but don't block the driveway. The old Osgoodite road, now no more than a walking trail, up into the site of the former Osgoodite community begins at the Hampton's driveway #38 and heads north for about 250 feet. From there it swings west and continues for about 600 feet paralleling the boundary stone wall with the Taylor farm hayfield.

The trail then swings back to the north and continues to follow around the Taylor field boundary and climbs at a steady grade. After about 400 feet of steady northerly climb, the trail levels off and pivots northwesterly. Stone walls line at least one side of the road and in many places are on both sides of the old roadbed in this area so stay between the walls and you won't get lost or wander onto private property.

About 500 feet further along, you should notice a line of very old, very large sugar maple trees that line the south side of the old road. These trees are large enough so that it would take 3 people holding hands to reach all the way around them. These old sugar maples have provided the maple sap for many generations of maple syrup and maple sugar producers. Now they are decaying and falling, but still impressive.

After approximately another 1200 feet, you'll enter the site of the former Osgoodite community. The most immediately noticeable indicator is the burying ground on the south side of the old road. This graveyard contains some 12-15 graves of Osgoodites that lived in this area in the 1800's. Tenements of their religious faith are engraved on some of the headstones, but most are hard to read now due to age.

The old town road (trail) mostly ends here, and you are on private property, but if you had permission and were with someone who knew the area, you could continue in a northwesterly direction for another 400 feet and come to a cellar hole with some massive stonework laid up to form foundation walls. This foundation was once the site of the Osgoodite community barn, a large structure that was dismantled and moved into the
(Continues on next page)



Measurements:

- 0.55 miles to the cemetery
- 0.02 miles further to the end of the old town road
- 0.57 miles out
- 1.14 miles total

Notes:

- To continue further it is important to ask for permission as it is private property
- The trail shows evidence of lots of water damage

heart of Canterbury when the last of the Osgoodites died out. The barn was re-erected across the road from where the elementary school now stands. Unfortunately, this barn burned to the ground during the fire of 1943 which burned many of the buildings in and around the town center.

If you were to continue heading westerly from this old barn foundation for another 200 feet, you'd come to the center of the Osgoodite community. At this spot there are cellar holes, rock retaining walls, rock abutments, granite gate posts, and stone walls going in several directions. Continuing westerly for another 500 feet, the trail drops downhill and swings to the south. Another 300 feet in this direction and you would top out on a knoll at the site of the Osgoodite's maple sugar camp, later owned and used by the S. S. Davis family. The Davis family owned the farm on Baptist Road now known as Canterbury Hall and were prosperous farmers and leaders in the Canterbury community for several generations up until about WWII. The Davis family used to pack up and move every spring over to this maple sugar camp located on the opposite side of town at the former Osgoodite village for the duration of maple sugar season. Boiling sap all day and all night until the season ended, they'd emerge from the woods with their sweet harvest and return to their farm on Baptist Road. Remnants of their sugar camp can still be found.

For the inexperienced it would be easy to get disorientated in this area especially if looking around searching for camp remnants so explore it only with someone who is familiar with the area. It is about a mile back to your car, but downhill most of the way. When you get back home, snuggle up to the woodstove and read more about the Osgoodites in Lyford's *History of Canterbury available at the library.* M. Stevens

Mark at maple sugar camp.



M. Stevens

Osgoodite barn foundation



M. Stevens

27 Petals in the Pines Trails & Labyrinth

Maintaining what nature has provided - native plants, eye-catching ledge outcroppings, and a waterfall-adorned stream meandering through the woodlands, each trail offers its own quiet, beautiful space. Interconnected with these trails are garden beds filled with blooms and a pick-your-own flower field with natural play spaces for children in the landscape.

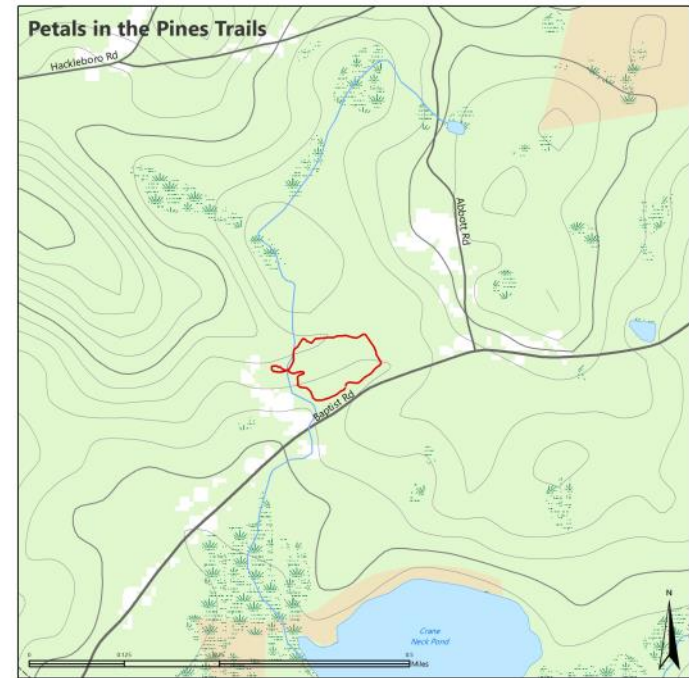
After checking in at the Farm Stand porch, head west from the parking area onto the Stonewall Trail, orange blaze. Follow it down to the stream passing a big-toothed aspen grove on the left and an unusual flowing rock formation on the right. Turn right (north) at the wall, and then turn left (part-way up the hill) onto the white blazed Old Dam Trail.

The Meditation Trail, red blaze, starts at a wooden bridge just below the old stone dam and is a bit strenuous, but it's worth the effort as you climb back and forth across a steep hillside overlooking the stream and spring-fed pools which never dry up. At the top you'll discover the new "Love and Grace" medieval-style labyrinth made of stones from a long-ago farmer's field-clearing. A couple of teenagers spent hours rolling the stones 50 feet down the hillside to the site of the labyrinth. Jim had created a funnel-like shape from branches so the rocks could tumble down guided right to where he needed them.

More trails meander around the land that we've been working for over 20 years: Ridge Trail goes through the pollinator meadow and behind our pavilion and chicken coop, Perimeter Trail-grey blaze, Woodland Trail, Sweet Peat-yellow and Tappin' Trail-blue blaze where we gather maple sap, and Bull Pine Trail-green blaze. Walking the trails or labyrinths is by a free-will donation. Hike at your own risk and watch for slippery rocks!

For the younger visitors, we have activity centers to help them build, create, move, sing, play make-believe, experiment, learn and enjoy the natural world. The children are part of the Arbor Day-certified *Nature Explore Outdoor Classrooms*. Also fun are **Tale Trails** which are set up June through October when families read a nature story on book pages placed as signs along the woodland trails. Canterbury residents may get a free pass from Elkins Library. Please leave pets at home. Open May-Oct. every day 9-6 pm, at 126 Baptist Rd, petalsinthepines.com.
Donna and Jim Miller

[This land is part of a grassroots call-to-action initiative to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants, removing most invasive plants and creating new ecological networks called Homegrown National Parks.]



Measurements:

1.74 miles worth of trails

Notes:

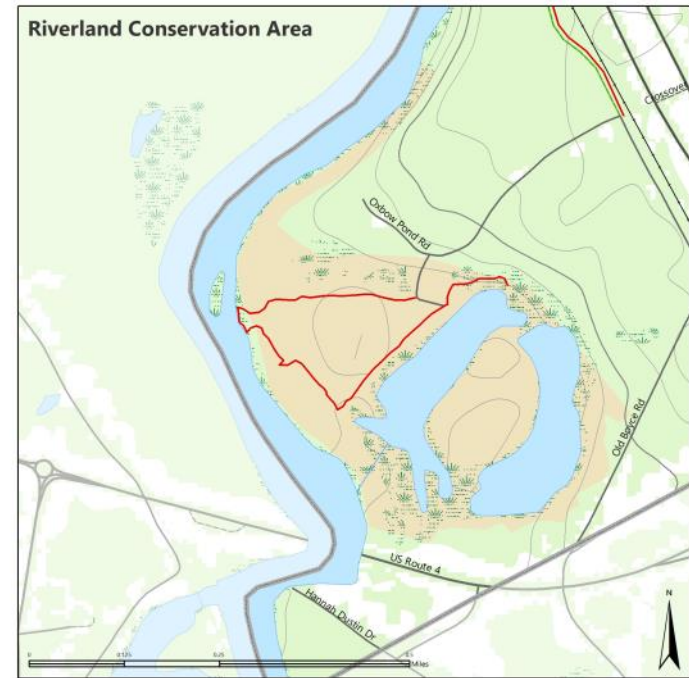
- Trails are very clear and well marked
- Dynamic landscapes and cool landmarks
- A great walk, especially for kids

28 Riverland Conservation Area

The Riverland Conservation area is much more than a beach. With 68 acres of public land and 22 acres of private land under conservation easement, it is a haven for wildlife. The conservation area encompasses 2,800 feet of frontage along the Merrimack River with a sandy beach, two oxbow ponds, wetlands, fields and woods. Of this land, 68 acres is owned by the town and 22 acres are privately owned under conservation easement.

The great variety of ecosystems present in this conservation area supports a wide range of plants and animals. Two oxbow ponds provide habitats for warm water fish and amphibians as well as birds and upland species which feed there. These ponds were part of the river hundreds or thousands of years ago. The water level varies depending upon the season, beaver activity and river flooding. Wetlands of several types are present, i.e., swamp, marsh emergent and forested. The large wetlands surrounding the ponds provide transition from open water to upland. This area changes through the seasons as the water level varies. Shrub habitat is present along the northern edge of the property and provides transition between field and forest. This habitat is favored by many birds for its variety of vegetation and cover.

The sandy beach is created by deposits eroded from the cliffs just upstream – the Muchyedo Banks. See page 31 for more about these banks and the Oxbow Initiative. Underwater for much of the year, this area provides a favored feeding area for wildlife which feed on the mussels. Please note there is a very strong current, use caution and swim at your own risk. *Canterbury Conservation Commission.*



Measurements:

- 0.29 miles out
- 0.45 miles back the longer, looped way
- 0.74 miles total

Notes:

- Very quick and well defined path
- Please stay on the trail, as both sides are private property

29 Sunset Hill Road

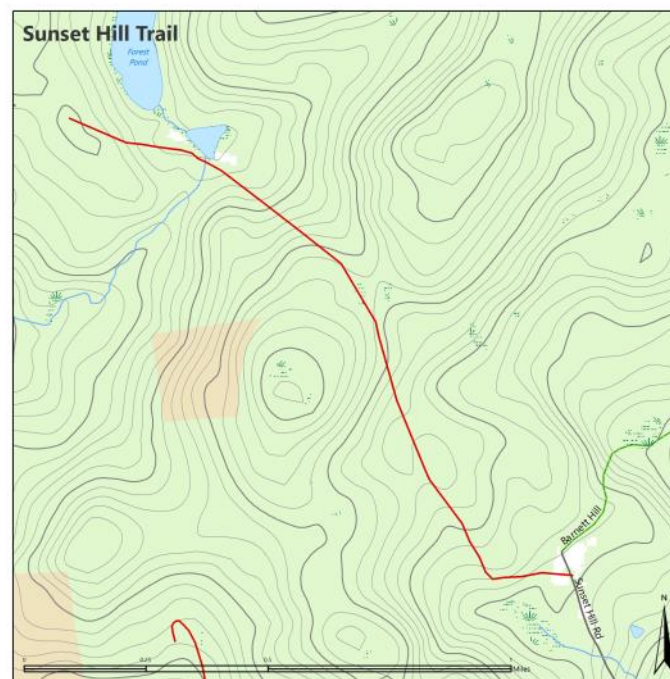
The Sunset Hill Trail follows the portion of Sunset Hill Road that was discontinued in 1925 and which is no longer maintained by the town. This discontinued road once connected Borough Road with Hackleboro Road along the northly end of Canterbury, travelling past the outlet of Forrest Pond. One of the highlights of this trail is its quiet isolated seclusion. Look for wildlife, deer sign is plentiful. Because deer are plentiful, be aware of deer hunters if hiking during hunting season. Also be aware of Lyme disease hitchhiking on ticks hitchhiking on the deer. If you are good with tree identification, look for some interesting tree types on this trail including some not typically seen around Canterbury.

To begin this hike drive to the present-day end of Sunset Hill Road at the intersection with Barnett Road. At the corner where Barnett Road heads east (right) look to your left and you'll see an orange gate across the old Sunset Hill Road leading off to the west. Park near the gate but don't block the entrance. As you go through gate heading west on this Class VI road, note the parallel stonewalls, one on either side of the trail. The stonewalls are 50 feet or 3 rods apart, indicating that this was one a "3-rod road" when laid out by town fathers eons ago.

As you start walking in this area, note the few Hickory trees in this area with an easily identifiable shaggy gray bark. While there are some, Hickory trees are not commonly seen growing in the wild in Canterbury. Their more normal growing region reaches into southern New Hampshire. Hickory trees on this land must not have read the growing region rule book.

About 1,000 feet from the starting gate, the trail swings to the north and starts to climb a moderate grade as we skirt around Sunset Hill. On the east (righthand) side of the road as you climb this grade look for the atypical Red Pine trees or "Pole Pine" as the local old timers would have called them because of their resemblance to a telephone pole. These Red Pine/Pole Pine trees are easily distinguishable from the typical White Pine when the two are seen growing side-by-side as is happening here. Pole Pine stands in this area are almost never naturally occurring and are the results of an initiative by the Civilian Conservation Corps between the 1930's and 1960's encouraging farmers and school children to set out seedlings in abandoned farm fields.

Another 1,000 feet along the trail and you'll come to a rope gate on the west side which blocks the entrance to 4-wheel-drive road leading into what appears to be a deer hunting camp. From the trail I can see a camper, outhouse, and crude barn-like shelter. Continuing on another
(Continues on next page)



Measurements:

1.56 miles out
3.12 miles total

Notes:

- Logging has made the trail very defined but muddy
- Boots or hiking shoes are recommended for this trail

couple of hundred feet, on the opposite (east) side of the road, I can make out the outline of an old cellar hole. Lyford's *History of Canterbury* indicates this was once the homestead of the Thomas Shaw family, but says little about them, other than to indicate their buildings were gone early in the 1800's.

Continuing northerly another 700 ft. we come to a gated woods road on right (east side) with a sign indicating that it is access to a managed tree farm. Another 500 feet up the trail we come to a second gated woods road on the east side, which likely loops back around to the first. Another 400 feet and we come to an opening on the west side of the road that looks like it may have once been a log landing in recent years. Lyford's history indicates that this was once the homestead of Simeon and Amos Brown. Looking at the trees in this area we see mostly Ash trees displaying the unhealthy "blonding" of their bark indicating infestation by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. If you are unfamiliar with this "blonding" pattern look for straight stemmed symmetrical trees with splotchy areas or yellowing bark eventually turning a completely yellowish color.

Approximately another 1,000 feet will bring you to the crest of the hill before heading down into the watershed draining into Forrest Pond. On your left (west) look for big ledge/boulder outcrop. Beech trees are common overstory in this area and if you look at some of them closely you can see scars on their bark made by black bears climbing the tree to get to the beechnuts. Less noticeable but in the sapling growth of the understory, Chestnut trees grow to a small diameter before succumbing to the Chestnut blight and dying off. Look for dark, straight, usually dead, small diameter saplings, sloughing off their bark.

Continuing some 700 feet downhill will bring you to an intersection of sorts. The southwest option is a private driveway on private property and in about 2500 feet will bring you to another deer hunting camp consisting of a log cabin with an outhouse, an old truck skeleton, and a fire pit. If one of the owners is at the camp you may be allowed to sign the camp guest book. If you opted to remain on the main trail at the intersection and continue northwesterly, another 3,000 feet will bring you past the outlet of Forrest Pond and out onto Borough Road. If you did not plan ahead and pre-position a second car here, you'll need to turn around and walk the 1¼ miles back to where you started, for an approximately 3½ mile round trip total hike. *M. Stevens*

30 What Not Trail

If you are looking for a hike that is fun and different, consider the “What Not Trail” on Morrill Road. parking is located on the west side of Morrill Road about 1.2 miles south-easterly of the intersection with Kimball Pond Road. There is off road parking space for one or two cars in front of a gated trail entrance.

This is a dead-end trail so plan to walk in and back out the same way. This is a private trail on private property so be respectful of the landowner’s rights and wishes. Hunters, trappers, snowmobiles, and ATV’s are NOT allowed, but all others are welcome. This trail is wide, well maintained, and easy to follow with rolling topography which makes it perfect for walking or snowshoeing.

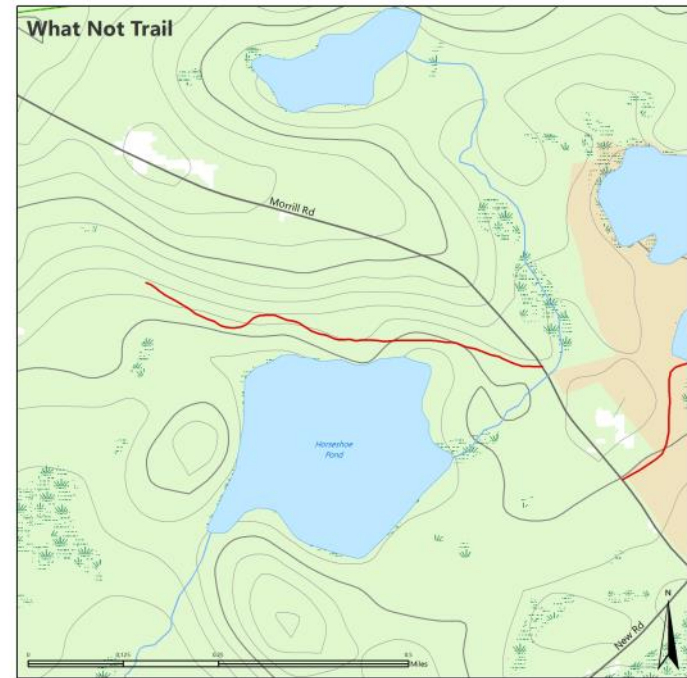
The quirky thing that makes the *What Not Trail* unique and special is the incongruous items that appear randomly in the woods as you hike along. In a whimsical manner, items that you would never expect to see out in the woods suddenly appear.

From the trailhead, about 100 feet into the woods the trail splits into two. The left fork heads southwest and in 750 feet will bring you to Horseshoe Pond. This scenic spot you should plan to see while the swamp maples are crimson red in the fall. The trail to the right at the fork heads northwest and is the beginning of the *What Not Trail*. You’ll know you are on the correct trail if you look up in a White Pine tree and see the pelvic bone of a cow hanging there. I don’t know who, how, or why it is there. 175 feet in from the beginning of the trail you’ll come to a street sign that reads, “Gage Girls Road.” I’ll tell you the Gage Girls story some other time.

About 475 feet in, you’ll come to an old landline telephone on an oak tree. Go ahead and place a call, no charge for long distance. 525 feet in you’ll come to a flat top stump with a clothes iron plugged in to a dedicated electrical outlet on the stump. If your clothes are wrinkled this is a good place to iron them. If you are getting tired after 800 feet, there is a rocking horse that perhaps can give you a ride back to your car. There is also the sun, the moon, and the stars here if you’d like to make a wish.

At 850 feet there is a stained-glass chandelier lamp fixture hanging over the trail, so if it is getting dark go ahead and turn it on. At 1,000 feet there is a lobster boat with lobster trap buoy. No lobster in sight though. At 1750 feet, a space alien Martian has been sighted in the woods. At 1900 feet stop and put a few coins in the piggy bank and then check the maple sap levels in the maple buckets hanging on the dead pine. At 2000 feet there is a red Radio Flyer wagon left over from your childhood waiting for Calvin and Hobbs to come and take a ride. 2325 feet in is a good place to stop if you need file some paperwork and are looking for some binder clips.

At 2750 feet the trail ends at a lunch box hanging on a tree. Go ahead and look inside the lunch box. The trail ends at an old range road and convergence of several property lines so you should stop here. If you continue on to the tea kettle without landowner permission, you may be trespassing so please turn around. Enjoy the hike back to your car and leave no trace of your visit. *M. Stevens*



Measurements:

0.56 miles out

1.12 miles total

Notes:

-Keep a close eye out for items along the trail

31 Whitney Hill Cellar Hole Trek

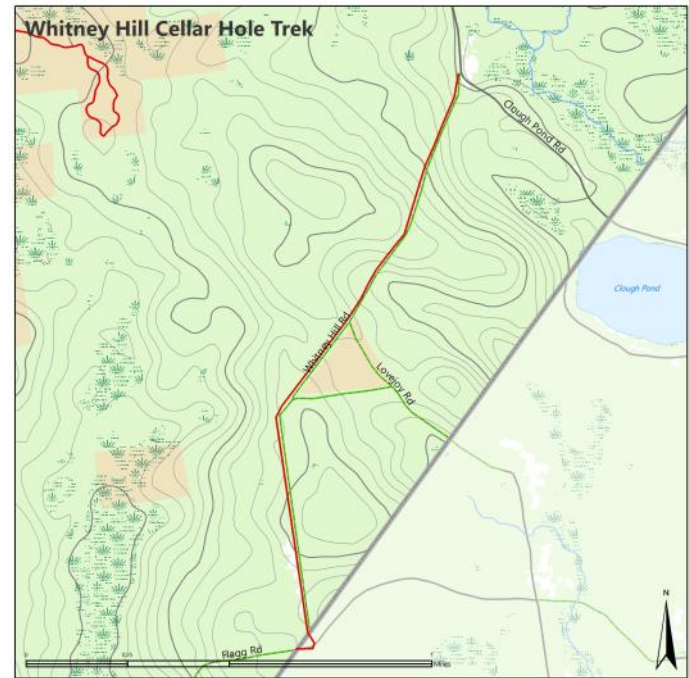
Whitney Hill Road was voted “Discontinued - Subject to Gates and Bars” back in 1953 and is no longer drivable, which makes it a good hiking trail for those seeking a moderately challenging hike or having an interest in old cellar holes and history. This section of Canterbury is now largely forgotten but it was once a thriving area of successful farms and the homesteads of some of Canterbury’s leaders and elected officials. The opening up of free land out west that provided more profitable farming opportunities than rocky Canterbury hilltops could have led to the decline of this district by the late 1800’s.

To begin this hike, look for the old roadbed, now a trail, about two-tenths of a mile south of the Sno-Shakers clubhouse on Clough Pond Road. The trail heads uphill in a southwesterly direction. As you begin to ascend the hill, look for an old farmer’s rock culvert crossing the road in the area of the recent log landing. Here, I witnessed the crazy antics of a “Cock O’The Woods”; a large woodpecker acting like Woody Woodpecker on LSD, which perhaps explains the more colorful common name, rather than “Pileated Woodpecker” which fails to adequately describe his bizarre behavior.

About a quarter of a mile from where we started, look for an impressive set of granite gateposts on the west side of the trail, one of which stands at least 6-feet tall. About 500 feet further along the trail, look for another similar pair. Although now heavily wooded, these dual gates must have once provided access to a cleared hay-field or pasture when sheep grazed much of New Hampshire. Quarrying and erecting granite gateposts is much more labor intensive than putting up simple wooden posts, which suggests that this farm was prosperous enough to employ labor to handle more than just the daily farming chore. Granite posts also suggest farms being passed on from father to son etc., as the benefits of the labor invested in a granite post are long term and not typically benefitting the farmer erecting them.

A little less than a half mile from where we started, a snowmobile trail (Corridor 15) peels off to the west and heads towards Welch Road, but we’ll continue on the old roadbed in a southwest direction. If you were to wander this snowmobile corridor, it crosses through the Schoodac and Spender Meadow Wetlands which are passable in winter on frozen ground and snowpack, but you’ll likely get your feet wet if you attempt this route in any other season.

A short distance beyond the snowmobile corridor, and at the crest of the hill, on the west side there is a barway in the stonewall. Through the barway you’ll find a cellar hole and near it, the foundation of another building, perhaps a small barn or large shed, or maybe a second house without
(Continues on next page)



Measurements:
1.6 miles to Flagg Road
1.63 miles out
3.26 miles total

Notes:
-There was no town line rock but instead a pole
-Rugged hiking shoes recommended because the surface is very rocky

a cellar hole. On the crest of this hill this homestead must have had an impressive view to the southeast at one time, but trees have grown in and obscured much of the view now. Lyford's history indicates that, among others, this was once owned by the Whitney family and was also occupied by tenants that were employed on the Whitney farm.

From the crest of the hill, the trail now goes steadily downhill and through a wet area which crosses the trail before the trail heads back uphill again. In the low area of this saddle, a stone causeway was constructed to keep the road above the brook and allow for a dry crossing. Take a few moments to appreciate the stonework of this causeway and imagine the labor involved in laying and fitting all those heavy rocks while working in the mud using non-motorized equipment.

A couple of hundred feet beyond this causeway, look for a complex of cellar holes and stonework on the southeast side of the trail. I counted at least 5 man-made rock formations that were likely a center chimney house, barn, shed, and other farm outbuildings. Some of these were likely attached or linked by a common retaining wall or stone fence which makes counting the number of buildings somewhat subjective. Lyford's history indicates that this was a Whitney homestead for a couple generations.

A little less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from where we started the trail forks. The left-hand trail heads off to the southeast and will eventually take you to Lovejoy Road in Loudon. We are continuing on the right-hand fork heading southwest and in another 1200 feet a trail heading east joins with our trail. This eastbound trail links up with the left-hand fork from above and brings you out to Lovejoy Road. The triangular tract of land formed inside these three converging trails contains another well-constructed cellar hole complex, remnants of another thriving farm now lost in the woods. Lyford's history suggests that the Brown family lived here for generations before and after the Civil War, but that the place was vacant by 1911.

About a mile from where we first started, our trail turns due south and intersects with an old north/south running range road. At this intersection we find cellar holes on both sides of the range road. The land here is posted against trespass so take your photos of this nice cellar hole only from the trail and do not go exploring the remnants. This intersection might be a good place to turn around if you are looking for a two-mile exercise walk.

If you feel like continuing on...follow the southbound trail for another $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and you'll come to the intersection with a road which crosses through Loudon, Canterbury, and Concord, all in a very short distance. This road is named Flagg Road in Loudon, Flag Road in Canterbury, and Flaghole Road in Concord. Turning right here (westerly) as you emerge from Whitney Hill trail onto Flag Road, will bring you to the Canterbury/Loudon town line marker in approximately 150 feet. Look for a rock in the stonewall prominently inscribed "1868." Less obvious dates and initials are also chiseled in adjacent rocks as Perambulators have accepted this monument for centuries. As the designated Canterbury Perambulator, you may find my initials (MCS) if you search diligently enough.

A reclusive hermit once lived in this area in the 1960's and many stories and rumors were told about him. One suggested he was on the dodge from the law and hiding out in the woods here where he could quickly slip into and out of Canterbury/Loudon/Concord and thus avoid the jurisdictional authority of whichever lawman came looking for him. A fun legend to tell, but likely lacking in total accuracy.

My distances stated here are approximate guesstimates, but unless you planned ahead and spotted a second car in this area, you've now got about a two-mile trek back to your vehicle and have racked up about four miles of exercise for the day. *M. Stevens*

32 Windfall Trail

There is a little-known trail on the north end of Canterbury running into Northfield for those interested in hiking through an area rich with a unique history. It begins off of the dead-end Class VI town road that I know as “Windfall Road,” but which has a different name on the town tax map. The trail is over the old Class VI town roads located in Canterbury and Northfield, and not maintained by either town. Portions of the old road are now used as a snowmobile trail.

Take Ayers Road to Windfall Road (homemade sign on tree) and drive Windfall Road as far as you dare which shouldn’t be very far. Park off the road and in the woods. Depending on where you parked and started walking, you may step over the town line (don’t trip). This town line isn’t painted on the ground, so you likely won’t know when you’ve left Canterbury and entered Northfield.

The trail (old road) passes through a pine stand which lends credibility to the legend as to why this section of Canterbury is known as “The Windfall.” The story goes that a bad storm blew through in the 1800’s and toppled all of the big pine trees. The resulting tangled mess was so impossible to clean up in the days before chain-saws and skidders that it was left in its blown down (windfallen) state for decades until it naturally decomposed and generated the new growth stand of pine you see today.

About 1200 feet up the trail from where you parked, you’ll come to an old, abandoned farm site. There are cellar holes on both sides of the road here and judging from the size of the cellar holes and the quality workmanship in the laid-up rock foundation walls, this was once a prominent establishment. There was a center chimney house on one side of the road and a barn on the opposite side of the road. There is an old stone lined water well here without a cover, so don’t fall in.

Another 1400’ up the trail from this cellar hole complex you’ll come to a pair of wooden fence posts that once were gates to a barb wire fence. The barb wire remains, but the gate is long gone. Cows in this area must have been hungry as there is no grazing grass anywhere in site, only forests, rocks, and ledge outcrop.

On the east side of the trail at these wooden gate posts, a stonewall begins and if you follow it easterly for about 250 feet, you’ll come to another cellar hole complex. The remnant holes of what was once a large center chimney house, a barn, some outbuildings, a well, and a graveyard, indicate that there was once a prominent farm in this remote area which is a long distance from either town’s center.

(Continues on next page)



Measurements:

0.67 miles out

1.34 miles total

Notes:

-The cellar holes on the sides of the trails were not well defined

-The homemade sign was not visible but the trail is clear

This farm, located in Northfield, was once the home of Sally Grover who was the last of the Osgoodites, a religious sect with some interesting beliefs and practices. Sally Grover is buried here in this graveyard (died 1897 at age 84). You might want to read up on Sally and the Osgoodites in Lyford's *History of Canterbury* (page 370-375) before you make this hike. This Osgoodite community was an expansion of the other Osgoodite community located on Zion Hill off of Borough Road in Canterbury.

Back out at the wooden gateposts in the trail, you can continue hiking in a north by northwest direction and you will come to a T intersection in the old roads. The snowmobile trail swings to the west here and the easterly course of the old road is now challenging to see if you aren't specifically looking for it. On the north side of the roads at this T intersection is another impressive set of old cellar holes from another long-gone farm.

Readers who remember Norm Bickford, might be amused to know that he used to pick through the cellar holes in this area for old bottles that he could then sell as antiques. This intersection is a good place to turn around and go the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile back to your vehicle. Stay off posted property, don't fall into the wells and watch out for restless Osgoodites. *M. Stevens*

§ REFLECTIONS §

§ Seeing

I walk in the woods because I need the exercise, but also to get my "woods fix." This time of year, I can often get this from animal tracks. I've seen weasel tracks this year. Don't remember ever having seen them before. And rabbit – one. Hadn't seen any for years. Apparently, there are more of them up north. Best is when animals tell their stories with their trails. One of my favorites was following a fox trail that went right over a stump. I could visualize the fox jumping up on the stump just for the fun of it.

Otter tracks can tell you about the fun they've had. I once followed an otter's tracks from the brook in the valley all the way up to Shaker Road. The otter had made the trip just so it could slide all the way back down on the crust perfectly dusted with snow. They also come up the brook to slide back down it on the sections of ice.

I once saw a deer and a bobcat's tracks intersect. At the intersection there were several clumps of deer hair on the trail.

Our free-flowing brook often provides a good show of different ice forms including ones that resemble the pom poms on Mexican sombreros. At one spot there's a small waterfall which is sometimes flowing under its ice. One year there was a small geyser where the water came out from under the ice. Every few minutes it would shoot up two or three feet.

I could go on and on. Being a wood guy, I'm constantly checking out the trees. Being an old guy though, I have to spend too much time checking where my feet are going. Snowshoeing relieves this somewhat.

The Spring brings the endless show of regeneration, the Fall it's colors. I love seeing moss and mushrooms reminding me how much more life is going on beneath the surface of the soil than above it. I love lichen and glacial erratics. We have one as big as a small cabin! (Not on our trails – special guided tour required.)

It's forever possible to go over the same trails and see things you've never seen before. *D. Emerson*

§ On Walking Often

If you've read this column you know that one of my favorite activities is hiking. There's lots I like to do. And also stuff I have to do. You guessed it. Hiking gets bumped down the list occasionally. Of course, this often happens to activities we need to do for healthful exercise unless we're addicted to them.

Some years ago, I had a near death experience, really from flat out not hiking at all. For some reason I'd developed a fear I'd become physically worthless at seventy! So, I was doing nothing but working or lying flat on my back resting (or sleeping). A blood clot ensued. Obviously, I'm still here, just slower at 78. So, I know I have to hike. But I don't do it near enough. So, I'm trying to do it more - several times a week instead of once a week. I'm doing more short hikes, rather than my preferred one hour or more outings.

Anne is my example, as she goes out more days than she doesn't for twenty minute or half hour walks. I prefer to hike down into the valley west of Shaker Ridge here and follow the brook there a ways. It takes an hour and involves 200 feet of elevation difference. Anne uses the variety of trails we have up near the house. That's my plan now or to just poke around in the interesting woods up here on the ridge, bushwhacking, look for big trees, ledges, etc. Maybe find next year's Christmas tree. Of course, I'll still have to occasionally take longer walks, just not limit myself to them. Having written this, I hope to "walk my talk."

Here in Canterbury most of us have woods of fascinating variety around our homes. I don't recommend bushwhacking in high tick season. But there are plenty of short trails around with relatively clean tread ways, often well brushed out: Morrill Pond to Spender Meadow, Hutchins and Ambeau trails, and of course Shaker Village trails. Stay well walking. *D. Emerson*

§ Pleasures of Winter Woods

It's been a fine winter for woods walking since the big rain washed away the big dump. No snowshoes or traction needed (though some prefer to wear spikes for reassurance and safety). Hope the open winter continues and I can reestablish a regular walking schedule.

The distant views through the leafless woods are welcome, especially of Carding Mill Pond. You see the pond long before you get to it. Perhaps I can find the lovely bog/ marsh I stumbled on when I was lost trying to find Schoodac from Baptist Road.

Winter woods have special pleasures, tracking being the best. We can become less visitors to the woods, more aware of our fellow creatures who live there, their tracks revealing their stories.

Of course the Indians understood that we share the world with the animals, and all life. Winter tracking can be a time to share what we have in common. A playful otter provided me with perhaps the best example of this. I was walking down along our brook. Though frozen over in places, it's a lovely brook and has many openings in the ice overflows. I could see the otter tracks coming up the brook on the snowy ice of the frozen-over sections, then often disappearing where the otter swam under the ice. But also, I could see where it had run on the ice then slid on it as it went back downstream.

Just before the old beaver swamps the otter left the brook and headed uphill to Shaker Road. There was a heavy crust covered with about an inch of light fluffy snow. At Shaker Road, the otter turned to return to the brook, running and sliding on the crust all the way back down to the brook. I could see where the slides went under downed branches that were just high enough for an otter to go under. As good as it gets.

D. Emerson

§ **Canterbury Excursions**

John Muir, one of our nation's leading conservationists, spent countless hours in nature and wrote many inspiring essays. frequently used quote from his writings includes, "*Climb the mountains and get their good tidings's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves*" (*Our National Parks, 1901*). Another is: *Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.*" (*Yosemite, 1912*).

These days, many of us are feeling stressed, uncertain and overwhelmed—a time when we could benefit from nature's peace and healing ways. We don't have to go far to find that as Canterbury is blessed with an abundance of open space, including trails, public natural areas, waterways and more. *D. Emerson*

§ **A Schoodac Exploration Leads to a Swampy Wander**

*I think I was "lost" from the git-go.
But being lost in the woods beats being found at home.*

A good number of the people with whom I've discussed the Schoodac Conservation Area in town (most anybody who will listen to me) tell of getting lost out there – on the east side as a rule. They generally end up on Clough Pond Road, as did I.

Dan Sperduto had told me the north side of Schoodac was very like a kettle hole bog. Another itch. The vegetation is quite unique, as swamps often are, particularly kettle holes which have the added interest of being rare themselves. Do get hold of a copy of Dan's in-depth book, *The Nature of New Hampshire—both pictures and text are superb.* (Available at our town library.)

My first bushwhack exploration I was not really lost. The next time I had the rare combination of both a little extra time and extra energy. I did stumble on a fine little swamp with tussock sedge and sphagnum moss around one end, the other end thick with huge cattails and major snags. And fortunately, not too long after, I came to Clough Pond Road. So now I have a new “getting lost” story to replace the ones I’m tired of telling. And this now often-told tale inspired someone to tell me of a real kettle hole – bingo!

I have become a swamp junkie. If you see my car in a ditch someplace it’s probably because I was looking at a swamp and not the road. If you want to check out some swamps without getting your feet wet, read NH artist-naturalist David Carroll’s “Swampwalkers Journal” – the third in what he calls his “wet sneaker trilogy” books. *D. Emerson*

❖ GEMS ❖

❖ **Charcoal Kiln** ❖

If you’ve ever gone up to Hackleboro Orchards for apples, you’ve likely noticed the little concrete block cube-shaped building on the east side of the road, and likely wondered what it is. The building has no windows and even the floor and roof are made of concrete. If you were not able to guess what it is for, it is, or was, a charcoal kiln. Back in the day when there was a demand for charcoal for use by blacksmiths and in charcoal fired furnaces etc., this kiln was built with the idea of producing some additional revenue from waste forest products. Tops, limbs, and undesirable species of trees were loaded into this kiln and then set on fire in a low oxygen environment for a slow drying burn. The charcoal produced was bagged and put onto the southbound train for sale in the cities. Unfortunately, the amount of labor involved didn’t balance out with the cash rewards, so the enterprise was short-lived, but the little block building remains. (Private property) *M. Stevens*

❖ **Flag Hole vs. Flag Pole** ❖

Many NH towns, including Canterbury, have a Flag Hole Road, Flag Hole Pond, or Flag Hole Marsh, etc., that leads the curious to wonder what exactly is a “Flag Hole”? Often times people will mistakenly switch “Flag Hole” to “Flag Pole” which at first might seem to make more sense, but then why would you have a Flag Pole Pond or Flag Pole Road?

Legend says that in the early days of settlement of Canterbury, and other NH towns, fresh drinking water was hard to come by in the winter when everything was froze up, melting snow over a campfire was tedious, and wells deep enough not to freeze hadn’t been dug yet. A custom developed where someone would chop a hole through the ice on a pond and obtain water through the hole with a bucket and rope. Rather than go through the effort of chopping their own hole in the ice, the singular hole became a community water supply and each person only needed to chop away a new skim coat of ice. Raising a flag at the entrance road to the pond told everyone whether the hole in the pond was opened or not,

as not everyone had the ability to chop through thick ice. If the flag wasn't raised you looked elsewhere for water and didn't waste time travelling down the road to a "closed" water hole at your local "flag hole pond." *M. Stevens*

❖ **Forrest Pond – why 2 r's?** ❖

Because Forrest Pond is in the undeveloped forest of Canterbury, map makers mistakenly assume that it is properly spelled Forest Pond with only one "r". But that is incorrect. Forrest Pond is not named for the forest that surrounds it but is actually named after William Forrest a Revolutionary War Veteran who settled in the area and established a farm in the wilderness at the pond now bearing his name. So 'Forrest Pond' is correctly spelled with 2 'r's'. Check and see how it is spelled on Google Maps, the USGS Quad Sheet, DeLorme, or your favorite GPS mapping software. (Private property) *M. Stevens*

❖ **The Gorge** ❖

A naturally occurring deep swimming hole scoured out by Forrest Pond Brook made a perfect swimming and fishing hole for generations of Canterbury children before swimming pools, landowner liability, and lifeguard required swimming areas came to replace local top secret swimming holes. Follow Forrest Pond Brook below Clough Tavern Road down into 'The Gorge' to see this hidden gem. (Private property) *M. Stevens*

❖ **Mason Cemetery** ❖

If you take Hackleboro Road about 2 miles +/- out of the town center, near the spot where the road turns from pavement to gravel, there is a wider spot in the road. At this location there used to be a prosperous farm owned by the Mason family and before them the Hill family. The barn was located on the east side of the road and the house on the west side as was commonly done by smart farmers back in the day. This way the town would snowplow out the bulk of your dooryard when they plowed the road, leaving the farmers with less to shovel. Both the barn and house are gone now, although you can still find the cellar hole remnants. The interesting gem hiding in the woods here is the old family burying ground now maintained by the Canterbury Cemetery Trustees. Woods have grown up all around it but a couple of hundred feet off the road behind where the house once stood, is a small stone-walled enclosure with a half a dozen graves in it. The headstones date back to about the Civil War and include some sculptured hands pointing to heaven or clasped in a handshake. *M. Stevens*

❖ **Palletborough Road / Borough Road** ❖

Joseph Pallet was a man of Spanish descent born in 1723 who came to Portsmouth as a stow-away in the hold of a ship sometime in the mid 1700's. He came to Canterbury in the later half of the 1700's and married a woman named Jane. Little is known about Jane, but perhaps she was also of Spanish descent. They had a son named Nathaniel Pallet born in 1756.

The Pallet family settled on what we now call Borough Road. Nathaniel Pallet married Mollie Sanborn the daughter of his neighbor Benjamin Sanborn. Nathaniel and Mollie had 3 daughters and 3 sons. Joseph, Jane, Polly, Benjamin, Deliverance, and Nathaniel. This section of Canterbury was known as “Pallet’s borough” or “Palletborough” after the many Pallets who resided there, eventually shortened to Borough Road after the Pallets had died off.

Nathaniel Pallet was said to be a large man with a full girth and a lazy attitude towards hard physical labor. Instead of doing the manual labor necessary for a successful farm, he preferred to direct, supervise and order his children to do the work in a somewhat tyrannical manner. Neighbor and father-in-law, Benjamin Sanborn, was more prosperous than Nathaniel and was more respected by the people of Canterbury. He held positions of respect and authority in the town and was called, “Squire Sanborn” as was the custom at the time.

Nathaniel feuded with his neighbors, the Osgoodite religious colony, over boundary lines, and other things. As the Osgoodite movement spread and took hold in Canterbury, his children joined the Osgoodites. He disliked the Osgoodites and forbid his children to marry an Osgoodite or participate in the Osgoodite religion. Some of the children did anyway and were dis-owned by him. The daughters remained unmarried and died as elderly spinsters and are buried in the Pallet family cemetery.

The Osgoodites religious group was similar to the Shakers in some ways, and both religious groups lived in Canterbury about the same time period. Both religious groups believed in community living and had villages in neighboring towns/states. But there were differences also. Whereas the Shakers believed in celibacy and that men and women shouldn’t marry and procreate, the Osgoodites didn’t share that belief. The Osgoodites did however believe in complete and total honesty no matter how crude, vulgar, or brutal the truth might be.

The Osgoodites also did not believe in organized government, payment of taxes, doctors, lawyers, military service, Abraham Lincoln and Republicans. The Osgoodites were especially fond of hard cider and felt that a poor crop of apples was caused by the Republicans, while a good crop was because of the Democrats being in power. Osgoodites were also known for the little ditty songs they wrote and sang as hymns during their church worship services, which served as a way of telling the world how they felt about something in a brutally honest manner.

Times got tough for Nathaniel and he owed money to several people and was behind on his taxes. His children were rebelling against him and leaving the family farm to become or marry an Osgoodite. This meant Pallet was losing his free-labor work force and his laziness was catching up with him. Pallet left town quickly and quietly one night just ahead of the bill collectors. Some say that he went to Methuen, MA, to work in the mills and earn money to pay off his debts. Other legend says that he had a spat with his wife and abandoned the family.

Pallet’s wife was left with debt, no husband, and perhaps as many as 6 kids, to survive on a subsistence farm that wasn’t providing a lot of subsistence. She did what she had to do to survive and her reputation was damaged. Her religious neighbors the Osgoodites took notice but didn’t take pity on her as they were still angry over the feud with her husband. Her father, Benjamin did take pity on them. Benjamin Sanborn was a more prosperous farmer and Squire Sanborn paid off the debts and provided for his daughter and grandchildren in the absence of Nathaniel.

Nathaniel returned to Canterbury after some period of time, but his family wasn’t particularly happy to see him. His wife didn’t want him back. His daughters who had been forbidden to marry their sweethearts were not happy to see him either. Squire Sanborn wasn’t happy to see him. The disowned and banished son(s) had come back to the family farm to help take care of their mother and siblings and were now in possession of the farm. He was still fat, lazy, and broke. A second house existed somewhere nearby and he was allowed to live out his life in that second house instead of at the family farm. *M. Stevens*

❖ The Happy Wanderer ❖

A popular song from the 1950's, Ginny Litalien's dad used to sing this with great joy when hiking with his family. Though the hilly trails were not far away, he always sang this—complete with yodeling which forever mortified the kids who begged him to stop. They love it now, with joy-filled memories.

The Happy Wanderer

I love to go a-wandering,
Along the mountain track,
And as I go, I love to sing,
My knapsack on my back.

Chorus:

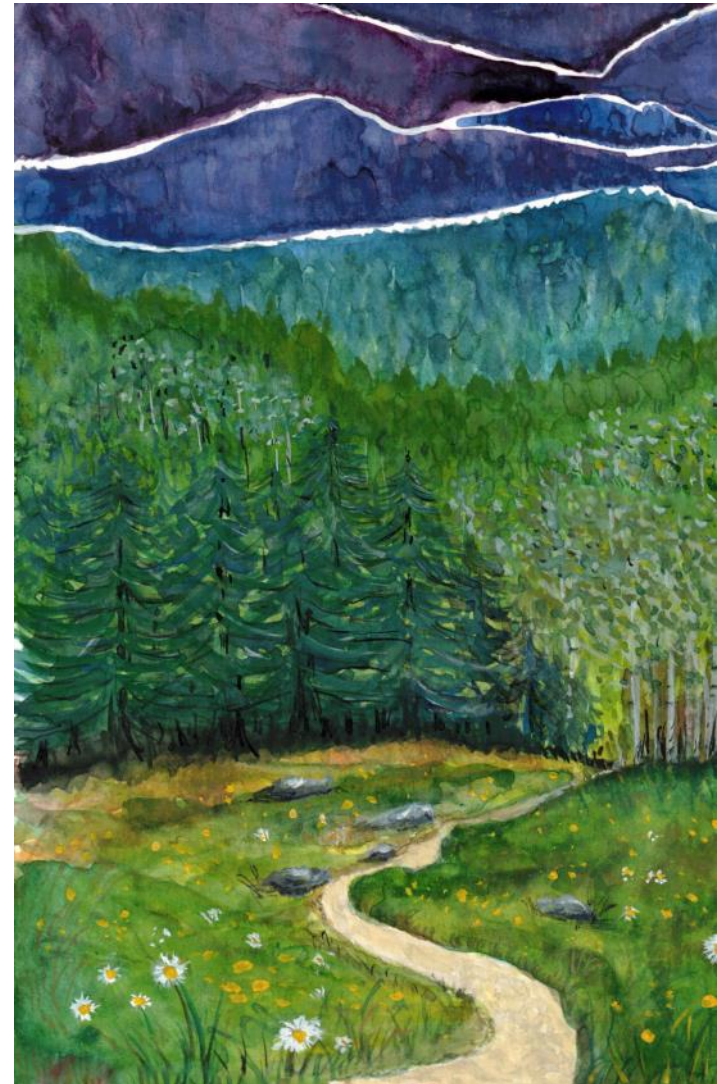
*Val-deri, Val-dera,
Val-deri,
Val-dera-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha
Val-deri, Val-dera.
My knapsack on my back.*

I love to wander by the stream
That dances in the sun,
So joyously it calls to me,
"Come! Join my happy song!"

I wave my hat to all I meet,
And they wave back to me,
And blackbirds call so loud and sweet
From ev'ry green wood tree.

High overhead, the skylarks wing,
They never rest at home
But just like me, they love to sing,
As o'er the world we roam.

Oh, may I go a-wandering
Until the day I die!
Oh, may I always laugh and sing,
Beneath God's clear blue sky!



J. Laufman

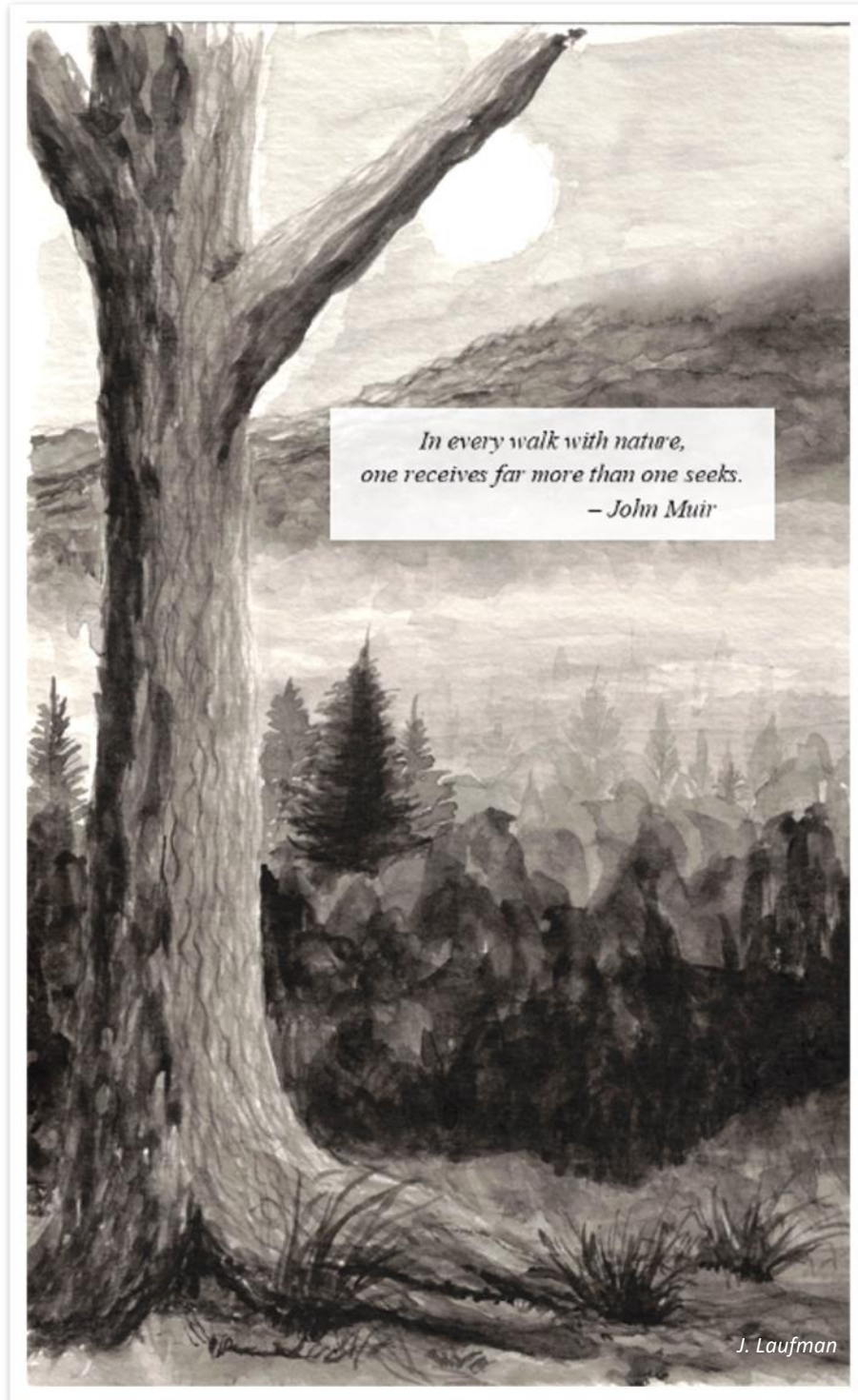
RESOURCES

Trail Etiquette

Aligned with NH State Parks guidelines, here a few suggestions:
When parking, do not block gates, park only in designated areas.
Stay on trails to avoid widening it or damaging flora.
Allow wildlife to thrive undisturbed.
Keep pets under control.
Carry in /carry out.
Consider insect and tick repellent and permethrin for your protection.

NH Trails, Maps & Resources

Concord Conservation Commission Trail Book – 38 trails
Five Rivers Conservation Trust – 6 properties in town. Some have public access, some with trails, and some are private
Hike Safe Card supports search & rescue services (NH Fish & Game)
Lyford, John. *History of the Town of Canterbury, NH. Canterbury, NH Historical Society, 1973.*
Loudon Conservation Commission Trails online
Mapping apps, i.e., Garmin, All Trails, Hiking Project, etc.
New Hampshire State Parks – 15 parks, many more recreation sites
New Hampshire Fish & Game – 124 Wildlife Management Areas
NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources – 201,513 acres in 221 properties in 145 towns
Rails-To-Trails Conservancy – 32,000 national trails; Trail Link app
Sno Shakers Club – snowmobile trail map online
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests – 190 forest reservations and about 400 miles of trails and access roads
State Forests in Canterbury– Shaker, Ayers and a portion of Stillhouse
White Mountain National Forest, USDA – 1200 miles of trails
Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH – Working to keep New Hampshire’s great outdoors thriving for future generations



*In every walk with nature,
one receives far more than one seeks.*

– John Muir

J. Laufman