

Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

Spring Into Action!
Plan and Go With Our
Special Recreation Issue



SPRING 2019

SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS



forestsociety.org

Get Out.

**Hike, picnic, kayak, walk the dog,
forage, go birding, snowshoe, enjoy the view.**

**We care for our conserved lands because
we care about recreation and community character.**

Our forest reservations are special places to enjoy a range of low-impact activities outdoors.

Our Stewardship Matters fund supports current land stewardship projects on our forest reservations throughout the state. Every contribution counts. You can make a difference!

**Visit forestociety.org/StewardshipMatters
to learn more and donate today.**

SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS



Recreation For One And All

Nearly 20 years ago, as the Forest Society prepared to celebrate its 100th anniversary, I wrote about walking my dog in the woods for our anniversary book *People and Place*. Today, I walk in the same woods with a different dog, Minnie (pictured), but the experience I wrote about remains:

Each day the walk is different, although I travel the same trail. The slant of the light and its quality, the flowers as they emerge in the spring, the place where I sometimes smell fox, the color of the leaves, the wind, the songs of the frogs, the drift of the snow, the squishy spots in the trail, the gurgle of water in the seasonal streams—all these qualities, and more, change each day.

It's no accident that we called our book *People and Place*. Then as now, we celebrate the deep connection of people to land. Then as now, we understand that one of the best ways to encourage people to support keeping forests as forests is to get them into the woods to enjoy them. Many of you have had similar experiences in the woods with or without a canine companion. Those of us who love being in the forests understand their importance, and it's why we want to protect them for all of their qualities.

The Forest Society's mission statement hasn't changed since 1904: "to perpetuate the forests of New Hampshire by their wise use and their complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty." In a time when more and more people live in urban and suburban areas, it's perhaps more important than ever to entice people from all over the state into the woods to appreciate the many benefits nature can offer. Some people are enticed by a naturalist or guide to help them observe the bounty



of the forest. Others borrow snowshoes to get out in the winter. Some like to be with friends or a group; others prefer solitude. Some paddle forest streams; others watch birds or practice their photography skills. Some repair trails or take part in citizen science projects. As you can see, there is something for everyone. That's why recreation is so important: it deepens our connection, understanding, and enjoyment of the natural world, and it helps us to value the land as well as our personal experience with it.

In this special recreation issue, you'll find many ways to enjoy and recharge in the woods. Whether you go on a staff-led trip or venture out by yourself, you'll discover that our forest reservations are just the spot for your next hike, for a learning experience, and for making lasting memories.

Please join us as we explore and enjoy all the different ways to connect with the outdoors!

Jane Difley is the president/forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.



SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS

CHAIR

Deanna Howard, *Etna*

VICE CHAIR

Bill Tucker, *Goffstown*

SECRETARY

Amy McLaughlin, *Exeter*

TREASURER

Andrew Smith, *Twin Mountain*

PRESIDENT/FORESTER

Jane A. Difley, *Webster*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Charlie Bridges, *New Durham*

John Brighton, *Hanover*

Deb Buxton, *Greenfield*

Bill Crangle, *Plymouth*

Peter Fauver, *North Conway*

Stephen Froling, *Hancock*

Drew Kellner, *Brookline*

Andy Lietz, *Rye*

Nancy Martland, *Sugar Hill*

Karen Moran, *Webster*

Lorin Rydstrom, *Hollis*

Janet Zeller, *Concord*

STAFF

EXECUTIVE

Jane A. Difley, *president/forester*

Maria Stewart, *executive assistant*

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

Michelle Morse, *human resources manager*

Amy Nichols, *finance specialist*

Tina Ripley, *administrative assistant*

Denise Vaillancourt, *vice president of finance*

Harriette Yazzie-Whitcomb, *receptionist*

MEMBERSHIP/DEVELOPMENT

Juliette Clough, *data processor*

Linda Dammann, *development associate*

Diane Forbes, *senior director for development*

Susanne Kibler-Hacker, *vice president for development*

Allan Krygeris, *senior technology specialist*

Sara Krzyzaniak, *data processor*

Margaret Liszka, *director of membership*

Ann McCoy, *development manager*

Meredith Reed O'Donnell, *foundation relations manager*

COMMUNICATIONS/OUTREACH PROGRAMS

David Anderson, *senior director of education*

Andy Crowley, *land steward program coordinator*

Carrie Deegan, *community engagement and volunteer manager*

Emily Lord, *digital outreach manager*

Jack Savage, *vice president of communications/outreach*

Ryan Smith, *communications manager*

POLICY/RESERVATION STEWARDSHIP

Will Abbott, *vice president of policy/reservation stewardship*

Frank Allen, *building and grounds assistant*

Nik Berube, *maintenance assistant*

Rita Carroll, *tree farm administrator*

Rebecca Darman, *reservation stewardship and policy coordinator*

Mike Farrington, *property management assistant*

Steven Junkin, *field forester*

Matt Leahy, *public policy manager*

Nigel Manley, *director of North Country property*

Nathan Maser, *property management assistant*

Carl Murphy, *facilities manager*

Carleen Quinn, *retail and events manager*

Gabe Roxby, *field forester*

Amanda St. Jean, *program assistant*

Wendy Weisiger, *managing forester*

LAND PROTECTION

Abraham Ames, *easement steward*

Reagan Bissonnette, *senior director of easement stewardship and counsel*

Jess Charpentier, *land protection specialist*

Connie Colton, *land protection and stewardship coordinator*

Naomi Houle, *easement steward*

Brian Hotz, *vice president of land conservation*

Tom Howe, *senior director of land conservation*

Zach Pearo, *easement steward*

Matt Scaccia, *easement steward*

The Forest Society thanks the following businesses for their generous support.

Summit Circle

(\$5,000 and up)

BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC
Event Builders, LLC
Meredith Village Savings Bank
Merrimack County Savings Bank
Nathan Wechsler & Company
Onepath
Whalen Public and Media Relations, LLC

Trustees' Circle

(\$2,500 to \$4,999)

CIT
Northeast Delta Dental
Northland Forest Products, Inc.

President/Forester's Circle

(\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Lumbard & Kellner, LLC
NEMO Equipment, Inc.
New England Private Wealth Advisors, LLC
NH Conservation Real Estate
Peabody & Smith Realty, Inc.
Ransmeier & Spellman, P.C.
Roche Realty Group, Inc.
Rockywood-Deephaven Camps, Inc.
Superior Nut Company, Inc.
The Mulburn Inn
The Secret Agency, LLC

Steward

(\$750 to \$999)

EOS Research, Ltd.
TriPyramid Structures, Inc.

Partner

(\$500 to \$749)

Arcomm Communications Corporation
Benthien Associates
Capitol Craftsman, LLC
Colonial Woodworking, Inc.
Durgin and Crowell Lumber Co., Inc.
Fuller's Sugarhouse, LLC
Gary's Chimney Services
Half Moon Enterprises
Harvest Capital Management, Inc.
Lyme Timber Company

Partner (continued)

R. M. Piper, Inc.
The Music Mill
Urban Tree Service/A Tree Health Company, Inc.

Colleague

(\$250 to \$499)

Aesthetic Dental Center
Birch Hill Summer Camp, Inc.
Bully Boy Distillers
Cersosimo Lumber Co., Inc.
Frost Pond Carpentry
Granite Investment Advisors, Inc.
Granite State Natural Foods, Inc.
Great Brook Veterinary Clinic, LLC
Kel-Log, Inc.
Kozikowski Properties, LLC
Limington Lumber Company
Meadowsend Timberlands Limited
Mulligan Land & Timber
New England Biolabs, Inc.
New England Wood Pellet, Inc.
Sunset Park Campground
The Rossi Group, LLC
Whole Wealth Management
Woodstock Inn Station & Brewery

Matching Gift Companies

AARP
Aetna Foundation
Aetna Giving Campaign
Allegro MicroSystems, LLC
American International Group, Inc.
Ameriprise Financial Employee Gift Matching Program
Amica Companies Foundation
Autodesk Foundation
Autodesk Foundation Employee Engagement Fund
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.
BAE Systems Employee Community Fund, Inc.
Bank of America
Bose Corporation
CA, Inc. Matching Gifts Program
Cadence Design Systems, Inc.
Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, Inc.
Dell Employee Giving Program

Matching Gift Companies (continued)

ExxonMobil Foundation
FM Global Foundation
Gartner, Inc.
GE Foundation
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Google, Inc.
Graham Holdings Company
Grove Street Fiduciary, Inc.
Hewlett Packard Company Foundation
The Home Depot Foundation Matching Gift Program
Honeywell International, Inc.
IBM Corporation
Intel Corporation
Jefferies, LLC
John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Lincoln Financial Group Foundation
Lumina Foundation for Education
Markem-Imaje Corporation
MassMutual
McKinsey & Company
Medtronic
Merck Partnership for Giving
Meredith Corporation Foundation
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Motorola Solutions
MSD Capital
National Grid
The Norfolk & Dedham Group
Novartis
Oracle Corporation
Pfizer Foundation
Premier, Inc.
Riverstone Resources, LLC
SAP Software Solutions
Seaboard International Forest Products, LLC
Shell Oil Company Foundation
Textron Matching Gift Program
Thomson Reuters
TriPyramid Structures, Inc.
UnitedHealth Group
UNUM Matching Gifts Program
Verizon Foundation
Waters Corporation



And many thanks to those businesses who give less than \$250.

The Forest Society...Where Conservation and Business Meet

For information on business memberships, please contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945 or via email at skh@forestsociety.org.



Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

A nonprofit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its renewable natural resources. Basic annual membership fee is \$40 and includes a subscription to *Forest Notes*.

Executive Editor: Jack Savage

Editor: Ryan Smith

Design & Production: The Secret Agency

Printing: R.C. Brayshaw & Company, Inc.

Forest Notes is printed on elemental chlorine-free Sappi Flo paper with 10 percent post-consumer recycled content. Sappi Flo is made from pulp purchased from suppliers who document sound environmental practices and sustainable forest management.

Permission is required for reproduction of any part of this magazine.

Copyright 2019 SPNHF. US ISSN: 0015 7457.

54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, N.H. 03301

Phone: 603-224-9945, Fax: 603-228-0423

info@forestsociety.org, forestsociety.org

The Forest Society proudly supports the following organizations:



Cosponsor



Underwriter



Member

WEB EXCLUSIVES



Hiking Hot Spot

forestsociety.org/mountmajorInt

Mount Major to host low-impact hiker education program



An L-T-A for Effort

forestsociety.org/LTArenewal

Commission renews Forest Society's land trust accreditation



Northern Pass News

forestsociety.org/northernpass

NH Supreme Court hears transmission line project's appeal

CONNECT WITH US!



facebook.com/ForestSociety



@ForestSociety



@Forest_Society

ADVENTURE

Boundless trails. Captivating tales.

WINDOWS TO THE WILD

NH PBS

nhpbs.org

1 THE FORESTER'S PRISM

Recreation For One And All

6 BEST QUICK TRIPS

8 BEST HALF-DAY HIKES

10 BEST ALL DAY ADVENTURES

11 BEST MULTIDAY TREKS

12 BEST SCENIC VIEWS

14 BEST INTERPRETIVE TRAILS

16 BEST WATER FEATURES

18 BEST DOG WALKING

20 FOREST SOCIETY FANDOM

Members and followers show off their recreation connection to Forest Society reservations.



SPECIAL RECREATION
PULL-OUT MAP AND GUIDE

22 BEST ARTS AND CULTURE

24 BEST FISHING

26 BEST WILD BLUEBERRY PICKING

28 BEST WILDLIFE VIEWING

30 BEST WINTER ACTIVITIES

32 BEST PADDLING

34 BEST FALL FOLIAGE VIEWING

36 BEST PICNIC SPOTS

37 HUNTING ON FOREST SOCIETY RESERVATIONS

38 ON OUR LAND

Combining Forestry and Recreation

40 PROJECT IN PROGRESS

Tending To Mount Major's Tired Trails

42 THE MANY FACES OF CONSERVATION

Forest Society Member Terry Glazier

On our cover: One of the Forest Society's top destinations for all day adventures (see page 10), Mount Monadnock Reservation features more than 40 miles of trails for hikers to explore. Photo: Jerry Monkman/Ecophotography.

CONTENTS

Spring 2019, No. 297



A canoeist explores Lempster's Sand Pond, whose northern shoreline is protected by the Forest Society's Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest (see page 8).
Photo: Jerry Monkman/Ecophotography



BEST QUICK TRIPS

[1–3 hours]



9 PLACES FOR RESPITE AND RENEWAL

By Ryan Smith

Got an hour or two to spare? Get out and discover the following Forest Society reservations and easements to reset your day with some relaxation and exercise. These properties are closer than you think and you'll rarely see the crowds that many popular state parks do. You'll wish you discovered these places sooner, but better late than never. Lace up and go!

1. HIGH FIVE

Perfect for families looking for a quick nature escape, High Five's Wilson Hill boasts dramatic views to the north of many other Forest Society reservations, including Hedgehog Mountain [see page 10], Wilkins-Campbell Forest, and Tom Rush Forest. The less than one-mile round-trip hike winds through a field of milkweed, a favorite of butterflies, before reaching the grassy top.

PARKING: Sky Farm Road, Deering

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailhead unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/highfive

Above: Sunset as seen from High Five Reservation's Wilson Hill in Deering.

Opposite page: Visitors to the Merrimack River Outdoor Education & Conservation Area enjoy a peaceful walk through a silver maple floodplain forest.

2. HIGH BLUE

Two short, scenic loop trails originate from Scovill Road: A west loop through a mixed deciduous forest to an outcropping with semi-obstructed views of the Connecticut River Valley and an east loop through a spruce-fir forest to the top of Derry Hill with views of Pack Monadnock. For an interpretive experience, try out NH Forest Explorer on your smart phone.

PARKING: Scovill Road, Walpole

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailhead unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/highblue
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

3. HEALD TRACT

A patchwork of conserved properties lines the Souhegan River valley offering ample recreation opportunities in every season. Visitors new to Heald Tract will want to make a short trip to Heald Pond [aka King Brook Reservoir] via the Heald Pond Trail off Heald Road. Pack some binoculars to look for wood ducks, herons, frogs, and turtles in the vegetation along the shoreline. Lengthen your visit with a trip up nearby Fisk Hill.

PARKING: Heald Road, Wilton

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailhead unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/healdtract

4. MERRIMACK RIVER OUTDOOR EDUCATION & CONSERVATION AREA

Only a 10-minute drive from downtown Concord, the Forest Society's headquarters is also home to a pleasant trail system that meanders through an interesting floodplain forest. Visitors can bask on steep banks overlooking the Merrimack River or travel deeper into the reservation on the 1.5-mile Les Clark Nature Trail. To see the property from the water, put-in a kayak or canoe upriver at the Sewall's Falls Boat Launch [see page 32].

PARKING: Portsmouth Street, Concord

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$3/hiker; \$4/hiker and dog

INFO: forestsociety.org/conservationcenter
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

5. WEEKS FOREST

An outing on Weeks Forest's two loop trails [lower and upper] feature scenic and ecological attractions for little effort—perfect for young, aspiring hikers. The trails travel through a variety of wildlife habitats from open fields to recently logged forests. Take note of the ephemeral vernal pools, breeding habitat for frogs and salamanders, in spring.

PARKING: Gilford Town Offices, Route 11A, Gilford [trailhead directly across the street]

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/weeksforest



6. MUSTER FIELD FARM MUSEUM (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

Muster Field Farm is a working farm and museum. The large, open fields, where militias mustered during the 18th and 19th centuries, are used to demonstrate farm operations and equipment during Farm Days in August. More than 200 of the museum's 250 acres are under a conservation easement with the Forest Society.

PARKING: Harvey Road, North Sutton

WHEN TO VISIT: The museum grounds are open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. The Matthew Harvey Homestead is open Sundays from 1–4 p.m. in the summer. The farmstand is open from 12–6 p.m. in the summer.

ADMISSION FEE: Free [excluding certain special events]

INFO: musterfieldfarm.com

7. EMERY FARM (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

Emery Farm has been a part of the fabric of New Hampshire's seacoast for generations and has been locally run and operated by the same family for more than 350 years. The Forest Society holds three easements on nearly one hundred acres of land. Swing by the newly refurbished farm store for local fruits, vegetables, and seasonal items, including pumpkins and Christmas trees.

PARKING: 147 Piscataqua Road [Route 4], Durham

WHEN TO VISIT: Check website

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: emeryfarm.com

8. GLEN OAKES TOWN FOREST (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

This 389-acre town property offers a wide variety of forest and wildlife habitats to explore on nearly 4 miles of well-marked trails. The Forest Society holds an easement on the land, which acts as an important buffer to the environmentally important Spruce Swamp, a large wetland of regional significance in the coastal watersheds of New Hampshire.

PARKING: Andreski Drive, Fremont

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: trailfinder.info/trails/trail/glen-oakes-town-forest

9. MULLIGAN FOREST (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

Located just north of the well-traveled Pawtuckaway State Park, visitors to Mulligan Forest will find a quieter experience on more than 5 miles of trails that connect to the North and Bean rivers, Big and Little Mulligan ponds, and interesting Black Gum swamps.

PARKING: Stevens Hill Road, Nottingham

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: nottingham-nh.gov/conservation-commission/pages/mulligan-forest



BEST HALF-DAY HIKES

[3–6 hours]



HIT THE RESET BUTTON WITH THESE HALF-DAY HIKES

By Ryan Smith

With 185 Forest Society reservations and some 750 conservation easements scattered across New Hampshire, hikers have myriad close-to-home destinations to choose from for their next outdoor adventure. Whether you're looking for a historical experience or a place where you can escape it all, the Forest Society has something for everyone. You'll be surprised by how close our reservations are to your town and city. The following half-day hikes are perfect for hikers looking to get a little deeper into our properties, exploring our land's rich cultural history and maybe stopping at a scenic vista or two.

Gap Mountain's North Peak boasts views of the Forest Society's Monadnock Reservation to the north.

1. ASHUELOT RIVER HEADWATERS FOREST

Whether you enjoy scenic vistas or shoreline outlooks, this nearly 2,000-acre property has something for everyone minus the crowds. From the reservation's only parking lot on South Road, visitors can head northwest to the summit of Silver Mountain for views of the Connecticut River Valley or cross the road and take the wooded trails to Sand and Long ponds.

PARKING: South Road, Lempster

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (South Road unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/ashuelotrivers

2. LOST RIVER RESERVATION

In 1912, the Forest Society protected the Lost River Gorge and the surrounding area in Kinsman Notch from logging. More than 100 years later, the gorge, leased by the White Mountains Attractions Association, is a family-favorite destination providing visitors with fun, challenging, and exciting experiences of the reservation's river, gorge, boulders, and caves.

PARKING: Route 112, Woodstock

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (check online for operating dates and hours); note: dogs are not allowed

ADMISSION FEE: Lost River Ecology Trail and Nature Garden Walk: Free; Gorge Boardwalk: Check online for rates

INFO: forestsociety.org/lostriver

3. MADAME SHERRI FOREST

A short walk from the Gulf Road parking lot to what's left of former owner Madame Sherri's decaying castle foundation and staircase is sure to please. Visitors can extend their trip by exploring several miles of side trails leading from the reservation to other adjoining conservation lands.

PARKING: Gulf Road, Chesterfield

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailhead unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/madamesherri

4. THE ROCKS

One of the North Country's most popular Christmas tree farms, The Rocks has more to offer than trimming trees. Seasonal offerings, such as maple sugaring tours and the popular Bretzfelder Park Family Educational Series, keep visitors returning throughout the year.

PARKING: 4 Christmas Lane, Bethlehem

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: therocks.org; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

5. MOOSE MOUNTAINS RESERVATION

Cellar holes, centuries-old cemeteries, and interesting views from Phoebe's Nable and Piper Mountain await visitors to this nearly 2,500-acre reservation that boasts more than eight miles of foot paths, woods roads, and snowmobile trails.

PARKING: New Portsmouth Road, Middleton

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailhead unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/moosemountains



Spectacular views of the White Mountains await visitors of Lost River Reservation in Woodstock.

6. ANDREW BROOK FOREST

Pack a lunch and head to the pristine waters of Lake Solitude via the 2-mile Andrew Brook Trail. The Forest Society protected the trailhead on Mountain Road with a 33-acre purchase in 2016, ensuring access to the high-elevation mountain pond and the scenic White Ledges area on Mount Sunapee.

PARKING: Mountain Road, Newbury

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailhead unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/andrewbrook; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

7. GAP MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

Climbing the north and middle peaks of Gap Mountain are a surefire way to train for a more strenuous ascent of neighboring Mount Monadnock (see page 10). Hikers can choose from two trails to the rocky, granite peaks, which are dotted with delicious wild blueberries in July and August (see page 27).

PARKING: South Parking Lot: Upper Gap Mountain Road, Troy; North Parking Lot: Bullard Road, Jaffrey

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailheads unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/gapmountain; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

Learn More

Visit forestsociety.org/reservation-guide to browse all 185 Forest Society reservations or search by region or recreation activity.



BEST ALL DAY ADVENTURES (6+ hours)



Day hikers lounge on Hedgehog Mountain's scenic ledges.

ALL IN A DAY'S HIKE: 4 CLASSIC ALL-DAY ADVENTURES

By Ryan Smith

Load a backpack with some water, food, and hiking essentials (e.g., map, headlamp, and layers), leave behind your itinerary with a friend or family member, and head out on one of these classic all-day hiking adventures. Be sure to book extra time for some spontaneous detours to scenic vistas or placid ponds.

1. HEDGEHOG MOUNTAIN FOREST TO HIGH FIVE RESERVATION

Completed in 2016, the Hedgehog Ridge Trail is a nearly 5-mile hiking trail from Hedgehog Mountain Forest to High Five Reservation in Deering. The trail passes through land owned by the Forest Society, New England Forestry Foundation, Meadowsend Timberlands, and other private landowners. High Five Reservation's Wilson Hill offers expansive views of the Contoocook River Valley and western highlands, and is a great spot for a trail lunch. This ecologically rich area, home to moose, bear, deer, and bobcat, contains some of the most diverse natural habitat in the region. Hike nearly 10 miles out and back or cut your trek in half by spotting a car at either end of the trail.

PARKING: Northern trailhead: Hedgehog Mountain Road, Deering; Southern trailhead: Sky Farm Road, Deering

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring-Fall (trailheads unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/hedgehog

2. MONADNOCK RESERVATION

A climb up 3,165-foot Mount Monadnock is a rite of passage for many outdoor enthusiasts living in New England. The reservation, owned by the Forest Society and leased to New Hampshire State Parks, offers myriad hiking trails of varying difficulty levels from a short stroll around Gilson Pond to a strenuous hike to Monadnock's bald granite summit. To avoid the crowds on the weekends and holidays, hikers can opt to visit interesting sub-peaks Bald Rock and Monte Rosa, favorites of American-writer Henry David Thoreau.

PARKING: Check online for more information

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset (note: dogs are not allowed)

ADMISSION FEE: Day use fees at staffed entrances are required

INFO: forestsociety.org/monadnock

3. MOUNT MAJOR RESERVATION

Though moderately strenuous in places, the ascent to Mount Major's panoramic summit is well worth the effort. With views of Lake Winnepesaukee and the southern White Mountains, the 1,786-foot granite summit boasts some of the best scenery in the area. Three trails to the summit originate from the parking lot on Route 11: Mount Major Trail (Blue Trail), Brook Trail, and Boulder Loop Trail. Hikers can delve deeper into the reservation's history by using the Forest Society's Forest Explorer (see page 15) or extend their outing by venturing further along the Belknap Range trails.

PARKING: Route 11, Alton

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$5/car or \$3/hiker

INFO: forestsociety.org/mtmajor
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

4. COCKERMOUTH FOREST

Protected in 1991, Cockermouth Forest offers moderate to strenuous hikes, incredible views, and numerous opportunities for observing wildlife. Visitors can choose to explore Little Pond and the views from the nearby cliffs or trek up to Mount Crosby and Bald Knob for views of the White Mountains, Lake Winnepesaukee, and Newfound and Squam lakes.

PARKING: North Groton Road, Groton

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring-Fall (trailhead unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/cockermouthforest



BEST MULTIDAY TREKS [24+ hours]



Left: Backpackers ascend Mount Sunapee, the northern terminus of the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway Trail.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE: 3 LONG-DISTANCE TRAILS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

By Ryan Smith

Even though the Appalachian Trail [AT] is the most notable long-distance trail in New Hampshire, many other trails in the state offer multi-day or segment hiking opportunities, with some of these trails traveling on or near Forest Society lands. When hikers swarm the AT in summer, the following trails usually see less foot traffic and more chances for wildlife watching and solitude. If you've never backpacked before, our all-day outings [see page 10] are great places to start training for a multi-day trip. You'll want to spend time carrying extra weight and hiking longer miles on day trips before you rush out on an arduous backpack. Your knees and back will thank you at the end of the day, plus you're bound to enjoy your experience a lot more.

1. WANTASTIQUET-MONADNOCK TRAIL [WMT]

Running from the base of Mount Wantastiquet in Hinsdale, a stone's throw from the Connecticut River, to Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey, the nearly 50-mile WMT was completed in 2018 with the support of the Forest Society and the Wantastiquet-Monadnock Trail Coalition. The trail travels through the Forest Society's Gap Mountain and Monadnock reservations and the culturally interesting Madame Sherri Forest. Hikers can opt to stay the night in an Adirondack-style, three-walled shelter just outside Pisgah State Park. Turn your trip into a multi-sport adventure by biking the 12-mile Cheshire Country Rail Trail section running through Keene and Troy.

DISTANCE: 45 miles

BEST TIME TO HIKE: Spring-Fall [note: dogs are not allowed in Monadnock Reservation]

ADMISSION FEE: Day use fees are required at some Mount Monadnock entrances

INFO: forestsociety.org/wmt

2. MONADNOCK-SUNAPEE GREENWAY TRAIL [MSGT]

Originally laid out by the Forest Society in 1921 [the same year the idea of the Appalachian Trail was conceived] and re-established in 1974 with assistance from the Appalachian Mountain Club, the MSGT runs nearly 50 miles from the summit of Mount Monadnock through pastoral landscapes and rolling hills to Mount Sunapee. Featuring abundant wildlife, overnight campsites, and local favorite Pitcher Mountain [see page 27], the MSGT is a perfect introductory long-distance trail for beginner backpackers.

DISTANCE: 49 miles

BEST TIME TO HIKE: Spring-Fall [note: dogs are not allowed in Monadnock Reservation]

ADMISSION FEE: Day use fees are required at some Mount Monadnock entrances

INFO: msgtc.org

3. SUNAPEE-RAGGED-KEARSARGE GREENWAY TRAIL [SRKGT]

Conceived in the mid-1980s by the Forest Society and other conservation nonprofits and towns, the SRKGT provides hikers with access to some of southern New Hampshire's most notable mountains, lakes, vistas, and historical sites. Overnight camping is not allowed on the SRKGT, though many state- and privately-owned campsites can be found not far from the trail.

DISTANCE: 75-mile loop

BEST TIME TO HIKE: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: srkg.com



BEST SCENIC VIEWS

6

NEW HAMPSHIRE HIKES WITH A VIEW

By Emily Lord

Hiking in the Granite State wouldn't be the same without our granite ledges and peaks. From these hardened, eons-old outcroppings, tailor-made for magazine cover photos, to lesser-known Forest Society bluffs and knobs, check out these trails to the best eye-pleasing views no matter the time of year. Don't forget to pack a snack and a camera for summit selfies!

Lake Winnepesaukee as seen from
Mount Major's summit at sunrise.

1. MOUNT MAJOR RESERVATION

What could be more quintessential New Hampshire than a stunning mountaintop view of the state's biggest lake surrounded by rolling mountain ranges on the horizon? At 1,786 feet, Mount Major offers some of the best views in southern New Hampshire of Lake Winnepesaukee and the Ossipee mountains. For a challenging nearly 4-mile loop hike that offers spectacular, water-break lookouts along the way, ascend the Mount Major/Main Trail, climbing steep ledges and eroded trail in spots, to the open summit, and then descend via the Brook Trail. At the top, check out the ruins of Mr. Phippen's Hut or scan for wild blueberries [see page 27]. The views and natural wonders are different throughout the year: Hikers can witness spring bud burst in May, see boats crisscrossing the water in August, gaze at the mist rising over the water in October, or marvel at sunrise on the darkest day of the year in December. Portable toilets are available from May–October. Pro tip: To avoid the crowds, hike early in the morning or on weekdays.

PARKING: Route 11, Alton

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$3/hiker or \$5/car

INFO: forestsociety.org/mtmajor
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

2. EAGLE CLIFF FOREST

Get ready to raise your heart rate on this quick payoff hike. The Eagle Cliff Trail climbs 600 feet in a half mile to open ledges that offer jaw-dropping views to the west across Squam Lake and north to the Sandwich Range of the White Mountains.

PARKING: Bean Road, Sandwich

WHEN TO VISIT: Late May–November [ledges are dangerous when wet or icy]

ADMISSION FEE: Free [trails are maintained by the Squam Lakes Association]

INFO: forestsociety.org/eaglecliff

3. MOOSE MOUNTAINS RESERVATION

It's worth the journey to this tucked away property, featuring miles of trails and stellar views. A local favorite is hiking to 1,185-foot Phoebe's Nable, a 1.2-mile round-trip hike from the parking lot. The outlook boasts a rare view of one of southern New Hampshire's unbroken forested landscapes. Keep your eyes peeled for a beaver pond below. For a longer outing, continue on the Phoebe's Nable Loop Trail for 0.5 miles until you reach the Burrows Farm Trail. Turn right on the Burrows Farm Trail, which features views of an old homestead and the Moose Mountains Range, and return to the parking area in just over a mile.

PARKING: New Portsmouth Road, Middleton

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailhead unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/moosemountains

4. HIGH WATCH

Views, views, and more views! Three out-and-back trails lead to the summit of Green Mountain State Forest's namesake mountain, which is surrounded by High Watch Preserve. The entire summit is covered in trees, but if you're not squeamish about heights, climb the fire tower for 360-degree views. To extend your hike, take the 0.25-mile side trail from the summit to Hanson Top for more excellent views to the south.

PARKING: High Watch Road, Effingham

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailhead unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/highwatch

5. HIGH FIVE

Are you looking for a pleasant hike to a view without having to clamber over fridge-sized boulders? Take a walk to High Five's Wilson Hill, a less than 1-mile round-trip hike on a moderately sloped woods road. Enjoy the peaceful setting and a fantastic panoramic view to the north and west; perfect for sunset seekers.

PARKING: Sky Farm Road, Deering

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailhead unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/highfive

6. LEVEY PARK (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

Levey Park is a 10-acre woodland located on the west side of Route 11 between the villages of Alton and Alton Bay. Owned by the town of Alton and managed by the Levey Park Trustees, meticulously maintained trails lead to a north bluff with an excellent scenic view of Lake Winnepesaukee. Hikers can take a break and listen to nature on one of the several wooden benches installed along the park trails.

PARKING: Route 11, Alton

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: <https://bit.ly/2uc9jma>

Learn More

To discover more Forest Society reservations with views, visit forestsociety.org/reservation-guide.



BEST INTERPRETIVE TRAILS



Creek Farm's Forest Explorer shoreline hike meanders along scenic Sagamore Creek in Portsmouth.

TURN YOUR PHONE INTO A TRAIL GUIDE ON THESE 5 HIKES

By Emily Lord

Do you ever find yourself wondering what's up with that old farm equipment in the woods or what kind of wildflowers blanket the trailsides? NH Forest Explorer is your one stop shop for deepening your understanding of the world around you. Complete a scavenger hunt at Mount Major in Alton, learn about tree identification at Creek Farm in Portsmouth, or find all the pieces of history at Monson Center in Hollis.

Forest Explorer makes it easy to gain access to enhanced trail and informative maps right from the trailhead. The whole experience is great for families, schools, and anyone with a curious mind. Simply load the Forest Explorer webpage using the browser on your smartphone and then enter your email address to get started. Once registered with Forest Explorer, visitors can save maps to their account, share their experience on social media, and learn more through the Forest Explorer e-newsletter.

Here are a few of our favorite Forest Explorer properties that offer the most robust interpretive experiences. Don't wait, get outside and learn something new!

Learn More

Many Forest Society reservations offer year-round educational programming for a nominal charge. Check out forestsociety.org/events for more information. For events at The Rocks, visit therocks.org/calendar.php.

1. THE ROCKS

You may know The Rocks for its bustling Christmas tree farm and family-oriented programs, but did you know it has miles of trails and multiple options for self-guided tours? Nestled in the heart of the White Mountains, The Rocks serves as the Forest Society's North Country Conservation and Education Center. After you arrive, stop by the information kiosk located adjacent to the parking lot. There you'll find paper trail maps for all the interpretive trails that traverse the property's historic fields and forests. The Rocks' Heritage Trail evokes the gilded era from a century ago of long vacations in the refreshing summer air of the White Mountains. Hikers will pass by formal gardens and many of the property's original buildings, including the exquisite "Bee House." The Christmas Tree Trail Forest Explorer experience explores The Rocks' Christmas tree plantation, leading past wetlands, rows of Christmas trees, artfully constructed stone walls, and panoramic views of the White Mountains.

PARKING: Route 302, Bethlehem

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: <https://therocks.org/trail.php>
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

2. MOUNT MAJOR RESERVATION

Before embarking on a hike of 1,785-foot Mount Major, visitors can choose from four unique Forest Explorer trail experiences, all of which track your location as you hike and allow you to highlight your trip on social media. Families with kids or those who are kids at heart will enjoy the Mount Major digital scavenger hunt. Try the "Just the Maps" experience to identify where you are on the trail and how far you have to go to reach the summit. Highlights of the "History, Forests, and Wildlife" experience include many overlooked sites in addition to many prominent landmarks that spark people's curiosity. Choose the "Sweat, Share, and Compare" experience to discover good places to take a water break and where to enhance your exercise.

PARKING: Route 11, Alton

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$5/car or \$3/hiker

INFO: forestsociety.org/mtmajor; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

3. MERRIMACK RIVER OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION AREA

Adjacent to the Forest Society's headquarters, the Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area is a place where visitors can join educational programs or take it easy along the banks of the Merrimack River. The reservation is a sanctuary for anyone looking for a natural respite, dog-friendly trails, and a chance to learn about New Hampshire's natural communities, including a stunning native silver maple floodplain forest.

PARKING: Portsmouth St, Concord.

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$3/hiker; \$4/hiker and dog

INFO: forestsociety.org/floodplain; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

4. CREEK FARM

Creek Farm is a coastal forest hideaway and a beautiful waterfront property just a short drive from the center of Portsmouth. Visitors can choose from two Forest Explorer experiences: a tree ID scavenger hunt and a shoreline trail exploration along tidal Sagamore Creek. To extend your visit, try the 1.5-mile Little Harbor Loop Trail, which connects Creek Farm to the neighboring state-owned Wentworth-Coolidge historic site and to Portsmouth conservation land. Please note that dogs are not permitted at Creek Farm or the Wentworth-Coolidge historic site.

PARKING: Little Harbor Road, Portsmouth.

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset (note: dogs are not allowed)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/creekfarm; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

5. EVELYN H. & ALBERT D. MORSE, SR. PRESERVE

Hike a 1.7-mile loop that winds through fields and forests on the former Avery Farm and learn something new about the property's history and habitats with Forest Explorer. Blueberry barrens at the summit of Pine Mountain provide spectacular views of the entire Belknap Range, including Mount Major and Lake Winnepesaukee, as well as excellent berry picking in season (see page 26).

PARKING: Park in the Town of Alton's Mike Burke Forest parking lot on Avery Hill Road. To reach the trail from the parking lot, cross the road and walk to the right about 200 feet to the trailhead.

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/morse; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

WANTED: Forest Explorer Testers

Do you have a smartphone and like to hike? If so, come out this summer to help us test our Forest Explorer web experience at various locations. Contact Emily Lord at elord@forestsociety.org for more information.



NEW HAMPSHIRE
**FOREST
EXPLORER**



BEST WATER FEATURES

WHERE TO GO FOR H₂O: **5 PEACEFUL PONDS AND RELAXING RIVERS**

By Carrie Deegan

Science has proven that just being nearby water induces relaxation and improves mental well-being. Listening to a babbling brook or gazing out at a peaceful pond can automatically switch your mind from “busy mode” to a mildly meditative state and invoke feelings of wonder that put you in a better mood. Hiking to water is a great way to regulate stress and rest your mind while you exercise. Come along and check out these five relaxing reservations.

The sun rises over the Forest Society's
Merrimack River Outdoor Education
& Conservation Area in Concord.

1. DAME FOREST AND THE CY AND BOBBIE SWEET TRAIL

If you're looking for a hike that taps into some aquatic Zen, try the Cy and Bobbie Sweet Trail in Durham. The trail travels 4 miles from Longmarsh Road to the tidal marshes of the Great Bay estuary. The northern portion of the trail, which meanders through the Forest Society's Dame Forest, is particularly well endowed with freshwater and wetland habitats. Just beyond the trailhead, hikers will encounter beautiful Colby Marsh at the headwaters of Crommet Creek. Thank the local beaver family for creating and maintaining the sizeable pond here. Look for their lodge across the pond when you reach the bridge and a sign marking a right turn onto the Sweet Trail. The next quarter-mile of trail winds through wetland and marsh habitats along the creek before entering into a hemlock forest in the southern end of Dame Forest. Look for turtles and green frogs basking in the sun, kingfishers hunting small fish from above, and dragonflies alighting on shoreline sedges. This is a perfect location to take a moment out of your hectic day to slow everything down and appreciate nature's aquatic bounty. For a 2-mile round-trip hike, you can turn around at Dame Road or for an 8-mile round-trip adventure, follow the Sweet Trail until it terminates at spectacular Great Bay.

PARKING: Longmarsh Road, Durham

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/dameforest

2. WASHBURN FOREST

The 2,100-acre Washburn Forest is an immense place to explore, including more than 6 miles of frontage on the upper Connecticut River. The easiest place to access the river, and its tremendous trout fishing [see page 25], is from a parking area and trailhead on the east side of Route 3 in Clarksville. From the parking lot, a trail parallels the river for 0.3 miles before connecting to the larger network of woods roads on the property's interior.

PARKING: Route 3, Clarksville

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailhead unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/washburnforest

3. HEALD TRACT

The Heald Tract in Wilton has more than 5 miles of hiking trails, several of which pass by beautiful ponds, babbling streams, and wetlands. Try the 1.6-mile round-trip Heald Pond Trail, which skirts along the northern shoreline of Heald Pond [aka King Brook Reservoir] and offers easy walking and plenty of places to stop and look for ducks and herons or to fish for bass or pan fish. The pond is



An elevated boardwalk provides interesting views of a beaver dam on the Sweet Trail in Durham.

often blanketed in a carpet of blooming waterlilies in summer, making for stunning photographs. Boating is not permitted on the pond; however, many other reservations offer paddling opportunities [see page 32].

PARKING: Heald Road, Wilton

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailhead unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/healdtract

4. MCCABE FOREST

Exploring McCabe Forest's 2-mile trail system involves getting up close and personal with the Contookcook River as it slowly meanders northeast where it eventually joins the Merrimack River. Some of the trails pass through floodplain forest directly adjacent to the river, where routine spring flooding supports beautiful, arching silver maple trees overhead and large ostrich ferns on the forest floor.

PARKING: Route 202, Antrim

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailhead unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/mccabeforest

5. MERRIMACK RIVER OUTDOOR EDUCATION & CONSERVATION AREA

This well-traveled property in Concord is a perfect option if you want to explore freshwater habitats. An easy 1.5-mile loop trail passes through a pine plantation before reaching the mighty Merrimack River. The river's sandy banks are picturesque, but they also provide nest burrows for dozens of bank swallows, which you can see zipping over the river during the summer months. Continuing along the loop brings you through an uncommon silver maple floodplain forest along the outlet of Mill Brook.

PARKING: Portsmouth Street, Concord

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$3/hiker; \$4/hiker and dog

INFO: forestsociety.org/conservationcenter; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

Leave No Trace

Wetlands, ponds, lakes, and rivers are sensitive natural habitats, so it's even more important that you pack out all your trash and dog waste in these areas.



BEST DOG WALKING



A hiker and his furry friend enjoy the view from Phoebe's Nable at the Forest Society's Moose Mountains Reservation.

PICKS OF THE LITTER: 8 FOREST SOCIETY RESERVATIONS FOR DOG WALKING

By Carrie Deegan

Dog owners will find a lot to love about Forest Society lands: Dogs are permitted at all of our reservations except for Monadnock, Lost River, and Creek Farm. If walking is a social experience for you and your pooch, super-popular locations such as Mount Major may fit the bill. However, if you like quiet woods walks, where you can tread in blissful solitude and your dog can explore every rotted log and great-smelling boulder, there are many Forest Society reservations for you, too. Here are our top 7 go-to reservations for dog walking, log exploring, and boulder smelling.

1. WILLIAM H. CHAMPLIN FOREST

Champlin Forest in Rochester is a quiet dog-walking location despite being within the limits of New Hampshire's fifth most populous city. You and your dog will enjoy the mix of different environments, from fields dotted with wildflowers to cool leafy forests to the shrub lands of a former beaver pond, on this 2-mile round-trip walk. The terrain is rolling and never strenuous, making this a great walk for dogs and owners of all ages and abilities. If you are interested in historical land uses, the remains of a small-scale granite quarry from the mid-1800s are visible alongside the trail near its southern end. Look for evidence of drill holes along the edges of the quarried rocks where stones were split with drills, wedges, and hammers. Your dog will likely be more excited about sniffing out rodents, but you'll both enjoy the outing.

PARKING: Route 108, Rochester

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailheads unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/champlinforest
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

2. WEEKS FOREST

Weeks Forest offers two pleasant hiking loops. If you don't have a lot of time, try the yellow loop [marked with yellow rectangles], which has wide, mostly flat paths that are great for cross-country skiing with your dog in winter.

PARKING: Gilford Town Offices, Route 11A, Gilford [trailhead directly across the street]

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/weeksforest

3. LESLIE C. BOCKES MEMORIAL FOREST

More than 3 miles of trail wind through the reservation's oak-pine forests, offering peaceful solitude in the heart of suburban Londonderry. Many of the trails in the forest are wide and mostly level, though some trails may be grassy, so remember to check yourself and your pooch for ticks after your outing.

PARKING: Mill Road, Londonderry

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailheads unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/bockesforest

4. MERRIMACK RIVER OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION AREA

The Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area, also known as “the floodplain,” is a very popular destination for dog walkers in Concord. You most likely won't have the trails to yourself, unless you visit very early on a weekday morning, but you and your dog will love the variety of forests, fields, and river habitats on the property's easy trail system. Water-loving dogs can have a swim in the Merrimack River, but please respect signed areas indicating areas of riverbank that are closed to foot [and paw] traffic to protect nesting swallow habitat.

PARKING: Portsmouth Street, Concord

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$3/hiker; \$4/hiker and dog

INFO: forestsociety.org/conservationcenter
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

5. MCCABE FOREST

Two miles of easy walking trails await exploration at the McCabe Forest in Antrim. You and your dog will relish the reservation's shady hemlock forests, old apple orchards and fields, and beautiful resting spots along the Contoocook River.

PARKING: Route 202, Antrim

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailhead unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/mccabeforest



Hot summer afternoons are the perfect time to take trailside siestas.

6. LANGENAU FOREST

If you and your canine companion are hoping to have the trails to yourself, try the Langenau Forest in Wilmot. This quiet property has a beautiful 2-mile loop trail with some moderate elevation gain. The trail begins by skirting the edge of a scenic beaver pond before heading into hemlock and spruce forests. About half way around the loop, there are nice views to the southwest along the property's boundary. The trail system here connects with the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Trail [see page 11] if you are looking to extend your walk.

PARKING: Granite Hill Road, Wilmot

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailhead unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/langenauforest

7. MARY AND QUENTIN HUTCHINS FOREST

8. PAUL AND THELMA AMBEAU MEMORIAL FOREST

These two small forests in Canterbury abut each other and share a trail system. The two reservations' approximately 1.5 miles of trail pass through forests of white pine, red maple, white oak, and red oak. Several wetland areas can also be seen from the trails.

PARKING: Route 132, Canterbury

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall [trailhead unplowed in winter]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/hutchins-ambeau-forest

Pro Tips

Please keep control of your dog, by voice or leash, at all times and pack out dog waste. Be aware that Forest Society reservations are open to hunters in accordance with New Hampshire state hunting laws. Visit wildlife.state.nh.us/hunting/hunt-dates.html for hunting season dates. It's important for dogs and dog owners to wear bright colors during hunting seasons. It's also a great idea to make sure your dog has received treatment for ticks prior to heading out in the woods in order to prevent Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Always check yourself and your dog for ticks after your walk.



DIGITALLY CONNECTED

Whether it's on social media or in our annual photo contest or our Forest Reservation Challenge, Forest Society members and followers love to capture and share photos of themselves and their loved ones recreating on our reservations. Here are a few of our favorites.



1/ “This photo represents many outings on Pine Mountain with friends and family. This photo happens to be of our granddaughter, Zoey....Snacking on ripe blueberries with the breeze blowing and butterflies flitting around her is a true representation of her name, Zoey/Life.”
– Suzanne Marvin

2/ “A Saturday morning ritual for me and my dog is to hike up Pine Mountain. Sometimes we'll brew a fresh cup of coffee as we take in the scenery. In the summer, we indulge in the hoards of wild blueberries. For a relatively short hike, the view of Lake Winnepesaukee and surrounding mountains is breathtaking.”
– Kyle Clark

3/ Amalie Brynjulfsson and friends pause mid-paddle for a group photo at Grafton Pond.

4/ Bailey Grotton takes a selfie on the Hay Reservation's Sunset Hill.

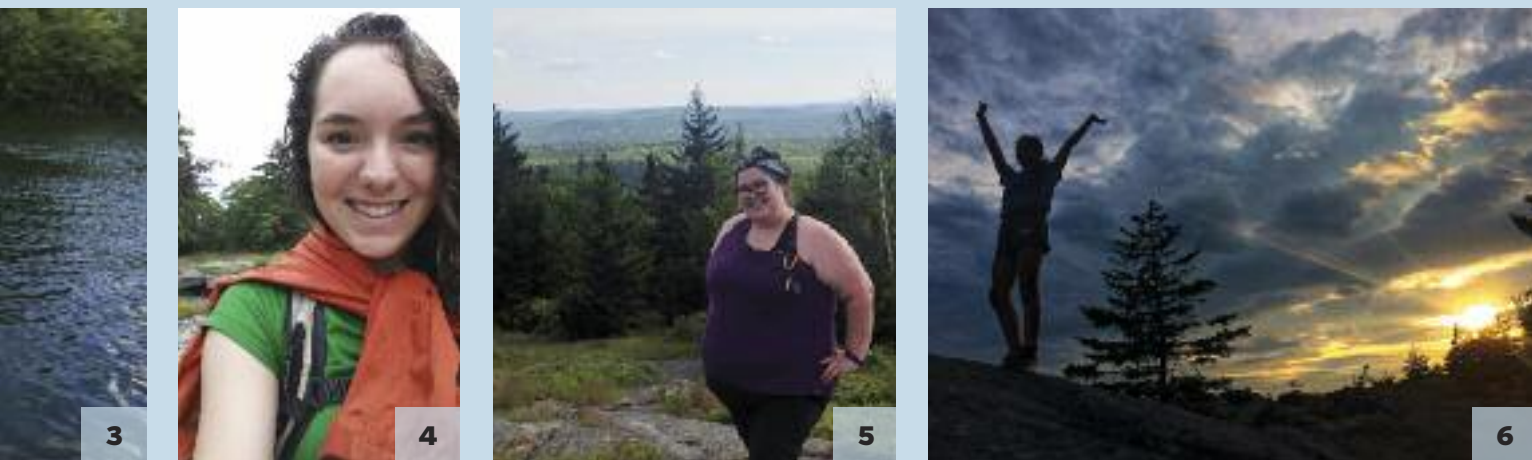
5/ “This photo was taken at Silver Mountain during the summer I embraced my love of hiking. It shows that hikers come in all shapes and sizes and that New Hampshire's lush outdoors is for everybody.” – Roxanne Harmon

6/ “My family loves to hike Monadnock for its sunsets. Our go-to trail is the White Arrow because it's less crowded and my youngest daughter enjoys the

hand-over-hand scrambles on our way to the top.” – Glen Cooper

7/ “I took this photo at Heald Tract during a Hike Like a Woman outing. The organization promotes women of all shapes, sizes, and abilities to be outdoors. One of the many things we do is lead local hiking groups around the country, and we are fortunate enough to have a group in the Monadnock Region.”
– Jacquelyn O'Connor

8/ “In February, my daughter Aubrey and I had a wonderful false spring day. Aubrey opted to skip school to hike Gap Mountain instead. It was great to be out hiking and it made for a special day.”
– Lyndsey Vaillancourt



9/ Charlie (right) and Brendan Bowen show off their Forest Reservation Challenge patch on a hike in the White Mountains.

10/ Forest Reservation Challenge finishers Sylvia Bates and Tom Masland hike the Sweet Trail through the Forest Society's Dame Forest.

11/ "I brought my friends from Massachusetts to a journaling class at the farm. That's the day I got this beautiful picture. I want to paint this photo at a later time!" – Chichi Ryan

12/ Wendy Passero explores Bretzfelder Memorial Park in Bethlehem.



(TOP ROW, FROM LEFT) SUZANNE MARVIN, KYLE CLARK, AMALIE BRYNJULFSSON, BAILEY GROTTON, COLETTE HARMON, GLEN COOPER; (MIDDLE ROW, FROM LEFT) JACQUELYN O'CONNOR, LYNDSEY VAILLANCOURT, CHARLIE AND BRENDAN BOWEN, TOM MASLAND; (BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT) CHICHI RYAN, ART PASSERO



Stonewalls dating back to the 1700s line the fields and carriage roads at Monson Center.

STORIED LANDSCAPES: 5 PLACES WORTH DISCOVERING FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

By Dave Anderson

Stories underlying the conservation of Forest Society reservations often include a rich arts and cultural history. Cellar holes, wells, stonewalls, former apple orchards, and hay fields—stories of our predecessors on the land—are protected in place by land conservation. Sometimes, just the faintest woods road through a dense white pine stand reveals what had once been a flat, open hay meadow where horse-drawn wagons were pulled on a former farm. Now, conserved forever for future generations to explore, the following places are yours to discover and to write your own story.

1. MONSON CENTER

Monson Center was the earliest and the furthest inland of Colonial settlements on the land which eventually became New Hampshire. Beginning in 1737 and lasting until 1770 as part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's 17,000-acre town of "Dunstable," Monson Center is the cradle of European settlement. In 1741, the Massachusetts border was redrawn and the village became part of New Hampshire. The settlers farmed, traded commodities, and continued to live in Monson until it disbanded in 1770 and the land was absorbed into the surrounding towns.

Monson lay undisturbed and nearly forgotten for more than 200 years. In 1998, the historic cellars and quiet forestland were threatened by a looming 28-lot housing subdivision that would have forever destroyed the natural and historic features. Enlisting the help of the Forest Society and the NH Division of Historical Resources, local residents launched a grassroots campaign to save the property in 1998. The Forest Society purchased the tract, and early Monson resident Richard Clarke's great-great-great-grandson Russ Dickerman donated an additional 125 acres of land.

The restored Gould Clockmaker's Shop, a Cape-style home, is occasionally opened as a kind of museum, staffed by Dickerman. There are approximately 3 miles of easy walking trails, including East Monson and West Monson roads. The two primary trails converge at a beaver wetland that hosts a Great Blue Heron rookery.

PARKING: Federal Hill Road, Monson

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/monsoncenter
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

2. MADAME SHERRI FOREST

Madame Sherri's "castle"? Intriguing, non? A stone staircase marks what's left of the summer home of flamboyant French costume designer Madame Antoinette Sherri. At her French chateau-inspired castle, Sherri lavishly entertained New York City friends during the Roaring Twenties, becoming famous—or infamous—for her wild parties. Her chauffeur-driven Packard, her fur coat, and her fast crowd of gentlemen friends made Sherri a local legend and the talk of the town whenever she appeared. As her fortune declined, her castle fell to ruin. After a long absence from the property, Sherri returned in 1959 to find the interior badly vandalized. She left, heartbroken. The house subsequently burned in 1963. Today, ancient sugar maples surround what is left of the property: a cement-stone foundation and arched stairway and a large, empty fireplace that tapers to a free-standing chimney.

To explore the ruins, take the Anne Stokes Loop Trail, named after the woman who purchased the property from Sherri and donated both the land and conservation easements in stages to the Forest Society, 200 yards to a side trail on the right. Please respect the historical nature of this property by staying off the stone staircase.

PARKING: Gulf Road, Chesterfield

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailhead unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/madamesherri

3. HAY FOREST RESERVATION

The Fells, the summer home of three generations of the John Hay family, is located adjacent to the Forest Society's Hay Forest Reservation, which is crowned by scenic Sunset Hill. Nearly 4 miles of hiking trails on interior roads and trails wind through pine, red oak, spruce, hemlock, and northern hardwood forests growing back on former hay fields, sheep pastures, and orchards. Original owner, John Milton Hay, was the Secretary of State and a former private secretary to Abraham Lincoln. He purchased seven unique farms between 1888 and 1900 to assemble a 1,000-acre summer retreat overlooking Lake Sunapee.

PARKING: To access the trails, park at The Fells and walk directly across Route 103A to the Sunset Hill trailhead

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/hayreservation
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer



A decaying stone staircase and foundation are all that's left of Madame Sherri's castle in Chesterfield.

4. THE ROCKS

The Rocks is the Forest Society's North Country Conservation and Education Center. Featuring buildings now listed on the National Register for Historic Places, The Rocks' Heritage Trail recounts the gilded era of the early 1900s when John Jacob Glessner brought his family for summer-long vacations in the refreshing air of the White Mountains and developed their hilltop estate they called "The Rocks."

The 1,500-acre property was donated to the Forest Society in 1978 by Martha Batchelder and John Lee, grandchildren of John and Frances Glessner. In making their gift, the family stipulated the Forest Society maintain a crop in the fields. For more than three decades, that crop has been Christmas trees. The innovative self-sustaining farm and summer estate is now an award-winning tree farm with 40,000 trees under cultivation. Visitors can ramble on scenic trails, look for wildlife, enjoy a picnic in the property's terraced gardens, attend an educational program, or just enjoy the incredible views of the Presidential Range. Four unique trails offer nearly 8 miles of hiking.

PARKING: Christmas Lane, Bethlehem

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: therocks.org; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

5. LOVEWELLS POND CONSERVATION AREA (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

From the parking lot on Main Dunstable Road, walk the Old Ridge Road to an interesting art installation along the shore of Lovewells Pond. The conservation area also offers extensive hiking and mountain biking trails in addition to a dog park.

PARKING: Main Dunstable Road, Nashua

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: <https://bit.ly/2u4yzdU>

Learn More

Many Forest Society reservations offer year-round educational programming for a nominal charge. Check out forestsociety.org/events for more information. For events at The Rocks, visit therocks.org/calendar.php.



BEST FISHING



GET HOOKED ON THESE 6 FOREST SOCIETY FISHING DESTINATIONS

Grafton Pond's islands, coves, and inlets are an angler's dream.

By Steve Junkin

Funny as it sounds, my favorite place to fish on Forest Society land is a place I've never been to. Time spent researching a place to fish is underrepresented when we think about recreational pursuits. All this time spent dreaming up future trips is as good for the soul as the act of fishing itself. My guess is we spend at least half of our time planning and preparing for our trips and the rest of the time actually recreating. The location I have in mind is no exception to this rule.

What is the place that I have been longing to fish for years? Drumroll, please. Answer: **GRAFTON POND**, located in, you guessed it, Grafton, N.H. This is no ordinary pond. For starters, the Forest Society owns nearly two-thirds of the pond's shoreline, which means virtually the entire frontage is entirely protected from development. Therefore, I am anticipating a very remote or wilderness-like experience—something that excites me tremendously. Another very interesting characteristic is the abundance of islands, coves, and inlets. Being the GIS geek that I am, I ran some numbers: Grafton Pond has 28 islands, 11 miles of perimeter shoreline (including islands), and 13 separate stream inlets. To top it off, the pond is motor-free. The most common boats you will see are human-powered kayaks and canoes. No big bass boats here.

The 933-acre Grafton Pond Reservation was acquired by the Forest Society in 1984, having been donated by an individual who requested to remain anonymous. It was not lost on the Forest Society how important a piece of land like this is. On the top of the list for reasons this land is so special include excellent recreational resources, the enhanced protection of the pond's water quality, and the ability to continually practice sustainable forestry, which in turns provides income to the Forest Society but also helps achieve wildlife habitat management goals harmoniously.

Now that I have whet that fishing whistle of yours, the daydreaming is over. Grab your gear and I hope to see you out on the water.

PARKING: Grafton Pond Road, Grafton
BEST TIME TO FISH: Spring to early summer
ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation:
\$5/car or \$3/person
INFO: forestsociety.org/graftonpond



The Washburn Family Forest in Clarksville features miles of frontage on the upper Connecticut River.

4. LAMPREY RIVER FOREST

The property has a small parking area and a nice woods road trail that leads to the banks of the river. The Lamprey River has a steady current in this section and it is popular in the spring with canoers and kayakers. New Hampshire Fish and Game stocks the river with trout, but also swimming in its waters are small and largemouth bass. Be warned, there is limited roadside parking available.

PARKING: Prescott Road, Epping

BEST TIME TO FISH: Spring and Fall

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/lampreyforest

5. WILKINS-CAMPBELL FOREST

This is a lovely property with a long shoreline on Deering Reservoir. There is limited on-road parking at the gate for Wilkins-Campbell Forest on Wolf Hill Road. This access provides shoreline-fishing opportunities. A better option for parking, particularly if you have a boat, is to use the town launch off Reservoir Road (note the parking fee). Deering Reservoir is managed for bass and rainbow trout.

PARKING: Wolf Hill Road, Deering

BEST TIME TO FISH: Summer for bass fishing; spring and fall for trout

ADMISSION FEE: From Memorial Day to Labor Day, non-Deering residents are charged \$10/day to park at the town lot.

INFO: forestsociety.org/wilkins-campbell

6. MCCABE FOREST

From the parking area on Route 202, the trail loops easterly toward the Contoocook River providing wading and shoreland fishing. This is slow moving water, home to warmwater fish. It's a beautiful walk, and if you have time either before or after fishing there are 2 miles of looping trails that wind through upland pine-oak-hemlock forests, fields, old orchards, and a silver maple floodplain forest.

PARKING: Route 202, Antrim

BEST TIME TO FISH: Late Spring-Summer

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/mccabeforest

2. WASHBURN FAMILY FOREST

This 2,100-acre property has more than 6 miles of frontage on the upper Connecticut River, one of New Hampshire's premier trout streams and is where I learned how to fly fish. The easiest access to the trails for fishing is to park at the Pittsburg covered bridge, walk over the bridge, and then immediately turn right. The Forest Society has a trail right-of-way along the river, and you can walk for some distance while hearing or seeing the water to your right.

PARKING: Route 3, Clarksville

BEST TIME TO FISH: Spring-Fall

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/washburnforest

3. PICKEREL COVE

Pickerel Cove is aptly named. This is a shallow-water cove off the eastern shoreline of Highland Lake. Its shallow, warm waters are ideal pickerel and largemouth bass habitat. Anglers can access the cove by canoe or kayak from a put-in spot just north of the Highland Lake Marina (on Shedd Hill Road) on the eastern shore of Highland Lake. Boat trailer parking is limited here. Overflow parking is located at the boat launch off Route 123.

PARKING: Shedd Hill Road, Stoddard

BEST TIME TO FISH: Summer-Fall

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/pickerelcove

Before You Go

For up-to-date fishing rules, licenses, and permits, check out the *New Hampshire Freshwater Fishing Digest*, published annually by New Hampshire Fish and Game, at eregulations.com/newhampshire/fishing/freshwater. The website also provides more than 600 bathymetry maps, which feature lake bottom contours, species of fish that inhabit the lake, access and launch locations, and other pertinent information.



BEST WILD BLUEBERRY PICKING



HIKE, PICK, EAT, REPEAT: **5 WILD BLUEBERRY PICKING DESTINATIONS**

By Ryan Smith

If spring is a time for amber maple sugar and fall is for green and red apples then summer is all about the blues. No, not the blue lakes we jump into or the brilliant blue-sky beach days, but rather a blue you can taste: wild blueberries. These tasty, antioxidant-rich trail snacks can be found scattered across many New Hampshire mountaintops typically from mid-July through mid-August depending on conditions. If foraging for fruit is your thing, check out one of these five Forest Society destinations on your next outdoor grazing adventure.

1. EVELYN H. & ALBERT D. MORSE, SR. PRESERVE

Once managed as a commercial wild blueberry farm, the Morse Preserve is one of Alton's best kept secrets, combining stellar views from atop Pine Mountain with flavor-packed blueberry grazing in mid-summer. Forest Society staff mow the summit fields to manage for a thriving crop of blueberry bushes every year.

PARKING: Avery Hill Road, Alton (park in the Mike Burke Forest parking lot located across the road from the Morse Preserve trailhead)

WHEN TO VISIT: mid-July–early August

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/morsepreserve

Hikers can pick their own well-deserved snack atop the Morse Preserve's Pine Mountain in Alton.

2. MOUNT MAJOR RESERVATION

At 1,786 feet, Mount Major is one of many summits in the Belknap Range where wild blueberries can be found growing along the trail. Major is a popular destination for vacationers and camp groups in the summer, so try out the nearby Morse Preserve if the parking lot is full.

PARKING: Route 11, Alton

WHEN TO VISIT: mid-July–early August

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/mtmajor
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

3. GAP MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

A moderate trip to Gap Mountain's bald middle [1,840 ft.] and north [1,820 ft.] summits rewards hikers with abundant high- and low-bush blueberry bushes ready for picking and dramatic views of Mount Monadnock looming to the north. For a deeper cultural experience, take the northern hiking trail to spot stonewalls and an abandoned apple orchard along the way.

PARKING: South Parking Lot: Upper Gap Mountain Road, Troy; North Parking Lot: Bullard Road, Jaffrey

WHEN TO VISIT: mid-July–early August

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/gapmountain
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

4. ASHUELOT RIVER HEADWATERS FOREST

Named after a cream used for polishing silver in the late 1800s, 2,160-foot Silver Mountain is also known for its wild blueberries growing amid long grass and a handful of stunted trees on its picturesque summit. After filling your belly, check out the forest's equally beautiful Long and Sand ponds.

PARKING: South Road, Lempster

WHEN TO VISIT: mid-July–early August

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/ashuelotrivers

Pro Tip

Wildlife rely on energy-packed wild fruit sources, including blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries. As you forage for these tasty treats, it's best not to completely deplete an area of food so other animals have a chance to forage themselves.



5. ANDORRA FOREST (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

Andorra Forest, an 11,000-acre privately owned property on which the Forest Society holds an easement, is managed for timber, wildlife, recreation, and water. The property is known for widely acclaimed Pitcher Mountain. Selected in 2018 by *Backpacker* magazine as one of the country's top blueberry-picking hikes, the 2,153-foot mountain offers pick-your-own blueberries at a nominal price. Be sure to save some energy to scale the mountain's notable fire tower, which boasts views of the White Mountains to the north and the Green Mountains to the west.

PARKING: Route 123, Stoddard

WHEN TO VISIT: mid-July–early August

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation of \$1.50/quart

INFO: trailtosummit.com/nh-fire-tower-series-1-pitcher-mountain; <https://www.backpacker.com/trips/the-best-berry-picking-hikes-in-america>

You'll be seeing blue on a foraging trip to Pitcher Mountain in Stoddard.



BEST WILDLIFE VIEWING



From land or from sea, wildlife watching is a popular recreation activity at Creek Farm.

1. CREEK FARM

Thirty-five acre Creek Farm is an outdoor classroom and a refuge for migratory and resident wildlife, fulfilling the wishes of former owner Lillian “Billie” Noel. Creek Farm’s tidal mud flats and fragments of rare, high salt marsh at the mouth of Sagamore Creek attract migrant shorebirds, including gulls, terns, sandpipers, cormorants, and wading egrets and herons. Paddlers can head out to nearby Leachs Island [see page 33] to look for a nesting pair of bald eagles.

Low tide is the best time to watch for flocks of shorebirds feeding on tiny crustaceans and invertebrates in the shallow tidal mudflats. Goose Island at Creek Farm features tide pool habitat where razor clam, mussel, and oyster shells lie amid barnacle-crusting rocks, and where small green crabs and hermit crabs skulk in a seaweed forest. A manmade freshwater swimming pool at Creek Farm receives an influx of brackish water across a stone dike. The pool regularly attracts ducks, geese, herons, and kingfishers.

Interior forested wetlands flank the paved entrance drive, part of the Little Harbor Trail. The forests, adjacent wetland, and saltwater habitats are ideal for watching and listening for spring migrant songbirds, including colorful neo-tropical warblers. Creek Farm lies along the Atlantic coastal flyway and inland from the open ocean beyond the barrier islands of New Castle. Sheltered forest along the Little Harbor peninsula provides refuge during spring and fall bird migrations.

Creek Farm mammals include woodchucks, white-tailed deer, and red foxes. These resident mammals can be found at the edges of the property’s gardens or lawns, in the oak and pine woodlands, and in the relict pear orchard, now mowed to maintain a mix of field and shrub habitats. The juxtaposition of fresh- and saltwater combined with the cultural features of a former cultivated landscape make Creek Farm an excellent place for wildlife watching.

PARKING: Creek Farm Road, Portsmouth

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset [note: dogs are not allowed]

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/creekfarm

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE:

6 DESTINATIONS FOR VIEWING WILDLIFE

By Dave Anderson

Where do you think the best wildlife viewing areas are? Here’s a hint: think water. Forests along rivers, brooks, ponds, lakes, freshwater wetlands, and tidal marshes are rich in food sources, making them great locations to espy wildlife.

A second consideration is habitat diversity. A mix of mowed fields, former farmlands, tracts where recent timber harvests are regenerating back to young forests, and stands of larger mature trees can all provide wildlife opportunities.

A third consideration is tract size and the presence of connecting corridors. Generally, large tracts of protected lands support a greater diversity of mammals with a larger home range: think bears, moose, bobcats, and otters. Connecting corridors allow wildlife to move across landscapes through more intensively developed areas.

Finally, consider how habitat specialists—reptiles, amphibians and insects—require very specific structural features: vernal pools, standing dead snags, hollow cavities, or unique forest communities such as pitch pine barrens, sand dunes, spruce forests, or alpine zones.

With these considerations in mind, here are our top six destinations where we think you should pan your binoculars first.

2. HEALD TRACT

Heald Tract features more than five miles of hiking trails and four ponds. The property contains diverse habitats for bear, deer, beaver, and moose. Waterfowl, turtles, and pond salamanders are also common. Castor Pond (named after *Castor canadensis*, the native beaver) is home to a beaver dam 75 feet wide and 7 feet high. Deer, ruffed grouse, and snowshoe hare favor the brushy openings in Heald's former apple orchards.

PARKING: Heald Road, Wilton

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailhead unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/healdtract

3. GRAFTON POND RESERVATION

Grafton Pond is a scenic 300-acre pond where the Forest Society owns approximately 4 of the 5 miles of undeveloped shoreline. Launch a canoe (see page 32) to look for wildlife in and around the pond's interesting coves and uninhabited islands. Up to three territorial pairs of threatened loons nest on the pond. Geese, ducks, herons, moose, mink, otters, beavers, and snapping turtles are also common. Mid-week and early morning are best for quiet wildlife-viewing opportunities. A short hiking trail beginning 500 feet south of the parking area leads to a scenic view of the pond and Mount Cardigan in distance. The Kinsman Trail, located on Kinsman Road, also leads to the shoreline.

PARKING: Grafton Pond Road, Grafton

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailhead unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$5/car or \$3/person

INFO: forestsociety.org/grafonpond

4. MOOSE MOUNTAINS RESERVATION

More than eight miles of hiking trails traverse the forested slopes of Moose Mountains Reservation. The trails are a combination of foot paths, woods roads, and a regional snowmobile trail. A 30- to 40-minute hike (one way) to Beauty Ledge offers terrific views of the White Mountains. The open views from Phoebe's Nable are a great place for hawk watching during their spring and fall migrations. A former heron rookery is located in a large wetland marsh off the Piper Mountain Trail.

PARKING: New Portsmouth Road, Middleton

WHEN TO VISIT: Spring–Fall (trailhead unplowed in winter)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/moosemountains

5. MERRIMACK RIVER OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION AREA

The rich landscape of river oxbows, back channels, and high terraces hosts a dynamic collection of overlapping natural communities at the Forest Society's Conservation Center. The 1.5-mile Les Clark Nature Trail passes through a white pine plantation, wooded swamp, and beaver-influenced wetland along the Mill Brook, a maple-oak-hickory riverside terrace community and a native silver maple floodplain forest at Eastman Cove. The floodplain is a natural sanctuary for incredibly diverse populations of native wildlife: turtles, beavers, mink, otters, and migratory waterfowl and songbirds. It is one of the best birding locations in the lower Merrimack Valley. Common sightings include bald eagles, pileated woodpeckers, cardinals, orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, kingbirds, bank swallows, wood ducks, and hooded mergansers. Rare winged visitors include ospreys, bitterns, and green herons.

PARKING: Portsmouth Street, Concord

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$3/hiker; \$4/hiker and dog

INFO: forestsociety.org/conservationcenter; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

6. SAMUEL A. TAMPOSI WATER SUPPLY RESERVE (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

The Forest Society holds a conservation easement on the sprawling 1,400-acre Samuel A. Tamposi Water Supply Reserve owned by the town of Barrington. Extensive wetlands feed the headwaters of both the Oyster and Bellamy rivers, two principal watersheds of the fast-growing Seacoast Region. The property was protected to ensure the availability of drinking water supplies for the communities of Dover, Madbury, Durham, Lee, Portsmouth, and the University of New Hampshire. The reserve's natural features include vernal pools, black gum, black spruce, and a rare Atlantic white cedar swamp. Undisturbed, intact wetlands support populations of reptiles and amphibians, including turtles, frogs, salamanders, and larger mammals.

PARKING: Tibbetts Road or Route 125, Barrington

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: <https://bit.ly/2FcN85H>

Pro Tip

Minimize your impact on wildlife by observing animals from afar so they are not scared or forced to flee. Give animals a wide berth and do not pursue or feed them. Remember that you are a visitor to their home.



Loons are a treat to spot on Grafton Pond.



BEST WINTER ACTIVITIES

5

DESTINATIONS FOR WINTER FUN

By Ryan Smith

If you can brave New Hampshire's cold temperatures and the snow, the following Forest Society reservations are perfect places to try your hand at winter hiking. Winter is a great time to look for animal tracks on the forest floor or listen for winter birds, including black-capped chickadees and dark-eyed juncos. Though daylight hours are shorter in winter, there are still plenty of ways to make lasting memories on a snowshoe or cross-country ski outing.

**A snowshoer ascends
Green Mountain in
the Forest Society's
High Watch Preserve.**

1. MONADNOCK RESERVATION

Winter is the perfect time of year to avoid the crowds and hike one of the most highly trafficked mountains in the country. At 3,165-feet, Monadnock's seemingly small stature shouldn't be taken for granted, especially in winter when the trails are riddled with ice and deep snow and the weather on the bald, subalpine summit is far from tropical. The state park also maintains nearly 8 miles of ungroomed cross-country ski trails on the south-east side of Monadnock. Beginners can choose from campground and picnic area loops while intermediate and advanced skiers can head for the trails on the upper slopes. Visitors should be prepared for all weather and trail conditions and carry the proper gear, food, and water.

PARKING: Monadnock State Park Headquarters, Poole Road, Jaffrey

WHEN TO VISIT: Daily, sunrise to sunset
(note: dogs are not allowed)

ADMISSION FEE: Day use fees at staffed entrances are required

INFO: forestsociety.org/monadnock

2. WEEKS FOREST

Only 10 miles away from the Mount Major trailhead, Weeks Forest in Gilford is a go-to destination for locals looking for a quiet hike in the woods when Major's parking lot is filled to the brim. Visitors can choose from the upper and lower loop trails, perfect for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing, that travel through a recent timber harvest, offer spectacular views, and feature a variety of forest structures. The plowed parking lot at the Gilford Town Offices make this reservation easy to visit even in the dead of winter.

PARKING: Gilford Town Offices parking lot, Gilford

WHEN TO VISIT: Daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/weeksforest

3. MOUNT MAJOR RESERVATION

What Mount Major lacks in elevation it makes up for with stellar views of Lake Winnepesaukee and the Belknap Range from its open summit. The 1.5-mile Main/Mount Major Trail, the shortest route to the summit, boasts a mixed bag of conditions throughout the winter, including icy ledges, deep snow, and slippery roots and rocks. Hikers should wear traction, MicroSpikes or snowshoes, when attempting Mount Major and should plan for longer hiking times in winter.

PARKING: Route 11, Alton

WHEN TO VISIT: Daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/mtmajor
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer



Beginner and experienced hikers will find a lot to explore at Monadnock Reservation.

4. HIGH WATCH PRESERVE

A great trail for beginner winter hikers is the 1.3-mile High Watch Trail starting on High Watch Road. The trail consists of a pleasant walk through a pine grove forest and, as the trail climbs to the summit of Green Mountain, three somewhat steeper, rocky sections. Kids will love scrambling up the rocks, and plus, there's the fire tower at the top. The observation deck is closed unless a forest ranger is in attendance, but views can be had from the tower below the observation deck. Please note that the trail is not on Forest Society land for approximately 0.3 miles at the start of the hike.

PARKING: High Watch Road, Effingham

WHEN TO VISIT: Daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/highwatch

5. WARE PRESERVE (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust, in partnership with the Granite Backcountry Alliance (GBA), purchased the Ware Preserve, once owned by passionate conservationist, Dick Ware, from the Forest Society in 2018 to create opportunities for outdoor recreation, especially in winter. In summer 2018, the GBA cut six backcountry skiing and snowboarding glades in the preserve before the snow fell later that winter. The area has quickly become a hot spot for backcountry skiers and snowboarders in search of deep powder and remote glades.

PARKING: East Branch Road, Intervale (parking lot closed during mud season)

WHEN TO VISIT: Daily, sunrise to sunset

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: usvlt.org/conserved-lands/ware_preserve/37



BEST PADDLING



Paddlers will find lots of islands, inlets, and coves to explore at Grafton Pond.

PADDLING PERFECTION: 5 SPOTS FOR WATER LOVERS

By Ryan Smith

The Forest Society protects a lot of land in New Hampshire. Land that not only supports healthy forests and diverse habitats, but also land that filters clean water for drinking and recreating. Without these forests, our mountain ponds, dynamic rivers, and tidal creeks would not be what they are today. Take some time this summer to deepen your connection between land and water by canoeing, kayaking, or paddleboarding at one of the following reservations.

1. GRAFTON POND RESERVATION

Known for its warm-water fishing, seven miles of undeveloped shoreline, and exploratory bays and islands, Grafton Pond is a hotspot for anglers [see page 24] and paddlers alike in the warm summer months. Launch your canoe or kayak (gas-powered boats aren't allowed) at the public landing or take a short hike from the parking area to the pond to listen and look for loons.

PARKING: Grafton Pond Road, Grafton

BEST TIME TO PADDLE: Spring–Fall

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$5/car or \$3/person

INFO: forestsociety.org/graftonpond

2. CREEK FARM

From Creek Farm's put-in, a 10-minute drive from downtown Portsmouth, boaters and stand-up paddleboarders can head north toward Portsmouth Harbor for views of the Wentworth Coolidge Mansion and Wentworth by the Sea Hotel or head south up tidal Sagamore Creek and stop by BG's Boat House for a lobster roll. Keep an eye out for bald eagles and ospreys hunting fish from above and for marine creatures in the tide pools below. Add a walk around Creek Farm's historic property [see page 15] to cap off the day. Pro tip: Time your outing with the flooding and ebbing tide water for a more enjoyable paddle.

PARKING: Creek Farm Road, Portsmouth

BEST TIME TO PADDLE: Spring–Fall (note: dogs are not allowed on the Creek Farm grounds)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/creekfarm; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

3. KAUFFMANN FOREST

For a multi-sport adventure of paddling, swimming, and hiking, trek to the North Country and the sparkling waters of Christine Lake. The lake and the land buffering the water is owned by the Percy Summer Club, which the Forest Society holds an easement on. Abutting this land is the Forest Society's Kauffmann Forest, known for the challenging Devil's Slide trail, and the wild and scenic Nash Stream State Forest. Pack a lunch and make a day out of it!

PARKING: Summer Club Road, Stark

BEST TIME TO PADDLE: Spring–Fall

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/kauffmannforest

4. PICKEREL COVE

The aptly named Pickerel Cove is found on the east side of Highland Lake away from the hustle and bustle of activity generally found on the lake's main body of water in the summer. Paddlers and anglers [see page 25] can appreciate the cove's undeveloped shoreline and quiet waters thanks to the efforts of local citizens and the Forest Society.

PARKING: Shedd Hill Road, Stoddard

BEST TIME TO PADDLE: Spring–Fall

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/pickerelcove

5. MERRIMACK RIVER OUTDOOR EDUCATION & CONSERVATION AREA

Paddlers can explore a rare silver maple floodplain forest and spot wildlife and migratory waterfowl and song birds at the Forest Society's Merrimack River Conservation Area. To access the property by boat, put in at Sewall's Falls Boat Launch and paddle downriver to the conservation area. Visitors can opt to explore the conservation area by foot by venturing out on the 1.5-mile Les Clark Nature Trail.

PARKING: For paddling: Sewall's Falls Boat Launch;

For hiking: Portsmouth Street, Concord

BEST TIME TO PADDLE: Spring–Fall

ADMISSION FEE: Suggested donation: \$3/hiker; \$4/hiker and dog

INFO: forestsociety.org/conservationcenter; forestsociety.org/forest-explorer

Consulting Foresters

The Forest Society encourages landowners to consult with a licensed forester before undertaking land management activities. The following are paid advertisers.

Calhoun & Corwin Forestry, LLC

Realize what you value the most in your forest. Serving individual, municipal, state, non-government, and industry forest owners.

560 Windy Road, Peterborough, NH 03458 • 603-562-5620
Email: swiftcorwin@gmail.com

Meadowsend Consulting Company

Jeremy Turner NHLPF #318 — Central/Southern NH
Email: jgturner@mtlforests.com

Ryan Kilborn NHLPF #442 — Northern NH
Email: rkilborn@mtlforests.com

A division of Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd.

Comprehensive forest and wildlife management, serving the conscientious New Hampshire landowner. -NRCS-Tech Service Provider

P.O. Box 966, New London, NH 03257
603-526-8686
www.mtlforests.com

FORECO: Forest Resource Consultants

Complete forest management services
Offering three licensed foresters, licensed land surveyor

P.O. Box 597, Rumney, NH 03266 • 603-786-9544
P.O. Box 161, Contoocook, NH 03229 • 603-746-4846
Email: office@forecollc.com

F&W Forestry Services Inc.

Comprehensive forestry management and land brokerage services.

79 River Street, Suite 301
Montpelier, VT 05602 • 802-233-8644 x 23

Martin Forestry Consulting, LLC

Offering complete forest management services including timber sales, cruises, and appraisals and wildlife habitat management.

P.O. Box 89, New Hampton, NH 03256 • 603-744-9484
Email: martinforestry@gmail.com

Licensed foresters should address inquiries about advertising to Jack Savage at 603-224-9945 or jsavage@forestsociety.org.



BEST FALL FOLIAGE VIEWING

7

FOREST SOCIETY ESCAPES FOR LEAF PEEPERS

By Ryan Smith

Thongs of tourists with cameras in tow flock to New Hampshire in fall to capture nature's ephemeral foliage display. Avoid the crowds and commotion by visiting the following Forest Society reservations that are sure to please young and old. Don't forget to pack some hot apple cider and some toasty thermals.

1. HEDGEHOG MOUNTAIN FOREST

The first viewpoint headed south on the Hedgehog Ridge Trail, 0.8 miles from the trailhead, offers a dramatic display of the Monadnock Region in the distance and the serene Contoocook River Valley below.

PARKING: Hedgehog Mountain Road, Deering

WHEN TO VISIT: late-September–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/hedgehogforest

2. EAGLE CLIFF FOREST

The Eagle Cliff Trail ascends 600 feet in a half mile to open ledges offering sweeping views west across Big Squam Lake and north to the wild Sandwich Range. Adventurous leaf peepers can opt to continue higher to the Red Hill Fire Tower for panoramic views of the Lakes and White Mountains regions. Pro tip: Eagle Cliff Trail is steep and challenging in spots. Do not attempt in inclement weather.

PARKING: Bean Road, Sandwich

WHEN TO VISIT: late-September–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/eaglecliff

3. HAY RESERVATION

Whether you choose to hike 1.2 miles from the Route 103A trailhead or 0.9 miles from Chalk Pond Road, a moderate trip to the top of Hay Reservation's Sunset Hill rewards hikers with colorful views of the Sunapee and White Mountains regions.

PARKING: Route 103A, Newbury

WHEN TO VISIT: late-September–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/hayreservation

4. ANDREW BROOK FOREST

From the trailhead on Mountain Road, the two-mile Andrew Brook Trail meanders through a colorful hardwood forest on its way to Mount Sunapee State Park's placid Lake Solitude. For expansive views of the Sunapee Region, turn right onto the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway after the lake and climb less than a quarter-mile to the White Ledges.

PARKING: Mountain Road, Newbury

WHEN TO VISIT: late-September–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/andrewbrook
forestsociety.org/forest-explorer



Prefer to add a dash of arts and culture to your foliage tour? Check out Madame Sherri Forest on page 23.

5. ASHUELOT RIVER HEADWATERS FOREST

Views of Vermont and Massachusetts' rolling hills await hikers of Lempster's 2,160-foot Silver Mountain. In fall, vibrantly colored hardwood stands contrast with tawny farm fields and hunter-green pine and hemlock forests.

PARKING: South Road, Lempster

WHEN TO VISIT: late-September–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/ashuelotrivers

6. BUXTON FOREST-ELIZABETH SIMONS PRESERVE

The 1.25-mile Mount Wallingford Trail passes by a beaver marsh and winds through a peaceful hemlock forest before topping out on 1,201-foot Mount Wallingford. With views to the north, hikers can spy the foliage-draped summits of Kearsarge South and Cardigan Mountain.

PARKING: Flanders Memorial Road, Weare

WHEN TO VISIT: late-September–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/buxtonsimons

7. HIGH FIVE

Fall sunrises and sunsets from High Five's Wilson Hill are sure to thrill foliage fanatics. Pack a blanket and some snacks as the short hike to the overlook yields more time to lounge and recharge in nature.

PARKING: Sky Farm Road, Deering

WHEN TO VISIT: late-September–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/highfive

Opposite page: Strenuous in places, the Eagle Cliff Trail rewards hikers for their effort with views of majestic Big Squam Lake and the southern White Mountains.



BEST PICNIC SPOTS

A BLANKET WITH A VIEW: 5 PICKS FOR PICNICS

By Ryan Smith

Even if you've checked off everything on your summer to-do list, the vacation season isn't over until you picnic at one of the following Forest Society reservations or easements. You'll be rewarded for your extra effort with unimaginable views, some time to connect with friends and family, and a chance to beat the heat on those warm summer days. An added bonus: reservations aren't necessary.

1. CREEK FARM

If you're seeking spectacular water views with a dash of agricultural and art history on your next al fresco outing, look no further than Creek Farm. The southeast-facing front lawn of the Carey Cottage, a stone's throw from the main parking lot, catches the radiant sun throughout the day adding to the warm, inviting ambiance of this historical property located a mere 10 minutes from downtown Portsmouth. Launch a boat or stand-up paddleboard into tidal Sagamore Creek [see page 33] or spend an hour or two wildlife watching [see page 28] to round out the day.

PARKING: Creek Farm Road, Portsmouth

WHEN TO VISIT: May–October (note: dogs are not allowed)

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/creekfarm

2. EVELYN H. & ALBERT D. MORSE, SR. PRESERVE

Time your next picnic at the Morse Preserve with the ripening of the delicious wild blueberries growing on Pine Mountain [see page 26], and you might not need to eat for the rest of the day. After a moderate hike to the top, hardy picnickers are rewarded with open blueberry barrens backdropped with spectacular views of the Belknap Range and Lake Winnepesaukee.

PARKING: Avery Hill Road, Alton

WHEN TO VISIT: May–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: forestsociety.org/morsepreserve



Whether you choose to sit at a picnic table or on a blanket, Emery Farm is a local favorite for al fresco dining.

3. MUSTER FIELD FARM MUSEUM (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

Come picnic at an eighteenth-century homestead and working farm built on 250 acres of fields and woods. Spruce up your mid-day spread with some fresh-cut flowers or supplement your salad and sandwich with farm-grown vegetables and herbs from the veggie stand. Don't miss the ever-popular Farm Days event in late summer for hayrides, tractor races, and demonstrations of traditional farming skills and crafts.

PARKING: Harvey Road, North Sutton

WHEN TO VISIT: May–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free (excluding certain special events)

INFO: musterfieldfarm.com

4. EMERY FARM (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

If hoofing a bagful of lunch provisions on your back isn't your cup of tea, a trip to Durham's Emery Farm is a great alternative. The farm's market and café sells seasonal crops and tasty take-away treats, including their award-winning cider donuts and local-favorite Annabelle's ice cream. Save some time to wander the fields (protected by three Forest Society conservation easements) and to visit the petting farm.

PARKING: Piscataqua Road, Durham

WHEN TO VISIT: May–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: emeryfarm.com

5. GREATER GOOSE POND FOREST (CONSERVATION EASEMENT)

No more than a 5-minute walk from the main parking area, the shores of 42-acre Goose Pond make for a picture-perfect location for a picnic and some R&R. Work off your food coma with a stroll around the lake or hop on a mountain bike and explore a variety of single- and double-track trails. Containing more than 1,000 acres of forest, streams, and wetlands, the forest is Keene's largest city-owned park and was fully protected under a Forest Society easement in 2009.

PARKING: East Surry Road, Keene

WHEN TO VISIT: May–October

ADMISSION FEE: Free

INFO: <https://ci.keene.nh.us/ggpf>

Pro Tip

Make sure to leave your picnic site better than you found it by packing out everything you pack in. Repackage your food in reusable containers before you head out to preserve your food longer and to minimize waste in the backcountry.



HUNTING ON FOREST SOCIETY RESERVATIONS



Forest Society Forester Steve Junkin poses for a photo after harvesting his first turkey.

HUNTING THROUGH THE SCOPE OF A FORESTER

By Steve Junkin

I started hunting when I was 17 years old. I fell in love with the extraordinarily interactive nature of the sport. Spending time outdoors breathing the fresh air, exercising, and discovering beautiful, off-the-map wonders energizes me. A good hunter needs to know about the quarry they are after to be successful. A hunter needs to be woods savvy, including knowing how to read and navigate the wooded landscape and how to find and decipher preferred animal habitats. All of these skills add up to making hunters better conservationists. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have a job that requires me to spend a lot of time outdoors. As a Forest Society forester for the last 7 years, I have traversed roughly 140 of our 185 reservations, allowing me to have a very intimate understanding of the land for conservation purposes, including hunting.

A goal of the Forest Society is to provide a variety of recreation opportunities on our reservations, hunting included. The Forest Society allows and encourages hunting on nearly 50,000 acres of its forestland. There are exceptions, so it's important to check state and local regulations in the areas you plan to hunt. For example, hunting is discouraged around heavily recreated areas, such as Monadnock Reservation, or on properties that have been donated to the Forest Society that prohibit hunting specifically.

Hunting also provides an important revenue source for the state. Revenue from hunting and fishing gear purchases are filtered through state coffers to fund state agencies, including Fish and Game. Additionally, the Forest Society has purchased several of our reservations with these funds, providing more access to recreate and hunt

on. Hunting also gives wildlife managers the ability to achieve population thresholds of certain wildlife species.

I should preface that hunting success is subjective. For example, the first time I went turkey hunting, I didn't harvest anything other than a love for the sport. My first trip happened to be on a Forest Society reservation in the Lakes Region, where the organization has roughly 19 properties scattered across the area. I could highlight a slew of good properties to hunt on but my recommendations would largely depend on what quarry you're after. Lots of great habitats exist on Forest Society land, in part due to the organization's goals for providing a diversity of habitat through timber management. Finding the preferred habitat for the quarry you're after is key. A turkey hunter would do well to locate a property with roosting habitat on or near where you would like to hunt. Turkeys prefer to roost in stands of mature trees, either pine or oak, but generally pine. They also prefer openings in the landscape, for example, agricultural fields, regenerating clear cuts, or some form in between, where they can nest and courtship can occur. These are also good places for turkeys to find food, namely seeds and insects. To make your hunting spot even better, look to combine these habitats with a stand of both hard [oak, beech, and maple trees] and soft [raspberry, viburnum, apple, juniper and wild grape] mast species nearby. Plan to spend a number of days in the field ahead of the hunting season scouting for these habitats and landscape features. Remember, success doesn't have to be measured by what you harvest but rather by the sheer enjoyment of spending time in the natural world learning to read diverse landscapes. Be safe, have fun, and I'll see you in the field.

Learn More

Hunters are required to know if the land they plan to hunt on allows hunting. If there is any question, it's best to contact the landowner. A useful smartphone app, called onX Hunt, features navigable GPS maps that provide property boundaries and landowner contact information. For more details, visit onxmaps.com.

For state hunting regulations and a comprehensive list of public lands that are open for hunting, such as state and federal ownerships within New Hampshire, visit wildlife.state.nh.us.



Left: Forester Steve Junkin checks on trail drainage improvements implemented by loggers on Weeks Forest.



Right: A bridge now sits where a culvert once interrupted the flow of a wetland. Note the thicket of regenerating hemlock lining the edges of the trail. This is a result of skidding logs in the 1989 harvest.

The Nexus of Forestry and Recreation

By Wendy Weisiger

New Hampshire has a rich history of forestry and recreation. In the early 1900s, an infrastructure of railroads and then horse skidways were woven throughout the White Mountain National Forest's mountains and valleys to gain access to a forest rich in spruce, pine, and northern hardwoods.

Fast forward more than a century and those landscapes, once devoid of vegetation, are now home to resilient forests and clean waterways. The defunct railbeds and skidways provide access for millions of hikers each year to reach destinations like Franconia Falls and Zealand Falls Hut in the Pemigewasset Wilderness, the epicenter of logging operations in the early 1900s. Through sustainable timber harvesting, the White Mountains continue to provide a rich source of renewable forest products, from pulp for paper to lumber for building.

Like the Whites, Forest Society reservations have a history in harvesting. For the

most part, our donors protect land in New Hampshire for two purposes: forestry and recreation. Most of these reservations were once family woodlots, such as Weeks Forest in Gilford. The Weeks family managed their property as a working woodlot, harvesting timber from time to time prior to donating it to the Forest Society in 1988. When the land was donated to us, the former log landing still existed as a small opening in the forest and as a recreation trail intersection. From the landing, old farm and logging roads lead up to a field and down to Route 11. The main skid roads, now mostly grown in but discernible by the thicket of hemlock growth along the edges, serve as a loop trail for hiking and skiing. The last harvest at Weeks Forest in 1989 left an infrastructure behind that served both recreation and future harvest management purposes.

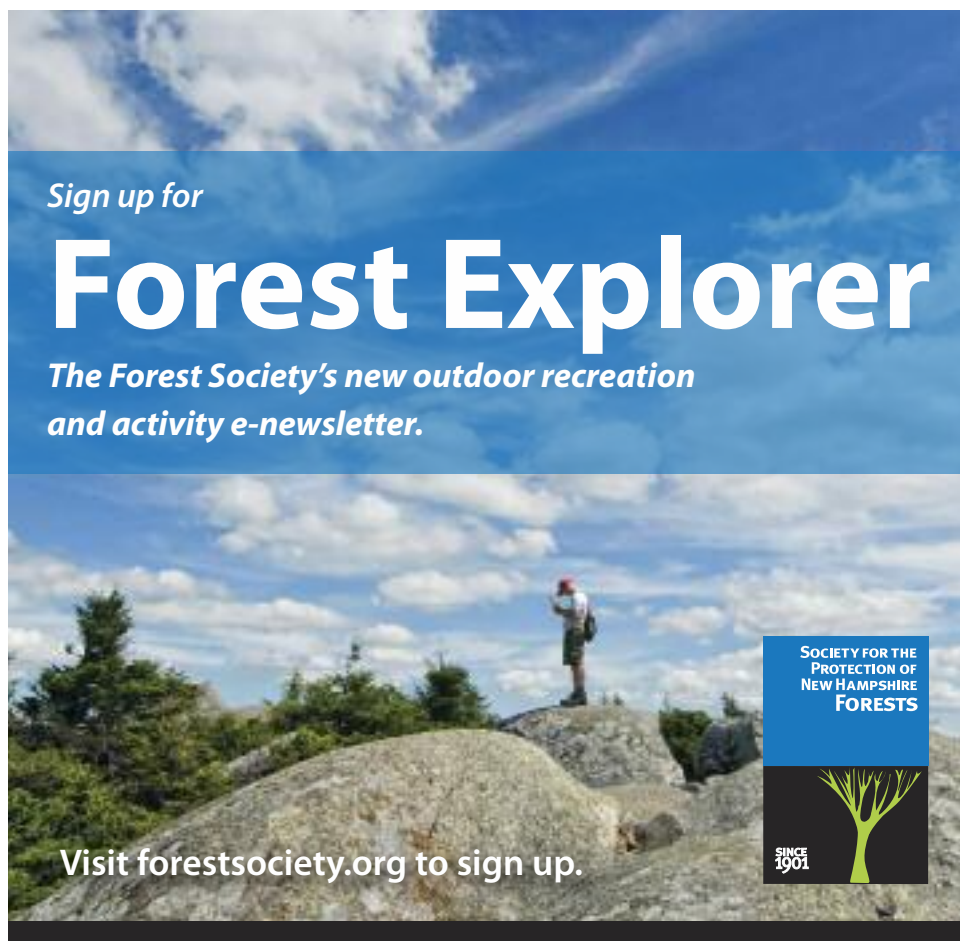
In 2016, when the Weeks Forest tree farm was ready for harvest, Forest Society foresters recognized the important recre-

ational resource the reservation provided and saw the need to make some improvements to the trails. Foresters laid the harvest out with plans to reuse many of the old skid roads and the landing. By already having the proper equipment on site, our staff worked with the loggers to make some improvements to the trails. They reshaped a poorly drained trail and replaced culverts with bridges to restore wetland functions. They also cut back the encroaching hardwoods that had been creeping in on the old field over the decades. The cost of these improvements was borne by the timber sale. Vegetation will grow back on the trails and landing over the next decade or two before Weeks is up for harvest again. In the meantime, hikers and skiers continue to enjoy this open space and will likely get to see some new wildlife species that perhaps hadn't been abundant there prior to the last harvest.

Other examples of improving recreation infrastructure during harvests include

our work at Ashuelot Forest in Lempster. A harvest in 2017 offered an opportunity to open a view of the lake from the road and, as the harvested section regenerates with aspen trees, provide early spring food for wildlife. A harvest surrounding the lean-to shelter at Crider Forest in Stoddard now provides campers with a peaceful sunset view of Dakin Hill. When we harvested at Mount Monadnock Reservation in 2018, we were able to make much needed upgrades to Shaker Farm Road, which connects to the popular Marlboro Trail on the western side of Monadnock. These are just a few examples of how we integrate recreation with our timber harvesting. As you hike through one of these woodlots, take care to notice the signs of the last harvest. Look for old skid roads or bumper tree scars. The harvest history of each woodlot is still there; you just have to know what you're looking for. ♻️

Wendy Weisiger is the managing forester for the Forest Society.



Sign up for

Forest Explorer

The Forest Society's new outdoor recreation and activity e-newsletter.

Visit forestsociety.org to sign up.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS

SINCE 1901

Can you transform a house into a forest? Yes!

With **Assets to Acres** Your Gift of Developed Real Estate Can Help Protect New Hampshire's Special Places

Most people know that the Forest Society accepts donations of conservation land and conservation easements—but did you know that the Forest Society also accepts gifts of other real estate?

Donations of houses, cottages, house lots and even woodlots that can be sold by the Forest Society generate funds that will be used to purchase important conservation lands and provide for the stewardship of our forest reservations and conservation easements.

For more information on converting your "asset" into conserved "acres," call Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945 or visit

forestsociety.org/A2A



Ellen Kennelly donated this summer house in Dublin surrounded by 49 protected acres to the "Assets to Acres" program.





Increased visitation over the years at Mount Major has taken a toll on its trails.

A Major Upgrade: Help Support Trail Work on Mount Major

It's no wonder Mount Major's panoramic summit, which boasts views of the Lakes Region and White Mountains, is a highly regarded destination for locals and tourists alike. With an estimated 80,000 visitors annually, though, Mount Major's trails are being loved to death.

Soil erosion, off-trail usage, dog waste, and garbage are just some of the visitor-created impacts Forest Society staff and

volunteers contend with throughout the year. Then there are the parking challenges: On a beautiful weekend in October 2018, a Forest Society trail steward counted more than 400 cars parked in the Mount Major trailhead and spilling out onto the shoulder of Route 11 in Alton. That's an estimated 1,000 hikers in one afternoon. For a summit that's more than a mile from the parking area, the crowded top looked more like

Hampton Beach on a hot summer day.

To remedy these issues, the Forest Society is working with a broad coalition of stakeholders on a long-term stewardship plan that enhances the visitor experience while protecting Mount Major's natural resources. A part of the plan includes repairing the severely eroded Main and Brook trails to reduce soil erosion and to provide better access for backcountry emergency responders.



Crowds are a common sight to see on Mount Major in the summer, and so too is trash left behind by visitors on the reservation's trails and in its parking lot.

We have already hit the ground running this spring by contracting with a consultant who is assessing and developing plans for repairing the trails, with the expectation to implement this plan for more sustainable trails over the next few years.

During this process, the Forest Society will continue to provide visitor services and programming at Mount Major that focus on the importance of strategic land conservation, safe hiking etiquette, and land stewardship. These programs include

the Forest Society's volunteer Trail Stewards Program, staff-led trail improvement and maintenance workdays, and the Mount Major Outdoor Classroom, which provides outdoor education for 12 New Hampshire elementary and middle schools. We're also excited to announce that we'll be partnering with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics this summer to teach hikers how they can each contribute to the stewardship of Mount Major's trails. For services, the Forest Society will continue

to provide portable toilets and snow removal at the trailhead parking facility.

However, we can't fulfill our stewardship plans without your support. Your contribution will help us improve the Mount Major experience for all, from the mountain's scenic summit to its peaceful trails. To donate, visit forestsociety.org/mtmajorstewardshipfund or mail in the form below. ♻️

☐ YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE FOREST SOCIETY'S WORK AT MOUNT MAJOR

Name: _____

Address: _____ Town/City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for \$ _____

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Number: _____ Exp. date: _____ Security code: _____

Please mail the completed form to:

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Mount Major Stewardship Fund
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301

Or donate online at forestsociety.org/mtmajorstewardshipfund

*For more information, call Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945
or email skh@forestsociety.org.*

SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS



**Thank you
for your help!**

MAJ194FN/4102T026



**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS**

54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301-5400

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Manchester, NH
Permit No. 0494

THE MANY FACES OF CONSERVATION



PHOTO: AL KAREVY

Terry Glazier
Merrimack, N.H.

Member since 2001

I don't remember an age when I hadn't been exposed to woodlands. I grew up in Leverett, Mass., a small town of less than 1,000 people. My parents frequently took me and my brothers for walks in the woods laced with old roads and foundations. They enjoyed exploring the cellar holes of our ancestors' homes on nearby Brushy Mountain. My parents were also enthusiastic backyard birders, and we'd listen for pileated woodpeckers and other well-known songsters on our walks. Seeing beaver dams or wildlife of any kind was always a plus.

My first hike on a Forest Society property was when I was eleven years old and my sixth grade class climbed Mount Monadnock. I eventually moved to New Hampshire as an adult and rediscovered the Forest Society and its mission to protect and perpetuate forests. When I read about the organization's Forest Reservation Challenge, I thought, 'That looks like fun!' I loved that the challenge would take me to parts of the state I had never been to. The hikes ranged from a pleasant walk in the woods at Creek Farm in Portsmouth to a steep climb up the Chippewa Trail in Haverhill. My hiking pal and I agreed we need to go back to New Durham's Cooper Cedar Woods in May when all the lovely wildflowers will be in bloom. For the least amount of work and an unbelievable view, High Five Reservation in Deering wins hands down (see page 6).

Scientists tell us that being in nature is good for our brains—it makes us kinder and happier. I know it makes me happy, and I am forever grateful to the Forest Society for making so many 'happy' places available to us all." ♪

MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

Terry Glazier is among the 10,000 members who help the Forest Society protect more than a million acres in New Hampshire.

To join them, use the envelope in this issue or call Margaret Liszka at 603-224-9945. To find out more about the Forest Reservation Challenge, visit forestsociety.org/challenge.