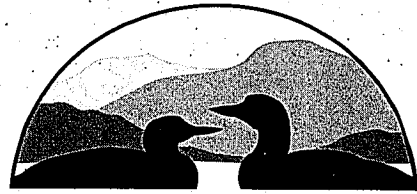
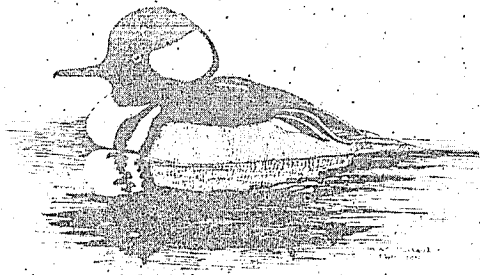


Trail Guide

Kensan Devan Meetinghouse Pond Wildlife Sanctuary

Marlborough, New Hampshire



New Hampshire Audubon is an independent statewide membership organization whose mission is to protect New Hampshire's natural environment for wildlife and for people. It operates nature centers throughout the state that provide educational programs for children and adults. It is also involved in research projects, from developing a plan to preserve the biodiversity of a rapidly growing state to monitoring many of New Hampshire's endangered species. It also protects thousands of acres of wildlife habitat through its sanctuaries program and advocates for sound public policy on environmental issues. For information on New Hampshire Audubon, including membership, volunteering, programs, and publications, contact:

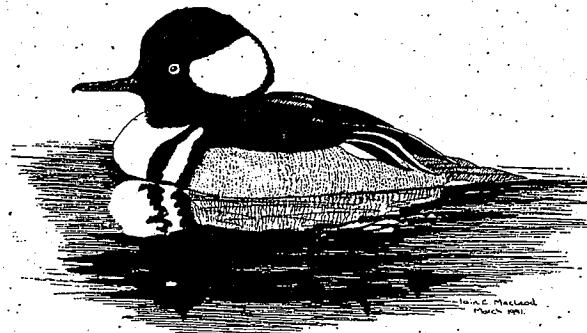
New Hampshire Audubon

3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301
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If you do not want to keep this guide, please return it to the mailbox at the trailhead.

Printed on recycled paper.

Text and map by Mike Milligan.
Art by Iain MacLeod.



New Hampshire Audubon

About the Sanctuary

Meetinghouse Pond is located on the western slope of Mt. Monadnock, about 4.4 miles from the summit. Much of the forested, undeveloped shoreline of this 45-acre pond has been protected for over 200 years as town land. Because of the generosity of conservation-minded Marlborough residents, the remainder of the pond's shoreline is now protected as part of the 579-acre Kensan Devan Meetinghouse Pond Wildlife Sanctuary.

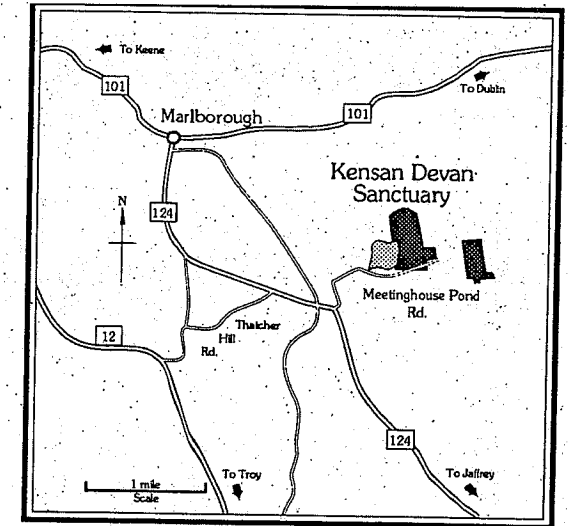
Containing a mosaic of wetland and upland habitat types, the Sanctuary is wooded with deciduous and mixed forest dominated by northern red oak, red maple, white pine, hemlock, and northern hardwood species such as beech, white ash, and sugar maple. The remnants of stone walls, built around 1800, are the last evidence of the land's past use as pastureland. The potential to see a good diversity of wildlife is high in this relatively large area of contiguous, undeveloped habitat in the scenic Monadnock region.

The original 168-acre Sanctuary, which included most of the pond's eastern shore, was established in 1986 as a result of the inspiration and generous support of Cia Devan. She also donated significant endowment funding for management of the property and supported additional land protection there. The John Miley family donated 19 acres of land, including the remainder of the pond's eastern shore, when the Sanctuary was established. In 1991, through the generosity of John and Lee Lecraw and many other area residents, an additional 34 acres were added, and Audubon was able to establish a trail system. In 1994, Sally Maynard donated a 179-acre parcel known as the Fréchette Forest. In 2001, Steve and Joan Ames enabled Audubon to add 125 acres to the west side of the Maynard parcel, and, with John Lecraw, to add 55 more acres on the north side of the pond.

Visitor Information

Meetinghouse Pond Wildlife Sanctuary is open throughout the year during daylight hours. Although there are trails for your enjoyment, this sanctuary's primary purpose is to provide habitat for wildlife. In order to minimize disturbance to the plants and animals here, we ask that you observe the following rules:

1. Only foot travel is permitted.
2. Smoking, swimming, camping, fires, hunting, and trapping are prohibited.
3. Please keep to the marked trails and do not collect or in any way disturb any plants or animals.
4. Pets must be kept on leash.
5. Please carry out all trash and litter.
6. Be prepared for country walking.



How to get to the Sanctuary

From Keene, take Rt. 101 east to the junction with Rt. 124 and turn south on Rt. 124. Drive for 2.3 miles, then turn left onto Meetinghouse Pond Rd. (*not* Meetinghouse Rd.), and drive 0.5 mile to the pond. Park and begin your walk at the boat landing. Summer road maintenance only!

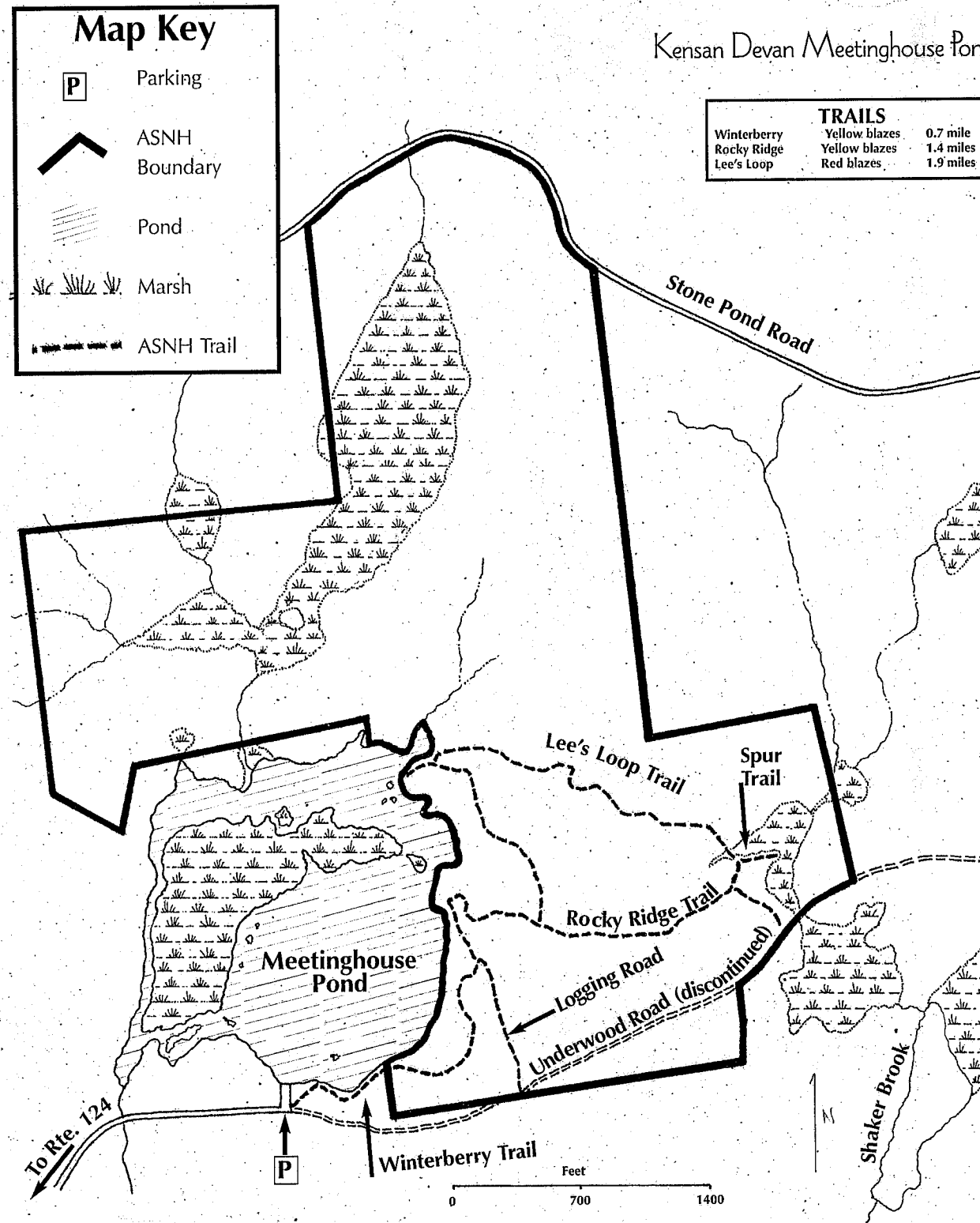
Trail Information

There are approximately 2.3 miles of trail on the Sanctuary. The gently sloping terrain provides easy walking conditions.

The **Winterberry Trail** (0.7 mile) begins at the parking area at the Meetinghouse pond boat launch. The trail, blazed yellow, begins by following the southeastern shore of the pond under a dense canopy dominated by hemlock. This forested area includes red and sugar maple, red oak, white pine, witch hazel, serviceberry, white ash, beech, and white, black, and yellow birch. Ground cover includes winterberry, lowbush blueberry, bracken and wood fern, painted trillium, goldthread, hobblebush, wild sarsaparilla, tree and staghorn clubmoss, partridgeberry, Canada mayflower, bluebead lily, bunchberry, maple-leaved viburnum, and starflower. The shoreline includes cinnamon fern and shrubs such as highbush blueberry, maleberry, mountain and winterberry holly, wild raisin, and sheep laurel. Boulders left by receding glaciers cover the property, and polypody fern can be found atop many of them.

The hemlock canopy soon gives way to an area dominated by red maple and red oak. Here the Winterberry Trail loop can be completed by taking the red-blazed old logging road to the right, which joins the old, unmaintained Underwood Road. Turn right (west) on the Underwood Road to return to the parking area.

To continue on the trail, instead of turning onto the red-blazed section of the Winterberry Trail, continue straight to the yellow-blazed **Rocky Ridge Trail** (total length as a loop,



including yellow-blazed section of Winterberry Trail and Underwood Road back to parking area, 1.4 miles). This trail follows the eastern shore of the pond until a sharp right turn (east) takes the trail uphill over a stony, dry ridge dominated by red oak, red maple, and white pine. Ground cover includes ground cedar clubmoss, lady and hay-scented fern, Indian cucumber-root, trailing arbutus, twinflower, pipsissewa, and pink lady's-slipper.

After a short distance on the Rocky Ridge Trail, the red-blazed **Lee's Loop Trail** turns off to the left or north (total length as a loop, including sections of Winterberry and Rocky Ridge Trails from parking area and Underwood Road back to parking area, about 1.9 miles). Lee's Loop generally follows the eastern side of the pond before abruptly turning right (east). At this point a short spur trail heads left (west) to the pond's northeastern shore, where there is a view of the bog mat with plants such as leatherleaf, sweet gale, black spruce, tamarack, rhodora, and marsh St. John's-wort, as well as aquatics such as white and yellow water lily. Past the spur trail, Lee's Loop meanders east for about 0.4 mile before turning right (southwest) and reaching another short spur headed left (east). This trail leads to a view of beaver-created swamp/marsh on Shaker (or Underwood) Brook. Shortly after this spur trail, Lee's Loop rejoins the Rocky Ridge Trail, where taking a left (southeast) on the Rocky Ridge Trail leads to Underwood Road. Turn right (west) on Underwood Road to return back to the parking area (0.6 mile).