Trail Guide POND MOUNTAIN NATURAL AREA



"In wildness is the preservation of the world."

Thoreau

WE ALL CAN HELP

A natural area is a vulnerable place which can easily be damaged in a way that will take many years to repair. For this reason, and because Pond Mountain is used for scientific study, we ask you to help by observing the following rules:

The trails . . . We have established trails which provide the greatest possible variety within the Natural Area. To wander off the trails may damage the area or interfere with an important experiment. We ask, therefore, that you: KEEP TO THE MARKED TRAILS.

The Wildlife . . . There are many places where hunting and fishing are allowed. Since hunting and fishing may disturb the balance of nature, we ask that you DO NOT HUNT OR FISH here. The lake is unique; keep it this way with NO BOATING, NO SWIMMING OR LITTERING.

WELCOME TO POND MOUNTAIN TRAILS

These trails, maintained for your enjoyment by the Pond Mountain Trust, are the enduring legacy of the late Myra H. Hopson of Kent. Established by Miss Hopson in 1966, the Trust administers a natural tract of nearly 800 acres in cooperation with the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

The purpose of the Trust is the perpetual preservation of the land in its natural state, as free as possible from all human interference, for scientific, educational, and cultural use. It is hoped that you, the visitors, will find it a place where body, mind and spirit are refreshed.

Several spots within the Pond Mountain Natural Area are of particular scenic interest. Using the trail guide printed on the opposite side of this sheet, the visitor can locate trails leading to:

The buildings... The buildings on the property are not recreational facilities; they are used for scientific research and storage. PLEASE DO NOT GO NEAR THEM.

The Balance of Nature . . . One forest fire could alter the area in a few hours. A careless camper could, in a few minutes, upset a natural balance which has taken centuries to establish. The only way we can insure that the goals of the Trust are achieved is to ask that there be NO CAMPFIRES, NO SMOKING OR PETS on the premises. There are state parks and other areas nearby where camping, picnicking and pets are allowed.

The Pond Mountain Natural Area is open daily from sunrise to sunset. We hope that you will come often to enjoy its unspoiled beauty. Please report any problems to the manager at the farmhouse or phone 927-3827

Thank you,
The Management Committee

Fuller Pond... a spring-fed, glacial lake of exceptional depth and clarity which has been the subject of several research projects in recent years.

Pond Mountain . . . the highest elevation within the Natural Area. Looking west from the summit on a clear day, the outlines of the Catskill Mountains will be visible in the distance.

Appalachian Trail... this famous hiking trial skirts eastern portions of the property and may be reached at the end of the Red Gate Trail.

Caleb's Peak...located on the Appalachian Trail to the east of the Skiff Mountain Road, this rocky promontory provides an excellent view of Kent and Housatonic Valley.

St. John's Ledges . . . on the Appalachian Trail at the eastern boundary of the Natural Area. These sheer granite cliffs were exposed as glacier and river scoured out the valley below.



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