



Woodfern Loop Quest

Hazen's Notch Association, Montgomery, Vermont

Difficulty: Easy

Equipment Needed: Cross country skis.

Estimated Time: 1 hour

Open Winter Solstice through Vernal Equinox

How to get there: From the Ski Center on Route 58, the Hazen's Notch Road, cross the road to the south side. The starting point is the Woodfern Trail to the right.

Category:

Historical land use interpretation forms the basis for clues along the way.

Clues:

Ski down a bit and cross a small brook
Up through young woods – maple, birch
Soon Coyote Meadow – Stop and Look!
An old farm field and part of our search.

Cool Fact: Coyote Meadow is an old hayfield. The large evergreens are Norway Spruce (non-native species) planted around the edge 40 years ago. The large rock in the middle is named Coyote Rock.

Upper Woodfern heads off to the right
Present day camp – now quiet and still
Lower Woodfern – again to the right
Cross a wooden bridge and head downhill.

Cool Fact: This area is part of an old farm. The pond was much smaller and used to water livestock. Now it is called Bear Paw Pond and is part of a summer nature camp.

Bear to the left on Lower Woodfern
Young forest – red maples – same age all
Our quest is closer – past the next turn
Near the work of many hands – stone wall.

Cool Fact: This land was once pasture for livestock and has grown back to even aged trees. The stonewall was built to clear the land and delineate property boundaries.

These ancient stones hold an ancient tree
Felled by wind and filled with cavities
Look close; look carefully – you will see
Our Quest Box is here – find it with ease.

Cool Fact: Very large, old sugar maples were often part of a maple syrup tap line. These woods are full of evidence to former times – sap buckets, collapsed sugarhouse.

[The quest box contains a paper certificate with the information presented on this quest. Collect one copy and when the group returns to the Ski Center, an “Official” Hazen’s Notch Association stamp will be affixed]

Start uphill on Wall Street to head back
Upper Woodfern Trail is now our track
See deep woods uphill and pond below
Coyote Meadow and down we go.

This Quest was written by Deborah Benjamin, Staff Naturalist, Hazen’s Notch Association.

This Quest is part of the Ski Vermont Nordic Quest Program. For more information and other Quests, please go to their website: <http://www.skivermont.com/kidzone/nordic.php>.

