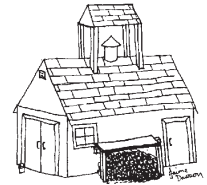


THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



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“Nature’s first green is gold, Her hardest hue to hold.”

Welcome to Weeks Forest

BY LINDA HECKER

Who was Andrew Weeks? Where can you find a forest named after him? Thanks to efforts by the Guilford Conservation Commission you can discover the answers while enjoying a walk on the newly-improved Carriage Trail in the Andrew G. Weeks Memorial Forest, located in Guilford Center across from the old brick schoolhouse on Carpenter Road. This publicly-accessible land was conserved by the Reed Anthony family in 1992 via a partnership between the Vermont Land Trust and the New England Forest Foundation as a demonstration site for sustainable forestry practices.

Last year the Conservation Commission’s long interest in trail development led to a successful application to the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions for a Tiny Grant, which provided most of the funds for trail improvements such as stone benches, informational waypoint posts and a trail guide. Members of the Conservation Commission and community volunteers provided the hard

work to clear and clean up the trail, install new signage, and write the text for the trail guide. They were aided by Jennifer Kramer’s sixth grade class. The sixth graders have a special relation to the Weeks Forest, where they spend Forest Friday’s (or Thursday’s) learning about the natural and historical significance of this area which was home to Guilford’s thriving Mineral Springs spa and bottling plant in the late 1800’s. The foundations and other remains of the Springs Farm buildings add an unusual cultural legacy to the beautiful natural resources such as the headwaters of the Broad Brook and stands of mixed hardwoods and farmland.

The Carriage Trail represents a real community effort: the sixth grade class, Historical Society, Guilford road crew, MT3 Excavating, Clear Solutions, and many community volunteers all contributed time and energy to making this hidden gem a viable town resource. Many Guilford citizens celebrated the official ribbon cutting and trail opening on July 2, with guided walks led by members of the Conservation Commission.

We now invite you to take a self-guided walk on the Carriage Trail in Weeks Forest. You can park near the trailhead, pick up a trail guide in the mailbox just inside the gate, and take a short and easy walk less than a mile long out and back. It’s a perfect place to meet friends or family, or take out-of-town guests for a walk that shows off some of Guilford’s loveliest landscapes.

