

Guilford Summer Ramblings

BY ANNE MONTGOMERY

The back roads of Guilford hosted dozens of curious explorers this summer. They examined historic sites, identified plants and animals, and met new friends and old! These meanderings were part of Guilford Cares' free monthly walks, from May through October.

Each walk had a volunteer guide who was happy to share his or her knowledge with us. At least 67 people attended throughout the summer; rain occasionally threatened but obligingly held off until the end of our forays!

The traditional first walk of the season is the Weeks Forest Carriage Trail in Guilford Center. It is a beautiful forest road which follows the Broad Brook and once led to the Guilford Mineral Springs.

June was a cultural bonanza as we visited the Packer Corners neighborhood. Stories of Total Loss Farm, School House #10, and the stone sculpture garden amazed us.

Keets Brook Road was our chance to sneak into the northeast corner of Leyden, MA to see old mill sites, historic homes and ancient trees, all within half a mile of the state line. We had discovered the app "Seek" by iNaturalist and were able to identify many of the roadside wildflowers blooming in July.

Our walks in August and September provided interesting stories—one ancient and one modern. At the top of Carpenter Hill Road sits the 250 year old Carpenter House, surrounded by stone walls, ponds, woods trails, apple orchards and the Cemetery—oozing with early Vermont history! By contrast, the Green River Meadows,



Friends enjoying a Guilford Cares walk along the Green River Meadows Trail

south of the covered bridge, is a new trail which has recently been transformed from a vehicle junkyard into a hayfield, walking path and critical floodplain. Here we saw an ongoing experiment in elm tree regeneration, and an example of the pervasiveness of invasive species.

Many people have spent long hours helping to restore and maintain the fascinating environments we visited this summer. We hope you will join us in 2023 for more Guilford Cares Walks in our incredible town.

Special thanks to our volunteers and generous friends: Karen, Linda, Verandah, Gilbert, Myron, Amy, John, Art, and the Guilford Conservation Commission.



Examining a gravestone during the Carpenter Hill walk

An advertisement for Franklin Farm. It features a black and white photograph of several cows in a field. The text includes: "Farm store open year 'round!", "802-254-2228", "4708 Weatherhead Hollow Rd. Guilford, VT 05301", "Franklin FARM", and "franklinfarmstore.com".

An advertisement for Burton Touch Free Car Wash & Self Service. It features a black and white photograph of a car being washed. The text includes: "burton Touch Free CAR WASH & SELF SERVICE", "873 Putney Road, Brattleboro", "802-257-5191", "24 hr. Touch Free Washing • Self-Service Wand Wash", "burtoncarwash.com", and "find us on facebook".