

## Guide to the Sanctuaries of the New England Wild Flower Society

In addition to the Garden in the Woods, the botanical garden and headquarters of the New England Wild Flower Society, the Society owns and maintains nine sanctuaries in four New England states; eight are open to the public. These preserved tracts of wild land serve as living classrooms and are used for many of the Society's field trips, classes, and other programs related to the study of native plants and their habitats. We ask that large groups always notify the designated sanctuary steward before making a visit, since some of the habitats in our sanctuaries are extremely fragile. As always we hate to say no, but please do not cut, pick, or collect seed at any sanctuary.



### Sanctuaries in Massachusetts

**Arbutus Sanctuary, Winchendon, MA.** Three kinds of habitats occur in this 88-acre site: dry sour uplands (where most of the trailing arbutus stands are located), bog, and moist open woods. The sanctuary is especially lovely from late April through early May, when the arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) is in bloom. Other plants include hemlocks, cinnamon ferns, various viburnums, fringed polygala, painted trillium and pink lady's slipper. **Steward:** Jane Galat, 44 Town Farm Rd., Winchendon, MA 01457; phone: 978-297-1813. **Directions:** Take Route 2 west to Route 140, just beyond Fitchburg; then take Route 140 north to its terminus at Route 12. Turn left on Route 12 in the direction of Winchendon, proceeding through town and up the hill, leaving the VFW lodge on your left. Bear left at the town memorial park (with commemorative statue) on West Street. Proceed on West Street for about 2.5 miles to the Sanctuary entrance on the left (marked by a large sign). (There is a mailbox with number 405 on the right shortly before the entrance.) Park on the shoulder of the road. On the return trip, watch for the sign to Route 140.

**Nasami Farm, Whately, MA.** This is the New England Wild Flower Society's first multi purpose sanctuary. Nasami is a sanctuary, nursery, and education site – all three wrapped into one. This 78-acre property is located in the heart of the Mill River watershed and is home to two state listed species. A mixture of wet meadows, old fields, upland forest, alder swamps, and agricultural lands makes this one of the most diverse public natural areas in the Connecticut River Valley. Set against the picturesque Berkshire foothills, the sanctuary is beautiful at any time year, but is especially beautiful in mid to late summer when the fields are ablaze with wildflowers. The sanctuary is currently open only when the nursery itself is open,

so please check the NEWFS website for the schedule. Steward: Nasami Farm staff. 413-397-9922. Directions: From Interstate 91 take Exit 24 Deerfield/Conway/Rte 116. Turn south onto routes 5/10 south. Go approximately 1.5 miles and turn right onto Christian Lane toward Whately Center. At the T-junction, turn right onto North Street. Proceed 1.2 miles to Nasami Farm. The entry is on the right, just before the bridge.

## **Sanctuaries in New Hampshire**

**Plainfield Sanctuary, Plainfield, NH.** An unusually diverse assemblage of wildflower and fern species graces the steep banks of a wooded roadside in this 86-acre sanctuary. Please stay on the road at all times. Climbing on the steep bank will disturb this sensitive habitat and the intriguing plants which grow here. All plants including lime-loving species, woodland wildflowers and riverbank flora can be seen from the road. Woodland wildflowers--including various hepaticas, bloodroot, wild columbine, fringed polygala and rock saxifrage--bloom between late April and early June. The state of New Hampshire's Critical Areas Program has designated the site as a "unique area," and the "Sanctuaries of NH" describes it as suited for ecological research. Stewards: Ms. Judy Ptak, 727 Route 12A, Plainfield, NH 03781; phone: 603-675-5860. Directions: Take I-93 north almost to Concord, NH and then proceed northwesterly on I-89. Take Exit 20 off I-89, NH Route 12A, in West Lebanon--across from the Sheraton Motel sign and shortly after the airport's windsock. Turn back under I-89 (left) and head south on 12A for 3.5 miles, measured from I-89, to River Road. Bear right on River Road and go 4.1 miles to the Sanctuary parking area--a pull-off on the right-hand side.

**Hobbs Fern Sanctuary, Lyman, NH.** Perhaps the most unique natural area owned by the New England Wild Flower Society, this 240-acre property hosts over 40 varieties of ferns including several rare species and unusual wood fern hybrids. An enriched slope and ledge area host an abundance of maiden hair fern, bulblet fern, silvery glade fern, as well as hepatica, bloodroot, and spring beauty. Other features include woodfern swamp with multiple species of Pyrola and showy lady-slipper and acres of boreal spruce/fir forest dotted with beaver ponds and unique wetlands. Stewards: Christopher Mattrick, 50 Mad River Road, Campton, NH 03223; phone: 860-930-1036 and Beth Edwards, Mountain View Road, Franconia, NH 03580; phone: 603-823-5362 Directions: From Route 302 in New Hampshire travel to the junction of route 302 and route 117 north of Lisbon, NH. Just north of this intersection turn to the west on Lyman Road. The sanctuary is five miles up Lyman Road from its intersection with route 302. The sanctuary entrance is to the rear of a small house on the right hand side of the road, directly across from Hubbardton Road. The house is white with green trim. There is a screened in porch on the front of the house: on the porch is a sign that says Sunnybank. Park in the driveway of this house. The trails begin to the left of the open garage. Lyman Road is a very twisty and windy road with many forks – stay on the main road for 5 miles. If you pass the Lyman Town Hall on the left or the Grange Hall on the right you have gone one house too far.

## Sanctuaries in Maine

**Annie Sturgis Sanctuary, Vassalboro, ME.** This 40-acre tract along the Kennebec River is notable for its large stand of Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*), which is extremely rare in Maine, and for a variety of other lime-loving plants. Woodland wildflowers include bloodroot, trout lily, and purple trillium. **Steward:** Hollis and Don Smith, 419 Green Road, Fairfield, ME 04937; phone: 207-453-0219. **Directions:** I-95 north to exit 44; north on I-295 back to I-95; north on I-95 to exit 113 (Rte 3 Augusta/Belfast). Go east on Rt. 3 for 1.7 miles. At the intersection of 201/102 turn left heading north on rt. 201. Travel for approximately 4.1 miles and turn left onto Cushnoc Road. The sanctuary is 1.5 miles down Cushnoc Road on the left. The Sanctuary entrance sign is on the west side of the road. Parking is on shoulder of road.

**Harvey Butler Rhododendron Sanctuary, Springvale, ME.** This gently undulating, 30-acre tract has at least 39 species of wildflowers and a 5.3-acre stand of Great Laurel (*Rhododendron maximum*), a very rare species in Maine. The site borders a red maple swamp and wet meadow, and is listed on the Maine State Register as a Critical Area. To view the Great Laurel in bloom, plan to visit around the middle of July. Other plant species at the sanctuary include spicebush, clintonia, and painted trillium. **Steward:** Shawn Jalbert, 317 Mountain Road, Alfred, ME 04002. 207-490-0849. **Directions:** I-95 north to exit 2; take 109 north towards Sanford; proceed through the Town of Sanford to the village of Springvale; turn west (left) onto route 11A; from this point the sanctuary entrance is about 2.75 miles on the left hand side of the road. It is located just before the Dabrieo's Fish Farm. **Note: There is no sign on the roadside and since the entrance may not be obvious proceed slowly after passing the 2.5 mile mark.**

**Robert P. Tristram Coffin Wild Flower Reservation, Woolwich, ME.** Hilly woods, a brook, and 1,256 feet of sandy shore and tidal marsh make up this 177-acre sanctuary, which borders lovely Merrymeeting Bay. Over 100 wildflower species --including pink lady's slipper, yellow violet and white baneberry--grow on the site, which is located along a migratory flyway for water fowl. Other features of interest include a lovely cobbled cove, hemlock stands, and a swamp. **Steward:** Kermit Smyth, 23 Juniper Road, Brunswick, ME 04011 phone: 207-725-8420 **Directions:** North on Maine Turnpike to exit 44; then proceed northeasterly to I-95. Continue on I-95 to exit 28 the Route 1 turn-off for Brunswick and Bath. Continue on Route 1 through Bath and 0.4 miles after crossing the Kennebec River at Bath; turn left (north) on Maine Route 127 for 2.2 miles. Bear left on Maine Route 128 and proceed 4.5 miles. There is a small parking area on your left immediately north of a blue sign for Chops Crossing with a path leading to the right coming in just behind the entrance sign.

## Sanctuaries in Vermont

**Eshqua Bog Natural Area, Hartland, VT.** The most recently acquired of all the Society's Sanctuaries, Eshqua is owned and managed jointly with the Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The 40-acre parcel completely surrounds and protects an 8-acre wetland that abounds in showy lady's slippers (*Cypripedium reginae*) and other wild orchids. A boardwalk

allows easy viewing of the wetland plants while protecting their delicate habitat. To see the showy lady's slippers in bloom, plan to visit mid to late June. Stewards: Kate Reeves, PO Box 471, Woodstock, VT 05091, 802-484-0241; Nancy Brogden, 482 Skunk Hollow Rd., Hartland, VT 05048, 802-436-2785. Directions: Eshqua Bog is located on Garvin Hill Rd. in Hartland, near the Woodstock town line. From I-89 in Vermont, take Exit 1, Route 4 west toward Woodstock and Rutland. Just before Route 4 enters Woodstock Village, at Richmond Ford/Mobil Gas, Route 4 makes a 90-degree turn to the right, **but do not go right**. Instead, turn **left** up Hartland Hill Rd. (town Highway #73), and follow almost 1.2 miles. Shortly after passing log house on right, bear right onto a dirt road (Garvin Hill Rd.). Follow this road another 1.2 miles. The bog is on the right and is marked by a sign.

### **Sanctuary Visitation Rules**

The following activities are prohibited on all New England Wild Flower Society sanctuaries:

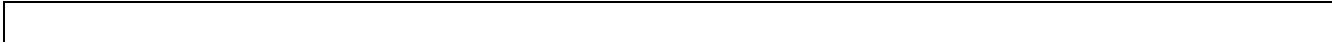
- ◆ Camping, Fires, or Smoking
- ◆ Trail bikes, trikes and ATV's
- ◆ Dogs
- ◆ Horseback riding
- ◆ Removal of plant material
- ◆ Picnicking

### **The New England Wild Flower Society and Garden in the Woods**

The **New England Wild Flower Society** is a recognized leader in native plant conservation. Founded in 1900, it is the oldest plant conservation organization in the United States. It continues to promote the conservation of temperate North American Plants through its extensive educational programs; through continued research into, and propagation of, native species; through habitat preservation; and through its New England Plant Conservation Program--a collaborative of over 65 agencies, organizations and individuals, located throughout New England, which works to promote the recovery and prevent the extirpation of rare native plants.

**Office hours** are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday, except holidays. To connect with any department or to speak with an operator, call (508) 877-7630 or (781) 237-4924. For prerecorded information, directions and events call (508) 877-6574.

The New England Wild Flower Society owns and operates the **Garden in the Woods**, its 45-acre botanical garden and headquarters, located at 180 Hemenway Road in Framingham, MA. Areas of special interest include Rich Woodland Groves, a Lily Pond, a Sunny Bog, the Pine Barrens, the Western Garden, Rock Gardens, a Meadow and the recently opened New England Garden of Rare Plants. Garden in the Woods is open daily from April 15 - June 15 (9 a.m. - 5 p.m. with hours extended to 7 p.m. in May only) and Tuesdays - Sundays (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) from June 16 - October 31. The museum store and education center are open year-round; call for hours.



**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE!**

The New England Wild Flower Society hopes you will enjoy your visit to our Sanctuaries. Please be aware there are certain risks incidental to visiting our Sanctuaries which include – but are not limited to – hills, uneven terrain, insects and slippery areas. You walk the trails at your own risk, so please exercise caution. Please note -- there is no staff at our Sanctuaries if you should encounter difficulty or require assistance.

