

## The Sawyer Trail — An Interpretive Trail located in the Dewey Woods, Sunapee Town Forest

**Station 1** Known as the Rogers Farm, this parcel was deeded to the Town of Sunapee in 1928. The Town is obligated by deed to “hold, use and manage the said premises for the public use and benefit as a public park and forest reserve forever.” The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) holds a back-up interest in the property to monitor the Towns activities.

**Station 2** As you round the corner, notice the cavity tree on your left. Trees that have started to decay have tremendous wildlife value; you can see the evidence of a woodpecker hole. Notice the oak tree uphill which is a good source of acorns (mast) for wildlife. The softwood cover (hemlock and spruce) is used by a variety of wildlife.

**Station 3** As recommended in the Town Forest Management Plan of 2008, this area will undergo Timber Stand Improvement (TSI). The paint you see is used by foresters to designate trees for removal. The plan is to remove low grade Red Maple and Beech to favor Sugar Maple, Red Oak and Yellow Birch. The management plan calls for this to occur in 2009 or 2010. Please come see us then to tell us how you like the looks!

**Station 4** This area is dominated by Hemlock trees and would be ideal for use as a winter deer yard. Note the very large “old growth” Hemlock just off the trail. These trees are estimated to be over 100 years old. Hemlocks provide thermal cover that trap heat, reduce snow cover on the forest floor and the young growth provides browse for deer during the winter.

**Station 5** This open space is called a “landing” and has been used a number of times for the removal of forest products. It will be mowed and maintained as an opening for wildlife. Periodically it will be a spot for forest products to be trucked from the site. The gate was installed to prevent wheeled access and the accumulation of trash.

**Station 6** Water quality is of critical importance to our community. This small stream is a tributary to Lake Sunapee. If crossed during the removal of forest products, special care would be taken to avoid sedimentation of the stream and the degradation of the stream banks. Permits would be required to place a temporary pole crossing or bridge over the stream.

**Station 7** Did you notice the large blocks of wood that the beaver have worked on as you made your way to their house here on the edge of the wetland? None of this activity is recent; beaver will come and go depending on availability of food sources. This wetland is a valuable filter of run-off before the water is discharged into Lake Sunapee. It also has a tremendous variety of habitat types for wildlife. Ducks, turtles, beaver and a wide assortment of critters will use this area.

**Station 8** Don't “cut the corner” here. We wanted to bring you up to this large Black Cherry tree which is a marvelous specimen for this area. Look behind you and down into the valley. Note the variety of tree species, their excellent health and form. The way they reach for the sky prompted by the great soils which are found in this area. Search the forest floor for uncommon understory and ground cover plants. All these features are indicators of what is referred to as a “rich” site that deserves special attention.

**Station 9** This area is dominated by what are called “pioneer species.” Typically they will contain a high percentage of birch and poplar, trees which will first occupy a site after disturbance. This stand is estimated to be 60-80 years old and nearing biological maturity. This stand could be the result of the hurricane of 1938 or of past logging activity. Look carefully at the crowns of some of the birch and you can see the broken tops from the ice storm of 1998.

**Station 10** Red Oak and White Pine, two beautiful and economically important tree species, dominate this site. When laying out this trail, these trees caught our eye, and we were sure to make it possible for all of you to enjoy them too! The Red Oak is mature and at this point in its life it will produce tremendous amounts of mast, or acorns, which provide food for wildlife. This tall White Pine is an excellent source of cones which will ensure a future supply of White Pine on this site. Look through the forest all around you and you will note a tremendous number of trees of high quality in this area.

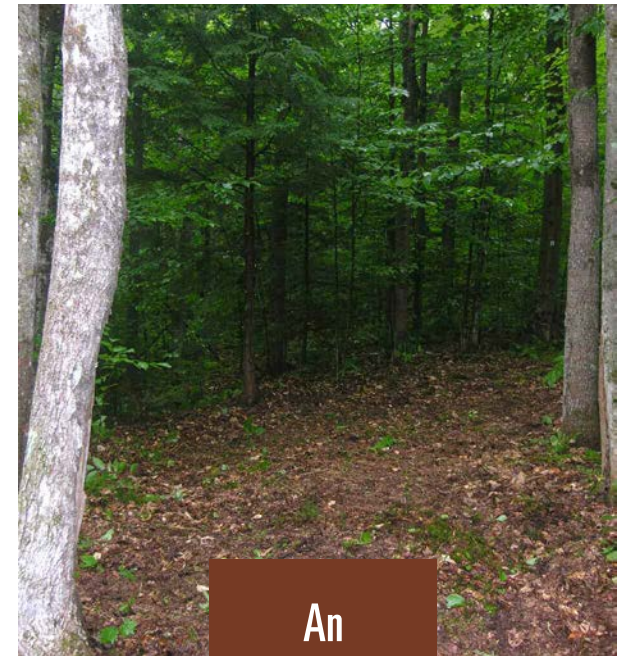
**Station 11** You made the climb from the valley below. It's time for a stop. This trail is wide and smooth here, it is the result of past management history. This was an old “skid” trail and was used to remove forest products. If laid out correctly, these old roads make excellent walking trails when they are reclaimed. Note the old stumps and tops that are in this area, and the regeneration that has come in after logging. The mature trees that were left are growing well with the additional sunlight that is now available. Take a left here if you want to visit Dewey Beach, another legacy of the Dewey family.

**Station 12** The Conservation Commission works closely with the Recreation Department here in Town. The Dewey family provided for recreational uses of this forest in the deed to the Town. This open space is maintained for the use of all, and the Recreation Committee has done an excellent job to utilize this area for the children of Sunapee. Future plans include the enlargement of this area to provide more outdoor playing fields for year round use.

Brochure design: **On Track Design**  
New London, NH  
Photography: Sawyer and Van Webb

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# The Sawyer Trail



An  
INTERPRETIVE  
TRAIL  
located in  
DEWEY  
WOODS

SUNAPEE  
TOWN FOREST  
SUNAPEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Sawyer Webb



"The Sunapee Conservation Commission is pleased to present another hiking/walking trail available to the public. This trail will have signage to point out the various aspects of the land and forest along the way. The Conservation Commission thanks Sawyer Webb who, as a senior high school project, conceived, designed and spent many hours creating this delightful experience with nature here in Sunapee, New Hampshire."

Having utilized the trail both in the fall and now through the snow a couple times, it is a pleasure to visit most any time. **Thank You, Sawyer.**  
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