

8. Pass-way Stone Wall

In the mid-1700's, the town of Weare was divided into 7 east-west partitions called ranges. This stone wall separates Range One from Range Two. Two rods, or 32 feet, was left on each side of these pass-ways as roads for travel. This wall is still intact from the Deering line to South Weare village.

9. Black Gum Tree, Highbush Blueberry, and Sweet Pepperbush

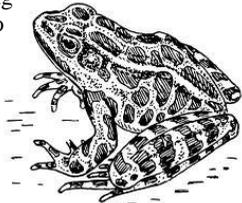
This black gum tree may be 300 to 400 years old. At the base, you can see signs of beaver damage from years ago when the pond was home to a family of beavers. Look for other signs of beavers along the trail. Another interesting characteristic is the growth of highbush blueberry on the south-west shore and the sweet pepperbushes on the northwest shore. Looking



across the pond from the black gum tree, you have a better view of the glacial erratic seen from the beach. At the base of this boulder you can see signs of erosion from ice, wind, and water over the years.

10. Stone Bridge and Swamp

Watch your step while crossing the stone bridge and note to your right the open area which is a swamp. This swamp was once part of Ferrin Pond and is slowly returning to upland forest.



11. Echo Point

Reaching out into Ferrin Pond is an area that has been nicknamed over the years as 'Echo Point'. The acoustics for echoes at Ferrin Pond are just perfect. The way the Wisconsin Glacier came through formed this perfect theatre. The walls push back your sound waves causing you to hear yourself again. Even though you can create an echo from any part of Ferrin Pond, Echo Point is the best place for it.

12. Pond Lookout

Look into Ferrin Pond's clear water. What do you see? Few aquatic plants grow here. The few water lilies that grow seldom blossom. You may see tiny clusters of green leaves growing among the rocks on the bottom. These send up slender spikes, with a tiny white blossom. They are pipe-worts. The "green branches" you see is probably a fresh water sponge colony.

13. Woodpecker damage & Lightning Tree

Another tree damaged by local Pileated woodpeckers stands here. This tree provided many snacks for them. Looking deeper into the forest you can see evidence of an Eastern White Pine that was struck by lightning in August 1993. When lightning strikes a tree, the heat from the bolt immediately vaporizes the sap causing the tree to explode from the inside out. Notice remnants of the trunk on the ground.



14. Black Birch & American Beech forest

This black birch tree, with a circumference of 81 inches, serves as a gateway into what is an example of a mature American Beech forest. Touch the trees, and feel their smooth bark. Watch for beech-nut burrs on the ground. Look for the pairs of tasty nuts, which grow in each of the burrs. These nuts supply highly nutritious food for black bears, wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, deer, squirrels, and many rodents which live in this forest.

15. Ferrin Brook

Upon crossing the footbridge over Ferrin Brook, look at the size of the ravine that was carved by this little brook. The river you see is over 100 years old. The life story of the river is something of a mystery. Can you think of how it carved out this ravine with its size?

We hope your hike was enjoyable. You are welcome to keep this trail guide for your reference. If you do not choose to keep this guide, please return it to the mailbox at the trail head.

Weare Town Forest

This land is managed for forest products, conservation, and the enjoyment of those who seek out its remarkable beauty. Income from forest management is used for projects like protecting the Ferrin Pond Conservation Area. A portion of the trail crosses Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) land and a brief history of PLC follows.

Piscataquog Land Conservancy

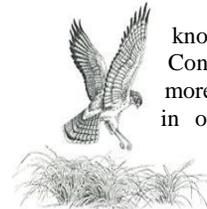
In 1969 Boston & Maine Railroad announced plans to abandon a 2.1-mile section of rail bed running between New Boston and Goffstown, NH. The very real possibility that this large stretch of unspoiled land could be sold to a developer prompted residents of the nearby communities to take action. Together they founded the Piscataquog Watershed Association and succeeded in protecting 82.5 scenic and unspoiled acres.

Today that organization is known as the Piscataquog Land Conservancy, or PLC. As the stewards of more than 5,000 acres of conserved land in our 12-community region, the PLC continues to proactively identify and protect the highest-priority lands in the region, and to conscientiously ensure the conservation easements we hold are upheld.

The Conservancy includes the towns of Bedford, Deering, Dunbarton, Francistown, Goffstown, Greenfield, Henniker, Lyndeborough, Manchester, Mont Vernon, New Boston, and Weare.

Piscataquog Land Conservancy

5A Mill Street
New Boston, NH 03070
603-487-3331
www.plcnh.org



Trail guide Credits:

Original text and design by Brenda Dello Rasso and Jessica Smith with help from Gordon Russell of the PLC and Robert Reeve of the Weare Town Forest.

2013 Update Noah Payeur of Boy Scouts of America, Troop 24 – Weare NH, for Eagle Project.

Ferrin Pond Conservation Area Trail Guide Weare, NH

Carved by the Wisconsin
Glacier, Ferrin Pond is a
beautiful attraction in Weare.
This fantastic 2.6 mile hike
around the pond is great for all
ages and families.



Sponsored by the
Weare Town Forest
and
Piscataquog Land Conservancy

Welcome...

Because of the diligence and concern of so many, the Ferrin Pond Conservation Area will always remain an undeveloped sanctuary where the public can walk, appreciate nature, and learn about the native plants and animals. Ferrin Pond is a glacier made pond. Its surrounding area is home to a variety of wildlife.

Ferrin Pond Trail: This 2.6 mile long scenic trail will take you upward along a grand ridge to Ferrin Pond. The trail loops around the pond through portions of the 278 acre Ferrin Pond forest. Follow the yellow trail markers, which begin just beyond the boulder gate.

History

A great force of glacial ice created Ferrin Pond during the Pleistocene Epoch. This time period spans the last million years, but only within the last 10,000-15,000 years did the last ice sheet disappear from this part of the world. Results of the gouging and flooding forces from moving mountains of ice (over a mile thick in much of the area) can still be seen in many places. During the Pleistocene Epoch, four glacial stages occurred. The last event, called the Wisconsin glacial stage, created Ferrin Pond.

Ferrin Pond was named after Enos Ferrin, who lived in the area during the mid to late 1700's. Local records show he served in the Revolutionary War. The pastures surrounding the pond are believed to have been his.

Over the decades, Enos Ferrin's Pastures grew into forests, and the Ferrin Pond area became home to many plants and animals. However, during the 1980's the land around Ferrin Pond was often vandalized by careless people. In 1998, the town of Weare and the PLC banded together to clean up the trash that littered Ferrin Pond's shores. After years of negotiation with landowners, and through the efforts of the town of Weare and the PLC, the entire Ferrin Pond Conservation Area was protected as a natural area for wildlife and as a recreational area for the public.

In December of 2008 a damaging ice storm struck the area. Many thousands of people in New Hampshire were without power for several days.

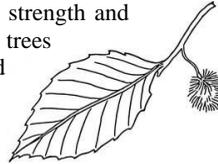
Weare was a community that was particularly hit, and the Ferrin Pond trail was not spared devastation. Some of the original trail features found in this guide were damaged or destroyed.



Trail Features

1. Storm Damaged American Beech Tree

One of the first features you will find along the Ferrin Pond Trail is this storm damaged American Beech Tree. The tree's sharp arc to the left was once followed by a ninety degree turn upwards to the sky. Prior to the December 2008 Ice Storm this strangely shaped beech grew as a classic example of the strength and the will to live that these trees embody. A similarly shaped White Birch Tree can be seen in the area of Feature 7.



2. Enos Ferrin's old pasture wall

Early colonial pastures were defined by stonewalls. This stonewall may have been built by Mr. Ferrin. Only recently have the trees reclaimed the land. First to grow back were field juniper. Look for their scraggly, dead branches on the forest floor. Long-lived white pine and other hardwood trees are replacing short lived grey birch trees, the first trees to typically reclaim former pastures-Imagine: less than 90 years ago, the only tree growing nearby was the giant white pine, just ahead on the right.

3. The View from the Bench

Before you is the valley of Ferrin Brook. Can you hear the voice of the running water? Notice the fine forest, with its tall, straight trees, and its long grapevines. Listen for bird songs. Sit quietly, and watch for animals. To your right of the bench are the remnants of the original bench that was constructed here, another victim of the Ice Storm of 2008.

4. White Pine Tree with woodpecker sign

With a circumference of 145 inches, a section of this grand eastern white pine shows a series of deep cavities-holes drilled by a crow sized bird called the Pileated Woodpecker. This powerful bird hacks its way through solid wood to reach its favorite meal of carpenter ants. Watch for more signs of this bird's drilling along the trail. You may even hear its loud, unforgettable call. Although there is much evidence of their existence in the forest, it is not often that you see these elusive and magnificent birds. Be alert for the pair living in the surrounding area.

5. Ferrin Pond and Beach

The depression carved out by the Wisconsin Glacier is now filled with water. At the far end of Ferrin Pond, you will see a great boulder dropped by the glacier. Such boulders are called erratics. You will discover many such erratics as you walk along the trail.

How deep is Ferrin Pond?

The Weare Town History 1735 – 1888 contains this statement: "the water is 11 feet deep, under which is 17 feet of mud into which a pole can be thrust. The pond was measured on the ice in April 1887 by Mr. Paige and Eben Bartlett." One hundred and nine years later, new depth where measured were taken. Eighteen holes were drilled in the ice down the exact center of the pond. The average depth was measured at 11.2 feet. The pond's elevation is 948 feet above sea level, making it the second highest pond in southern New Hampshire.

6. Hemlock Forest

Leaving the beach and continuing on the yellow trail, you will enter a forest of hemlock trees. Notice the spare undergrowth – very little sunlight passes through the evergreen hemlocks. Seldom can a young sapling receive enough sunlight under these canopy-like branches. Hemlocks flourish in the pulverized gravel and soil that the glacier deposited on the pond's eastern bank. Note that the trail loops up the sloped bank away from the pond. This feature prevents erosion of soil into the pond.

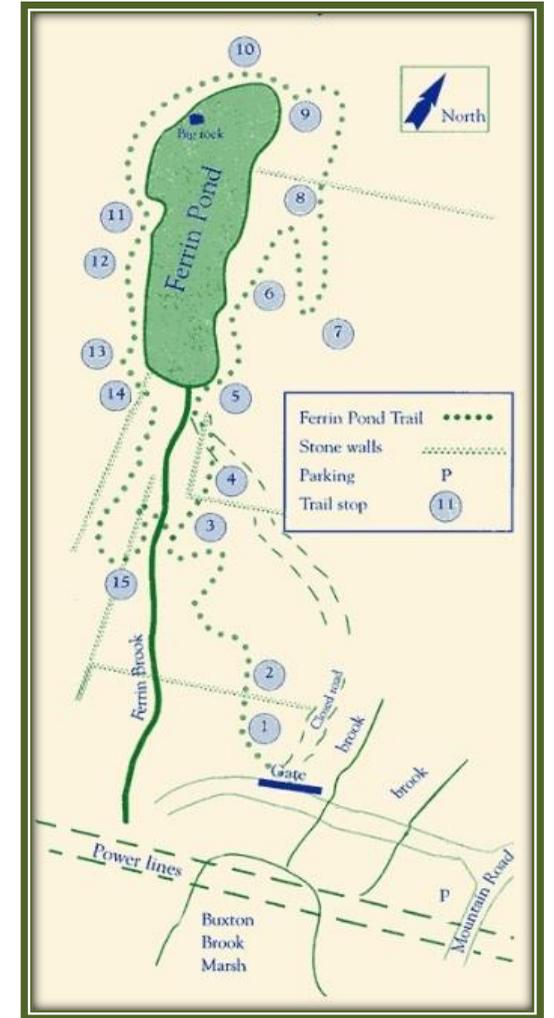
7. Surviving American Beech Tree and Oddly Shaped White Birch

At the top of the slope, you will find a Beech tree with an interesting story. This scarred tree was the unfortunate victim of a hungry beaver and a porcupine. Can you tell which animal was responsible for which injury? Just behind this tree, notice the white birch tree that is growing at right angles to the right and then up to the sky. Observe the relationship this tree has with the pine tree that it is growing next to. This is a current example of the strength and will to survive.

Tree Damage - How can you tell?

According to the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management, a beaver can strip the bark to a standing height of less than 6 feet. Look closely for large scrape marks created by their teeth. Porcupine damage will typically be high up in the tree and will focus on the trunk bark and branches.

Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management. "Identifying Wildlife Damage to Trees, Shrubs, & Bushes." Tree and Shrub Damage. Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management, 2008. Web. 22 May 2013.



How to Get to Ferrin Pond:

From the junction of Routes 114, 77, and 149 in Weare, take Route 149W. Go 1.5 miles; turn left on Perkins Pond Road (by dam and Perkins Pond). Go .5 miles to the four corners; turn right on Mountain Road. Go just over a mile and watch for power lines. The parking area will be on your right where the power line crosses the road. The trail walk begins there; while walking, keep the transmission lines to your left.

Special Policy

- Do not litter; carry in, carry out
- No motorize vehicles on trail