



## **2014 Launching Series-The Fleming Preserve**

**Cowles Road, Woodbury CT**

**Planted by Two Adventuring Ladies**

**Hike time: 30 minutes**

**Hike length: 1 mile**

**Introduction:**

Note: This is one of the eight Launching Series letterboxes originally posted only on the Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust website when created by The Two Adventuring Ladies in the summer of 2014. It was brought to Flanders' attention that a letterboxer had posted "add-ons" to the Launching Series on both Atlas Quest and Letterboxing North America. Many of these add-ons begin by using wording identical to the Flanders Launching Series hikes. Because the posted letterboxes used the same titles as those on the Flanders website, the Two Adventuring Ladies have posted all the Flanders Launching Series hikes with new titles. All Flanders hikes will have clue sheets with the Flanders Logo and include a checklist for young hikers. We hope this helps avoid confusion. Flanders is thrilled that the trails are being discovered by so many letterboxers!

A map of The Fleming Preserve and its location can be downloaded at:

[http://www.flandersnaturecenter.org/flanders\\_places/hiking\\_trail\\_maps.html](http://www.flandersnaturecenter.org/flanders_places/hiking_trail_maps.html)

The 2014 Launching Series is a set of eight letterboxing trails created to spread the word about the family friendly properties with trails at Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust. The clues for this letterbox are written so that first time letterboxers will be successful and this positive experience will leave them eager to hike more trails and find more letterboxes. Since we expect families to be hiking with children, we have added a few questions and comments to keep everyone engaged. One of the letterboxes on each trail will contain a rubber stamp for a letter: F, L, A, N, D, E, R or S.

Additional letterboxing hikes are planned for the properties at Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust.

Flanders has created a passport to use when hiking the trails planted by the Two Adventuring Ladies. Anyone who hikes twelve of Flanders' letterboxing trails should go to the Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust office, present their passport with the twelve letter stamps from those trails and sign their Trail Name on our poster of Successful Flanders Letterboxers. They will receive a prize. The office is open Monday-Friday from 9 until 4.

The Flanders Passport and all the trails with hidden letter stamps can be downloaded at:

<http://www.flandersnaturecenter.org/letterboxing.html>

Dogs are allowed on the trails but must be leashed.

You may not see all the plants and animals that we mention. You will see many things that the Two Adventuring Ladies have not mentioned. The observations for the 2014 Launching Series were made in the summer.

We wish you good luck on your hunt.

**Clues:**

Park near the Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust's kiosk in a field off Cowles Road.

Start walking on the mowed path that is in the field to the left of the kiosk. As you cross the field, notice the old apple trees. You will go through an opening in a stone wall. Go straight. You are now on the blue trail - marked by blue blazes on trees and blue arrows. Look at a low red building on your left. This is the old sugar house - where Flanders' volunteers used to bring the sap from the maple trees to "boil it off" and create that delicious maple syrup. Flanders now has a larger sugar house on the Van Vleck Sanctuary.

Walk around the sugar house. Peek behind the right side of the locked door. You will find a letterbox.

Use our rubber stamp to mark your log book. This is not a letter stamp but it proves that you know where the old sugar house is. Use your stamp to mark our log book. Write the date and your trail name in our log book. If you would like to, write a note in our log book. Put everything back just as you found it.

Go back to the blue trail and continue to your left. You will come to a tree with blue blazes that look like:



This means that the blue trail will turn to the left. Follow it. Pass another stone wall. Watch and listen. There are a lot of squirrels scurrying about here. Look at the ground. You will see a lot of "caps" left from last year's acorns. Who do you think ate the acorns and left the "caps?"

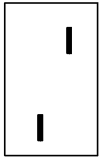
Soon the trail will approach Cowles Road. Turn around and retrace your steps. After the trail swings to the left you will see a sign on a tree on your right. The sign says "John's bench and overlook." Follow this trail but BE CAREFUL. Go Slowly. There will be quite a steep drop in front of you. You will come to an amazing stone bench created by nature. Sit on it and pause a moment. Isn't the view wonderful? Watch the sun light play games with the leaves as it stretches down to the ground.

The stone bench has been dedicated to the memory of John and Marlice Flanders who donated this land that they loved to Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust so that it could be preserved as open space.

Go back to the main trail. On your way, notice the baby oak trees.

When you return to the blue trail, turn right. As you approach the sugar house, notice the thin hoses connecting many trees. In the late winter these hoses will carry the sap from the maple trees.

After the sugar house you will come to a tree with a blue trail blaze that looks like:



Two blazes always indicates a turn. The top blaze shows the direction of the turn. Which way

should you turn?

Yes - to the right.

Just after the stone wall, turn right on a "yellow trail." Your trail will wind through the woods so you will have to watch for those yellow blazes in order to stay on the path and make the correct turns. You will make a left turn and then a right turn. Both these turns are marked by offset yellow blazes. At the bottom of the hill, the trail swings to the left. There are no offset blazes here. Next, there is a right turn marked by appropriate offset blazes. At this right turn stop and look up the hill to your left. There are several LARGE rocks on the side of the hill.

Go- Climb up the hill. Look in a crack between two rocks at the top. You will find a letter box. Stamp our log book with your stamp. Write your trail name and the date in our log book. Stamp your passport and log book. Carefully refill the letterbox and put it back just where you found it.

Return to the trail. Head down hill, turn through a stone wall and into an open area. The trail swings to the left, up the hill and through the field. As you follow it, look for daisies and black eyed susans. Do you see any butterflies?

Just before you arrive on Cowles Road, you will see an unmarked trail going up the hill to your left. Follow it and you will return to your car.

## CHECK LIST FOR THE FLEMING PRESERVE

Did you see or hear?

An old sugar house

"Caps" from acorns

Squirrels

A natural stone bench

Baby oak trees

Hoses for maple sap

Daisies

Black Eyed Susan

Butterflies