



2014 Launching Series-Whittemore Sanctuary: View of the Woods

Route 64, Middlebury CT

Planted by Two Adventuring Ladies

Hike time: 1 hour

Hike length: 1-2 miles

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 Whittemore Sanctuary and its location can be downloaded at:

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 in the Flanders lot off Rte. 64. Enter the trail to the left of the kiosk. You will cross a board walk and begin walking on the white trail. You will be wandering up a hill, following white blazes painted on trees and white arrows nailed to trees. As you go, look carefully. There are several clusters of a low off-white plant called Indian Pipe. Indeed, they are shaped a bit like long stemmed pipes.

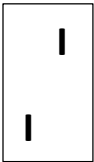
All around you notice evidence that FLANDERS VOLUNTEERS have been at work – cutting and moving trees that had fallen and blocked the paths.

Look at your map. You are going to follow the white trail until it intersects the orange trail. You will take the orange trail. So watch for that orange blaze on the right. Enter that trail. You will find yourself in a stand of young white pines. – Identify them. W-H-I-T-E pines have 5 long needles in each cluster. If you stay still, you may see or hear chipmunks scampering on the rocks to your left.

Your trail will keep curving and turning to the left. Near the top of the hill you will see Mountain Laurel, our Ct. State flower. (There are no actual flowers on the bushes at this time of year.)

Step carefully. At many places on this hike you may see red efts. These are cute little salamanders with a fascinating life cycle. They are born in the water. They spend two to three years in the woods as red efts. Then they return to the water to become adult salamanders – green and with broad swimming tails. These red efts (really orange) are only a few inches long. When this adventuring lady walked there were many between the rocks – so step gently.

You will come to a blaze that seems to signify a right turn. It looks like this:



It is warning you about a right turn ahead. Walk up to the tree with the blazes so that the tree is on your right. Stop there and look at your surroundings. You are standing beside the tree with two blazes. In front of you, the trail appears to fork. The left fork has no blazes and is not an official trail. Walk up to the fork and look down the trail to your right. A little way down the trail you will be able to see an orange blaze on a tree and an orange arrow nailed to a tree. Walk that way.

The orange arrow points off the trail to your left. Scramble carefully up those rocks and you will come to a clearing with a lovely view of the woods.

You will also come to a sad reminder that not everyone obeys the rules. There is a fire pit that has been used relatively recently. It is WRONG to build a fire on Flanders’ property. When this adventuring lady first visited this site, there was a lot of litter that someone had left after a party. There is no excuse for such environmentally bad behavior!

Pause for a few moments and enjoy the trees surrounding you. Look for a robin.

Retrace your steps to the orange arrow on the tree. Go directly across the trail. You will find a letterbox behind a rock 20 feet past the trail. Stamp your logbook and your passport. Use your stamp to mark our log book. Write your trail name and the date in our book. Return everything to the box and the bags. Tuck it back behind the rock and return to the trail.

Begin walking on the orange trail. In a few feet you will need to make a decision. Look at the terrain in front of you. Some people may not wish to climb down this hill. If that is so – turn around and retrace your steps on the orange trail. You will come back to the white trail, turn left and return to your car. Remember that you have already found the letter stamp.

If you decide to go down the hill, you will come to one more letterbox. Keep watching for the red efts.

At the end of the orange trail, you will turn left on the white trail. There will be a tree with a white blaze on your left after you turn. Soon there will be a second tree with a white blaze on your left. Stop! Turn off the trail to your right. Approximately 43 feet off the trail and 10 feet before that tree with the white blaze, you will find a letterbox behind a rock. Stamp your logbook and our logbook. Sign your trail name and the date. Replace everything with care and return to the trail.

Stay on the white trail, pick your way over a stream, pass the entrance to the orange trail and continue downhill to your car.



CHECK LIST FOR THE WHITTEMORE SANCTUARY:

VIEW OF THE WOODS

Did you see or hear:

A boardwalk _____

Indian pipe _____

Red efts _____

Robins _____

Chipmunks _____

A fire pit _____

Trees cut and moved by Flanders' volunteers _____

A stand of young white pines _____