



Zebedee Wetlands Quest

Thetford, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Moderate

Special Features: Natural

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 0:45

Bring: Boots

To get there: I 91 to exit 14; Follow Rt.113 for 0.9 m to Thetford Hill; before white church turn right on Houghton Hill Road; after about a quarter mile park by green gate on right.

Overview: Zebedee Wetlands is owned and managed by the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) and used by the Thetford Elementary School and other schools as an outdoor classroom. The Linny Levin Trail has been built to remember and honor the joy Linny found outdoors with kids of all ages. It was created by volunteers and supported with funds held in Linny's memory by the Thetford Conservation Commission.

UVLT is a regional land conservancy working to protect farmland, forests, wetlands and waterways, wildlife habitats, trails and scenic areas in the Vermont and New Hampshire towns of the Upper Valley. Since 1985, UVLT has protected 530 parcels comprising 54,446 acres. UVLT is a non-profit organization and is supported primarily by contributions from local individuals and businesses. For more information visit www.uvlt.org, or call 603-643-6626.

Clues:

Just past the green gate busy hands
have built a kiosk. Where it stands
get information for the hike
or sit and read it if you like.

The trail starts on the right-hand side.
It's rocky, muddy, not too wide
and marked with blue flags on the way,

so you won't wander far astray.

The wet spots on some boards you cross.
There sleeps a stone wall draped in moss.
An alligator's stony back
helps ford the mud. Please stay on track.

A log bench lets you rest and view
across the cattails. Trees are few.
The path then leaves the marsh uphill
through hemlock groves, so green and still.

And winds back to the water's edge,
to white pond lilies, reeds and sedge,
to herons, turtles, ducks and frogs,
to weasel tracks and polliwogs.

A bench and trail sign mark the point
Where old and new trails now are joint.
Go straight ahead and you will find
the beavers had it in their mind,

To flood the old path with a dam
near to their lodge and log bridge span.
So turn around, and don't be sorry!
The trail sign leads you without worry,

Around the wet and flooded lands
across a stream, and then it bends
back to the lake, follows the shore
through leaf-strewn woods a little more.

There on the left, don't miss the seat!
Sit down, look round, and rest your feet.
A beaver lodge, looks like a nest?
Could this be it? - It hides the Quest!

If now you choose the path ahead
along the bog it can be wet
but it will lead you in a straight shot
to kiosk and the parking lot.

The other trail turns to the right,

avoiding bog and flooded sight
with a long boardwalk round-about
back to the road where it comes out.

Did you know?

Beavers have a huge impact on the ecosystem of where they lodge. Their dams have the ability to raise and lower the water level, and alter the sediment in the water. This can lead to a change in both the pH of the water and the species that inhabit the water.

Source: fws.gov

Please be a good steward of the land: leave it better than you found it and pack out any trash you find.



Valley Quest is a collection of 100+ treasure hunts that share and teach the natural gems and cultural heritage of the Upper Valley with children, families, adults, and visitors. It is a program of Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit working to engage citizens, organizations, and communities in creating solutions to our region’s challenges. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org.

Have a suggestion, question, comment, or idea for us? We’d love to hear from you. Reach us at valleyquest@vitalcommunities.org or 802-291-9100.