



## Merck Forest and Farmland Quest

### Rupert, Vermont

Easy

Historical, Natural

Pavement, Trail

Bring a pencil

*To get there: This Quest is located in southwestern Vermont just 20 minutes northwest of Manchester. Take Route 30 to Route 315. You will find Merck Forest four miles up Route 315 on the left. Your Quest begins at the Visitor's Center.*

#### Clues:

1. Walk out the front door.  
Look up to our gray slate roof  
Find solar panels.

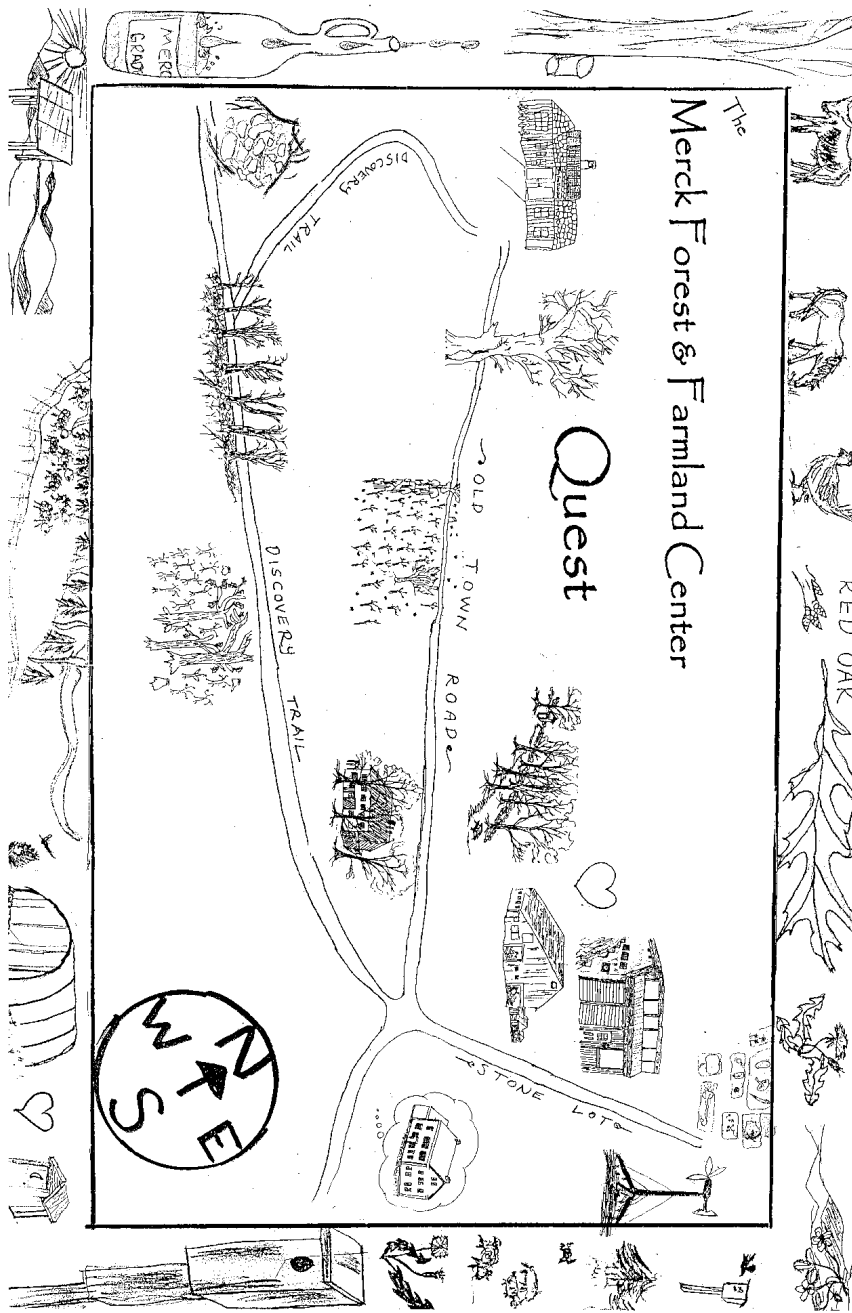
Sun goes in like juice ~  
Through photovoltaic cells,  
Powers the center.

2. Now head toward the gate  
The way the old wagon points:  
East on Old Town Road.

This forest is mixed:  
Red oak, birch, aspen, cherry.  
Find the old 'Hope Tree'.

3. Oh, ancient red oak  
New green life on old grooved bark.  
Heartwood is absent.

Leaving a window  
To acorns past and future.  
Saplings sprout nearby.



4. Keep on to clearing.  
The farm realm is before you,  
Apple trees below.

Apple tree orchard  
Spring pink white celebration

Bees: start your engines!

Ten apples types  
Cider, sauce, jelly or pie  
Reap the sweet rewards.

5. The Valley unfolds.  
Follow the road toward Spruce Peak.  
Stop at the cross roads.

In eighteen fifty  
Harwood family owned this site  
Their house here once stood

View life of the past  
The old well is all that's left  
Fire burned the rest.

6. Do you feel the wind?  
Uphill, the whirling turbine:  
Go east on "Stone Lot."

Rising eighty feet  
Up off the top of the hill.  
Captures energy

Created by wind,  
Equals sustainability:  
Powering this farm.

7. East to top of gap.  
Now you stand amidst fields,  
Watershed Divide.

Here grows the life-blood  
Be it animals or plants  
Old breeds here are kept.  
Randall lineback cows,  
One example of the past,  
Graze close to the crops.

What grows here changes  
With every year that goes by  
Nurturing the land.

8. Now you will go back.  
Pass the windmill toward the barn  
Mud covered dwelling.

A straw bale house stands  
Providing renewable,  
Warm insulation.

Home to batteries  
Storing power from windmill;  
Maintenance work space.

A passive solar  
Design on south facing roof,  
Letting in sun light.

Peek around corner:  
Straw, chicken-wire, stucco,  
A light-less window.

9. Face barn, three red doors.  
To the human door, go. Go!  
At pump, step downstairs.

Old barn on your left,  
Part of the working landscape,  
Has seen many days.

Look up near the top.  
Seek out the small hole above.  
And what is the shape?

10. Turn northwest and see  
An outhouse. Follow your feet  
Through window of trees.

Nineteenth century,  
First half, was the sheep boom...  
Deforested land.

Stone plied or stacked  
Making a perimeter  
Keep flocks of sheep.

11. Acer Saccharum~

A.k.a. Sugar Maple  
Produces sweet sap.

Find the old tapholes,  
From where capped buckets have hung.  
Harvest begins in March.

12. Stroll through maple grove,  
Cross road, big larch deck, enter  
Through sugar house doors.

Sweet tradition, old,  
Once horse sleigh now taplines run...  
Forty for each one.

Sap to syrup boiled.  
Wood fired in this sugar house  
Framed with local trees:

Rough spruce beams, and posts...  
Find maple, oak, cherry red  
Wrapped with pine walls.

Tap holes if you look  
(Maple floors beneath your feet)  
Dancer here do meet!

13. To cross roads return.  
Quite right: Discovery Trail  
Ramble down the road.

Fields and valley left.  
Walk and walk, look for young trees:  
Selected patch cut.

14. Sun feeds dense young trees  
Thicket of sounds, birds abound.  
Hare hides from hawk here.

15. Keep on down the road  
To "Discovery Trail" sign:  
Back into the woods.

Turn right at the sign.  
Majestic columns of birch,

Pass through the stone wall.

Wood is a resource  
For animals and people ~  
Be it home or food.

16. When trail bends up, right...  
Trust to just follow on straight  
Along wall, old trees to 'pile'.

Field stones on the ground  
Were once hand-picked from the field.  
Now here..they lay still.

Collect letters nine  
With underlines, unscramble~  
Where is the treasure?

In the:

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