



Dandelyon Trail Quest

Hancock, New Hampshire

Easy

Natural

Trail

Bring: Boots, Pencil

To get there: From Concord take Route 89 North to Route 9 West and 202 towards Hillsboro. In Hillsboro take 202 South towards Peterborough. Follow 202 through Antrim. About 3 miles from Antrim take a right onto Route 137 into Hancock. Route 137 intersects Main Street in Hancock. Bear right on Main St. Go straight down Main St. (this is also Route 123). Stay straight on Route 123 past the church and post office on your right. Follow Route 123 for 2-3 miles and bear left onto Hunt's Pond Road. Follow the directions below from Route 123 East and West. The Quest begins at the deck next to the entrance doors to the Harris Center.

Clues:

The Quest begins at the deck next to the entrance doors to the Harris Center. Note: direction clues are in bold. Teaching clues are in regular type.

Welcome to our Dandelyon Trail Quest

We sure hope you find it the best

Just some notes to think about

Before you go out...

Number one; the Dandelyon Trail is marked in yellow

But some of the blazes seem to have mellowed

Keep a close watch and beware of blazes of blue

This trail will cross three times trying to confuse you.

But please don't worry or have any fright, just follow our clues and you'll be all right.

Now second, we want you to know before you start

That letters must be collected from clues on your part

Some letters will be guessed on the basis of the clue
But others must be seen by you.
In the end you'll put the letters together
In order to find the treasure that otherwise is hidden forever.

**Walk down the hill to the east,
Past, where the birds like to feast.
Down beyond the walls of stone
You'll reach the field where many plants make their home.
Walk down the path in the meadow's middle;
On the right find an apple tree for it contains a wildlife riddle.**

Looks up at the branches and see rows of little holes.
When freshly drilled, sap did fill each of these small, round bowls.
Who is our neat driller that nests up here each summer,
And through its drilling provides springtime food for the ruby-throated
hummer?
The yellow-bellied sapsucker is our excavator.
He drinks the sap, then eats the bugs that get stuck in it later.

**Continue east along the path
To find a pool where a salamander can take a bath
This vernal pool is found in the spring filled with water
But full of cattails when the weather starts getting hotter.**

**From the edge of the pool, turn around and see two mowed trails.
Take the one on the right that hugs the woods, and you cannot fail.
Continue to the Dandelyon Trail sign that's somewhat hidden on the
right.
It is this trail that you will follow till the treasure gets in sight.
Down this path take 45 steps and you will see
On the right side a big and beautiful tree.**

You are standing in front of a red oak tree.
If you _____ at the bark closely you will see

2

Stripes on the trunk vertical and red.
That's how it got its name, it's been said.
The red oak you see is a special tree,
It tells us with glee that the hemlock/northern hardwood forest is where
we be.

**Now head down those sharp rocks passing other trees as you go.
Beech, birch and maple are other hardwoods that in this forest grow.
Through these woods you will take a little walk.
Stay on the trail; do not get distracted with talk.**

Walk till you notice a dead tree, or snag on the left side.

This snag is filled with holes where carpenter ants may hide.
This tree is home to many an in _____ .

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It has taken many a pileated woodpecker's pecks.
The tree feels absolutely nothing so have no fear,
It has been dead many a year.

From the woodpecker tree, walk for quite a while.

You will cross a small log bridge that may or may not bring a smile.

Continue down the trail

Even if you see a snail.

After some walking you will find a tree with barbed wire.

It's really there! Your mind is not a liar.

The wire was there to make pasture for cows,
And perhaps some sheep it also did house.
Over time the wire rusted and broke.
Now the bark has grown over the wire sticks out and pokes.

From the barbed wire, walk past some sick beech trees.

They have holes in the bark that were caused by disease.

You've got a little bit of a walk so don't stop ...please! (unless you want to)

As you walk, start to look at trees that have fallen over,

When you find the number 7, look over your left shoulder.

On the side of the trail there will be a fallen over tree;

Use your imagination and a dragon it will be.

Here you stand in the same area where tracks once were.

These _____ cks belonged to a snowshoe hare, covered

4

in white fur.

There also were tracks of porcupine, coyote, and deer,
Which tells us that they also live there.

From the dragon tree we have a long distance to travel

Isn't this fun...we hope you're not baffled!

From here you will soon descend a rock jumble

And onto the blue trail you will stumble.

Walk to the right and you will see

They next yellow blaze upon a hemlock tree.

At this tree don't walk straight

Instead make a left and follow the trail with a comfortable gait.

Pay special attention to the yellow blazes.

If you don't the trail will soon turn to mazes.

**Keep on walking or hopping or maybe even skipping
Whatever it is that keeps you from tripping.
When you finally come to a sign that says "9" on a tree,
Take a sharp left, or on the blue trail you will be.**

Keep going and going and look on the left for a peeled tree with fleshy wood.

Termites and other insects have chewed and now the tree doesn't feel or look so good.

But it's okay because if they had let this tree grow,
Or tree population would soon overflow.

**Walk along the trail till you get to the sign with a "10"
Turn to your left to see 3 large trees growing on a big rock at the bottom end
While the rock has on it three trees,
Today we will point you to two of these.**

One is a yellow birch and has thin peeling bark.

The bark is not exactly dark.

The hemlock is an evergreen with white lines under the leaves.

They can grow _____ to be fairly big trees.

**Here you are standing looking at these three trees.
Now leave them behind if you please.
Take ten steps and you will soon be there.
Turn to your left and think with care.
What brought these stones
To their current home?**

You are looking at some very large
b _____,
3

They came at a time when everything was much colder.
During the Ice Age, there was a glacier here a mile high,
That moved these big rocks into a pile that reaches the sky.

If in these rocks you get to explore,
Look out for porcupines roaming the forest floor.
You see, they like to den in these rocks,
And in winter eat branches high in the hemlocks.
You'll know it's a porcupine den that you've found,
If there's scat on the inside and hemlock branches on the ground.

**It's time for a treasure that simple amazes:
Put your back to a tree with two yellow blazes.**

Looking almost straight ahead you should see
Our rock that is growing the large trees.
A Hemlock on the left
A birch on the right
Their _____ reach together at the base of a hole
 1 2 3 4 5
Where the treasure is guarded by a forest troll. (Just kidding)

In creating this Quest, we saw the following species or signs of these species. Which one did you find?

Bird Species

Gold Finch Redwing Blackbird
Evening Grosbeak Mourning dove
Pileated Woodpecker Common Grackle
Hairy Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker
Ruby-throated Hummingbird Northern Cardinal
Black Capped Chickadee Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Tree Species

Hemlock White Pine
American Beech Spruce
Sugar Maple Red Oak
Paper Birch Black Birch
Yellow Birch Apple Tree

Mammals

Porcupine Coyote
Snowshoe Hare Deer

Amphibian Species

Wood Frogs Red Spotted Newt
Spotted Salamander
Insect Species
Termites Carpenter Ant
Whirligig Beetle Phantom Midge
Amphibious Air Breathing Snails Caddishfly Larvae
Water Strider Black Fly

Plant Species

Milkweed
Mushrooms
Shelf Mushroom or polypore

Harris Center and Dandelyon Trail Map

