



Grand Canyon of Norwich Quest

Norwich, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Moderate

Special Features: Natural

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 1:15

Bring: You may want to bring a compass and a field guide.

To get there: Take Interstate 91 to Exit 13. This is the Hanover/Norwich exit. Go west towards Norwich. Turn left on Beaver Meadow Road just pass Dan & Whit's. This Quest is on the Bill Ballard Trail, which is located on the west (left) side of Beaver Meadow Road about 4 miles from the Norwich Inn in the center of Norwich.

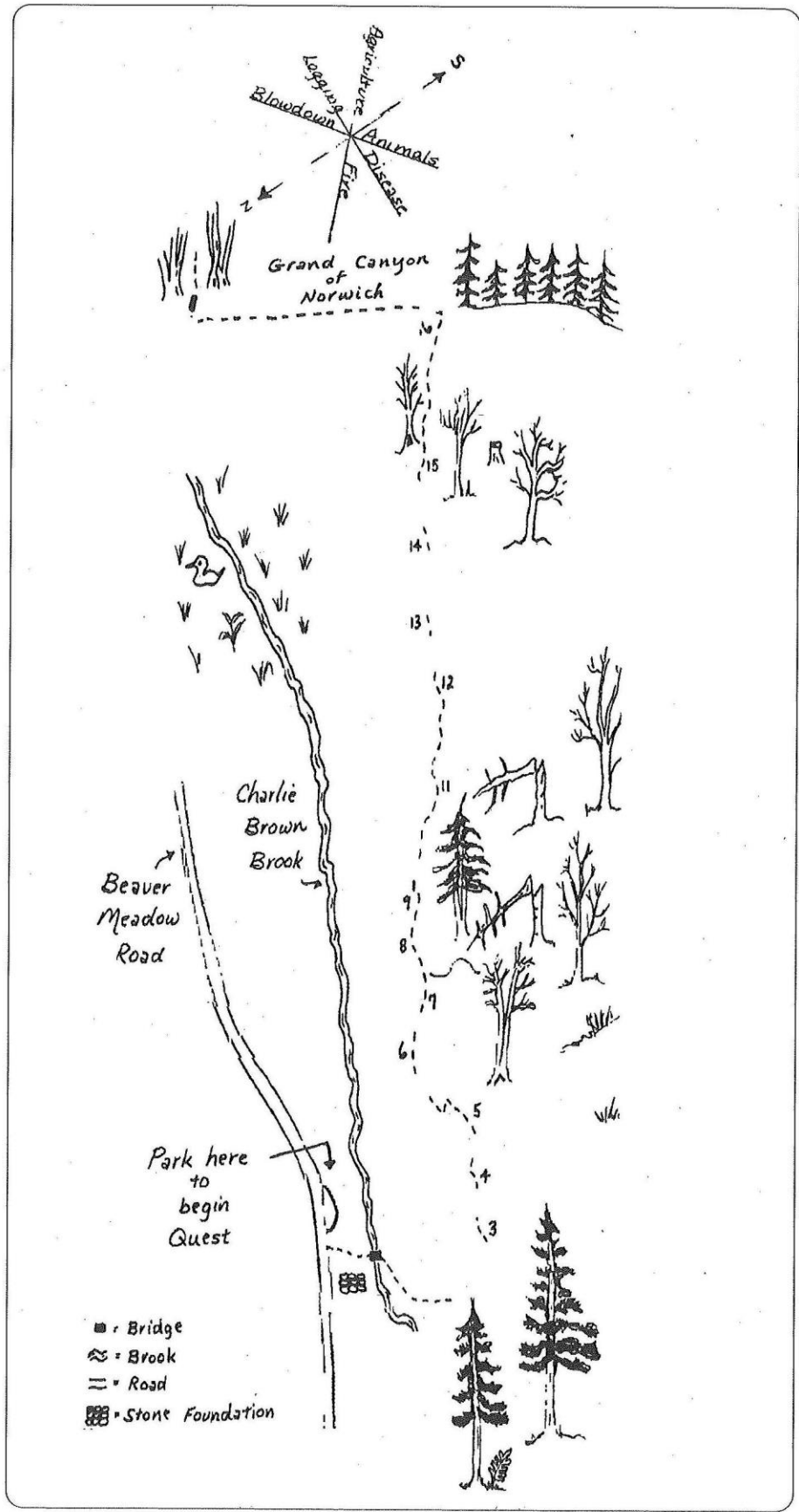
Clues:

As you go on the Quest, I hope you will see
Forest disturbances, there are more than just three.
Clues of blowdown, logging or fire you may find,
Because our forests are changing all the time.

Walk north up the road after parking your car.
Turn on the trail that is left and not very far.

Leave ruins of pond and foundation of mill,
Then cross the bridge and walk up the hill.
Pick up needles. They'll be on the ground.
Needles together in twos and fives will be found.
The twos are red pine, with rough scaly bark.
Were these trees planted in rows in woods so dark?

Out of the darkness, cross a stream
Off to the right, a meadow where light gleams.
Into mixed forest, left the trail bends.
The direction the sign on the tree does lend.
Left and right the multi-trunked trees tell
The story of their ancestors that were felled.



Down the steep and forested slope
Charlie Brown's Brook looks like a mote.
So pass #6. Look left after 100 feet more,
then imagine the diameter of this tree's original core.
*To calculate: Note the center of each trunk.
Connect them in an imaginary circle near the ground.*

Cross the stream at #7 and on the right you will find
a "pit and mound" that will boggle your mind.
The mound was made from decomposing roots and debris,
and the pit shows where a tree used to be.
So if you find a pit right next to a mound,
then evidence of a very old blowdown you have found.
*The tree fell to the southwest, so it was a
northeasterly wind that blew the tree down.*

Wind your way through the disturbed forest
Following the blue markers that were put there to guide us.
After three wooden bridges, listen to the sound;
The water flowing through the gorge is soon to be found.

On the left, a poplar, scarred long ago.
Was the basal scar from fire or log skidding? Can we know?
Note that a collection of leaves on an uphill side
provides the fuel for a fire to thrive.

After the yellow sign, stop to look at the rock walls in the canyon nearby
Continue left on the trail and cross where a bridge of stone lies.
(The bridge of stone is sometimes covered by water depending on water
flow.)
Look to the right at a multi-trunked tree
Under a rock bench, the treasure you should see.

When you finish your Quest, stop in at Dan & Whit's for refreshments.
There has been a general store serving the community here since 1891.

This Quest was created by Ginger Wallis and Linny Levin in 1998,
revised in 2012, and updated again in 2018.