



## Hurricane Forest & Wildlife Refuge Park Quest

### **Hartford, Vermont**

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Natural

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 0:30

Bring: Field Guide and Compass

*To get there: From White River Junction, follow Route 5 south. Go under 2 highway overpasses. Beyond the second one turn right onto Wright Reservoir Road. Go 0.25 miles and park at the turnout on your left. Walk uphill 50 feet to begin your Quest.*

### **Clues:**

To begin your Quest go between two fences  
To a place with a map; here one can be quite pensive.  
This reservoir was named after Major David Wright.  
From here you just might see a heron take flight.  
This pond was built to supply water to town.  
They used no pipes. It just flowed over the ground.

Walk clockwise around the pond, and in 50 paces  
You will see a house in the water of all places.  
A habitat for hobbits? A shelter for lambs?  
No—a place where water is released from the dam.

Continue clockwise until you enter the woods.  
Stop at 6 gray boulders and then you should  
Turn 180 degrees and find the maple tree  
Which has split into three.  
Notice its leaves with coarsely toothed lobes.  
We call it "Red" because of its autumn glow.

Just to compare, walk 14 paces (if you dare)

And to your right will be a maple tree of a different type.  
Its leaf edges are smooth. Its 5 lobes make many Vs.  
But it is because of the syrup that it makes  
That we call this one a "sugar" maple tree.

Continue on the path until you reach the next plateau.  
And notice a small ridge to the south as you go.  
When that ridge ends you are near your next stop:  
A birch tree on the left with blue on the trunk—not its top.

If you look to the ground, mounds you will see.  
These mark where the roots and trunks of trees used to be.  
And behind each mound is a slight hole in the ground.  
This is the place where roots were before the tree came down.

The mounds we call pillows and the holes are cradles.  
And in this particular site  
Several pillows and cradles reveal that trees were blown down,  
Together by a force of wind of a great height.

Notice the direction that all of the trees fell.  
They were blown to the north-northwest...  
A sure sign of a hurricane which comes at us  
From the south southeast at its best.

This wind was fierce, the rain caused flooding.  
Chaos and destruction it did create,  
For this was the storm of all storms in New England—  
The great "Hurricane of 1938."

As you proceed and come to a fork a left you'll take.  
Follow a brook upstream to your next stop: A stone wall (no mistake).  
Go 25 paces to a Log covered in Mushrooms & moss  
And rest while you think awhile.  
From here you could choose to explore these woods  
And hike for many a mile.

But your Quest turns around and  
You must now head back downstream  
To the previous fork where you now take a left  
And head across a bridge with your Questing team.

Admire the white pine stand  
While continuing on the footpath.  
Soon you will walk across the second bridge

The treasure box to this Quest, you soon will have.

After a third bridge on your right you will find  
Five rows of log benches no beaver did grind.  
Take a rest on the bench positioned first on the right.  
Ah, we have nature's beauty in our sight.  
Look to the south for a two-trunked tree  
That branches into six (that's 2 times 3).

Between its trunks you will find your treasure,  
And when you've finished there is no need to measure.  
For the quickest way back to your car  
Is to continue northeast until you hit the tar.

