The Maple Quest

**Woodstock, Vermont**
Physical Difficulty: Easy
Special Features: Natural, Vista
Walking Condition: Trail
Duration: 0:30
Bring: Some money for the store! Snowshoes in winter.

*To get there: Take Exit 1 from I-89 and follow Route 4 west for 7 miles. At the village of Taftsville, take a right turn off of Route 4, cross the red covered bridge, and head up the hill. Turn left onto Hillside road, and follow the signs to Sugarbush Farm. It is at the dead end—park on the right.*

**Clues:**
On this hillside farm, this will be your quest
To learn maple syrup making at its best.

First here out on the maple walk
You’d learn about the tapping
Which will bring the spring sapping.
Take a look at the plastic lines
As down the hill they wind.

In the winter in deep snow
On snow shoes you’ll have to go.
In the spring when the sap drips
It is horses and sled for the collecting trip.
In late April the leaf buds are out
The season is over, the spouts come out.

In the summer when it’s hot
The leaves and tree grow a lot.
Sugar is stored for the season
In nature, everything has a reason.
In the autumn the leaves fall
But the maple tree still stands tall.

Next head back
Towards the sugar shack.
Find where the sap is brought in

When it’s collected it’s watery and thin.

Then locate the boiling pan
Which is made hotter with a fan.

Imagine how long it takes to boil—

But when the cooking is finally done

Eating syrup is the most fun.
In the nearby farmhouse
you can test

4 grades of syrup to decide which is best.

If it’s a treasure box you’re looking for,
Look for it in the Sugarbush Farm Store.

Go up to where you’d pay for cheese
Say to the cashier, “treasure box please!”