



Wolf Tree Quest

New London, New Hampshire

Special Features: Natural, Historical

Physical Difficulty: Difficult

Duration: 1:30

Bring: Binoculars, Field Guide

To get there: This Quest begins at the bottom of North Pleasant Street in New London. Take Exit 12 off I-89 north or south. Take Newport Road east into New London. Remain on this road, which becomes Main Street. After passing the fire station on your left, turn left on North Pleasant Street at a yellow blinking light. Follow North Pleasant down the hill to the base, where you will cross a small bridge over a brook. The road becomes Lakeshore Drive at this point. Park in the parking area on your right immediately after the bridge. The Quest begins across the street at the trailhead.

Clues:

1. Follow sky river above and pine needle road beneath
Surrounded by trees—hemlock, birch and beech.
Wolf Tree is the trail on which you will stay;
Uphill and ahead your Quest does lay.
2. Cleared pasture was this land end of nineteenth century.
If you had been here then you'd see naught a tree!
You can read this land that early farmers held dear:
Multiple-trunked trees are clues this land was clear.
3. Walking on up at the first hill's crest
You'll see boulders large both to the right and left.
An old stone wall is found along the curve
Stay on the wide path as to the right you swerve.
4. A "Webb Trail" sign to your right is on display.
Go straight beyond it or you'll be led astray.
Move to a warm clearing beneath power lines

From cool beneath hemlocks, maples and pines.

5. Rocky road between stone walls winds;
Up this hill your Quest climbs.
Benjamin Bunker farmed this land for a reason.
The south-facing hill meant a long growing season.

6. Benjamin Bunker carried up the hill, it is said,
two hundred pounds of cornmeal for his family to be fed.
In the late 18th century he had the will
To cut, clear and farm on this rocky hill.

7. On your left: can you find the place?
It is the stone foundation of the "Old Bunker Place."
During WWII this foundation held a tower
From which volunteers watched for planes by the hour.

8. Follow orange blazes¹ into the woods straight ahead
as along this hill top farm Quest you are led.
On your left you'll see the "Bunker Loop" sign
Across the trail on your right a second foundation you will find.

9. Once cleared pasture on your right
go straight on as the trail gets tight.
Friendly balsam firs on the left abound:
"Shake their hands" and a magical scent surrounds.

10. A "Wolf Tree" sign will explain
the nature of this great trail's name.
Further on, find a logging road.
Take a left and do as you're told.

11. You'll be taking a right on "Wolf Tree."
From the trail across the road you'll see
Stone walls, side by side, these provide a clue:
Between these, farmers' cattle were driven through.

12. Bear right on "Wolf Tree," through glen of moss and evergreen.
Orange blazes follow, fallen trees you'll walk between.
Continue on and over a stone wall you will go,
The trail winds up and on awhile—keep on steady and slow.

¹ Some of the orange blazes are faded, you may also follow the SRK (Sunapee, Ragged, Kearsarge) Greenway white trapezoid shaped signs. They also lead the correct route.

13. The last glacier rocked and rolled this boulder standing here much taller than your shoulder. Lichens are a clue that here air is so clean— Now circle the rock to find box in-between.

This Quest was created by Meredith Bird Miller in 2000.

