

IS THAT MT. WASHINGTON YOU CAN SEE FROM THE STONE BENCH AT THE HEIGHT-OF-LAND?

YES, WITH A NICE VIEW OF TUCKERMAN’S RAVINE. IT IS A LITTLE LESS THAN 60 MILES AWAY, A BIT NORTH OF DUE WEST, THE HIGHEST POINT IN THE NORTHEAST. RAY LANDRY, TO WHOM THE BENCH IS DEDICATED, WAS A FRIEND OF THORNCRAG WHO PASSED AWAY SHORTLY AFTER HELPING CLEAR THIS VIEWING CORRIDOR.

WHERE ARE THE NEAREST BATHROOMS?

GOING OUT OF THE PARKING LOT, TURN RIGHT AND MAKE A QUICK LEFT. HANNAFORD SUPERMARKET IS AT THE END OF THE BLOCK.

WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE BIG FIREPLACE?

THE FIREPLACE AND THE BENCHES ARE A MEMORIAL TO KATE J. ANTHONY DONATED BY HER BROTHER ALFRED IN 1932. ALFRED, HIS WIFE GERTRUDE LIBBY AND HIS SISTER KATE WERE THE ORIGINAL BENEFACTORS OF THORNCRAG, GIVING THE STANTON BIRD CLUB THE FIRST SIX PARCELS OF LAND, TOTALING ABOUT 220 ACRES, FROM 1921 TO 1931. THE FIREPLACE WAS REPAIRED IN THE 1950S AND AGAIN IN THE 1990S.

WHAT ABOUT THE SMALLER FIREPLACE?

IT IS A MEMORIAL TO CARRIE MILLER, THE FIRST TREASURER OF THE BIRD CLUB (FOR THE FIRST 28 YEARS!) AND ITS MOST AVID “BIRDER” IN THE EARLY DAYS. THE FIREPLACE SITS ON A CORNER OF FOUR PARCELS OF LAND. THESE PARCELS WERE ACQUIRED BY GIFT IN 1921, 1924, AND 1943, AND PURCHASE IN 2007.

WHAT IS THE OPENING ON THE YELLOW TRAIL JUST BEYOND THE GATE?

THIS IS THE SITE OF THE HIGHLAND SPRING AND THE FORMER HIGHLAND SPRING BOTTLING COMPANY. WATER AND SODA POP WERE BOTTLED HERE FOR MANY YEARS, IN FACT IN 1904 AT THE ST LOUIS WORLD’S FAIR WATER FROM THIS SPRING RECEIVED THE RED RIBBON FOR WATER QUALITY FOR THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES.



BLUE JAY BY DANIEL J. MARQUIS

WHY IS THERE A MEMORIAL AT THE TRAFTON PINNACLE?

THE TRAFTON FAMILY, LONG-TERM BENEFACTORS OF THE BIRD CLUB AND THORNCRAG, WAS EXTREMELY GENEROUS WHEN THE 80 ACRE MICHAUD PROPERTY (SITE OF THE FORMER H.O. WOOD DAIRY FARM) WAS GOING TO BE SOLD FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE MEMORIAL OVERLOOKS THE LAND THEY HELPED US PURCHASE.

WHY IS THAT GUY BURIED UP THERE?

HE ISN’T; NO ONE IS BURIED AT THORNCRAG (THAT WE KNOW OF). GORDON JOSEPH SOUCY WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF AN ANONYMOUS THORNCRAG BENEFACTOR. IN RETURN FOR THE BENEFACTOR’S HELP IN ACQUIRING A CRITICAL PARCEL OF LAND, THE AREA KNOWN AS GORDON’S LEDGE WAS DEVELOPED.

DO YOU CUT TREES FOR INCOME?

WE HAVE IN THE PAST CUT TREES FOR BOTH HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND FOR INCOME (FREQUENTLY BOTH GOALS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED AT THE SAME TIME).

WHERE ARE ALL THE BIRDS?

THEY ARE AROUND, IN THE WOODS AND ESPECIALLY AT ALL THE BIRD FEEDERS AT THE SURROUNDING HOUSES. CONTRARY TO MANY SANCTUARIES, WE DO NOT TRY TO “COLLECT” THE BIRDS IN SELECTED AREAS FOR VIEWING. THE MIGRATORY SEASONS AND THE HOURS AROUND DAWN AND DUSK ARE THE MORE ACTIVE TIMES. ALSO IT PAYS TO SIT A WHILE – IT ALWAYS PAYS TO SIT A WHILE!

HOW OLD ARE THE TREES?

THE OLDEST KNOWN TREE IS AN APPROXIMATELY 250 YEAR OLD HEMLOCK IN THE BEAUTIFUL STAND WEST OF THE ANTHONY FIREPLACE. AS THE OLDEST PARTS OF THE SANCTUARY DATE FROM 1921 THROUGH 1925 AND WERE AT THAT TIME PASTURE LAND IN THE BEGINNING STAGES OF REFORESTATION, MANY TREES THAT WERE YOUNG THEN ARE NOW MATURE.

CAN WE HAVE OUR WEDDING CEREMONY OR SIMILAR EVENTS HERE?

NO. IN KEEPING WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO STEWARD THIS LAND FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT AND FOR EDUCATION IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES, NON-CLUB SPONSORED CEREMONIES ARE NOT ALLOWED.

HOW MANY MILES OF TRAILS ARE IN THORNCRAG?

THERE ARE ABOUT 3 ½ MILES OF COLOR BLAZED, MAINTAINED TRAILS IN THE SANCTUARY.

CAN PEOPLE BUILD FIRES IN THE FIREPLACES?

NO – NO FIRES CAN BE BUILT IN THORNCRAG UNLESS IT IS IN CONNECTION WITH A CLUB SPONSORED ACTIVITY.



WHITE THROATED SPARROW BY DANIEL J. MARQUIS

WHY DON’T YOU ALLOW DOGS?

WE DID FROM 1921 TO 2010. YOU CAN IMAGINE THE CHANGE IN OUR CULTURE REGARDING DOGS OVER THAT TIME SPAN. ULTIMATELY, DUE TO THE PRESSURES OF A) THE NUMBER OF DOGS, B) THE KINDS OF DOGS, C) THE CHANGING ATTITUDES OF THE DOG OWNERS, D) THE NUMBER OF NEGATIVE INCIDENTS, E) THE EMERGING DATA OF THE EFFECT DOGS HAVE ON WILDLIFE, ESPECIALLY BIRDS, AND F) THE COMMITMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO NATURAL HABITAT AND NATURE EDUCATION, AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2010 DOGS AND OTHER PETS WERE NO LONGER ALLOWED IN ANY OF OUR SANCTUARIES.

WHAT ARE THE FOUNDATIONS NEXT TO THE MEADOWS ON THE GREEN TRAIL?

THE HOUSE AND BARN FOUNDATIONS, WHICH WERE CONNECTED IN THE NEW ENGLAND FARMHOUSE STYLE, DATE FROM THE EARLY 1800s. IN 1921, WHEN THORNCRAG BEGAN, OSSIE AND MABEL WOOD (BROTHER AND SISTER) OPERATED A THRIVING DAIRY FARM HERE. THEY ALLOWED THE BIRD CLUB TO USE THE HEIGHT-OF-LAND AT THORNCRAG, AND IN 1943, WHEN SHE HAD TO SELL THE FARM, MABEL DONATED THE THREE ACRE HEIGHT-OF-LAND PARCEL TO THORNCRAG. THERE IS A MEMORIAL BOULDER DEDICATED TO OSSIE AND MABEL WOOD ON THE PLATEAU ON TOP OF THORNCRAG. THE 80 ACRE FARM WAS PURCHASED BY THE CLUB IN 1994 AND THE MEADOWS AND PASTURE, WHICH HAD GROWN IN FROM A HALF CENTURY OF NEGLECT, WERE RESTORED BY CLUB VOLUNTEERS DURING THE FIRST DECADE OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

ARE THE PONDS “NATURAL”?

THE PONDS ARE ALL DUG; THE FIRST, WHERE THE BLUE TRAIL MEETS THE WHITE TRAIL, WAS CREATED IN 1925 FOR WILDLIFE. ALTHOUGH NOT MUCH LARGER THAN IT IS NOW IT WAS NAMED LAKE THORNCRAG! THE OTHERS WERE DUG IN THE LATE 40s AND EARLY 50s AT COLLECTING POINTS FOR SMALL STREAMS OR OVER NATURAL SPRINGS. THESE WERE CREATED AS SOURCES OF WATER IN CASE OF FIRE. TODAY SEVERAL, INCLUDING “LAKE THORNCRAG”, ARE PRODUCTIVE VERNAL POOLS.

WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE STONE BENCH ALONG THE YELLOW TRAIL?

THIS WAS BUILT IN MEMORY OF ALBERT KAVANAGH, THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE BIRD CLUB, WHOSE WISDOM, HARD WORK AND SENSE OF HUMOR SET THE CLUB AND ITS SANCTUARIES ON A FIRM COURSE FOR SUCCESS. THE BENCH ORIGINALLY HAD A FIREPLACE ACROSS FROM IT; THIS WAS DISMANTLED IN THE 1990s.

HOW DID THORNCRAG GET ITS NAME?

WHEN ALFRED ANTHONY DONATED THE FIRST PARCEL OF LAND IN 1921 HE SUGGESTED IT BE NAMED THORNCRAG. THE HILL WAS KNOWN AS THORNE’S HILL AND A NEARBY INTERSECTION AS THORNE’S CORNER AFTER ELDER BENJAMIN THORNE, AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN LEWISTON’S EARLY HISTORY. CRAG IS DUE TO ITS ROCKY STRUCTURE.



PILEATED WOODPECKER BY LISA DAVIS

IS WHALE ROCK A GLACIAL ERRATIC?

NO, IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY YOU WILL OBSERVE THAT THE “ROCK” IS ATTACHED, NOT RESTING ON THE SURFACE AS WOULD A GLACIAL ERRATIC.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ANSWERED BY

THORNCRAG STEWARD GARY MAURER

WHO OWNS THORNCRAG AND HOW CAN I HELP?

THE STANTON BIRD CLUB OWNS AND MANAGES THREE SANCTUARIES; THORNCRAG (372 ACRES), THE 401 ACRE WOODBURY NATURE SANCTUARY IN MONMOUTH AND LITCHFIELD, AND THE 2 ACRE APPLESASS HILL ON PLEASANT STREET IN LEWISTON. YOU CAN HELP BY RESPECTING OUR RULES, BY KEEPING OUR SANCTUARIES CLEAN AND SAFE, AND BY BECOMING A MEMBER/SUPPORTER OF OUR CLUB.

THE GIVING LEVELS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BASIC SUPPORTER	\$25.00
FRIEND	\$60.00
NATURALIST	\$125.00
LAND STEWARD	\$250.00
STANTONIAN	\$500.00+
OTHER	\$_____

SEND CHECK TO: TREASURER
STANTON BIRD CLUB
P.O. Box 3172
LEWISTON, ME 04243



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