



Nantucket Conservation Foundation

Staycation Family Scavenger Hunt Winter 2020

Nantucket Conservation Foundation



Welcome! This scavenger hunt will introduce you to some of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation's conservation lands, teach you a few unique things about each site and provide you and your family with a chance to explore Nantucket together. If you complete all of the activities, you will be eligible for a prize!

Here are the details about completing the scavenger hunt:

- 1) You will be visiting 5 different Nantucket Conservation Foundation properties around Nantucket.
- 2) The properties can be visited in any order.
- 3) At each of the properties you will visit, there is a series of signs highlighting some fun facts and directions to the next sign.
- 4) At the last sign, take a picture of the sign or the view to prove you made it there.
- 5) Due to Covid-19 there are no puzzle pieces for this scavenger hunt.
- 6) Once you have visited all 5 properties, email us the pictures at info@nantucketconservation.org or give us a call at (508) 228-2884. We will put together a prize for each child in your family and have it ready outside the Foundation's office (118 Cliff Road, open Monday – Friday 8:30 – 4:30).

To get started- follow the directions below to each of the sites. Look for the Staycation Scavenger Hunt welcome sign and follow the directions from there. Have fun and happy exploring!



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Squam Farm

Squam Farm is a secluded, but beautiful property hidden in the forests on the East side of Nantucket. Walking the looping trails here allows you to see the former pastures, hardwood forests, and swampy hollows of what was known as the ‘Nantucket Farm Belt’. This former farm has a long history with agriculture, most recently being the home to a managed sheep herd from 2005-2015. The sheep of Squam Farm were used in a grazing management research study for the Foundation and their impact on the landscape can still be seen, even if the sheep themselves have been moved off-island. Pastures in Squam are now maintained through rotational mowing by tractors. Together, Squam Farm and the adjacent Squam Swamp include 504 acres of protected land and hold some of the oldest trees on the island. Some trees are even 150 years old, which is ancient by Nantucket standards. Hardwoods like Tupelo, Hickory, Beech, Red Maple, and Sassafras all thrive in these richer soils deposited here by the glacier. The wet and swampy forests of Squam are home to many white tailed deer as seen by the crisscrossed game trails they leave behind. Enjoy your visit to this forested favorite and keep an eye out for wildlife!

Directions: From the Milestone Road Rotary, follow Milestone Road for approximately ¼ mile and turn left onto Polpis Road. Drive approximately 5 miles and take a left onto Quidnet Road. Take the first left onto a dirt road (unmarked, opposite several mailboxes) and follow this about a ½ mile to a fenced parking area on the right. Look for the Staycation Scavenger Hunt welcome sign in the red kiosk at the property entrance gate where the trail starts and follow the directions from here to the trail.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF TICKS WHEN VISITING THIS PROPERTY AND CHECK YOURSELF AFTER VISITING

Here are some things to look for while at Squam Farm-- check off as many as you can find!

- Deer tracks in the mud
- A bird house
- Fluffy seeds on a plant in the grassland
- Soft green moss on the ground
- A calling bird like a Blue Jay or Chickadee
- A big green barn
- A bird feather
- An old fence
- Gray-green lichen that grows on the branches of trees, called “Old Man’s Beard”
- Litter (we hope that you don’t find any, but please collect and dispose of in the trash if you do- thank you!)



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Tupancy Links

Tupancy Links is a favorite trail loop for the dog lovers of Nantucket and an example of how through our organization, one person's gift to this community can live on for generations. Originally home to the first golf course on the island opened in 1897, this property was bought by Oswald "Tup" Tupancy in the early 1950s. Being an avid golfer and a pro at the Sankaty Head Golf Course, Tup knew the value of wide open spaces like this. He was approached many times by real estate investors and developers who wanted to pay millions of dollars to build houses on parts of the land. Tup held his ground when faced with overdevelopment and instead wanted the land open for all Nantucketers to enjoy, regardless of the money they had. He donated the land to the Nantucket Conservation Foundation in the 1970s and 80s for this purpose and to protect this part of the island near where the original town of Sherburne was built. The land that remains is shaped by the history that kept it here and is used to grow grassland plants that help with restoration projects around the island.

Directions: From the start of the Madaket Road in Town, drive approximately 1 ¾ miles and take a right on Cliff Rd. Follow Cliff Rd. for 1/2 mile and take a left onto Washing Pond Rd. (Just past the water tower). Park in the lot on the right side of the road across from the water tower and look for the Staycation Scavenger Hunt sign to begin the trail.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF TICKS WHEN VISITING THIS PROPERTY AND CHECK YOURSELF AFTER VISITING

Here are a few things to look for while you are at Norwood Farm- check off as many as you can find!

- The water tower
- Someone walking a dog
- A big hawk flying around
- A bench with a view
- A tree standing by itself
- Animal tracks along the path
- The steeple of a church in the distance
- Litter (we hope that you don't find any, but please collect and dispose of in the trash if you do- thank you!)



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Milestone Bog

The Milestone Cranberry Bog is a large part of the agricultural history of Nantucket and a reminder of the practices that supported Nantucketers through trying times. According to maps and historic accounts, this area used to be a large shallow lake and kettle-hole swamp named Tashama by the Wampanoag and Gibbs Swamp by the English. Cranberries naturally grow in the swamps, bogs, and wet spots around Nantucket, but large-scale cranberry cultivation was developed on Cape Cod in 1816. The idea to bring this new cash crop to Nantucket was hatched as Nantucket's whaling industry was in sharp decline. The original bog to grow cranberries at Milestone was built by hand and horse cart starting in 1857. At 234 acres, this original bog was once the largest cranberry bog in the world. The bog was divided up and took its current shape over 150 years as technology improved and Nantucket's whaling era became a thing of the past. The Nantucket Conservation Foundation purchased the bogs in 1968 and we have been carrying on the cranberry growing tradition ever since. We transitioned to growing certified organic cranberries in 2018 and are proud to bring our crop to local and off-island vendors as well as display the hard work of our cranberry growers at our annual Cranberry Festival on the Saturday of Indigenous People's Day weekend in October.

Directions: From the Milestone Road Rotary, follow Milestone Road for 4 ½ miles to 220 Milestone Road on the left side. Once you take that left turn into 220 Milestone, the entrance to the parking area is straight through the red gate and 1/10 of a mile ahead and before the wire gate. Look for the Staycation Scavenger Hunt welcome sign at the red kiosk and follow the signs along the bog towards the Sankaty Head Lighthouse.

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Here are a few things to look for while you are at Sanford Farm- check off as many as you can find!

- Someone walking their dog
- A cranberry vine
- An old pump house building
- Canada Geese honking in the bog
- Animal tracks in the mud or sand
- A flying bird
- A ditch to bring water to the bogs
- Litter (we hope that you don't find any, but please collect and dispose of in the trash if you do- thank you!)



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The Serengeti

The Serengeti is a sprawling, open property along Milestone Rd. that looks like a scene right out of Africa. The expansive fields of this property were heavily grazed by thousands of sheep during the 1700s and 1800s. These herds of sheep ate all the woody plants and kept the area clear for wildflowers and other grasslands plant to thrive. The herds of sheep no longer roam the island and the property was overgrown by thick bushes and scrubland. Since 1998, our Land Management team has kept this overgrowth in check with strategic mowing and brush cutting to restore the grassland habitat that supports a wide range of plants and wildlife. Now when you walk this property, you can see long distances over the rolling ridges and shallow valleys of this glacial plain. You might even encounter one of our 'Serengeti Animals' that were built and painted by students and teachers at Nantucket High School and give anyone driving along Milestone Rd. the impression that they're on safari!

Directions: From the Milestone Road Rotary, follow Milestone Road for 3 miles until you see a stone post with a '4' on the left side of the road. This half circle parking area is the 4th Milestone Pulloff. Look for the red kiosk marking the trail head and follow the Staycation Scavenger Hunt signs from there.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF TICKS WHEN VISITING THIS PROPERTY AND CHECK YOURSELF AFTER VISITING

Here are a few things to look for while you are at the Weaver Property-- check off as many as you can find!

- A pitch pine cone
- Fluffy seeds of a plant
- Deer tracks along the trail
- Rolling hills left by the glacier
- A smooth rock
- A flying bird
- A dead tree standing by itself
- Litter (we hope that you don't find any, but please collect and dispose of in the trash if you do- thank you!)



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Windswept Bog

Windswept Bog and the surrounding area are experiencing yet another change in activity and use at the start of this new decade. In the early 1900's, the roads and flumes of Windswept were built in order to move water and grow cranberries in cultivated bogs. These bogs made use of the deposits of peat and existing wetlands to establish a crop for harvest that became a New England staple and source of income for local Nantucketers. Producing cranberries for over 100 years, Windswept transitioned to an organic bog in 2004. In 2018, the decision was made to cease cranberry production on the bog due to economic considerations and concerns about Polpis harbor water quality. The Foundation is now planning for a wetland restoration project for this bog in collaboration with the MA Division of Ecological Restoration. This project will look to bring back a more diverse and functional wetland system while maintaining access to Stump Pond and the expansive trail system of the Eastern Middle Moors.

Directions: From the Milestone Road Rotary, follow Milestone Road for approximately ¼ mile and turn left onto Polpis Road. Follow Polpis Road for approximately 4¾ miles and turn right into the parking lot at Windswept Bog, just past the intersection with Wauwinet Road on the left. Look for the Staycation Scavenger Hunt welcome sign at the beginning of the walking trail to the right of the red kiosk and follow the directions from here.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF TICKS WHEN VISITING THIS PROPERTY AND CHECK YOURSELF AFTER VISITING

Here are a few things to look for while you are at the Windswept Bog- check off as many as you can find!

- A water control structure
- A smooth rock
- A cranberry vine growing in the bog
- A cone from a pine tree
- A ditch to bring water to the bogs
- A bush with berries on it
- A flying bird
- Animal tracks in the mud or sand
- Litter (we hope that you don't find any, but please collect and dispose of in the trash if you do- thank you!)



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Words to Know

Bog: A slightly acidic freshwater wetland supported by layers of peat and sphagnum moss and no streams. Rainfall is the only water that comes into these isolated wetlands. (ex. Doughnut Pond in the Moors)

Cranberry Bog: An altered wetland designed to support cranberry farming.

Ecological Restoration: Bringing back the natural functions of a habitat or environment through science-based thinking and sometimes heavy equipment.

Endangered: A plant or animal that is at high risk of going extinct without protection.

Habitat: The home of an animal or a plant.

Indigenous: People, plants or creatures that are native to a place or region.

Invasive: Non-native plants or creatures that quickly and aggressively outcompete their native counterparts for food or resources.

Glacier: A massive sheet of ice that scraped across New England thousands of years ago, pushing rocks and soil with it and shaping the way the land looks today.

Grazing: When animals eat plants, especially in grasslands.

Organic Matter: What organisms and living things are made of or broken down into.

Population: The number of individuals of the same species living in a defined area.

Predator: An animal that eats other animals.

Species: A particular type of animal, plant or other living thing that shares common traits.

Vegetation: Plants of all kinds, shapes, sizes, and colors. The energy producers that make life possible.

Wetland: An area where the soil is completely wet or even covered in water during the growing season. Only plants that like getting their roots wet can grow in a wetland.