

New Hampshire Audubon is an independent statewide membership organization whose mission is to protect New Hampshire's natural environment for wildlife and for people. It operates nature centers throughout the state that provide educational programs for children and adults. It is also involved in research projects, from developing a plan to preserve the biodiversity of a rapidly growing state to monitoring many of New Hampshire's endangered species. It also protects thousands of acres of wildlife habitat through its sanctuaries program and advocates for sound public policy on environmental issues. For information on New Hampshire Audubon, including membership, volunteering, programs, and publications, contact:

### New Hampshire Audubon

3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301  
 PH (603) 224-9909, FAX (603) 226-0902  
 EMAIL [asnh@nhaudubon.org](mailto:asnh@nhaudubon.org)  
[www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org)

If you do not want to keep this guide, please return it to the mailbox at the trailhead.

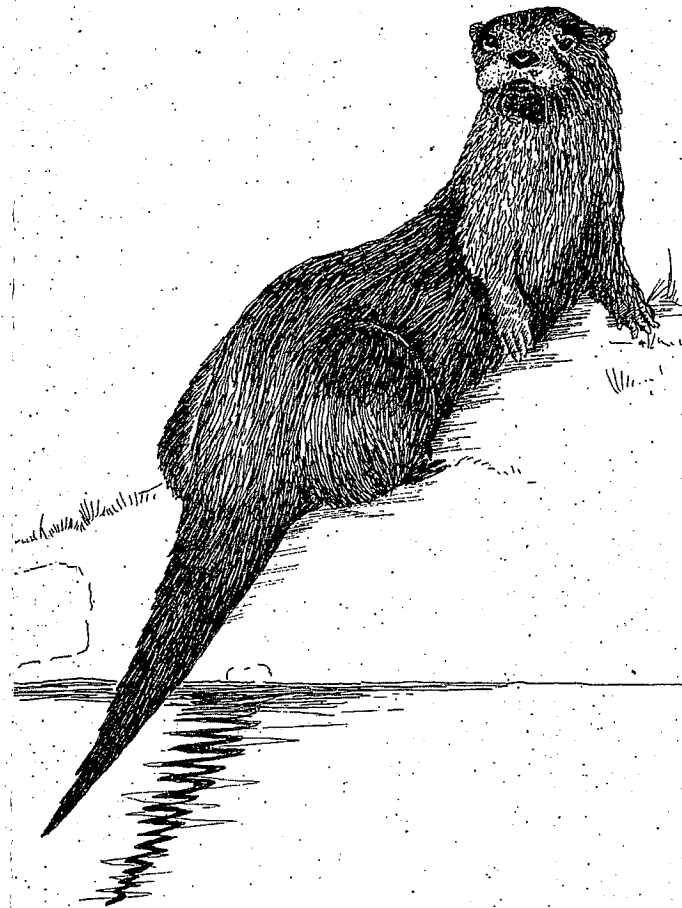
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Text and map by Mike Milligan. Art by Iain MacLeod.

## Trail Guide

Gertrude Keith Hoyt &  
 Edward Eaton Hoyt, Jr.  
 Hoyt Wildlife Sanctuary

East Madison, New Hampshire



New Hampshire Audubon

## About the Sanctuary

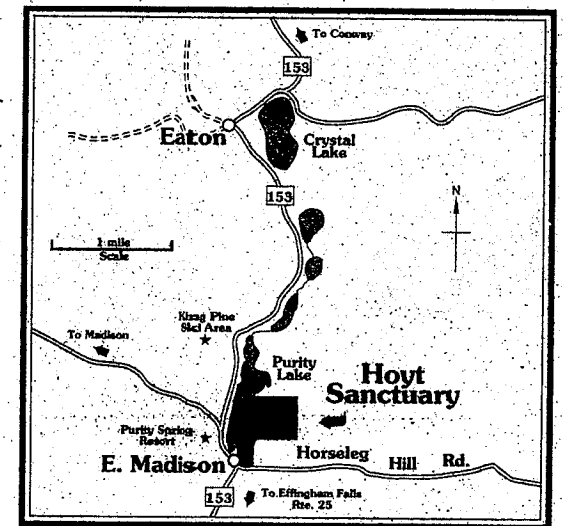
The 135-acre, forested Hoyt Wildlife Sanctuary includes almost half of the south-eastern side of Purity Lake. Initially dammed by beaver, Purity Lake was re-dammed in the late 1700s by European settlers, who also built a mill. By 1804, the now 100-acre lake was the center of activity for a small community called East Madison. Stone walls and foundations on the Sanctuary are homestead remains from this time period. During the post-Civil-War years, many homesteaders lost interest in trying to farm the relatively sandy, poor soils of Purity Lake Valley, and an enterprising man named Edward Hoyt, Sr., began to buy their holdings. Hoyt eventually acquired the mill and a total of 1400 acres, nearly the entire valley.

Edward Hoyt, Jr., inherited his father's property in 1903 and married Gertrude Keith in 1905. They lived near what is now the Sanctuary's parking area until their house burned in 1914. For the rest of their lives they lived in a house that was to become the Purity Spring Inn, and the Purity Spring Resort had its start when they began to take in boarders for supplemental income. Their children, Ellen and Milt, had a great appreciation of nature and the valley and started summer camps for boys and girls. The girls' camp ran from 1934-1977, and the boys', named Camp Tohcomeupog (Spring Water), began in 1931 and continues today on the west side of the lake. Ellen and Milt inherited their father's property in 1952. Ellen Hoyt Gillard generously bequeathed much of her portion of the property to New Hampshire Audubon, naming the Sanctuary in memory of her parents.

## Visitor Information

Hoyt Wildlife Sanctuary is open throughout the year during daylight hours. Although there are trails for your enjoyment, this sanctuary's primary purpose is to provide habitat for wildlife. In order to minimize disturbance to the plants and animals here, we ask that you observe the following rules:

1. Only foot travel is permitted.
2. Smoking, swimming, camping, fires, hunting, and trapping are prohibited.
3. Please keep to the marked trails and do not collect or in any way disturb any plants or animals.
4. Pets must be kept on leash.
5. Please carry out all trash and litter.
6. Be prepared for country walking.



### How to get to the Sanctuary

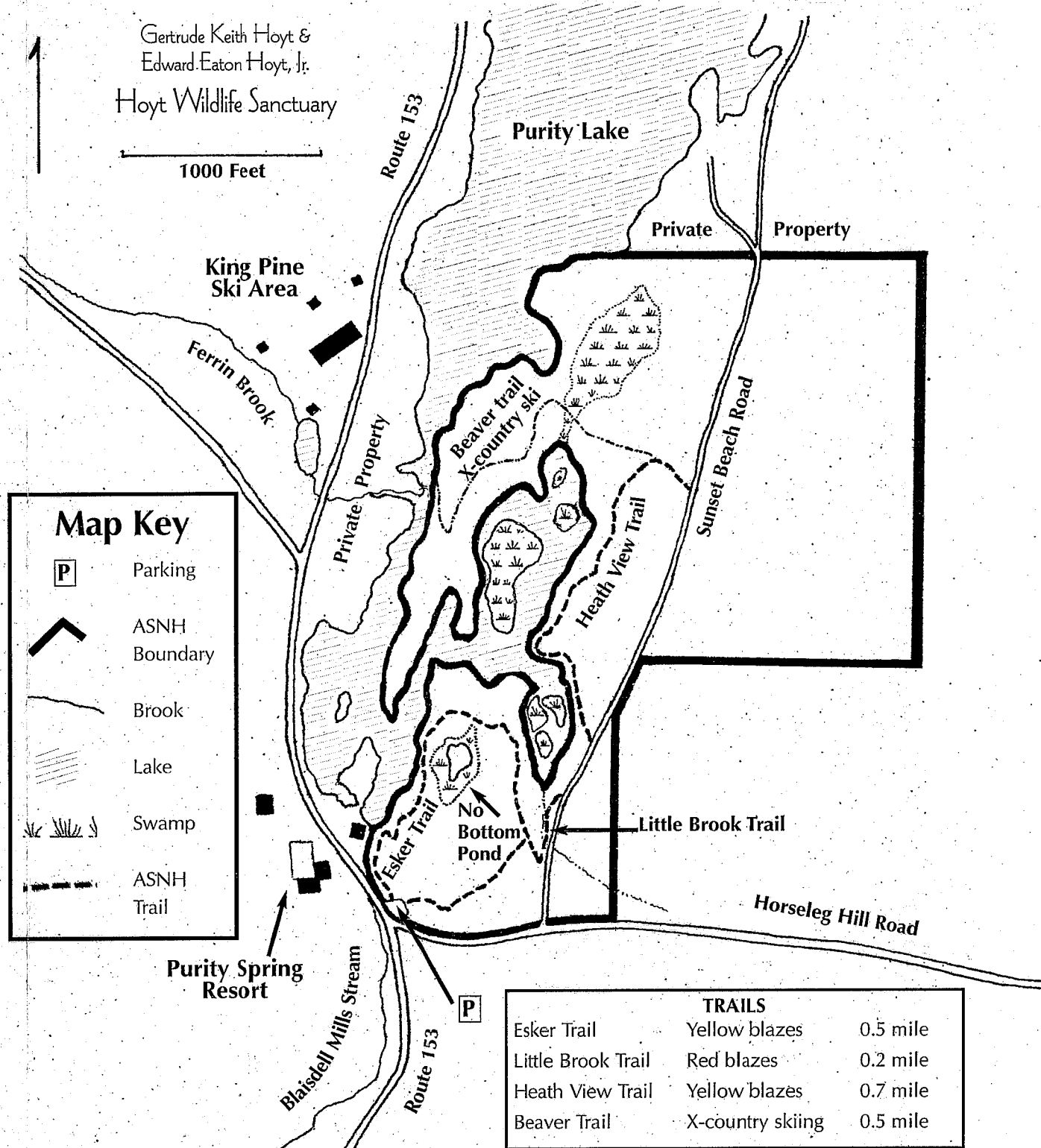
From the junction of Rts. 25 and 153 in Effingham Falls, drive north (towards Conway) on Rt. 153 for 5.3 miles to the junction with Horseleg Hill Road. The Sanctuary is on the southeast corner of Purity Lake. Parking and the trailhead are at the sign.

# Trail Information

There are approximately 1.4 miles of blazed trail on the Sanctuary. In addition, there is a section of the Purity Spring Resort cross-country ski trail (the Beaver Trail) and unblazed sections of the Sunset Beach Road where further hiking is an option within Sanctuary boundaries.

The yellow-blazed **Esker Trail** is a loop approximately a half mile in length that begins at the northwestern side of the parking area (towards the lake). An esker is a narrow, winding ridge of sand or gravel deposited about 10,000 years ago by a stream that ran under or within melting glaciers as they receded. As is true of most of the Sanctuary, the dominant forest tree is white pine, which is generally mixed with co-dominants red maple and northern red oak. Other trees on the Sanctuary include hemlock, beech, sugar maple, white ash, aspen, as well as some red spruce, red pine, balsam fir, black cherry, white oak, and yellow, white, and gray birch.

Near the top of the slope at the beginning of the trail is the site of the former girls' camp. The trail soon follows a relatively narrow ridge that overlooks a small kettlehole pond on the right (east). A kettlehole pond is formed by a large block of ice left in the sediments of a retreating glacier. When the block of ice melts, the resultant crater, which can often be very deep, fills with water. This kettlehole pond, named "No Bottom Pond," has, like most such ponds, slowly filled in over the years and become a bog of stagnant, acidic water ringed with a floating mat of sphagnum moss. Growing on this mat of moss are plants such as black spruce, leatherleaf, sweetgale, sheep and bog laurel, pitcher plant, round-leaved sundew, rhodora, labrador tea, cotton grass, wild raisin, and ferns such as sensitive, crested, and Virginia chain (which is uncommon this far north). In the relatively dry sandy soil around the



trail grow scrub oak, bush honeysuckle, sweetfern, huckleberry, highbush blueberry, and bracken fern.

About three-quarters of the way around the Esker Trail loop, the red-blazed **Little Brook Trail** (0.2 mile) turns off, leading to the Sunset Beach Road after crossing a small drainage. Plants near the small drainage include spotted touch-me-not (also known as jewelweed), jack-in-the-pulpit, and royal, New York, and cinnamon ferns.

Upon reaching the Sunset Beach Road, turn left (north) to reach the yellow-blazed **Heath View Trail** on the left (west). Including 0.26-mile of the Sunset Beach Road, the total length of this trail loop is approximately 0.7 mile. After a short walk, there is a viewpoint of the southeastern "bay" of Purity Lake. From this vantage point, look for beaver lodges, small islands of mostly heath plants (such as rhodora or leatherleaf), and a diversity of floating and emergent aquatic plants such as pickerelweed, button-bush, cattail, white and yellow water lilies, water shield, and a variety of grasses and sedges.

The Heath View Trail continues along the edge of the bay and returns to Sunset Beach Road. Shortly before rejoining the road, one of the Purity Spring Resort cross-country ski trails, the **Beaver Trail**, heads west off the Heath View Trail. The Beaver Trail travels about halfway down the peninsula between the "bay" and the rest of Purity Lake, leaving the peninsula by way of a bridge to the other side of Purity Lake. The bridge is private Purity Spring Resort property, so please do not cross it from the Sanctuary without their permission.

To return to the parking area, walk south (a right at the end of the Heath View Trail) down the Sunset Beach Road back to the Little Brook Trail to retrace your steps or to the end of the dirt road at the paved Horseleg Hill Road, whereupon a right turn (west) leads back to the parking area.