

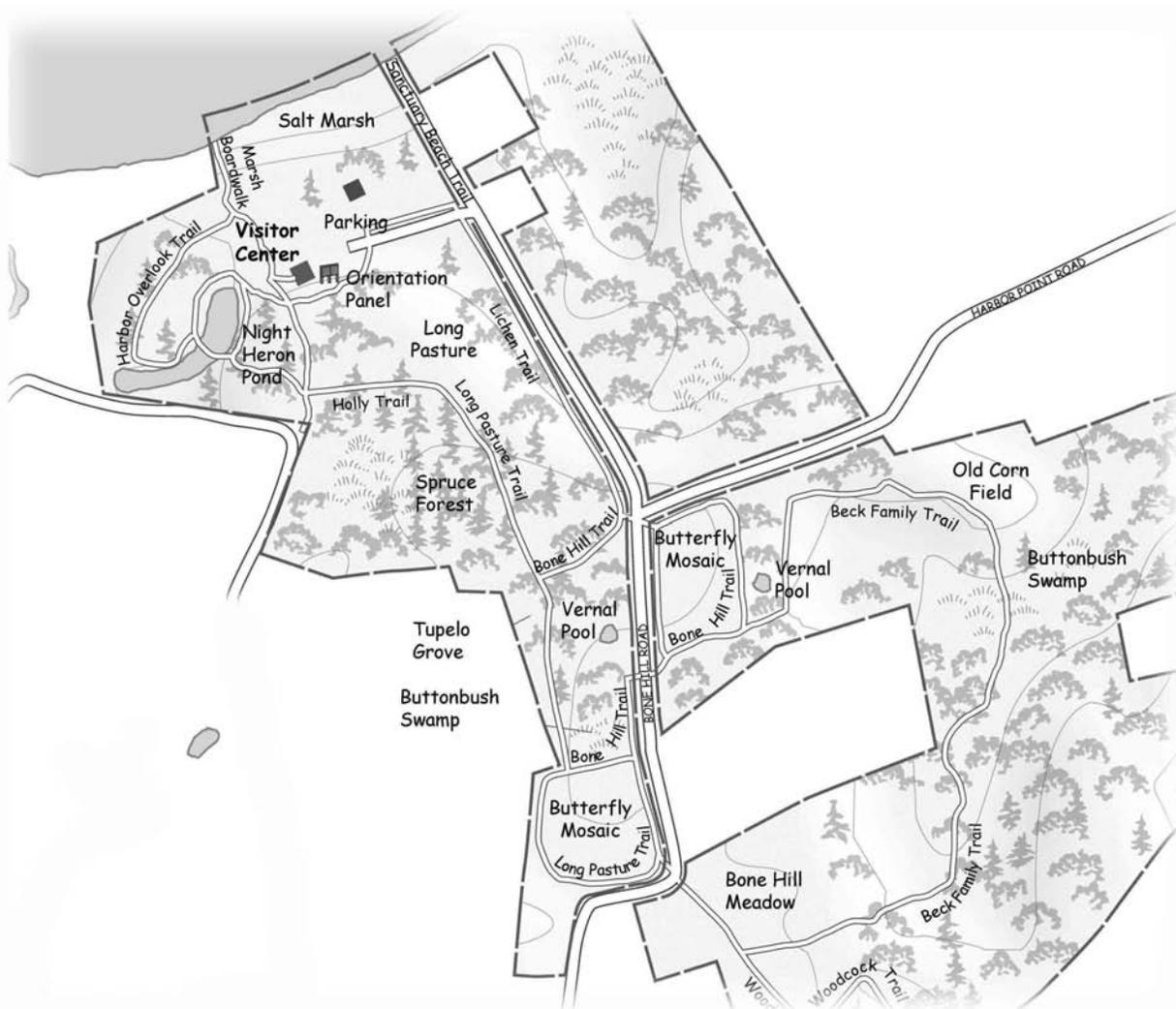
Mass Audubon Quests

Long Pasture

Barnstable

Welcome to the Long Pasture Quest, but please remember you're a guest. Respect our wildlife, plants and trees: it is their home you are in, so please walk softly, don't run or shout,

but look and listen for who is about. Beach, birds and a glimpse of deer - it's great to explore the habitats here. We hope this quest gives you a lot of pleasure, so let's get going to find the treasure!



 Mass Audubon
Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts

This Quest is best done in spring, summer, or fall.

Fall 2008

Let's begin our quest for nature's knowledge
We will search for stamps and become smarter for college
Stamps are worth 20 points and additional points are awarded
for finding certain animals or landmarks along the way. Are you
ready to play?

#1 Beach & Salt Marsh

Walk around the building to face the ocean fair
Look for a copse of beach plum bushes that
don't mind the salt air
They have more than one trunk, which makes
them different from trees
In the spring their white blossoms look like
popcorn and attract lots of bees,
In autumn they are loaded with tiny, tart plums
Which are used to make jelly to fill up your tums.

Uh-oh, can you find a vine entangling the
bushes by the front benches?
An invasive robber of nutrients and sunshine
Birds love the yellow berries on its vine
Oriental Bittersweet has a parasitic relationship
And takes all from a plant until it is dead
This weed was a gift from China because the Emperor
Thought it would make a pretty groundcover
But now its twining vines choke and smother.

Now turn toward the kayaks in their neat racks
And follow the Marsh Boardwalk trail down to the beach
Stand on the boardwalk step and look down
"I am green and stick up to tickle your feet
I keep the dunes in place and complete
For little creatures like ant lions and wolf
spiders I provide cover
My name "Ammophila" actually means "sand lover,"
Who am I you wonder immediately
I am beach grass and please don't walk on me."

If you want to know how far the tide
came up before it went back
Look for the highest line with piles of wrack,
It has dead seaweed and assorted ocean things
Little sand hoppers love the tiny food it brings.

Take 10 steps ahead and look over the salt meadow
"I am Spartina or cord grass
I have lived in Barnstable Harbor for 3500 years
Each year I capture debris and sediment and decay into peat
I cover an area of 4000 acres in a grassy sheet
I am now a layer of peat 23 feet deep
I am part of Barnstable's Great Marsh
Though Striped Bass and Bluefish live in the sea
Mollusks, crabs and worms live in my squishy peat
You can feel their burrows beneath your feet".

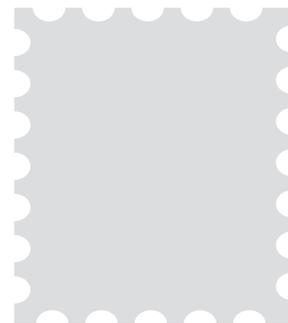
Across the harbor is a long beach called Sandy Neck
Look for a lighthouse that kept sailors in check
It's to the right on the promontory at the end of the bay
In 1850 it steered ships out of the way
The barrier beach blocks crashing waves from our shore,
Creating calm water for worms, snails and clams to explore
Look for bleached white seashells on the beach walk
Did you know that some are used to make chalk?
Down on the tidal flats, can you find a wide plowed trail?
At the end you may find a cool creature, no not a whale
It's the name of a game; it's on the hoof of a horse

(Clue 1 continued)

Its blood is not red; it's blue of course!
It must be a horseshoe!
You need not fear a horseshoe crab's spiky tail,
When he's upside down this "telson" helps
him flip over without fail.
In fact, this ancient creature (older than dinosaurs)
isn't a crab at all you see,
Ticks, spiders and mites make up his family tree!

Cool Creatures: 10 points for each one you can spot:
Look for birds like Seaside Sparrows, Northern
Harriers (Marsh Hawks) and Ospreys
Keep an eye out for shorebirds like Yellowlegs,
Willetts and Laughing Gulls
Try to find: Mermaid's Purses (these were the egg cases of
skates), Periwinkle shells and Moon snails with their sandy,
collar-shaped egg cases.

When you return up the stairs stop
at stair number three
To your left is a plant used for
candles called bayberry,
Hiding in it is a picture of a
scallop on your first stamp,
Good going, you are a
naturalist champ!



#2 Forest & Pond

Now that we are done exploring the beach,
We're looking for trees that grow far out of reach
Go back up the path to the top and turn right
On Harbor Overlook Trail, oh what a sight!
After fire or land clearing, Cedars are first to respond
They are known as a pioneer species of which we are fond
This process of plants succession, or plants moving in,
Helps the forest begin life all over again.

Now go back to the path and go right to a fork
Take a left and you'll end up at Night Heron Pond

5 Points:

If you can find Ostrich and Cinnamon Ferns
Painted Turtles
A Green Heron

Now walk to your left and look high on a tree
If you are sharp a big box there you'll see
"I am a creature of the night sky
I eat bugs and mosquitoes, I don't know why"
Not a bird, but a mammal
Many people have seen this nocturnal animal
That box on a tree is a bat box you see
Stop and turn back, glance left as you go
Can you find the High Bush Blueberry?
If you wish to take rest,
You can search the pond's edge for one of the
hidden bird's nests!

Now return to the path you came down to the pond
Walk up the slope and go left at the top
The forest is cool, its shade so refreshing
You'll see sights and hear sounds all intermeshing
Walk on 'til you see that blown down tree

(Clue 2 continued)

"Hi, that's me, I'm a Norway Spruce
Termites and Woodpecker's are putting me to good use
Can you guess why I fell in a southern direction?
I was hit by a Nor'easter storm in my mid-section".

Now walk to the junction and take Holly
Trail (across the wooden boardwalk)
Pass the pond on your left and bear right up the hill

5 points if you see:

A coniferous Tree called a Tamarack- It loses
its needles in the winter

A dead tree called a "snag": Can you see how it is used by
insects and birds? The large holes are made by termites and
woodpeckers. Many kinds of birds make nests in dead trees.
Can you find other "snags?"

A Holly Tree: Female Holly Trees produce red berries which
Robins and other birds eat in the fall

A Chestnut Tree: Look for prickly seed cases on the ground,
{hint: the tree is on your right}

Trout Lily: You may see this in spring. It has two mottled green
leaves and one yellow blossom.

Owl pellets: Sometimes you'll see them on the
ground beneath a Spruce tree to your right where
Great Horned Owls roost.

You'll come to a clearing on the right to meet
the giant "wolf tree"

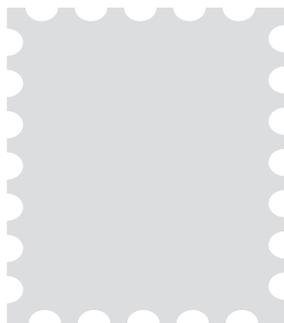
With its two huge dead branches stretched over
the path for all to see

They grew horizontal and spread vast and wide
This was the only tree in the clearing in
which animals could hide

It shaded sheep from sun and perhaps some wolves too
This tree is ancient- at least one hundred years older than you!

A brown carpet of needles will show you the way
White Pines and Red Maples are there to stay
At Long Pasture Trail, you'll turn to the right, pass a shed
And two Hickory trees
Whose nuts you may find if you get down on your knees.

Now on through some Spruce
When you come to the fork, take
the right path again
A double trunked oak appears
on your left
If you can count the frost scars,
you're getting close folks:
There's a stamp hiding in the
copse of Tupelo Trees {these are the
ones which grow straight and tall}
Their red berries are eaten by
migrating birds in the fall
Behind the two trees that look like a "V" hides
a song sparrow stamp
Add him to your collection and you're passing
this quest with flying colors!



#3 Vernal Pool

Keep on going and follow the Long Pasture Trail
Now look to your left and walk like a snail
Welcome to the Button Bush Swamp!
Home to fairy shrimp, wood frogs, and turtles,
This habitat is wicked cool
It is called a Vernal Pool

(Clue 3 continued)

It almost dries up in summer, but the rain keeps it nice
In the winter this freshwater spring pool may turn to ice!

Nitrogen from the sheep makes algae bloom
Although it is natural, too much causes gloom
Yellow algae {that muck} uses sun from the sky
And steals all the oxygen, which makes the fish die.

10 Points:

If you can find the Staghorn Sumac tree
It feels furry, smooth like deer antlers you see.
(Hint: it is on the right and has fern-like leaves)

5 Points If You See:

An Odonate species. Odonate is a scientific name
for dragonfly or damselfly!
After the swamp you walk to the clearing.

#4 Pasture

Welcome to the Butterfly Field

Birds and bees

Hide in the meadow and trees

On the stems of grass, Milkweed and Queen Anne's Lace
The butterflies lay their eggs in this special place
Male Woodcock birds do a special spring spiraling dance
Their mates see it as a sign of romance.

When you see milkweed in June and July take a peek
Under its leaves is the striped Monarch caterpillar you seek
In August the field is yellow with goldenrod full
of pollen and nectar
Attracting all kinds of insects from near and far
Such as butterflies, syrphid flies, honeybees and bumblebees
As well as longhorn, soldier and blister beetles.

Turn left and follow the mowed path to the
trail called Bone Hill

Where they say you can find old animal bones still
Cross the street and rejoin the trail on the right
Now you must decide which way – such a plight
Should you choose the short way or long?
Either way you won't go wrong.

For the short loop turn left and follow the
mowed path along the street,
Then cross at the Bone Hill sign the Lichen Trail you'll meet.
(Skip to next paragraph)

For the long loop go straight then left on the Old Cornfield you see
Over the stream, then under the arched tree
You'll see old apple trees, honeysuckle and
bushes where birds hide
Then over the stream once more – it's not wide.
Go right on Bone Hill and cross to the Lichen trail on other side.

10 Points If You See:

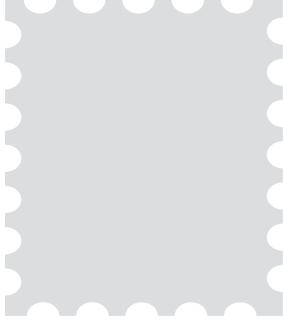
A Monarch Butterfly-Large with orange and black wings
An Azure Butterfly- Small, pale blue color
A Red Admiral Butterfly- Medium sized brown
with orange bands on wings

10 Points If You See:

Song Sparrow-sounds like a clear trill starting with
three or more short notes {"sweet-sweet-sweet"}
Catbird-sings rambling notes ending in a meow
Red-Winged Blackbird-sounds like "kon kar reeee"
Cardinal-a red bird that sings "cheer-cheer-cheer".

(clue 4 continued)

Lichen is an algae and a fungus that grows on rocks and trees
Without hurting the trees that grow as they please.
Look at tree #9 and Salted Shield Lichen you will spy
The Scottish used this leafy lichen for orange dye.
Now search along the old rock wall for a surprise that you seek
Hopefully you won't be searching for a week
Did you find the Monarch Butterfly Stamp?
Good job, if you found it, you're a champ!

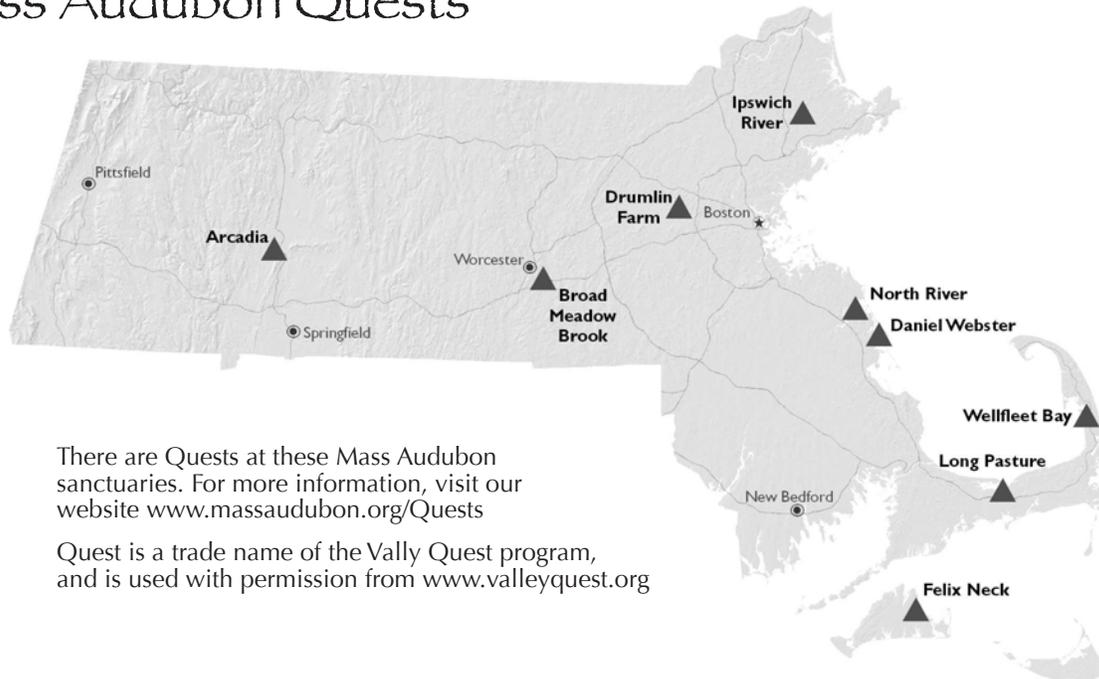


Now follow the trail and turn left at the driveway
An apple a day keeps the doctor away
Look at this orchard along your way
It has secrets which have long lain fallow
To your left there's a box in which nests a sparrow
With the bluebird boxes, you may see a bluebird or two
Its song sounds like "chiti WEEW wewidoo"

10 Points If You See:
Black-Capped Chickadee-sounds like "chickadee-dee-dee"
Common Yellow-Throat - Yellow with black band around eyes.

Return to the visitor center for you've passed the test
You have beaten the odds and completed your Quest
You've earned lots of points, let's count them and rest
We hope you had fun,
Congratulations, you're done!!!

Mass Audubon Quests



There are Quests at these Mass Audubon sanctuaries. For more information, visit our website www.massaudubon.org/Quests

Quest is a trade name of the Valley Quest program, and is used with permission from www.valleyquest.org

Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary

345 Bone Hill Road
Barnstable, MA 02637
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email: longpasture@massaudubon.org
www.massaudubon.org

Nature Center & Trail Hours:
Trails open every day, dawn to dusk

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 33,000 acres of conservation land, provide educational programs for 200,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at the local, state, and federal levels. Mass Audubon's mission and actions have expanded since our beginning in 1896 when our founders set out to stop the slaughter of birds for use on women's fashions. Today we are the largest conservation organization in New England. Our statewide network of 48 wildlife sanctuaries welcomes visitors of all ages and serves as the base for our conservation, education, and advocacy work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (283-8266) or visit www.massaudubon.org.

