

## Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

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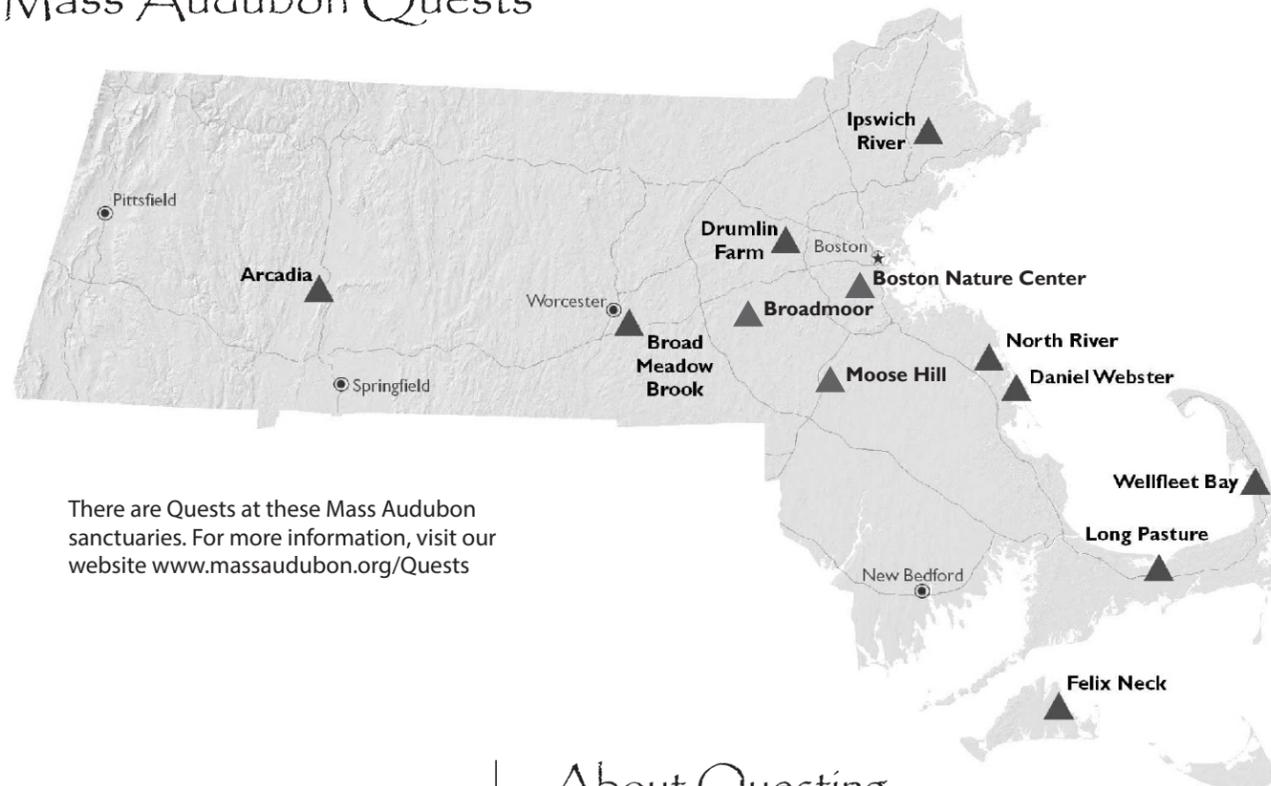
Nature Center Hours:  
Monday to Friday 9 am - 5 pm  
Saturday to Sunday 10 am - 4 pm

Trail Hours:  
Fall/Winter 8 am - 5 pm  
Spring/Summer 7 am - 7 pm

## Welcome to Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

Twenty miles of trails invite you into fields, forests, and wetlands where you can explore and connect with the natural world. Special routes and destinations abound at Moose Hill, each filled with wildlife observation opportunities and scenic views. The diversity of terrain and variety of habitats offer rich experiences in all seasons. Return often, at different times of the day and throughout the year, so that you can see signs of change and experience the seasonal cycles in New England.

## Mass Audubon Quests



There are Quests at these Mass Audubon sanctuaries. For more information, visit our website [www.massaudubon.org/Quests](http://www.massaudubon.org/Quests)

## About Questing

Questing was born out of a 150-year old tradition in the region surrounding Dartmoor National Park in southwest England. "Letterboxing," as this tradition is called, is a popular past time, with thousands of boxes hidden in both natural and cultural locations. Vital Communities, a regional non-profit organization based in Vermont, built on this tradition in the United States by developing the Valley Quest program. In the early 1990s, Vital Communities was concerned about the future of the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont, and was hoping to develop a program that would foster sense of place, strengthen relationships between schools and communities, and build bridges across the generations. The result was Valley Quest, with "Valley" referring to the place and "Quest" referring to a treasure hunt—made by children and adults working together—leading to the community's special places. Over time, the Valley Quest program has grown. More than 2,000 children, adults, families, scouts, students and historical society members have contributed to the creation of the 200+ Quests found in the Valley Quest books; and communities across the country are beginning to replicate Valley Quest's success.

Quest is a trade name of the Valley Quest program, and is used with permission. For more information, visit [www.valleyquest.org](http://www.valleyquest.org)



## Mass Audubon Quests

# Moose Hill Vernal Pool Quest

Sharon

Welcome to the Moose Hill Vernal Pool Quest.  
We're pleased to have you as our guest.  
Follow the clues to the Vernal Pool  
It's a habitat that is really cool.



This Quest is best done in spring, summer, or fall.  
This Quest was created by Tracey Costa and Patti Austin

# Vernal Pool Trail Quest

Verses marked by  indicate stops with a sign with an orange hole-punch attached. When you reach the sign, punch the backpage of this packet. When you collect all the punches, head back to the front desk for the final stamp and complete the Quest.

This Quest distance is under two miles and should take approximately 90 minutes.

Begin your quest at the start of the Vernal Pool Trail.

## Happy Questing!

 Down the stairs to the trail you go  
By a large tree that started long ago.  
A home stood here, can you see?  
The porch is visible, take a look and see.

**To find the Sign 1, turn back towards the stairs. It is hidden at the left base of the stairs on an Oak Tree.**

This trail has many interesting features,  
Rolling trails for its many creatures.  
Deer are sometimes seen on this path,  
But you must travel without any wrath.

Once you see the very large left-side puddle,  
You are at a site of a springtime muddle.  
This temporary wetland is a special place,  
A home for frogs, salamanders and snakes.

**Take a left at the T in the trail. About 50 steps from the trailmarker post, look left for a small path to the vernal pool's edge. To find SIGN 2, look just past the small path, on your left on an Oak Tree. Once you have gotten your paper punched, return to the path and continue in same direction.**

 The spring look for egg masses and more  
They look like slimy grapes in a mushy core.  
This habitat will dry and the animals will leave,  
It's the cycle of life, no tricks up this sleeve.

*Feeling tired? A short cut path will be on the right; it is marked by a trail sign. Follow it to the end and turn right. Skip to the clue starting with "A bridge will appear.." If you take the short cut you will miss Sign 3.*

Keep traveling along the Vernal Pool Trail.

After a while an open space will appear,  
Filled with plants battling for dominance so dear.  
Most are invasive and not native too,  
Buckthorn and bittersweet just to name a few.

**Continue along the trail and stay on the Vernal Pool Loop. Take a right at the "T" in the trail.**

 Head around the trail to the outermost site,  
Here are large rocks to climb to new heights.  
The boulders have spaces to crawl through  
and squeeze,  
Just dismantle any forts before you leave.

**To find Sign 3, take a left onto a small path to the rocks, a.k.a. the Boulders. At the beginning of the path on your left you will see Sign 3 on an evergreen tree. Take time to climb, explore, or find a place to rest.**

Continue on past another vernal pool,  
Depending on the season it could be dry or filled cool.  
Look to the right to stay on the Vernal Pool Loop,  
If you continue straight, you'll end up on the road and be duped.

The woods are filled with trees, shrubs,  
and rocks,  
Take time to listen and not have to talk.  
Use your five senses to experience the forest,  
Perhaps you will hear a bird-singing chorus.

**Pass by the other side of the Short Loop Trail and remain on the Vernal Pool Trail.**

A bridge will appear after a right turning trail,  
Go over this boardwalk and stay on the Vernal Pool Trail.  
Look for the colors and something to tout,  
We thank this passage done by a past Eagle Scout.

 The path will travel right under a log,  
Be sure to duck as to not smack your nog.  
Fallen dead trees and standing ones too,  
Give homes for creatures as they turn wood into goo.

**Before passing under the tree, follow it to the left and look at the Maple Tree near the upturned roots for Sign 4.**

Look for the path to turn back toward home,  
If you miss this left turn, you will continue to roam.  
Take another look at the pool from up high,  
And enjoy the view before saying good bye.

 Upon your return stop by the Center,  
A final stamp will complete your adventure.  
Thanks for hiking and exploring Moose Hill,  
Enjoying nature always fills the bill.

**Stop inside at the reception desk for the stamp.**



PUNCH 1	PUNCH 2	PUNCH 3	PUNCH 4
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To learn more about vernal pools, visit [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org).