

About Weeks Woods

Samuel Gillman, namesake of an early settler, farmed the slopes of "Meetinghouse Hill" in the 1850s. In those days, Gillford was a typical New England community of upland farms and valley mills. Between the two, Gillman's sloping pastures have now grown up to become Weeks Woods.

Sheep grazed here then, but in 1943 when John and Esther Weeks moved to Gunstock Hill, trees covered the hillside. The Weeks reclaimed some fields for their Guernsey herd. They found the site of Elder Martin's barn, from the days of the Upper Parish Meeting House, and the ruins of an old sugar house surrounded by venerable old maples.

The Weeks' family found both practical and aesthetic values in the Woods. The children delighted in a natural playground; you may still see their cabin by the brook. The Weeks' son Robert deeply loved the Woods and harvested timber here to construct his home. In 1988, John and Esther placed the Woods in the care of the Forest Society, in loving memory of their son.

As a Tree Farm, Weeks Woods continues to produce forest products. Family harvests in 1952 and 1962 were followed by Forest Society logging in 1989. One result are fine woods roads for walking, horseback-riding, and cross-country skiing. By following the red-blazed western boundary, you can make a 2-mile, "figure eight" circuit of the Woods.

Along the way, look for hemlock stands left by the loggers which provide winter shelter for deer. Beside the brook, you'll find jack in the pulpit in spring and wood aster in the fall. Yellow violets grow with trillium, starflowers, and trout lily, while several species of orchid find refuge in hidden places. Winter snows reveal the passage of fox, coyote, fisher, porcupine, raccoon, and deer.

A highlight of any visit is the view of the Belknap Mountain range from the crest of the old field on the west side of the property. Stand there at sunset, listen to an owl's hoot, and sense the passage of time in these changing woods.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is a non-profit membership organization founded in 1901. We promote land protection, education, environmental policy, and sustainable forest management on more than 98 properties around the state. For more information call, write or visit us at:

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• [HTTP://WWW.SPNHF.ORG](http://www.spnhf.org) •

Weeks Woods Trail Guide



**Society for the
Protection of
New Hampshire Forests**

WEEKS WOODS

This 85 acres of woodland
given to the
Society for the Protection of
New Hampshire Forests
in memory of

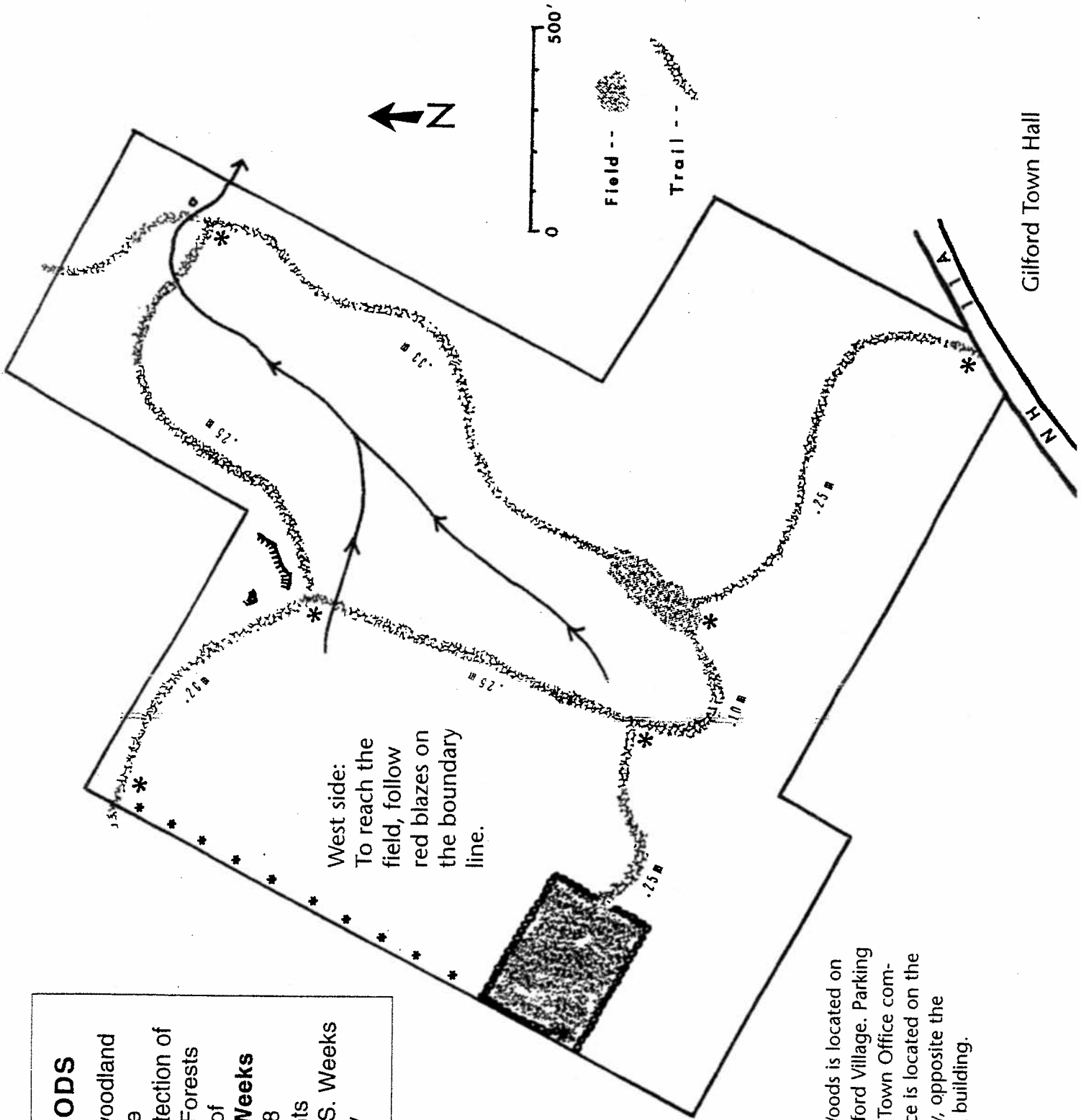
Robert Bruce Weeks

1934 - 1988

by his parents
John F. and Esther S. Weeks
and Family



West side:
To reach the
field, follow
red blazes on
the boundary
line.



Directions:
The entrance to Weeks Woods is located on
NH Route 11A east of Gilford Village. Parking
is available at the Gilford Town Office com-
plex, and the trail entrance is located on the
north side of the highway, opposite the
Public Works Department building.