

# TUCKER AND FRENCH FAMILY FOREST



## TRAIL GUIDE



### **Trailheads and Parking**

Tucker Road, Route 107  
and North Road, Kingston

**589 acres**

**5.1 miles of easy to moderate trails**



# SELT

## A Conservation Collaboration

Conservation of the Tucker and French Family Forest began in 2009 with the heirs of Moses Tucker. His three sons inherited the family land and initiated discussions with SELT about their conservation options. SELT also approached the French family who owned abutting parcels as a timberland investment.

With funding from the US Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetlands Reserve Program and other sources, both the 192-acre Tucker and 370-acre French properties were acquired by SELT in 2010. In 2012, Conrad Magnusson conserved the adjacent 27-acre tract, enlarging the conserved land to 589 acres in Kingston, Danville, and Brentwood.

The Tucker and French Family Forest features a diverse mix of upland forests, shrublands, and wetlands. Appalachian oak/pine forests of varying age dominate much of the dry areas. Early successional habitats include old gravel pits and young birch/aspen forests. Wetlands are extensive and vary from numerous beaver flowages to wooded swamps. The properties also include more than 2.5 miles of shoreline on the Little River.

In 2015, dozens of volunteers helped SELT complete an extensive trail improvement project on these properties. The Tucker and French Family Forest is owned by SELT subject to conservation restrictions held by the US Natural Resources Conservation Service.



The Tucker brothers Bill, George, and John (l to r), along with the French Family conserved the forestland and wetlands now owned by SELT.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELE PECKHAM

# Trail Descriptions

- **French South Trail** - From Rte. 107, this trail parallels the Little River through a mature oak/pine forest with views of the river and abutting wetlands and provides easy access to the Tucker Trail and Patten Island.
- **Patten Island Loop Trail** - This out-and-back trail winds its way to Patten Island with a great view overlooking the Little River. Hikers can see beaver dams, an esker, and the historic Bean Canal.
- **Tucker Trail** - Young dense forests and several wildlife openings edge the meandering Tucker Trail, which includes views of several beaver ponds.
- **Moses Way** - This short trail links the Tucker Trail and Mill Pond Loop through oak forests.
- **Driftway** - The Driftway leads visitors to the Joseph Young Foundation and John Page Boulder and was laid out in 1729 to provide access from North Road. Note the neatly arranged drill holes and slabs of unused granite that Page and earlier owners quarried from this impressive boulder.
- **Mill Pond Loop Trail** - This trail is an interesting loop around beaver flowages in the Little River and the French Mill Pond. There are great views of the river and ponds, two bridges, several wildlife openings and the historic French Mill site, a sawmill that operated here from the early 1700's until 1910.
- **French Connector**: This trail links the Spofford Mill Trail and the Tucker Trail and crosses right next to an active beaver dam. Watch for basking turtles, otter, great blue herons and lots more!
- **Spofford Mill Trail** - The Spofford Mill Trail at one time serviced the Spofford Mill, a steam powered sawmill on land owned by Osmond Spofford and leased to John Elkins around 1870. Carefully explore the ruins and imagine how the mill worked.
- **French North Trail** - Featuring a 220-ft. long raised boardwalk, this trail goes through an interesting wooded swamp with abundant black ash and black gum trees. Its northwesterly spur leaves the property.

# Enjoy the Trails!

The Tucker and French Family Forest is owned and managed by SELT and is open for public enjoyment. Please follow these visitation guidelines:

- Carry out what you carry in.
- Leave things where and as you find them – no cairns, rock art.
- Stay on marked trails, respect designated trail uses and prohibitions and use only designated trail head parking.
- Respect wildlife.
- Respect other users of the trails and our neighbors.
- Control your dog(s). Be aware where they may be required to be on leash or any areas they may not be allowed.
- Hunting is allowed on most SELT lands. Be aware of hunting season and wear blaze orange for your own safety.

The following uses are not permitted:

- Camping
- Fires
- Target Shooting
- Trapping
- Wheeled motorized vehicles

## About SELT

The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire is a membership-based, non-profit whose mission is to protect and sustain the significant lands in our communities for clean water, outdoor recreation, fresh food, wildlife, and healthy forests. **Join as a member or volunteer today!**



Learn more about this land!

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