



89 acres • 1.5 mile loop of moderate trails  
 3.2 miles from Route 156/  
 Deerfield Rd. intersection  
 Nottingham Road, Deerfield, NH

# Trailheads and Parking





# TRAIL GUIDE

# HOWARD SWAIN MEMORIAL FOREST

## Geology Meets Genealogy

The 89-acre Howard Swain Memorial Forest was donated to SELT in 2011 by Howard Swain’s widow Marguerite and their daughter Deborah Fexis. The property was family land that dates back to John and Sarah Churchill who lived nearby in the early 19th century.

Howard was an avid outdoorsman who loved Pawtuckaway State Park and always wanted to conserve his family land, which directly abuts the park and shares much of its unique geologic features. The southern boundary line runs along the top of Rocky Ridge, part of the circular “ring dike” formation which is evidence of a long extinct volcano.

The Swain Forest also includes the northern shore of Dead Pond, a large bog-like fen with floating mats of decomposed peat moss that support numerous bog plants, black spruce, and tamarack.



Howard’s Path ends at a bench quarried from granite on the property.

PHOTO CREDIT - PHIL AUGER



Howard Swain  
PHOTO CREDIT - DEB FEXIS

## Trail Descriptions

### ● Howard’s Path

This trail begins at the kiosk and follows logging trails in a meandering path out to Dead Pond. The beginning of this trail is a well-defined woods road. The trail widens out at a log landing which has been mowed periodically to maintain the opening for wildlife. From here the trail descends for a short distance, crosses a stone ford and then rises up sharply.

Large boulders and ledge outcrops now dot the landscape. At the top of this hill is the first intersection with the Quarry Trail. Listen for wood frogs and peepers in season as this portion of the Swain Forest has an unusually high incidence of vernal pools. At the next intersection with the Quarry Trail, bear left to stay on Howard’s Path and continue southwest toward Dead Pond.

The trail crosses two bog bridges and passes by a series of impressive boulders before emerging on a large outcrop at the edge of Dead Pond. Directly across the pond are great views of Rocky Ridge, North Peak and the ledges that include Devil’s Den.

### ● The Quarry Trail

This trail leaves Howard’s Path a short distance after crossing the stone ford. The first half of this trail follows the edge of a granite ridge line. Note there are very steep drop-offs and small cliffs along this section of trail. Use care during icy or wet conditions.

The trail begins with a great wildlife viewing spot above an active beaver flowage. Just after the pond overlook the trail ascends sharply and joins an ancient cart path on the edge of Churchill’s quarry, an old granite quarry.

From here the path continues northwest along the ridge top before turning west and connecting back to Howard’s Path. From here, one can return to the gate and parking by going straight, or to go out to Dead Pond by turning right.

The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire is a membership-based nonprofit 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!**

## About SELT

- Camping
- Fires
- Target Shooting
- Trapping
- Wheeled motorized vehicles
- Horseback riding
- Snowmobiles

The following uses are not permitted:

- 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 trailhead 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 Charles Rand Memorial Forest is owned and managed by SELT and is open for public enjoyment. Please follow these visitation guidelines:

## Enjoy the Trails!

Learn more about this land! Tap or scan here!



seltnh.org • 603-778-6088

COVER PHOTO CREDIT - JOSH LENT



## Howard Swain Memorial Forest

A vertical number line is shown, labeled "Feet" on the left. The line has three tick marks labeled 0, 250, and 500 from bottom to top.

October 2017    Map: [www.mirtoart.com](http://www.mirtoart.com)  
Source: Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire

