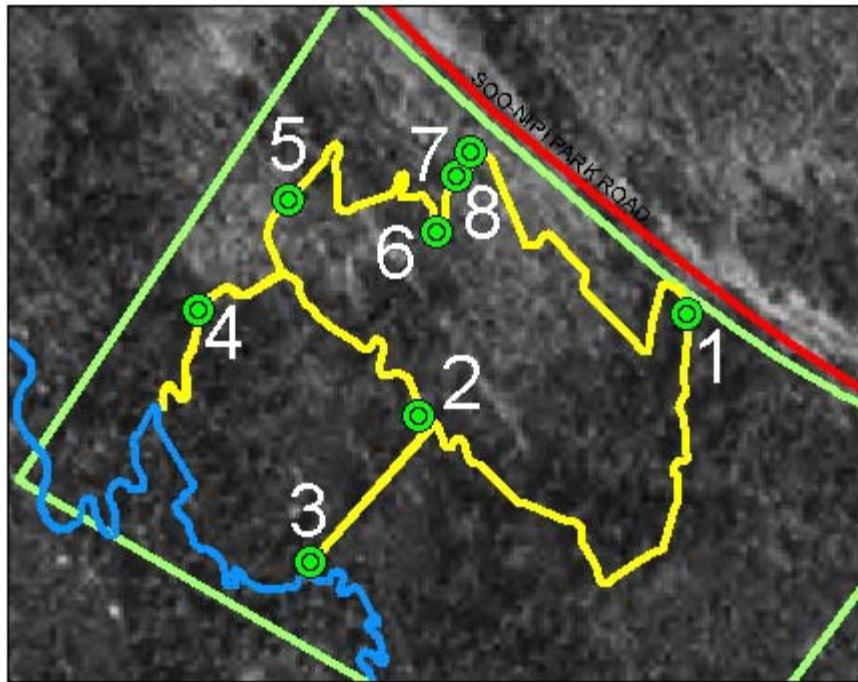


Molly-Charles Trail

William R. Cordingley Preserve

Molly– Charles Trail

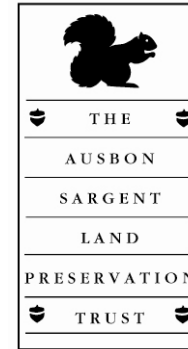
A gift to Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust
From the Robert D. Stevens & Nancy L. Stevens Family



0 200 400 800 Feet



Legend	
	Interpretive Trail Features
	King Hill Brook
	Soo Nipi Park Road
	Cordingley Preserve Boundary



The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust’s mission is to preserve and protect the rural character of the Mt. Kearsarge/ Lake Sunapee region for public benefit through:

Conservation agreements that protect the farms and fields, forests, streams and wetlands – the special undeveloped “open” spaces; **Stewardship** of our conserved land, now and forever; **Partnerships** with private individuals, local governments and like-minded organizations sharing our expertise and efforts protecting land; **Education** of the people of our communities about the importance to them of protecting our environment and its ecosystems through land conservation.

The Cordingley Preserve is owned and managed by the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust thanks to a generous donation from Robert Stevens. Please enjoy your time on the property.
For More information about ASLPT, contact us at:
71 Pleasant Street
New London, NH 03257
Phone: (603) 526-6555
www.ausbonsargent.org



After spending summers with his family at Soo Nipi Park Lodge, William R. Cordingley bought the adjacent land from Currier Farm in 1913, and Cordingley Preserve is that parcel of land. What was once pastureland is now a mature forest dominated by shade tolerant trees, like white and red pine. The preserve also contains a beautiful section of the King Hill Brook, the second largest tributary for Lake Sunapee.

In the words of Robert Stevens, “The Cordingley Preserve was established to protect wildlife, some of the watershed of King Hill Brook; and for our enjoyment and pleasure of future generations.”

The trail is named Molly in honor of Robert Stevens mother, who encouraged her children to “notice and appreciate the beauty of this forest.”

The Molly-Charles interpretive trail brochure was created by Stephanie A. Seavy, a student in the Institute of Community and Environmental Studies at Colby-Sawyer College, as a part of her internship for the ASLPT in the fall of 2006.



1. Big and tall trees

White Pines (*Pinus strobus*) can live 200-400 years and can reach heights of 80-110 feet, making them the largest coniferous trees in the Northeast. You will observe many of these stately trees during your walk along the trail.

2. Yellow Bellied Sap Sucker

These horizontal lines of tiny holes were made a small woodpecker probing for sap. Don't let its humorous name fool you. This bird is actually a keynote species (meaning it is very important to the well-being of the forest community) because the tiny holes it makes when searching for sap also benefit many other creatures.



5. Reading the Forest Floor

The Great Hurricane of 1938 toppled many trees along this section of the trail. When the live trees were blown over, each of their upending roots carried a lot of earth, creating a depression, or cradle. When the trees and root systems rotted, the earth was dropped as a pile or pillow, next to the cradle. This landscape feature is known as pillow-and-cradle topography. Since all the cradles around here are pointing to the northwest it is clear evidence of a hurricane.

3. King Hill Brook

Robert Stevens and his family realized it was important to protect this critical watershed, the second largest tributary to Lake Sunapee. In addition to being an important component to the watershed, this brook is also valued for its picturesque and peaceful qualities. Spend a few moments enjoying the sounds of the bubbling brook and watching the water flow by. Please remember to remain on the trail at all times.



4. Up on a rock

You may be wondering how and why this hemlock grew on top of a rock. This has occurred because the seed that started this tree germinated on a small bit of soil on top of the rock and began to grow. Since the rock could not provide the tree nutrients, the roots had to climb down to the ground to find sustenance.

6. Pileated Woodpecker

The oval cavities in this tree were chipped out by a pileated woodpecker in search of food. If you hear the familiar "drumming on the tree" noise that the woodpeckers make to mark their territory, be on the lookout for the pileated, the largest woodpecker in North America.



7. Glacial Erratic

This boulder is called a glacial erratic because it was carried from its original outcrop and deposited here by glacial ice. Doesn't it look like an over-sized toad?



8. Found Art

This living tree formation is unique to the Cordingley Preserve and one of the special features on the trail that invites you to ponder the magical creativity of nature. Doesn't it look like a sugar maple harp?