

## All walks start at the Loop Trail entrance at the Sprague Farm parking lot on Pine Orchard Road

**Short Walk** (0.5 miles / 25 minutes) – After few yards on the Loop Trail (white rectangle marker) bear right (northwest) into a field. Proceed across the field, through the stone wall, and onto a trail in the woods marked with purple rectangles. This trail ends in an area with large white pine trees, and a junction with trail marked with blue triangles. Turn left (south) and follow the blue triangle trail through pines and mountain laurel. The trail crosses a stone wall and rises through hemlocks, then descends into pines and laurel. The blue triangle trail crosses the Loop Trail near a vernal pool, but turn left (northeast) onto the Loop Trail (white rectangle marker) and return to the parking lot.

**Medium Walk** (1.1 miles / 1 hour) – Proceed southwest on the Loop Trail (white rectangle marker) for approx 10 minutes. Watch for and turn left onto trail marked with blue triangles. (If you stay on the Loop Trail and come to a small vernal pool on your right, then you went past the blue triangle trail.) Follow the blue triangle trail southeasterly, which descends and crosses a small impounded pond. Note the yellow dot trail on your right – you will return by this trail. Continue on the blue triangle trail which rises gently, goes over a ridge, and ends at a wide dirt lane. Turn right (south) onto this wide dirt lane marked with orange triangles. Follow the lane until you see on your right granite posts and iron pipe bars. This is the cemetery of the Sprague family which farmed this land in the 1800's. Just beyond the cemetery watch for, and turn right, off the lane and onto a trail marked with yellow dots. (If you remained on the orange triangle lane you would come to Joe Sweet Road.) The yellow dot trail passes by the cemetery and winds northwesterly through open woods and along a stream, and ends at the small impounded pond. Turn left (west) and follow the blue triangle trail, which rises and leads to the Loop Trail (white rectangle marker). Turn right (northeast) onto the Loop Trail and return to the parking lot.

**Long Walk** (2.5 miles / 2 hours or 2.0 miles / 1.5 hours) – Proceed southwest on the Loop Trail (white rectangle marker). After passing a blue triangle trail crossing, note the vernal pool on the right side of the Loop Trail. The Loop Trail will follow the boundary line with Moonraker Farm, which is to the left. The trail crosses a fieldstone bridge which is the southern end of a White Cedar swamp. The trail winds and rises sharply and then continues westerly along a boundary line with Moonraker Farm until a small vernal pool on the left is seen. Shortly beyond this point you come to a trail junction with an orange dot trail on the right. Don't take this trail. This is the northern branch of the Loop Trail, and you will return by this trail. Bear left, continuing on the white rectangle Loop Trail. Note on your right the George Sprague house foundation, and on your left are foundations of barns and paddock walls. The trail turns southwesterly and crosses over a fieldstone culvert over an intermittent stream. Just beyond the culvert and along the trail is a stand of Striped Maples, a tree that is rarely found in Rhode Island. Continuing on the trail you will pass by a pair of stone lined cellar holes. The trail turns northwesterly and passes over an area that can be wet or muddy due to a damaged culvert. The trail then weaves through a series of stone walls which extends for hundreds of yards through the woods. These walls form a series of large and small pastures or paddocks, and at one time held livestock of the Sprague family. As you walk, note the trail erosion and banking caused by illegal use of this property by dirt bikers and ATV's. The trail descends and crosses the largest stone bridge on Sprague Farm. The stream flows northeasterly and feeds the White Cedar swamp. Shortly beyond the bridge, the trail comes to a major intersection at the house foundation of Sarah Sprague and another stand of Striped Maple trees. This is the halfway point of the walk.

The trail running right and left, and marked in yellow rectangles, is Haystack Hill Trail. If you were to turn left (south), this would lead you to Elbow Rock Trail, but don't go this way. Turn right (north) and follow the yellow rectangle trail.

*If you want to do a slightly shorter walk take the following shortcut: on the north side of the house foundation is a blue dot trail that crosses Haystack Hill Trail. Turn right on this blue dot trail (towards the house foundation). The blue dot trail will go to a scenic ridge, descend and end at the orange dot Loop Trail – northern branch. Bear right and follow from (A) below.*

Haystack Hill Trail (yellow rectangle) soon descends and heads northeasterly. Watch for an arrow sign, and take the orange dot trail that will be on your right (south). The orange dot trail is the northern branch of the Loop Trail. It will be a sharp right turn and the trail heads southwesterly. At the junction with the blue dot shortcut trail (A), the orange dot Loop Trail turns easterly. The trail passes over a stream that flows into the White Cedar swamp. There once was a field stone or wood bridge over this stream, but it probably collapsed during a spring freshet or flood. The trail will continue easterly, then south, and then easterly again until it ends at the George Sprague house foundation. Bear left (east) onto the white rectangle Loop Trail and follow it to the parking lot at Pine Orchard Road.