

6K and 12K LITCHFIELD TRAIL DIRECTIONS

2019 Walk (#2408)

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club

Pre-amble:

Walk Time: Dawn to dusk

Directions: FROM THE EAST: a) Take I-84W to Exit 39 to Rt. 4W to Rt. 118W to Rt. 202 at the Litchfield green. b) Continue on Rt. 202W for approx. 2 miles, until you see the sign for the White Memorial on your left. Turn left here and then take an immediate right for 0.5 miles on White Hall Rd., which brings you to the Museum. FROM THE SOUTH: Take Rt. 8N to Exit 42 to Rt. 118W to Rt. 202 at the Litchfield green. See b) above.

NOTE: Be careful about relying on GPS coordinates (41.7210oN, 73.217oW) for the Museum, since these may lead you elsewhere. If your travel app takes you up Whites Woods Rd. from the south, you cannot access Whitehall Rd. directly. You must turn left onto Bissell Rd. first and then take either your first or second left onto Whitehall Rd. to reach the Museum and parking area.

Parking: White Memorial Conservation Center Museum parking lot. 80 Whitehall Rd., Litchfield, CT. Museum Hours: Mon-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Sun. 12-5 pm. Tel. 860-567-0857

Restrooms: Latrine is located adjacent to the trail, just after walkers leave the parking lot and pass the White Memorial Conservation Center Museum on right. Museum prefers hikers to not use its lower level indoor facilities.

Water is not available on the White Memorial grounds, but there are ample places on West St. (on Green in Litchfield town center) for water, as well as restrooms.

AVA Special Programs: Little Free Libraries, Walk the USA: A-Z.

FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, CALL 911. LOCAL CLUB POINT OF CONTACT: Carol West, 860-721-1185. AVA REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Chris Mellen, 978-649-7633.

DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
BOTH 6K and 12K WALKERS: Start Point at White Memorial Conservation Center Museum, 80 Whitehall Rd.	
1. LOOP #1-Part A (4.2K/2.6 mi. total for both A and B parts of LOOP #1): Follow the gravel road east up from the parking area up to the White Memorial Conservation Center (WMCC) Museum on your right. Continue straight, down the same gravel road.	Behind the Museum are two cages with rescued birds, a barred owl and red-tailed hawk
2. Turn left onto a dirt road, just before you reach a gated entrance blocked by two yellow posts and flanked by two large cement and stone posts. This road follows a bend in the Bantam River and leads to Bissell Rd.	
3. Cross Bissell Rd. (paved) and continue straight on a wooded path. In a minute, take the small trail on the right (black square on white square background). When you see a tree with two stacked blazes, continue straight across the trail. In a few hundred feet, cross a paved road (Whites Woods Rd.). You'll see a map/information sign and wooden barricade on the Little Pond Trail (black on white blaze). Follow this trail, which leads to the Ralph T. Wadhams Memorial Boardwalk that goes around Little Pond.	
4. At the "T", turn right to follow the boardwalk counter-clockwise around Little Pond. You'll soon be crossing over the Bantam River on the Frances Howe Sutton bridge.	As you go over the bridge, you may see paddlers or interesting wildlife in the river or marshland (e.g., swans, blue herons, mallard ducks).

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5. At the far side of the pond, you'll come to an intersection in the boardwalk on the right, which will lead out of the WMCC's property.	
6K WALKERS: Go to Step #18 to complete Part B of Loop #1 around Little Pond and return to Start Point.	
6. LOOP #2 (6.3K/3.9 mi.): At this intersection, turn right on a boardwalk, which leads along Tanner Brook out of the WMCC property to South Lake St. Note an information sign and three boulders. Take the gravel road to a paved road with a gate, at Gallows Lane.	
7. Turn right onto Gallows Lane. Now starts the only steep part of the trail, up Gallows Lane to Old South Road.	
8. Bear left on Old South Road, which quickly joins South St. Stay on the left side of the street. CHECKPOINT #1: What is the date of the famous Tapping Reeve House and Law School on the left, the country's first law school?	Almost 1,000 students attended the school through 1833, including two vice presidents (Aaron Burr, 1774, under Thomas Jefferson and John C. Calhoun, 1805, under John Quincy Adams), 101 U.S. congressmen, 28 U.S. senators, 6 cabinet members, 3 U.S. Supreme Court justices, 14 governors (Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 1778, and Roger Sherman Baldwin, 1812 of Connecticut), and 13 chief justices of state supreme courts, along with many state and local political office holders, and corporate, mercantile, industrial, financial, and educational leaders.
9. Continue walking north to the Litchfield green. At the crosswalk, cross over to the green and walk toward the large white First Congregational Church (1829).	Litchfield Historical Society (Noyes Memorial Building, 1901) is on the corner and can be toured afternoons.
10. Cross Rt. 118 carefully and walk to the left (west), noting the 18 th C. buildings on your right.	<i>Timothy Skinner House</i> (1785), Congregational Church parsonage. Note hewn overhangs at the second and attic levels, and building technique harking back to medieval Europe (when taxes were based on ground floor square footage). <i>Apothecary Shop</i> (1760), originally located on North St. as an apothecary for Dr. Reuben Smith (later was a grocery shop). It is the oldest commercial building still standing in town. <i>John Collins House</i> (1782), located on the 15-acre plot of land originally set aside for Timothy Collins, first minister of the Congregational Church
11. At the light, turn right onto North St./Rt. 63N).	<i>Julius Deming House</i> (1790-93) at 50 North St.
12. When Rt. 63 curves away to the left, cross the street at the grassy triangle at Norfolk Rd. Be careful – no crosswalk. Retrace your steps back to the green.	At Prospect St., note the homesite of Lyman Beecher on the right, birthplace of abolitionist writer Harriet Beecher Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> . <i>Pierce Academy</i> (1830), first academy for girls in the country, 221 North St. <i>Thomas Painter house</i> , 211 North St.

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13. At the green, cross Rt. 118 and continue straight across the green, past the information booth to West St. Turn right (west), passing Ollie's Pizza and Village Restaurant on your left..	On the corner is a rest home, formerly the Litchfield County Jail. Across green on West St.: Litchfield County Courthouse (1889).
14. Turn left on Meadow St. (sidewalk on left) at DiFrancos. The sidewalk ends at Wolcott St. Continue walking to the end of Meadow St., where it joins Gallows Lane (there's no sign).	
15. Turn right on Gallows Lane and proceed down the hill.	
16. Take a left on South Lake St. back to the entrance into the WMCC.	
17. Follow the boardwalk back to the pond and turn right, continuing Part B of the loop you began around Little Pond. (The 6K walkers continued here, instead of taking the LOOP #2 route into town.)	
18. LOOP #1-Part B: Continue on the boardwalk. At the first break in the boardwalk, continue straight on bl/white blazed trail. The boardwalk is interrupted a couple more times – keep straight. The path turns gravelly under the power lines. In the distance to the left, you'll see the Sutton Bridge you crossed over earlier.	
19. Watch carefully for a wide path on your right. There will be a tree ahead of you with white arrows and trail blaze. Turn right here, past the boulder, and continue back to White Woods Rd., following blazes.	
20. At Whites Woods Rd., turn left, then right onto Bissell Rd., then a quick left, retracing your steps along the Bantam River.	
21. At the end, turn right and return to the WMCC Museum parking lot.	
22. LOOP #3 (1.6K/1 mi.): Continue past the parking lot and take the trail to the left of the Carriage House. At the fork, you'll see a barricade. Take the path to the right and at the next fork, bear left, down to the observation platform on the shore of Bantam Lake, the largest natural lake in the state.	<p>The WMCC owns nearly 60 percent of the property bordering Bantam Lake.</p> <p>Note the ruins of the ice cutting operations (1908-1929), which included one of the largest ice block storage facilities in southern New England, and railroad service for distributing the ice to distant cities.</p>
23. Retrace your steps back to the Carriage House and parking lot.	Hope you enjoyed this walk today!

