



1 Notice the stone wall weaving along the slope through the woods. This extends the whole length of the hill and beyond to the neighboring conservation areas. The lichen-covered stones that make up the stone wall were placed there by farmers hundreds of years ago. Sudbury used to have numerous open fields where crops grew and sheep grazed. Among other reasons, farmers constructed stone walls to define their property and to prevent their sheep from escaping. Although most fields have long since become populated by trees, stone walls still remain scattered throughout Sudbury.

2 The tree seen here is an old poplar which has become diseased over time. Poplars often grow in wetlands and trunks can grow to 2.5 meters in diameter. Young poplars typically have smooth white or dark gray bark with prominent horizontal dashed lines called lenticels. In this specimen, the bark has become deeply fissured and rough. The lumpy nodes may have formed from a fungus which invaded the tree from an injury or insect. Poplars usually need a lot of light to grow, and this tree may have been alone when it was young, and could grow quickly without competing for light. Poplar trees take root in abandoned fields where they do not have to compete for light with other trees. They can't survive when they compete with other trees in mature forests. Poplars are food plants for the larvae of a large number of moths and butterflies.

3 As you look to the southwest, you will see an open field and Goodman Hill behind it. The field is part of Fairbanks Farm on Old Sudbury Road (Route 27). The farm is about 2 miles away as the crow flies. Next look to the south, and you will see a golf course that is part of the Wayland Country Club. The country club is about 1.5 miles away, and is probably not visible in the summer. In the winter you can see both areas because there are no leaves obscuring your view. During the fall, the view is pretty with the fall colors of red, yellow and green all around you.

4 The small field you are standing in, near the top of Round Hill, is kept open by annual mowing. Notice



how the species of plants differ from those that cover the nearby forest floor. This area was once a farming field before it was purchased by SVT. Deer and dog ticks are especially common in spots like this. Deer ticks are miniscule; sometimes they are no bigger than a pin head. Some deer ticks carry diseases such as Lyme and babesia, so precautions should be taken to prevent tick bites. Long pants and socks can be worn to protect one's skin; wearing light colored clothing and tucking pants into socks helps as well.

5 The European Buckthorn, also known as Glossy Buckthorn, is a troublesome, invasive and non-native species. It was first introduced into the US from Europe as an ornamental shrub in the mid-1800's. The bark is gray and speckled. The fruits, similar in structure to a cherry but containing more than one seed, are very dark colored and prolific. Accompanying the fruit is an oval shaped leaf typically dark green and glossy. The shrub can reach 30 feet in height, growing rapidly and spreading quickly due to abundant seed production. Birds eat the fruit and spread the seeds. The new seedlings grow easily even in shade and especially in disturbed areas. This produces dense brush that shades and displaces native tree seedlings and shrubs. It is very difficult to eradicate European Buckthorn; a combination of chemical and mechanical control is generally most effective.

6 White pines dominate these woods. White pines have five 3-5" needles per bundle. The trees' cones are 5-8" in length. The bark on young trees is steely gray and mostly smooth. As trees mature, the bark gradually becomes deeply ridged. Many of the trees in this area have fallen over as a result of their age and strong winds. Downed trees are beneficial as wildlife habitat. They provide shelter for small mammals that make homes in crevices and holes in the trunk. Salamanders thrive in the moist habitats between logs and the ground. Insects such as termites and carpenter ants bore through the trunk making long tunnels and colonies. Some insects also obtain nutrients from the tree material, which facilitates decomposition. Once decomposed, the remains enrich the soil with nutrients.




Illustration by Joyce Dwyer

SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES

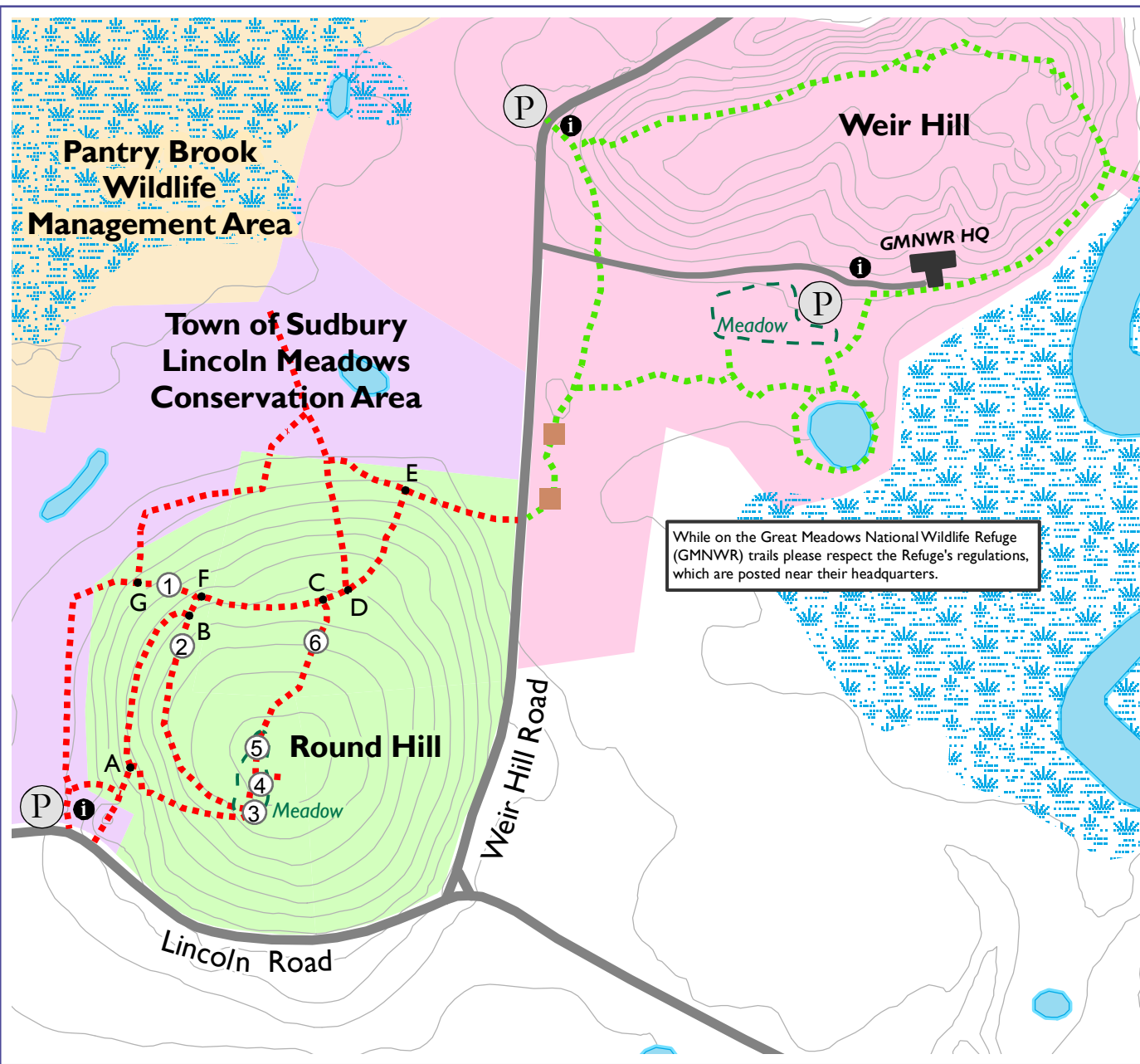
Round Hill

Interpretive Trail



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18 Wolbach Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-443-5588
www.svtweb.org



Round Hill Reservation Sudbury, MA



Round Hill Reservation Interpretive Trail, Sudbury, MA

In June of 2009, Kevin Ravesi of Boy Scout Troop 60 created this interpretive trail brochure for the use of the public. The brochure correlates to six points of interest marked on the trail by three foot tall wooden posts. This project was funded by neighbors and relatives of the Ravesi family as a contribution to SVT and to the people of Sudbury. Kevin's thanks go out to the parents and Scouts who dedicated their time to help him with his Eagle Scout Project.

Round Hill, 24 acres of open fields and woodland trails, was purchased in 1964 by SVT. The hill was completely open except for a few scattered trees around the top. Dense forest now covers much of the hill, leaving a wonderful open field at the top. A circular trail leads through the woods opening up to the field at the top of the hill. The trail takes you into a white pine forest where the trees do not have any low branches, which creates a very open ambiance. It takes about 45 minutes to walk the entire trail.

Directions: From Sudbury Center (intersection of Route 27, or Old Sudbury Road, and Concord Road) go north on Concord Road 1.0 mi to Lincoln Road (Lincoln-Sudbury High School) and turn right. Go 1.1 mi on Lincoln Road and park on the left at Lincoln Meadow Conservation Area. From the parking lot the trails can be accessed through Lincoln Meadow Conservation Area, near the kiosk, or by walking approximately 100 feet up Lincoln Road and taking a left at the SVT reservation sign.