

Conservation Photos



Spring 2008

Celebrating Pepperell's Natural Heritage

**Lawrence Library, Pepperell MA
26 April - 30 May 2008**

Pepperell has over 2300 acres of permanently protected land spread across a range of habitats, which support a wide variety of wildlife and plants. This exhibit attempts to capture just some of Pepperell's tremendous natural features, especially the town's conservation parcels. The images were captured during 2006/2007 mainly at these properties:

Keyes Conservation: This 50-acre area property includes woodlands and open fields, a pond, frontage on Sucker Brook, and a vernal pool. Spring is a fantastic time for bird migrants, but winter is equally rewarding for its excellent tracking opportunities. Wildlife abounds here, including deer, fox, minks, brook trout, and many birds such as bobolinks, grossbeaks, herons, kestrels, and hawks

Nissitissit Meadows: This 63 acres of rolling agricultural fields, ponds, and forested wetlands is home to a variety of wildlife, notably the bobolinks that arrive to the managed hay field every summer and fill the air with their unique mating flights and calls..

Pepperell Springs: This 265 acre property was formerly a spring water source for a beverage company named Pepperell Springs, later owned

and operated under the name Belmont Springs. While no longer an active bottled water spring, the land overlies part of an aquifer that supplies drinking water for the Town of Pepperell. The land



boasts a spectacular ravine against which the haunting sounds of the wood thrush echoes each summer.

West Side Trail: This short but beautiful trail along the Nashua River and adjacent ponds is teeming with wetland species such as pickerel weed, plus its protected waters offers excellent feeding for a variety of ducks, as well as green and blue herons.

For more information about Pepperell's protected lands, including directions, visit <http://www.town.pepperell.ma.us/index.html>

None of Pepperell's conservation lands would be here for all to enjoy without the people who made it possible: families who donated the parcels, like the Keyes and Stromstead families; the groups that were formed to protect open spaces, such as the Nashoba Conservation Trust and the Nissitissit River Land Trust; the Town of Pepperell which owns and maintains many of the properties; and the citizens of Pepperell who stepped up, when necessary, to fund the purchase of key parcels such as Pepperell Springs and the new Keyes Family Farm. In many ways this exhibit is a tribute to the generosity and dedication of these far-sighted individuals.

With my photography I hope to make a connection between you and the subject that endures beyond the confines of the gallery. Perhaps the images you see here today will inspire you to get out and enjoy your own town's conservation lands; to think about the importance of such land to your community's overall well-being; and to ask what you can do to preserve and protect even more.

If you have an interest in any of these photos, or would like to view the entire collection, please visit us at www.conservationphotos.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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