



YELLOW TRAIL 1994

THIS TRAIL STARTS AT THE BIG WHITE PINE ACROSS FROM TAMARACK. IT IS MARKED WITH YELLOW MARKERS, SOME OF WHICH ARE NUMBERED AT INTEREST POINTS (I.P.). HAVE FUN AS YOU STROLL THE TRAIL, BUT WATCH FOR THE POISON IVY!!

I.P. #1

(a) This is a **WHITE PINE** – The needles are 2-3 inches long, in bunches of five, the bark on old trees is dark grey and rough. The wood is one of the most valuable soft woods in Canada, originally it was cut for use as ships' masts.

(b) Behind the **WHITE PINE** is an **APPLE TREE** with **DOGWOOD BUSHES** on either side. Look in parking lot direction for #2.

I.P. #2

(a) The prickly bushes growing at the base of the pole are **WILD RASPBERRY**.

(b) The vines also growing around the pole are **VIRGINIA CREEPER**. Notice that it has five leaves to a stalk. Look at it very carefully, because later along the trail, you will see another plant (**POISON IVY**) which resembles **VIRGINIA CREEPER** but it only has three leaves.

(c) Behind the pole in the very early spring you can see **PUSSY WILLOWS**.

I.P. #3

(a) Most trees in this grove are **RED PINE** planted in 1939. Notice that the bark is slightly pink and the needles are long and feathery. If you can find a spray of needles on the ground, you will notice that there are 2 needles in a bunch.

(b) Walk a short distance into the grove. Some of these plants are **LADY SLIPPERS / MOCCASIN FLOWER** which have pink flowers in late May and early June. The white flowers are **WILD LILY OF THE VALLEY / CANADA MAYFLOWER**.

GO TOWARDS THE CAMP ENTRANCE, LOOKING FOR A YELLOW ARROW ON THE LEFT. KEEP TO THE RIGHT ALONG THE FENCE AND FOLLOW THE MARKERS. WATCH FOR POISON IVY.

I.P. #4

Can you find the trees connected by a vine. Notice the large fallen tree across the stream. What do you think has caused this? How many different types of **FUNGUS** can you find in this area?

I.P. #5

(a) Look at the vine at the base of this tree, follow it and see where it goes. Many of the bushes in this area are **HONEYSUCKLE**.

(b) Notice the depression in the ground on the right. It is caused by a large tree that fell and rotted away. In its place you can see a **SPRUCE TREE**.

TAKE A REST AT THE BRIDGE OVER THE MEANDERING CREEK. WHY DOES THE CREEK TURN SO? LOOK AT THE CEDAR ON THE BANK – WHY ARE ITS ROOTS EXPOSED? CAUTION – POISON IVY AHEAD!!!

I.P. #6

Look at these **BIRCH TREES**. The one with the marker is a **YELLOW BIRCH**. What are the other two? How many more **YELLOW BIRCHES** can you see in this area and on your way to the next number?

I.P. #7

(a) Look behind this tree at the one that is bent down to the ground. Notice that it has two "KNEES" — the first one is a natural bend, probably caused by snow weighing down the tree when it was young; the second "knee" is not a natural one because it has breaks on it that may have been caused by someone pulling on it until it snapped.

CAUTION — DO NOT GO TOO CLOSE TO CREEK EMBANKMENT.

See how the bank is eroding. What do you think is causing this? Look at the bare tree roots along the creek embankment. How many times have you crossed this creek?

I.P. #9

The large patch of evergreen shrubs on the left is **JUNIPER**. Feel how prickly it is. Can you find any **BERRIES**? Some birds build their nests in it and some small animals have burrows under it because the prickliness protects them from other larger animals.

I.P. #10

This is a **WHITE BIRCH**. Isn't it a pity that someone spoiled some of it by stripping the bark. **WE ARE SURE IT WAS NOT DONE BY A WOOLSEY CAMPER**. Look at all the small holes in the bark of the nearby tree.

I.P. #11

Look at the ground all around you. There are many kinds of **MOSS** on the logs and on the ground. Also notice the lovely **FERNS** – these are called **LADY FERNS**.

I.P. #12

(a) Notice the holes in this tree. The large **OVAL** ones have been made by a **PILEATED WOODPECKER**. How many more trees in this area have attracted woodpeckers, what kind and why?

(b) Look to the right at the big tree curving up from the damp spot. This is a **YELLOW BIRCH** but a much older one.

I.P. #13

This is a **BALSAM FIR** identifiable by its smooth flat needles. The tree immediately below it is a **CEDAR**. On your left, you will see some tall **OSTRICH FERNS**. In the spring, when they are just emerging from the ground, they are curled like the top of a violin and are called "**FIDDLEHEADS**". Many people like to cook and eat them.

I.P. #14

Many of the trees around this spot are **WILLOWS**. Notice their interesting shapes! All around you at this point wood is scattered. This is the high water mark in the spring.

TURN AROUND AT THIS POINT AND GO UP THE OLD STEPS TOWARDS HIDDEN.

I.P. #15

Can you guess the age of this old tree – Count the rings on one of its many arms. Look at the moss at the base of the tree.

I.P. #16

Here we have the meeting of an old softwood forest being replaced by a new hardwood one. Notice all the young **MAPLES** in front of the old **PINE**. Where is the old Pine?

I.P. #17

Listen very quietly. Can you hear the trees tremble in this wood. These are **TREMBLING ASPEN**. On the ground you can see lots of wild flowers including **TRILLIUM** and **TROUT LILY**. Birds love to nest in this area. You may see some if you are very quiet.

I.P. #18

Look for the three types of **PINE** that have identification plaques. How do they differ?

I.P. #19

Look on the ground around these **WHITE BIRCH TREES**. Can you see those straight jointed rushes? Please do not pick them, but feel the stems. They are quite rough – almost like sandpaper. Because of this, the early settlers used them to scour pots and pans. One of the names they are known as is "**SCOURING RUSH**".

I.P. #20

Look at the bushes to your left. These are **WILD HAZELNUT** – if you are lucky you may see some of the nuts forming.

**GO FORTH, UNDER THE OPEN SKY,
AND LISTEN TO NATURE'S TEACHINGS**