



Hothole Pond Trail wetland created by beaver dams.

AISLINN SARNACKI | BDN

1-Minute Hike: Hothole Pond

Difficulty: Easy-moderate. The hike is about 4.5 miles, out and back, and the majority of the walk is on wide, gravel multi-use roads that are used by horseback riders, bicyclists and walkers. At the far end of the hike, the road turns into a narrow footpath as it nears the shore of Hothole Pond. This section of the walk is a bit more rugged, with plenty of exposed tree roots and rocks.

How to get there: From Route 1 in Orland, turn onto Upper Falls Road and drive 1.7 miles and turn right onto Mast Hill Road. Drive 2.2 miles and turn right onto Bald Mountain Road. Drive 2.9 miles and the North Gate to Great Pond Mountain Wildlands Hothole Valley Parcel will be on your right, with a small gravel parking area just beyond it. The hike starts at the gate, which remains closed to vehicle traffic year-round.

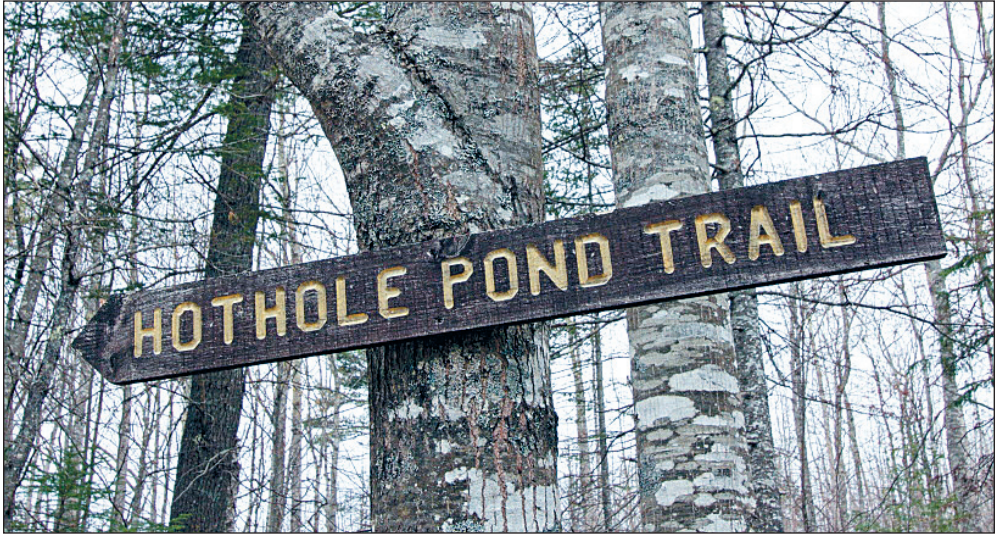
Information: Hothole Pond Trail is one of the many public trails located in the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands, 4,500 acres of conserved forestland in East Orland.

Leading to the scenic Hothole Pond, Hothole Pond Trail is 1.2 miles long and much of it is a wide, gravel multiuse trail. However, the closest parking area to this trail is at the Wildland's North Gate. From there, you must hike in 1 mile on a section of the gravel Valley Road that is closed to vehicles. Therefore, out and back, hiking to Hothole Pond is about 4.5 miles.

Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust acquired most of the Wildlands in June 2005, adding another 200 acres in 2012-13. Managed for low-impact recreation and



AISLINN SARNACKI



Watch the video
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wildlife habitat, the conserved land is a popular place for hiking, mountain biking, paddling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and horseback riding.

The Wildlands is in two separate pieces: the 1,075-acre Dead River Parcel and the 3,420-acre Hothole Valley Parcel.

The Dead River Section includes the western and southern slopes of Great Pond Mountain, a popular hiking destination, as well as 2 miles of shoreline on the Dead River, the northern arm of Alamosook Lake.

The Hothole Valley Parcel is considerably larger and includes the wooded valley between the peaks of Great Pond Mountain, Oak Hill, Flag Hill, Flying Moose Mountain, Hothole Mountain, Condon Hill and Hedgehog Hill. The valley is bisected by Hothole Brook, which

winds north 3 miles through swamps and beaver meadows to empty into Hothole Pond.

The many mountains, hills, wetlands and other bodies of water in the Hothole Valley Parcel can be explored by a number of blazed footpaths and 14 miles of gravel roads, some of which are open to vehicle traffic on summer and fall weekends or snowmobiles in the winter. All of the gravel roads are open year-round to horses, bicycles and foot traffic, and the narrow hiking trails are only open to foot traffic.

Dogs are permitted on leash on all but a couple trails in the Wildlands — the Hothole Brook Trail and the Great Meadow Trail, which are especially abundant in porcupines.

For more information, visit greatpond-trust.org or call Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust at 469-6929.

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Allagash ‘expose’ gives poachers too much slack

On Sunday, the Maine Sunday Telegram published a long, seemingly in-depth series of stories that, according to the paper, documents a “controversial sting” operation that took the Maine Warden Service two years to complete, and which, writer Colin Woodard asserts, resulted in “surprisingly scant results.”

The target of that sting was a group of Allagash residents who came to the warden service’s attention, after public complaints to wardens, according to the Maine Warden Service.

In a package of four stories, Woodard weaves a tale that hints at unethical or potentially illegal actions by undercover warden Bill Livezey, who infiltrated the group. The newspaper also suggests that the presence of a “North Woods Law” TV crew may have prompted the warden service to act differently than it otherwise would have “perhaps to make a splash for a reality TV show.”

The package, which appeared under the headline “North Woods Lawless,” was certainly an attention-getter.

It also, I’d assert, relied too much on the accounts of those who were ultimately convicted, along with their relatives and friends.

Most troubling, perhaps, was the fact that the story downplays the results of the undercover investigation, and that a powerful Maine politician who represents Allagash, Rep. John Martin, is among those who suggest that too much money was spent to achieve those results that Woodard calls “scant,” for offenses that he sometimes refers to as “minor.”

Here, according to the Maine Warden Service’s rebuttal letter, is what “scant” looks like now-days.

The undercover operation resulted in the convictions of 17 people, according to the Maine Warden Service. Those individuals were convicted of 75 crimes, and paid \$39,000 in fines, and spent nearly 180 days in jail. Also of note: The crimes were serious enough to result in a total of 80 years worth of license revocations. At least one defendant appealed the Maine’s highest court. The court affirmed his convictions.

Among those crimes: Night hunting (nine counts, for one individual), hunting under the influence, hunting during closed sea-

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JOHN HOLYOKE

11-year-old bags 2 turkeys with 1 shot

BY JOHN HOLYOKE
BDN STAFF

NEWBURGH — Carson Lord began hunting last year, and it didn’t take long for him to figure out that sometimes luck just isn’t on your side.

“I shot a deer [last fall],” his mother, Heather Lord, said. “But he wasn’t with me. He was with my husband at that moment.”

On Youth Turkey Day, held April 30, 11-year-old Carson again teamed up with his dad, Greg Lord, as well as family friend Chris Labonte, who is a registered Maine Guide. And the result was quite stunning: Carson finished the day with not one wild turkey to his credit but two.

And he bagged both birds with just one shot.

How? We have to start at the beginning.

Labonte, who owns Tri-County Outfitters in Winterport, had issued an invitation to Cason and his dad, and after an early wakeup call, the Lords joined him in Hampden at 4 a.m. It didn’t take long before the woods came alive.

“At about 4:30, [turkeys] started to gobble,” Greg Lord said. “And they gobbled, and they’re a-clucking, and they’re

a-purring, and they’re a-gobbling. There was a whole bunch of racket.”

About 45 minutes later, the first turkey showed up. And a second. And a lot more than that. And the males were all strutting around, trying to attract the attention of the females.

“[Carson] had never seen one up close, big and puffy,” Greg Lord said.

As a group of eight or nine turkeys approached their ground blind, the Lords thought they might be in luck. Then the birds detoured, never giving Carson a shot, and visited with a group of decoys Labonte had set up behind them.

The decoys were viewed as rivals and were not treated kindly.

“Chris kicks himself now for not having his camera with him,” Greg Lord said. “[The large tom] was not happy. He just beat the tar out of the decoy. And finally, about 10 minutes after that, he started pushing his flock back up the hill.”

And Carson was ready.

After the tom got within shooting distance, Greg Lord told Carson to take aim at the bird’s head and fire when ready. At the last moment, a jake, or younger male bird,



HEATHER LORD

Carson Lord, 11, of Newburgh, shows off the two wild turkeys he took with one shot on Youth Turkey Day.

stepped behind the tom.

“After I pulled the trigger, I saw that there were two birds on the ground,” Carson said. “I was surprised that I got two of them at once.”

Shooting two male birds is perfectly legal. Maine hunters are allowed to harvest two bearded, typically male, birds during the spring season, which stretches through the month of May. Each year several hunters achieve this feat, but in most cases only one tur-

key is taken with a single shot.

“He was excited,” Greg Lord said. “He’s been bird hunting with us and missed a couple of partridge last year, and he’s been deer hunting and hasn’t seen anything.”

Carson said that even though he’s been hunting for just two years, he’s already got a favorite season. He said listening to the turkeys answer the calls of Labonte added an element of excitement.

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How a reporter unraveled the tale of a missing hiker

Editor’s Note: When Christopher Burns approached me with the idea for Vanished: The Untold, Unsolved Case of Jessie Hoover, I was intrigued. The more than 30-year-old missing hiker case had so many unanswered — and perhaps unasked — questions. Moreover, Burns had already done a lot of legwork to find out what was known.

Over the course of the next few months, he impressed me again and again as he went after leads, chased down information and eventually pulled together a touching but sad story about Hoover and the family she left behind.

But there was a second story I wanted him to tell, too: The story of how he began with a name and unraveled the whole tale. Thanks for reading. — Sarah Walker Caron

BY CHRISTOPHER BURNS
BDN STAFF

At any given time, there are nearly 85,000 people reported missing in the United States, most of whom are found safe or turn up on their own within a couple days. But every so often some are never seen again. And some of their stories are never told.

One of those people was Jessie Albertain Hoover. In May 1983, Hoover came to Maine from her home in White Settlement, Texas, for the adventure of a lifetime — to hike the 2,180-mile Appalachian Trail. But she never made it to the trail’s southern terminus in Georgia. Somewhere along that trail, Hoover disappeared.

In November 2014, I began a six-month in-

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