

How many letters do you find? Turning left is right!
Soon find a small trail to the right. Take it, you'll do fine.

16. **Down hill, stay to the middle where three trails diverge.**

bird song

Listen and look closely to observe who lives here:
Birdsong, chatter, rustling, color, leaves stir.
Quiet stillness reveals what in movement disappears.

17. **On you go! A tiny 1 meter bridge; then down, down to a fork.**

You're in a forest glade, with a mix of trees, naturally made.
Now, Keep eyes open for trees planted in line.
When you find this plantation whisper the words "red pine,"
don't be afraid.

There, keep right to the ancient sugar maple, an 'ol pasture tree.
One of its branches has broken off and left a big hole.
Hidden there? The treasure box – and end to your mystery.

18. **Congratulations on completing your Quest!**

Please write where you are from and your name,
The date and some comments if you wish.
Then return the box so others may do the same.



Stamp Here:

Date:

Quest created by Steve Glazer in 2002, as part of the Forest for Every Classroom program.



Available at the Carriage Barn

Best of Valley Quest includes 70 treasure hunts to beloved natural and cultural destinations.
ISBN: 978-0-9708460-2-0 / \$24.95

Valley Quest Patches & Hats

When you have solved twenty or more Quests, send a copy of the stamp impressions you've collected to Valley Quest at Vital Communities, 104 Railroad Row, White River Junction, VT 05001. We will send you a Valley Quest certificate and a beautiful Valley Quest patch, which shows our valleys and hills clothed in bright autumn foliage. When you have collected 50 stamps, send us your records and we will send you the coveted Valley Quest hat.

Valley Quest on the Web

Groups are continually creating and submitting new Quests. There are also older Quests not included in this book that are available in the Online Quests section of our website. Visit www.vitalcommunities.org to find, upload and download additional Quests. Also use the web site to check for any changes or updates that are posted on the Quest Directory.

VALLEY QUEST is one of four programs of Vital Communities, a regional non-profit organization serving the Upper Valley region.

VALLEY QUEST

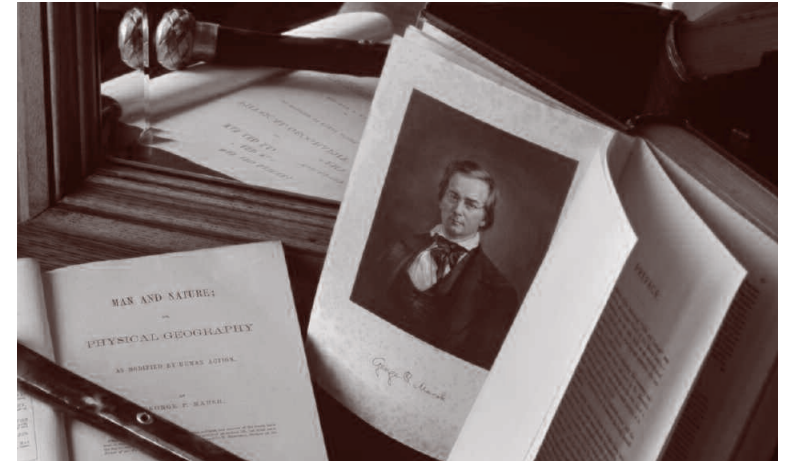
104 Railroad Row, White River Junction, VT
802.291.9100 / www.vitalcommunities.org
info: laura@vitalcommunities.org

Other Quests in the Area

- Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (VINS) Quest, Quechee, VT
- Quest for the Right Words @ Quechee Gorge, Quechee, VT
- Justin Morrill Homestead Quest, Strafford, VT
- History/Mystery Barrel Quest, Woodstock, VT
- Mount Tom Quest, Woodstock, VT
- Room with a View Quest, Woodstock, VT

The Forest Quest

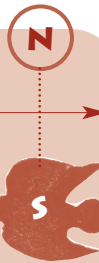
A Treasure Hunt at Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historic Park



Photograph courtesy of Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

About Valley Quest

Valley Quest is a series of more than 150 treasure hunts that teach and share the natural and cultural history of the Upper Valley region. People of all ages enjoy Questing; and many have discovered that it is a special family activity. Follow intriguing maps and clues to find the Upper Valley region's secret places! A day out Questing will help you discover and learn about the landscape and heritage we share.



Discover Special Places
with Valley Quest

The Forest Quest

This treasure hunt takes 2 hours

Clues

Check the box when you have found the item.

1. Make your way up the path to where a map stands.

- trail head

Here you must tell me where we are, do your best!
To learn the story of this land you must solve
The mysteries of this Forest Valley Quest.

2. Go right after the gate. Off the path, near the road: stone walls.

- stone wall

But why these stone walls, inside some trees to keep?
STONE WALLS are your clues to a time long ago
When fences enclosed pastures for all the grazing sheep.

3. Over a culvert then 80 steps to where the pines stretch tall.

Long cones and bundles of 5 needles the forest floor betrays.
These clues confirm that our canopy is WHITE PINE.
Below the plants of the understory await sun's shine.

- 5-needle bundle
 long cones

4. Growing in dappled light, SUGAR MAPLES make their way.

Pine, on the other hand, requires a full day's sun.

- sugar maple

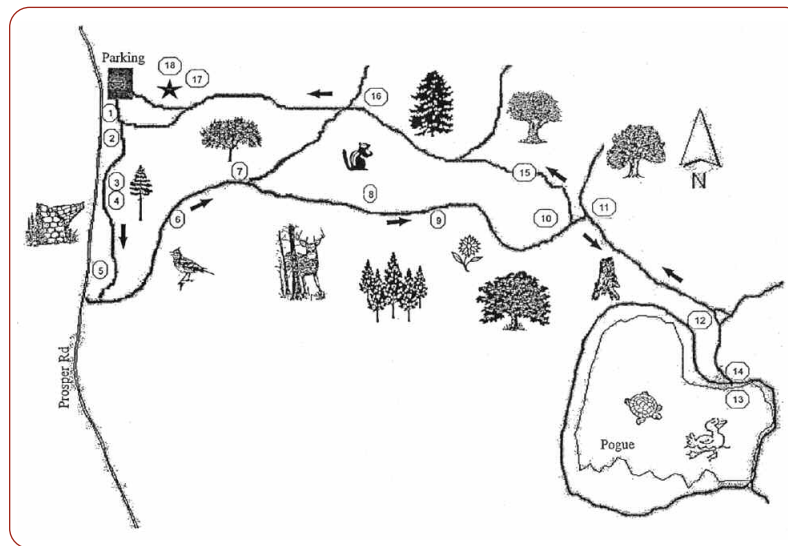
These white pine trees were planted in the 1930s,
By the Billings family, once the farming was done.

5. Ahead looking right, hidden in the shrubs ... an old rusted car.

Further up the path: concrete, piled rocks, a retaining wall.
These things are all remnants of an old Vermont Farm.
Before the forest rose? A working farm here with barns
standing tall.

- rusted car
 old wall

Westward Ho! And the farmers go, leaving behind exhausted land.



Axes and sheep erode the land, leaving poor soil to plant.
By the 1860s, fish, wildlife, trees and the watershed are in trouble.
"The earth is becoming an unfit home for its inhabitants,"
wrote George Perkins Marsh in 1864.

6. Left turn on the carriage road and into a unique forest.

Frederick Billings and his family led the way on this land,
Teaching farmers to replant the trees their fathers cut.
On we go to where a tree with four white trunks stands.

- white birch

7. At the second fork you will find a rock

And two different kinds of pine left and right.

- red bark
 "egg" cones

Plates of reddish bark, egg-shaped cones, paired needles ...
Know these and you'll know a RED PINE is in sight.

- paired needles

8. Keep on! In a while, a big tree on your left.

Does its bark remind you of cantaloupe skin?

- white ash
 ash seed

It is a WHITE ASH, find the small seeds if you can
After passing at least 5 ash trees, your next clue comes in.

9. Patience ... find smooth gray-barked trees covered with sores.

Beech scale disease, a fungus, is followed by insects.
Sick beech trees, circled by young ones, show their hope.

Westward Ho! And the farmers go leaving behind exhausted land

The trees sprout new trees from their roots ... trying to cope.

- beech tree
 scale disease
 beech seed

10. On you go! To where large white quartz shines.

At the second curve, a rock outcrop, red pines in rows.
Make a stop and find a young pine tree: can you tell its age?
Each year these pines send forth a new "limb whorl" to grow.

- Count the "whorls" to age your tree: _____

11. At the T, to the right and down hill you will go

As you walk please enjoy all this forest has to show.
You might just spy some NORWAY SPRUCE here.
Their cones look different, too ... look and have no fear.

12. Onward to the next fork and the giant HEMLOCK.

- hemlock tree

Over 200 years old, and still growing tall!

- hemlock cone

Hold a tiny cone, lean on the trunk, and look up.
Amazing that something so big started out so small?

13. Stay right, curving around until water is found.

- The Pogue

You've made it to the Pogue, the farthest point on this journey.
Sit, reflect, say a small thanks to Billings' granddaughter,
Mary Rockefeller, and husband Laurence ... this park made at
their behest.

14. What's a Pogue? This fourteen-acre pond was a wetland,

Until its waters were dammed to make this special place.
Quietly walk along the pond and you might see
Painted turtles sunbathing ... then OOPS, gone without a trace.

- painted turtle

15. Now turn around and head back from whence you came.

- the sign

LONG reverse: back to hemlock; uphill stopping at the sign.