

Maud Jones Memorial Forest

Maude Jones was born on a nearby farm in Lee in 1874. When the farm was later sold, Jones retained ownership of the 75-acre lower pasture. After Jones passed away, her immediate family inherited the land.

When the parcel was under pressure for development in 2001, the Town of Lee sought to preserve the land. Funding for the conservation easement was obtained through:

1. Adjacent landowners contributing easements on their properties and
2. NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) funding

Lee voters approved a 75-acre conservation easement on the property in 2002. Further protection was granted through the transfer of the Conservation Easement to the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF).

This acquisition allows the forest to remain in conservation in perpetuity and continue as an asset to the community of Lee for generations. The forest was named by her family to honor Maud Jones who was an avid nature lover.

Maud Jones Memorial Forest is a Certified Tree Farm with a management plan for the sustainability of wood, wildlife, water, and recreation on the property. The plan calls for periodic timber harvesting, natural resources evaluation, and recreational trail maintenance.

In 2014, students from the University of New Hampshire's Thompson School of Forestry cut the original trail as a school project under the direction of Professor Don Quigley. Original signs and blazes were made by an Eagle Scout in 2014. In 2021, the Lee Trails Committee, a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission, took over maintenance of the trail system.

The Maud Jones Memorial Forest is an Appalachian oak-pine forest, also called a hemlock-hardwood-pine forest, which tends to occur in areas with warm, dry climates. This type of forest covers 10% of New Hampshire and is found primarily in southern and central parts of the state.

Native tree and shrub species occurring in Maud Jones Memorial Forest include pine, oak, hemlock, shagbark hickory, birch, maple, witch hazel, sweet fern, and lowbush blueberries. You can find examples of some of these species marked with signs along the trail.

References:

Maud Jones Memorial Forest Management Plan, Donald Quigley and Dick Weyrick, 2010, 2014.

"Town of Lee Donates Conservation Easement on Maude Jones Memorial Forest," Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF), 2005. <https://forestsociety.org/press-release/town-lee-donates-conservation-easement-maude-jones-memorial-forest>