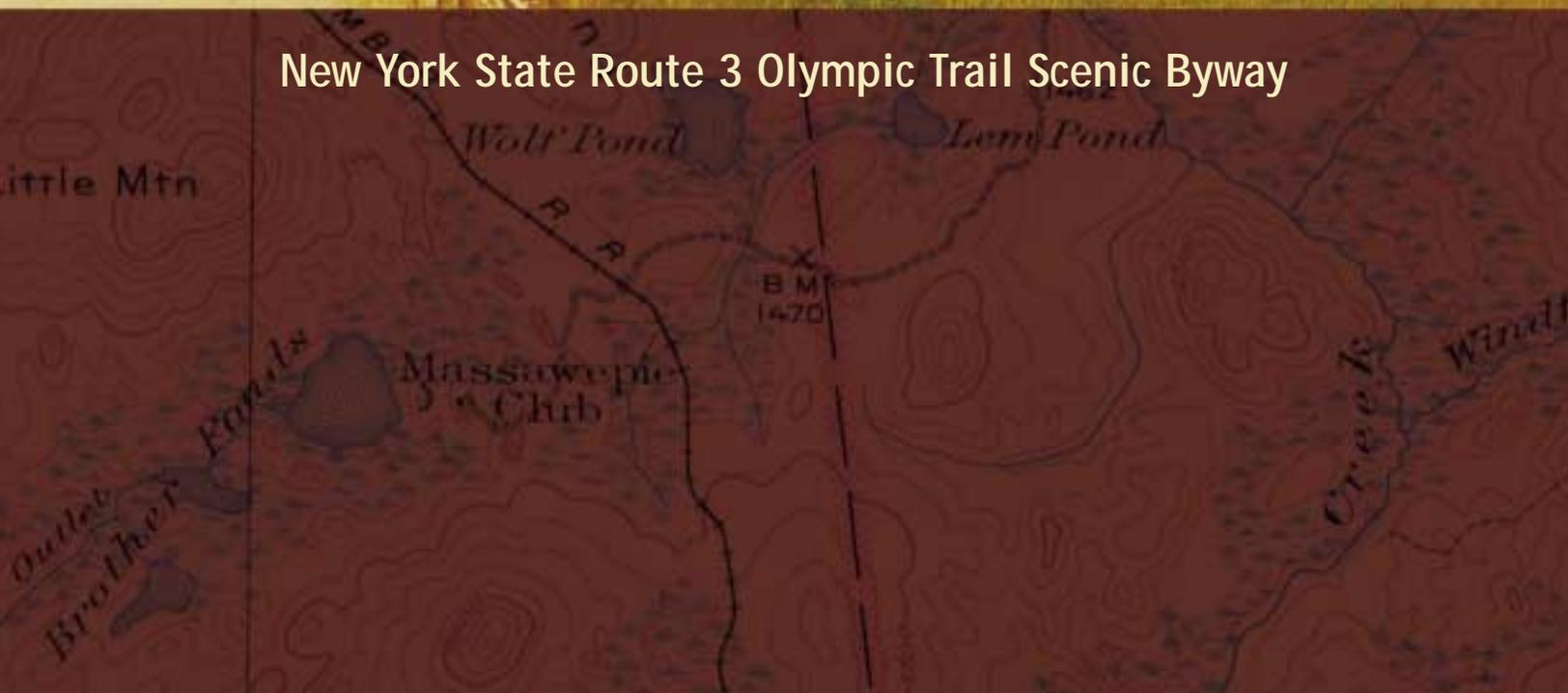


at Lake

# Northwest Foothills

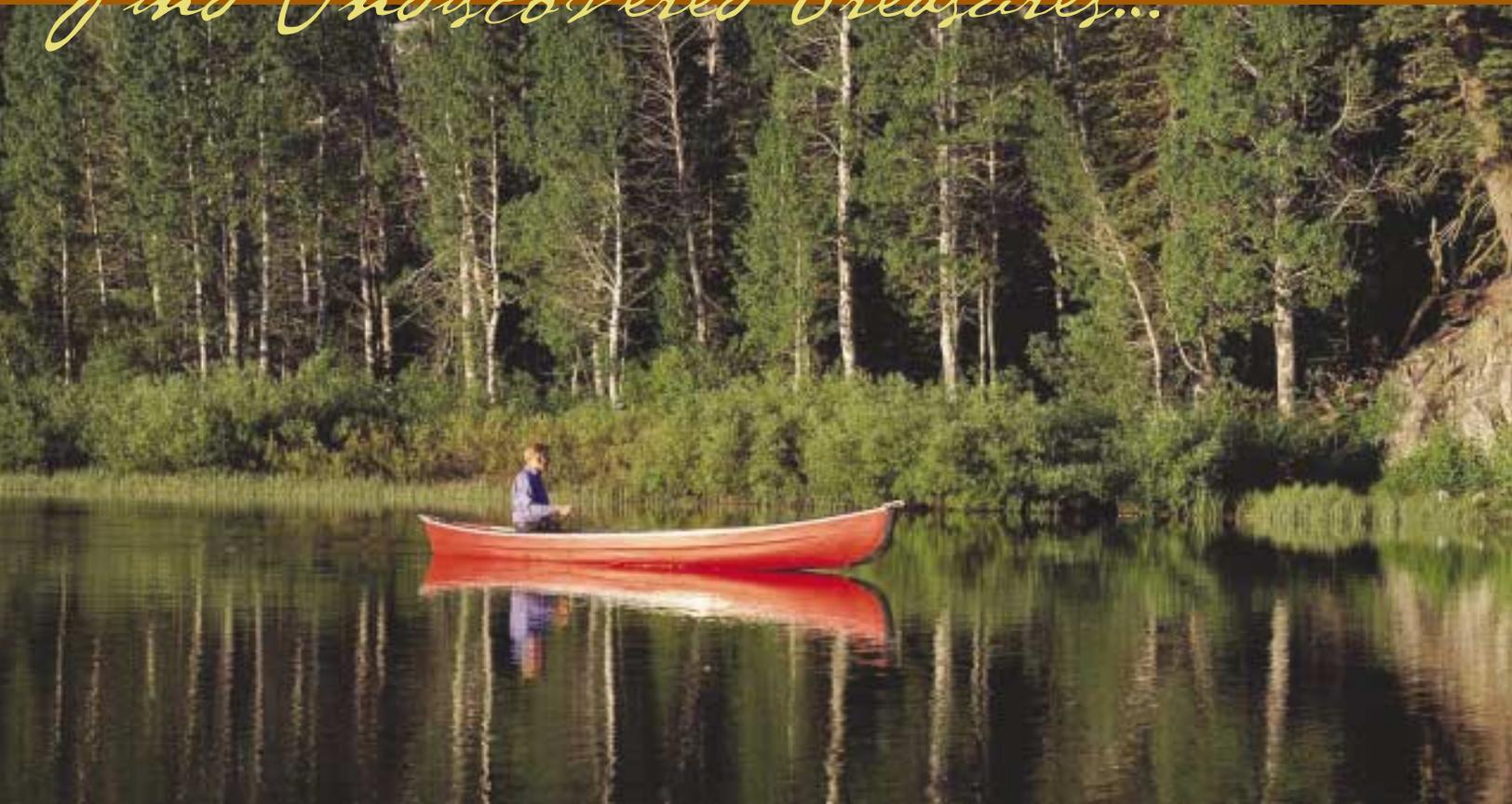


## New York State Route 3 Olympic Trail Scenic Byway



A V I S I T O R ' S G U I D E

# Find Undiscovered Treasures...



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CREDITS: This guide is the product of a cooperative effort of the NYS Adirondack Park Agency, the Clifton-Fine Economic Development Corporation, and the SUNY-ESF Ranger School. It was made possible by a grant to the Agency from the NYS Scenic Byways Program through the Federal Highway Administration and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century of 1998, administered by the NYS Department of Transportation.

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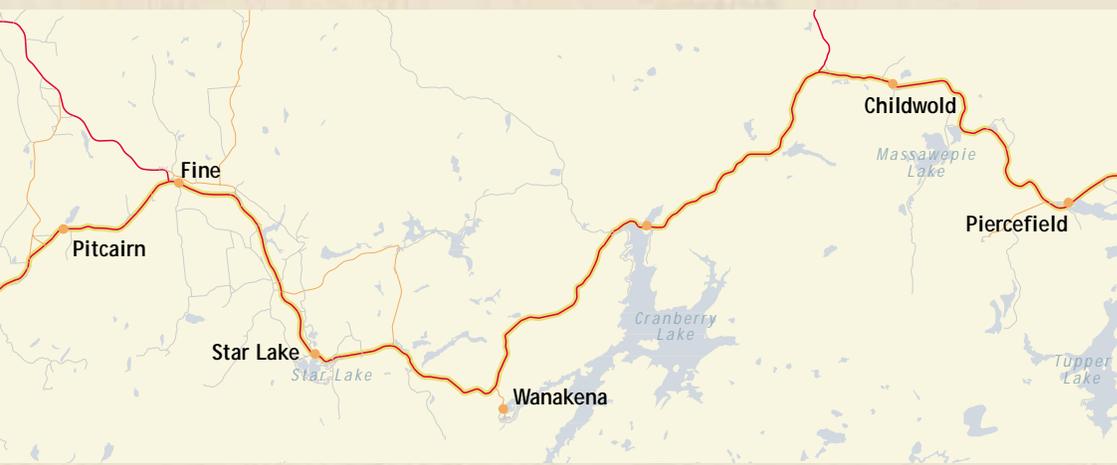
# Welcome to the Area

Welcome to the Northwest Foothills of the Adirondack Park. We are part of a region commonly referred to as the “North Country,” an affectionate term used to describe both the beauty of our natural resources and the friendly character of the people who make the region their home. Unlike the more developed portions of the Park, here you will find a slower pace coupled with almost limitless opportunities for outdoor recreation. Characterized by a rolling countryside, a more moderate climate, and uncrowded trails and waterways, the northwestern Adirondacks offer a variety of adventures and challenges for both the novice and experienced outdoor enthusiast. Sprinkled along scenic roads that wind through both farm country and wilderness alike are towns and hamlets where you will find a warm welcome, small shops, home-style meals and modest accommodations.

The main route through the area, New York State Highway 3, is part of the NYS Olympic Trail Scenic Byway stretching 170 miles from Lake Ontario to Lake Champlain. This guide was designed to highlight natural attractions and outdoor recreation opportunities that exist along the Northwest Foothills section of the NYS Route 3 corridor between Pitcairn and Piercefild. We invite you to use this handy guide to enhance your visit to the northwestern Adirondacks.

Enjoy your stay!

Characterized by a rolling countryside, a more moderate climate, and uncrowded trails and waterways, the northwestern Adirondacks offer a variety of adventures and challenges for both the novice and experienced outdoor enthusiast.

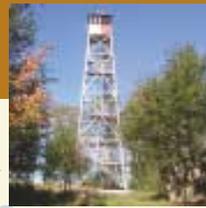
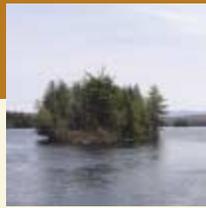
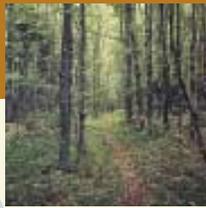


# Closer Than You Think...



## Things to See & Do

If you're looking to get outdoors and enjoy the peace and natural beauty of the great Adirondack Park, look no further than the Northwest Foothills. Taken together, the mountains, lakes, ponds, streams, trails and roads found here offer year-round recreational opportunities for people of all ages. Cranberry Lake, for example, the third largest lake in the Park, offers unmatched opportunities for swimming, fishing, boating, and water skiing. Or check out the south branch of the Grass River, where 11 of the 40 most scenic Adirondack waterfalls can be viewed and photographed. If hiking, camping, or cross country skiing is your fancy, head into the Five Ponds Wilderness Area; it won't be long before you fall in love with the gentle wildness that characterizes this large but seldom used wilderness area. Or perhaps you would like to canoe or kayak on three of the Park's most wild and spectacular rivers: the Oswegatchie, the Grass, or the mighty Raquette. For those not fearful of heights, climb two of the last-remaining fire towers in the Adirondacks to take in a spirit-restoring vista or, perhaps, to catch a better view of our migrating and resident bird populations. Still looking for more? For the sporting man or woman, there is fine hunting to be had for both large and small game. And the numerous lakes, ponds and rivers in the region offer year-round fishing opportunities. Or how about a relaxing game of golf on a classic 9-hole course, or an invigorating bike ride through an old-growth forest? It's all here, and you won't have to wait in line for any of it.



- 1 Cranberry Lake Public Campground
- 2 Cranberry Lake Wild Forest
- 3 Aldrich Pond Wild Forest
- 4 Five Ponds Wilderness Area
- 5 Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest
- 6 Massawepie Easement
- 7 Streeter Lake\*
- 8 Star Lake to Cage Lake\*
- 9 Moore Trail\*
- 10 High Falls\*
- 11 Cat Mountain\*
- 12 Peavine Swamp
- 13 Bear Mountain
- 14 Burntbridge Pond\*
- 15 Dog Pond Loop
- 16 Coffin Mills/Streeter Lake Road
- 17 River Road
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- 19 Inlet Road
- 20 NY Route 3 and Wanakena
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- 35 Cranberry Lake, to Newton Falls
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- 38 Bog River, Lows' Lake, carry to Big Deer Pond and Oswegatchie River\*
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- 40 Raquette River (see 32 above)
- 41 Cranberry Lake (see 29 above)
- 42 Piercefield
- 43 Cranberry Lake (see 29 above)
- 44 Grass River (see 39 above)
- 45 Little River (see 37 above)
- 46 Newton Falls Impoundment
- 47 Nicks Pond
- 48 Oswegatchie River (see 30 above)
- 49 Raquette River (see 32 above)
- 50 Star Lake (see 31 above)
- 51 Burntbridge Pond Trail\*
- 52 High Falls Loop\*
- 53 Peavine Swamp Ski Trail (see 12 above)
- 54 High Falls\*
- 55 Jamestown Falls and Moody Falls\*
- 56 Rainbow Falls, Bulkhead Falls, Flat Rock Falls, Twin Falls, Sinclair Falls and Basford Falls
- 57 Cathedral Rock Fire Tower
- 58 Cranberry Lake Dam
- 59 Mt. Arab Fire Tower
- 60 Wanakena Suspension Foot Bridge
- 61 Wanakena Walking Tour
- 62 Roadside Picnic Area and Former CCC Camp

\* These items are outside the range of this map.

# Let Your Cares Slip Away...



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## Camping

The Adirondack Park is a vast natural park of 6 million acres, two-and-a-half times the size of Yellowstone National Park. The Northwest Foothills region offers some of the best wilderness-style camping opportunities in all the Adirondacks. Some of the primitive campsites scattered through the region can be reached by boat or foot, while some can be reached only by boat. In either case, the sites are available year-round (except as noted) on a first come, first serve basis. For those with pop-up trailers or motor homes, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)-operated Cranberry Lake Campground on the northeast shore of Cranberry Lake provides nearly 200 beautiful, well-spaced campsites, many of which are located along the shoreline. Flush toilets, shower houses, drinking water, and a recycling center are provided in the campground. Additional facilities include a swimming beach, a picnic pavilion and a car-top boat launch area.

Contact DEC for more information on camping at 315-265-3090

- 1 Cranberry Lake Public Campground (DEC)**  
Facilities: swimming, flush toilets, showers;  
Season: May 15-Oct 15
- 2 Cranberry Lake Wild Forest (DEC)**  
Facilities: primitive, accessible by boat or foot, no  
tentsites or lean-tos; Season: all-season
- 3 Aldrich Pond Wild Forest (DEC)**  
Facilities: primitive – tentsites; Season: all-season
- 4 Five Ponds Wilderness Area (DEC)**  
Facilities: primitive – tentsites and lean-tos,  
accessible by canoe and foot; Season: all-season
- 5 Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest (DEC)**  
Facilities: primitive – tentsites; Season: summer
- 6 Massawepie Easement (DEC)**  
Facilities: primitive – tentsites; Season: spring  
and fall only



# Hiking / Backpacking

The Northwest Foothills region is one of the largest remote areas remaining in the Park. There has been only minimal encroachment of civilization on the area. In the Five Ponds Wilderness area just to the south of Cranberry Lake lie thousands of acres of rolling hills, numerous lakes and ponds and unbroken forest lands that show little or no marks of civilization. This area offers rewarding opportunities to hike unseen in this pristine wilderness. Before starting out on your trip, be sure to consult area guides and the local weather forecast. Use common sense in planning your trip and keep in mind the fitness levels of all members of your party.

### 7 Streeter Lake (M) 7 miles

This is an area that begs to be explored. Two very different and interesting lakes, a peat bog, a moss covered abandoned potato field, a huge beaver pond. You can drive to Streeter Lake from Star Lake via Oswegatchie Trail and Coffin Mills Road.

### 8 Star Lake to Cage Lake (D) 17 miles

The first part of this is a bit rough due to the 1995 blow down and ATV ruts, but once you're on the old Post Henderson rail bed, it becomes a very nice walk. See Little Otter and Buck Ponds on the way. Great brook trout in Cage Lake. Stay overnight at the Cage Lake lean-to. Trailhead is on the left off Young's Road 1.9 miles from NYS Route 3 in Star Lake.

### 9 Moore Trail (E) 4 miles

Follows the Oswegatchie River from Wanakena to Inlet. Though only a 4 mile route, plan extra time to view rapids, falls and some excellent examples of the 1995 blow down. Take your fly rod and fish for brook trout in the many riffles and pools along the way. The trailhead is on the right just before the car bridge crossing the Oswegatchie in Wanakena.

### 10 High Falls (D) 15 miles

This is the classic day hike into the Five Ponds Wilderness. View High Falls, lots of beaver ponds, 1995 blow down, virgin white pines. Fish at the falls or at Carter's landing. Hike the loop in either direction from Wanakena. Cross-country ski it in winter. There are two trailheads. The first, a little over one mile from NYS Route 3. The second (eastern) is .4 miles beyond on South Shore Drive.

### 11 Cat Mountain (M) 11 miles

Many examples of 1995 blow down on the trail to base of the mountain. See Dead Creek Flow and Glasby Pond on the way. Good view from an open

summit including a look at Blue Mountain. Great fall color views. 600-foot rise, most of it toward the end of the climb. Begin from the eastern most trailhead to High Falls (see above).

### 12 Peavine Swamp (M) 8.4 miles

Old-growth timber including some hemlocks over 40 inches in diameter as well as large spruce and cherry and a lean-to on Cranberry Lake make this a pleasant hike. Great cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Trailhead is on south side of NYS Route 3, 1.2 miles west of the Oswegatchie bridge in Cranberry Lake.

### 13 Bear Mountain (M) 3 miles

Steep trail from Cranberry Lake Campground leads to a nice view of Cranberry Lake. The trail can also be reached from NYS Route 3 via the Burntbridge trailhead about 2 miles east of Cranberry Lake.

### 14 Burntbridge Pond (M) 13 miles

Follows an old Grass River Railroad spur to a beautiful pond complete with an Adirondack lean-to. Trailhead is south side of NYS Route 3, 2 miles east of Cranberry Lake.

### 15 Dog Pond Loop (D) 22.5 miles

You have to really trek along to do this as a day trip. Probably better to overnight it at the lean-to and take time to enjoy the views of Cranberry Lake, glacial ponds, and a waterfall. Trailhead is the same as that for Burntbridge Pond.

The ratings of easy, moderate and difficult are based on the following criteria: (E) easy—short trips or mostly level terrain or both; (M) moderate—longer trips, rougher terrain and some climbing; and (D) difficult—prolonged steep climbing or are longer and more remote. Previous experience will be helpful.



NOTE: Distances given are round trip.

# Have Some Fun!



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## Bird Watching

The following rare and unusual birds may be found in the area.

*Loon*—Cranberry Lake has one of the largest numbers of breeding loons in the northeast. *Spruce Grouse*—present in several large peatlands in the Cranberry Lake area. Among them are Massawepie and Sevey's Bog. *Bald Eagles*—seen in Cranberry Lake in both summer and winter, Wanakena and Piercefield area. During summer months at least 3 nests exist in nearby St. Lawrence County. *Osprey*—several nests adjacent to Cranberry Lake area. *Merrill* (*Pigeon Hawk*)—has bred recently in the area at the Cranberry Lake campground. *Goshawks*—breed in the forests of the area.

Spruce and Tamarack forests, and the bogs in the area, harbor a wealth of boreal birds that are rare elsewhere in the state. Among these are the following: *Gray Jay*, *Boreal Chickadee*, *Palm Warbler*, *White-winged Crossbill*, *Black-backed Woodpecker*, *Three-toed Woodpecker*, *Taiga Three-toed Woodpecker*, among others. *Wild Turkey* and *Ravens* are common,

as are *Ruffed Grouse*. *Great Blue Heron* rookeries are in the vicinity of Cranberry Lake. Also frequently seen or heard are *Broad-winged Hawk*, *Red-tailed Hawk* and *Barred Owl*, as can be the *Sharp-shinned Hawk* and *Northern Saw-whet Owl*.

Among the nesting waterfowl on Cranberry Lake, and the smaller area lakes and ponds, are the following breeding waterfowl: *Black Duck*, *Mallard*, *Wood Duck*, *Ring-necked Duck*, *Common Merganser* and *Hooded Merganser*. Truly wild *Canada Geese* nest in a few of the flows of Cranberry Lake.

In late May and June, the full spectrum of Adirondack woodland warblers can be seen and more often heard. The *American Bittern* can be heard (Pump Song) in May and June in the area's wetlands as can be the ethereal song of the *Common Snipe*.

Check out the website for the Audubon Society at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) or contact the Watertown Office of DEC at 315-785-2261 for more information.



## Biking / Mountain Biking

Town roads provide excellent opportunities for safe and scenic biking. The following are of particular interest:

**16 Coffin Mills/Streeter Lake Road**  
Access from Oswegatchie Trail just north of the tracks. A nice wooded road. Drive to Aldrich and bike to Streeter Lake to shorten the trip. Explore the area around Streeter Lake.

**17 River Road**  
From Newton Falls, this scenic road follows the Oswegatchie River to Cook Corners and the junction of Tooley Pond Road. Make it a loop by taking Tooley Pond Road to Cranberry Lake and pedalling west on NYS Route 3 to the Newton Falls road at Benson Mines, then to Newton Falls.

**18 Tooley Pond Road**  
This road runs from NYS Route 3 at the Cranberry Lake outlet northwesterly to Clare Road in DeGrass. Catch glimpses of the Grass River and several scenic falls. Watch for deer. At Clare Road a right hand turn will take you to Lampson Falls trailhead which is also a good bike trail.

**19 Inlet Road**  
From NYS Route 3, this wooded dirt road starts a mile east of Benson Mines Road and goes south a little over three miles to the Oswegatchie River canoe launch site.

**20 NYS Route 3 and Wanakena**  
In addition to providing access to the above routes, wide shoulders make NYS Route 3 very suitable for biking (In fact, every year in July, several hundred athletes may be seen biking along Route 3 between Cranberry Lake and Tupper Lake as part of the Tin Man Triathlon). A side trip to Wanakena is rewarded by views of the Oswegatchie River. On Wanakena Road, a little under one mile from NYS Route 3, bear left on Ranger School Road. The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Ranger Schhol at the end of this road, about a mile from Wanakena Road. Return to Wanakena Road and take a left to ride into the settlement of Wanakena. Have lunch or a snack in the gazebo. Cross the suspension bridge and explore South Shore Road.

Mountain biking is permitted in the following designated areas. Check with mountain biking clubs and associations for specific trails and with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for any restrictions that might apply.

- 21 Aldrich Pond Wild Forest**
- 22 Cranberry Lake Wild Forest**
- 23 Tooley Pond Tract**
- 24 Emporium Easement Lands**
- 25 Massawepie Easement**
- 26 Ranger School Forest Roads**

*Please remember that no motorized or mechanized equipment is allowed in wilderness areas. As such, mountain biking is not allowed in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.*



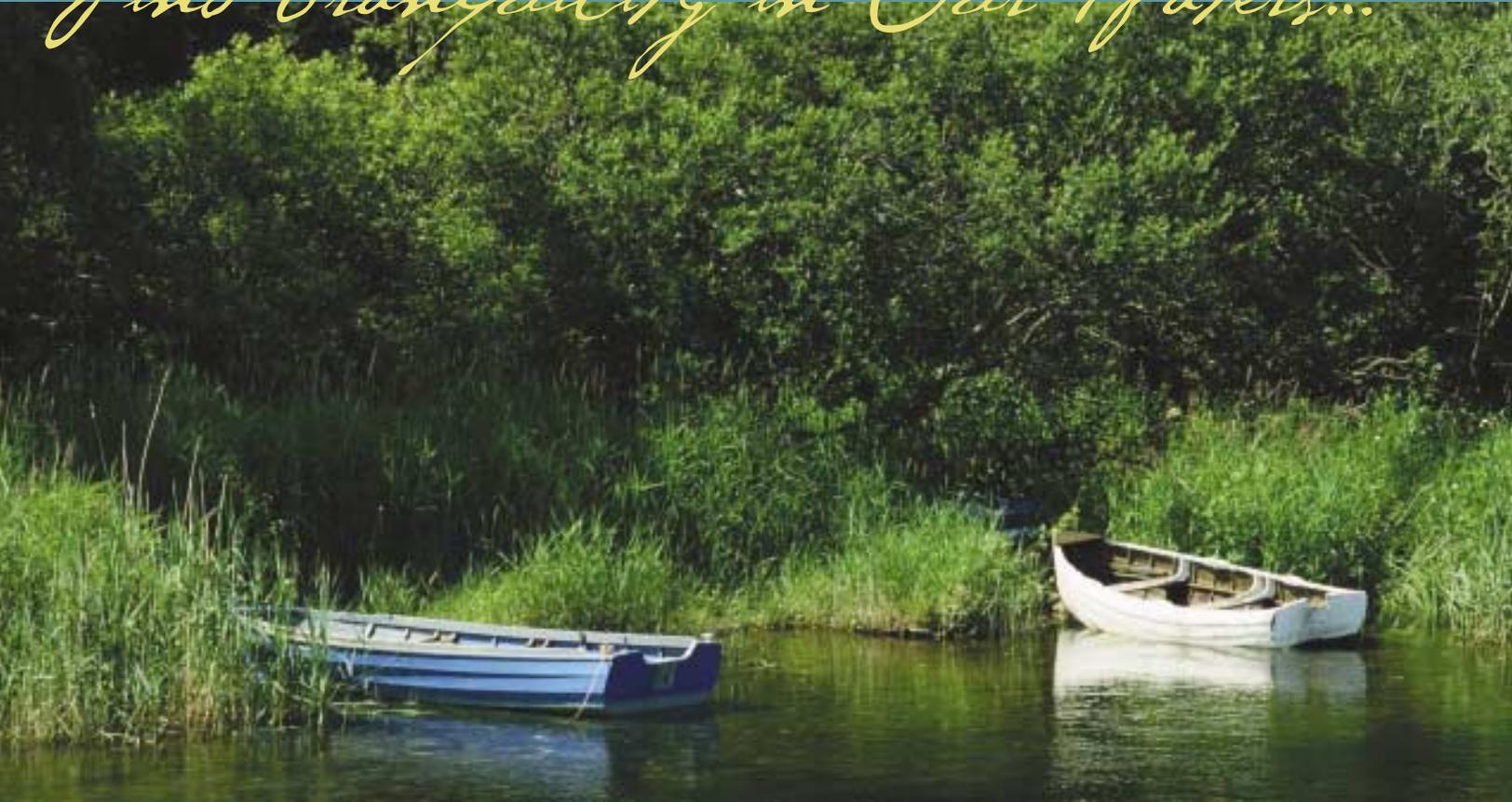
### Golf and Tennis

There are free public tennis courts at Clifton-Fine School in Star Lake, across the river in Wanakena, and behind the post office in Cranberry Lake.

The Clifton-Fine Golf Course, also known as the John M. Sayles Memorial Golf Course, is a scenic and challenging nine hole public course located in Star Lake on NYS Route 3. Rated by Adirondack Life magazine as one of the top 5 nine-hole courses in the Adirondacks. Very modest greens fees. Call 315-848-3570 for more information.

- 27 Clifton-Fine Golf Course**
- 28 Clifton-Fine Tennis Courts**

# Find Tranquility in Our Waters...



## Boating

The Northwest Foothills are a boater's paradise with opportunities for just about any watercraft. Pontoon and water skiing boats, as well as personal watercraft ply the wider parts of Cranberry Lake while canoes and kayaks explore the peacefulness of its numerous bays. Wilderness paddlers have several rivers to choose from, including the Oswegatchie, Grass, and Little rivers. Back country enthusiasts can pack an inflatable into the remote ponds sprinkled throughout the area. When paddling, it is wise to consult a canoe guide, such as Paul Jamieson's *"Adirondack Canoe Waters—North Flow"* for logistical details and skill levels needed, and for route descriptions of rivers.

### Boat Launches

#### 29 Cranberry Lake

Off NYS Route 3, on Columbian Road, adjacent to the outlet dam in the Village of Cranberry Lake. Hard surface launching ramp. Ample parking for cars and trailers. Toilet.

#### 30 Oswegatchie River

Near Town Road, 3 miles east of the Hamlet of Star Lake and approximately 3 miles south of NYS Route 3. Hand launching. Parking for 25 cars. No motors permitted.

#### 31 Star Lake

On NYS Route 3, at intersection with Young's Road. Car top. Parking for 10 cars. Electric only.

#### 32 Raquette River

The flat water of Piercefield Flow can be accessed by turning south onto Pump House Rd in the Hamlet of Piercefield. Small motor boats can be hand launched here, and parking for a few cars is available. Pump House Rd. is located just west of where

Route 3 crosses the Raquette River. Large and fast boats are not practical here due to the many stumps and rocks scattered throughout the Flow. Stick to the main channel of the River as much as possible to avoid these obstacles.

#### 33 Shurtlef Clearing

On NYS Route 3, 3 miles east of Cranberry Lake. Hand launching. Limited Parking. Canoe and kayak only.



# Paddling

Geologically young, the rivers of the Northwest Foothills offer many opportunities to cruise at a leisurely pace and enjoy the peaceful scenery. Nineteen rivers and several navigable brooks give those who are adventurous a chance to explore unpolluted and undeveloped wilderness. Water levels do not drop as drastically as they do in other parts of the Adirondack Park, giving paddlers a longer season.

### 34 Cranberry Lake

Shaped like a starfish, Cranberry Lake offers many opportunities to explore. Avoid the central area on windy days, especially in the afternoons. If exploring the lake only, put in at the State Boat Launching Site in Cranberry Lake.

### 35 Cranberry Lake, to Newton Falls

The segment between the dams at Cranberry Lake and Newton Falls is 8.7 miles. The river is wide at this point and winds along until the slopes flatten out at Chaumont Swamp. This section of the river is stocked with speckled and brown trout.

### 36 Chaumont Pond

The river continues to spread as it reaches Chaumont Swamp and threads its way through islands and stumps in the large flooded area. Stay close to the north shore, keeping an eye out for a misleading narrow bay. Stay in the main channel until you reach a take out at the highway bridge, or continue on to the Newton Falls bathing beach.

### 37 Little River, Bridge on Route 3 to Aldrich

This section of the Little River between the bridge on Route 3 and Aldrich is 12 miles in length and is a pleasing trip. Water levels in the upper level are usually adequate through June. The lower reach between the falls and Aldrich is canoeable all summer, although it may be necessary to line some rapids. During periods of low water it is advisable to put in at Aldrich and paddle upstream with a downstream return.

### 38 Bog River, Lows' Lake,

carry to Big Deer Pond and Oswegatchie River State-owned lands along the Bog River between Lows Lower and Upper Dams and at Lows Lake offer canoeists a unique opportunity to enjoy over 14.5 miles of unencumbered scenic waters with only one short carry around Lows Upper Dam. For the more adventuresome, a carry of approximately 3.5 miles from the west end of Lows Lake to the Oswegatchie River will be rewarded with an approximately 16-mile trip down that river to Inlet, with only a short carry above High Falls. Numerous beaver dams occur around High Falls.

### 39 Grass River

The South Branch of the Grass River has been recently opened to the public for boating use. Access is 3.9 miles east of Cranberry Lake village. Look for a highway rest area on the east bank of the river off of NYS Route 3.

### 40 Raquette River

Upstream of the dam in Pierceland, one can paddle the flat water of Pierceland Flow. Beautiful scenery and diverse wildlife make this a very pleasant paddling experience. A launch site with limited parking is available on the Pump House Rd., located just west of where Route 3 crosses the River and across the highway from the hamlet of Pierceland. For those seeking the whitewater of the Raquette, drive 2.4 miles west on Route 3 from the bridge in Pierceland to Dead Creek. Park in the State-maintained rest area located on the south side of the road. From here it is a windy but pleasant .8 mile paddle down Dead Creek and into the mighty Raquette. Intermediate to advanced skills are necessary to navigate this section of the Raquette.

## Swimming

There are two opportunities for public swimming at Cranberry Lake. First is the town beach with new facilities, including a timber-framed pavilion covering picnic tables and a bath house with changing rooms and toilet. In addition is a beach at the State Campground located approximately 1 mile off NYS Route 3. Another place to swim is along the shores of the Raquette River in Pierceland, located just downstream of the dam. An out-house and some grills for cooking are provided.

41 Cranberry Lake

42 Pierceland



# Test Your Skills...



## Hunting

Many hunting opportunities exist along the NYS Route 3 corridor. The corridor has much state land, which is well marked and opened for hunting. There is private land as well, although permission is required to access this land. The big game species include white-tailed deer, black bear, coyote and bobcat. The small game species include wild turkey, varying hare [snowshoe rabbit], and upland game [ring-necked pheasant and ruffed grouse]. The eastern moose has begun to move into the area again after being extirpated from New York in the late nineteenth century. It is estimated that there are about 150 moose in New York at this time. Since their numbers are very limited, moose are considered an endangered species in New York, and hunting moose is prohibited.

A small game license is required to hunt the small game species. A special turkey permit is required along with the small game license to hunt wild turkey. A big game license is required to hunt the big game species. Licenses are available from the local town clerks in the area as well as through out the state. Along with the license, a syllabus is issued with laws and rules and regulations pertaining to the game species being hunted.



# Fishing

The Northwest Foothills' lakes, ponds, streams and rivers have a reputation for offering some of the finest sport fishing in the country. Brook trout, northern pike, blass bass, brown trout, walleye, bass, rainbow trout, lake trout and land-locked salmon all can be found here. The areas listed here are just a sampling of the opportunities that await you.

**43 Cranberry Lake,** *brook trout, northern pike, black bass*  
In the spring, there is good brook trout fishing near the inlets, particularly Brandy Brook. In the summer and fall months smallmouth bass, perch, bullheads, and northern pike are fished throughout the lake.

**44 Grass River,** *brook trout, brown trout*  
Fishing for trout is allowed on the South Branch of the Grass River with special regulations allowing the use of artificial lures and catch and release only from 0.5 mile downstream of Route 3 upstream to Grass River Flow and Lake George Rd. and downstream from the Town of Clifton (Cranberry Lake to the Twin Ponds Outlet and the Town of Clare.

**45 Little River,** *trout*  
This interesting small river is stocked each year with brown trout and native brookies can sometimes be caught. There is a fishing access site in Oswegatchie where NYS Route 3 crosses the river. There are some trails to the river from Streeeter Lake Road about a half-mile from Aldrich. Fish from the Young's Road bridge or hike in to the falls from Lake Road in Star Lake.

**46 Newton Falls Impoundment,** *pike, bass*  
Find good black bass fishing among the many stumps, or in the fast flowing waters above the impoundment, or at the bridges. Northern Pike hide in the many weed beds and in the Chaumont Pond area.

**47 Nicks Pond,** *brook trout*  
This pretty small pond is regularly stocked with brook trout and some large trout have been caught there. You'll need to carry a boat about 500 feet from Inlet Road to fish the pond.

**48 Oswegatchie River,** *brook trout, brown trout, bass, northern pike*  
Just below the Cranberry Lake dam is good fly fishing for trout as is the 2-mile stretch of rapids and falls above Wanakena.

**49 Raquette River,** *northern pike, walleye, bass*  
Canoes and car-top boats with electric motors are ideal for use in the Piercefield Flow, located upstream of the dam in Piercefield. The fairly shallow waters of the Flow yield large and abundant pike, walleye, and bass. Fly fishing for trout is available along the several miles of rapids that occur below the dam. See the paddling section in this brochure for info on access to these waters.

**50 Star Lake,** *rainbow trout, brown trout, lake trout, bass, land-locked salmon*  
This is a two-tier lake with rainbow and lake trout as well as black bass. There is a DEC fishing access site on the corner of NYS Route 3 and Young's Road. Only canoes and car top boats with electric motors are allowed to use the access.

Many of the ponds in the Five Ponds Wilderness area are stocked with brook trout. You may want to carry an inflatable raft to fish them.

Ice fishing is permitted on Star Lake and Cranberry Lake. Restrictions apply.



*Let it Snow!*



## Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling continues to be the most popular form of winter recreation here in the Northwest Foothills. Area trails connect the regions' hamlets and extend toward Tupper Lake, South Colton, Beaver River – Stillwater Reservoir and Harrisville. Childwold became the center of snowmobile activities in the 60s, and continues today as one of the area's most frequented destinations. Over 500 miles of trails in the St. Lawrence County are groomed and maintained by area snowmobile associations. One of the highlights of the winter season is Winter Weekend at Cranberry Lake, celebrated in February by over 400 sledders, with events in Wanakena, Cranberry Lake, Newton Falls, Childwold and Cooks Corners. There are no trail use charges, but sled registrations and insurance are required.

For local information, visit the Cranberry Lake Mountaineers Snowmobile Club website at [www.northnet.org/clmsc](http://www.northnet.org/clmsc).

Staying aware of the winter weather allows more enjoyable snowmobiling and avoidance of being caught on the trail or on the road in potentially life-threatening conditions. Make it a habit to check the weather forecast before setting out for a road trip or a day of riding.



## Cross Country Skiing/ Snowshoeing

In addition to the trails mentioned below, excellent ski and snowshoe opportunities exist along the forest roads and trails of the SUNY-ESF Ranger School in Wanakena. Several of the forest roads intersect with Route 3, but they are gated to restrict access. Park so as not to block the gates. See the section on “Ranger School” in this brochure for more details about the School and its forest. See also the trails mentioned in the hiking/backpacking section of this guide. Many of them are suitable for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing during the winter months.

### 51 Burntbridge Pond Trail, 6.8 miles

This trail begins at a parking lot on Route 3 and is the roadbed of a spur of the Grass River Railroad, which was probably constructed between 1913 and 1916. The tracks were removed prior to state acquisition in 1933. The Campground Trail joins this trail 1.4 miles from Route 3. It shortly enters a clearing that was the former site of a logging camp. A 1916 Conservation Department map shows this camp serviced by a telephone line. The trail leaves this railroad bed 0.8 mile later and follows old logging roads to Brandy Brook and a grassy area beyond known as the “Potato Patch.” From here, the trail branches east to Burntbridge Pond and private lands, while a south branch leads to Brandy Brook Flow on Cranberry Lake. A lean-to was constructed at Burntbridge Pond in 1986.

### 52 High Falls Loop, 15.0 miles

The first two miles follow the bed of a logging railroad constructed by the Rich Lumber Company prior to state acquisition of that parcel in 1919. In the mid-1930s, it was upgraded to a truck trail for state administrative use. It is now used only as a foot trail, in conformance with wilderness management guidelines. After leaving the former roadbed, the trail follows old logging roads to meet with a short (0.2 mile) trail that provides access for boaters from Janack’s Landing. At the next intersection (Sand Hill Junction), a yellow trail provides access to the Cat Mountain Trail and Cowhorn Junction, while the

red trail continues toward the Plains. A short distance later, the trail turns south to leave the former Plains Trail, which was abandoned due to excessive beaver activity. The new Plains Trail was constructed in 1986 on higher ground. This trail ends on the High Falls Trail, which shares its history with Dead Creek Flow Trail. From here, it is a short distance to High Falls. On the return trip, a hiker may continue along an abandoned logging railroad that ran between High Falls and Wanakena. Adjacent to the Oswegatchie River, this trail will likely contain some beaver flooding. At the north end of this trail is the Wanakena Primitive corridor, which is a one-mile remnant of a former truck trail kept in drivable condition to allow the Wanakena Water Company to maintain its facilities. From the barrier at the north end of the corridor, it is approximately 0.5 mile along the South Shore Road to the parking lot.

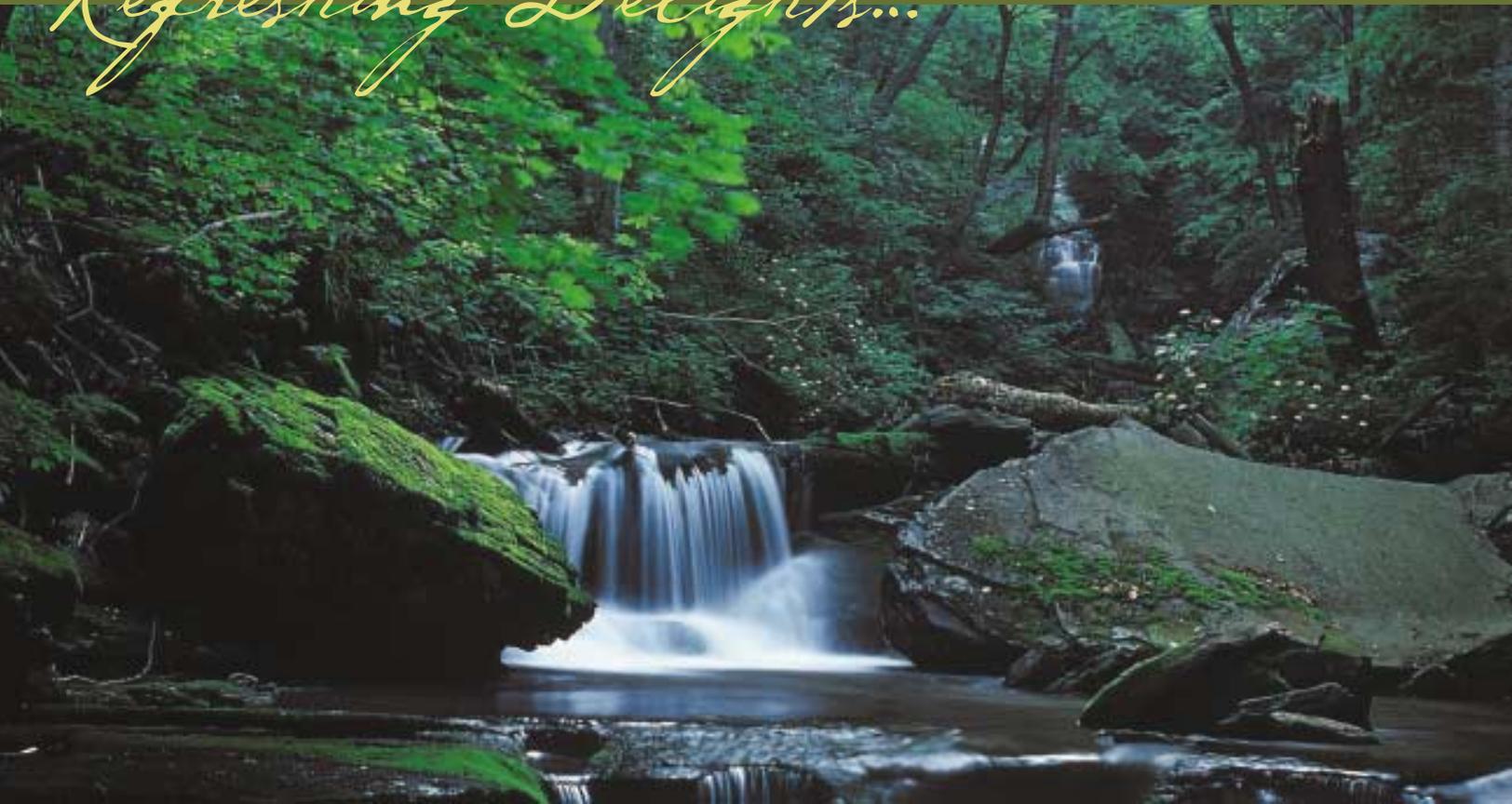
### 53 Peavine Swamp Ski Trail, 8.5 miles

This trail begins on the south side of Route 3 east of Peavine Swamp. It presently contains three loops. The last half of the trail passes through lands that have never been significantly harvested. Large specimens of hardwoods, red spruce and eastern hemlock are common.

For a free map of area trails, contact the Adirondack Regional Tourism Council, Inc., the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation or the New York State Snowmobilers Association (see the Resources section of this guide for contact information).



# Refreshing Delights...



## Waterfalls

Thanks to recent purchases of land and conservation easements by the State, easy and public access has been gained to the majority of falls in the area. Each waterfall has its own personality and history, and offers opportunities to hike, swim, fish, canoe and kayak. Whether alone or with friends and family, each waterfall you visit will leave a lasting memory of these breathtaking natural wonders.

**54 High Falls,** *accessed via hiking trails or the Oswegatchie River* High falls is the most remote of the falls in St. Lawrence County and is located near the hamlet of Wanakena. With only a 15 foot drop, it is so named as it is the largest drop on this branch of the Oswegatchie River. The shortest hike leading to the falls runs through some of the oldest growth forest in the county, and encounters the remaining damage from the blowdown of 1995. For this reason, the 14-mile hike will take you some time. Another option is to canoe or kayak along the slow moving waters of the Oswegatchie. There are plenty of campsites in the area as well as a lean-to should you decide to overnight it. Fishing is good for brook trout, brown trout, bass and northern pike.

**55 Jamestown Falls and Moody Falls,** *accessed via dirt road access points on DEC land/or the Raquette River* These falls offer a beautiful view of the Raquette River. Surrounded by spruce and fir trees, this is the last remaining section of whitewater on the Raquette River and offers great opportunities to paddlers. For those wishing to view the falls without going over them, access is available from dirt road access points on DEC land, but the best viewing opportunity for Jamestown Falls is from a canoe or kayak. The access road for Jamestown Falls is 2.4 miles north of the Sevey Corners, the intersection between NY Route 3 and 56. Moody Falls is more difficult to find, being accessed via an unmarked trail on DEC land leading down to the river.

**56 Rainbow Falls, Bulkhead Falls, Flat Rock Falls, Twin Falls, Sinclair Falls and Basford Falls,** *accessed via Tooley Pond Road* Tooley Pond Road is accessed from NY Route 3, about a mile west of Cranberry Lake. Some of the falls can be seen from the road, while others are a short walk along trails. There are no parking areas. These falls of the South Branch of the Grass River range in height from the 40 foot drop of Rainbow Falls to gentle slopes at Sinclair Falls. The river offers excellent kayaking and canoeing opportunities with easy carries around the falls. For fishing enthusiasts, the river provides good fishing for brook trout and brown trout. Check with DEC for special regulations on fishing the South Branch of the Grass River.



## Landmark / Historical

The Northwest Foothills region offers a surprising number of historical and landmark sites. Be sure to call ahead for visiting hours for the Cathedral Rock Fire Tower and to check weather reports before attempting the strenuous 1-mile climb to the Mt. Arab Fire Tower.

### 57 Cathedral Rock Fire Tower

Originally located atop Tooley Mountain, the present day Cathedral Rock Tower was dismantled and salvaged, with DEC permission, by students under faculty supervision in 1971 and removed to the Ranger School site of Cathedral Rock. It was reconstructed over a period of nearly 30 years under various supervisors of students, staff, volunteers, and Ranger School Alumni. Rededicated in 2000, it offers a panoramic view of the forested Oswegatchie River and surrounding areas, including glimpses of Cranberry Lake. It contains an original Osbourne Fire Finder alidade table and the roof sports a rotating "stan-helio" (tin sun) signal similar to the type used by VerPlanck Colvin in his survey of the Adirondacks.

### 58 Cranberry Lake Dam

In 1867 a dam was constructed at the outlet of Cranberry Lake, doubling the size of the original lake. As such, Cranberry Lake became the first storage reservoir constructed in the State to regulate the flow of a river (the Oswegatchie) for downstream industry. The dam also served to considerably improve the navigability of the river upstream from the lake. The dam has been rebuilt several times since 1867, and an interesting educational display now exists to convey the rich history of the dam and Cranberry Lake itself. Turn south off of Route 3 across from the DOT garage in the Hamlet of Cranberry Lake.

### 59 Mt. Arab Fire Tower

The original wooden tower on Mt. Arab was built in 1912. It was replaced by the steel tower that now adorns the summit in 1918. Renovations to both the tower and the trail leading to it were completed in 1999. A moderately difficult 1-mile trail leads to the summit and outstanding views of Mt. Arab Lake, Eagle Crag Lake, Raquette Pond, Mount Morris and Mt. Matumbla (the highest point in St. Lawrence county). During the summer months, an interpreter is stationed on the summit to answer questions.

### 60 Wanakena Suspension Foot Bridge

Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999, the Wanakena Foot Bridge was built by Rich Lumber Company in 1902. It provided passage for the mill workers from their homes in Wanakena to work across the Oswegatchie River at the various wood manufacturers on the "Mill Pond". Despite many natural disasters that nearly destroyed the bridge, it remains repaired and intact to this day and has become a symbol to Wanakena's residents of their own indestructible character.

### 61 Wanakena Walking Tour

This tour offers the walking tourist a glimpse of the mill town's past to present in pictorial form. A brochure, available at the tour's beginning Kiosk in the Town Square across from the General Store or at the Kiosk across the river at the old mill site, guides the participant from point to point with "then" and "now" pictures of key points of interest. The kiosks themselves are filled with pictures from the past to present describing significant places and people that have molded the town into the pleasant community that all that visit Wanakena will recognize.

### 62 Roadside Picnic Area and Former CCC Camp

The Ranger School maintains a picnic area on the north side of NYS Route 3 between Wanakena Road and Newton Falls Road. It is open for day use between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The area was once the site of civilian conservation Corp (CCC) Camp #S-84. The men who worked at this camp during the 1930s built roads, trails and helped to plant hundreds of acres of trees in the nearby area.

## Scenic Drives & Picnic Areas

Almost any road in the area provides a scenic drive. The bike routes described on preceding pages are particularly nice. In the fall, River Road along the Oswegatchie River seems to turn color long before other areas and can be breathtaking. A reasonable drive to the following favorites is well worth the time in the car: Lampson Falls, Stone Valley, Leonard Pond, Wolf Lake and Mt. Arab.



*A Commitment to Conservation...*



## SUNY-ESF Ranger School

The origin of the Ranger School is closely linked to the history of the lumber mill town of Wanakena. J. Otto Hamele, original proprietor of the Wanakena General Store, convinced Herbert Rich, the mill and town owner, to donate a portion of the logged sixteen thousand acres for the purpose of creating a facility to advance the concept of forestry and reforestation. Eighteen hundred acres of that tract were donated to the College of Forestry in Syracuse (now SUNY-ESF) for this purpose and the Ranger School was born. The original intent of the school program was to train young men to “bridge the gap between the woodsman and the Forester.” Beginning in the early 1970s the curriculum was expanded from a one-year training period to a program that today entitles both men and women graduates to a 2-year A.A.S. Degree in Forest Technology. This oldest forest technician program in the country, begun in 1912, also offers a Surveying emphasis that helps accelerate the licensing process for a surveying graduate. A recent 6 million dollar facility renovation and structural addition to the Ranger School building has brought the program into the 21st century and enhances the preparation of graduates in modern forestry and surveying practices.



# Campus Attractions

The SUNY-ESF Ranger School encourages interested public, students and their families to arrange for a tour of our facilities or to request information by calling (315) 848-2566.

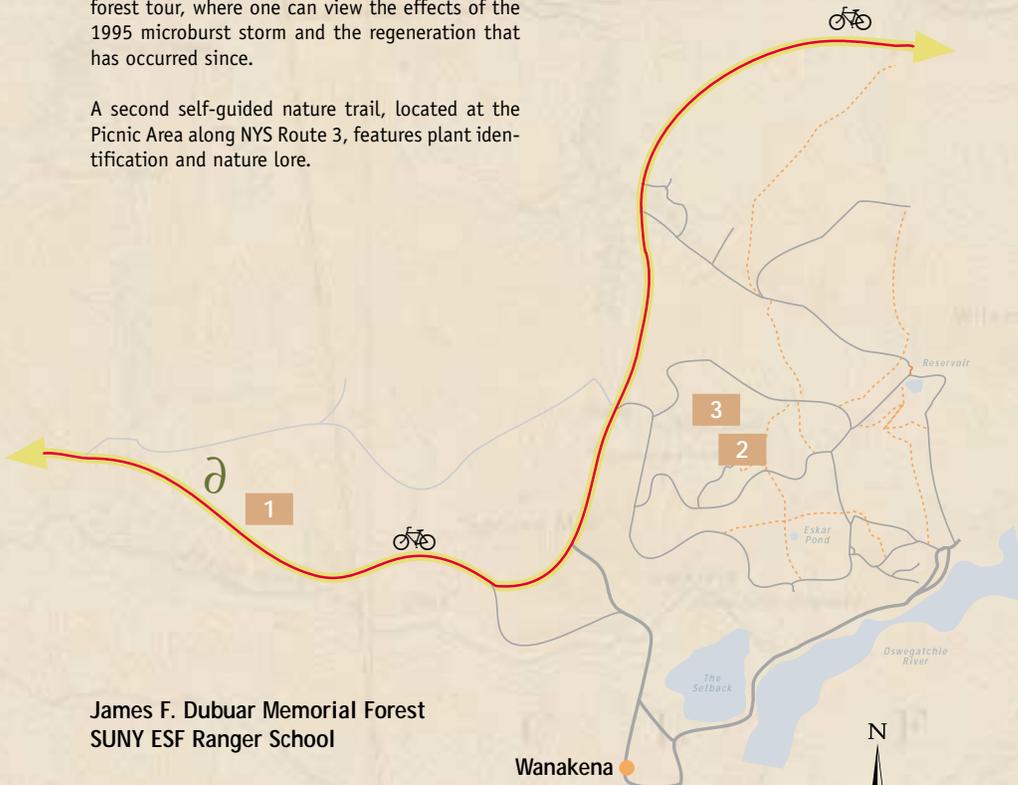
The 2,800 acre James F. Dubuar Memorial Forest, owned and operated by the SUNY-ESF Ranger School, is open to the public for various recreational pursuits. Miles of well-maintained roads and trails provide hiking, skiing, and biking opportunities along with views of some of the management practices used to protect the ecology and enhance the productivity of the forest.

A popular self-guided drive-through forest tour, beginning and ending on NYS Route 3, takes the viewer around the Ranger School forest during the summer months to view specific management practices concerning forest and wildlife. There is also a self-guided nature trail, accessed from the drive-through forest tour, where one can view the effects of the 1995 microburst storm and the regeneration that has occurred since.

A second self-guided nature trail, located at the Picnic Area along NYS Route 3, features plant identification and nature lore.

The Ranger School Picnic Area offers a chance for rest and relaxation and a place to grill and/or eat your lunch. An information kiosk at the picnic area provides a pictorial history of the site as one of the many thousands of CCC Camps that existed throughout the country during the Depression. Information about the Nature Trail and the microburst storm of 1995 can also be found in the kiosk. One of the few remaining steel fire towers in the state is located within the SUNY-ESF Ranger School forest.

It affords a panoramic view of the School's forest and the surrounding Five Ponds Wilderness Area. More details about the tower can be found in the Historical/Landmark section of this guide.



James F. Dubuar Memorial Forest  
SUNY ESF Ranger School

- 1 Picnic Area & Former CCC Camp
- 2 Cathedral Rock
- 3 Fire Tower

## Resources

Adirondack Mountain Club  
[www.adk.org](http://www.adk.org)

Adirondack Regional Tourism Council  
[www.adirondacks.org](http://www.adirondacks.org)

Audubon Society  
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

I Love NY  
[www.iloveny.com](http://www.iloveny.com)

NYS Adirondack Park Agency  
[www.apa.state.ny.us](http://www.apa.state.ny.us)

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
[www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us)

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
[www.nysparks.com/snow](http://www.nysparks.com/snow)

New York State Snowmobile Association  
[www.nyssnowassoc.org](http://www.nyssnowassoc.org)

St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce  
[www.NorthCountryGuide.com](http://www.NorthCountryGuide.com)

SUNY-ESF Ranger School  
<http://rangingschool.esf.edu>

