Conservation background

The property was owned and managed for half a century by John Calhoun and his wife, Rosemarie. Their philosophy emphasized sustainable timber harvesting, improving wildlife habitat and protecting the soil and water resources on the property.

The Calhouns believed forests are important harbors of natural resources, scenic beauty and recreational opportunity. The Calhoun children have fond memories of cutting firewood with their parents, family picnics by Porcupine Falls and swimming in White Brook.

The Calhoun children chose to donate the property to the Monadnock Conservancy as the best way to honor their parents’ legacy, ensuring sound stewardship of their family’s land forever. Named for their parents, the John and Rosemarie Calhoun Family Forest provides an educational opportunity where all are welcome to hike, hunt and learn firsthand about sustainable forest management techniques.

Directions

From Routes 10/12/9E: Head north on Route 10 toward Gilsum. Go 5.1 miles. Turn right onto White Brook Road. Follow road to the end where there is a gate and parking area.

From the north: Follow Route 10 south through Gilsum center. It’s 7.3 miles from the intersection of routes 10 and 122 to White Brook Road. Turn right. Follow road to the end where there is a gate and parking area.

Porcupine Falls Trail

GILSUM, N.H.

OUT-AND-BACK TRAIL

Rating: Easy
Distance/Time: 0.4 miles/30 minutes
Parking/Access: End of White Brook Road

This meandering one-way trail on the John and Rosemarie Calhoun Family Forest travels through a mixed hardwood-conifer forest rich with mosses and ferns. The trail follows White Brook, a quintessential babbling brook that makes a peaceful backdrop for a picnic, and culminates at a bridge over the brook — a wonderful spot to enjoy “Porky Falls” as the Calhoun family called this waterfall.

Pedestrian use welcome; please leave only footsteps