

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S LUCIUS POND ORDWAY / DEVIL'S DEN PRESERVE



*The Mission of The Nature Conservancy
is to conserve the lands and waters on
which all life depends.*

SAVING NATURE

The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Working in all 50 states and more than 35 countries, we have protected more than **119 million acres of land** and **5,000 miles of rivers worldwide**.

The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut has protected more than **50,000 acres across the state**, maintains more than **60 local preserves** and has approximately **28,000 members**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit nature.org/connecticut.

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The Nature Conservancy's Devil's Den Preserve

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DIRECTIONS TO DEVIL'S DEN PRESERVE

For GPS navigation, direct to 33 Pent Road, Weston, CT.

From the Merritt Parkway: Take exit 42 for CT-57. Go north on CT-57 for 3.8 miles, then bear right at flashing light to follow CT-53 for 1.7 miles. Turn left on Godfrey Road West and drive 0.5 miles. Make a right onto Pent Road. Road ends at parking lot.

From I-84: Take exit 3 for US-7 S. Follow US-7 for 10 miles and turn left onto CT-107. Take the first right onto CT-57. Turn left onto Godfrey Road West and drive 0.6 miles. Make a sharp left onto Pent Road. Road ends at parking lot.

VISITOR USE

Devil's Den was created not only to protect the plants and animals within its borders, but also to allow people to enjoy them. We welcome you to hike, bird watch and take photos, but please refrain from any activities that disturb the natural environment or other visitors. Restroom facilities are not available.

- Trails are open from sunrise to sunset.
- Hiking is permitted only on blazed trails.
- Cross-country skiing is permitted on red-blazed trails, but requires 8" to 10" of snow to clear rocks and stumps.
- Hikers under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Dogs, horses and other pets are not permitted.
- Mountain bikes, motorized vehicles and firearms are prohibited.
- Visitors may not hunt; trap; rock climb; fish; boat; swim; ice skate; collect plants, animals, minerals or artifacts; release animals; smoke; build fires; camp; or drink alcoholic beverages within the preserve.
- Please remove all trash and belongings when you leave.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

Trail junctions are marked with numbered posts that correspond to numbers on the map (see reverse). These posts also support yellow directional signs, which point toward the shortest route back to the parking lot at Pent Road. Trails with red blazes are suitable for cross-country skiing; those with yellow blazes are for walking only; and those with white blazes are part of the Saugatuck Valley Trails system. Be sure to take a map!

Sturdy walking or hiking shoes are recommended, as many trails are rocky. We suggest these round-trip walks for your enjoyment: [1] Laurel Trail around Godfrey Pond (1.1 miles, easy); [2] Pent, Saugatuck and Ambler trails to Ambler Gorge, return via Den and Pent Trails (2.8 miles, moderate); [3] Laurel and Godfrey trails to portable sawmill, return via Sap Brook, Hildebeitel, Deer Knoll, Harrison and Pent trails (3.3 miles, moderate); [4] Devil's Den grand tour via Pent, Den and Bedford Trails, return via Aspetuck, Perry and Laurel trails (5.6 miles, moderate).

A PATCHWORK OF HABITATS

Lucius Pond Ordway/Devil's Den Preserve is the largest contiguous nature preserve in southwestern Connecticut, with 1,756 acres of woodlands, wetlands, streams, rock ledges and rugged north-south ridges. Many of these ridges provide scenic overlooks of the surrounding countryside.

Some 20 miles of trails offer opportunities to visit diverse features including **Godfrey Pond**, a mill pond created in the 1700s; the **Saugatuck Wildlife Refuge**, an extensive shrubby marsh along the West Branch of the Saugatuck River; the **Great Ledge**, a high rock formation with a spectacular view; and **Ambler Gorge**, a picturesque ravine and stream with a rocky cascade.



AN OASIS FOR SPECIES

Biologically, Devil's Den is valuable because it is part of a much larger, species-rich landscape that encompasses nearly 15,000 acres of continuous forest. The preserve is home to 145 species of birds, 23 species of mammals and 475 varieties of trees and wildflowers.

Cover: Godfrey Brook © SALLY HAROLD/TNC; **Top Left:** Saugatuck Reservoir © STEPHEN PATTON/TNC; **Top:** Godfrey Pond © CARLOTA HEED; **Top Right:** mountain laurel on the Ambler Trail © CARLOTA HEED



A HISTORY OF DEVIL'S DEN

Archaeological evidence indicates Devil's Den was occupied by semi-nomadic Native Americans as early as 3000 B.C. Its overhanging rock formations were used as short-term shelters during hunting.

More recently, historical records tell us that David Adams sold the land to Nathaniel Squires in 1767. Squires is believed to have built an oscillating sawmill during the American Revolution. Its wood was used primarily to build homes for the colonists. The Godfreys later bought the pond, sawmill and four acres from the Squires, and four successive generations ran the mill for 95 years.

The presence of stone walls and foundations suggests that some of the land in Devil's Den also was used for agriculture, but forestry was its primary industry from the early 1700s until about 1930.

In the 1800s and up until about 1920, charcoal was produced at as many as 30 sites throughout the preserve. The charcoal was used for many purposes, including fueling iron forges. When technology advanced, charcoal was no longer in such high demand, and this type of production ceased.

In 1966, Katharine Ordway, a local philanthropist, began donating the funds that enabled The Nature Conservancy to purchase the original 1,400 acres of Devil's Den. Today, the preserve is 1,756 acres and hosts more than 40,000 visitors each year.

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.
Publication date 11/2015.

JOIN TODAY...

AND HELP PROTECT EARTH'S NATURAL HABITATS

yes!

I want to help preserve Earth's precious lands and waters by making a special contribution. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:

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Merryfield, VA 21116

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