



*MELODY TRAIL ON WEIS  
A COMPANION TO "THE  
LOOP" TRAIL GUIDE*

The Melody trail, named for its musical markings and presumably the sounds of the brook which it follows, was, to best reports, first blazed by Mimosa Meisner. She reportedly oversaw a children's play group in the late 1940's, early 1950's, and was part of the original Nature Friends.

When the Audubon Society took over the property, the trail was slightly re-routed and marked with a green "W" over a white background. The "W" likely stood for Weis-Winfield. The trail then went unmaintained and slowly faded over 4 decades or so, and was recently reblazed on the original route with the original markings; only this time brown musical notes rather than green to avoid confusion with the Otter Hole

Trail which zig zags across the Melody Trail.

The trail begins near the Ping Pong Tables along the brook at Weis. A few meters from the trail head stands a weeping willow. The ashes of Sol Green were planted under the memorial tree. Sol, and his wife Mim were active members and supporters of what is now the Highlands Nature Friends Camp Midvale and Weis Ecology Center. Their names are recorded on one of the bricks set in the pool area walkway.

The trail crosses the second bridge and follows along with the LOOP ("L") trail for a short while before continuing upstream along Blue Mine Brook, crosses the dirt road where the old bridge washed out, and continues to the back end of Winfield Farm, past the old dam, hangs a right and terminates back on the Otter Hole Trail. A left turn will bring you out to Otter Hole, a right turn down the dirt road will lead you back to Snake Den Road and Weis.

As for the farm itself, or the few remains which still stand, we have information which comes from Ralph Colfax, who is the head of the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society.

"John Caragon, son of Samuel, acquired the property in 1859 and enlarged it with an

additional purchase in 1864. John purchased the property in three tracts from three different individuals, G. R. Ryerson, Levi Lines, and John J. Morris. An 1876 land survey shows John as still in possession of the farm. I am also aware that one of these tracts was surveyed in 1807.

By the mid-1870s, the Carrigan family had three farms: the camp site; Winfield; and a farm along the West Brook that is known today as the horse farm.

What is known today as Snake Den Road was first laid out and surveyed in 1830. The road was not named in the survey--a common practice at the time. However, a stream called Snake Den Brook was mentioned. The current Snake Den Road in West Milford was not part of the original road. In 1830 the road went straight out to Otterhole Road. It did not turn toward Boy Scout Lake. [the course of the old and now-closed mine trail]"

*We do know that Lady Longfellow VIII, No. 51368, a winning racehorse was housed there. She pulled first place on March 28, 1899.*