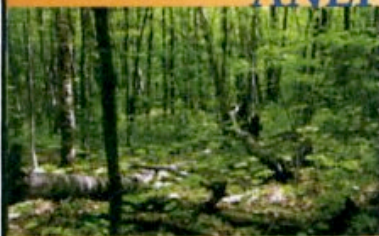


ANEI Programs



The Horatio Colony Nature Preserve

415 acres for place-based education

"The Horatio Colony cabin project is a wonderful concept, and I am proud to be part of it."

Brian Gallien, Ironwood Restoration, on providing expertise to the Horatio Colony II Cabin Restoration Project

Stone walls weave through diverse plant communities, past wetlands, and along former roads in the 415-acre Horatio Colony Nature Preserve. In 1977, Horatio Colony II, a writer, collector, and world traveler, left a trust with guidelines for the management of the Horatio Colony House Museum and Nature Preserve. The trust protects Colony's 1806 Federal home on Main Street and the nature preserve on West Hill in Keene, New Hampshire. The preserve now provides the community with an exceptionally beautiful location for place-based learning. The site features three and a half miles of hiking trails, a historic cabin, scenic outlooks, and woodland vistas complete with old foundations. The preserve also serves as the site for ongoing research activities and a public program series offered in conjunction with ANEI's Rachel Marshall Outdoor Learning Lab (RMOLL), Eastern Mountain Sports, and the Keene Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department.

The ANEI Center for Place-based Education coordinates education and stewardship activities at the preserve in collaboration with the Horatio Colony House Museum Director. Long-term projects include ANEI staff and students working with Monadnock Community Connections School high school students to restore Horatio Colony II's cabin. The group repaired the cabin's foundation and walls and installed educational displays.

Preserve staff members also help local teachers plan and implement short-term natural-history educational experiences. In the fall of 2003, Antioch graduate students worked with second-grade students to learn about trees and with Keene High School American Studies students to practice journaling at the preserve. In addition, staff and students host a "Quest Fest" every spring. Some of the Quests—or permanent treasure hunts—focus on Colony historic sites, including the preserve.

Outdoor adventures open to the public have included snowshoe treks, hikes, and trail-maintenance volunteer days. Horatio Colony staff and students are active preserve stewards and follow trail-maintenance strategies adopted by the Green Mountain Club and the Appalachian Trail Conference. Trail work activities include water bar construction, blow-down and brush clearing, trail marking, and bridge construction.

Management of the preserve, which has been affiliated with Antioch New England Graduate School for 19 years, became an ANEI project in 2000. ♦



Keene's MC students and ANEI student staff work on Horatio Colony's cabin.

