

This trail is dedicated to Clayton Carl a Research Forester who served on the Alfred Conservation Commission from 1999 to 2013.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from the University of Maine, and his master of forestry degree from Duke University.

Although the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station, where Clayton worked, is in Durham, NH -- he regularly traveled to Alfred, ME in stewardship of the Massabesic Forest.

Clayton's participation on the Alfred Conservation Commission provided ongoing communication between the Durham Research office and the Town Commission regarding all Massabesic Forest issues. He was instrumental to the creation and maintenance of the walking trails.



sugar maple

The Massabesic Experimental Forest is a research forest purchased in the early 1930's by the USDA Forest Service to study eastern white pine. The largest blocks were obtained from Bates College, which in turn had received the land from the estate of Benjamin C. Jordan, an Alfred lumberman, around 1900. In 1947 approximately 150,000 acres in this part of Maine burned but small tracts like this survived, and are prime examples of what the forests might have looked like before the impacts of logging, farming, and fire.



cinnamon fern

The trails are marked by blue blazes; double blazes signify a split in the trail. The forest is a dynamic place, changing from season to season and week to week. We hope you take time along your walk to stop and listen and discover the beauty of the Massabesic Experimental Forest Southern Unit.

Thanks for exploring the forest, please visit again soon!

Please respect our few simple rules:

- Do not park in front of the gates
- Do not pick/remove any plants
- Carry in, carry out - do not litter
- Clean up after your dog(s)

Fires and camping are prohibited.

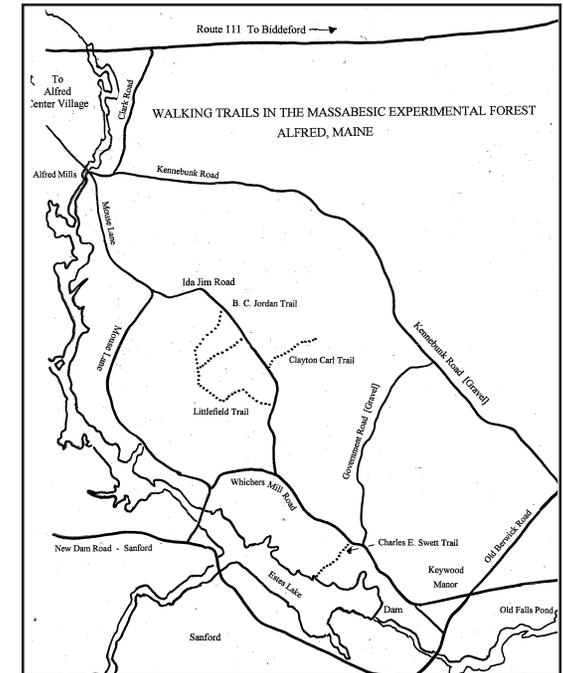
Massabesic Experimental Forest



Ecology and Management of Northern Forests

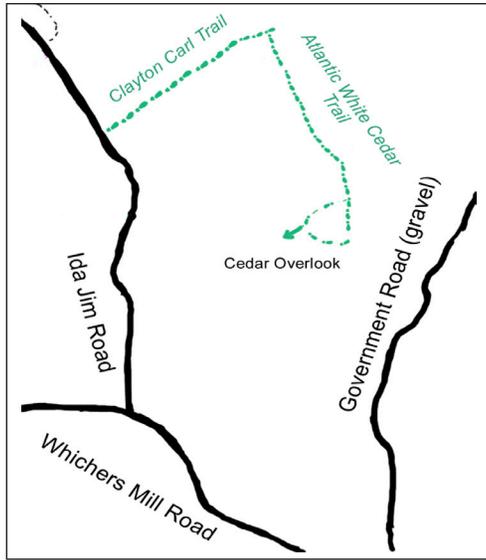
USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station

Clayton Carl trail



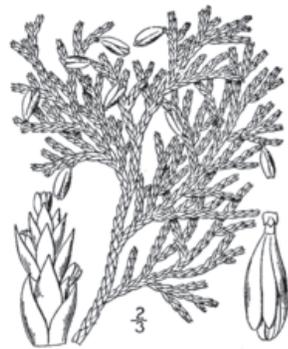
Trail map provided by the Alfred Conservation Commission

Clayton Carl Trail and Atlantic White Cedar Loop



Massabesic holds one of the state's largest Atlantic White Cedar Swamps, which Maine Natural Areas Program has designated a Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities. This type of forested wetland provides

valuable habitat to many species; it is vulnerable due to its dependence on disturbance such as fire, and its susceptibility to damage from water quality degradation.



Atlantic white cedar

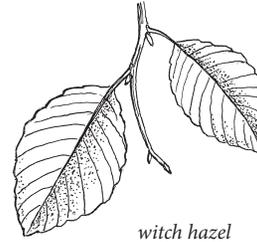
Aids to Identification:

Atlantic white cedar is an evergreen tree, up to 25 m high, with small, scale-like leaves and characteristic cedar fragrance. Atlantic white cedar can be distinguished from northern white cedar, which is common and widespread in Maine, because the branchlets bearing the leaves are rounded, not

flattened; by the bluish-green color of the foliage (as opposed to the yellowish-green of northern white cedar); and by the fruits which are small and spherical rather than elongated.

Community Description:

These densely forested communities allow little direct light to the forest floor. The canopy is usually a uniform cover of Atlantic white cedar with occasional black spruce and red maple; in some sites, red maple may be co-dominant. The ground is a mosaic of moss covered hummocks and hollows. Where light penetrates the canopy, shrubs such as highbush blueberry, black huckleberry, mountain holly, or winterberry may be prominent. The herb layer features dense patches of tree regeneration in some openings. Herbaceous species are typically more abundant than dwarf heath shrubs.



witch hazel

Soil and Site Characteristics:

Atlantic white cedar swamps are underlain by shallow peat over mineral soil, or, less commonly, by mineral soil with little organic matter. They are flat, found in poorly drained depressions where standing water is present at least part of the year. All are at less than 300' elevation.

Diagnostics:

These wetlands have greater than 60% tree canopy cover. Atlantic white cedar is dominant or at least common. Evergreen shrubs are often present.

Similar Types:

Northern White Cedar Swamps may be compositionally similar except for the dominant species. Other similar types lack Atlantic white cedar, except for Atlantic White Cedar Bogs, where the trees are stunted, the canopy is well under 60%, and the peat moss substrate is deep (> 50 cm).

Characteristic Plants

These plants are frequently found in this community type. Those with an asterisk are often diagnostic of this community.

Canopy

Atlantic white cedar*
Black spruce*
Red maple*
Sapling/shrub
Atlantic white cedar*
Mountain holly*

Dwarf Shrub

Labrador tea
Sheep laurel

Herb

Canada mayflower
Cinnamon fern*
Creeping snowberry
Goldthread*
Pitcher plant
Starflower
Three-seeded sedge
Wild sarsaparilla*

Bryoid

Dicranum moss
Sphagnum mosses*
Three-lobed bazzania

Associated Rare Plants

Atlantic white cedar
Smooth winterberry

Associated Rare Animals

Hessel's hairstreak

From the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.