



Favorite Hikes on the Finger Lakes Trail

Bock-Harvey Forest Preserve, Enfield, Map M16

By Roger Hopkins

Type: Loop, Length: 2 Miles Rating: Easy Terrain: Moderate Elevation gain/loss: 150 ft. Comment: Loop through old-growth maple grove to Finger Lakes Trail and Locust Lean-to with magnificent views of Enfield hills.

A wonderful, short hike through a remarkably diverse property that includes scenic meadows, woodlands, and a stand of old-growth maples that may be as old as 300 years. The preserve was donated to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference by Robert and Beatie Bock, it having been the home of the Bock and Harvey families since the early 1800's. The property was once Revolutionary War Tract land that was used as an incentive to enlist New Yorkers to fight in the war. Later, it was purchased by Samuel Harvey, the Bock's paternal ancestor. The Finger Lakes Land Trust holds a conservation easement protecting the preserve in its natural state indefinitely.

- Begin your hike at the Rockwell Road parking lot and follow the yellow trail through the small woodlot past the welcoming kiosk and trail register.
- Cross the meadow with the active farm field on your left and enter the forest special protection zone staying on the yellow trail.
- After 200 yards, find the beginning of the loop trail through the maple grove and turn left to hike the loop in a counter-clockwise direction.
- Pass the boardwalk built as an Eagle Scout project and come to the "Ponder Log" – a Bock family favorite place to stop for a bit and contemplate this serene setting.
- Continuing around the loop to the southern edge, find a short connector to the white-blazed Finger Lakes Trail.
- Turn right on the FLT to head west for ¼ mile. Notice that you are also on the North Country National Scenic trail, which passes through southern New York on the Finger Lakes Trail on its way from North Dakota to Vermont.
- Leave the FLT on the right and head downhill on the blue-blazed trail 200 yards to the Locust Lean-to. This waystop on the FLT was built in 2015 by the Cayuga Trails Club and an FLTC Alley-Cat construction crew. Visit the "most scenic" privy on the FLT and the "front porch" of the Lean-to with the view of the Newfield hills and the Leopold benches honoring the Bock family.
- Continue downhill on the blue trail to rejoin the yellow trail back to the parking lot.

On the hike, you can see the history of this place since Europeans first arrived and cleared much of the land for farming. Observe the neighboring farm field that is still active, the meadow that was a recently abandoned hay field, the meadow by the lean-to privy that is well on its way to become successional forest, the even-aged woods with young trees that were abandoned fields 50 to 75 years ago, and finally the old growth sugar maple woods that have remained in natural state since before the Europeans arrived.



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If you want a longer hike (about 3.5 miles total), you can continue west on the white blazed FLT to Porter Hill Road and jog slightly left to continue on the trail through Riemen Woods Nature Preserve. Exiting Riemen Woods back onto Porter Hill Road, return to the Bock-Harvey parking lot along Rockwell Road.

You can also go east (about 3 miles total) on the FLT to reach Rockwell Road and then return to the parking lot.

Before you leave, return to the kiosk and tell us about your hike in the trail register book.



IMPORTANT: Trail conditions may have changed since the above map was created. Before you hike, check the Trail Condition Notices for Map M16 on the FLT Website (fingerlakestrail.org) for latest conditions.