

**Franklin County by Foot and Paddle  
March-September 2020**

**Doug Dunlap**

**Progress Report  
May 15, 2020**

**Welcome! Join the Adventure - help the United Way!**

Welcome to this first Progress Report! Join me through these reports – and, if you wish, with your own outings - on an adventure to journey 1000 miles of Franklin County by walking and paddling in spring and summer 2020!

In the process, help our United Way of the Tri-Valley during this COVID-19 period, as the United Way continues through its partner agencies to provide vital services to our neighbors in Franklin County. You may make a donation based upon my 1000-mile aspiration – or by setting your own mileage goal as an individual or a family.

**Franklin County – Extraordinary Natural Beauty**

We have in our county “backyard” one of the world’s most beautiful, pristine, and uncrowded landscapes. As the impact of COVID-9 reached Maine and the nation, In March I began to look locally for intriguing outdoor places to explore, where there would be plenty of room to roam – and discovered plenty of them! My walks have taken me to the foothills of Farmington, New Sharon, New Vineyard, and Wilton; streamside of Wilson Stream in Wilton and North Chesterville, the Sandy River in Farmington and New Sharon, Lemon Stream north of New Vineyard, and the Carrabassett River in the town that bears its name. I have looked upon our highest peaks – Saddleback, Mt. Abraham (Abram), Spaulding, Sugarloaf, and the Bigelow Range – from Cape Cod Hill, the Hills of Strong, and the New Vineyard Mountains.

Along the way I have spotted deer, beaver, wild turkey, grouse – and a bald eagle. I saw my first wildflowers of spring, bright yellow coltsfoot, in Carrabassett Valley; watched the emergence of red maple flowers along the Sandy River; and discovered my first purple trillium of the season in an extensive patch along the Whistle Stop Trail in West Farmington.

Rising early, I enjoy watching the sun rise to extend rich morning light to the mountains tops, across our intervals and broad valleys, and through the woods, until it reaches high enough to brighten the path at my feet. On rainy days, I put on rain gear, head out to watch brooks and streams swell, rattle, and churn, and simply enjoy the gift of simple time outdoors.

**Walking and Paddling - Simple, Joyful**

As COVID-19 takes its course, many people of Franklin County are discovering the joys of walking. As the weather warms, I will take to kayak or canoe to explore our waterways, as well – as will many of you readers. Visitors come to our part of Maine from the world over to experience the wild beauty to be found here – and Franklin

County residents are already here, where the outdoors is available to us at virtually no cost, and offers benefits to exercise the body and ease the mind. Are you one of those visitors? Welcome! You are invited to this walking-paddling adventure, too!

Twice a month, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>, from now through September I will provide a report of my progress. How about you? Send stories of your own outings to [info@uwtva.org](mailto:info@uwtva.org).

Wave and say hello when I pass by!

Doug Dunlap



**March 1, 2020-May 15, 2020**

**Locations, Wildlife, Plant life**

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**Towns/Townships**

Carrabassett Valley  
Chesterville  
Farmington  
Industry  
Jay  
Letter E  
Madrid  
New Sharon  
New Vineyard  
Sandy River Plantation  
Wilton

### **Established Trails Walked**

Cascades, Mosher Hill  
 Clifford Woods  
 Huston Brook Road and Falls Trail  
 Maine Huts/Trails  
 Narrow Gauge Pathway  
 Powder House Trails (Flint Woods, Horn Woods, Village Woods, Willow Springs)  
 Smalls Falls  
 Titcomb Mountain Trails  
 Whistle Stop Trail

### **Other Points of Interest**

Farmington Foothills: Morrison Hill, Mosher Hill, Porter Hill, Voter Hill  
 New Vineyard Mountains  
 North Jay Quarry  
 Orbeton Stream Conservation Easement  
 Sandy River Valley – Farmington, Chesterville, New Sharon  
 Strong Foothills  
 Stump Pond Wildlife Management Area  
 Wilson Stream

### **Lakes, Ponds, Rivers, Streams Paddled**

None to date – watch for the next progress report!

### **Miles Completed**

March 2020: 114.5  
 April 2020: 205  
 May 1-15, 2020: 88.5

Total as of May 15: 408 miles

### **Wildlife**

#### **Birds**

Bald eagle  
 Black duck  
 Bluebird  
 Blue jay  
 Canada goose  
 Catbird  
 Chickadee  
 Cowbird  
 Hairy and Downy woodpeckers

Mallard  
Mourning dove  
Red-winged blackbird  
Rose-breasted grosbeak  
Song sparrow  
Towhee  
Wood duck

### **Mammals**

Beaver  
Bobcat (track)  
Chipmunk  
Coyote (track and sign)  
Moose (track and sign)  
Pine marten  
Red fox  
Red squirrel  
Ruffed grouse  
Snowshoe hare  
Whitetail deer  
Wild turkey

### **Wildflowers**

Coltsfoot  
Dandelion  
Red maple  
Trillium  
Trout lily  
Violet

### **Trees**

Apple (wild/volunteer/abandoned)  
Alder  
Ash, black  
Beech  
Birch, white  
Birch, gray  
Birch, yellow  
Cedar, white  
Fir, balsam  
Hemlock  
Hawthorn  
Larch  
Maple, rock (sugar)  
Maple, red  
Maple, striped (moose)

Oak, red  
Pine, red  
Pine, white  
Popple (Aspen)  
Spruce, red

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**Next report June 1, 2020**