

**Franklin County by Foot and Paddle  
Doug Dunlap  
Progress Report July 1, 2020 for  
June 15 - June 30**

**Summer!**

**Thank you for your United Way donations!**

Donations to the United Way of the Tri-Valley are coming in at a fine pace, enabling the United Way and its community partners to reach out to vulnerable neighbors and friends during the COVID-19 period in a *vital* way!

*Vital* means *essential to life*. Food; clothing; supplies for infants and toddlers; support for access to health services of many kinds; personal protective supplies for child care providers - *these* are among the many, many forms of vital assistance that our United Way continues to provide. Thank you, of our Franklin County community, for your compassion and generosity!

We can face down the COVID-19 crisis by working together!

**Highlights: Walks Long and Short**

Much variety over the past two weeks! I headed towards Weld to summit Mt. Blue, Little Jackson, Bald Mountain, and Saddleback Wind Mountain – and hiked to Tumbledown Pond. When Weld celebrated its Bi-Centennial in 2018 I hiked the seven major peaks in the area. Later this year I hope to return for Blueberry Mountain, and Big Jackson.

More northward peaks, trails, and back roads: Orbeton Stream north of Reed's Mill in Madrid; Cranberry Peak in the Bigelow Range; some snowmobile/ATV routes in Freeman and Strong; and a hike to Daggett's Rock in Phillips which I turned into a near-six mile walk by parking about 3 miles away and walking back roads to the trailhead. On a day of much-needed rain, I hiked back roads and snowmobile trails in Salem and Mt. Abram Township, while exploring the eastern slope of Mt. Abraham (Abram).

I also enjoyed a quite early morning walk that began at Abbott Park in Farmington and led me through quiet neighborhoods – and eventually to Nina's Woods Trail and Clifford Woods.

**What's Next?**

I am making July plans for the particularly rugged and remote regions of Northern Franklin County – our high peaks, and the great, largely trail-less terrain

north of Rangeley and Eustis. Stay tuned! There is the paddling part, too! I look forward to time on the Rangeley Lakes Chain, Flagstaff Lake, and Chain of Ponds.

What are your outdoor plans? Franklin County has some of the finest outdoor recreation terrain in Eastern North America – right in our back yard!

### **Say Hello!**

I enjoy meeting people on these walks. Say *hello!* Happy to chat with you!

### **Shop locally**

As I head to the small towns of Franklin County, I make a point of buying some gas and supplies at local stores Let's help the local economy.

### **Your Journey**

Join with me in spirit by taking your walks or hikes. Start with short distances, even the nearest power pole and back, increasing distance gradually.

Peace of mind, good exercise – and you can't beat the price!

### **Foot, Paddle – and Pedal!**

Do you enjoy biking? That is people-power, too! Set your own biking miles goal, and make a bike-miles pledge to the United Way. Biking is great exercise, and gets you outdoors in Franklin County! Pedal on!

### **Doug's Miles**

By June 30 I have traveled 707.1 miles. Just under 300 miles to go!

However - summer heat and humidity, and the long distances required to reach the rugged terrain of far Northern Franklin County pose challenges to how many miles I can cover in a day over the weeks to come.

Those considerations, and a number of work projects that command my attention in the next three months are about to make this adventure pretty interesting! Can I reach 1000 miles?

***Do wave and say hello as I pass by!***

***Be safe and well during this pandemic.  
We will get through it by helping one another,  
and holding a positive outlook.***

*May you find peace of mind in our Franklin County outdoors.*

***Thank You!***

Doug Dunlap

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**Miles Completed**

March: 114.5

April: 205

May: 219.5

June: 168.1

Total: March 15-June 30: **707.1 miles**

**Towns/Townships Visited on the Journey**

**\* = Visited June 1 - June 30**

Avon\*

Carthage\*

Chesterville

Coplin\*

Dallas Plantation\*

Farmington\*

Freeman\*

Industry

Kingfield

Mount Abram Township\*

New Sharon

New Vineyard

Perkins Plantation\*  
Phillips\*  
Rangeley\*  
Rangeley Plantation  
Salem'  
Sandy River Plantation\*  
Stetsonville  
Strong\*  
Temple  
Township 6 North of Weld\*  
Washington Plantation\*  
Weld\*  
Wilton  
Wyman\*

### **Points of Interest**

Abbott Park\*  
Bald Mountain (south of Weld)\*  
Bigelow Preserve\*  
The Cascades (Farmington Fairgrounds vicinity)  
Cascade Gorge – Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust  
Chesterville Esker  
Chesterville Wildlife Management Area (Little Norridgewock Stream)  
Clifford Woods\*  
Cook Hill\*  
Cowan Hill  
Cranberry Peak\*  
Daggett's Rock\*  
Foothills Conservancy, Wilton  
Haley Pond\*  
Herrick, Hunter, Pratt Mountain Area  
Kennebago River  
Kimball Pond  
Little Jackson Mountain\*  
Madrid\*  
McIntire Pond  
Mosher Hill  
Mount Abraham Public Lands\*  
Mount Blue\*  
Mount Blue State Park\*  
Nina's Woods\*  
Orbeton Stream Conservation Area\*

Porter Lake  
Rangeley Lakes Trails Center  
Rapid Stream  
Sand Pond\*  
Saddleback Mountain\*  
Saddleback northern foothills – Oakes Nubble area\*;  
Saddleback Wind Mountain (Carthage) \*  
South Bog Stream – Forrest Bonney Stream Restoration Section  
Tumbledown-Jackson Maine Public Lands\*  
Tumbledown Pond\*  
Walker Hill/Orchard Drive area - Wilton  
Varnum Pond\*

### **Established Trails Walked**

Bigelow Range Trail\*  
Bald Mountain/Saddleback Wind Trail\*  
Cascade Gorge  
Cascades, Mosher Hill  
Little Jackson Trail\*  
Mount Blue Trail\*  
Rangeley Lakes Trails Center  
Saddleback – Gray Ghost/Tricolor  
South Bog Stream  
Tree of Life/FMH  
Whistle Stop Trail – Wilton

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

Haley Pond  
Kennebago River  
Little Kennebago Lake  
Wilson Lake

### **Wildlife**

\* = New sighting June 15-30

### **Birds (Partial list)**

Bald eagle  
Black duck  
Bluebird  
Blue jay  
Brown Thrasher  
Canada goose  
Catbird  
Chickadee  
Goldfinch  
Ruffed grouse (“partridge”)  
Hairy, Downy, Pileated woodpeckers  
Loon  
Mallard  
Mourning dove  
Osprey\*  
Red-winged blackbird  
Song sparrow  
Tree swallow  
Towhee  
Wild turkey  
Wood duck

### **Mammals**

Beaver  
Black bear \*  
Bobcat (track)  
Chipmunk  
Coyote (track and sign)  
Moose\*  
Pine marten (track)  
Red fox\*  
Red squirrel  
Snowshoe hare  
Weasel  
Whitetail deer

### **Wildflowers (Partial List)**

Azalea (wild)  
Bluebead lily  
Blueberry  
Bunchberry  
Bluet  
Canada Mayflower\*

Coltsfoot  
Cotton sedge\*  
Dandelion  
Goat's beard\*  
Lady Slipper (white)\*  
Red maple  
Saxifrage\*  
Serviceberry (aka June berry)  
Starflower  
Sumac\*  
Trillium - painted  
Trillium - purple  
Trout lily  
Violet  
Wild oat  
Yellow rocket

### **Trees**

Apple (wild/volunteer/abandoned)  
Alder  
Ash, black  
Beech  
Birch, white  
Birch, gray  
Birch, yellow  
Cedar, white  
Fir, balsam  
Hemlock  
Hawthorn  
Hobblebush  
Larch  
Maple, rock (sugar)  
Maple, red  
Maple, striped (moose)  
Oak, red  
Pine, red  
Pine, white  
Popple (Aspen); big toothed and small-toothed  
Spruce, red

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Next Report July 15, 2020

