

Reney Memorial Forest

The Reney Memorial Forest honors Donas and Margaret Reney, founders of a long-running lumber business dating back to 1901, and owned by their family for more than a generation. Over the years, Donas purchased the six tracts of land constituting the Reney Forest, and it provided pine and hemlock for the business until it closed in 2012. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests acquired the 413-acre forest in 2002. It happened through the generosity of many local residents and the foresight of Lena Cote and Everett "Mike" Reney, who turned down a lucrative offer in favor of protecting the land they had owned so long.

Having this conserved open space so central in Grantham is compelling evidence of the town's commitment to its rural heritage. Access to it is easy: just off Main Street South is a large parking area at the start of a 1.3-mile loop trail through the forest. It begins by a kiosk displaying a map, information about the Reney family, names of supporters, and the forest itself.

The trail occasionally crosses skid trails from logging operations that have occurred as recently as 2005. The openings in the forest created by the logging provide habitat for a diverse population of wildlife. In the winter, snowmobilers use an upper portion of the trail on which there is a small warming cabin maintained by the Blue Mountain Snowdusters. Impressive remains of the Reney Mill are visible just outside the Forest, where Route 114 crosses over Stocker Brook.

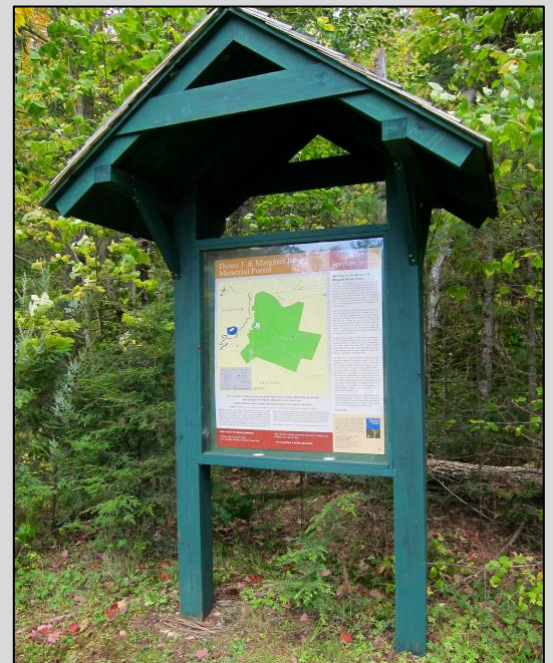
RENEY MEMORIAL FOREST



Lena and Mike Reney at Dedication, 2011



Reney Forest View of Croydon Mountain and Grantham Peak through a Clearing



Entrance Kiosk at Rt. 10