

Along the Air Line...

Nature Photography on the Air Line Trail

Stan Malcolm

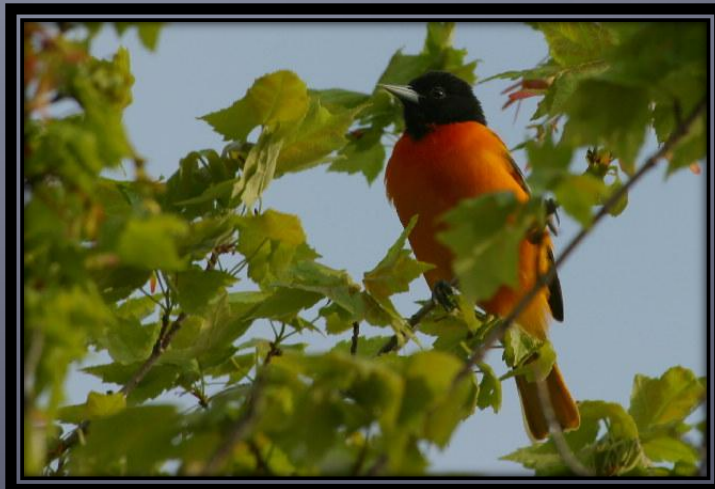
StanMalcolmPhoto.com

Along the Air Line...
<http://performance-vision.com/airline>



Agenda

- Context
- Air Line Trail on the Web
- The Trail – West to East
- Scenic Highlights
- Shooting Conditions
- Composition
- Technical Topics
- Editing
- Links



Context



Context

My Great
Grandfather's work

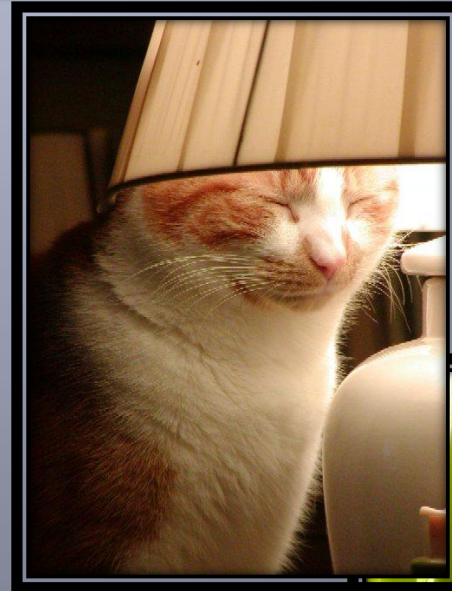


My
Grandfather's
Photos



Context

- StanMalcolmPhoto.com



On the Web

- Along the Air Line...
www.performance-vision.com/airline



A Quick Tour



Support this site?

What's New
Stan Malcolm Photo

Years:

2010 2009 2008
2007 2006 2005
2004 2003 2002
2001

Special Topics:

Cecropia Moths
Promethea Moths
Monarch Butterfly

The Air Line was once a railroad renowned for its relatively straight course from Boston to New York - "as if by a line drawn through the air." You can still find lumps of coal left over from the steam era. Today the rail bed has been converted to a Connecticut linear park and hiking trail.

At this web site you'll find over 4,000 photos of the natural environment - plants, animals, and landscapes - taken on the Air Line Trail in eastern Connecticut, from the Fall of 2001 until the present.



Recent Additions:

Nature Photography 101 Powerpoint slides (39meg)

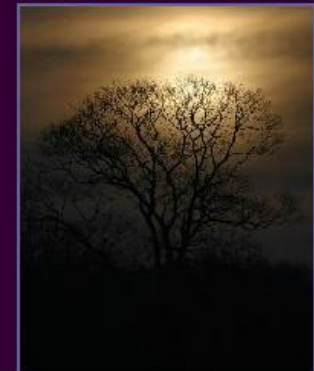
Recently completed...

Winter 2009-10 - Part 1



In progress...

Winter 2009-10 - Part 2



A Quick Tour

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Years:

[2010](#) [2009](#) [2008](#)
[2007](#) [2006](#) [2005](#)
[2004](#) [2003](#) [2002](#)
[2001](#)

Special Topics:

[Cecropia Moths](#)
[Promethea Moths](#)
[Monarch Butterfly](#)
[Lady's Slippers](#)
[Great Egret](#)
[Great Blue Heron](#)
[Green Heron](#)
[Yellow Warblers](#)
[Tree Swallows](#)
[Mushrooms](#)
[United Distillers](#)
[Photoshop "Art"](#)
[Pollination](#)
[Whirlpool](#)
[Beaver Splash](#)

[Home Page](#)
[Stan Malcolm Photo](#)

Along the Air Line... *What's New*

The Air Line Trail in Eastern Connecticut - Stan Malcolm Photos

Quiet Corner Camera Club presents "Along the Air Line..."

On April 20th, 2010, I'll be presenting a slide show of Air Line Trail photos through the seasons, highlighting the wildlife and plants to be seen along the trail, and discussing the challenges and techniques of nature photography.

The show kicks off at 7:00 P.M. at the Buchanan Center in Mansfield, CT. The Center is on Route 89 just east of the junction with Route 195.



Nature Photography 101

Stan Malcolm



Nature Photography 101

The Community Wildlife of Colchester group asked me to present a class on the basics of nature photography. It was held at Colchester's Cragin Memorial Library on January 6th, 2010, from 7:00-8:30. Sixtytwo people attended.

A Quick Tour

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What's New

Stan Malcolm Photo

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STAN MALCOLM PHOTO



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Please enjoy my

[Along the Air Line...](#)

web site where you'll find over 4,000 photos of the natural environment - plants, animals, and landscapes - taken on the Air Line Rail-Trail in eastern Connecticut, from the Fall of 2001 until the present.

Please enjoy my

[Ghost Run 2009 Photos](#) taken on the Air Line Trail, November 7th, 2009.



A Quick Tour

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What's New
Stan Malcolm Photo

Years:

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2007 2006 2005
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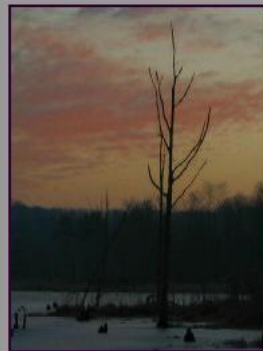
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Beaver Splash

Along the Air Line... 2008

The Air Line Trail in Eastern Connecticut - Stan Malcolm Photos

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[Winter 2007-2008 - Part 1](#)



[Winter 2007-2008 - Part 2](#)



[Winter 2007-2008 - Part 3](#)



A Quick Tour

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What's New
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Along the Air Line... Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

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[Home Page](#)
[Stan Malcolm Photo](#)



A Quick Tour

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[Winter 2009-10 - Part 1](#)



In progress...

[Winter 2009-10 - Part 2](#)



[Trail Maps and Directions - Trail History](#)

[Martin Bartel's Air Line Rail Trail web site](#)

[Local Attractions and Lodging](#)

[2009 Hunting Seasons](#)

[Planning a Trail Project?](#)

[Links - About Stan - Contact Stan](#)

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In progress...

Winter 2009-10



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The Air Line Trail

A Connecticut Greenway, State Linear Park and Multipurpose Trail for non-motorized users



Guide & Map for the Towns
of East Hampton, Colchester,
Hebron and Lebanon

Trail Maps available
from Town Halls in:

- East Hampton
- Colchester
- Hebron
- Lebanon

Ask at the Park &
Recreation Department

The Trail – West to East

The Air Line Trail

A Connecticut Greenway, State Linear Park, and Multipurpose Trail for non-motorized users

Guide & Map for the Towns of East Hampton, Colchester, Hebron and Lebanon

East Hampton

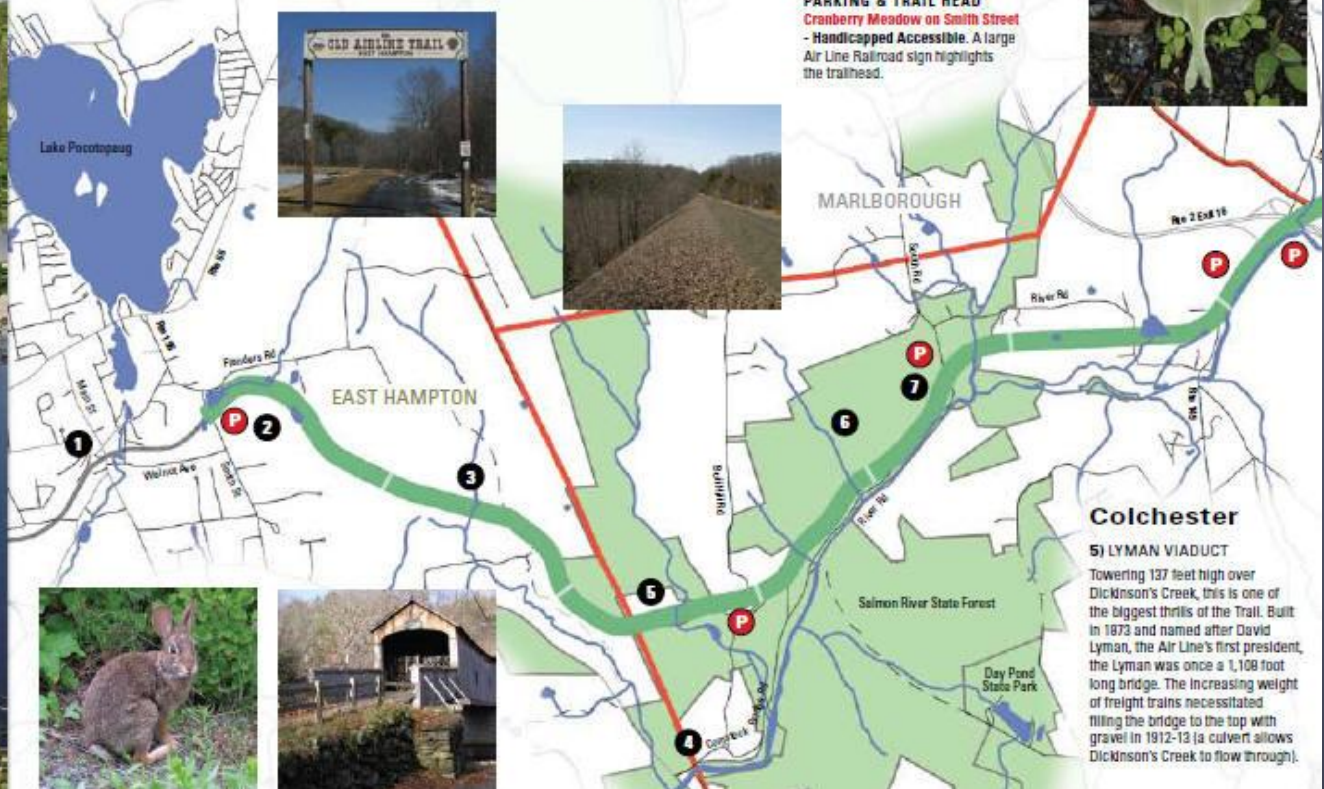
1) BELL TOWN VILLAGE CENTER & LAKE POCOTOPAUG
East Hampton is called "Bell Town" as it was the center of the bell making industry for the country. Taking a detour off the Trail at Cranberry Meadow onto Smith St. and traveling west leads to the Bell Town Village Center, a mecca for antique shoppers. Traveling north leads to the business center of East Hampton and Lake Pocotopaug. Caution is advised on busy roads.

2) CRANBERRY BOG
This pond offers benches for resting; the sights of wildflowers and sounds of bullfrogs in the summer, and picturesque ice skating and hockey games in the winter. Cranberry Meadow and Bog was once a natural cranberry producing bog. During the 1920's and 30's, the cranberries were harvested, transported to grocers, and bartered for groceries.

3) RAPALLO VIADUCT
Built in 1873 (as was its sister, the Lyman Viaduct, 1-1/2 miles east in Colchester), the Rapallo bears the name of a railroad director and was built for two train tracks. Originally a 1,380 ft. long bridge 60 ft. high above Flat Brook, the increasing weight of freight trains necessitated filling underneath it in 1913. The spectacular views of the marsh to the north and other natural surroundings make this a rare treat.

4) COMSTOCK BRIDGE
The Comstock Bridge was built in 1791 and rebuilt in 1860. It is one of only three remaining covered bridges in Connecticut. The Comstock Bridge links East Hampton and Colchester and is approximately 1-1/4 miles south of the intersection of Colchester's Bull Hill Road and the Air Line Trail. The bridge is open to pedestrian traffic and has a picnic area nearby.

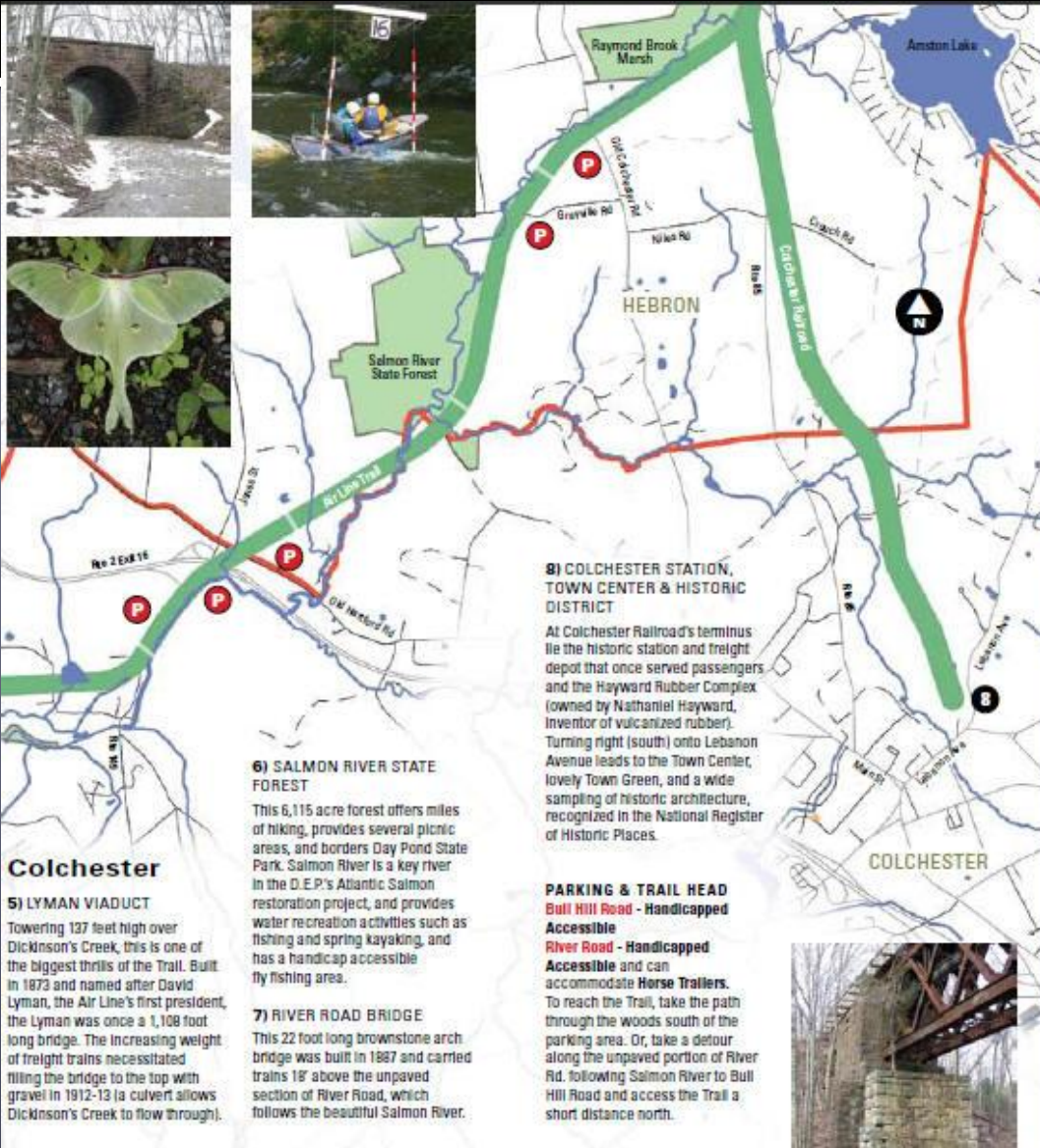
PARKING & TRAIL HEAD
Cranberry Meadow on Smith Street - Handicapped Accessible. A large Air Line Railroad sign highlights the trailhead.



Colchester

5) LYMAN VIADUCT
Towering 137 feet high over Dickinson's Creek, this is one of the biggest thrills of the Trail. Built in 1873 and named after David Lyman, the Air Line's first president, the Lyman was once a 1,108 foot long bridge. The increasing weight of freight trains necessitated filling the bridge to the top with gravel in 1912-13 (a culvert allows Dickinson's Creek to flow through).

The Trail – West to East



Colchester

5) LYMAN VIADUCT

Towering 127 feet high over Dickinson's Creek, this is one of the biggest thrills of the Trail. Built in 1873 and named after David Lyman, the Air Line's first president, the Lyman was once a 1,108 foot long bridge. The increasing weight of freight trains necessitated filling the bridge to the top with gravel in 1912-13 (a culvert allows Dickinson's Creek to flow through).

7) RIVER ROAD BRIDGE

This 22 foot long brownstone arch bridge was built in 1887 and carried trains 18' above the unpaved section of River Road, which follows the beautiful Salmon River.

8) COLCHESTER STATION, TOWN CENTER & HISTORIC DISTRICT

At Colchester Railroad's terminus lie the historic station and freight depot that once served passengers and the Hayward Rubber Complex (owned by Nathaniel Hayward, inventor of vulcanized rubber). Turning right (south) onto Lebanon Avenue leads to the Town Center, lovely Town Green, and a wide sampling of historic architecture, recognized in the National Register of Historic Places.

PARKING & TRAIL HEAD Bull Hill Road - Handicapped Accessible

River Road - Handicapped Accessible and can accommodate Horse Trailers. To reach the Trail, take the path through the woods south of the parking area. Or, take a detour along the unpaved portion of River Rd. following Salmon River to Bull Hill Road and access the Trail a short distance north.



Much appreciation is extended to the Public Works Departments of these four Towns who enthusiastically improved the Trail, to the countless volunteers who supported and assisted this project, to the National Recreational Trail Program for the funding of materials, and to the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection for making available this Linear State Park and Greenway for the use of the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CT DEP – www.ct.gov/dep
 East Hampton Parks & Recreation – (860) 267-6020
 Colchester Parks & Recreation – (860) 537-7297
 Hebron Parks & Recreation – (860) 228-5971 x129
 Lebanon Town Hall – (860) 642-6100



The Trail – West to East

Hebron

9) GRAYVILLE FALLS PARK

This Town Park, connecting with Salmon River State Forest, offers the Grayville Falls of Raymond Brook, picnic areas, and hemlock forests. To reach the park, travel 1/5 ml. west from the Intersection of Grayville Road and the Air Line Trail. As the Trail traverses Grayville Falls Park, one can access the park directly by descending west on a steep connecting path.

10) RAYMOND BROOK MARSH

A unique and diverse wildlife habitat where it is possible to view heron, deer, beaver, and turtles all on a single visit. One of the largest inland wetland complexes in eastern Connecticut, the marsh lies within Hebron's Aquifer Protection Zone, a future water supply for the Town. This wetland serves to protect the water quality of Raymond Brook, an important tributary of the Salmon River where efforts are underway to restore the Atlantic Salmon fishery.

11) TURNERVILLE STATION

Near the intersection of Route 85 and the Air Line Trail lies the site of the former freight depot and passenger station. This part of Hebron, now called Amston, was once named after Phineas W. Turner, who established a thriving silk mill industrial complex here. Phineas also saw opportunity in the railroad serving his complex and became a vice president of the Air Line Railroad.



PARKING & TRAIL HEAD

Rte 85 - Large parking area next to "Rte. 85 Lumber." **Handicapped Accessible** and can accommodate **Horse Trailers**.

Rte 207 - Limited parking.

Old Colchester Road - Limited parking.

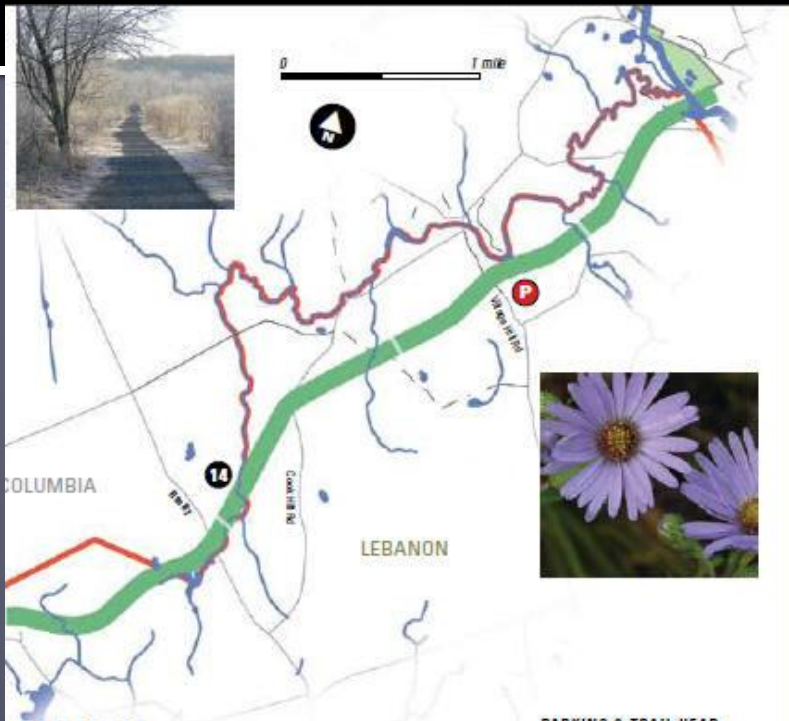
Grayville Falls Park - Can accommodate **Horse Trailers**. To access the Air Line Trail from this Town Park, go east from the parking lot, cross the open meadow and then the bridge over Raymond Brook, and climb an embankment to the Trail.

Grayville Road - **Handicapped Accessible** where the Air Line Trail intersects Grayville Rd.

Old Hartford Road - **Handicapped Accessible**



The Trail – West to East



Lebanon

12) SWITCHING AREA

A spur that was used as a switching area for passing trains can be seen on the northern side of the trail.

13) LAKE WILLIAMS

This area was first made popular when the train brought visitors from New York City to vacation at local farms and at the resort at Williams Pond. The pond was enlarged as clay was excavated to supply a local brickyard. Today, the pond is called Lake Williams and the Spa at Grand Lake is still operating at the southern end of the lake.

14) TRAIN STATIONS

Stations were located at the Leonard Bridge and Chestnut Hill (Route 87) crossings. Local farmers brought their milk, vegetables and fruit to send to market. Small mills also used the train to transport their products and school children rode the train to the area high school in Willimantic.

BROWNSTONE BRIDGES

Beautiful arched bridges can be found at stream crossings under the trail. Many of these bridges were built with brownstone from Connecticut quarries.

PARKING & TRAIL HEAD

Limited parking is available at **Leonard Bridge Road, Chestro Bridge Road and Village Hill Road**

Note: Work on the trail through Lebanon is ongoing. As of 2017, the only completed section was from the Hebron town line to Leonard Bridge Road, though most other sections are usable. However, at the time of printing, the section between Cook Hill Road and Village Hill Road (a approximately 1 mile) is not in use. Going east, make a left onto Cook Hill Road and take a right onto Village Hill Road; rejoin trail on left. Going west, make a right onto Village Hill Road and a left onto Cook Hill Road; rejoin trail on right.



Of Interest

The Air Line Trail is the site of the former Air Line Railroad, built to connect Boston with New York City in the shortest route possible - as if by a "line" drawn through the "air" via the city of New Haven. The Air Line Railroad was a controversial project because of such obstacles as the Connecticut River and countless ridges, along with its exclusion of the capitol city of Hartford. Nevertheless, by 1873, this railroad was functioning from New Haven to Willimantic. At these points, the Air Line was able to link with other rail lines to connect New York and Boston in the shortest way then possible. The freight and passenger trains utilizing the Air Line became quite numerous. By 1877, Colchester center was linked to the Air Line at Turnerville (now Amston) via the Colchester Railroad. As the weight of freight trains increased over the years, the Air Line's weight restricting viaducts, numerous curves, and high grades eventually led to its decline.

In 1996, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposed the rehabilitation of the railbed as a multipurpose trail and linear state park. The portion of the Air Line Trail in this brochure is part of the 22.95 mile southern Air Line rail corridor and also includes 3.6 miles of the Colchester Railroad spur. The southern section of the Air Line Trail links Portland, East Hampton, Colchester, Hebron-Amston, Lebanon, and Willimantic via a greenway rich in natural beauty and cultural assets. The vision is to link the Air Line Trail with the East Coast Greenway, a multi-purpose trail which proposes to connect cities from Florida to Canada along the east coast.

In a regional effort, the Towns of East Hampton, Colchester, Hebron and Lebanon have worked together to link their sections of the trail. The National Recreational Trails Act provided funding for materials, the Connecticut DEP provided the linear park, and the four Towns provided the labor and services. Enthusiastic volunteers and town employees enabled the development of the multi-purpose trail in an efficient, focused manner. Work on sections of the Air Line Trail is on-going. All interested in assisting in the enhancement or maintenance of the Trail are encouraged to contact their local Parks and Recreation Department.

**ENJOY AND PLEASE HELP TO PROTECT OUR TRAIL!
TAKE ONLY PICTURES, LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS.**

Safety Tips For ensuring the enjoyment of all

The Air Line Trail is for non-motorized use (except for wheelchairs) and is open dawn to dusk.

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES



PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES



PLEASE...

- KEEP TO RIGHT, pass to left, call out before passing.
- BICYCLISTS - when approaching horses, dismount and ask the equestrian if it is safe to pass. This is especially important in the viaduct and bridge areas.
- STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT PETS ARE LEASHED and please clean up after your animal(s).
- SUPERVISE YOUNGSTERS, especially near bridges, viaducts, and road crossings.
- WEAR BRIGHT CLOTHING, especially during the fall and spring peak hunting seasons. Fluorescent orange or yellow vests are recommended.
- RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY along the trail.
- RTE. 2 INTERRUPTS THE AIR LINE TRAIL from Hebron's Old Hartford Rd. to Colchester's commuter lot on Rte 149. GOING EAST: exit the commuter lot, turn right onto Rte 149 go under Rte 2 overpass and trail begins again on right. GOING WEST: follow trail across Old Hartford Rd., until it ends. Turn left onto Rte 149 and after Rte 2 overpass, turn left into the commuter lot; the Trail is at the far right.

CAUTION IS ADVISED ON THESE ROADS as there are no bicycle lanes and traffic may be fast or heavy. Please wear bicycle safety helmets, bright clothing and follow bicycle and pedestrian safety rules.

Highlights – Cranberry Bog



Highlights – Lyman Viaduct



Highlights – Lyman Viaduct

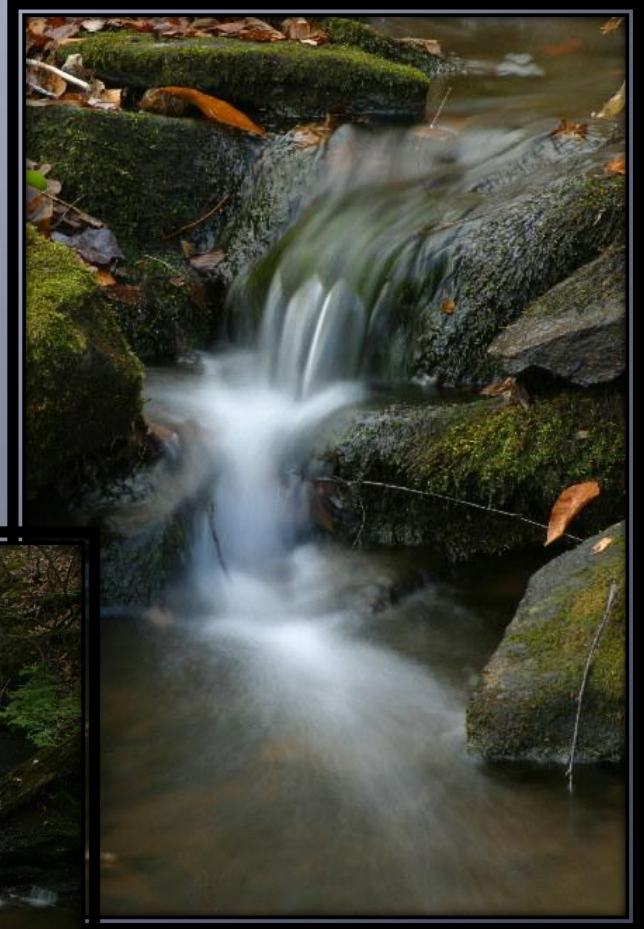


Bing.com (then Maps and finally Birds Eye view)

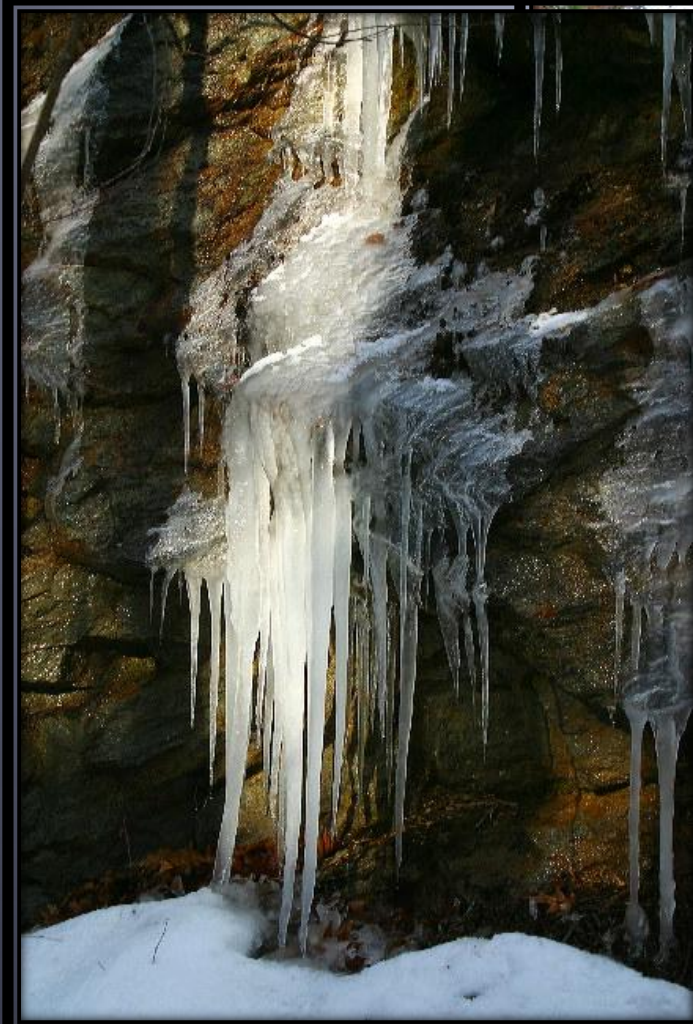
Highlights – Lyman Viaduct



Highlights – Waterfalls



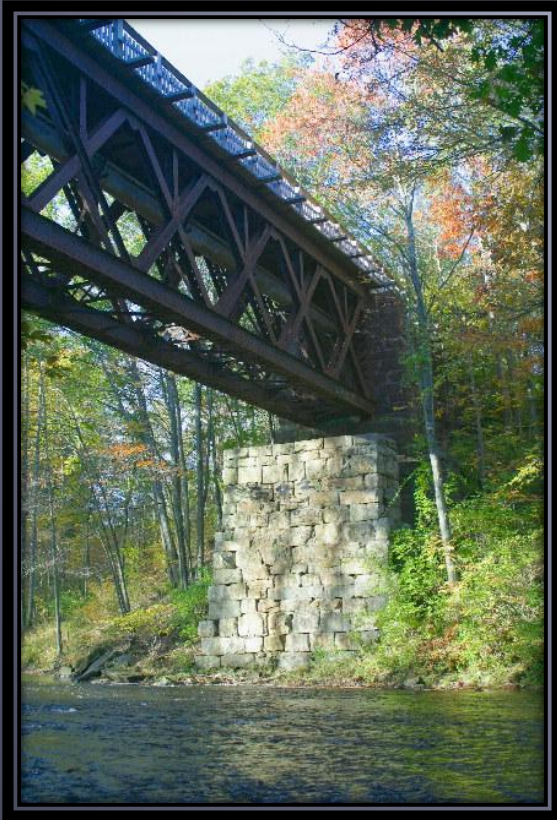
Highlights – Rock Cuts



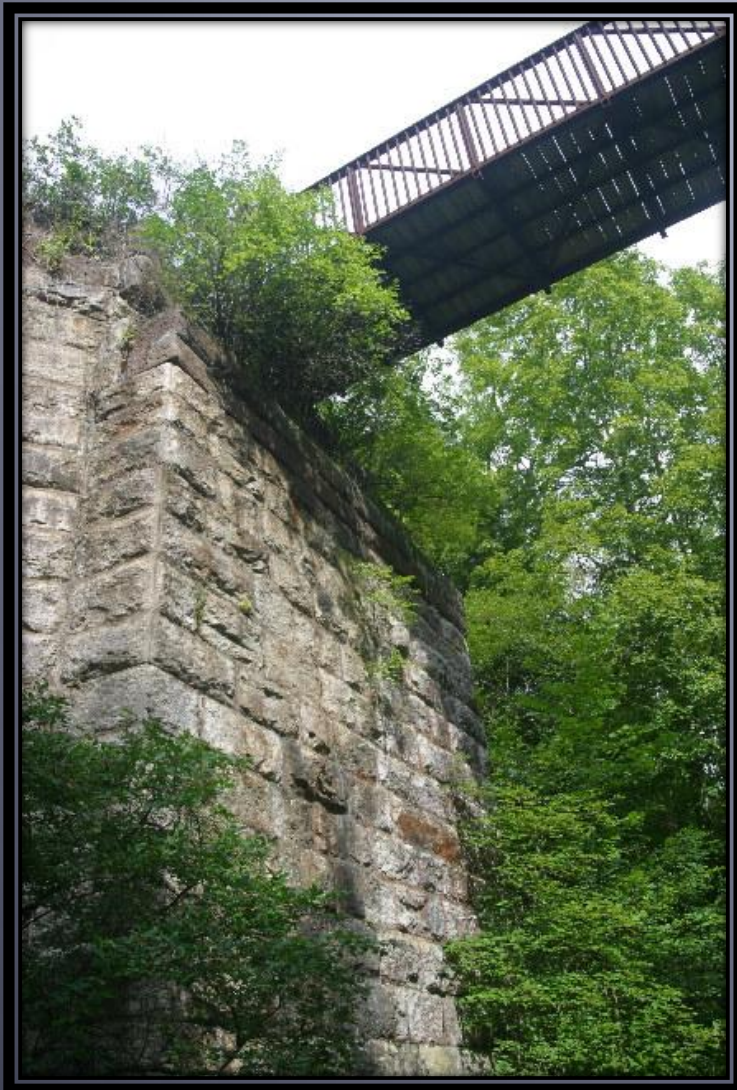
Highlights – River Road Bridge



Highlights – Blackledge River Bridge



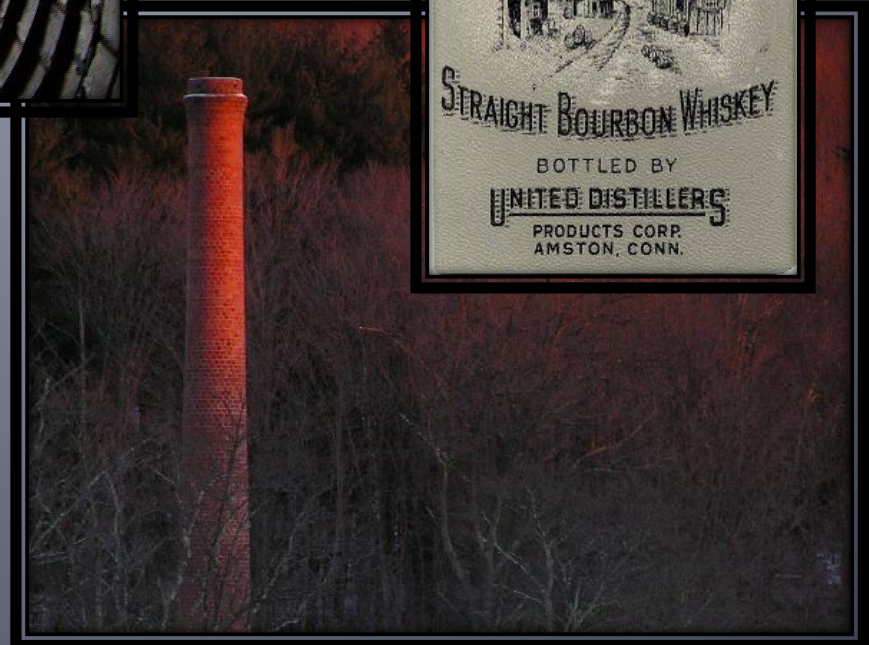
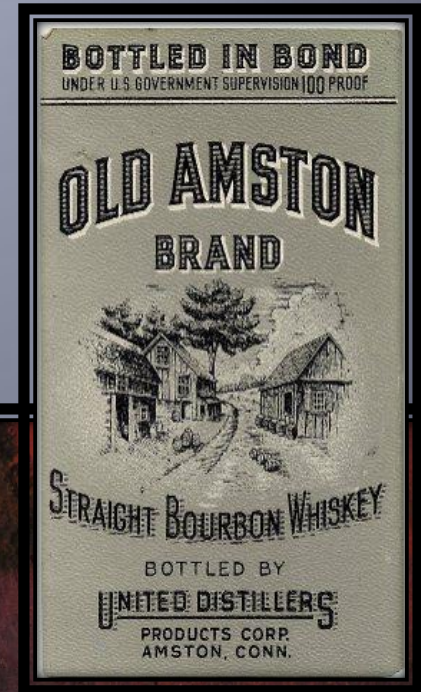
Highlights – Jeremy River Bridge



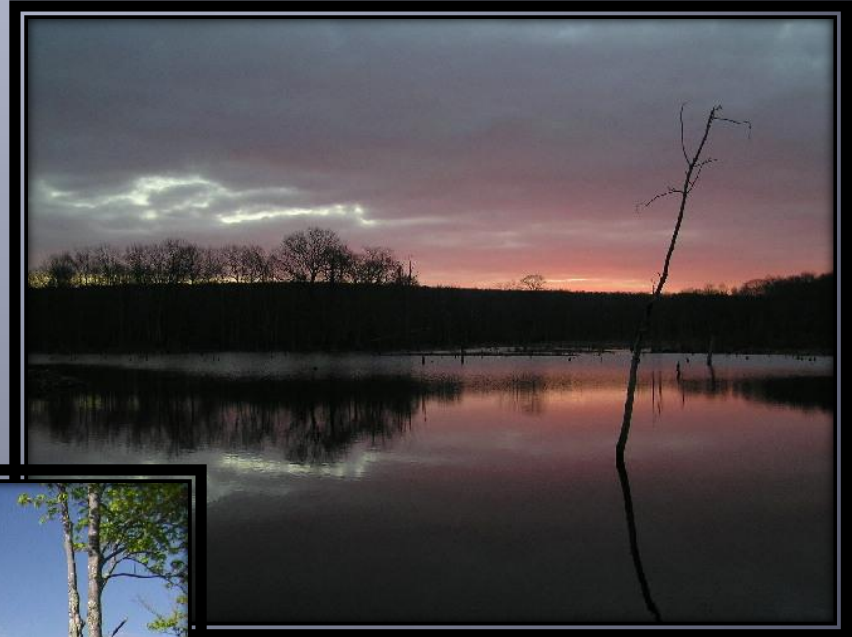
Highlights – Grayville Falls



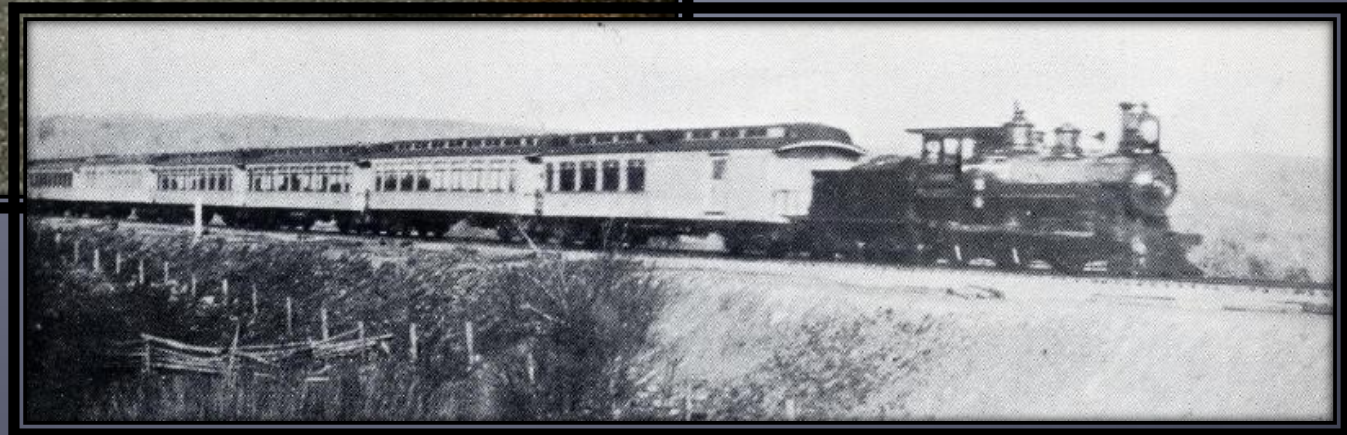
Highlights – United Distillers



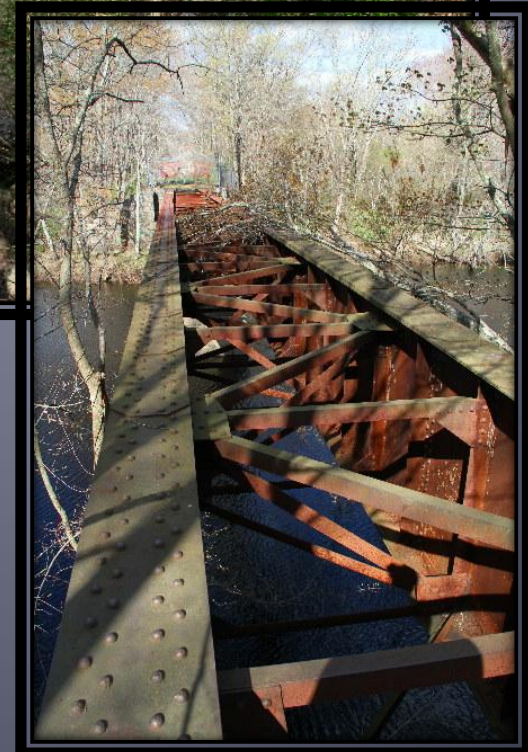
Highlights – Raymond Brook Marsh



Highlights – Ghost Run



Highlights – Lebanon to Willimantic



Conditions

- Time of Day
- Backlighting:

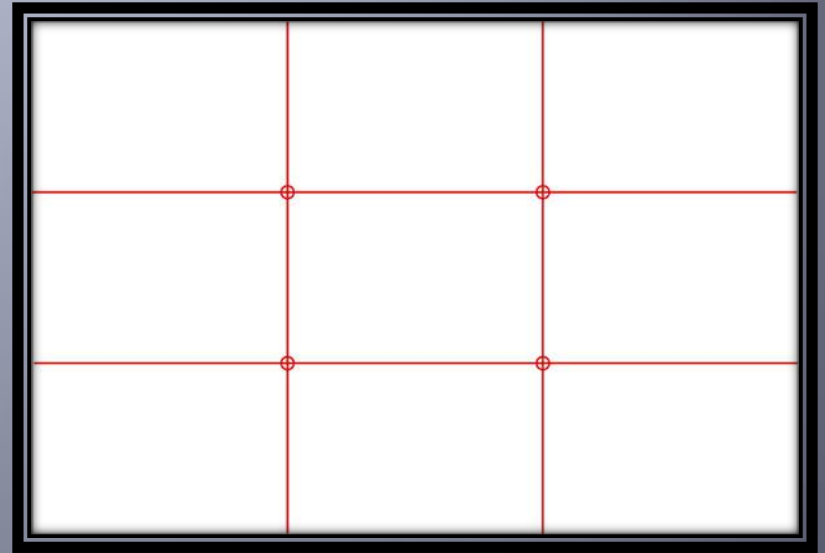


- Cloudy versus Sunny
- Wind: The Enemy!
- Patience and Persistence
 - Digital Pictures are Free! Take Plenty.
 - Delete the Junk!



Composition

- Framing: Rule of Nines



Composition

- Framing: Rule of Nines
- Rules are Meant to be Broken



Composition

- Drawing the eye...



Composition

- Figure and Ground



Composition



- Horizons



Technical

- Depth of Field



Technical

- Macro Photography



Editing

- Why Crop?:

- Aesthetics



- Print Aspect Ratios:

4x6

5x7

8x10

11x14

12x18



Editing

- Brightness
- Contrast
- Gamma = Brightness and Contrast correction

Increased Gamma



Original



Decreased Gamma



Editing

- Saturation



Original

Editing

- Sharpening



Links

- StanMalcolmPhoto.com
- Along the Air Line...
<http://performance-vision.com/airline>
- Photo.net
- digital-photography-school.com
- Photo Connection of Colchester
<http://www.photoconnectionoc.com>
- Bing.com (then Maps and Birds-eye Views)

Questions?



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