

KVCC Outing Club - snow shoeing on the KV trails



To the north of the KVCC campus are woods and a trail that follows the edge of open field. Standing at the end of the small parking lot near Carter Hall, you look out across the field towards a tall white pine. (see picture to left)

White pine can be found all over Maine and can be identified by their needles which stay on the tree year round. The needles (or leaves) are round and in bundles of 5.

This next picture (below) is taken out near the white pine, looking back towards it. In this section of the woods, this pine is the lone conifer amongst all hardwood trees, mostly poplar trees.

Just past this tall pine the trail enters the woods and you cross a small wooden bridge. Just on the other side of this bridge you will find a small stand of hemlock trees. Like the pine, hemlock's needles stay on the tree year round.

The hemlock's needles are small, flat, and have a white lines underneath these tiny leaves. They are beautiful trees that provide cover to deer in the winter.



After a short walk through the woods on the trail, you come to another smaller opening. Before you cross the opening, look to the left side of the trail and you will see another tree that does not lose its needles in the winter, a spruce.

This is a White Spruce. Its needles are round like the pine but they are NOT in bundles of 5, they attach directly to branch. Check it out. Smell the white spruce and you will notice a "not so pleasant" aroma.

Here is a dead tree found in the woods. You'll notice that even dead trees have a purpose as this one provides a home to some small animal who has found a home in this hollow cavity that may have begun with a woodpecker looking for insects.

Sometimes flying squirrels will live in trees like this.



As you approach the Teague building back in the woods you will notice a beautiful stand of beech trees. These trees have a very smooth bark, are a silver color, and grow very straight.

This last picture shows you how wonderful it is to get out in the winter in Maine. Join us on a snow shoe trip sometime.

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