

143

SLIDE MOUNTAIN

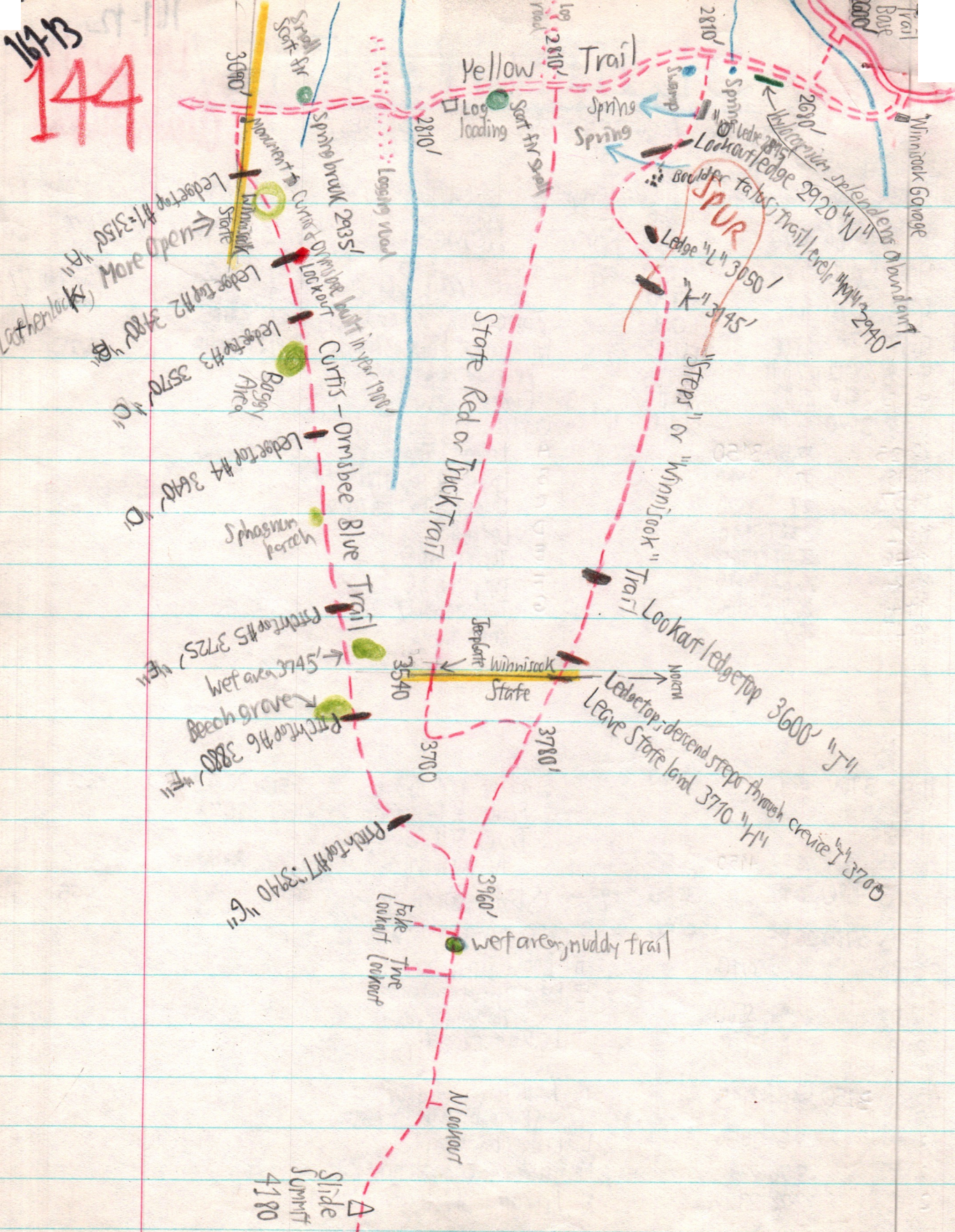
161-12
UP Curtis
down Steps

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1969

ED WEST

Time	Map Elev.	Press.	Interp Elev.	Miles	Temp.	Location	Time	Pressure	Interp Elev.	Miles	Temp.
8:30	980	30.02		937.0	58	Home	4:12	29.96	80	967.3	80
9:00	2600	28.20		952.0	59	Slide Trail Base	3:38	28.26	80	952.0	70
9:10	2680	28.08		0.0			3:25			5.70	
9:17	2740	28.02		0.1		Junc. with old road	3:20	28.05			
9:25	2810	27.94		0.45		Winnissock & Mellow Trails	3:10?	27.98		5.25	
9:33	2810	27.93		0.85		Yellow & red trails					
10:22	3090	27.64		1.05		Cross creek					
10:25		27.58	3150	1.70	64	Curtis & Yellow Trails					
10:45		27.24	3480			A Ledge #1 Top					
10:57		27.14	3570			B Ledge #2 Top; N Lookout					
11:12		27.07	3640			C Ledge #3 Top; bog area					
11:26		26.98	3725			D Ledge #4					
11:40		26.82	3880			E Top pitch #5					
11:44		26.76	3940			F Top pitch #6					
11:47		26.74				G Top pitch #7 knob top					
11:50	3960	26.74		3.00		Curtis & red trails	1:50	26.73		4.30	
11:51						Fake S lookout	1:47	26.72			
11:55						True S lookout					
12:35		26.52	4150	3.55		N lookout	1:37	26.50		3.75	
12:40	4180	26.49		3.65	73-	Slide Summit	1:35	26.48		3.65	73
1:55	3780	26.85		4.50		Winnissock & red trails					
2:00		26.93	3710			H Leave stone land					
2:02		26.94	3700			I ledge top; descend on steps through crevice					
2:08		27.04	3600			J Lookout ledge top					
2:36	3150	27.54	3145			K Trail turns off SW; skirts small ledge to SE					
2:40		27.64	3050			L Ledges on North					
2:45		27.76	2940			M Boulder falls on N; trail flint					
2:53		27.78	2920			N Lookout to SW over 40' ledge					
3:02		27.94	2875			O Ledge on N; spring					

167-B
144



Logging:

Logging in recent years and at present in the Catskills is primarily for yellow birch and sugar maple, of large DBH and straight form. Young or middle aged trees are let to grow, and twisted, forked, stunted, or otherwise misshapen trees are permitted to remain also. Logging thus does not usually go into an area where trees become stunted (i.e. below 30 or 40' high). On the Winnisook ^(stem?) trail, the upper limit of logging is about 3300', while on the Red ^{Trick} trail it is in the open very steep stretch about ~~3300~~³⁴⁷⁵'. Logging barely gets up the Curtis trail, since stunting starts above the first ledge "A" at 3150'.

Maple is used for furniture, while birch is used for veneer. Clearings along wood logging roads are loading areas, where logs are loaded on trucks. They also can be used as truck turnaround and skidways for trucks. These clearings are thus artificial. They fill with grass-sedge first, then with Rubus, ferns, finally with tree saplings such as birch-cherry.

"Ridge growth" is not merchantable timber

Acquisition of State Land on Summits:

Slide Mtn summit: ca. 1900

Big Indian Trail area: also ca. 1895-1900

146 1/6-15

Most virgin hardwood stands (few) today are on State (or private preserve??) land.

Growth of Balsam

In the lower elevations under non-stunted mature (sparsely logged) sugar maple-beech-^{YB}, fir are scattered or more often in clumps of several widely spaced individuals, usually only 2 or 3" DBH and 15' tall. They seldom get large or such understory trees and often die when of such small size, though they may not be young (??).

On the higher slopes and ridge crests, balsam get to be of a certain size when wind & ice damage takes effect, from this point on, the growth rate decreases. Many annual increments per inch occur and the stunted, deformed tops grow 1" a year or less. A 7" balsam cut to clear the trail on the Curtis, just S of its junction with the red trail showed very roughly 90 rings. At the north lookout, a 4" stump showed very roughly 40 rings. Trees 12" to 15" (-18?") in diameter may be well over a century old, and such areas can be considered virgin. Fir thus grow slowly on such crests, and what looks like a young virgin stand may be

147

161-16

a group of slow-growing old firs.

Wind and ice (brittle stems breakoff) cause broken and dying tops. New laterals can take over to replace old aborted terminal stems as leaders several times. Crowns can be very much flattened, wider than high, as a tree just E of the summit tower site; this tree had the same size canopy in 1919 (E.G. West), but the trunk now is somewhat thicker.

Birch and other trees will stunt and grow similar to fir.

Ledge Top vs. Moderately-drained flat

Exposed ledge tops often have more fir and paper birch, mfn maple & mfn ash, while the less exposed flats behind them have more yellow birch, black cherry, red maple, and perhaps beech. Along with the fir & PB, exposed ground plants come in such as Cornus canadensis

148

1/1/17

Open canopy areas

These are natural open areas that ^{often} follow the fall of a large birch or fir.

The boggy area on a poorly-drained flat

149

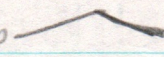
Vain Wyck is pronounced with a long \bar{y} . 161-18
New Jersey Trail Conference trail over Peekamoose
Table, not well used but marked.

Curtis-Mellow Trail Junction Area [Monument]

Logged BBM, few small fir, wood & hay centered & NY Fern, Oxalis,
Vib Aln, Aralia, Maranth, Dicr. fulv, Cinna, Lycos lucid, Uvul serr.
Ledge Top #1 "A" 3150': Last hemlock, more fir, PB, Mtn Ash.

Comus can., Carex intu, Cinna, Solid macro, Brodiaea, Polychro,
A more open area has PB-PB, young fir, Mtn Ash, dead fir to 25' x 6".
A fir thicker follows; Clintonia enters and the last hemlocks
(to 20') occur. Also Danthonia, Moorewood, Red Maple, Black Cherry,
Beech, May scented fern glades, Brachyotum locally abundant
around edges of boggy patches, Raspberry, & Huckleberry.

Forest below Ledge #2 ("B") at 3410', has little fir & PB,
but is mostly red maple, black cherry, beech & PB. Fern glades
persist.

Ledge Top #2 "B" 3480': Double top is most conspicuous; Big Indian
appears much lower with a pointed top  over the
broad dome of Fir Mtn.

More fir-PB are here, also Pin Cherry, Comus, Aralia, Maranthem-
um, Deschampsia, Pleurozium.

The ledge top forest changes into a less exposed one of
Black Cherry-Beech-PB- even some young Sugar Maple, at 3520',
with few fir. Oxalis AA, NY Fern, Wood fern, Lycos lucid, Carex intu.

150
161-19

Ledge Top #3 "C" 3570' and Boggy area:

This ledge top has less of an abrupt vegetational change on top than the two lower ledge tops. There is much wood fern and hobblebush; Table Mtn. can be seen through the widely spaced trees. Polygonum glabrat Vib. Cass. are present. Firs 6" x 25' and 12" x 25' are present with dead tops, crude estimation by number of branch whorls show 40-45 years on a 6" tree.

A boggy area sits perched a bit behind the ledge top of ^{ca. EL. 3600'} ledge #3. Runoff is nil in a flat area and the bedrock must be impervious. Sphagnum is in patches, one with Lycot. another in it; ^{another with Coptis.} here in the wet area are large bunches of near pure Carex deb. Another sta. for Luzula parviflora occurs. Also are Cinna, Polytrich, Carex int., Oxalis, Gemma cinnamomea, Vib Cass., Clintonia, Dryop spin., AA, Rubus strig. Fir + PB PB to 20' with flat tops 12" thick. Bear wallows in grass & fern glades. Brotherella,

Further on, the area becomes less wet, but still moist, and Brotherella, wood fern, Maianthemum, Coptis, Clintonia under somewhat open fir and some YB.

Ledge Top #4 "D" 3640'

This ledge top is not too wet, but flat, with PB, fir, moose-

151

Friday Mtn Landslide ^{in existence} early July '68.
Another on NW face of Wittenberg.

Recorded
May '68
111-20

wood, beech in fruit 10" x 20'. Fir 12" x 30' with several leader tops; slow growth perhaps 1"/year on the dying tops. Ribes glandulosum, Red Maple, YB, Black Cherry, Fir repro in groves, Clintonia, Cornus, Oxalis, AA, Raspberry, Wood fern, Amel bart seedling, Coptis, Kobblebush.

BOB #312? → Sphagnum patch with Coptis at about 3690'. ^{Level} Fir forest with some PB-YB, open canopy, floor AA, Cinna, Wood fern, Vib A/n.

Pitch #5 "E" 3725' Coarse conglomerate.

Fir reproduction, Aralia, Cornus, Solid macro., Vib A/n, Fir, PB, YB, Red Maple, Amel bart, less stunting of fir, Mtn Ash, Mtn Maple, YB to 18".

BOB #312 → At about 3745', there is a wet area North of trail with abundant nearly-pure sedge grass. Ferns & fir only in clumps, not evenly distributed. NY Fern, Brachyelytrum invaded fringing the wettest spots.

Bear clawing at a stump above here at 11:35. Beech, Pin cherry, Profuse NY fern, instead of Hayscented, less profuse but still common wood fern, Cinna, Chokecherry. Dead fir 15" x 30' and 18" stump.

Pitch #6 with top "F" 3880': Much beech occurs on the steeper portion, and this may be the highest near-pure beech stand in the Catskills on this well drained SW slope.

12/19/21
152



Above it, on the pitch top is Cherry (black), PB, Fir Beech.
 Balsam top now 14"-15" - up to 18" x 20", started with
 broken tops. There are over 100 years old and could be
 50-60' high if stunting did not occur.

Pitch Top #7 "G" 3940' Trail levels with a ledge on the NW,
 jogs NE several times, with dense fir repr. After
 crossing a small knob, the trail joins the red trail in a forest
 of PB-PB-Pin Cherry-Vib Aln; Fir to 12" x 25', Derchampia,
 Vib east + Amel bart.

West Spur of Slide around North Overlook 4100'

This is nearly a pure fir forest with few hardwoods.
 Bareground patches alternate with *Brotherella*, *Dicr. fulvum*,
Poly ohio, *Pohlia*, *Oxalis*, *Tetraphis*, *Bazzania*, abundant
 (relatively) *Neurozium*, *Trientalis*, *Dryop spin.* Stand even-
 aged, 4-6" x 25'. *Indian Pipe*, *Lycalcid*, *Lophozia*, *Psilidium*.

6" x 30"
 healthy fir.

Slide Summit ^{4120'}: *Hieracium*, *Derchampia*, *Camus*, *Majanth*, *Aralia*, *Coptis*,
Dryop spin. Birch common as a clump above tower site.
 Many fir cut down (most dead?) for firewood around
 lean-to + tower area.

Winnisook-Red Trails Junction (3780'): PB-PB-little fir Mtn Ash

Steps? \nearrow Vib Aln, *Solid macro*, AA, *Cinna*, Mtn Maple; large PB downed, still
 alive, and re-erected. Sugar Maple 6" x 20' at about 3800'.

167-22
Dipanodactylus (falcate-scand) near Trail base?
Ticetenyk is pronounced "Tis'-tön-ik".

153

Descent
Whinnisook
Trail "S"
Step

Fir 14" x 25' dead. Beech. At the property line, there is more
fir, Polytrich, Oxalis, Brodiaea, Dicranum, fir reprod, Clintonia,
Lyc. anrot, Maianth.

A fern-raspberry area about 3470', with PB-Cherry-
Beech-Red Maple, Mooswood, PB & scot. fir. Oxalis &
Lyc. mac abundant under firs. Solidago, Cinna,
Dryop spin. Cornus at about 3375' under a fir patch,
also Clintonia, Maianth.

As the trail descends off the spur "K" 3145', the
forest has 12" sugar, less Brodiaea. Also Oxalis, Red Maple,
Woodfern, Black Cherry, Cinna, Mooswood, Dicranum, Mtn Maple,
PB, beech, Lyc. lucid. Fir are widely scattered and
not common.

Wenlock enters at "M", 2940', and becomes large
by the ledge "N" (2920') :- 16" x 50'. A few fir still
persist.

Floor of B-BM forest have more dead leaf litter bare
space, still abundant ferns, much hardwood seedlings
common grasses, Lyc. lucid, Cinna, Rubus but bryophytes
limited mostly to rocks and logs.