

# WEANTINOGE HERITAGE LAND TRUST

## **Weantinoge's James Morrissey Family Nature Preserve, New Milford, 59 ac**

## Naromi Land Trust's Strauss Preserve, Sherman, 34 ac

**OVERVIEW:** Steep near Gaylord Rd., otherwise easy to moderate. Roundtrip to stonewall ~1 mile. Roundtrip from Morrissey Preserve trailhead to Naromi Land Trust's Strauss Preserve trailhead ~1.6 miles.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Despite the unusual shape of this Preserve, it contains varied landscapes and species as well as a trail that quickly puts the hustle and bustle of the Route 7 corridor out of mind. Even before parking, one admires the cliffs along Gaylord Road. The trail climbs steeply to a young woodland studded with red cedars before crossing a small brook. The trail then curls around a gentle knoll to the clearing for the Iroquois Gas Pipeline, which was built through the pristine area in 1991 under intense oversight of conservation groups. After crossing the pipeline, one may note the complexity of the brook, which is fed by underground channels in the marble bedrock; one channel ends in a perfect cylinder. The marble lends richness to the forest with plants like showy orchids, wild oats, and an endangered sedge. The trail continues its climb through an area rich in butternut trees before reaching towering tulip poplars. At the town line, the trail connects with Naromi Land Trust's Strauss Preserve with its meadows studded with varied conifers. The trailhead for the Strauss Preserve is located at the northern end of Edmonds Road.

**PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION:** Working together, Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, Naromi Land Trust, and trail stewards from the New Milford Youth Agency continue to offer year-round recreational and educational opportunities.

**CONTACTS:** As with a visit to any Weantinoge preserve, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the Weantinoge office at **(860) 927-1927** or email us at **info@weantinoge.org**. Become a member or volunteer today and support your local land, water, and wildlife conservation. For more information, please visit our website at **www.weantinoge.org**. Contact Naromi Land Trust at **(860) 354-0260** and visit **www.naromi.org** for more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

