

**Nature Adventure #34**  
**In search of: A Sugar Bush and Learning Forest**  
**Heiburg Memorial Forest**

County: Cortland  
Nearest Town: Tully, NY  
A teaching facility



**General description:**

This memorial forest is owned by the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry, known as ESF. It is hundreds of acres where students learn about the environment by hands-on activities. Much of the forest is open to the public year-round. One way to explore the forest is by hiking two short nature trails. The Red Nature Trail is only .6 miles long and passes through a variety of habitats with some interpretive markers. The Blue Trail is 1.5 miles as we describe it and a little more demanding. Both are nice "walks in the woods."

**Surface:**

Red: A typically dirt forest trail  
Blue: Grass, dirt, gravel and paved

**Elevation changes:**

Red: Flat  
Blue: About +150 feet

**What you may see:**

You'll travel through mixed woods and a variety of habitats on both trails. What you will see is dependent on your luck, the season and how you move. (Slower is better.) The area is home to deer, grouse, songbirds and a host of other critters. As you explore, you will see a small "sugar shack" with blue tubes running into it. This is a nine acre "sugar bush" where maple syrup is made. The trees are tapped in the spring and the sap runs to the "sugar shack" for processing.



### **How to get there:**

**Physical address:** Maple Ridge Road, Tully, NY. Crossroad Truxton Hill Road. (Some GPS units will try to take you to Maple Ridge Road other ways, note that you will hit dead ends in some cases, so come in by Truxton Hill Road)

**Directions:** From I-81 take Exit 14 (Tully) and follow Route 80 east for .9 miles. Turn right onto Railroad Street. Follow it .1 miles to the stop sign. Turn left and take an immediate right onto Grove Street. (That will turn into Truxton Hill Road) Follow it out 1.5 miles and turn right onto Maple Ridge Road. Follow Maple Ridge Road .2 miles and turn right into a small parking area.

The Red Nature Trail starts at the far right corner of the parking area. The Blue Trail starts across the roadway from the parking area.

### **GPS readings:**

Parking lot:

N 42° 46.638'

W 076° 05.143'

Start of Red Trail:

N 42° 46.645'

W 076° 05.167'

Start of Blue Trail:

Across the road from the parking area.

N 42° 46.637'

W 076° 05.129'

Blue Trail "Y" at .7 miles out: (Gravel, turn right)

N 42° 46.244'

W 076° 04.779'

Blue Trail meets Maple Ridge Road, paved, about 1 mile out. (Turn right)

N 42° 46.193'

W 076° 05.059'

**Season-Hours-Fees-Parking:**

This educational facility is open year-round during daylight hours. There are no fees. There is parking for about 4 cars in the parking area.

**Time:**

Red Trail: Allow ½ hour

Blue Trail: Allow 1 hour

**Pet Friendly:**

Yes, but they need to be on a leash.

**Facilities:**

None

**What we found:**

We found a very friendly staff, well maintained trails and have enjoyed hiking these short trails. This forest has many more miles of roads that are gated and are also enjoyed by hikers and other nature enthusiasts. Explore them on your own.

**Special tale:**

This forest is named for Svend O. Heiberg, who was born in Copenhagen, Demark in 1900. He came to the United States in 1926. Heiberg received masters degrees in [forestry](#) from both the Danish [Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College](#) in Copenhagen and Yale University. His chosen field was Silviculture, the study of all aspects of the management of forests. He was a professor at the New York State College of Forestry, now known as ESF. To honor his accomplishments in the field, this 3900-acre educational forest bears his name.