On this site, Edwin Way Teale constructed a brushpile underpinned by “a boxlike framework constructed of two-by-fours.” To this, he fastened a chestnut plank seat and a “benchlike table composed of two other planks of chestnut.” This frame, covered with branches of all sizes, allowed Edwin to “gaze about […] through the multitude of small openings that look out in all directions.”

Here, he could “see without being seen” and “keep track of the wild activity” around him. A later visitor to Trail Wood offered the lighthearted suggestion of naming it “the branch office.”


Famed photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt likewise photographed Edwin in the brushpile for a *Life Magazine* feature on America’s great naturalists. In *Life*, Edwin was featured alongside Rachel Carson and Roger Tory Peterson – both close personal friends of the Teales – among others. The brushpile was later recreated on its original site by the Teales’ close friend Wendell Davis who, along with his wife Alison and their friend James Slater, had first brought the Teales to Trail Wood in the late 1950s.

“Edwin Teale is the sort of man who slams on the brakes, backs up and leaps out to peer at a beetle.

During extensive nature trips around the U.S., Teale has filled a hundred pounds of notebooks with his jottings, and from them, working in a curious but built of branches, he composes books which have made him one of the country's top nature writers.”