The Trail Wood Kiosk Project was made possible by: Hollis Declan Leverett Memorial Fund, The Last Green Valley, University of Connecticut and Willimantic Rotary.

In A Naturalist Buys An Old Farm, Edwin recalls the events of his mid-June visit to the beaver pond at night: "All this—moonlight, frog calls, fireflies—has been, for ages, part of the nocturnal life of the beaver...Then I saw the beaver. Almost directly below me, its dripping head emerged full into the moonlight. Like the dark hub of an expanding wheel, it formed the center of an enlarging circle of shining ripple rings."

Interestingly, when the Teales bought Trail Wood, the Beaver Pond was a swampy area. The lack of a pond on the site had prompted the Teales to have the lower pond, near the house, artificially excavated soon after their arrival. It was Nellie who, several years later during a slow October walk, discovered that "where there had been a swamp in the spring, there was a pond in the fall. It was no ordinary pond."

On the night of June 15, 1978, Edwin was so intent on his observations at the Beaver Pond, he didn’t notice a widely-reported earthquake tremor. He learned of it in the newspaper The Hartford Courant and pasted the clipping in The Log Cabin Journal.

Beavers in the Moonlight,” Edwin Way Teale titled an unusually long entry on June 13, 1973, in his Log Cabin Journal. In a parenthetical notation below the title, he added, “So I am off on another adventure – to see the beavers by the moonlight. How fine it is to be going off on a new adventure at 74!"

A momentary stillness was shattered by the crack of its flat slapping tail and the splash of its dive. This was followed almost instantaneously by a second crack and splash as its companion disappeared. Then from farther away there came a third, and from different parts of the pond, in a chain reaction, a fourth, a fifth, a sixth.... The sound of the flat tails meeting the water echoed from the side of the ridge. The beavers were gone."

"A Naturalist Buys An Old Farm"

The Edwin Way Teale Memorial Sanctuary

Trail Wood

The Edwin Way Teale Memorial Sanctuary