

SOUTHBURY LAND TRUST

Ivers Preserve



LEGEND

- Elevation
- Property Boundaries
- White/Blue Spur Trail
- White Trail
- Parking



Ivers Nature Preserve

Originally part of the Southbury Training School property, most of the Gerald A. Ivers Nature Preserve was transferred to the Southbury Land Trust in 1994 by legislation suggested by Southbury Land Trust Trustee Gerry Ivers and sponsored by State Representative Arthur O'Neill and State Senator Louis DeLuca. An additional eight-acre open space set-aside was granted by the Town of Southbury thereby increasing the Preserve to its present day 75 acres.

The Ivers Nature Preserve runs along the east side of West Purchase Road for almost half a mile and then jogs east from West Purchase Road to the south end of the Bassett Preserve, creating 188 acres of open space and wildlife habitat ideal for hiking and nature study. The Preserve, which includes wetlands and has a brook running through it, is a valuable habitat for wildlife such as deer, fox, coyotes, bobcats, turkeys, pileated woodpeckers and ruffed grouse. The Preserve's hiking trails were created by Gerry Ivers who walked the property seasonally for two years, flagging trails which would maximize enjoyment of the landscape without disturbing the fragile flora and fauna. Boy Scouts and the SLT Stewardship crews have enhanced the Preserve with trail improvements, bog bridges and signs.

The Ivers Loop Trail, which begins on the east side of West Purchase Road near Scatacook Lane, is 1.1 miles long and blazed in white. Initially the trail passes through dense woodland flanked by lush wetlands and watercourses. Then, after a moderate climb (about halfway along the trail) the hiker can connect with the Blue Trail onto Bassett Preserve and take a moment to rest on the bench just over the Ivers-Bassett borderline. Hereafter, the Ivers Loop Trail is easy to moderate in intensity and returns to the start of the loop. The West Gilbert Spur Trail is 0.4 miles long, blazed white with a blue center and is generally level.

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

Henry David Thoreau.

Like Thoreau, Gerry Ivers went to the woods every chance he got. While in Westchester County as an educator and a parent and during his 33 years in Southbury as a resident of Heritage Village, Gerry was known as a hike leader, trail blazer, and enthusiastic advocate of preserving the environment.

Gerry Ivers passed away March 28, 2005 at the age of 95. His presence is forever etched into the woodlands and hillsides of the many Southbury Land Trust trails he blazed. His friends have established the ***Gerald A. Ivers Scholarship Fund*** in order to support students pursuing environmental studies. To be a part of this living memorial to Gerry, please contact the SLT office: (203)264-4441.

Preserve Policy

- Preserves are open from sunrise to sunset.
- Please stay on designated trails.
- No dumping, littering, smoking, fires, swimming, hunting, trapping.
- No motorized vehicles allowed.
- Pets must be leashed at all times.
- Wear red or orange during hunting season.
- Bring a walking stick or pole as a hiking aid and to move obstacles out of the way.

Thank you,
Southbury Land Trust, Inc.

SOUTHBURY LAND TRUST
Preserving natural places for people and wildlife

Ivers Preserve Trail Map

The Southbury Land Trust, Inc., founded in 1978, is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Southbury's natural resources for the enjoyment and benefit of all present and future residents.

The Trust is supported solely by memberships and donations. All dues, contributions, bequests, memorials and gifts of stock are tax deductible. The Trust's over 800 acres of open land is monitored and maintained by volunteers.

The office is located at 68 1/2 Bennett Square. (Mailing address P.O. Box 600, Southbury, CT 06488). Please call (203)264-4441 for office hours or with questions regarding membership, land donations, contributions or volunteering.

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