

# SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON

## OUR MISSION

To maintain environmental quality for all living things by protecting natural ecosystems through education, advocacy, and habitat conservation.

## OUR SANCTUARIES

Saw Mill River Audubon owns eight separate sanctuaries protecting more than 300 acres of wildlife habitat in Westchester County. All are open to visitors free of charge, seven days a week, from dawn to dusk.

**Group Visits:** With advance notice, we may be able to provide your group with a guided tour. Visit our web site for more information about guided sanctuary tours and our calendar of free public field trips. Even if your group wishes to visit without a guide, please contact us. To enhance your experience, we want to ensure that your visit does not coincide with that of another group.

**Staff & Volunteers:** Our sanctuaries are maintained by a part-time caretaker and our Sanctuary Committee assisted by volunteers and our executive director. We also rely on our sanctuary neighbors to monitor these special habitats. Volunteer Trail Walkers monitor individual sanctuaries and report on trail conditions and visitor and wildlife observations.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

We also invite you to submit a Trail Walker report at our website if you see needed trail work or want to report observations about wildlife or visitors.

Help us protect and conserve open space for the enjoyment of all! Join SMRA by filling out the form on the inside of this brochure and mailing it with your tax-deductible contribution to our office. Or donate online today at: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org)



GRAFF  
SANCTUARY

275 Millwood Road • Chappaqua, New York 10514

Phone: (914) 666-6503

Email: [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org)

Website: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org)

## Welcome to Graff Sanctuary

We hope you enjoy your walk. A few reminders as you begin your visit:

- A sanctuary is a place where all life is respected. Please do not remove or injure any plant or animal and please leave only your footprints behind when you leave.
- Dogs are welcome on leashes. Please pick up after your dog.
- If you have an emergency, call 911 or the Croton Police Department: 914- 271-5177

## ABOUT THE TRAILS

The **Tulip Tree Trail**, marked with **white**, leads down a hill from Furnace Dock Road through a small stand of woodland and then turns right along the base of a steep rocky hillside dotted with hemlocks. The trail winds on through an open woodland of tulip poplar trees. They are noted for their tall straight trunks but, since they are very susceptible to wind damage, some of them have interesting contorted shapes. The Tulip Tree Trail continues past one of the many steep-sided ravines just before connecting with the River View trail, marked with blue, to the right. Bear left to stay on the trail. The stone structure you see is of uncertain origin, but may have been part of a water storage system for a former nearby estate or the railroad. The structure has been sealed on the top with concrete for safety reasons, but offers a canopy-level view of the surrounding woodlands.

The **River View Trail**, marked with **blue**, begins and ends at the Tulip Tree Trail and offers a vista over the Hudson River after passing through a hemlock forest to the west. It also crosses a small meadow at the southern end. The lake seen at the foot of the ravine between the Metro North Railroad tracks and the Hudson River is privately owned. From Graff Sanctuary, one can spot bald eagles, ospreys, and belted kingfishers. Due to the steepness of the slope, there is no access to the river from sanctuary land.

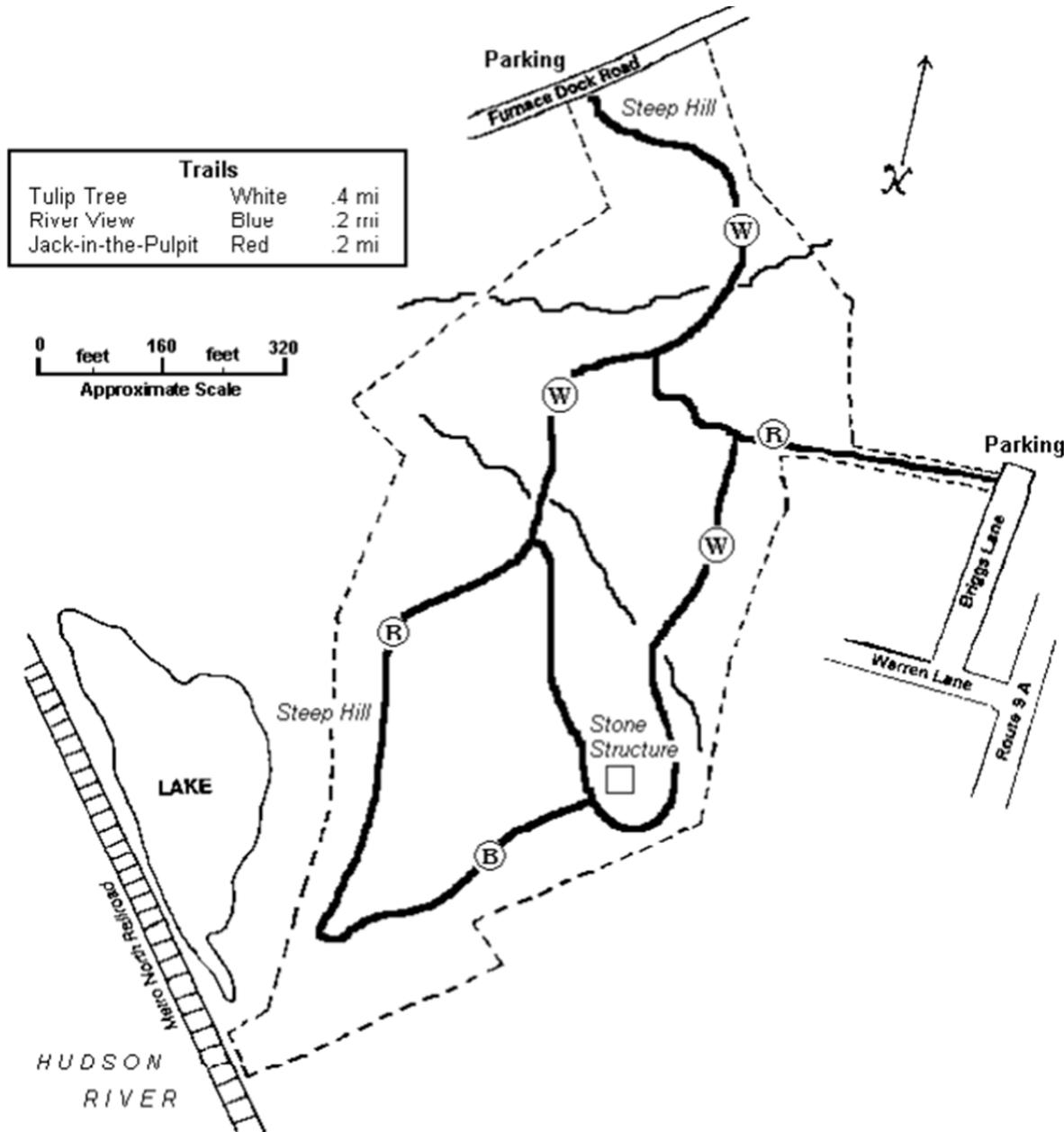
The **Jack-in-the-Pulpit Trail**, marked with **red**, begins at the sanctuary entrance on Briggs Lane. Please follow the trail closely near Briggs Lane as it passes close to a residential area and a private driveway crosses it. The trail is named for the lush growth of Jack-in-the-Pulpit and other spring wildflowers in the forest undergrowth along its length. It turns to the right and descends a steep hill, passing the remains of long-vanished farm buildings. Look for broken bricks near the path.

## HISTORY OF GRAFF

Graff Sanctuary's 29 acres were donated by Howard Graff to National Audubon in 1975 with Saw Mill River Audubon responsible for local management. In 1991, ownership of Graff Sanctuary was transferred to Saw Mill River Audubon.

# Graff Sanctuary

29 Acres · .9 miles of hiking trails



## TRAVEL DIRECTIONS AND TRAILS ENTRANCE

**Graff Sanctuary is on Furnace Dock Road, west of Route 9A and north of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson.**

From Route 9A north of Croton, turn left onto Furnace Dock Road and continue ¼ mile. The sanctuary entrance is marked with a sign on the left. There is limited parking only on the right-hand side of Furnace Dock Road.

An alternate entrance to Graff Sanctuary is located on Briggs Lane. Going north on Route 9A from Croton, turn left on Warren Road (opposite Scenic Drive). Go one block and turn right onto Briggs Lane. Drive to the end of this cul-de-sac and park. There is a sign on the left at the trailhead marked "SMRAS." The sanctuary entrance path starts up and crosses left over a private residential driveway before entering the woods left of the tennis court.

To learn more about our other sanctuaries, our free public field trips and programs, and our other activities, visit [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org)

## CELEBRATE NATURE WITH SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON

I want to support your local conservation work.

- \$500   
  \$250   
  \$100   
  \$50  
 \$30   
  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Saw Mill River Audubon and send with this form to the address below. If you prefer to donate online using a credit card, visit [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org)

We welcome your comments and observations about our sanctuaries.

### GRAFF SANCTUARY COMMENTS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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275 Millwood Road • Chappaqua, New York 10514  
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 Email: [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org)

**In an emergency, call 911 or the Village of Croton Police at (914) 271-5177**