ACCESS/PARKING: Blacksmith Ridge consists of three small properties: Blacksmith Ridge, Woodcock Acres, and Remington Ridge. The best access begins between two private driveways at the east side of the Blacksmith Ridge cul-de-sac. Walk the private driveway (to 56, 58, 62) one-tenth of a mile; the trail enters on the right. Parking can be found at the Blacksmith Ridge cul-de-sac, two locations on Woodcock Lane, and one space at Peaceable Ridge. [GPS Address: 40 Blacksmith Ridge Road]

DIFFICULTY: Difficult, with steep slopes. 1 hour.

FEATURES: Two short trails that allow views of the pond connect immediately on the right. Magnificent beech and tulip trees, wildflowers like Venus’ looking glass and columbine, and animals like coyote and red and gray fox have been sighted.

Spotted salamanders can be found in the vernal ponds after the first warm rain. In spite of its close proximity to homes, this small valley has a remarkably rural aura.

HISTORY: This area was given as part of the Peaceable Ridge Estate subdivision in 1985.