

Mission statement of Spring Hill Farm: to preserve and promote the legacy of Muriel Church through the continuance of agricultural operations and the stewardship of both open land and forests, while providing educational and recreational opportunities to the public.

**in this issue >>>**

- Welcoming 2022*
- Winter Carnival at SHF*
- Winter sights at the Farm*
- Did you know?*
- Fun facts*



Quarterly newsletter for Spring Hill Farm  
 A non-profit town owned farm  
 96 Towle Road Chester, NH 03036

# Spring Hill Farm – WINTER 2022

## You liked it !!

The SHF Trust and Advisory Committee were pleased to get positive feedback from our first newsletter. So here we are, rolling along with **Issue TWO** !

Don't want to miss an issue? Send us an email to:  
[SHFtrust@yahoo.com](mailto:SHFtrust@yahoo.com)  
 (include "Subscribe to Newsletter" in the subject line). You will be added to our mailing list.



## WINTER CARNIVAL

SPRING HILL FARM, 96 TOWLE ROAD, CHESTER

**SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 26 • 2:00-7:00 PM**



**WINTER ACTIVITIES 2:00-4:00 PM**  
 Hot Cocoa Bar – Ice Skating – Kiddie Sledding  
 Curling Demonstration – Cross Country Skiing  
 Snowshoeing – Wagon Rides – Winter Olympics

### CHILI COOK OFF 4:00-5:00 PM

**Beans or No Beans? Spicy or Sweet?**  
**All ages encouraged to participate**  
**Anyone can enter / Anyone can judge**



**BONFIRE & SMORES 5:00-7:00 PM**  
**Community Bonfire with friends and family**  
**let's all come together for S'mores and more!**  
**SNOW MUCH FUN!**





Handy work of Pileated woodpecker

Although the winter time does not bustle with wildlife as much as the warmer months, there is still a lot of activity going on. Birds that spend all year in New Hampshire can still be spotted like the Northern Cardinal, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse and Blue Jay. The Dark-eyed Junco is a familiar bird in winter months, as their flocks come to back yards, open woodlands and fields specifically in winter. There are always woodpeckers, if you look at the trees you can see evidence of them pecking and drilling into soft, diseased or aging trees filled with delicious insects for them to snack on. The Pileated Woodpecker makes noticeable holes in trees that can end up being used by other birds or small animals as nest cavities. Also, be sure to look for animal tracks in the snow such as fox, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, eastern cottontail and if you are really lucky, fisher or mink. All of these can be found at Spring Hill Farm by a good observer. Right now some of these animals are looking for mates so they will be active. Have fun going out and looking for winter wildlife, if you have pictures we would love to see them!

### SHF FUN FACT:

Did you know that the barn at SHF was the last building “raised” in Chester in 1851?

A barn raising was a gathering at which people in a community cooperatively erected the framework of a neighbors barn, typically followed by a celebration. (Oh, to have been able to attend!)



Look closely...there are cows...

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold.”

- Aristotle

### Did you know?

Snow crystals usually form unique patterns, but there is at least one instance of identical snowflakes in the record books. In 1988, two snowflakes collected from a Wisconsin storm were confirmed to be twins at an atmospheric research center in Colorado.



## On the Horizon

Coming soon...**A WINTER CARNIVAL!** Sat. Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, 2PM-7PM. Be there, or be square!

This spring...Another Work Day at the farm! Date TBD

New Trail marking and map to help you navigate the trails at the farm.

For more information go to [www.chesternh.org](http://www.chesternh.org)

## Muriel C. Church was an Educator

A lot of the reason that Spring Hill Farm has a goal of offering educational activities that center around agriculture, conservation and nature is because these are all things that were very important to Muriel. Her life centered around teaching others:

In 1914 at the age of 11, Miss Church moved to Spring Hill Farm on Towle Road in Chester with her parents. She attended the Chester School and graduated from Pinkerton Academy in 1922. She began attending Keene State Teachers College that same year and actually began teaching in Canterbury, NH before she had even graduated. Then, in just a few years, she returned to Keene full time to get her degree. She taught school in Canterbury, Hampton Falls, and New Ipswich, as well as teaching for 27 years in Chester, retiring in June of 1969. \*

\*Copied from Muriel's obituary  
12-16-2001

## Get Out and Explore!

Winter is a great time to get out on the trails. There are over 4000 miles of trails in New Hampshire. Did you know that you don't have to travel far to begin to explore. Spring Hill Farm has just under 4 miles of trails waiting for you to explore right across the street from the house at 96 Towle Road. These kid friendly trails are great for hiking, nature walks, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, bird spotting, horseback riding and walking your dogs. The trails are made up of three main loops with slightly different scenery on each one. They have been a bit icy so shoe spikes are recommended.



The former sandpits have formed into wildlife filled wetlands and marshes fed by the Exeter River.

Winter gives these areas a beautiful new appearance and, if cold enough, could even be a great area for ice skating.

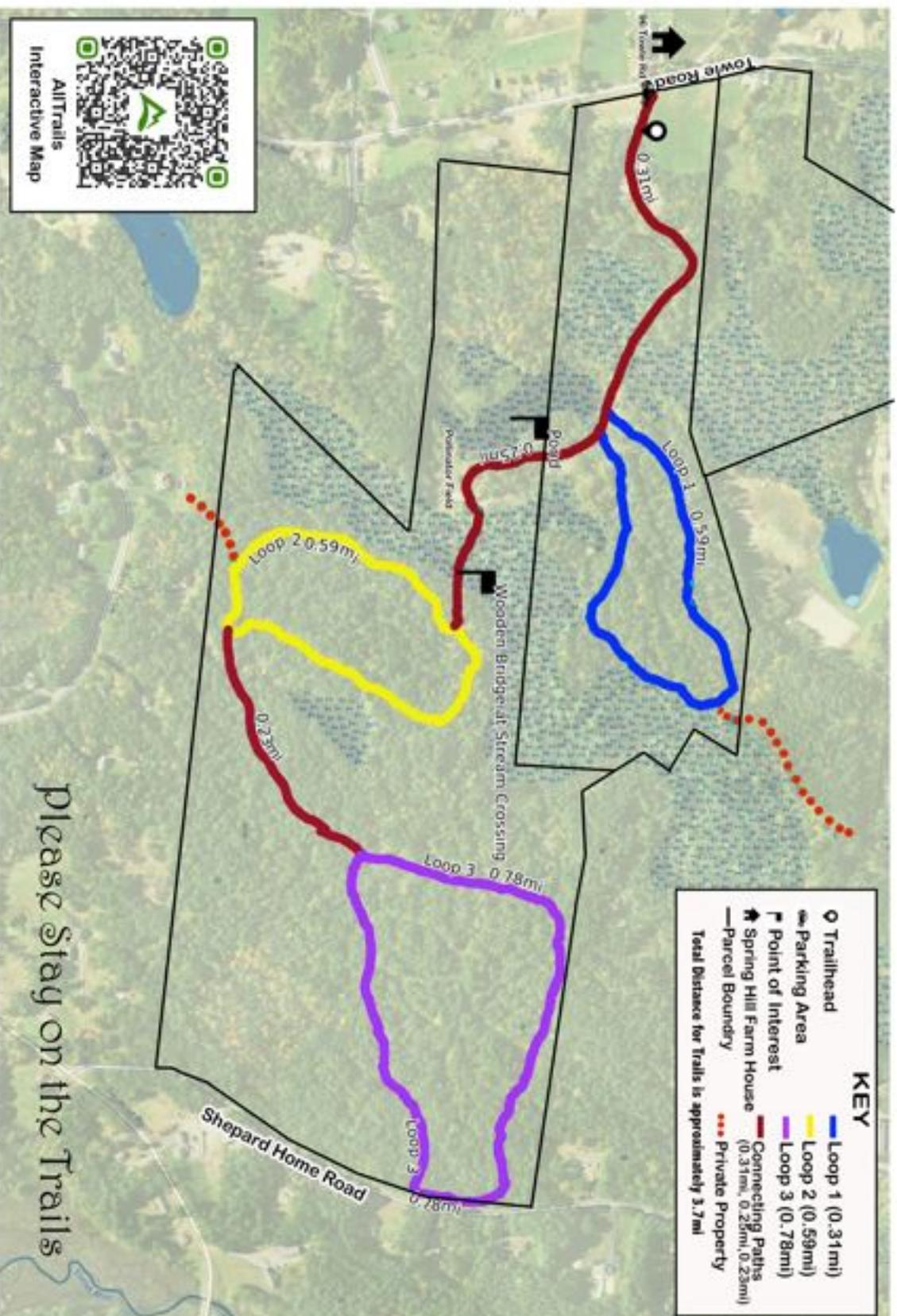
We are currently attempting to make these trails easier to navigate. We have a new trail map to help you plan out your trek. Printed trail maps will be available at the trailhead entrance. If paper maps are not your thing, then scan one of the QR codes with your phone and you can see where exactly you are on the trails with the help of GPS in either AllTrails or CalTopo mapping programs. These are a work in progress and we will happily welcome input!

Trail marking is coming up next!

Get involved! We hope you fall in love with Spring Hill Farm as much as we have. This publication is issued by the Muriel C. Church Spring Hill Farm Trust and includes input from the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee, as well as the Trust.

# Spring Hill Farm Trails

Located across the street from 96 Towle Road, Chester, NH 03036



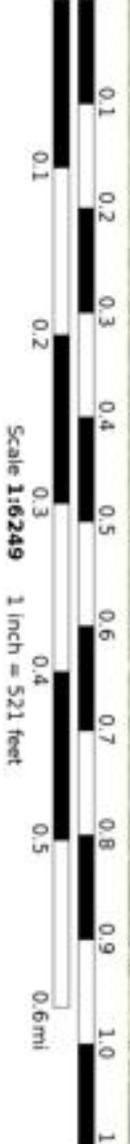
**KEY**

- Loop 1 (0.31 mi)
- Loop 2 (0.59mi)
- Loop 3 (0.78mi)
- Loop 3 (0.23mi)
- Connecting Paths (0.31mi, 0.25mi, 0.23mi)
- Private Property

**Total Distance for Trails is approximately 3.7mi**

- Trailhead
- ▭ Parking Area
- ▬ Point of Interest
- 🏠 Spring Hill Farm House
- Parcel Boundary

Mercator Projection  
WGS84  
UTM Zone 19T  
CALTOPO



CalTopo  
Interactive Map Link

MN  
-14.4°

Please Stay on the Trails