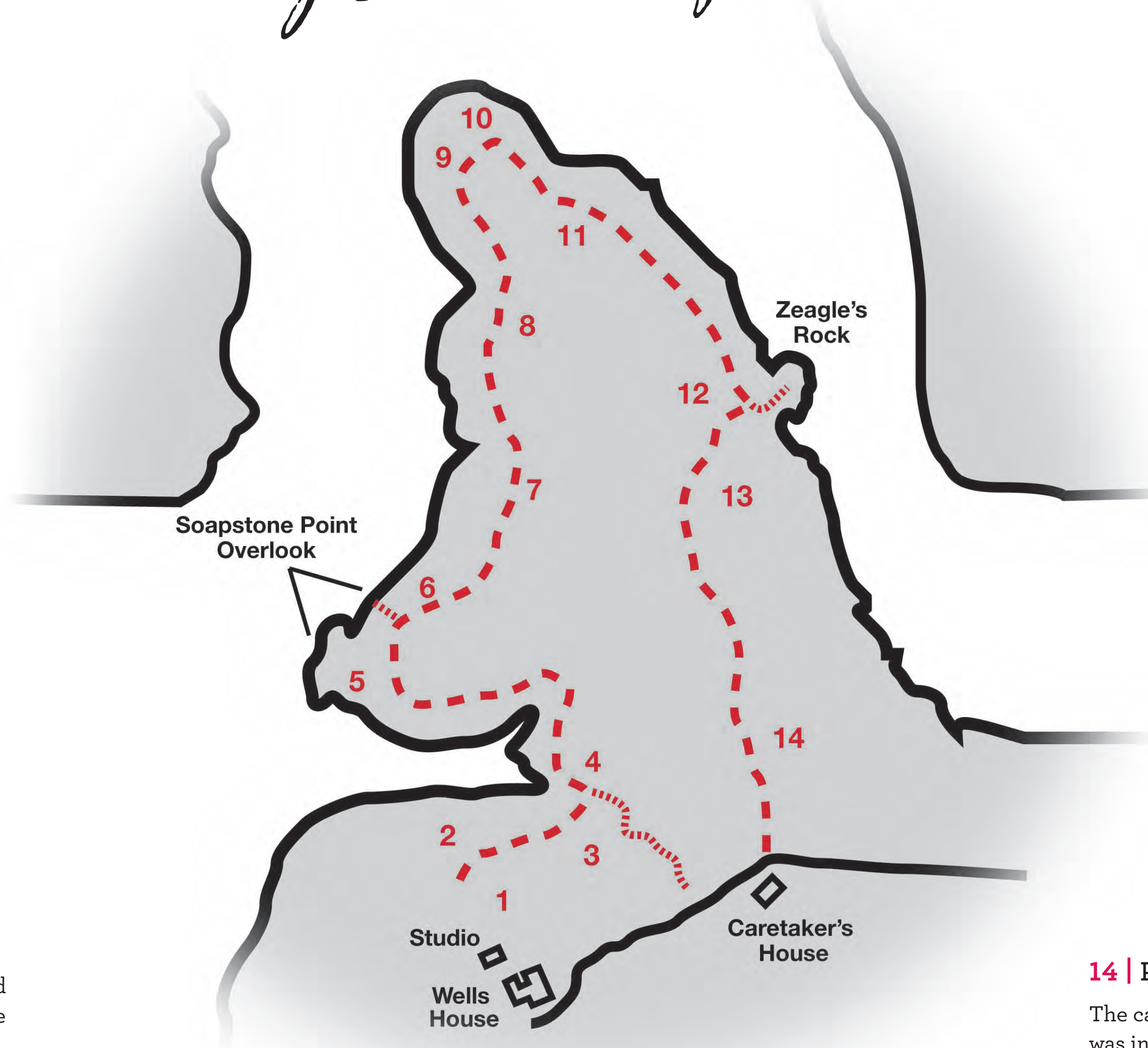


ZEAGLE'S ROCK

self-guided loop trail



6 | SOAPSTONE LEDGE

To the left is a weathered soapstone ledge covered with lichens, ferns and wildflowers. Mountain laurel nearby adds to this natural scene.

5 | SOAPSTONE OUTCROPS

A short path to the left leads to a small outcrop of soapstone.

4 | SPRING

B.W. Wells, after several attempts to find adequate water for their needs from dug or drilled wells, found and tapped a never-failing spring. It is about 100 feet to the left of this marker and is now under water.

3 | FOOTBRIDGE: Wildflower Trail

This footbridge crosses one of the two natural intermittent streams which feed Spring Branch Bay. Volunteers from the B.W. Wells Association built this bridge in the 1980s. The Wildflower Trail to your right leads along a north facing slope which harbors a variety of spring wildflowers.

2 | BEECH GROVE

Several American beech trees over 80 years old live on this slope. As they die, habitat is created for woodpeckers and other cavity-nesting birds. This cove of the lake is called Spring Branch Bay after a spring tapped nearby.

1 | MANGUM TERRACES

This leveled area in the path is the first of a series of erosion-control terraces to be crossed as you continue on the path. Charles Ray terraced the entire 90 cultivated acres of the farm in the early 1900s. These terraces were developed by Priestley Hinton Mangum of Wake Forest in the late 19th century.

7 | REVEGETATION: Erosion on shore

Boat wake and lake winds have eroded this shoreline and reduced woodland tree cover. It will be interesting to watch the natural processes at work on this stretch of trail.

8 | SIGNS OF FARMING

The large rock pile on the left, the Mangum Terrace just ahead and the relatively small tree canopy indicate this area was farmed or clear cut in the last 35 years. The regrowth is composed of pine and hardwoods: oak, maple, holly, sweet gum and a few river birch.

9 | PENINSULA

The end of the peninsula has been gradually eroding away during flood periods of the Neuse River. Layers of fine clay were deposited along the river's edge. Now, wave action is rapidly accelerating soil erosion. Notice that all the loblolly pines have been girdled by beavers and are dying. River birches will soon prosper once the pine overstory is diminished.

10 | RIVER FORD

A 1952 air photo showed this area to be in "old field" status. It also showed a ford across the river. Charles Ray used to take his horses across the river to be shod by a blacksmith in the early 1900s.

11 | PINK LADY SLIPPER SITE

This area is being improved for the benefit of the pink Lady Slipper wildflower. Plants rescued from nearby development will supplement existing plants. The flowers bloom from April through July.

12 | ZEAGLE'S ROCK (short spur trail to the left)

Before 1983, Zeagle's Rock towered 70 feet above the Neuse River—now it's only about 20 feet above the river. Local folklore supplies many theories as to how the rock was named.

13 | EROSION

This section of farm road shows how normal rains will erode the raw clay soils of the area. The wisdom of constructing erosion control structures such as the Mangum Terrace is readily seen. The water bars (telephone poles) were placed to divert rain water off the trail.

14 | PIGGERY (short spur trail to the left)

The caretaker's piggery was on the left. The piggery was in operation when B.W. Wells moved to Rockcliff Farm in the 1950s.

1

FOLLOW THE NUMBERED WHITE MARKERS FOR A ONE MILE SELF-GUIDED TRAIL. TERRAIN VARIES AND THE LAST HALF OF THE WALK IS MOSTLY UPHILL. PLEASE STAY ON THE TRAIL, AND DO NOT PICK WILDFLOWERS. WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE. PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB OR REMOVE ARTIFACTS, PLANTS OR ROCKS FROM THE PARK.