The blazed trail travels up and to the south and passes, near the eastern drop-off, a series of caves formed by the fractured rock talus. Beyond, the high dry oak forest with laurel thickets speaks to the thinness of the soil and to the general low water availability on these rocky ridges. The trail continues upward, passes by another vernal pool and then, turning east (left), eventually emerges into an opening where great views can be had to the east of the ancient central Connecticut Highlands Geologic Province. Mount Pisgah can be seen to the northeast. Pitch pines, scrub oaks and dry understory of blueberry, huckleberry, etc. are characteristic of these open, storm-swept sites. Follow the trail southward and then down to the east. Through the trees, especially in the dormant season, good views can be had of Whitney Pond. Follow the trail south where it joins the east-west trail crossing from Whitney Pond to the Mattabasset Trail to the west at the junction of Maria Schmidt Trail.

Permitted Activities:

The trail areas in the MLCT/MxLT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste.

The Mica Ledges trail complex is one of our most challenging and rewarding. Special features include marvelous views from high granite ledges to the east and especially to the west along the Mattabasset Blue Trail, great rock jumbles, several streams, vernal pools and a beautiful pond. Most of the trails are in Durham as only 17 acres of the 100-acre preserve are in Madison. In Madison, a bit south of the Maria Schmidt Memorial Trail, a section dips south into Town of Madison open space. Purchased and maintained jointly by the MLCT and the Middlesex Land Trust, Mica Ledges represents our first major joint venture with a neighboring Trust.

GPS Directions: 59-69 Cream Pot Rd., Durham, CT 06422

Category: A series of trails varying in difficulty from easy woodland to difficult inclines and high rock outcrops with splendid views.

Start: Trailhead at the cul-de-sac parking lot of Cream Pot Road in Durham at trailhead kiosk J1.

Distance: Distances ranging from about 1.2 miles to 2.5 miles depending on choice of trails.

Approximate time: 2-3 hours to cover the main trail system

Parking: At the cul-de-sac on Cream Pot Rd

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org or
Middlesex Land Trust
www.middlesexlandtrust.org

The Red-blazed north-south trail

From Pyramid Rock go south, first along and through a great jumble of large rocks fallen from the ridge above, then, where the trail meets a logging road, turn sharply upslope to where a beautiful vernal pool with its backdrop of rocky outcrop and pitch pine presents and oriental and mystical appearance. (Con’d)
Mica Ledges Trails

Legend

- Orange (Maria Schmidt Trail)
- Red (Mica Ledges Trail)
- Yellow (Selectmen's Path)
- Blue/Yellow (Selectmen's Path)
- Blue (Mattabesett Trail [New England Trail])

Parking
Trailhead
Trail Sign
Scenic Viewpoint
Rock Ledge
Kiosk Station
Gate

Parking
Trailhead
Bridge
Wetlands
Town Property
Land Trust Property

Map Produced May 2016