

so much before they succumb.”

The “tri” refers to three leaves per plant, three petals per flower, and three sepals, which resemble a cross between a leaf and a petal, says Jaffe, co-author of *Native Plants for New England Gardens* (2018): “At first they kind of look like a lollipop on a stick, curled into a ball shape, and then they pop up, and unfurl.” And they demand to be met on their own terms: “The unique survival trait that

allows them to dwell in a forest with full trees is that they only come out when the New England light is high. Then the trees leaf out and there’s no more growing because there’s too much shade, and they go dormant for the rest of the year.”

Garden in the Woods has 26 trillium species—the largest collection north of Delaware. That fact, and the serene beauty of these early-spring risers, are celebrated

during annual Trillium Week activities (May 5-11). Botanical tours and cultivation workshops, along with options to purchase plants from on-site propagation beds, culminate in a Friday evening of “Trilliums and Brews” with live music, craft beers, light fare, and strolls through the grounds. The flowers range from white to pinks, yellows, and a deep, maroon red; the leaves appear in matte, mottled, and variegated forms.

ALL IN A DAY: Peak Experiences

You don’t have to go *Free Solo* to enjoy outdoor rock climbing near Boston. From bouldering to traditional and sport climbing, diverse routes challenge anyone, from novices to advanced athletes, according to Harvard Mountaineering Club president Vladislav Sevostianov ’19.

South of Boston, the former granite quarries in Quincy offer about 100 climbs, some as high as 80 feet, with scenic views, as well as great bouldering. Unlike sport and “trad” climbing, which require ropes and anchors, bouldering is a free-hand activity involving horizontal and vertical acrobatic maneuvering along rocks up to 20 feet off the ground, Sevostianov explains. Prepare for weekend crowds in Quincy, or head to the fewer trad and sport routes at Rattlesnake Rocks, in the Braintree section of the Blue Hills Reservation. Or, for hundreds of unique bouldering scrambles, go to Lincoln Woods State Park, north of Providence, Rhode Island: clusters of rock are scattered amid hiking trails, picnic areas, and a swimming pond.

One of Sevostianov’s favorite spots is the Red Rocks Conservation Area, in Gloucester. The trad and sport routes, and a few for top-rope—when climbers ascend the rock using a rope they have

already secured at the top—center around a wall with a vertical crack known as “The Zipper,” he reports. There are also plenty of enjoyable “slabby” routes: easier clambering across rocks at lower, non-vertical angles that relies more heavily on one’s balance, foot strength, and traction. Eat lunch with views of Gloucester Harbor from the Red Rocks cliff top, or end the day at Captain Dusty’s Ice Cream, in nearby Manchester-by-the-Sea.

Sevostianov also recommends Hopkinton’s College Rock Park: the eponymous rock is 35 feet high with alternate front and back routes, offering one of the eas-



Clockwise from top: Red Rocks, in Gloucester; mountainous Rumney, New Hampshire; bouldering in Lincoln Woods, Rhode Island; and scaling granite walls, in Quincy

iest ascents around. Or, he adds, try the Crow Hill Ledges in Leominster State Forest, off Route 2. After tackling towering hunks of gneiss there, climbers can cool off in Crow Hill Pond.

An exciting weekend trip leads to climbing meccas in New Hampshire. Around Rumney, at the southern edge of the White Mountain National Forest, world-renowned routes spread across Rattlesnake Mountain. Another choice, Sevostianov says, is to head deeper into the range, near North Conway, and check out the 700-foot-high Cathedral Ledge: “an amazing trad-climbing destination.” Inexperienced climbers can hire mountain guides—or just start small and learn locally. “We do clinics and skill sessions, and are a resource for anyone who wants to climb, find partners, or meet people in this community,” Sevostianov says of the Harvard club, founded in 1924. “The big thing in climbing culture is mentorship. It can be incredibly daunting, otherwise, to learn the ropes, not to mention unsafe. This is also how lifelong friendships develop.” —N.P.B.

Harvard Mountaineering Club
Harvardmountaineering.org



VLADISLAV SEVOSTIANOV



GENNIE WIELER



VLADISLAV SEVOSTIANOV