

# **Keyauwee Trail**

Sample pages from  
**Uwharrie Lakes Region Trail Guide**

by Don Childrey

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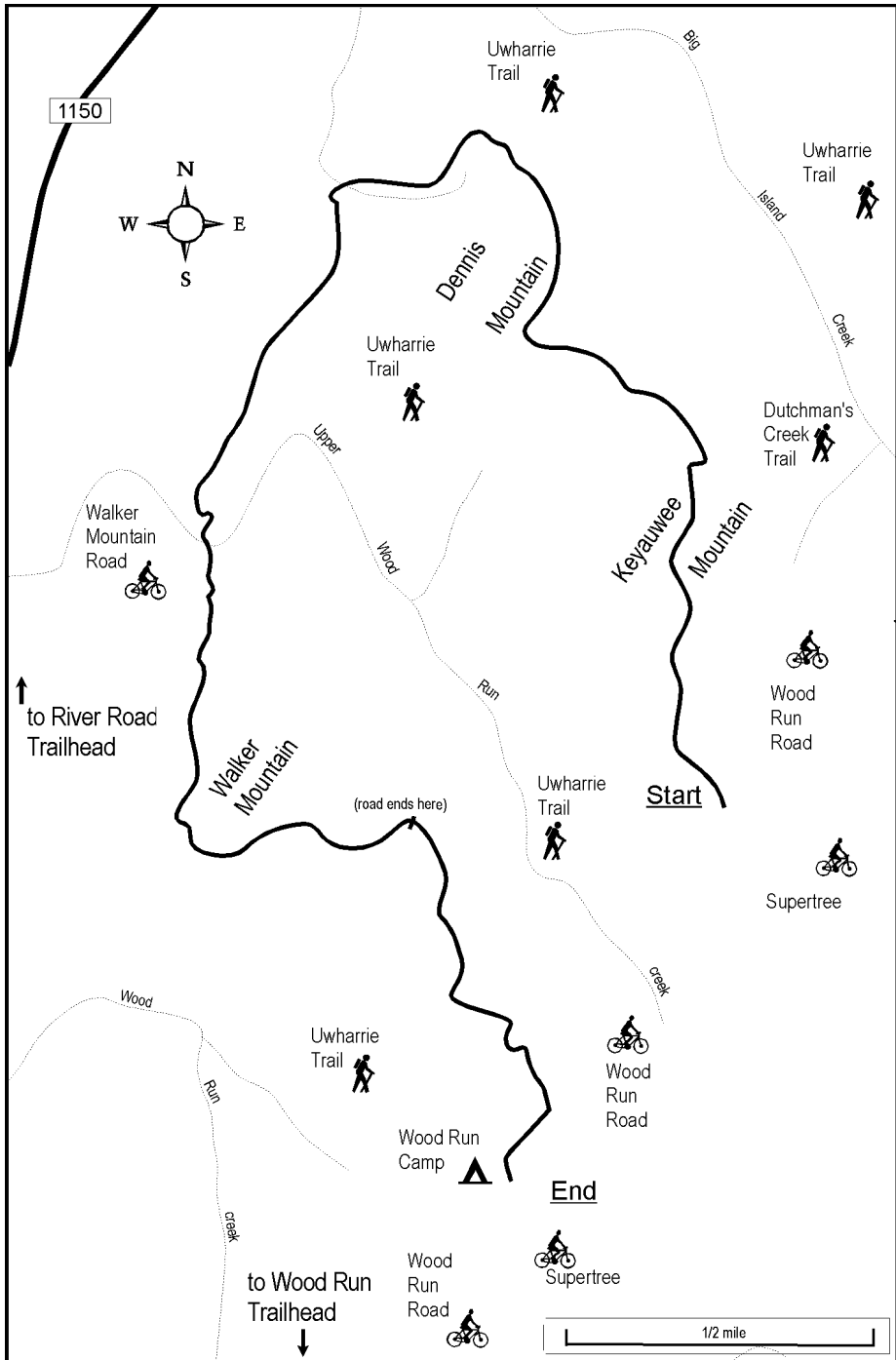
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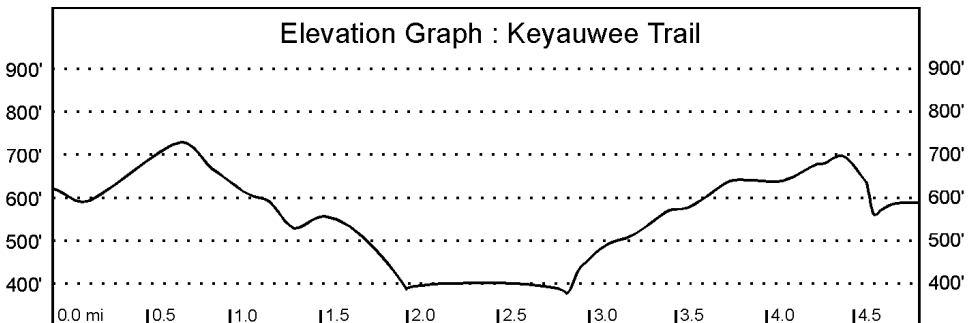
**Keyauwee Trail**



<u>Feature</u>	<u>Mile</u>	<u>Elev.</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>Start</b>	0.00	620'	Junction with Wood Run Road at milepost 2.6
	0.18	590'	Low spot
	0.72	730'	High point on Keyauwee Mountain
<b>J</b>	0.90	670'	Pass a future mtb trail on right
<b>J</b>	1.17	595'	Leave roadbed at end of original Keyauwee Trail
	1.35	525'	Low spot
<b>J</b>	1.53	560'	Cross Uwharrie Trail (hiking only) N of Dennis Mtn
<b>WX</b>	1.98	390'	Cross Moonshine Creek
<b>X</b>	2.88	375'	Cross Upper Wood Run creek
<b>J</b>	2.97	440'	Turn left onto Walker Mountain Road
	3.96	605'	Leave end of Walker Mountain Road
	4.32	680'	Reach upper edge of timber cut with views
	4.41	700'	High spot on Benchtree Mountain
<b>J</b>	4.57	590'	Cross Uwharrie Trail (hiking only)
	4.60	560'	Low spot
	4.62	570'	Turn right onto trail to Wood Run Camp
<b>End</b>	4.85	585'	Junction with Wood Run Road

**J** = junction **C** = campsite **W** = water **X** = stream crossing

<b>Trail Name</b>	Keyauwee Trail	<b>Difficulty</b>	Difficult
<b>Length (mi.)</b>	4.85	<b>Configuration</b>	One way
<b>Tread</b>	Mixed	<b>Elevation Gain</b>	525'
		<b>Elevation Loss</b>	560'



### Keyauwee Trail

Keyauwee (key-YAW-ee) Trail was originally opened up in 1996 and signed for mountain bikes by UMBA volunteers. At that time it was an out-and-back trail; 1.3 miles to the turnaround point. The original section followed an old logging road that ran up and over Keyauwee Mountain and ended in a saddle on the east side of Dennis Mountain.

UMBA received a 1997 Adopt-A-Trail Grant from the state that included funding for part of the archaeological surveys required before the connecting sections of the Keyauwee Loop could be built. USFS District Ranger Tom Horner gave approval for UMBA to proceed with trail construction in December of 1997. As this book went to press, volunteers were busy completing the connecting sections of the Keyauwee Trail. This trail forms the first loop on the western side of the Wood Run Mountain Bike Trail System.

“Keyauwee” was the name of the last known band of native Americans to live in the Uwharrie Lakes Region. Men of the Keyauwee tribe were unusual because they were bearded, unlike most native Americans. Records mention them in the area as late as the early 1800’s. Like many of the native tribes in NC, details about what eventually happened to them were never recorded and have probably been lost forever.

The start of Keyauwee Trail is 2.6 miles in on Wood Run Road, on the left, across from the start of Supertree. The route descends along an overgrown dirt logging road for a short distance before climbing high on the west side of Keyauwee Mountain.

Descending again, the trail passes by an old dirt road on the right that will be used by another loop trail in the future. Eventually the route reaches the saddle between Keyauwee and Dennis Mountains where the original portion of Keyauwee Trail ended. The new portion of the trail curves to the right while the old roadbed curves left. Hikers can follow the roadbed until it reaches the Uwharrie Trail on the south side of Dennis Mountain.

Keyauwee leaves the roadbed in the saddle and follows singletrack around the north end of Dennis Mountain, crossing the Uwharrie hiking trail on the north ridge. The route continues curving around the mountain and begins a long descent to Moonshine Creek. Several old moonshine still sites can be found along this small creek.

After crossing the stream, the trail follows a long rolling ridge over to Upper Wood Run creek. Crossing this rocky creek isn’t too bad if high water hasn’t dislodged the rocks. The creek is normally about 10 feet across and less than a foot deep.

Beyond the creek, the trail climbs steeply up to reach graveled Walker Mountain Road. Turning left on this road, Keyauwee follows it up and around Walker Mountain. There are great views looking west from an open area on the mountainside. As you stop to catch your breath on the way up, be sure to turn around and enjoy the scenery.

After circling around to the east side of the mountain, you’ll reach the end of the gravel road. Keyauwee follows singletrack to the right, leading across a large timber cut. The route runs along the high side of the open area for several hundred yards, offering you some of the best views from any trail in the Uwharrie Lakes Region.

Vistas from the upper edge of the timber cut are beautiful, encompassing the mountains of Morrow Mountain State Park, the Badin Lake Area, and the Lake Tillery Basin. At the corner of the timber cut, the trail curves left, enters the woods, and climbs high on Benchtree Mountain. At the top of the climb, the trail passes an unusual oak tree that is as close to a living bench as I can imagine.

Keyauwee descends from Benchtree Mountain rather quickly, crossing the Uwharrie hiking trail on the way. The route then joins and follows an older trail that led from the Uwharrie Trail to Wood Run Camp. Keyauwee ends at the camp.

Like other trails in the Wood Run Mountain Bike Trail System, Keyauwee is marked with brown carsonite posts and/or wooden signs at intersections. The signs bear the unique symbol of UMBA and the Wood Run Trail System, as well as a directional arrow. The trail had not been blazed at presstime, but will most likely be marked with a white, double vertical bar paint blaze.