

Okay, so where's Wales?

Wales is a tiny town roughly 12 miles southwest of the junction of the Mass Pike and I-84, and Sturbridge, MA. It's about 30 miles east of Springfield, 35 miles northeast of Hartford, and just 5 miles south of Brimfield, MA, site of the Brimfield Antiques Fair three times each year.

In fannish terms, Toad Woods is 70 miles southwest of the NESFA clubhouse and 50 miles southwest of Mark and Priscilla Olson's home in Framingham. It usually takes me an hour to get to Mark and Priscilla's door and I usually make it to the clubhouse in an hour and 20 minutes. Toad Woods is also 120 miles northeast of Joe Siclari and Edie Stern's in Yorktown Heights, New York. That drive takes me two hours; from the Bronx it's about 2.5 hours. Insert usual traffic caveats here. As of August, 2005, Kip Williams, Cathy Doyle, and their daughter, Sarah, became my closest fannish neighbors when they moved to West Springfield, MA, just 32 miles away!

The nearest airport is BDL – Bradley/Hartford/Springfield. BOS – Boston Logan – is also a reasonable choice if you don't arrive or depart during rush hour. PVD in Providence, RI, is also within reasonable driving range, though if you use PVD, I hope you have much better experiences than I did in July 2005.

Wales has no public transit service, but Toad Woods is within 31-32 miles of three train stations: Springfield, Worcester, and Amherst. That's closer than any of the likely airports, so feel free to take the train!

D-I-Y Tri-fold Flyer Instructions

1. Print PDF as a 2-sided document. Have as much fun as I do figuring out which way the paper goes when printing the second side.
2. Fold into thirds in the obvious places.
3. Keep in your glove compartment or other likely spot for future visits.

Directions to Toad Woods



37 Monson Road
Wales, Massachusetts
01081-9743

413-245-0325

Home of Geri Sullivan,
the Time Travel Worldcon,
George (the concrete frog),
and various good times.

Coming sometime:
The Sun, the Moon, and the Stars.
And you, I hope.

A SMOTHRA Publication

Photo by Leslie Turek, May 2005. That's how parking works for parties. At all other times, just pull up in front of the garage.

Gerí Sullivan · Toad Woods
37 Monson Road
Wales, MA 01081-9743
413-245-0325

From the East (Boston, Worcester, & environs):

FYI: The Mapquest route is 0.5 miles shorter, with a tricky turn in Brimfield. I usually follow this route.

- Take the **Mass Pike west to exit 9: I-84/Sturbridge**
- Take the **first exit (3B) after the toll plaza** to get onto US- 20 West toward Brimfield. The exit just just over a half-mile beyond the toll plaza.
- **Stay on US-20 West** for a little over 7 miles. You'll go through picturesque Sturbridge, then countryside until you curve your way into Brimfield.
- There's one stoplight in Brimfield. That's where you **TURN LEFT onto MA-19 South**, toward Wales.
- **Drive 4.4 miles** through rural woods and what there is of Wales, past the Wales Market and the elementary school on your right, until you come to Monson Road on your right. (There's a sign for the Oak Haven Family Campground on your left.)
- **TURN RIGHT onto Monson Road.** The post office is the first building on the left (south) side of Monson Road immediately after you turn. And, yes, there's a street sign for Monson Road.
- **Go 0.7 miles west to Toad Woods, 37 Monson Road.** You'll pass a pond on your right at 0.5 miles, then a brown house (with the name Brown on the mailbox, too). Toad Woods is the second house on your right after the pond. Ignore the mailboxes on the left side of the road; they will mislead you with numbers higher than 37. Pay attention only to the mailbox numbers on the right.
- **TURN RIGHT and drive DOWN** the 274-foot dirt/gravel driveway. Park if there's space or we can ferry you from the parking areas at the corner of Monson Road and MA-19. Note: there's also a parking space on the left just after you turn into the driveway.

From the West (Albany, Springfield, & environs):

FYI: Mapquest has you stay on US-20 East, then take back roads into Wales. That works, but it's easy to miss the turns. This route is clearly marked.

- Take the **Mass Pike east to exit 8: Route 32/ Palmer/Ware**
- Take **MA-32 South to Monson.** This involves a **RIGHT TURN onto MA-32 South** after the toll plaza, then a **LEFT TURN** at a stoplight 0.6 miles later onto US-20/MA-32/Park Street, and a **RIGHT TURN to stay on MA-32** in 0.9 miles as you're leaving Palmer. (If you miss that right turn and don't want to backtrack, you can stay on US-20 until the stoplight in Brimfield, then turn right onto MA-19 South, following the directions from the east.)
- **MA-32 South** immediately goes over a bridge, then requires that you **TURN LEFT at the stop sign** on the south side of the bridge (0.1 miles, all very quick). MA-32 then turns into an easy-to-follow gently curving road for the rest of the 3.7 miles to the middle of downtown Monson.
- **Stay on MA-32 South** (aka Main Street) through the Monson shopping district. A little less than a mile south of the post office and IGA grocery is an intersection where Wales Road goes off to the left. There's a road sign pointing "To MA-19."
- **TURN LEFT onto Wales Road.** You're now roughly 5.5 miles from Toad Woods. In 3.2 miles, you'll cross the town line and Wales Road becomes Monson Road. Not that the road signs will tell you; this is Massachusetts, after all. It's something of a curvy, winding road. Don't make any turns off of it (onto Old Wales Road, for example). Watch the descending mailbox numbers after you enter Wales. When you come around a curve with a handful of duplexes on your left, you're almost there.
- **TURN LEFT and drive DOWN** the 274-foot dirt/gravel driveway. Park if there's space or we can ferry you from the parking areas at the corner of Monson Road and MA-19. Note: there's also a parking space on the left just after you turn into the driveway.

From the South (New York, Connecticut, etc.)

FYI: These are based on Mapquest; they work well.

- Travel to **I-84 East** on the north side of Hartford
- Take **Exit 70, CT-32 North toward Stafford Springs**
- At the bottom of the exit ramp, **TURN LEFT onto CT-32 North/River Road.**
- **Drive 4.3 miles** to Stafford Springs, where CT-32 intersects with CT-190 in a small rotary.
- **TURN RIGHT onto CT-190 East/Main Street.**
- **Drive 0.3 miles** to CT-19 North. I believe there's a flashing caution light.
- **TURN LEFT onto CT-19 North.**
- **Stay on CT-19 for 9.7 miles.** It curves, and there's a Y-intersection in Staffordville (or maybe two), but it's well marked, including one sign pointing to Massachusetts. When you cross the state line, you'll be in Wales, on MA-19. (The MA portion of the drive is included in the 9.7 miles.)
- You'll pass Lake George, then Tedore's Restaurant, on the right. Wales Cemetery #2 is on your left, just before the old Town Hall. Then a used bookstore on the right, and Monson Road goes off to the left.
- **TURN LEFT onto Monson Road.** The post office is the first building on the left (south) side of Monson Road immediately after you turn.
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