

New London Conservation Commission

PHILBRICK – CRICENTI BOG **FROM POND TO BOG IN 10,000 YEARS**

***PLEASE STAY ON THE WALK** for your safety and to preserve the bog mat. This walk is unsafe for dogs.

A SELF-GUIDING TRAIL. Look for numbers along the path. Map is located on page 3.

ACCESS PATH 0-5

- 0) Where you stand was the shore of a 25 acre pond at the end of the glacial period. Arctic plants growing here have gradually spread over the surface of the water.
- 1) You are 5 feet above the former lake bottom on gravel resting on the roots of royal ferns and red maples.
- 2) Here the water is more acidic and the cinnamon ferns are replacing the royal ferns.
- 3) As you walk these paths, stop and listen. One advantage of the stunted vegetation in a bog is the ability to see the birds. One of the common songs heard here is the “Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody” of the White Throated Sparrow.
- 4) Meet the bog makers – the (sphagnum or peat) moss which can float on water and the grass-like sedge with binding roots. Together they were first to grow out over the water.
- 5) Beside the paths the tamaracks grow vigorously nourished by decaying leaves. (Notice how they are out on the bog mat.)

PEEK HOLE LOOP 6-9

- 6) This is the open bog mat with bonsai-like trees. Many of these small black spruce are more than 60 years old, dwarfed by lack of nutrients in the mat or acid water.
- 7) Acidic water creates an abiotic environment where things do not decay. The moss below the living layer becomes brown peat. A bog is the source of peat sold commercially for garden use.
- 8) The official depth here is 20 feet – **Pull the pole out and please replace it.**
- 9) The black spruce and tamaracks here are well established and are growing on the bog mat.

TUNDRA GARDEN LOOP 10-13

- 10) Beside the path are the plants shown on the map page.
- 11) The blue-green shrub is bog rosemary that grows well in this environment and blooms in the spring.
- 12) The leatherleaf covering large areas to your right offers no support. **Stay on the Walk.**
- 13) Pitcher plants, abundant here, may use the nutrients from insects found in their leaves.

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QUAKING LOOP 14-17

14) Beyond here, in the mid-1800s, men fished from boats on open water. The mat here is relatively thin!

15) Good quaking here. **Please keep feet on boards.**

16) As you approach the lake shore notice the woodland trees are advancing over the mat. They will someday make a boggy woodland here.

17) The return to the bog is over a log bound by the roots of young trees growing on it.

BOG PERIL LOOP 18-21

18) Water long trapped below the mat surfaces here drains into Murray Pond. The acidity of the water (pH 4.5) is characteristic of such a bog.

19) Ahead is a bit of tundra such as you might see in the Arctic.

20) Stay on the Walk! Those light green patches are only thin skims of moss and sedge. Below them are remains of cows, deer and at least one horse.

21) Time was when this shaded wood was an open sunlit bog. Many of the fallen trees were a result of the 1998 ice-storm.

Thank You For Visiting / Please Come Again

This bog walk is here because of the concerned assistance of the Cricenti family, the Philbrick family, the James Cleveland family, the Heritage Preservation and Recreation Commission, and the New London Conservation Commission.

A map of all the trails maintained by the New London Conservation Commission is available for purchase at Morgan Hill Bookstore, Village Sports, the Town Office, the Chamber of Commerce Information Booth, and the Tracy Library. Additionally, trail descriptions and many individual trail maps are available to be viewed and printed at the Commission's website at www.nl-nhcc.com.

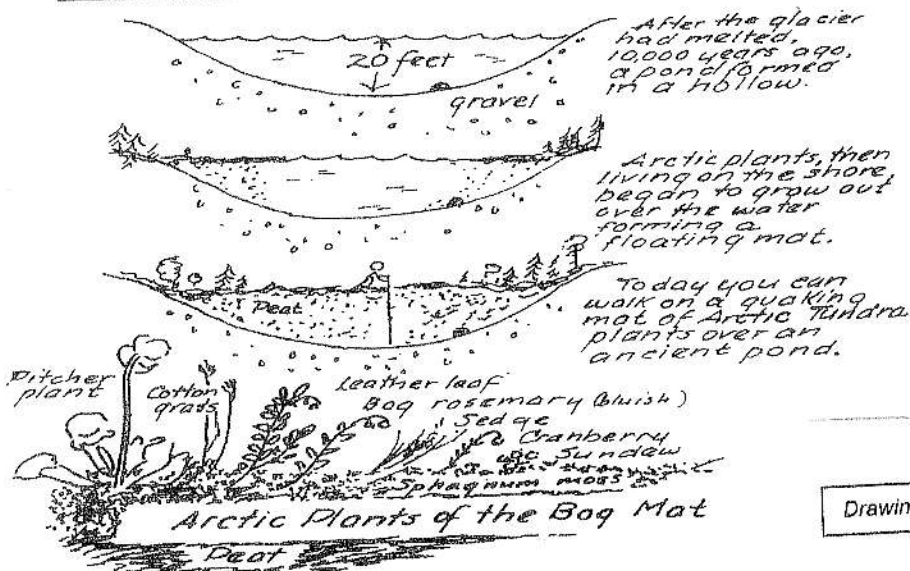
PHILBRICK-CRICENTI BOG

ONE
guide sheet
to a group
please



See other side for list of numbered markers

HOW THIS BOG COULD HAVE FORMED



Drawings by Esther Currier