

Conservation Matters

A monthly column focused on conservation education, as the result of collaboration among several area conservation commissions and organizations. If your town's commission or conservation organization would like to contribute articles, please contact Jessica Tabolt Halm jesshalm78@gmail.com

Title: New Microscopes for Quincy Bog

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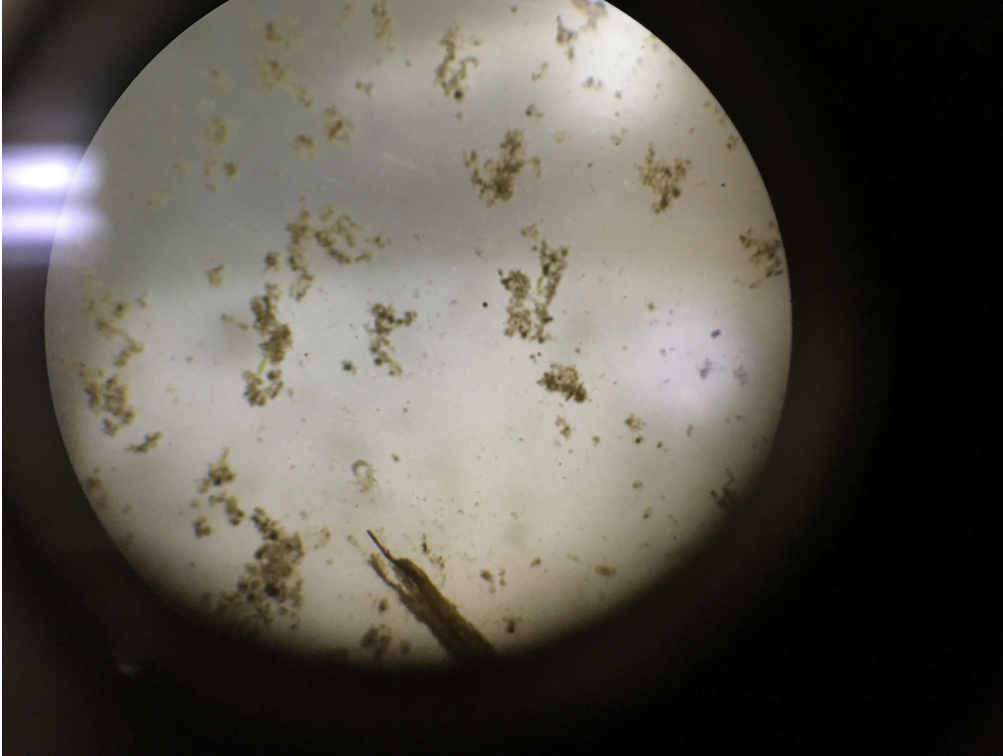
There are so many beautiful things to see in nature. New Hampshire's mountains, lakes, forests, oceans, and bogs provide ample opportunity for grabbing our attention for our whole life. We, at the Quincy Bog Natural Area, in Rumney, New Hampshire are thrilled to let our towns know that we have received not one but two new microscopes.

Thanks to a generous donation from Spere Memorial Hospital, we have a high-powered microscope, which allows people to do research or study material or organisms on a microscopic level.

The new low-powered, or dissecting, microscope comes to us by way of a generous donation from the Baker River Watershed Association. Use of this tool can be exciting for all age groups and perfect for school children in grades 3 and above. Either with a school group or with a family, it is time well spent. It is portable, meaning that it can go out on the trail to look at objects that you discover. It is very durable and lightweight, making it easier for your Bog Host to carry it out for studying your new bug, flower, caterpillar, worm, or pond water.

Even indoors at the Nature Center, the Bog Hosts can assist your efforts in using the microscope to learn what makes life here at the Bog so much fun for all ages. We have experienced very positive feedback from parents, teachers, and students being able to see the yellow pollen with its soft and fluffy texture, the spores under the fern, and especially the amazing small bugs, critters, and plants from our own bog water. Additionally, we have plenty of reading and reference materials available at the nature center to help explain what you witnessed. Add to that our binoculars for your use and animal displays.

So, come and spend some time here with us at the Quincy Bog Natural Area in Rumney. The wild outdoors is even more incredible when seen through the eyes of a microscope. Be prepared to be amazed.



Closer inspection of pond water from Quincy Bog is made possible through the use of one of two recently donated microscopes.



8-year old Madeline Ronci uses a new microscope at Quincy Bog to get a closer look at what makes bog ecosystems so unique and valuable.