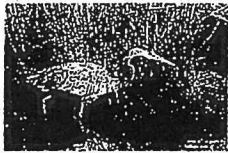


As you paddle north and look to your left (West) you will see an opening with low vegetation and few trees. This wetland area is a **CATTAIL MARSH**. It is one of four major wetland areas around the pond (See yellow colored areas on map). These wetlands provide important nesting habitat for migrating birds and are home to numerous wildlife such as beavers and the **great blue heron**.

Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias)



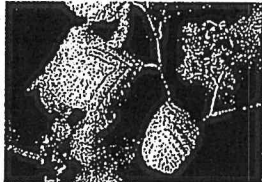
The Great Blue Heron eats small fish and reptiles. You can find them waiting patiently for their prey mostly in the marsh areas.

Can you spot a Great Blue Heron?

You can identify a marsh by the plants it contains. Typically they contain large shrubs such as the **Speckled Alder**.

Speckled Alder (Alnus Rugosa)

Speckled Alder is a large shrub with small cone-like flowers. It is very common in marsh areas surrounding the pond.



Continue your journey following the western shoreline of the pond. As you glide peacefully along the water you will see a **FOREST** area. Here you will find yet another type of environment that characterize this complex wetland ecosystem. You will see various types of trees including **White Pine, Birch, and White Cedar**, to name a few.

White Cedar (Thuja Occidentalis)



White cedar can be a shrub or tree can grow up to 40 ft. tall. The needles are flat, and the cones are very small. This species can be found along the shores of the pond in the forest area.

See if you can locate a White Cedar!

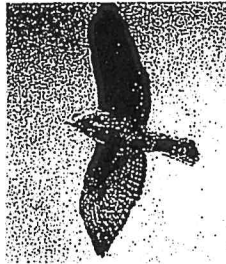
People lived here 8,000 years ago!

Native Americans, particularly the **Abenaki Indians** have used this pond and surrounding area for over 8,000 years! They used to camp on the shores of the pond and canoe across it, catching fish and hunting. Three canoes have been found in the pond and one is still here. Many other artifacts have been found around the pond, particularly on the north shore. Archeologists have been finding pieces of pottery, arrowheads, and bones in this location, named the **Ewing Site**. Most of the artifacts found here are almost 2,000 years old.

> You have now reached the halfway point of your adventure where you have rounded the northern end of the pond and are beginning to head south along the eastern shore.

As you head south you will notice mountain ridgelines off in the distance to the Southeast. If you look closely you may see **Hawks** soaring along these ridges. During the Fall of every year these birds 'ride' the jetstreams (wind currents) south for the winter.

Broad Winged Hawk (Buteo Plapypterus)



The Broad Winged Hawk can often be seen circling high above the hills around the pond. It makes its nest in the forests below.

Can you point out a Broad Winged Hawk?

As you approach the southern end of the pond and the end of your journey you will see another wetland area know as a **DWARF-SHRUB BOG**. This is the second type of wetland you will see here. It differs from the marsh by its lack of water. In fact, the land is 'filling in' here and what was once water is now becoming land. The **Leather Leaf** (pictured below) can be found here.

Leather Leaf (Chamaedaphne calculata)

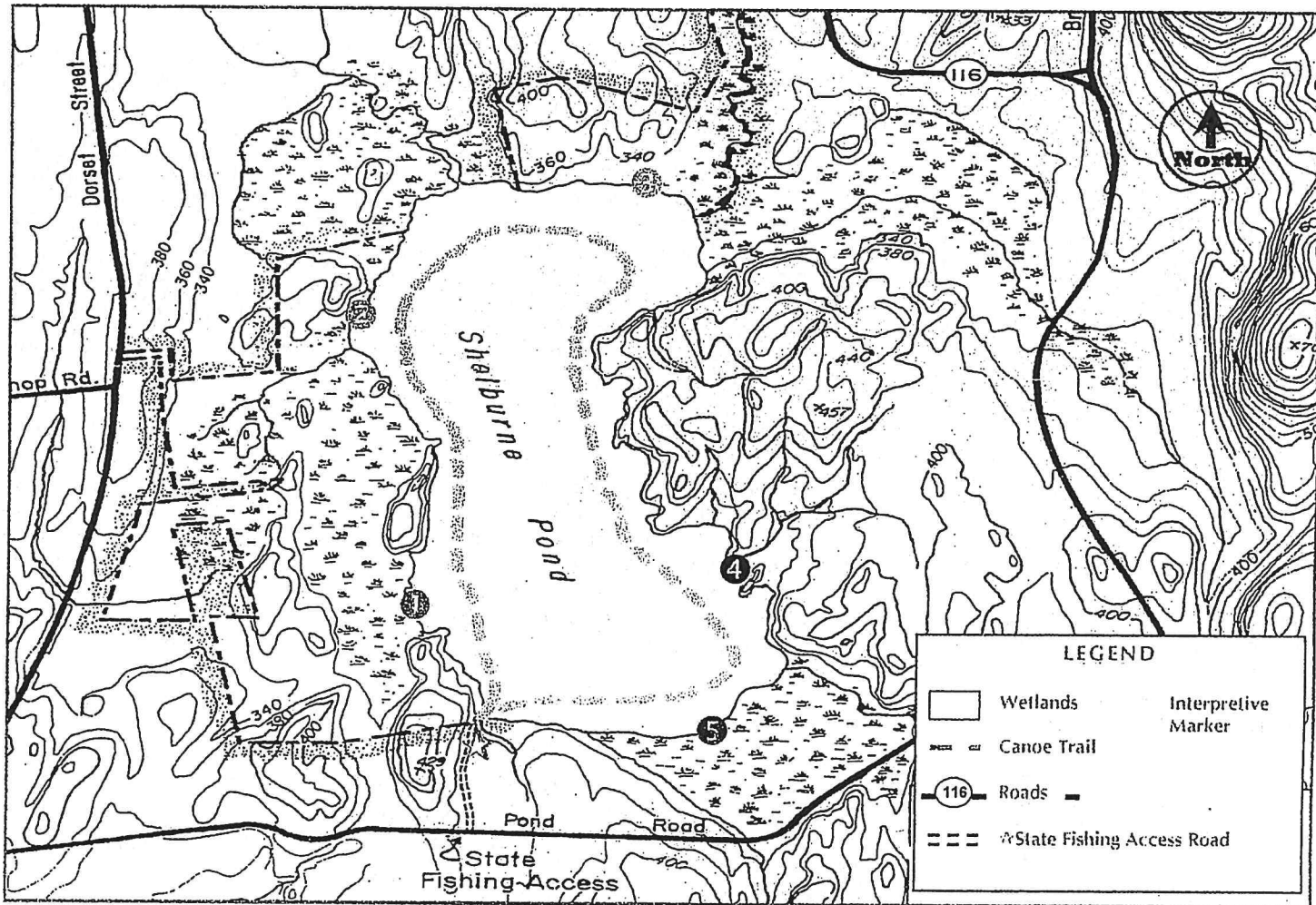


Leather leaf is an evergreen shrub that never grows larger than three feet tall. It is very common in bog areas.

> You have now completed your paddle of discovery! Can you...

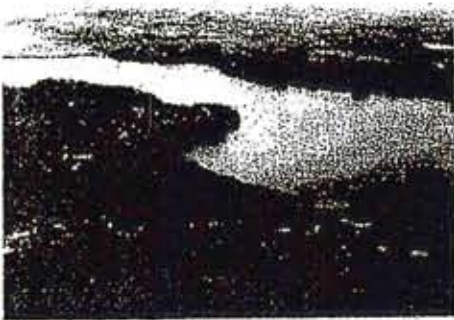
- Identify the wetlands around the pond, including a **marsh** and a **bog**?
- Spot a **Great Blue Heron**?
- Locate various plants and trees including the **white cedar, leather leaf** and **speckled alder**?
- See the soaring beauty of the **broad winged hawk**?

SHELburne POND CANOE TRAIL



What is the history behind Shelburne Pond?

- The Shelburne area has been occupied by humans for 8000 years. Historic artifacts of the Abenaki Tribe have been discovered around the pond, including a dugout canoe.
- European settlement began around 1725 in Chittenden County. Stone walls and barbed wire remain as evidence of colonial farming.
- Clear-cutting of forests began about 1810 to facilitate farming. Corn and hay have been grown around Shelburne Pond for over 200 years.
- Sheep farming reached its peak around 1900 in Shelburne, but was replaced by widespread dairy farming around 1925.
- By 1965, the number of family farms was decreasing, and hay fields replaced pastures on the remaining farms. With this decrease in farming, much of the higher lands in the watershed were subdivided into 10-15 acre residential plots.
- Through time, increased nutrients from logging, farming and residential development have entered Shelburne Pond. The process, known as eutrophication has caused increased growth of algae. This algae is what gives Shelburne Pond its green color.



For other canoeing adventures in the Shelburne area, visit the following:

- **Lake Champlain-** Often considered the "West Coast of New England", Lake Champlain spans over half the length of Vermont, separating the state from neighboring New York. There are many places to start from along the lake, but an easy place to begin is Shelburne Bay. From Burlington, follow Rt. 7 about three-miles. Turn right on to Bay Rd. and follow for 1 mile. The parking area and lake will be visible on the right.
- **LaPlatte River-** This lazy river flows north directly into Shelburne Bay. It is accessible using the same parking area and boat access mentioned above. A short paddle upstream leads to a variety of wetland areas rich with wildlife.

Directions to Shelburne Pond:

From Main Street in Burlington take Dorset Street South to Pond Road. Turn Left on Pond Road until you come to the State Fish and Wildlife access road and parking area on left.



To ensure Shelburne Pond remains a rich environment for the health of the plants, animals, and your enjoyment, please:

1. Stay on marked trails
2. Deposit rubbish in receptacles
3. Take only pictures, leave only footprints (or canoe ripples!)
4. Be courteous of others

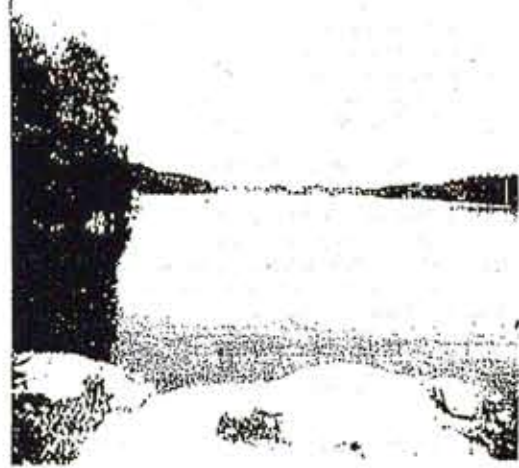
Thank You.

The SPCT planners would like to acknowledge the following people, without whom none of this would have been possible: Tom Hudspeth, Rick Paradis, and Carolyne Wang.

SHELBURNE POND CANOE TRAIL Shelburne, Vermont

A Paddle of Discovery!

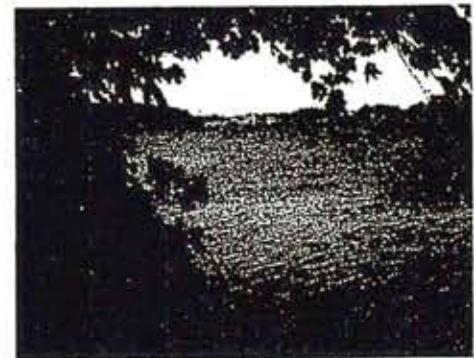
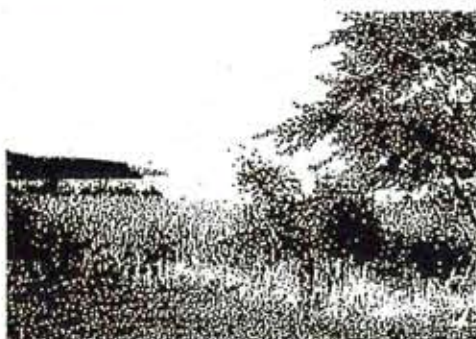
Shelburne Pond is ALIVE with natural and cultural heritage. You can embark on a learning adventure in your canoe and explore the treasures that make this Vermont Landscape unique and important.



Your journey will uncover the natural, historical, and cultural features of Shelburne Pond...

For local hiking opportunities, explore the following:

- **Red Rocks Park-** Managed by Burlington's Parks Department, this natural area offers several walking trails and breathtaking views of Lake Champlain. The cliffs at Red Rocks are a nice place to sit and relax, and they also become a popular swimming area in the summer months. Red Rocks park is in South Burlington on Central Avenue, which is at the Route 189 junction on Route 7.
- **Mt. Philo State Park-** This small peak offers beautiful views of Lake Champlain and the distant Adirondack Mountains. The summit can be accessed either by hiking or by driving up the mountain road. Mt Philo is located 15 miles south of Burlington off Route 7 in North Ferrisburgh.



- **Camel's Hump-** This peak is the second highest in Vermont. Named for its distinct profile, Camel's Hump offers a selection of hiking trails with varying degrees of difficulty. From Interstate 89, take exit 12 through Richmond following Route 2 south. In Richmond center, turn right onto Route 17 south. Camel's Hump road is off Route 17 in Huntington.

Please fold
open for map
and trail
information

