

Kettlehole Bog

Kettlehole Bogs are among the rarest natural communities in the region and are confined to the shores of glacial, kettle-hole lakes. Such lakes were formed by large blocks of ice left by retreating glaciers. As the ice blocks melted, they formed a deep lake dammed by glacial debris. Around the edges of these lakes developed swampy flats layered with decomposed sphagnum (peat) moss. The moss creates a very acidic medium that provides habitat for many rare plants, including relicts of boreal vegetation that moved south in front of the glacial ice sheets.

The vegetation is dominated by evergreen and semi-evergreen shrubs, including leatherleaf, highbush blueberry, and lowbush cranberry. Coniferous trees, such as tamarack, are found on the edges and on peat moss hummocks on the floating mats. Sedges and other grass-like plants are the most abundant components of the herbaceous cover. Insectivorous plants (pitcher plant, sundews, bladderwort) are also characteristic of this community.

One can also find spotted turtles, four-toed salamanders, and iridescent dragonflies and damselflies such as American emerald, racket-tailed emerald, chalk-fronted corporal, frosted whiteface, and sphagnum sprite. Bogs are also habitat for many waterfowl, as well as masked shrews and least weasels.

Where to Go

- ☞ Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve, Geauga Park District (Gauga County, OH)
- ☞ Eagle Creek State Nature Preserve, Geauga Park District (Gauga County, OH)
- ☞ Fern Lake Bog and Singer Lake Bog of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (access by permit only) (Gauga County and Summit County, OH)
- ☞ Flat Iron Lake Bog Preserve of The Nature Conservancy (access by permit only) (Portage County, OH)
- ☞ Triangle Lake Bog State Nature Preserve (Portage County, OH)

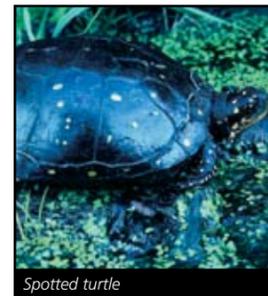
Note that some of these areas have restricted access to protect fragile habitats.



Gray tree frog in pitcher plant



American toad



Spotted turtle



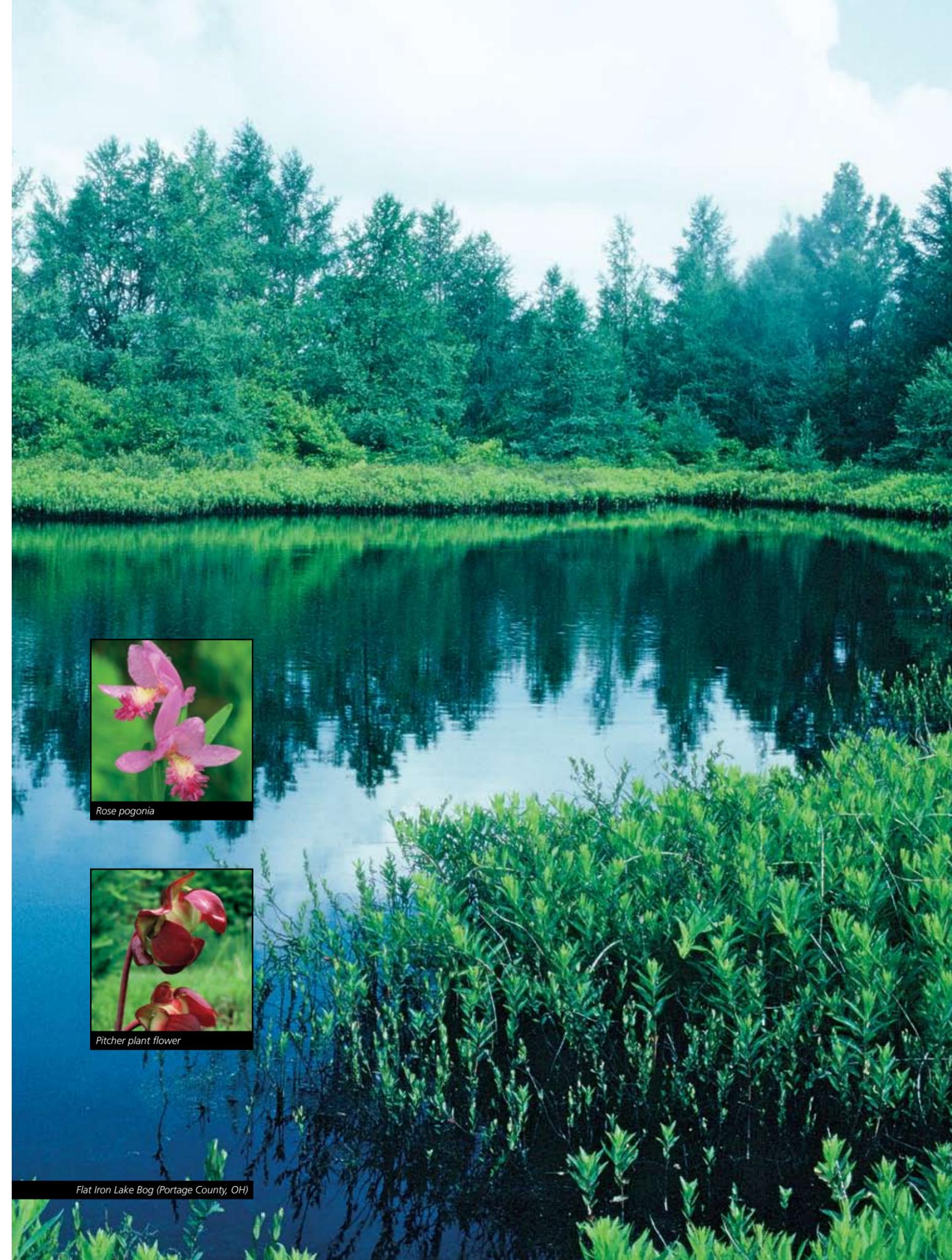
Racket-tailed emerald



Rose pogonia



Pitcher plant flower



Flat Iron Lake Bog (Portage County, OH)