

SHANKPAINTER POND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

You are viewing a section of Shankpainter Pond, described variously as “an ecological gem” and “the crown jewel of Provincetown’s ecology”. It hosts the world’s largest known quaking bog* found on a barrier beach. Many rare and endangered plants and animal species have adapted to living in the bog and around the open waters of this pond.

POND PROFILE

Surface water: 15 acres
Quaking bog mat: 20 acres
Maximum depth: 3 feet
Shoreline Length: 1.2 miles

FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE BOG AND WOODS

Rare Plants: Dragon’s Mouth Orchid, Rose Pogonia, Golden Club, Bogbean, Threadleaved Sundew, Grass Pink, Pitcher Plant, and Adder’s Tongue Fern.

Rare Animals: Bog Turtle, Eastern Spadefoot Toad, Spotted Turtle, and Box Turtle.

Fish: Largemouth Bass, Perch, Smallmouth Bass, and Pickerel.

Birds: Redwinged Blackbirds, Warblers, Hawks, Ducks, Herons, and Osprey.

* Quaking Bogs

Quaking bogs are wetlands that have formed across the surface of shallow ponds. These ponds are characterized by slow groundwater flow. The roots and rhizomes of invading wetland plants form floating mats across the pond, which creates an unstable, “quaking” surface. Over time, leaves, stems and other organic matter may accumulate below the mat and stabilize it.

Bogs may over time evolve into a marsh or swamp. Quaking bogs support rare bog plants, such as dragon’s mouth orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*), and few fruited sedge (*Carex oligosperma*). They are often threatened by land development, changes in water flow, and pollution from runoff.



Dragon's Mouth,
Swamp Pink



Bogbean



Pink Lady's Slipper



Pitcher Plant



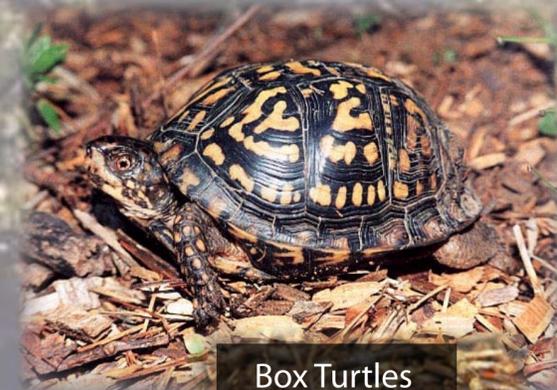
Pogonia



Great Blue Heron



Osprey



Box Turtles



Eastern Garter Snake



Spring Peeper



Spadefoot Toad