

Station 14: Lone Wolf Pine

Station 14 concerns a very large, very old White Pine tree. This tree is an example of a "lone wolf" tree. Its many low, dead branches indicate that it once received a lot of sunlight, without other trees to block it. These trees stand as a testament to the original forests which were here before the land was farmed. Whether the trees around them were cleared to make the fields, or they beat the odds as small saplings and grew to their majesty alone, they are the true ancients of the forest. You will likely see more as you progress on the loop; they are identifiable by their often split trunks (like multiple small trees which converge at the base) and the aforementioned low, dead branches.



Oftentimes, wolf trees with split trunks (such as this one) were victims of white pine weevils, an insect which lays its eggs under the bark of the biggest shoot on a young pine. When the eggs hatch, they eat the shoot and the surrounding shoots must compensate for this loss, resulting in a divided trunk. These weevils prefer to attack pines with direct sunlight, so lone trees are logical and common targets.