

Station 16: Princess Pine and Mountain Laurel

Princess pine can be found along most of the trail. Princess pine is a member of the club moss group. Club mosses are now small but that was not always the case; during the Carboniferous period, 360 to 285 million years ago, club mosses could reach 100 ft. in height. The history of these plants is important because they formed most of the world's coal and oil deposits. The princess pine is less than a foot in height and grows best in moist hardwood forests and usually grows in clusters. You may also find fan club moss, which looks similar, among the princess pine.



This section of the trail has the largest and most spectacular mountain laurel growth in the forest, abutting this shore of the pond. There are also swamp laurels scattered throughout, with flowers of a more vibrant pink, on smaller, lighter green stalks.

