

A Walk to the Pond

Little adventures are a lovely way to take a break when things seem to be very hum-drum. I would like to share a little adventure with you as I take a walk to the pond (Dudley Pond, to be exact)!

(I recommend playing this YouTube link of wild birdsong in the background:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYoZgpAEkFs> to enhance this experience!)

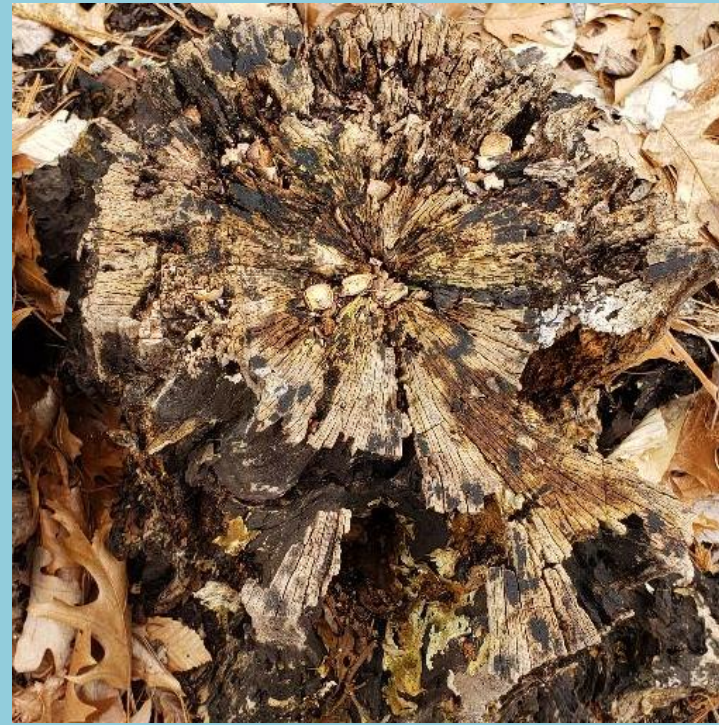


Here we go! It's a day that's not too hot and not too cold, so why don't we take a quick romp to the pond? The air smells fresh and crisp as spring is starting to wake up and all the trees are starting to sprout some leaves and flowers!

Hopefully you brought your galoshes because with the spring comes the rain and after a rainfall this path gets MUDDY.



While we go stomping through the mud, you may have heard a hammering sound. That's probably the sound of a woodpecker bird and it looks like it's been going to work on this stump to our left. When it "hammers" away at old wood with its beak, it makes holes and pulls out tasty bugs and worms for a meal. Here's a shot of it from the side and the top.



As we get closer to the pond, we might pass some brambles like this rose thicket. When you look closer, you may notice some mushrooms growing on the tree behind the thicket. And if you look even closer, you'll see one of the mushrooms has grown around one of the branches of the rose! I like how nature finds ways to make space.



Ooooooh, we're almost there! When we started this journey, I did mention trees sprouting leaves and flowers, so check out what we've come across. On one side of the path, there are some young trees that don't look like much beyond branches. When you walk a little closer, you can see some fresh leaves! These fresh leaves may look reddish now, but in a month or so they will be the familiar shades of green. On another sapling (baby tree), you can see feathery red maple tree flowers.



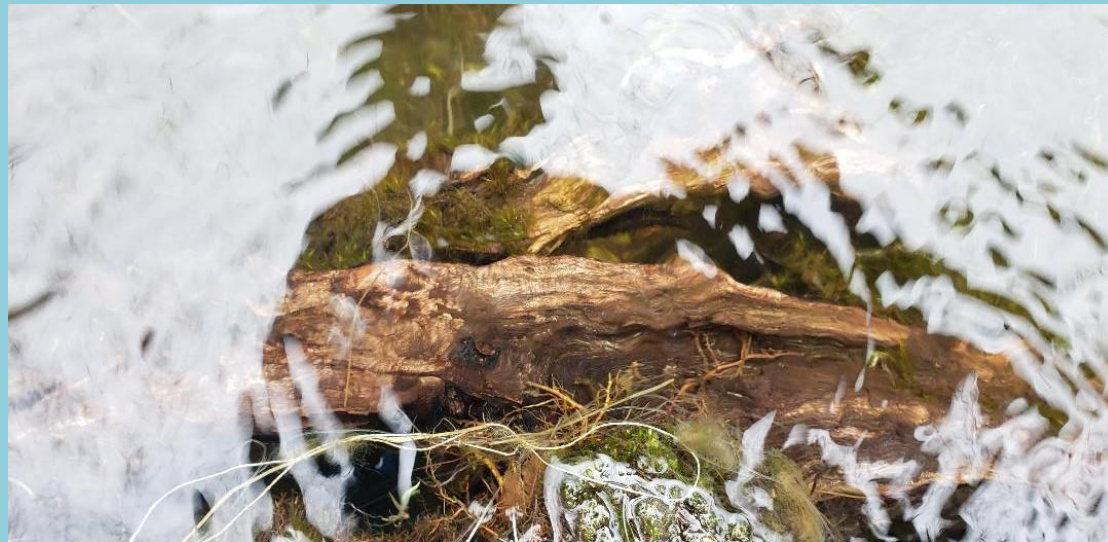
Look, we're almost at the pond! But just before we get to the water, look at this cool birch tree with the white trunk that has the naturally peeling bark (outer layer).



Alright! We made it to the pond bank! Look at that cool mossy bank on the right.



When you look out onto the water, you can see a cool branch. I imagine a family of turtles sunbathing on this branch on the summer time. If you look straight down, you can see a root where the soil has washed away and now has a beautiful layering effect of the bank.



That's it! I don't recommend swimming in this pond quite yet as the water is VERY cold. So for now, you'll just have enjoy the scenery and take a few deep breaths. Then go home and stomp the mud off!