

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation of the Canoe River in Norton MA 2006-2008

4. Bertha Smith Conservation Area

Open space committee members inspected the property on August 2, 2007. The natural community of this area is a white pine/ oak forest. It has an abundance of Eastern white pine, and Black, White, Scarlet and Northern red oaks. It also has Beech, Birch, and Black cherry. For shrubbery it has high and Low blueberry bushes and Swamp azaleas. The herbaceous plants consist of Stripped wintergreen, Lady slippers, Hay scented fern, clump grasses, Canada mayflower, Eastern Starflower, Indian pipes, moss, and lichen. Animal scat was also noted, squirrel, chipmunk and possible raccoon.

A second inspection occurred on August 8, 2007 to identify the natural community types. The area around Newland St., (on the Water dept. land) is also a White Pine/ oak forest community, consisting of Eastern white pine, White, Black and Northern red oak. Also, Big tooth aspen, Mocker nut, Beech, and Red maple. Shrubby consists of American hazelnut, *Vaccinium paladin*, Buckthorn, and European high bush blueberry. Herbaceous plants are Indian pipe, Cow wheat, Eastern starflower, Lady slipper, *Lycopodium tristichyllum*, *Lycopodium flabelliforme*, Spotted wintergreen, Haircap moss, Canada mayflower. Observed wildlife was ants, crickets, and a flat snail. Also noted was an eaten bird and chewed mushrooms. There was 20% standing snags and 10% laying on the ground.



Floodwaters within the alluvial red maple swamp (left) *Huperzia*, a clubmoss (right).