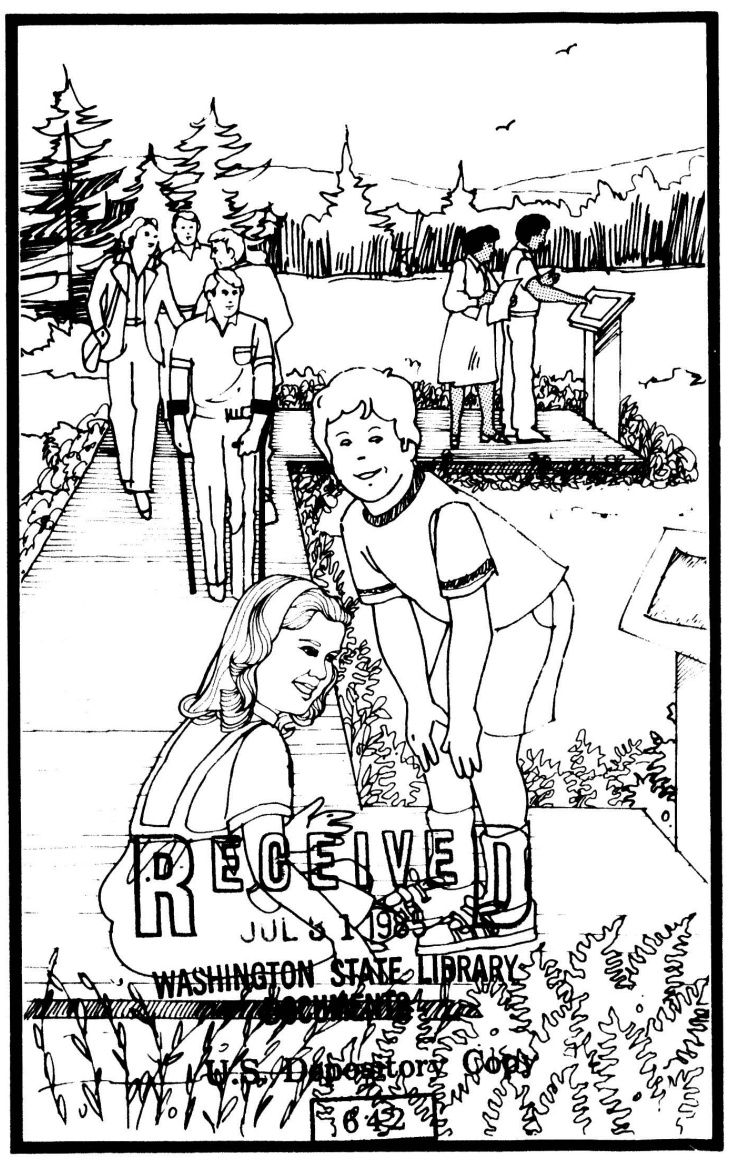
nberry
Glades
Botanical Area



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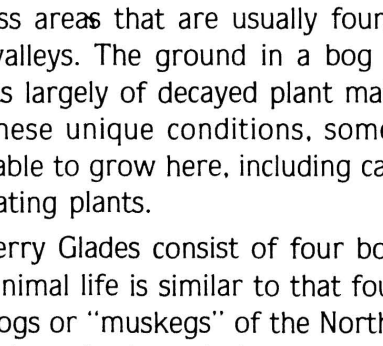
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Monongahela National Forest

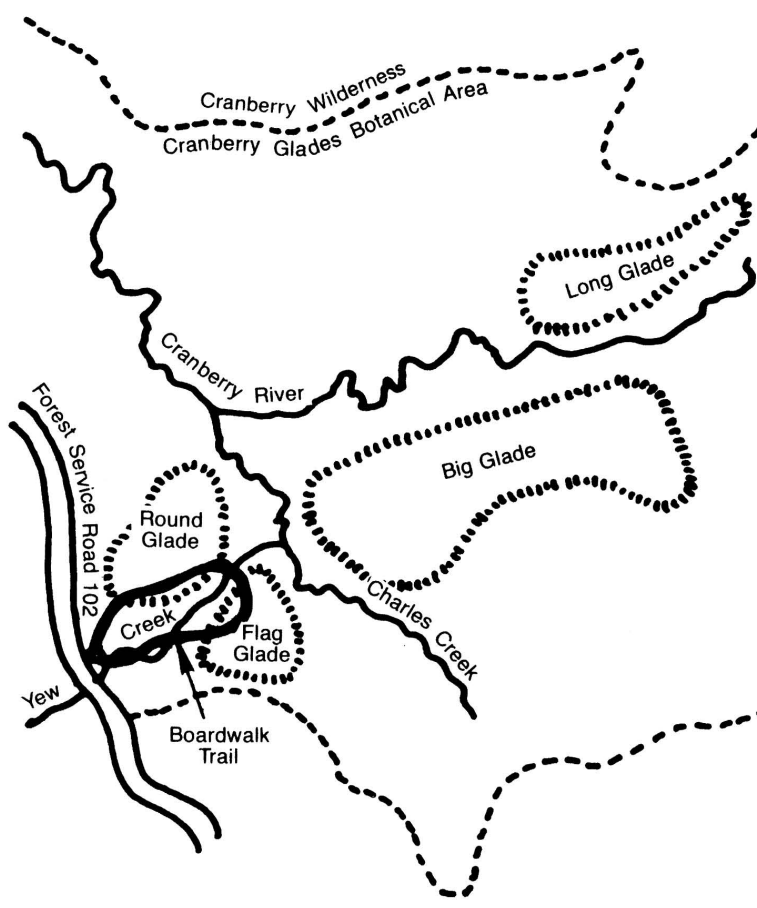
The Cranberry Glades Botanical Area contains the largest area of bogs in West Virginia. Bogs are very wet, treeless areas that are usually found in high mountain valleys. The ground in a bog is spongy and consists largely of decayed plant material. Because of these unique conditions, some unusual plants are able to grow here, including carnivorous or insect-eating plants.

The Cranberry Glades consist of four bogs whose plant and animal life is similar to that found in the Canadian bogs or "muskegs" of the North. This life spread southward when glaciers crept across the northern part of our continent. Several species ended their migration here, and as a result, the Cranberry Glades are now the southern most point in North America where these life forms are found.

Use this guide to help you identify some of the unique plants and animals found along the boardwalk, and to learn about the everyday events happening in the Cranberry Glades.

Take Your Time...
Stop to LOOK and LISTEN..
and Enjoy Your Visit!





PLEASE...

Treat the Cranberry Glades with care! A half-mile boardwalk has been constructed through two of the bogs so you can enjoy the area without disturbing this fragile community. Help protect these bogs — stay on the boardwalk . . .

. . . and, leave the flowers for others to enjoy! Remember that many of these unique plants are descended from seeds that took root here 10,000 years ago. With your help, they will continue to live here, making Cranberry Glades a special place to visit for a long time to come.

PLANT LIST* (Cont.)

Bog Forest and Shrub Communities

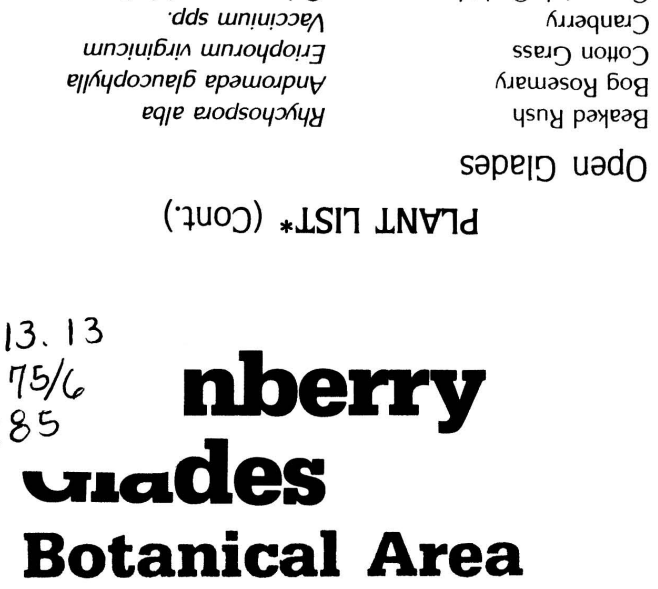
Alder	*Alnus rugosa*
Allegheny Menziesia	*Menziesia pilosa*
Bedstraw	*Galium aparine*
Bishop's Cap	*Mitella diphylla*
Buttercup	*Ranunculus septentrionalis*
Canada Lily	*Lilium canadense*
Canada Mayflower	*Maianthemum canadense*
Chokeberry	*Pyrus spp.*
Christmas Fern	*Polystichum acrostichoides*
Cinnamon Fern	*Osmunda cinnamomea*
Clintonia	*Clintonia spp.*
Elderberry	*Sambucus spp.*
False Hellebore	*Veratrum viride*
Foam Flower	*Tiarella cordifolia*
Golden Ragwort	*Senecio aureus*
Hay-scented Fern	*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*
Hemlock	*Tsuga canadensis*
Indian Pipe	*Monotropa uniflora*
Jack-in-the-Pulpit	*Arisaema spp.*
Jacobs Ladder	*Polemonium van-bruntiae*
Jewelweed	*Impatiens spp.*
Joe Pye Weed	*Eupatorium fistulosum*
Marsh Marigold	*Caltha palustris*
Meadow Rue	*Thalictrum polygamun*
Monkshood	*Aconitum unicinatum*
Mountain Laurel	*Kalmia latifolia*
Northern Coralroot	*Corallorhiza trifida*
Oswego Tea	*Monanda didyma*
Purple Fringe Orchis	*Habenaria fimbriata*
Red Spruce	*Picea rubens*
Rhododendron	*Rhododendron maximum*
Sensitive Fern	*Onoclea sensibilis*
Serviceberry	*Amelanchier bartramiana*
Skunk Cabbage	*Symplocarpus foetidus*
Spicebush	*Lindera benzoin*
Spring Beauty	*Claytonia caroliniana*
St. Johns Wort	*Hypericum spp.*
Trillium	*Trillium spp.*
Trout Lily	*Erythronium americanum*
Turtlehead	*Chelone glabra*
Violet	*Viola spp.*
Water Parsnip	*Sium suave*
Wild Raisin	*Viburnum cassinoides*
Wild Sarsaparilla	*Aralia nudicaulis*
Winterberry	*Ilex verticillata*
Wood Sorrel	*Oxalis montana*
Yellow Birch	*Betula alleghenensis*
Yew	*Taxus canadensis*

Open Glades

Beaked Rush	*Rhychospora alba*
Bog Rosemary	*Andromeda glaucophylla*
Cotton Grass	*Eriophorum virginicum*
Cranberry	*Vaccinium spp.*
Grass-pink Orchid	*Calapogon pulchellus*
Ground Berry	*Rubus spp.*
Haircap Moss	*Polytrichum spp.*
Pitcher Plant†	*Sarracenia purpura* †
Reindeer Lichen	*Cladonia rangiferina*
Sedge	*Carex spp.*
Snake-Mouth Orchid	*Pogonia ophioglossoides*
Sphagnum Moss	*Sphagnum spp.*
Sundew	*Drosera rotundifolia*
Swamp Candle	*Lysimachia terrestris*
Three-Way Sedge	*Dulichium arundinaceum*

*This is not a complete list of the plants growing in Cranberry Glades. The plants included here are only those most visible from the boardwalk or those most often asked about by visitors.

†Not native



The 750-acre Cranberry Glades Botanical Area is part of the Monongahela National Forest. It is administered by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For more information on this area, or other areas on the Monongahela National Forest, please write or call:

District Ranger
Forest Service
Richwood, WV 26261
phone: (304) 846-2695

During the summer months, please write or call:

Cranberry Mountain Visitor Center
Forest Service
Richwood, WV 26261
phone: (304) 653-4826

National Forests provide a variety of uses, products, and pleasures for people. They were originally established to protect watersheds and supply timber, and they still do. But in addition, these forest lands are now rich in wildlife, forage, and recreation opportunities. These and other uses are managed by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Specialists in many fields coordinate and balance uses so that all Americans will receive maximum benefits throughout the years.

☆ U.S. Government Printing Office 1985—556-326

5. Look for skunk cabbage in the Alder Thicket. It pushes its pointed brown and green flower up through the snow as early as February; its large "elephant ear" leaves appear in summer. If you happen to notice a funny smell, you will know how skunk cabbage got its name.

6. On the left side of the boardwalk, you might notice a tree that has fallen over. The shallow roots, so necessary for survival here, do not adequately anchor trees against strong winds. Thus, the very adaptation which allows these trees to live here, can also result in their death.

Rose Pogonia

Snake-Mouth Orchid

Skunk Cabbage

7. Orchids grow in Flag Glade. Both the snake-mouth and the grass-pink orchid can be seen here in late June and early July.

Flag Glade

8. The tiny sundew, a carnivorous plant, can be seen on the left side of the walk in Flag Glade. You must look closely though, as its leaves are smaller than a fingernail.

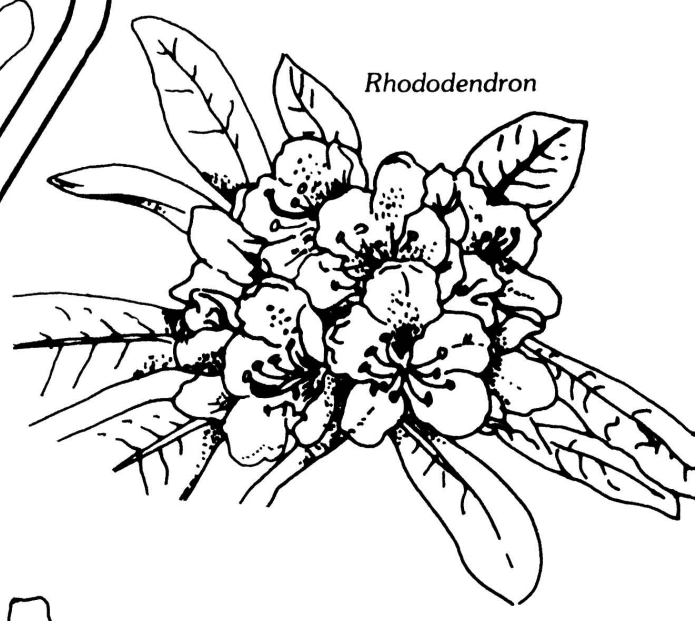
Bog Forest

Grasses

Yew Creek

Shrubs

4. There are many kinds of grasses and sedges around the edges of the bogs. In late summer, the soft tufts of cotton grass give a white speckled appearance to the area.



Rhododendron

3. Also in Round Glade, look for the tiny vine of the cranberry plant which grows in the sphagnum moss. The leaves are no bigger than an eighth of an inch and the flowers, when in bloom, require a keen eye and close observation to see.

9. This portion of the walk is most colorful in middle and late summer. Watch for the bright red of oswego tea or the yellow and orange splashes of jewelweed.

Round Glade

2. In Round Glade, you can look closely at the bog floor. Sphagnum moss covers the floor while dead and decaying moss, called peat, extends beneath the surface several feet. These layers of moss and peat give the area its "sponginess."

10. Here, on the left side of the walk, look for some young trees all standing in a row. Do you see what happened? They have all sprouted from a tree that fell over years ago. Young trees cannot sprout in the bogs wet ground, but these trees found a slightly drier place to grow on this "nurse log."

Cinnamon Fern "fiddle-heads"

1. As you first walk through the bog forest, notice the wetness of the forest floor. Red spruce, hemlock, and yellow birch grow here. These trees have the shallow roots needed to survive in this wet area.

Open Glades

Grasses

Shrubs

Bog Forest

Parking Area

to South Fork gate (1 mile)

N

Hwy 39/150 (1 mile)

Cranberry Glades Boardwalk