

Eagle-Haynes-Balsam

2202

Eagle-Haynes 5/2/70

Shandaken Brook Lein-to area, above Seager

Viola rotundifolia (the only stemless yellow violet), Hydrophyllum
and Dicentra ~~cuscutaria~~ canadensis abundant.

Hemlock in Eagle-Big Indian Col

2 hemlocks along Shandaken Brook trail, south side, below Big Indian-Eagle col, about 2900 ft, one 32.5", the other 34.3". Just below the Col junction, a 30" hemlock had fallen and was cut to clear the trail - ca. 300 years old and was about 18" DBH in 1850. No increase in annual growth since 1850 occurred; in fact, the tree slowed down after ca. 1875.

The hemlock with downy woodpecker holes in the col along the blue trail measures 23.7".

The hemlock grove visible (before hardwoods leaf out) from the area of the two hemlocks listed above (32.5" 34.3" DBH) to the south is easily reached from the B.I.-Eagle col. Turn SW as the trail starts ascending B.I. and stay on contour for about 200 to 300 feet. The largest hemlock, a dead one, is 32.7". Living ones exceed and approximate 24" and are up to 70' tall. Many cones are on the ground, but no saplings. The ground vegetation is Lycoluid, Oxalis, Brodiaea, Dryopteris (evergreen), Viburnum Moosewood. To the NW and further down is another grove of hemlocks, but these are smaller - to 12" DBH but with 3-4" saplings.

PB's run to 24" DBH & reproducing. Scattered firs in the Col area, one 9.9" x 60 ft high near the dead 32.7" hemlock. Those around the trail junction are widely scattered & slow-growing: 2-3" x 15-20' tall, and up to 40 years old. PB-Beech-Cherry dominate in most areas.

Hemlocks & PB often pair as saplings since germination is on logs; the hemlock grows slower & is at first shaded out. If the birch dies, the hemlock shoots up to just

Clintonia canadensis & Erythronium were not yet in bloom on May 2nd; even more abundant N of the col & on the summit.

A sugar maple E of the col is 32.5" DBH x 50' high, below the more

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stunted col.

A single 11" hemlock, more than halfway up Eagle's S slope on W side of trail exists. Under it are balsams 1" x 7' and up to 30 yrs old. Elev. about 3400'. Other fir to 12" x 30', PB even larger.

Not a bark road but the Bridle Path over the col to Oliveria.

Observed in 1983 heading E down

→ The old bark road could be traced to about the Col, but no further. Did bark peelers, working up Shandaken Brook from Leazer, leave hemlocks 12-18" DBH about 1850 so that they are now up to and over 30"? Were larger hemlocks around them removed? Or was the area not barked at all because the hemlocks were small about 1850?

Probably there were no bark roads at all above the Shandaken Brook to area, since there is and was little hemlock until the col.

Eagle Summit

PB & Balsam to 12" x 30' and red maple. In the more open areas, Erythronium & Claytonia are pushing up through the dead & prostrated fern rachises of previous season. Lycopodium lucidulum grows under the shade of trees, forming colonies around the holes. Vib aln is the most common shrub. Balsam dominates on the very summit of Eagle, but not by so much a margin over PB as on Slide. The fir & PB are all-aged, though fir seedlings are not abundant. Veratrum is 2" high in the wetter spots on the summit, while Oxalis plants are scattered and not nearly as common as Claytonia & Erythronium.

Fir seedlings start on logs, under trees near the holes & on large mossy rocks & boulders, not in the fern glades.

A more recently disturbed area has no large trees, and no dead ones either, just much PB to 15 ft & firs to 5 ft. A few hobblebush seedlings emerge in the fern glades. Erythronium & Claytonia, though not yet in flower on the very summit, were in flower only 100 ft lower on the N slope.

Haynes

A 25.2" sugar maple in the East-Haynes Col.

South shoulder of Haynes bare rock ledge is not a small burn area. Instead, it's clearing Dicranum leaves portobes of

Natural opening
started by
death of

Several fir
& P.B. Soil is
drying out.

soil on the bare rock. Polytrichum, Juncus is behind the Dicranum, where more soil had accumulated. This is a seral succession in reverse, with areas of rock once covered now are bare. This may or may not be due to higher trampling.

Erythronium & Claytonia in flower atop Kayner. Evergreen woodfern is prostrate and not preventing seedlings from emerging through.

Firs grow in length 6" to 10" a year when vigorous, but trees can be 2" x 7 ft x 25 yrs under poor conditions. P.B. can be 19.3" DBH nearby. Lycopersicon, Oxalis, Claytonia most abundant, Erythronium slightly less so. There are few balsam seedlings, and not as many fallen twigs as on Slide.

Balsam 5/16/70

Amelanchier laevis above the 3-stream confluence in Rider Hollow, at uppermost Larch plantation in the old apple orchard are 5.25 x 6" DBH by up to 30' tall. A 10 1/2" Cherry above Balsam-Kayner Col was 80 yrs. The WTSW ^{look out} Balsam is located on the trail about 100 to 150 ft below the summit on the SW slope. The view extends from Margaretville along Dry Brook Ridge, over Blake Mtn to Big Indian. Balsams first appear at this ledge top lookout on Balsam Mtn.

Balsam Summit

The most abundant ground cover is Claytonia, except around the

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(4)

bases of trees where it is lyco. lucid. Veratrum is in the more poorly-drained areas—especially flat shelves & flats. There are no tree seedlings in the fern-Rubus areas still in bud. Erythronium is common & Maianthemum mixed in with Claytonia. Mosses grow on rock & wood—not duff & soil. Tillium erectum infrequent.

Many balsams get started on top of moss-covered boulders & under older balsams (seed ~~sucker~~?), not under ferns. Ribes is not as restricted as to habitats balsam. Clintonia occurs mostly under tree shade & Viburnum in partial shade.

Balsams of all ages are abundant on disintegrating ledges with scattered boulders—on top & down the sides. The topography here is too steep for the level fern glades. Bryophytes are abundant on the ledges.

A 27.9" dead YB 10 ft ^{exists} stump, between the 2 N slope ledges.

A 22.2" live YB is nearby while a 32.8" alive leans over trail.

Beneath "Anemone ledge", Hydrophyllum & Dicentra make a nearly continuous green carpet. Sugar maples reenter below this ledge (none above) and reach large (26.7") size. 22" cherry

A Claytonia with 2 bracts, Ca^5, Co^0, S^5, P^3 , stems opp these pairs. Also Ca^6, Co^0, S^6, P^2 . Panax just south of Balsam ~~col~~ = Belle Ayr Col junction.

Kernlock grave on Yellow trail between Belle Ayr-Balsam col and Rider Hollow: 24.8", 27.7", 32.7", 29.2" ^{on} a bare ~~in~~ one-acre tract several hundred feet beyond upper ^{define} end of a bark road—built up on one side over a brook forming a tunnel. Could this grave been spared because of small tree size about 1850 or were ^{only} the larger ones in this grave cut?

Transects
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See
Transect
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