DRY BROOK RIDGE TRAIL PLAN

5/31/70

2901 2

A

Trail on 20' ledge top

Sugars bigger below than above the ledge

South Summit 3440

Some large sugars here

Wet flat #6 1.1 mi.

Red maple, Cherry, YB, beech to 40', and only in 3/4 leaf on May 31.

Up pitches & small ledges

NO ~~More recently acquired State Land~~? because of no ancient trees.

x Potential good lookout winter only. ledge with steps

weak conglomerate layer between more resistant sandstone

Cut Sugar maple 18"x125 yrs. stump

Log road

107 106 128 129

Logged area posted by Bruce Veeder, Margaretville

Chrysosplenium

Brachy. rivulare spring

Impatiens

Garretson COL 2880 Tract

State bought Lot 107 in 1877 & #129 in 1881.

LAND

STATE

LEAN-TO 2730

No really large trees on private land.

Trail levels through virgin? hardwoods.

+ Trail blocked by beech blowdown

Panax

Sugar maples to 24"x60'

x 24" cherry

OLD YB TO 24"

0.6 mi

Mk #304

Poorly drained flat #7

Dominated by Grass

Red maple & cherry more abundant; sugar still common. Spinulosa ca. 80% grown.

Ptilium ledgelet

Subsummit 3040

Pitch

Flat

0.55 mi

Ranunculus recurvatus collected

Pitch up fragmented ledge

Dozens of young Norway Spruce ca 15 yrs under Beech-Sugar Maple

Ledge

Private Land

State Land

Old field succession

Cabins

2710

Norway Spruce Plantation 192_?

Mill Brook Rd. 2600

← to Balsam Lake Mtn.

3rd or Potentilla Tridentata Lookout

B

down

North Summit 3460

Sorbus, Mtn Maple, Pin Cherry

View to 5th lookout

Crevice

down

End of July 1969 expedition. Pile of flagstone on right-angle bend of trail.

View to 3rd lookout

4th lookout

Summit 3460

Souther 5th Lookout

Mtn Ash, Deschampsia, Maianthemum on thin soil on rock.

16" YB ca. 100 yrs.

Crest to W of trail

COL 3360

NY Fern station, only 1/2 grown. wood fern 7/8 open.

1.85 mi

Wet Flat #3

down ledge

Claytonia full bloom beneath 5/31

Open water

Wet Flat #4

Dam Spada studied this bog in 1983

Lycopodium lucidulum common here only

Mk #303 later numbered

Middle Summit 3440

Small veratrum patch

↑ up slightly

Almost pure wood fern ground cover. Some large sugar maple

Wet Flat #5

22"x50' Cherry

COL

Trail on bench Crest to east

3300

Trail on 10' ledgetop

short descent

COL 3320

A

290B

307 303 304

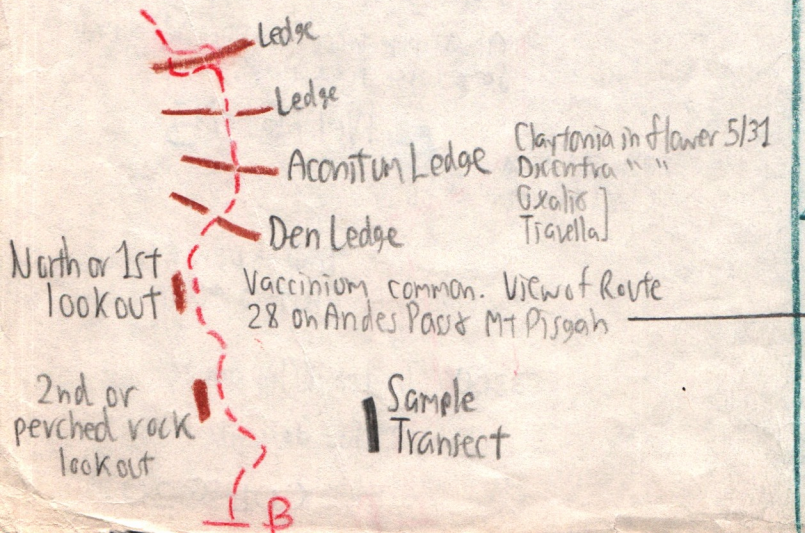
Wet Flats or Bogs

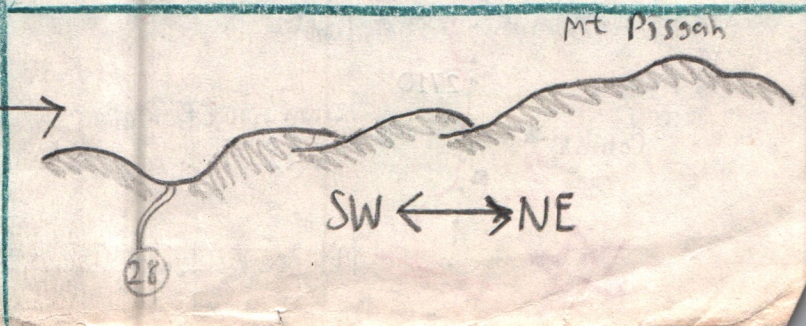
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7
Sphagnum	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	little ✓
Coptis		✓		✓			
Veratrum	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	little ✓
Nemopanthus		✓	✓				
V. cassinoides		✓		✓ Abundant			
Viola renifolia brainerdii					✓	✓	✓
open water		✓		✓			
Carex folliculata	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Osmunda Cinnamomea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Grass ?					✓		✓
Triadenum		✓		✓			
Juncus brevicaudatus		✓					
Sphagnum palustre					✓		
Vaccinium angust. on edge				✓			

Schedule 5/31/'70

Lv Mill Brook Rd	9:30	DST AM
3040 Subsummit	10:05	
Lean-to	10:50	
South summit 3440	11:45	
Col	12:?5	
Middle summit 3440	12:35	
Wet Flat #4	12:38-12:50	
Wet Flat #6	11:35	
Wet flat #3	12:58	
Col	1:05	
South Lookout	1:15	
End July '69 trip	1:22	
Potentilla lookout	1:30	
Sampling	1:45-2:55	
Aconitum Ledge	3:10	
Cold Spring Junc	3:20	
Bog (#307)	3:25	
Lophozia ledge	3:55	
Lean-to	4:17	(Bowman Hollow?)
Lv Scarfe Land	4:28	
Out	4:32	

Continued on other sheet





Conclusions Reached on Dry Brook Ridge or on a more general basis

5/31/70

290-16

No! 11/7/76

1. Sugar maple is a good stunting indicator, being the first species to drop out or become scarce at higher elevations, where water stress ~~climatic conditions~~ are more severe. Sugar maple and balsam can rarely both be common on a site; they most often are exclusive. Sugar maples on the crest of Dry Brook Ridge indicate conditions not so severe as to favor balsam. Fir never here or only in very limited nos. — 12/26/71
2. Only one stand of Hayscented fern along D.B.R. trail, just N of Cold Spring Hollow Junction. All the fern is woodfern, save a negligable amt. of NY Fern.

3. In open areas where trees have naturally died and/or fallen, young cherry, young YB & woodfern? become more abundant.
   In small opening north of the lean-to (southern end) where a large sugar maple was cut, the grand cover is raspberry, blackberry, Polygonum cilinode, Carex ____, Rumex acetosella, Solidago graminifolia and a few maple seedlings. These plants must follow up the log roads from the valleys. Polygonum cil. covers log road north one crest north of 1st wet flat.
4. Reproduction of cherry and sugar maple is most abundant under the following conditions:
   a. Heavy seed trees overhead or close by.
   b. Partial shade of trees sufficient to diminish degree of continuity of woodfern cover, yet permit enough light for tree seedlings
   c. Partial shade by & crowding out by numerous sapling cherry & sugar maple.

   Hence, alternating zones of fern dominance & tree sapling-seedling dominance occur, with transitions. Other herbaceous species are most abundant in the tree sapling areas, less under the ferns. Areas dominated by Cinna latifolia have more ground cover than areas dominated by woodfern.

5. Wet Flats

The wet flats are remnants of the boreal vegetation that covered the Catskills. Such species as Coptis, Sphagnum, Viburnum cassinoides, Carex ~~trisperma~~ folliculata, Triadenum still remain, but the balsam has been eliminated. The open water or saturated soil without drainage prevents trees from seeding in, so that the larger wet flats remain treeless. The poor conditions, especially that of the water retaining the cold in spring, cause the red maples surrounding the wet flat to leaf out a week or two later than the red maples on the better-drained sites. On May 31, red maples at wet flats #2 & #4,

29017

were only 1/4-1/2 open, while elsewhere red maple leaves were nearly fully open, at least 3/4 or 7/8. The wet flats very gradually fill up with vegetation - mostly Sphagnum and Graminales - so that two of them still possess open water; the other five have encroached on it fully.

A hardwood forest cannot take over an area because of: 1. Exposure 2. Poor drainage } or a combination of both

In the flat wet areas, as #7, mosses except Sphagnum grow on logs & elevated sites: Hyp imp, Poly ohio, Hyp hald, Mnium cusp, Thuidium del.

6. South Summit 3440 on May 31 had red maples only 1/4 to 1/2 leaf and beeches 1/2 leaf. Only a hundred or two hundred feet below, all trees were in full leaf. This summit seems to have the same effect as the wet flats on slowing bud breaking.

Never here or rare >8000y ago.

7. Balsam has most probably been eliminated from the crest of Dry Brook Ridge naturally in the last several hundred or several thousand years. If it were still hanging on, it could not dominate. The forest canopy of beech-red maple-black cherry-YB-sugar maple is too continuous & undisturbed to permit fir success; the presence & abundance of sugar maple emphasizes this. On Haynes Mtn, balsam is still hanging on but is on its way out. A whole series of peaks can be ranked by the degree of balsam abundance; it might run like this:

DOMINANT	CO-DOMINANT	FREQUENT	SCARCE	ABSENT
Balsam Lake	Eagle	Balsam	Haynes	Dry Brook
Doubletop →	→ Big Indian	→ Giant →	→ Graham *	→ Ridge
Slide	Rusk	Ledge	?	Belle Ayre
Panther		Fir →	← Spruce	Mill Brook Ridge
Cornell			← Hemlock	Halcott-Beaver-Vly
Wittenberg				
Black Dome - T. Cole				

Oxalis must open later; Aralia nud. in June.

8. Erythronium & Claytonia, unlike the other abundant ground cover herbs are spring ephemerals, yellowing by early June, & sharing the fern sites.

* may not be natural causes