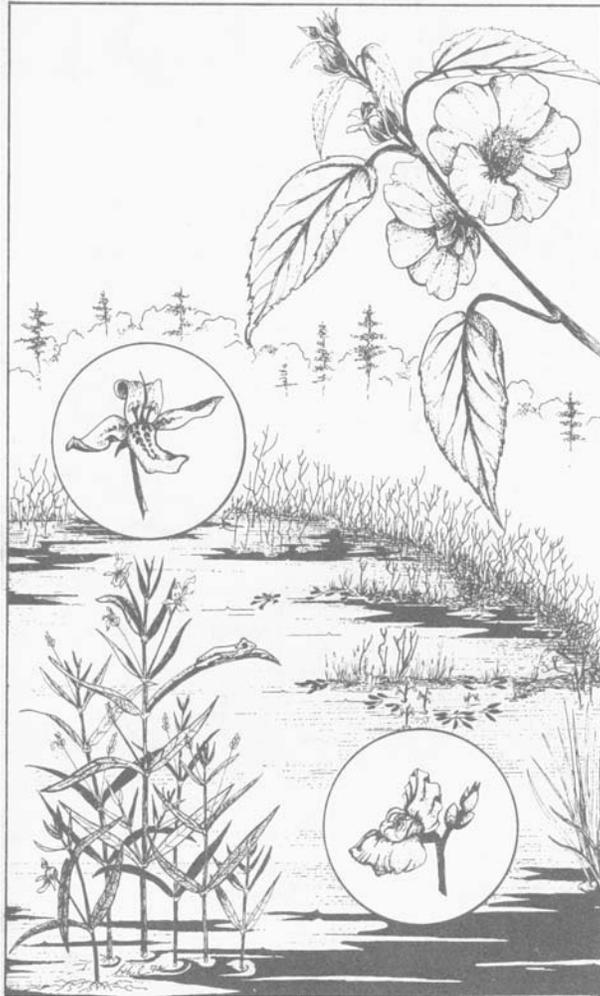


BRUSHY POND NATURAL AREA



MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST ELEVEN POINT RANGER DISTRICT

WHAT IS A NATURAL AREA?

Much of Missouri's original landscape no longer exists, but thanks to the Missouri Natural Areas System, some examples of it are being preserved and protected. Natural areas are important benchmarks to evaluate environmental change and serve as reservoirs of the state biological diversity. Additionally, natural areas provide opportunities for scientific study as well as educational, cultural, and recreational uses. Through protection from development and by managing to preserve the natural characteristics of the areas, the best examples of natural communities are preserved. Natural areas often provide essential habitat for rare and endangered plants and animals.

The Missouri Natural Areas Committee is an interagency committee, consisting of representatives of the Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and the USDA Forest Service, who coordinate the classification, inventory, designation, and stewardship of natural areas in Missouri. Natural areas are owned by a variety of public agencies as well as private concerns.



The Mark Twain National Forest has a wide selection of natural areas, consisting of fens, sinkhole ponds, glades, forests, and aquatic communities.

BRUSHY POND NATURAL AREA

In certain parts of Missouri, karst topography exists. This type of land surface is created as rainwater filters down through limestone or dolomite bedrock, forming large caverns and caves. When too much rock dissolves, the cave's ceiling collapses and a sinkhole appears. The sinkhole sometimes will clog up with surface materials and fill with water, creating a pond. Brushy Pond is located in a 10-20 foot deep sinkhole near the top of a ridge. The center of the depression is an outstanding example of a pond marsh with a pond shrub swamp surrounding it.

Upland sinkhole ponds provide essential habitat for some rare and endangered species. At Brushy Pond these include sharp-scaled manna grass and three species of sedges. Most non-public sinkhole ponds are threatened by siltation and live stock grazing. We are fortunate that Brushy Pond, due to the many pond species, its size, and its natural quality, has become a protected natural area.



POND MARSH

Located in the center of Brushy Pond is the marsh. This pond marsh community has a large, floating mat of vegetation. Included in the species growing here are sedges, grasses, bedstraw, skullcap, St. John's-wort, and arrowhead. Missouri's only carnivorous plant, bladderwort, grows in the oozing, black mud near the center of the mat. These plants capture and digest tiny insects in bladders on their root-like leaves.

POND SHRUB SWAMP

Surrounding the pond marsh is a dense pond shrub swamp. The dominant plants here are rose mallow and button bush, with smartweed, pondweed, duckweed, meadow beauty, sphagnum moss, ground nut, and sedges growing in the mucky peat around them. There is a ring of red maple trees edging the pond.



WILDLIFE AT BRUSHY POND

Many animals find essential food and shelter at Brushy Pond. To amphibians, like the marbled salamander and bullfrog, the pond marsh habitat is an important breeding ground. Between April and mid-July you may hear the male Blanchard's cricket frog calling for a mate from the floating vegetation mat – listen for a sound like marbles striking against each other in rapid succession. Muskrats find abundant vegetation, especially cattails, to use in the construction of their houses and feeding huts. Cattails are also favored nesting habitats for red-winged blackbirds.

Be sure to use the **WHAT TO LOOK FOR AT BRUSHY POND** checklist when visiting this Missouri natural area.

OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Owned and managed by USDA Forest Service, Mark Twain National Forest – Eleven Point Ranger District.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Trapping, fishing, camping, collection of plants or animals, and vehicular traffic are prohibited. Enjoy hiking, hunting, picnicking, and nature appreciation at Brushy Pond.

ADDITIONAL NATURAL AREAS

You may wish to visit nearby natural areas on the same day. Listed below are Mark Twain National Forest, National Park Service, and Missouri Department of Conservation natural areas. For more information on a particular site, check ownership and contact the Forest Service Ranger District office, National Park Service – Ozark National Scenic Riverways, or the Department of Conservation Wildlife District Supervisor in the town listed.

Tupelo Gum Pond	USFS	Winona, MO
Marg Pond	USFS	Winona, MO
Overcup Oak Sink	USFS	Winona, MO
Red Maple Pond	USFS	Doniphan, MO
Mill Mountain	NPS	Van Buren, MO
Grassy Pond	MDC	West Plains, MO
Golden Seal	MDC	West Plains, MO
Mule Hollow Glade	MDC	West Plains, MO



SIZE, LOCATION, AND ACCESS

Twenty acres (pond plus buffer zone) in Oregon County.

Located in a portion of section 1, T25N, R4W of the Greer 7.5 topographical quadrangle.

From the junction of U.S. 60 and State highway 19 near Winona: Take 19 south about 12 miles. Watch for a horse trail sign at Forest Road 3174 on the right. Brushy Pond is on the left, just off highway 19, about 0.5 miles south of 3174 road.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR AT BRUSHY POND

northern water snake	St. John's-wort
marbled salamander	bedstraw
western painted turtle	arrowhead
Blanchard's cricket frog	American lotus
bullfrog	skullcap
western chorus frog	buttonbush
northern spring peeper	smartweed
red-winged blackbird	pondweed
wood duck	meadow beauty
cattle egret	sharp-scaled manna grass (R)
common yellowthroat	bladderwort
little blue heron (R)	cattail
least shrew	red maple
cotton mouse (R)	quillwort
mink	water violet (R)
muskrat	water willow

E = endangered R = rare WL = watch list

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Forest Supervisor
 401 Fairgrounds Road
 Rolla, MO 65401
 (573) 364-4621

Eleven Point Ranger District
 #4 Confederate Ridge Road
 Doniphan, MO 63935
 (573) 996-2153

