

The Paleoecology of Ponds

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Ghost Pond, you are
a trace
in the landscape,
a noticeable depression
in the ground,
a subtle change
in the vegetation.

You are archives
of firsthand facts
that lie
in your mystery bottom,
proxy variables of interest
(charcoal and pollen).

You are chronology
(code and seed).

Resurrection takes
into consideration complex interactions--
temperatures, food supplies, degree of solar illumination.

Assumptions:

- All organisms are restricted
to a particular environment,
adapted to a particular lifestyle.
(I am.)
- Essentially all organisms depend on
another organism, whether directly
or indirectly.
(I do.)
- Fossil or physical records are inherently incomplete:
the geologic record is selective
and some environments
more likely to be

preserved than others.

(I will.)

-The processes

that took place in the geologic past
are the same as

the ones that are observed
taking place today.

(Trust me.)

If conditions are put right,
Ghost Pond, you are
in your tree-littered scum and ooze
haunted by ghost-plants
to be resurrected
as bee-food.