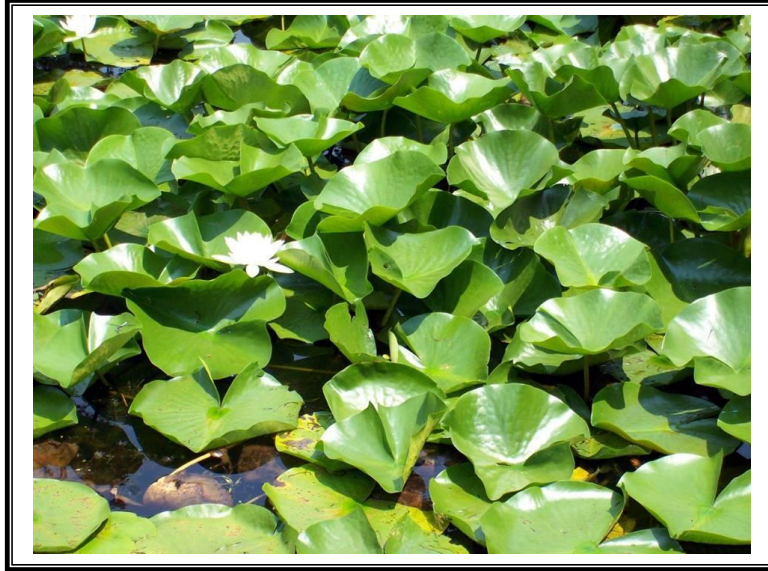


# Water Lily Habitat in



## What lives around and under water lilies & lily pads?

- Painted and spotted turtles – look for their heads peeking between the pads!
- Bullfrogs – look for their yellow eyes looking out at you, too!
- Dragonflies, damselflies, beetles and bees love to land on the pads!
- Beavers and muskrats eat the buds and lily pads in the summer! (Beavers roll them up and eat them.)
- Underwater by the lily-flower stalks and leaf stems find:
  - Egg hatcheries of snails, water insects, mites and beetles
  - Nurseries for bullheads, minnows, sunfish
- Freshwater sponges float around – lots of bright green ones (because of algae)
- Flip over some lily pads and see what you find!

## A great book to read about this sort of topic:

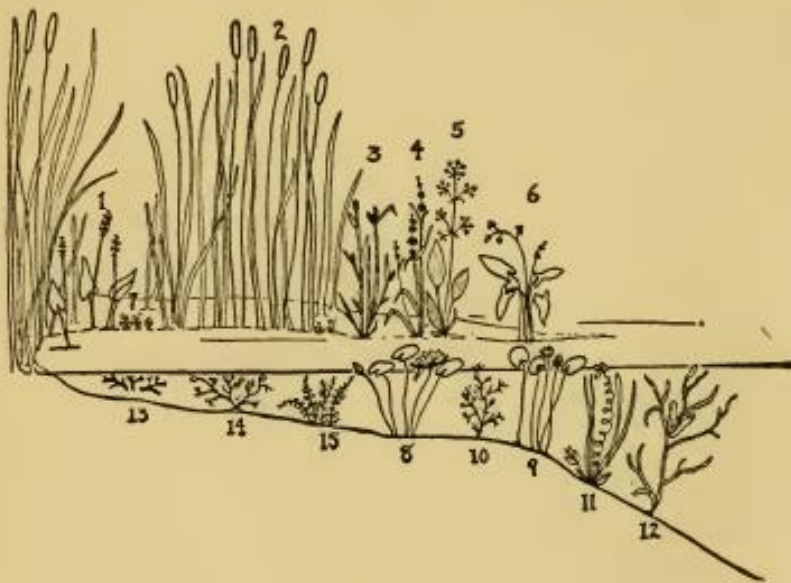
- “The Wild Out Your Window” by Sy Montgomery. A collection of her short essays make up this interesting and attention keeping book. Most of these articles appeared her MA newspaper column called “Nature Journal”. They take you through our four New England seasons and introduce us to many familiar and some very unfamiliar flora, fauna, insects, reptiles, mammals and more. Great family reading!
- The 2 diagrams below come from “Field Book of Ponds and Stream” by Ann Haven Morgan.

## FIELD BOOK OF PONDS AND STREAMS

fly to some other place as their own pond dries away. Frogs lay their eggs by thousands in these short-lived ponds and the early summer droughts turn such places into tadpole cemeteries.

Permanent ponds are the ones which hold the greatest variety of water life. They may be big or little, spring-fed or stream-fed, low in the marsh or high on the upland, in the woods or the open; if they only offer water the year round they can support a large population.

**Life in ponds** (Fig. 17).—In nearly all ponds certain plants grow in more or less clearly defined zones and particular communities of animals are associated with them.



Can you find any  
of these?



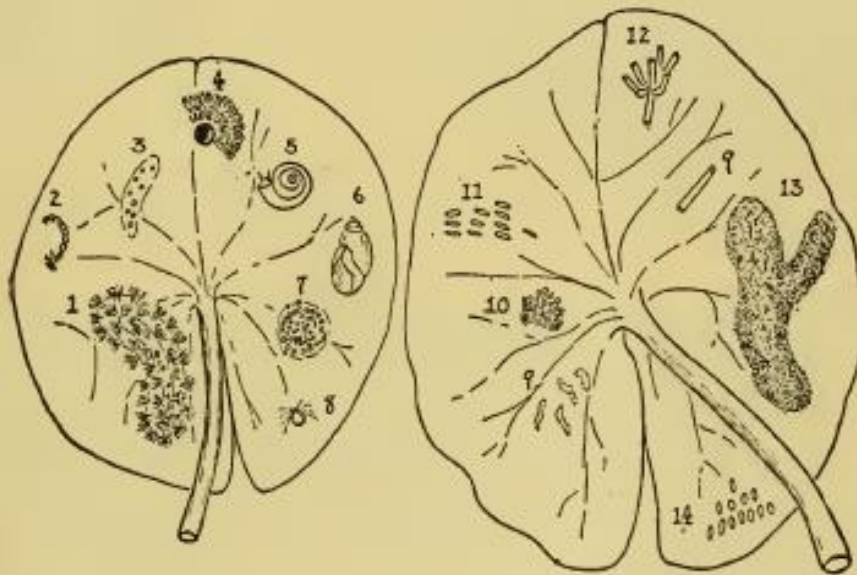
FIG. 17.—Diagram of the distribution of pond plants. In the background are the emergent water plants—1, pickerel weed; 2, cat-tails; 3, bulrush; 4, bur-reed; 5, water plantain; 6, arrowhead. In the foreground are the floating-leaved plants—7, *Polygonum*; 8, lily pads; 9, spatter-docks; 10, hornwort; 11, eelgrass; 12, pondweed; and the submerged plants—13, *Riccia*; 14, bladderwort; 15, water milfoil.

Closest to shore are the emergent water plants, those which grow with their roots in the water and their stems and leaves

## LIFE IN PONDS AND STREAMS

in air. Among them are reeds, bulrushes, and marsh grasses, the white-blossomed arrowheads, water plantains, the massed blue spikes of the pickerel weeds, and crowding into every space high standing-armies of cat-tails (Fig. 17). Covering their stems below the water line are the simpler plants, desmids and other algæ, on which swarms of small crustaceans feed. Little plant-eating worms are abundant on them, also, and some of the smaller water beetles.

Beyond this zone are the floating-leaved plants, growing in water knee-deep or a little more. There, the bottom is



Can you find  
any of these?



FIG. 18.—Diagram showing the population on the undersides of lily pads: 1, bryozoan colony; 2, midge larva; 3, snail's eggs (*Physa*); 4, beetle's eggs (*Donacia*); 5, snail (*Graculus*); 6, snail (*Physa*); 7, eggs of caddis fly (*Tricnoides*); 8, water-mite; 9, tubes of midge larvæ; 10, eggs of water-mite; 11, eggs of damselfly (*Enallagma*); 12, tube of rotifer (*Meliceria*); 13, sponge; 14, eggs of whirligig beetle.

Painted Turtle:



Bullfrog:



Beavers:



Muskrats:



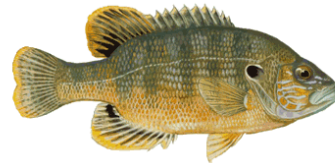
Bullhead:



Minnows:



Sunfish:



Whirligig Beetles:



Thank you to Acorn Adventure sponsors:

Keep up to date on  
[www.thelastgreenvalley.org](http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org)  
<http://www.thelastgreenvalleyacorns.org>  
and on our Facebook page

**Putnam Bank**  
TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE