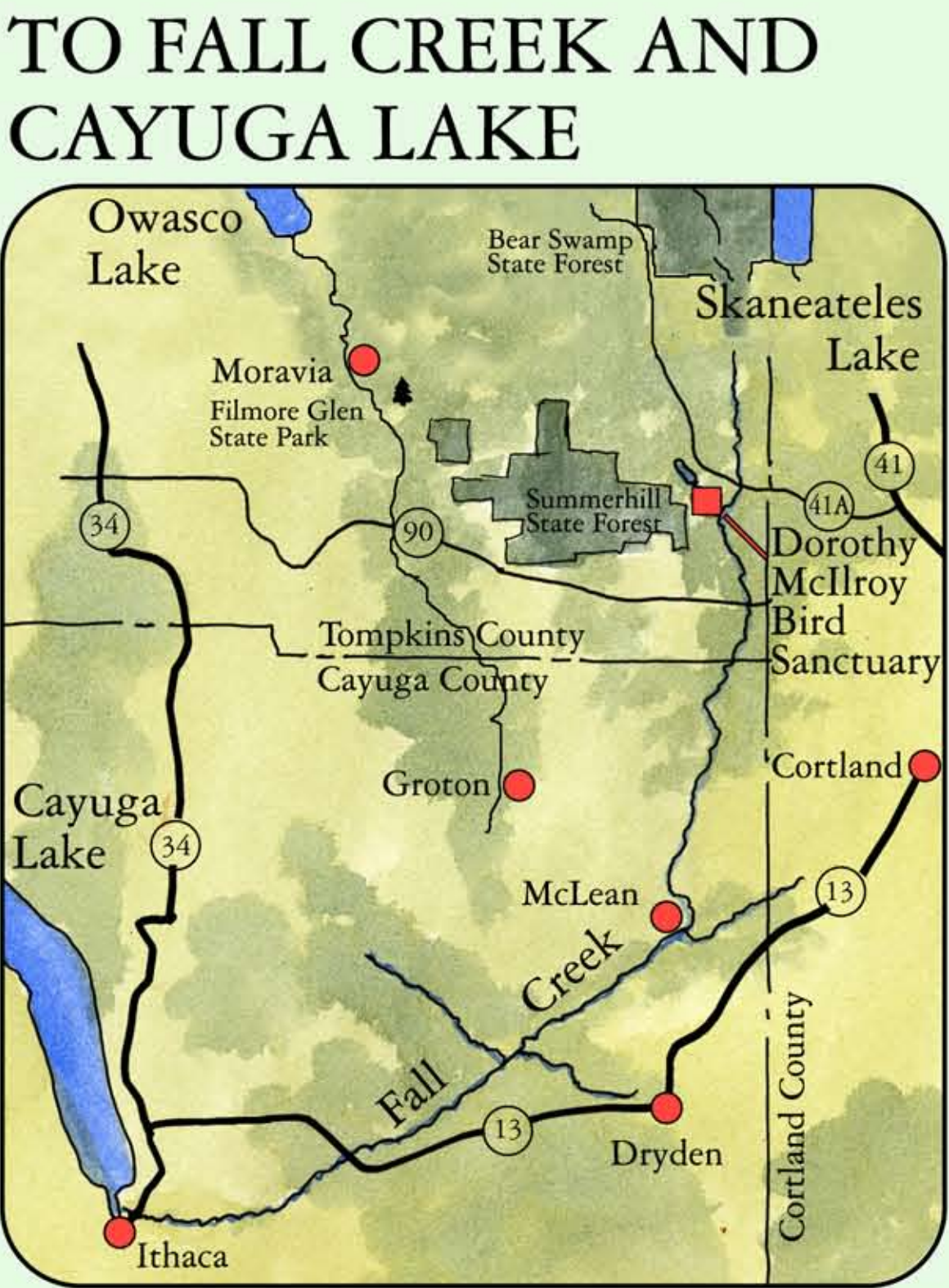


# FENS, SWAMPS, AND MARSHES

The combination of kame and kettle glacial geology, elevation, calcium-rich waters, and cool temperatures is responsible for the unusual wetland plant communities found here, including a rich shrub fen. The plant life more indicative of northern climates, pockets of deeper water, and dead snags for cavity nesters create a mosaic of habitat types that supports a high diversity of nesting birds.



It is essential to protect areas like this in order to preserve the biological integrity of the Finger Lakes Region. Preserving this wetland will help maintain the water quality of Fall Creek, and subsequently Cayuga Lake into which it flows.

## TRAIL LEGEND

- Yellow Trail - 1.14 Miles
- Blue Trail - 0.12 Miles
- Boardwalk



NORTH

## RICH SHRUB FEN



A shrubland on woody peat, fed by waters that are rich in minerals. Some of the shrubs seen here are leatherleaf, bog rosemary, sweetgale, hoary willow, velvet-leaf blueberry, mountain holly, arrowwood, and marsh and shrubby cinquefoil.



## HEMLOCK-HARDWOOD PEAT SWAMP



A low-lying forest dominated by hemlock and yellow birch that occurs on woody peat in depressions which receive groundwater discharge. A conifer-dominated swamp of this quality and size is more often found in the Adirondacks.



## EMERGENT MARSH



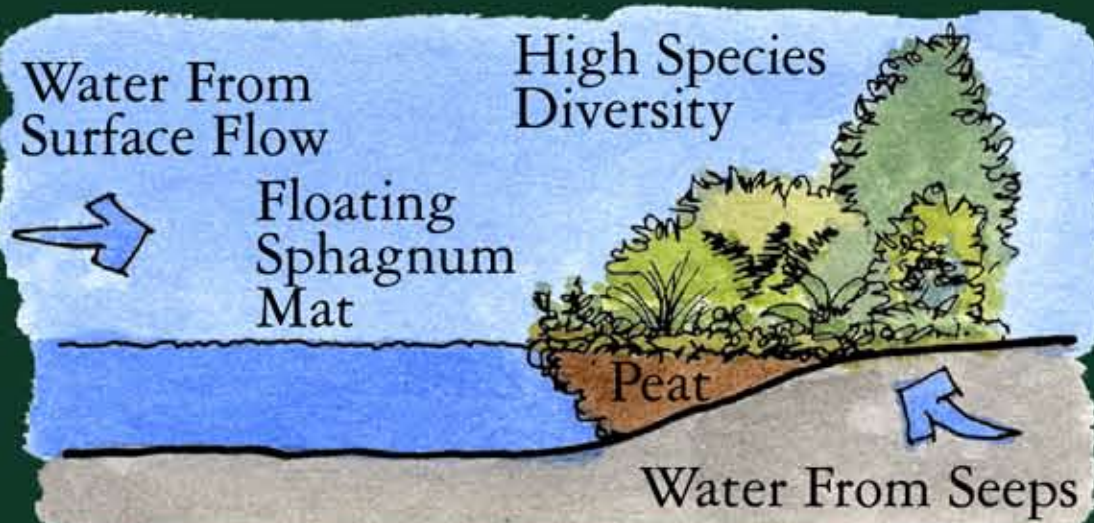
A marsh-meadow community that occurs on mineral soils that are permanently saturated and seasonally flooded. This marsh has been shaped for many years by the work of beavers.



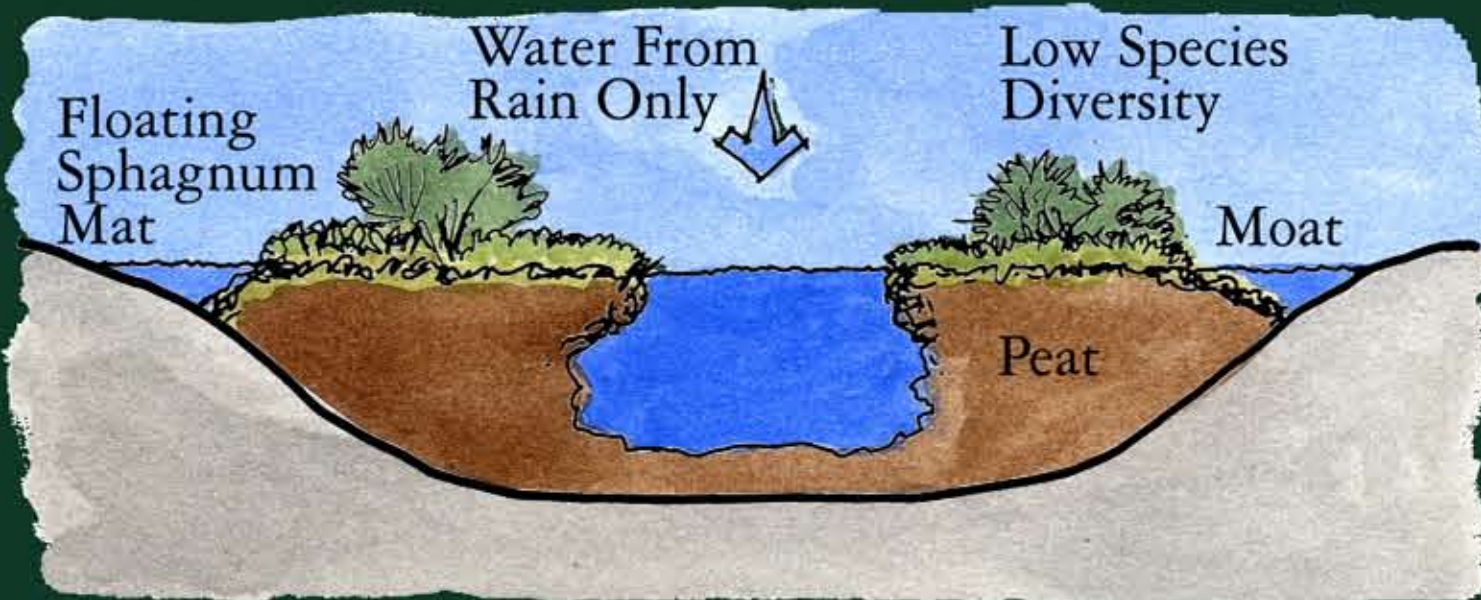
## FEN vs. BOG

While often superficially similar to bogs, there are some very distinct differences between "rich" fens and "true" bogs.

pH			Water Input/Output
Rich Fen	Alkaline	6.5-7.5	very calcium-rich ground/surface water input.
Medium Fen		5.8-6.5	moderately calcium-rich ground/surface water input.
Poor Fen/Bog	Acidic	3.5-5.8	little or no ground/surface water input/output.



FEN Alkaline to Slightly Acidic Conditions



BOG Highly Acidic Conditions