

Shank Painter Pond Wildlife Sanctuary

Shank Painter Pond Wildlife sanctuary is upland of Shank Painter Pond, which is the world's largest known quaking bog found on a barrier beach. This unique bog and open water habitat is home to many rare and endangered species. This property was destined for development but instead became the first property protected by the Town of Provincetown in 1999.

The sanctuary is open to the public for passive recreational use. Further down the pathway is a raised boardwalk and observation deck with interpretive signs.

Directions: Entrance to Shank Painter Pond Wildlife Sanctuary can be found on the south side of Route 6, approximately 0.4 miles west of Shank Painter Road. Opposite of this site on the north side of Route 6 is Clapp's and Duck Pond Conservation Area. Parking is found off of Route 6 on the south side by the Shank Painter Wildlife Sanctuary entrance



Noteworthy flora of Shank Painter Pond:

- Dragon's Mouth Orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*)
- Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*)
- Adder's Tongue Fern (genus *Ophioglossum* multiple species)
- Bogbean (genus *Menyanthes* multiple species)
- Few-Flowered Sedge (*Carex pauciflora*)
- Thread Leaved Sundew (*Drosera filiformis*)
- Pitcher Plants meaning, carnivorous plants
- Bladderwort (genus *Utricularia*)
- Grass Pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)
- Nodding Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*)

Noteworthy fauna of Shank Painter Pond:

- River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*)
- Easter Spadefoot Toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*)
- Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*)
- Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*)
- Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)
- Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)
- Pickerel (*Esox americanus*)
- Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
- Warblers (genus *Sylvia* multiple species)
- Ducks (family *Anatidae* multiple genus)
- Hawks (family *Accipitridae* multiple genus)
- Herons (family *Ardeidae* multiple species)
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)



River Otter *Lontra canadensis*



1920s photo of locals harvesting ice from Shankpainter Pond. In the distance you can see Pilgrim Monument.



Quaking ponds are formed when roots and rhizomes of wetland plants form floating mats across the pond. This creates an unstable "quaking" surface that may stabilize overtime due to accumulation of organic mater under the mat.

