

## The Paleoecology of Ponds

*Alison Cable*

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.