



*Northern hardwood forest at
Dobbins Woods.
Photo by Gary Jensen, Jr.*

Dobbins Woods Preserve

Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

What

Hardwood forest and
conifer plantation

Where

Town of North Harmony,
on Bly Hill Road, ½ mile
west of Route 394.

USGS Quadrangle(s):
Panama.

Why

Birding, wildlife, wildflower
and forestry studies

The 100-acre Dobbins Woods Preserve contains two different kinds of forest habitats which can be reached by a loop trail suitable for both hiking and cross country skiing.

Natural History Interest:

The site occupies a ridgetop overlooking Chautauqua Lake. There is a small wetland at the top of the ridge, out of which flows the headwaters of two Chautauqua Lake tributaries.

Two distinct forest communities occupy the property. The western 52 acres exhibits the “pit and mound topography” that characterizes forests that have not been plowed for cropland. The forest floor here rises and falls, revealing places where trees long ago uprooted and toppled over due to wind storms, leaving only mounds and depressions in the soil to show where trees have rotted away. The moist forest is dominated by Red Maple, Eastern Hemlock, and Yellow Birch, some of which are very large. Other tree species include Cucumber Magnolia, Tuliptree, Sugar Maple, American Beech, Shagbark Hickory, Black Cherry, Northern Red Oak and White Oak. Hawthorn, Eastern Hornbeam, Northern Arrowwood, and Common Spicebush occur in the understory.

The eastern 48 acres is composed of abandoned farmland. It was planted with Red Pine and Scotch Pine, which now are gradually being replaced

with a naturally invading mixture of hardwood trees.

Ferns and wildflowers are abundant on the property. It is an especially good place to appreciate spring-blossoming wildflowers. Among those that may be seen are both Red and White Trillium, Yellow Trout Lily, Canada Mayflower, Wild Oats, Perfoliate Bellwort, Solomon's Seal, False Solomon's Seal, Marsh Marigold, Kidneyleaf Buttercup, Goldthread, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, May-apple, Blue Cohosh, Common Toothwort, Spring Beauty, Foamflower, Miterwort, Starflower, and Round-leaved Yellow Violet.

Other Notes

There are no restrooms or other facilities at the site, and parking is currently along the road. Plans are for a forestry demonstration area, using best management practices, to occupy part of the property where hardwoods are replacing pine plantations. The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy offers spring wildflower walks and other public tour opportunities. For information contact the CWC at 413 North Main St., Jamestown, NY 14701; Tel: 716-664-2166; E-mail: chautwsh@net-sync.net; Web site: www.cwc.org.

How To Get There

Dobbins Woods Preserve is located just south of I-86 and less than a mile from Chautauqua Lake.

From exit 8 (Mayville, Lakewood) off I-86, take NY 394 east approximately 2.5 miles to Bly Hill Rd on your right. Turn right onto Bly Hill Rd and proceed to Dobbins Woods. The woods are located on the left side of the road. They begin approximately 0.5 miles from NY 394 and end approximately 1.2 miles from NY 394. Park beside the road.

