



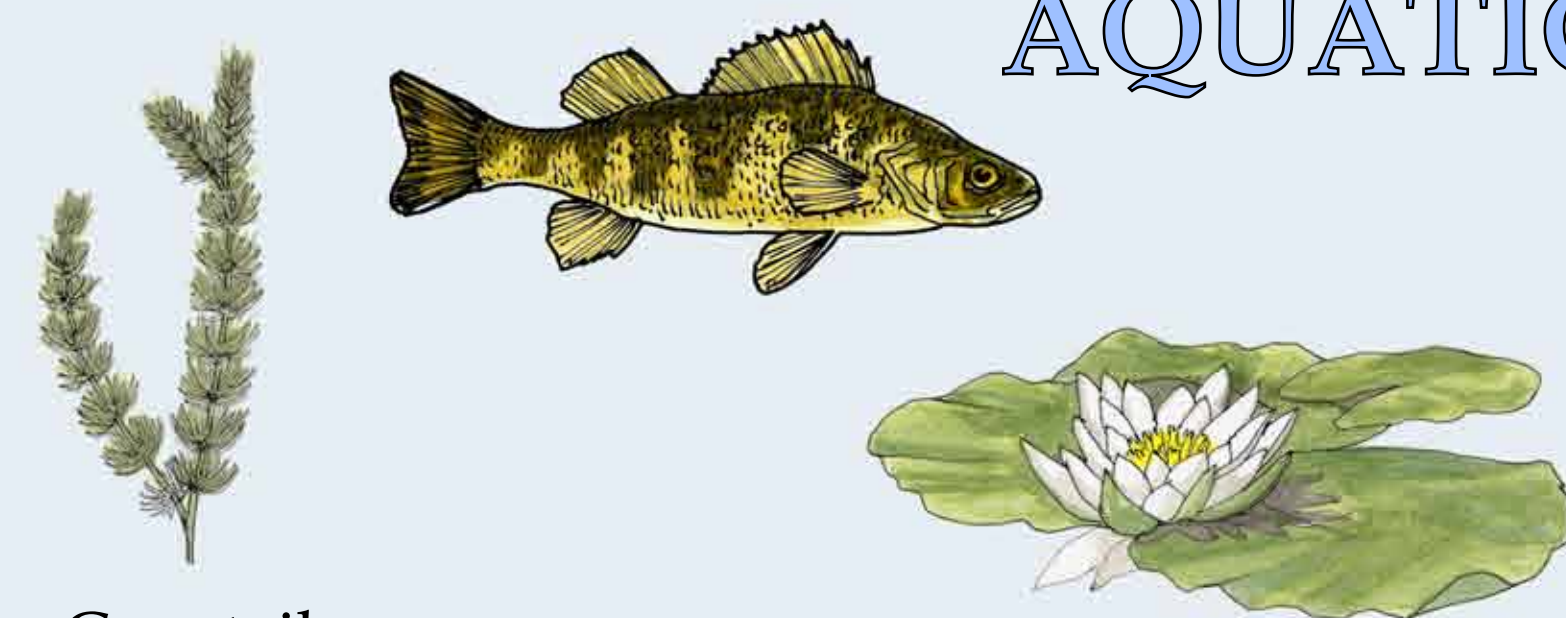
BACKDUNE WETLANDS

SWAMPS, MARSHES, FENS, OPEN WATER

VARIETY = SPECIES DIVERSITY

The dunes shelter a vast low lying area with a variety of wetland habitats, each with its specialized plants that create habitat for a particular suite of animals. The concentration of different high quality habitats found here produces one of the richest biological areas in New York State.

AQUATIC (OPEN WATER)



Coontail

Sweet White Water Lily

Watery habitats include streams and ponds, some always open to the lake and others sometimes closed off by the dune barrier. Coontail and wild celery hide beneath the surface, while sweet white water lily and yellow pond lily float on the surface. In summer the surface may be covered by duckweed, the smallest of all

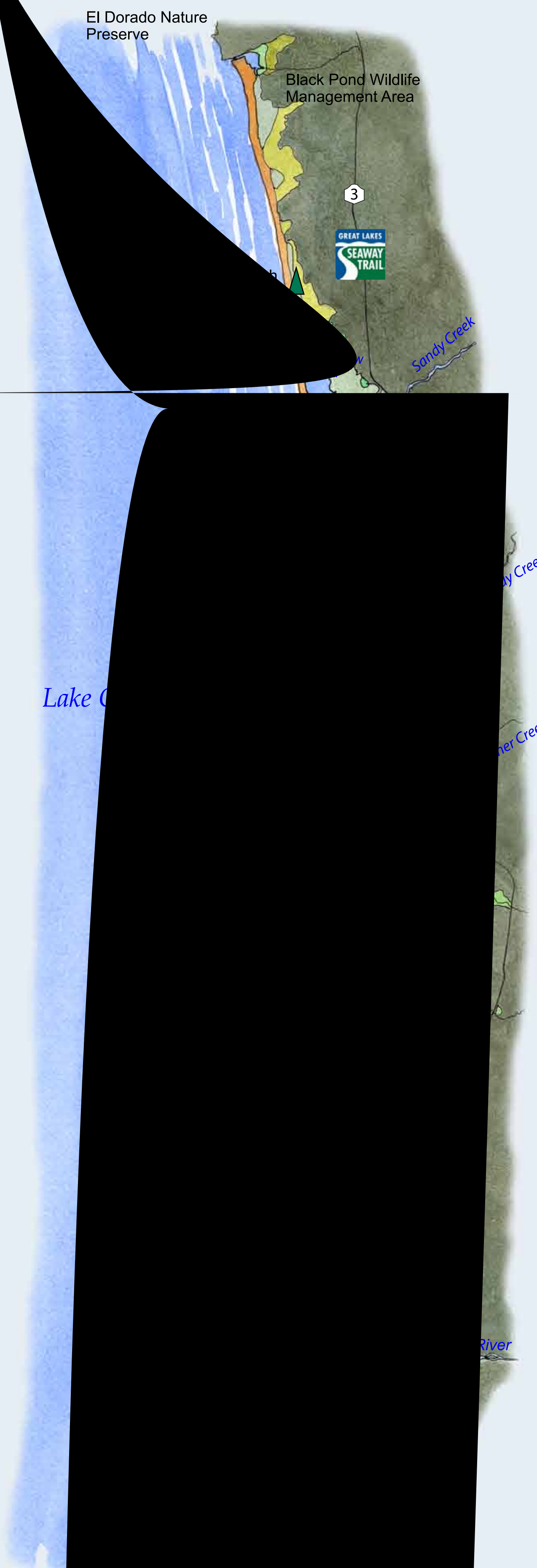
DEEP EMERGENT MARSH



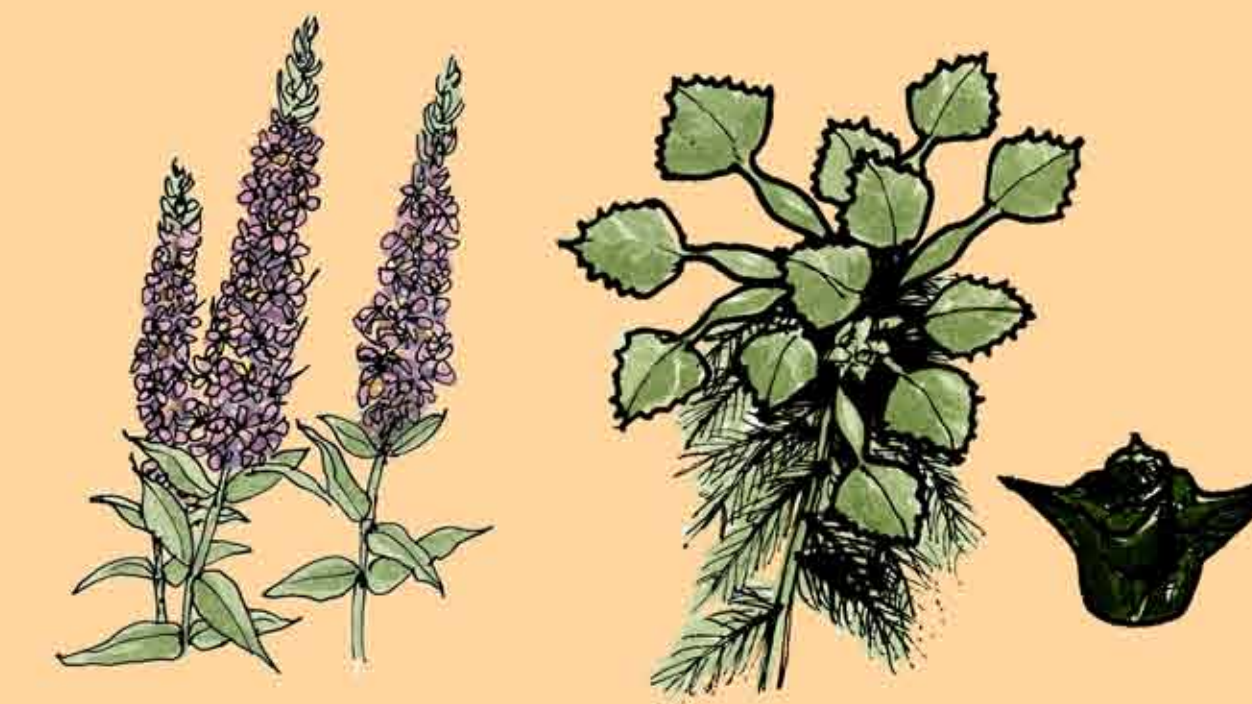
SHALLOW EMERGENT MARSH



SWAMP



INVASIVE SPECIES



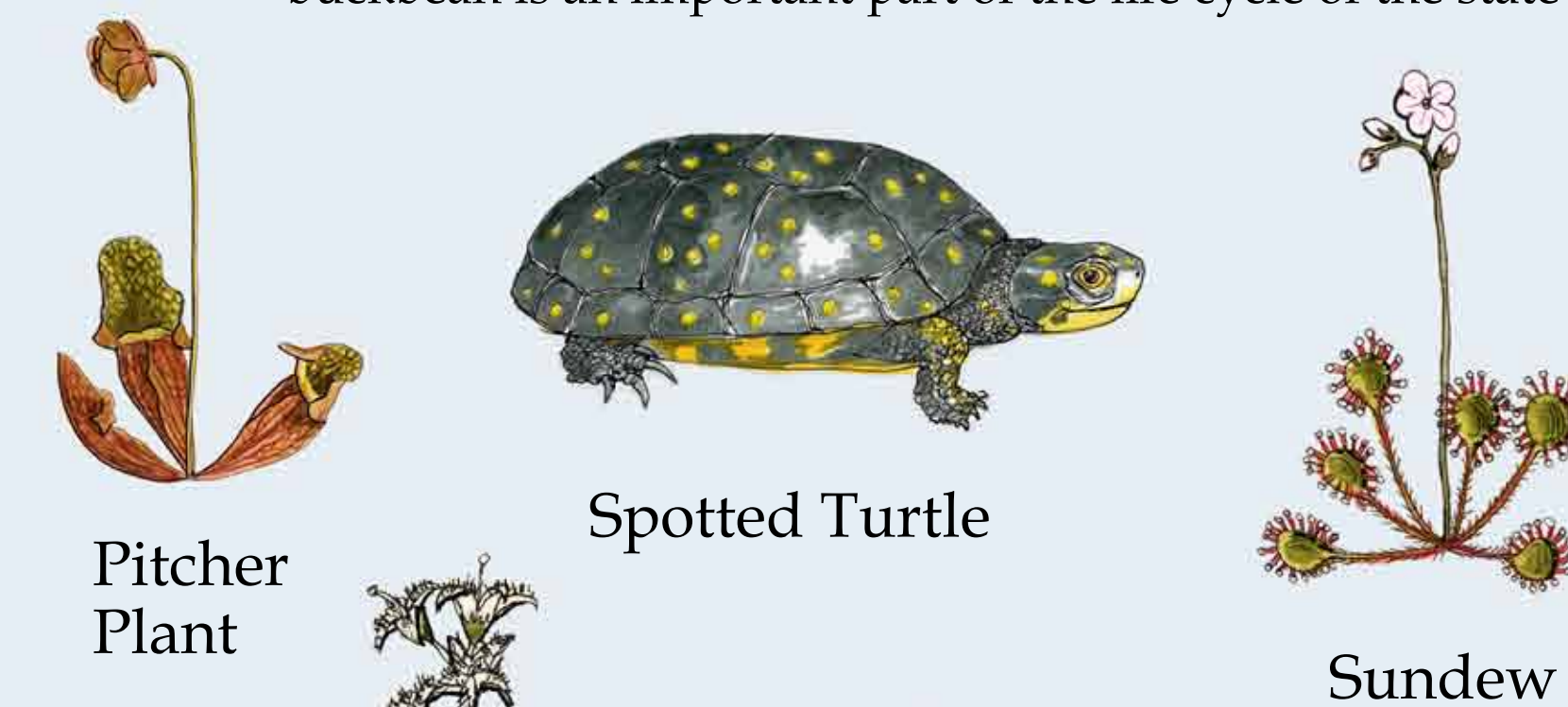
Purple Loosestrife

Water Chestnut

Invasive species are species (plants, animals, insects, etc.) that are not native to the ecosystem of interest and are likely to cause harm to the economy, environment and human health in that area. Purple loosestrife is invading the back of the dunes and the wetlands. Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut, and spiny water flea are spreading in the aquatic habitats. Glossy buckthorn is expanding into the swamps and fens. Many invasives are found in the Great Lakes and their coastal habitats, with more coming in each year.

COASTAL FEN

Coastal fens consist of plant communities growing above deep basins of peat. The plant mats that are sometimes floating are made up of tangled roots of grasslike sedges and low shrubs like sweetgale and leatherleaf. Unique insect-eating plants grow here, including the sticky-leaved sundew and the vase-like pitcher plant. Another unique plant, the bog buckbean is an important part of the life cycle of the state Endangered bog buckmoth.



Pitcher Plant

Spotted Turtle

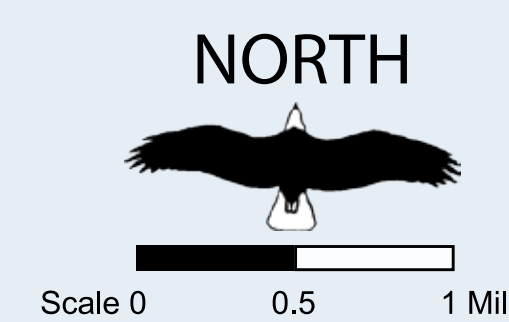
Sundew



Bog Buckbean



Bog Buckmoth



EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO WETLAND PLANT COMMUNITIES

Hydrology and water chemistry determine what plants will grow to form which kinds of wetland habitats. Hydrology is about water quantity, the timing and speed of its coming and going, and the source of the water (surface flow or groundwater). Water chemistry depends on where the water comes from, which determines the amount of fertilizer nutrients and minerals it carries.

Other Interpretive Panels in this Series.

