

OAK GROVES

A casual visitor to Lake Roland's serpentine barrens may see it as a monoculture of Virginia Pine forest broken up by one large meadow. Look a little closer and you'll find other habitats: small meadow openings, streamside vegetation, deciduous groves, mixtures of pine and deciduous trees. Oak groves are a typical habitat of serpentine barrens—small islands of oak trees surrounded by pines. We have several of these oak groves in the Lake Roland serpentine. Most are well away from established paths, so we don't recommend a visit. However, Oak Grove A, also known as Jim's Grove, is only 25 yards from the large remediated meadow. We call it Jim's Grove because it was discovered by entomologist Jim Young when he was doing research on the moths and butterflies of Lake Roland.

Directions: On the southeast side of the large meadow look for a small dirt path leading east into the pines. Take this path and very soon you will find yourself in an enclave of 35 oaks. The understory includes green briar (thorny), but also some wildflowers and grasses. Location A below. In warm weather stay on the path—here and elsewhere in the serpentine—to avoid picking up ticks and chiggers.

