

### Station 15: Clubmosses

Club mosses belong to an ancient group of plants dating back to the Carboniferous Period between 360 to 285 million years ago. Ancient club mosses often reached 100' in height. Club mosses are easily recognizable as a group but hybridization between some species can complicate species identification. As you travel toward station 16, look for club mosses along the trail. The flat branched tree club moss (*Dendrolycopodium obscurum*), more commonly known as princess pine, and the fan club moss (*Diphasiastrum digitatum*) grow throughout Hayes Woods.

Be aware of poison ivy along the path. Poison ivy is a climbing vine native to New England which produces an oil called urushiol. Urushiol causes allergic reactions that result in itchy rashes in many people. The rhyme, "leaves of three, leave it be" can help with identification, as it is often confused with Virginia creeper, a vine with five leaflets.

