

**Interest of the historical approach in mires rehabilitation: example of the Great mire of Pontarlier (Doubs)**

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The Great Mire of Pontarlier belongs to a bigger complex of the Jura arc in a basic fold located near Pontarlier (Doubs, France) at an altitude of 840m.

Because of the proximity of Pontarlier, an important organized exploitation of peat has been carried out from the beginning of the XVIIth century to 1919 at least. There are enough archives to get an idea of the conditions of exploitation and of the areas exploited for more than one century. Microtoponymy of peatlands also provides interesting information about the natural vegetation before or during the exploitation. Today, extraction traces are still visible and allow observing the results of natural regenerations of former extraction pits.

So, this site provides a good example of regeneration issues in a complex of mires after a family exploitation of peat.

Otherwise, the exceptional botanical interest of the site has been known since the beginning of the XIXth century, thanks to excursions of major botanical societies from France and Switzerland.

In this presentation, we will explain this historical approach of the mire exploitation, show its importance even if it was only for domestic use, and compare it with the past and present interests of the site.

We notice that most of the rare plants still growing in the mire are nowadays located in areas formerly exploited for family use.