

The birch swamp forest

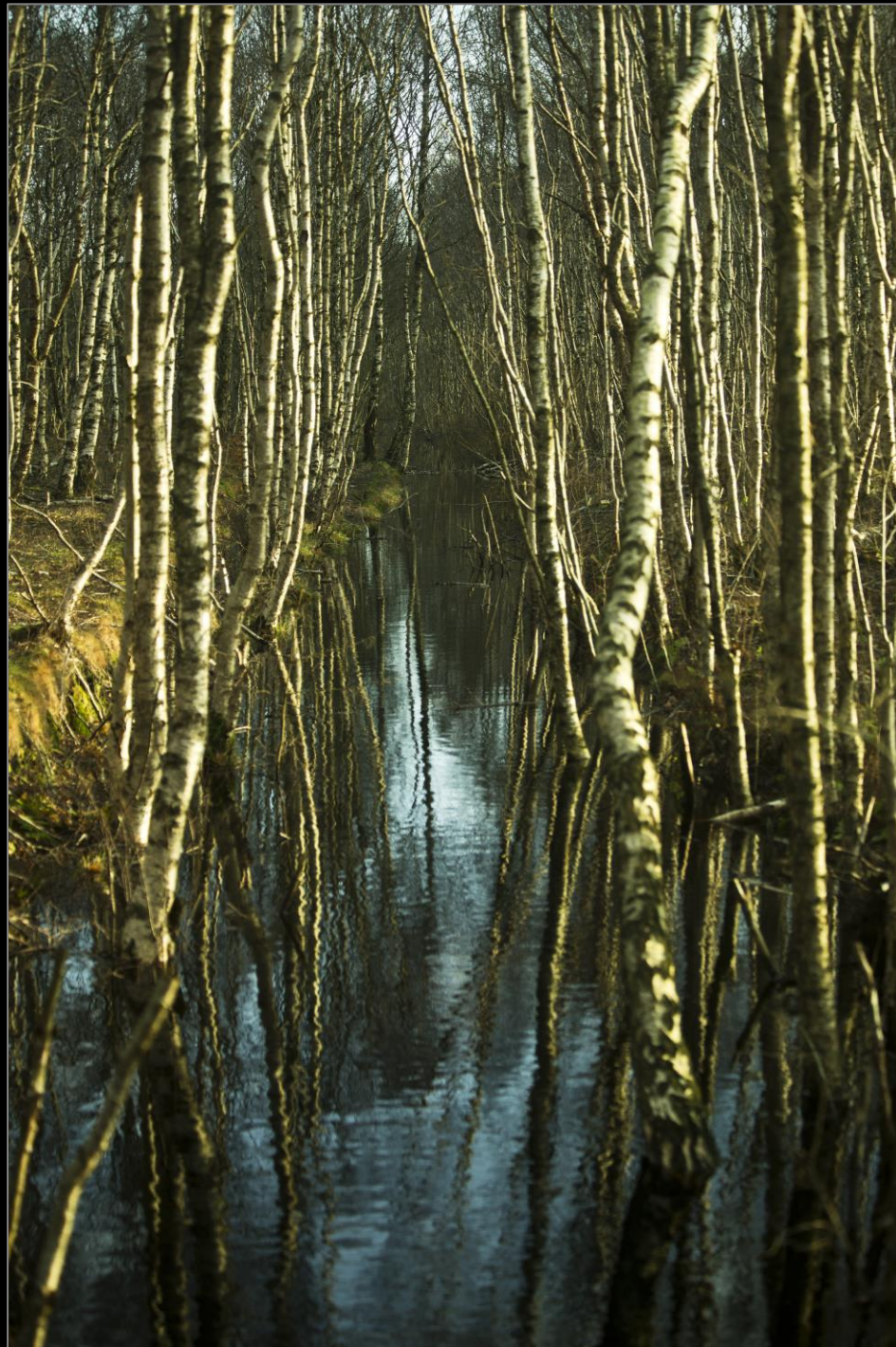
When I visit the part of the country, where I was born in Denmark, I often visit the bog, Lille Vildmose. I like to move into the bright birch forests that are found around the bog. I know the dense birch scrub both here from the bog and from hiking in Lapland and along rivers in Greenland.

The birch wood is the oldest type of forest in Denmark. The birch is not sensitive in terms of habitat. Out here on the bog the birch stands with its roots in the acidic peaty soil.

The birch swamp forest is easiest to pass in the winter. In summer, the trees are often tied into spider webs and the green leaves let you easily lose orientation on the flat bog.

The birch forests in the Danish bogs have naturally given rise to many myths about these impassable. The forests were home to trolls and witches. On the birch trees, a parasitic fungus of the genus *Taphina* cause some dense, long and large tangled branch collections. They were called Dvere brush, named after an underground mountain people. This troll brush that often resembles a crow's nest had many magical powers in the old Danish myths.

On my hiking in the bog this afternoon in December I saw no trolls. The last rays of the winter sun got the stems of the birches to be mirrored beautiful in the stagnant water of the bog.



Lille Vildmose, December 2013

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