

Since the country is so tender
To touch, her being so' slender,
That, like this sleek and seeing ball
But a prick make no eye at all,
Where we, even where we mean
To mend her we end her,
When we hew or delve:
After-comers cannot guess the beauty been.

Gerard Manley Hopkins
"Binsey Poplars"

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Cover:

Walden Pond, where Henry David Thoreau lived for two quietly eventful years in the middle of the 19th century, has suffered its share of abuse during the past century and a half, and is now the site of an ongoing effort to repair the banks and restore shoreline vegetation. This effort to restore an icon of American environmental thinking has led to extensive discussion over what restoration is and how it should be carried out. An introduction to this ongoing conversation begins on page 65.

Photo by Stuart Weinreb