

Water Horsetail

Equisetum fluviatile

-Water Horsetail is one of my all time favorites. Not only is it a cool plant in its own right, but also the history behind it is fascinating.

-Pioneer women used water Horsetail as they went west. They used it to wash their pots and pans. Knights in Europe used it to shine their armor. The reason they used Water Horsetail for such things is because the plant contains a high silica content and therefore makes a wonderful polishing agent.

-The evolution behind this plant is brilliant. It uses some of the strongest constructional methods that we know: Pipes, I Beams, and Corrugation. In fact when Frank Lloyd Wright designed his Chicago Mile High Building, he looked to the Water Horsetail for help. It's true!

-The ancestors of this plant used to be grazed on by dinosaurs. In fact, since I am an amateur paleontologist, I have dug some fossils of the ancestors of Water Horsetail that have been dated to 50 million years old.

-This plant was around over 300 million years ago.

-Water Horsetail was once used for medicinal purposes such as treatment of kidney diseases, tuberculosis, and arthritis.



When you're riding in a time machine way far into the future, don't stick your elbow out the window, or it'll turn into a fossil.

-Deep Thoughts