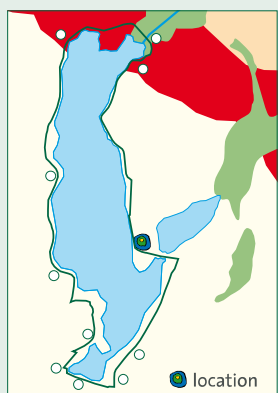






The peninsula between the Tiefwarensee and Melzer See is popularly known as the Schwalbenberg. Less common today is the old field name for the promontory "Am Ralandsort", in Low German "Ralandsurth". This could be derived from Rodeland – cleared land.



Ordnance survey map extract, 1932

The name Schwalbenberg probably goes back to the sand martins (or bank swallows) that used to live in the unwooded bluff. The approximately 10-metre-high bluff is evidence of continuing development of the landscape after the Ice Age. Located in front of it are two dry fallen lake terraces, evidence that the lake water level used to be higher. The initial causes of the fluctuations of water level were natural climatic changes in the post-glacial period. From the Middle Ages however, changes in the water level are primarily accountable to human intervention. These have been established not only for the Tiefwarensee, but for the whole region of the Müritz



-  Ground moraines
-  Terminal moraines
-  Sandurs
-  Melt water runoff course

and Mecklenburg's upper lakes. Mill stowage led first to rising water levels; with the construction of the Müritz-Elde waterway the lake water level was lowered to its present status at the start of the 19th century.



Melzer See

The "Ostufer Tiefwaren - Falkenhäger Bruch" Nature Reserve (NR) begins by the Schwalbenberg. As well as the petrified (inactive) bluff with adjoining lake terraces and the carr by the shore, the 110-hectare NR also comprises parts of the terminal moraine and the sandur.

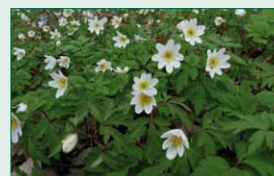


There are hazel coppices with liverwort, parasitic toothwort and winter horsetail. As well as birch and pine trees, characteristic carr flora include marsh marigold and purple moorgrass. Beech woodland with melic grass and wood fescue dominates in the terminal moraine areas. Distinctive breeding bird species in the NR include cranes, kingfishers and penduline tits.

The Melzer See lies in a side trench of the Tiefwarensee. Its name recalls the deserted village of Melz, first mentioned in 1284 and perishing in the 14th century. But the area had already been settled long before. Archaeological finds in the area of the "Am Melzer See" residential area point to a Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age (1200 - 600 BC) residential and cult site. A cow skeleton lying on its side was discovered in a settlement pit, under an earthenware vessel. Somewhat deeper lay the skeletons of two goats. The animals were probably sacrificed.



Liverwort



Anemone



Common crane photo: F. Seemann

