



SPRUCE LAKE BOG WETLAND TYPES

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Coniferous bog, coniferous swamp, lowland hardwood swamp, marsh, shrub carr

FOND DU LAC COUNTY



ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

This Wetland Gem features an undisturbed bog lake within the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest in Fond du Lac County. While the site is relatively small (140 acres), it hosts a diversity of wetland community types and species, including many plant and bird species typically found much further north in Wisconsin.

FLORA & FAUNA

The focal point of the site is a small (35 acre) and shallow (2-4 feet deep) bog lake that is characterized by dense marsh vegetation dominated by water shield and water lilies. A floating sedge mat surrounding the lake includes sphagnum moss, cottongrass, three-fruited sedge, woollyfruit sedge, royal fern, pitcher plant, round-leaved sundew, moccasin flower, wintergreen and small cranberry. Moving further inland is extensive coniferous bog habitat with a northern character. The canopy is dominated by tamarack and black spruce and the shrub layer includes Labrador tea, bog birch, leatherleaf, bog

rosemary, alder, velvet-leaved blueberry, cranberry, and mountain holly. The hummocky ground surface is covered by sphagnum moss and a variety of herbaceous plants including Canada mayflower, starflower, cuckoo flower, skunk cabbage, sawgrass, and Solomon's plume. Furthest from the lake are areas of coniferous swamp and lowland hardwood swamp habitat characterized by tamarack, black ash, red maple, yellow birch and white cedar. Understory species include three-leaved goldthread, American starflower, partridgeberry, common winterberry and yellow bluebead lily.

Bird species commonly using this wetland complex include green heron, common yellowthroat, swamp sparrow, veery, alder flycatcher and sandhill crane. The site also supports several rare and unusual birds and species typically found in more northern habitats including northern waterthrush, Nashville warbler, Canada warbler, Cape May warbler, yellow-bellied flycatcher and white-throated sparrow.

THREATS

Runoff from surrounding lands, including residential development and agricultural lands, may impact wetland habitats at this site. Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees. Impacts from recreational use and the spread of reed canary grass and other invasive species are also of concern. Future invasion by the emerald ash borer beetle threatens the site's ash trees.

ACCESS

A trail and boardwalk provide access to the southeast end of the site. For details, visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna.



Purple pitcher plant — Kate Redmond

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Property Owner: WDNR
 Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area, National Park Service National Natural Landmark

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