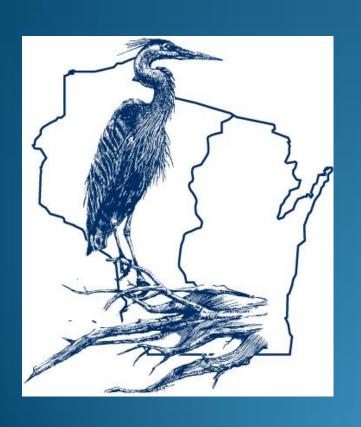
# Using Reference Sites to Create Species Lists

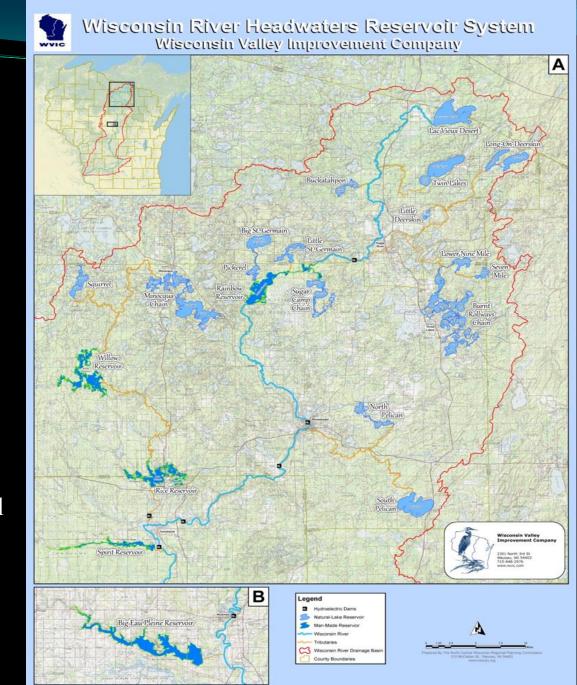


Ben Niffenegger Environmental Specialist Wisconsin Valley Improvement Co.

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## Own & Operate:

- 21 Storage Reservoirs
- 5 Man Made Res
- 16 Natural Lakes
- Store Water during High-Flow Periods (Spring/Fall)
- Release Water During Low-Flow Periods (Summer/Winter)
- ➤ Implement a Variety of Environmental Plans
  - ➤ Land Mgmt/Erosion Control
  - Water Quality
  - ➤ Fish & Wildlife/AIS
  - ➤ Cultural/Historic Resources
  - Recreation Mgmt



# Using Reference Sites as a Basis for Creating Species Lists



# **Basic Site Assessment**

- Soil Type-
  - Loamy Sand
- Aspect-
  - > NW
- Sun Exposure-
  - Shade/Part Shade & Sun
- Gradient-
  - ➤ Level Area and 1:5 slope
- Mature Canopy Trees-
  - Red & White Pine
- "Microsites" Variations in the Landscape Moist/Cool Pockets



# Choosing a Reference Site

- Match Site Conditions
- Mimic Undeveloped Shorelines & Natural Areas
- Comparable Natural Communities
- Avoid disturbed areas near homes & roads where ornamentals & Invasives are prevalent





# **Ideal Reference Sites**

- State Natural Areas
- http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/



#### State natural areas by county

Click on a county on the map or choose a county name from the list below to find a state natural area.



#### State Natural Areas

#### Find

a natural area by county.

#### **Explore outdoors**

Use our interactive map

#### Natural areas

- Buy a guidebook
- Establishment and protection
- Natural Area Spotlight
- Natural Areas Preservation Council
- . Research permit
- Site inspection report
- State Natural Areas listed by number [PDF]
- Visitation guidelines

#### Related links

- . Endangered resources
- NHC annual report
- . Rare plants, animals, natural communities
- Wisconsin Oak Savanna Alliance [exit DNR]
- Wisconsin Department of

#### Business Licenses & Regulations

Brant Brook Pines and HardWoods

Crex Sand Prairie (Barrens)

Norway Point Bottomlands

Big Island

Blomberg Lake

Ekdall Wetlands

Fish Lake Pines

St. Croix Seeps

Fish Lake Meadow

Kohler-Peet Barrens

Reed Lake Meadow

St. Croix Ash Swamp

**Calumet County** 

High Cliff Escarpment

Chippewa County

Deer Fly Swamp

Jean Brunet Woods

Marsh Miller Cedars

Ohmart Wetlands

Tealey Creek Cedars

Plagge Woods

Lawin Sedge Meadow

Dorothy Lake

Chippewa Moraine Lakes

Stockbridge Ledge Woods

#### Recreation

#### Education Topics

Contact

### Cathedral Dines

Battle Creek Hemlocks South Branch Beech Grove

Lake Lackawanna Kelly Lake Hemlocks

Peshtigo Brook Meadow and Woods

Back to Top

### Oneida County

Atkins Lake

Big Swamp Enterprise Hemlocks

Finnerud Pine Forest \*

Germain Hemlocks

Gobler Lake

Holmboe Conifer Forest Lower Tomahawk River Pines

One Stone Lake Hemlocks

Rice Lake

Stone Lake Pines Wind Pudding Lake

Pat Shay Lake

Patterson Hemlocks

Rainbow Wetlands

Shallow Lake

Spur Lake

Squirrel River Pines

Sugar Camp Hemlocks

Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks

Tomahawk River Pines

Two Lakes Pine-Oak Forest

Upper Kaubashine Creek

### **Clark County**

Baraboo River Floodplain Forest

Dells of the Wisconsin River

North of North Shattuck Lake

Town Line Lake and Woods

Arbutus Oaks Blue Swamp

Schmidt Maple Woods

Columbia County Audubon Goose Pond

French Creek Fen

Gibraltar Rock

Grassy Lake

Lost Lake

Back to Top

#### Deer Creek Tamarack Bog

Outagamie County Hortonville Bog LaSage Bottoms Shaky Lake

#### **Ozaukee County**

Cedarburg Bog Cedarburg Beech Woods Fairy Chasm \* Kurtz Woods

Riveredge Creek and Ephemeral Pond

Sapa Spruce Bog \*

PUBLIC ACCESS LANDS Basic Map Search Map Analyze Map Customize Map 0 Map Scale: 1: 124,743 Show Pan Zoom in Zoom Out DNR Explore DNR Home Stewardship What's Show Layer Jump to a map bookmark... Extent Extent Wisconsin Layers Legend Drawing Order Extent Outdoors Program This? Map Scale Map Layers Navigation Tools Web Links Help SQUIRREL Public Access Lands - Home I want to ... > Woodruff RIVER PINES SNA Comments or Questions: Email mapmaster Welcome to DNR Public Access Lands! TOMAHAWK TOMAHAWK LAKE RIVER HEMLOCKS SNA PINES SNA FOREST This interactive web map contains map LEGACY features for: PROGRAM DNR Managed Lands & State Trails, Minocqua TWO LAKES Federal Public Lands and County Forest PINE-OAK Hazelhurst FOREST SNA · Publicly accessible lands funded by the Lake Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund Tomahawk WIND · Trout streams, voluntary public access PUDDING lands, boat & fishing access sites and LAKE SNA parking areas For map assistance use the HELP tool located in the Basic Map Tool Bar (upper BEARSKIN right) STATE TRAIL. Always respect land owner rights on private GERMAIN lands open to public access. Observe HEMLOCKS postings on private land to avoid SNA trespassing. WILLOW/FLOWAGE SCENIC WATERS AREA The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources and are of varying age. reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land Cassian ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, STATEWIDE applicability for a particular use, completeness, or Lynne SPRING legality of the information depicted on this map. PONDS STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS SWAMP LAKE PUBLIC GOBLER WOODBORO LAKES VACCESS LAKE WILDLIFE AREA K Woodboro Nekemis SCATTERED WILLOW/FLOWAGE FOREST LANDS SCENIC,WATERS AREA -2.5km DICK STEFFES UNIT

Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program

### Tomahawk River Pines (No. 239)



Photo by R. Eckstein

Overview Access Ownership Maps Management Recreation

### Location

Oneida County. T38N-R5E, Sections 11, 12, 14, 15, 22, 23, 27. 1,040 acres.

### Description

Tomahawk River Pines features several undisturbed stands of large red pine located along a wild and undeveloped reach of the Tomahawk River. The even-aged pines originated following wildfire and are gradually succeeding to white pines, which dominate the understory. The pines are growing on elevated islands separated from the forested uplands by vast wetlands of alder shrub swamp and swamp conifers. These isolated red pine islands provide nesting sites for bald eagles and harbor a characteristic groundlayer with bracken fern, wintergreen, and barren strawberry. Alder thickets cover most of the wetlands on both sides of the Tomahawk River with a few areas of tamarack and black spruce. The meandering Tomahawk River is a slow, warm, soft water stream containing a diverse snail fauna in the muck bottom but with relatively few aquatic plants. Birds include gray jay, boreal chickadee, alder flycatcher, veery, and pine warbler. Tomahawk River Pines is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1990.

#### **Natural Area Spotlight**

Check out this week's feature!
[exit DNR]



## Join the community of caretakers

Help preserve Wisconsin's State Natural Areas for future generations. Give to the Endangered Resources Fund today!



### **State Natural Areas**

#### Find

a natural area by name.

#### Locate

a natural area by county.

### **Explore outdoors**

and find places to go.

### Use our interactive map

to find natural areas.



Subscribe to endangered resources news and events

#### Natural areas

- Buy a guidebook
- Establishment and protection
- Natural Area Spotlight
- . Natural Areas Preservation



# If you know your plants....

- ID. Groundcover, Shrubs, and Trees
- What's growing where?
- List which species are growing in the Shade/Dappled Shade/Full Sun
- What's growing on slopes/in depressions/on ridges?
- What species are naturally grouped together?
- TAKE PHOTOS to complement notes

# If you don't know your plants...

- TAKE PHOTOS to complement notes
- Many plant professionals and amateurs can assist with plant identification.
  - Botany Departments UWSP/UWGB/Madison
  - Land Conservation Depts.
  - UW Extension/DNR
  - Nurseries/Garden Centers
  - Outdoor Education/Interpretive Centers
  - Weird neighbor you never talk to that loves plants





# Shrubs











# Groundcover







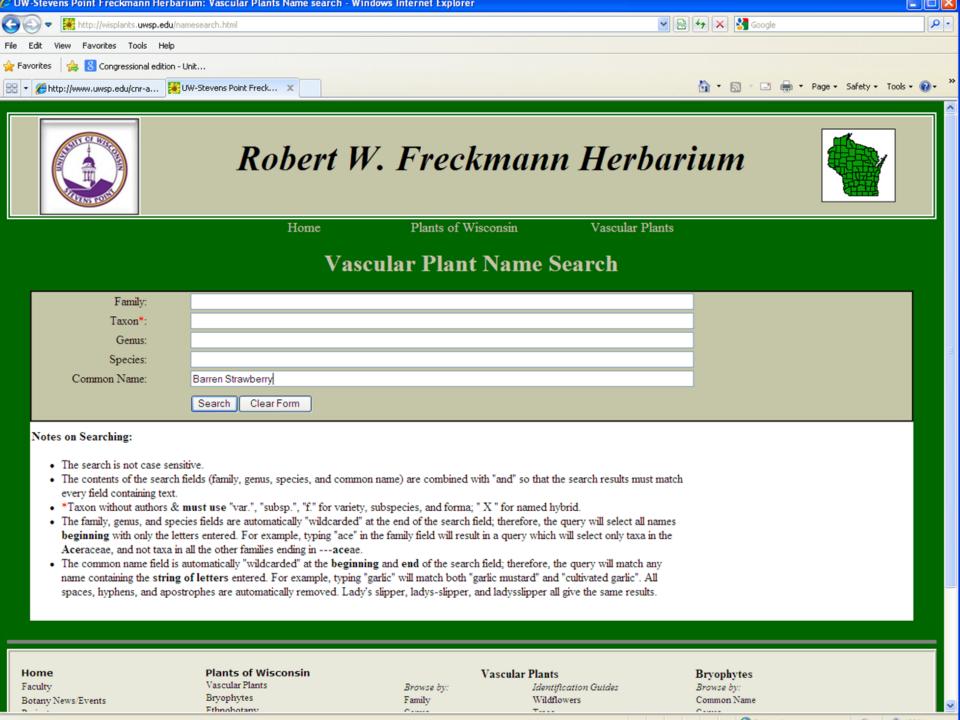


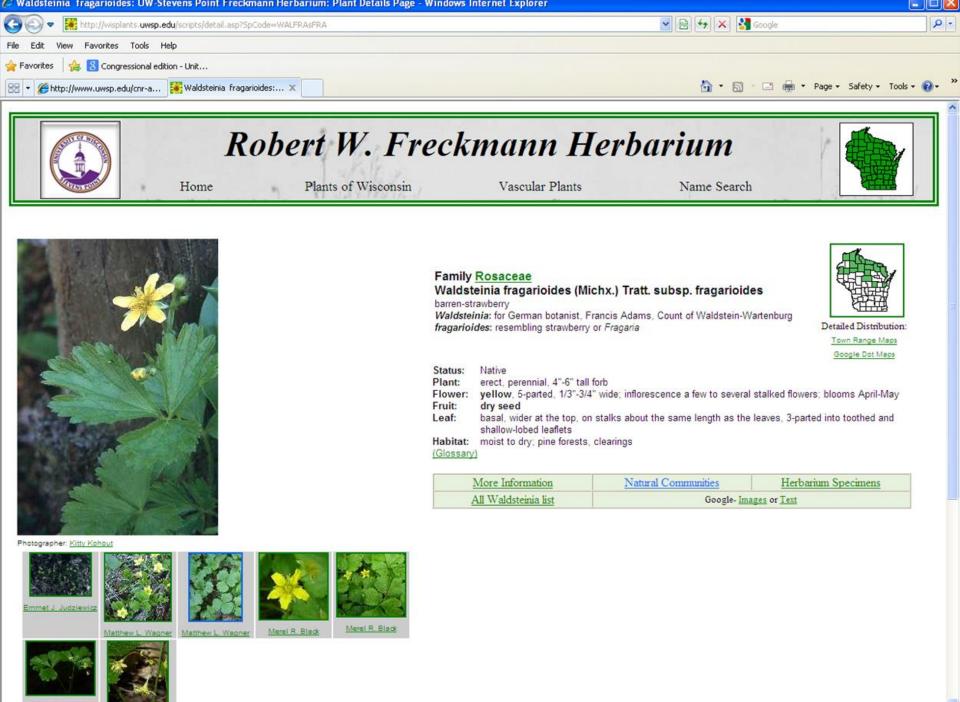


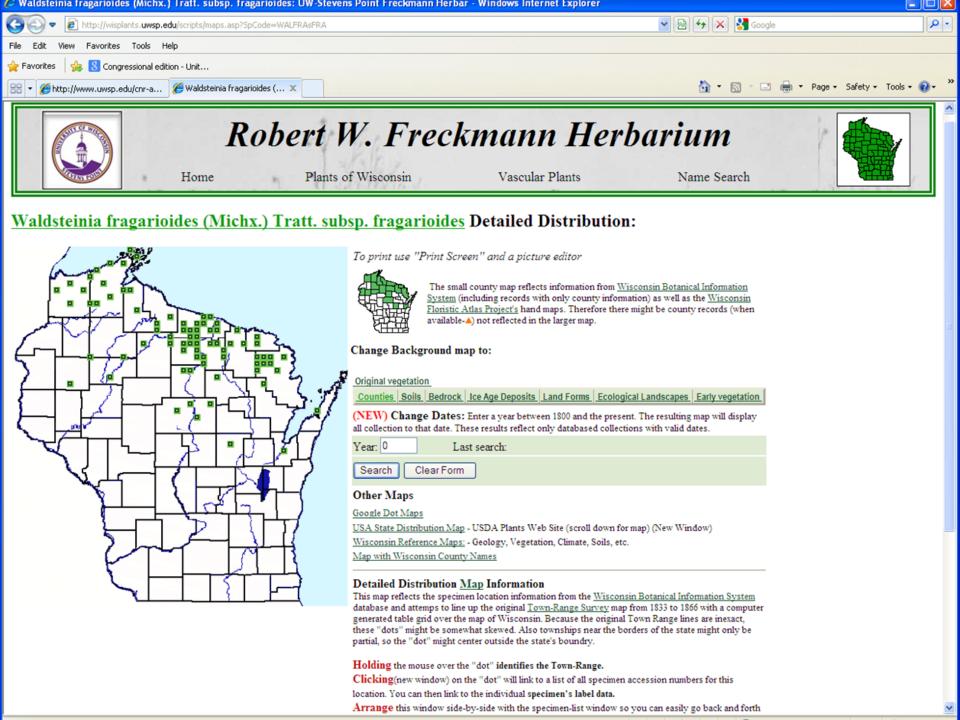


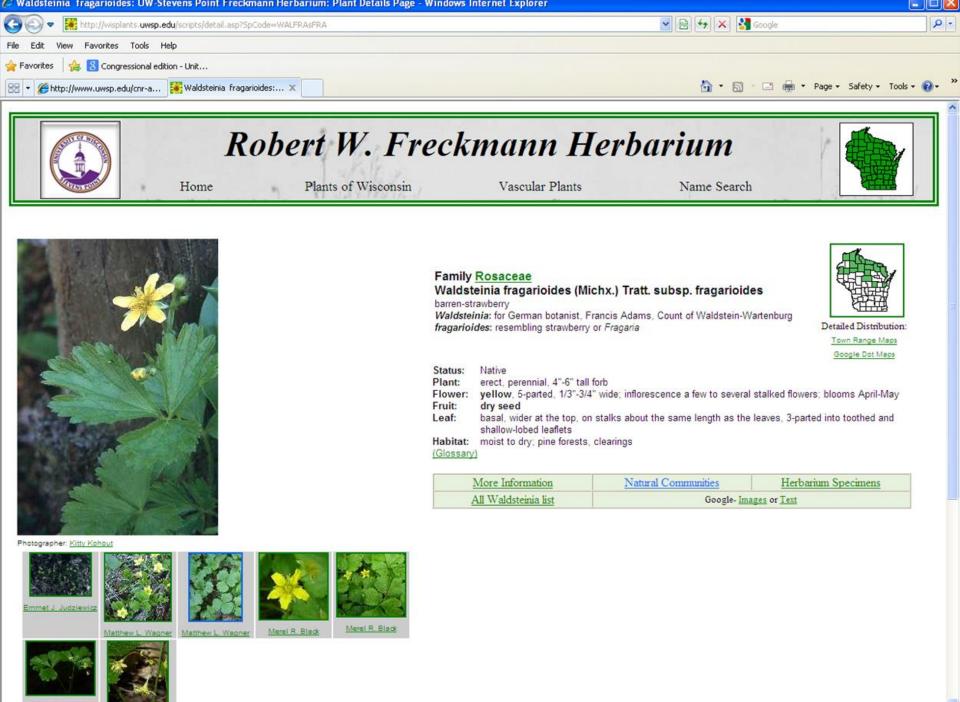


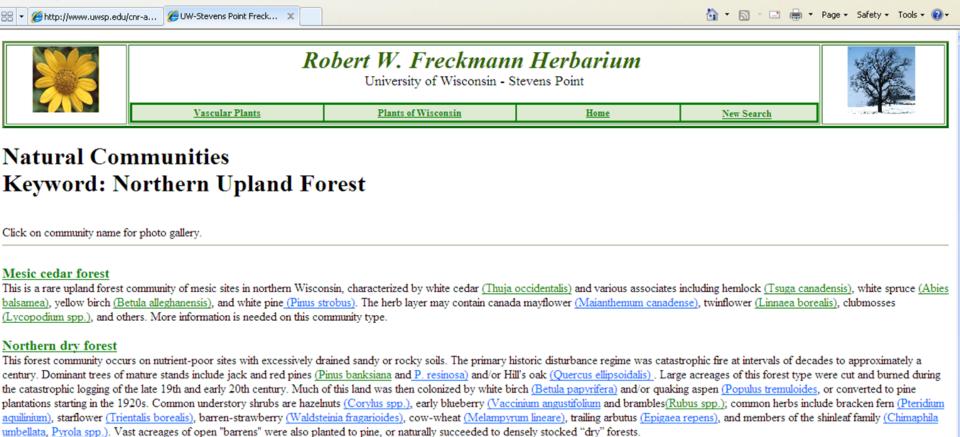












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### Northern dry-mesic forest

UW-Stevens Point Freckmann Herbarium: Natural Communities - Windows Internet Explorer

http://wisplants.uwsp.edu/scripts/searchnatcomb.asp?natcom=Northern Upland Forest

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help Favorites | 👍 🔣 Congressional edition - Unit...

understory shrubs are hazelnuts (Corylus spp.), blueberries (Vaccinium angustifolium and V. myrtilloides), wintergreen (Gaultheria procumbens), partridge-berry (Mitchella repens); among the dominant herbs are wild sarsaparilla (Aralia nudicaulis), Canada mayflower (Maianthemum canadense), and cow-wheat (Melampyrum lineare). Stands usually occur on sandy loams, sands or sometimes rocky soils.

In this forest community, mature stands are dominated by white and red pines (Pinus strobus and P. resinosa), sometimes mixed with red oak (Quercus rubra) and red maple (Acer rubrum). Common

### Northern mesic forest

This forest complex covered the largest acreage of any Wisconsin vegetation type prior to European settlement. Sugar maple (Acer saccharum) is dominant or co-dominant in most stands, while hemlock (Tsuga canadensis) was the second most important species, sometimes occurring in nearly pure stands with white pine (Pinus strobus). Beech (Fagus grandifolia) can be a co-dominant with sugar maple in the counties near Lake Michigan. Other important tree species were yellow birch (Betula allegheniensis), basswood (Tilia americana), and white ash (Fraxinus americana). The groundlayer varies from sparse and species poor (especially in hemlock stands) with woodferns (especially Dryopteris intermedia), bluebead lily (Clintonia borealis), clubmosses (Lycopodium spp.), and Canada mayflower (Maianthemum canadense) prevalent, to lush and species-rich with fine spring ephemeral displays. After old-growth stands were cut, trees such as quaking and bigtoothed aspens (Populus tremuloides and P. grandidentata), white birch (Betula papyrifera), and red maple (Acer rubrum) became and still are important in many second-growth Northern Mesic Forests. Several distinct associations within this complex warrant recognition as communities, and draft abstracts of these are currently undergoing review.





University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Plants of Wisconsin Vascular Plants Home New Search



## Natural Communities Keyword: Pine Barrens

Click on community name for photo gallery.

### Central sands pine-oak forest

This forest community is associated with the Central Sands ecoregion on dry to dry-mesic sites with acid sandy soils. The dominants are white and red pines (Pinus strobus and P. resinosa), oaks (Quercus alba, Q. rubra, and Q. velutina), and on dry-mesic sites, red maple (Acer rubrum). The understory is typically depauperate consisting primarily of huckleberry (Gaylussacia baccata), early blueberry (Vaccinium angustifolium), bracken fern (Pteridium aquilinium), wood anemone (Anemone quinquefolia) and Penn sedge (Carex pensylvanica). Jack pine (Pinus banksiana) is sometimes co-dominant on the driest sites (jack pine - black / Hills oak dominated stands maybe split out in the future).

#### Great Lakes barrens

In Wisconsin, this variant of pine savanna is known from only one sandy site on Lake Superior. The dominant trees in this open stand are wind- and fire-deformed trees, red pines (Pinus resinosa) with white pine (P. strobus) also present. The understory consists of dense growths of lichens with scattered thickets of common juniper (Juniperus communis), early blueberry (Vaccinium angustifolium) and huckleberry (Gaylussacia baccata). Other common plants are hairgrass (Deschampsia flexuosa), ticklegrass (Agrostis hyemalis), false-heather (Hudsonia tomentosa), and bearberry (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi).

### Pine barrens

This savanna community is characterized by scattered jack pines (Pinus banksiana), or less commonly red pines (P. resinosa), sometimes mixed with scrubby Hill's and bur oaks (Quercus ellipsoidalis and Q. macrocarpa), interspersed with openings in which shrubs such as hazelnuts, (Corylus spp.) and prairie willow (Salix humilis) and herbs dominate. The flora often contains species characteristic of "heaths" such as blueberries (Vaccinium angustifolium and V. myrtilloides), bearberry (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi), American hazelnut (Corylus americana), sweet fern (Comptonia peregrina), and sand cherry (Prunus pensylvanica). Also present are dry sand prairie species such as june grass (Koeleria macrantha), little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium), silky and sky-blue asters (Aster sericeus and A. azureus), hupine (Lupinus perennis), blazing-stars (Liatris asper and L. cylindracea), and western sunflower (Helianthus occidentalis). Pines may be infrequent, even absent, in some stands in northern Wisconsin and elsewhere because of past logging, altered fire regimes, and an absence of seed source.

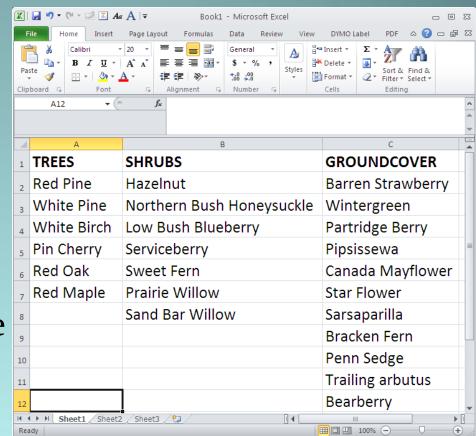
### Offsite resources:

Virginia Kline's collection of the Vegetation of Wisconsin Michigan Natural Features Inventory Community descriptions

<u>Vascular Plants</u>	Plants of Wisconsin	Home	New Search

# **Species Lists**

- Include Latin Names
- Divide Sp. Into Areas
  - Ie: Bank/Upland/ etc
- Discuss w/Stakeholders
- Do these plants meet the needs of the project?



# **Involve Stakeholders**

- Discuss plant choices with plan designer, contractor, and property owners Before Purchasing...
  - Did the contractor plan on bringing in different soil that changes the appropriateness of selected plant species?
  - Is the property owner allergic to.....Sweet Fern & Red Pine?
  - Do these species reflect the overarching goal of the plan?
  - Are additional species needed for:
    - Erosion Control?
    - Wildlife Habitat?
    - Aesthetic Appeal?

# Substitutions: Balancing Natural Communities with Site Specific Concerns

- Sometimes site conditions dictate a need for additional species not found in the natural community.
- Bioengineering Projects
- Wildlife HabitatEnhancements
- Disturbed Sites
- Property Owner Needs



# **Discussion Topics:**

- Restoration Vs. Revegetation
  - Are we truly restoring shorelines?
  - Setting the stage...Time expectations
- Native vs. "Native"
  - Regional Genotypes...Not all plants are created equal!
  - Importance of Sourcing Local Plant Materials
  - Northern Nurseries: Ontario vs. Texas
- Prairie Plants in the Northwoods?
  - Ecological Appropriateness
  - Site Specific Exceptions
  - Philosophical Debates...
- Appeasing Landowners
  - Managing Expectations
  - Education

# Questions?