

WETLAND GEMS



BLUE SWAMP WETLAND TYPES

Coniferous bog example — Andrew Galvin

Coniferous bog, open bog, sedge meadow, alder thicket

CLARK COUNTY



### ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

The Blue Swamp features 560 acres of high quality wetlands on Clark County property that serve as headwater areas for small tributaries in the Eau Claire River basin. The swamp drains north into a tributary of the North Fork of the Eau Claire River as well as south into the South Fork of the Eau Claire River. This Wetland Gem is largely an acid peatland featuring excellent coniferous bog, open bog and northern sedge meadow habitats. These headwater wetlands are important not just because they are high quality examples of various wetland community types, but also because they contribute to the health of the biologically diverse Eau Claire River system.

plants common at the site include three-seeded sedge, muck sedge, false mayflower and tussock cottongrass.

High quality habitats at this Wetland Gem support a diversity of animal species, including at least one globally rare invertebrate. Noteworthy bird species include sedge wren, northern harrier and sandhill crane.

### THREATS

This remote site receives little use and is relatively well protected. Small areas of agriculture adjacent to county forest lands property may cause impacts. Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees.

### ACCESS

Visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: [dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna).

### FLORA & FAUNA

Coniferous bog of tamarack and black spruce dominates the eastern part of the site with an alder thicket around the upland margin. Shrub species include speckled alder, black chokeberry, Labrador tea, huckleberry, mountain holly, small cranberry, velvet-leaf blueberry and creeping snowberry. West of the bog is a brushy sedge meadow dominated by various sedges and bog birch. Plant species include beaked sedge, woollyfruit sedge, few-seeded sedge, bluejoint grass, leatherleaf, marsh fern, steplebush and harlequin blueflag iris. Other wetland



Northern spring peeper — Allen Blake Sheldon



Harlequin blueflag iris — Kate Redmond

# BLUE SWAMP

Property Owner: Clark County  
Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area, WI Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site, The Nature Conservancy Priority Conservation Area

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### Sources:

Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)  
Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)  
The Prairie-Forest Border: An Ecoregional Plan (TNC)