

NORTH  
CENTRAL - 3

WETLAND GEMS



LANGLADE COUNTY



# BOGUS SWAMP

Property Owner: Langlade County  
Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area,  
WI Land Legacy Place, WI Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site

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**Wisconsin  
Wetlands**  
ASSOCIATION

[wisconsinwetlands.org](http://wisconsinwetlands.org)



## BOGUS SWAMP WETLAND TYPES

Thomas Meyer

Open bog, coniferous bog, alder thicket, patterned peatland

## ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Bogus Swamp's name is just that, bogus – this wetland complex includes a variety of northern wetland types, but much of the area is open wetlands rather than swamp. More than 850 acres of wetlands at this site form and feed the headwaters of both forks of the Eau Claire River, which are productive trout streams. The site features a patterned peatland (described below), one of only two strong examples of this rare wetland type in Wisconsin. These diverse, high quality wetlands support a number of rare plants, butterflies and birds.

## FLORA & FAUNA

This Wetland Gem is characterized largely by open and coniferous bog habitat with stunted, scattered black spruce and tamarack trees. The understory includes bog shrubs like leatherleaf and bog birch and a variety of sedges over a groundlayer of sphagnum moss. The northernmost part of the site features a mineral-rich, intermittent stream with a unique assemblage of wetland plants. Further south is an unusual patterned peatland habitat created by mineral-rich water flowing in linear, open-water swatches called “flarks.” “Strings,” or narrow zones of vegetation on peat ridges, alternate with flarks.



Bog laurel — David Schwaegler

Strings are characterized by a mat of sphagnum moss with tamarack, bog laurel and bog birch growing in high areas. The site supports a number of rare plants including livid sedge, hair-like sedge, northern bog sedge, and sparse-flowered sedge.

This diverse wetland complex supports a varied assemblage of bird species including some birds at the southern limits of their breeding range such as the palm warbler and Lincoln's sparrow. Rare birds using these wetlands include northern harrier and American bittern.

## THREATS

Increasing recreational use of the several lakes around Bogus Swamp may affect sensitive resources at the site. Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees.

## ACCESS

This site is an excellent site for birdwatchers. For access details, visit the State Natural Areas Program website: [dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna).



Northern harrier — Scott Franke

## Sources:

Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)  
Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WDNR)  
Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)