



QUINCY BLUFF & SOHLBERG LAKE

Property Owner: The Nature Conservancy, WDNR
 Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area, WI Land Legacy Place, The Nature Conservancy Priority Conservation Area, WI Bird Conservation Initiative Important Bird Area

Funding for this project provided by The McKnight Foundation, which seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations through grantmaking, coalition-building and encouragement of strategic policy reform.



**Wisconsin
Wetlands**
ASSOCIATION

wisconsinwetlands.org



QUINCY BLUFF & SOHLBERG LAKE WETLAND TYPES

Harold E. Malde

Sedge meadow, shrub carr, coniferous swamp, coniferous bog, open bog, marsh

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

This large Wetland Gem (>5000 acres) comprises two State Natural Areas, Quincy Bluff and Wetlands and Sohlberg Silver Lake, located in the bed of the extinct Glacial Lake Wisconsin. Quincy Bluff and Wetlands features a high quality, diverse wetland complex of sedge meadow, coniferous bog, coniferous swamp and shrub carr surrounded by unique upland communities and features. Spectacular views of this wetland complex are provided by Quincy Bluff, running two miles in length and rising 200 feet above the valley, and Lone Rock, a sandstone mesa with one hundred-foot cliffs. Sohlberg Lake, adjacent to Quincy Bluff and Wetlands to the northwest, is a small seepage lake surrounded by marsh, open bog and coniferous swamp habitats. This Wetland Gem provides one of the best examples of presettlement vegetation in the region, and due to its size and landscape diversity, the site provides habitat for a tremendous diversity of species, including numerous rare plants and animals.

FLORA & FAUNA

Because of its location in Wisconsin's vegetation tension zone, the site includes examples of both northern and southern plant communities. Shrub carr and sedge

meadows with some beaver ponds characterize the eastern portion of the site. The southern portion of the site consists of sedge meadow habitat, which grades into shrub carr and coniferous swamp of tamaracks and red maple moving to the north. Further north, Sohlberg Lake, with clear alkaline waters, is encircled by sandy, muck shores with an open character that is maintained by widely fluctuating water levels. Several rare plants grow on these mud flats, including cross milkwort, Virginia meadow beauty and reticulated nutrush. Other uncommon plants include autumn sedge, golden-pert, beak rushes, lowland rotala and yellow-eyed grass. Surrounding the mud flats are open bog habitats characterized by sphagnum moss, cottongrass and leatherleaf and coniferous swamp with tamarack, huckleberry and lowbush blueberry.

These high quality, diverse wetlands support a wide variety of wildlife. Sandhill cranes and northern harriers use the open wetland areas. Many migratory birds, especially sandpipers and other shorebirds, forage along Sohlberg Lake's shoreline and exposed mudflats. The site supports a number of rare insects, including boghaunter dragonfly, ebony boghaunter dragonfly, warpaint emerald dragonfly, and the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly.



Least sandpiper — Dennis Malueg

THREATS

Shrubs are encroaching on open areas; controlled burns are necessary to maintain sedge meadow habitat. Deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees. Invasive species are also of concern.

ACCESS

Visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna.

Sources:

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