

REFERENCE BOOKS FOR WISCONSIN

by Laurie Yahr, Wild Ones–Madison Chapter. December 2008.

Wild Ones promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.

www.for-wild.org

Landscape Interventions

- Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds.* Mariette Nowak. 2007. Itchy Cat Press. This is a great resource including lots of charts of specific plants for woodlands, savannahs, prairies, wetlands and ponds and including special suggestions for rain gardens and hummingbird gardens. It is also loaded with beautiful photos including plenty of established native plantings around homes. There are interesting sidebars, simplified design plans, animal food source lists, and references. (Some of the plant names have been revised since publication.)
- Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality.* Carrol L. Henderson, Carolyn J. Dindorf, and Fred J. Roumlski. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Lovely color photographs, drawings and species lists for shoreline restoration. (www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/pubs_restoration.html)
- Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control.* Elizabeth J. Czarapata. 2005. University of Wisconsin Press. Drawings, photos, and descriptions of common invasives and control methods.
- Wisconsin Manual of Control Recommendations for Ecologically Invasive Plants.* Randy Hoffman and Kelly Kearns, editors, 1997. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources. Line drawings of 20 exotics and 10 native translocated or opportunistic species with recommended control methods, and a checklist of potentially invasive exotic trees, shrubs, vines, forbs, grasses and aquatics plus several other natives to keep an eye on. (www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/manual_toc.htm)

Plant Identification

- www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora. UW–Madison Dept of Botany and Wisconsin State Herbarium. Lists native plant species and variants of Wisconsin, identifying those of special concern, threatened, endangered as well as introduced; noting also spreading, adventive and invasive exotics and natives. Has an interactive map and historical (voucher) information.
- www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/herbarium UW–Green Bay Coffrin Center for Biodiversity. Systematically shows bark, leaves, flowers, fruits, and plant.
- wisplants.uwsp.edu/VascularPlants.html UW–Stevens Point Freckmann Herbarium: Vascular Plants; includes wildflowers, trees shrubs, vines, aquatics, ferns/allies, grass, sedge, rush, and Keys to Composites (Asteraceae) and gymnosperms, ferns and fern allies.
- Fern Finder, a guide to native ferns of northeastern and central North America.* Anne C. Hallowell and Barbara G. Hallowell. 1981. Nature Study Guild, Berkley Ca. A tiny format (only 4" x 5.5") including maps and drawings.
- A Field Guide to Wildflowers of Northeastern and Northcentral North America.* Roger Tory Peterson, and Margaret McKenny. Houghton Mifflin Company. 420 pages.
- A Guide to Wildflowers in Winter.* Carol Levine. 1995. Yale University Press. Black and white photos of basil rosettes and drawings of seeds, seed heads, seed pods, capsules, achenes, etc. for 391 species of herbaceous plants including some grasses, sedges and ferns.
- Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual.* Noel H. Holmgren. 1998. New York Botanical Garden. 937 pages. With approximately 5 drawings per page this book provides representation of approximately 4135 species with no text.
- Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada.* Henry A. Gleason and Arthur Cronquist 1991, Second Edition. New York Botanical Garden. 910+ pages. This is a technical key, with no photos or drawings.
- Newcomb's Wildflower Guide.* Lawrence Newcomb. 1987. Little, Brown and Company. This is an innovative key that uses 5 questions about flower type, growth type and leaf type, so that by a quick count of visible characteristics you are quickly directed to the most likely candidates.
- North Woods Wildflowers.* Doug Ladd. 2001. 271 pages. A Falcon photo field guide to wild flowers of Northeastern US and southeastern Canada.
- Northland Wildflowers: The Comprehensive Guide to the Minnesota Region,* John B Moyle and Evelyn W Moyle. 1997. University of Minnesota Press.
- Prairie Plants of the University of Wisconsin–Madison Arboretum.* Theodore S. Cochrane, Kandis Elliot, Claudia S. Lipke. 2006. University of Wisconsin Press. Very fine photos and descriptions of mainly prairie forbes including range and habitat information and some historic perspective on one of the oldest restored prairies.

Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region. Frederick W. Case Jr. 1987, revised 1997. Cranbrook Institute of Science Bulletin 48.

Spring Flora Of Wisconsin. Norman C. Fassett, 4th revision. 1978. 413 pages.

Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers. Doug Ladd and Frank Oberle. 1995. 263 pages. A Falcon photo field guide to wild flowers of tall grass prairies.

Wildflowers and Weeds. Booth Courtney and James H. Zimmerman. 1978. A Fireside Book, Simon and Schuster.

Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest, Merel R. Black, Emmet J. Judziewicz. 2007. Cornerstone Press. It's as if you're carrying around the Freckmann Herbarium website in your hand. In this 271 page book, they have managed to pack more than 2100 plant photos, 300 drawings and 1087 species descriptions! Naturally, some of the images are quite small. Each plant includes common and scientific names, status (whether it is native or introduced, threatened, endangered or of special concern) and for natives, the number for the WDNR coefficient of conservatism. The arrangement of the book is a sort of key, beginning with flowers with 3 or 6 parts, followed by those with 4 (or 2) parts, 5 united parts, 5 separate parts, 7 or more parts (asters fall in this spot) and last: tiny parts. A few plants with special characteristics such as floating aquatics, vines and some with milky juice, are also included. In each section, plants are shown in family groups. Larger families begin with a description followed by a simplified key with thumbnail photos. My rating of any identification book always begins with the number of native orchid species covered and this book has 47!

Fascinating fungi of the North Woods, Cora Mollen and Larry Weber, Service Printers, 2007.

Mushrooms of Northeast North America Midwest to New England. George Barron, Lone Pine Publishing, 1999.

Animal and Insect Identification

Amphibians of Wisconsin. Bebecca Christoffel, Robert Hay and Michelle Wolfram. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources. 2001. Small format with 44 pages of 19 frogs, toads, newts, salamanders, and mudpuppies of the state.

Caterpillars of Eastern North America, David L. Wagner. 2005. Princeton University Press.

Color Guide to Common Dragonflies of Wisconsin. Karl and Dorothy Legler, and Dave Westover. Revised 2007. Self produced, Sauk City, WI. If you haven't looked closely at some of the 107 flying jewels we have in Wisconsin, you don't know what you are missing. Close focusing binoculars recommended. (Karl Legler, 429 Franklin St., Sauk City, WI 53583, <http://userpages.its.com/karlndot/>)

North Woods Naturalist Series. Kollath and Stensaas Publishing

Amphibians & Reptiles of the North Woods, Allen Blake Sheldon, 2006

Butterflies of the North Woods, Larry Weber, 2001

Damselflies of the North Woods, Bob DuBois, 2005

Lichens of the North Woods, Joe Walewski, 2007

Spiders of the North Woods, Larry Weber, 2002

Peterson First Guide to Caterpillars. Amy Bartlett Wright. 1993. Houghton Mifflin Company. 120 common and conspicuous caterpillars and the butterflies and moths they become.

Snakes of Wisconsin. Bebecca Christoffel, Robert Hay, and Lisa Ramirez. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources. 2000. Small format, 32 pages, photos and maps of the 20 snakes in the state. (www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/herps/snakes/)

Wisconsin Frogs: Places to Hear Frogs and Toads Near Our Urban Areas. Randy M. Korb 2001. Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society. Includes a CD of Wisconsin frog and toad calls, color photos and maps, plus 11 recommended parks or nature areas. (Randy Korb, PO Box 1963, Green Bay, WI 54305, randykorb@hotmail.com)

www.wisconsinbutterflies.org for butterflies, damselflies, dragonflies and tiger beetles.

Ecology

Wisconsin's Natural Communities: How to Recognize Them, Where to Find Them. Randy Hoffman, 2002. University of Wisconsin Press. 375 pages. Thirty-five plant community descriptions including distribution maps and lists of special and uncommon species of plants (including, mosses and lichens and mushrooms) and animals (including reptiles and amphibians, mollusks and snails, birds, mammals, insects, spiders, and invertebrates and fish when applicable).

Philosophy of Wild Ones

Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of our Own Backyard. Sara Stein. 1995. Houghton Mifflin Co.

Planting Noah's Garden: Further Adventures in Backyard Ecology. Sara Stein. 1997. Houghton Mifflin Co.

With special thanks to John T. Curtis who started it all: *The Vegetation of Wisconsin.* 1959. University of Wisconsin Press.