

# Preliminary Checklist of the Plants of the Big Woods Natural Area (St. Cloud, MN)



by

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The Big Woods Natural Area is a 20-acre parcel of land located adjacent to Oak Hill Community School, St. Cloud (Co Rd 136). This parcel is located at N124 (township), W28 (range), and 22 (section).

For many years this parcel was owned by the Bartholemey/O’Gorman family. In the late 1990’s Mr. E. Schnettler and the City of St. Cloud entered into an agreement to purchase this property. The city would own the western 10-acre portion, adjacent to Oak Hill School and Mr. Schnettler would develop the eastern 10-acre portion as an addition to the Tiffany developments. Mr. Schnettler submitted a plat to the City of St. Cloud and it was reviewed by an Environmental and Development Team (EDT) as a the first test case of the St. Cloud Environmentally Sensitive Areas Ordinance. This review occurred in fall of 1998. The team involved in the planning of this stage included Patti Gartland, Stephen Saupe, Fred Bengtson (MN DNR), Jerry Hengel, Steve Gaetz, Prentiss Foster, Dennis Ludvig, and Ed Schnettler. The EDT team made several recommendations concerning the plat including establishing buffer areas that would be kept natural, narrowing the street width, eliminating easements by rear property lines and including a proposed buffer zone. As a result of this review, the special significance of this property as a high quality natural area within the city was recognized and the need to preserve the entire 20 acre piece was decided. Mr. Schnettler agreed that he would be willing to sell his interest in the 10-acre piece for his purchase price (plus the

expenses he had accrued until that point). This was approved by the City Council.

A committee of local citizens was established, Save the Big Woods that helped raise funds for the purchase of the property. The group raised enough funds to purchase the piece for a natural area. The City formally purchased the property and it was dedicated in a ceremony held on the Oak Hill School grounds in May 1999.

This report is intended to serve as the beginning of a checklist of the species that are growing in the site without cultivation. These plants were observed on site visits during the past several years. Most species are recorded by sight only. For a few, herbarium records have been deposited in the CSB|SJU Bailey Herbarium.

The following plants, with the exception of *Galearis spectabilis*, were observed growing in October 2000 (Table 1). Undoubtedly more species will be found. This is a beginning and expect future updates.



**BAILEY  
HERBARIUM**

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**Table 1: Checklist of Plants growing without cultivation in the Big Woods Natural Area, St. Cloud, MN. Names not updated for recent nomenclatural changes.**

Family (Technical Name)	Family (Common Name)	Scientific Name	Common Name	Reference <sup>1</sup>
Aceraceae	Maple family	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple	
Aceraceae	Maple family	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar maple	
Aceraceae	Maple family	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box elder	
Anacardiaceae	Cashew Family	<i>Rhus radicans</i>	Poison ivy	
Anacardiaceae	Cashew Family	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth sumac	
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	<i>Osmorhiza claytonii</i>	Sweet Cicely	
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Sunflower Family	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Sunflower Family	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Common ragweed	
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Sunflower Family	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly everlasting	
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Sunflower Family	<i>Arctium minus</i>	Burdock	
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Sunflower Family	<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	Prairie sage	
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Sunflower Family	<i>Aster sp.</i>		
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Sunflower Family	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Sunflower Family	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	snakeroot	
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Sunflower Family	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Sunflower Family	<i>Solidago sp</i>	Goldenrod	
Betulaceae	Birch Family	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	White or paper birch	
Betulaceae	Birch Family	<i>Corylus americana</i>	American hazelnut	
Betulaceae	Birch Family	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Ironwood, Hop hornbeam	
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	<i>Hackelia sp</i>		
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>	Puccoon	
Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Mustard Family	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	Hoary alyssum	
Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Mustard Family	<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	Peppergrass	
Caprifoliaceae	Mustard Family	<i>Lonicera sp</i>	Honeysuckle	
Caprifoliaceae	Mustard Family	<i>Sambucus pubens</i>	Red elder	
Caprifoliaceae	Mustard Family	<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>	Downy arrow-wood	
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	<i>Silene antirrhinum</i>	Sleepy Catchfly	
Celastraceae	Staff-Tree Family	<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	Bittersweet	
Cistaceae	Rock Rose family	<i>Lechea sp.</i>		

Cupressaceae	Cypress Family	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern red cedar	
Equisetaceae	Horsetail family	<i>Equisetum</i> sp	Horsetail, Scouring rush	
Fabaceae	Bean or Pulse Family	<i>Amphicarpaea bracteata</i>	Hog-peanut	
Fabaceae	Bean or Pulse Family	<i>Desmodium</i> sp	Tick trefoil	
Fabaceae	Bean or Pulse Family	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	Bush clover	
Fabaceae	Bean or Pulse Family	<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White sweet clover	
Fabaceae	Bean or Pulse Family	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow sweet clover	
Fagaceae	Beech Family	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak	
Fagaceae	Beech Family	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur oak	
Fagaceae	Beech Family	<i>Quercus rubra</i> (= <i>Q. borealis</i> )	Northern red oak	
Fagaceae	Beech Family	<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>	Northern pin oak	
Grossulariaceae	Gooseberry Family	<i>Ribes</i> sp.	Currants and gooseberries	
Lamiaceae (Labiatae)	Mint Family	<i>Hedeoma hispida</i>	Rough pennyroyal	
Lamiaceae (Labiatae)	Mint Family	<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	Motherwort	
Lamiaceae (Labiatae)	Mint Family	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Catnip	
Liliaceae	Lily Family	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Wild lily of the valley, Canada mayflower	
Oleaceae	Olive family	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green ash	
Onagraceae	Evening Primrose family	<i>Circaeae lutetiana</i>	Common enchanter's nightshade	
Orchidaceae	Orchid family	<i>Galearis spectabilis</i>	Showy orchis	Saupe, June 1998
Oxalidaceae	Sorrel Family	<i>Oxalis</i> sp	Wood sorrel	
Pinaceae	Pine family	<i>Abies fraseri</i>	Frasier fir	
Pinaceae	Pine family	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Ponderosa pine	
Pinaceae	Pine family	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White pine	
Poaceae	Grass Family	<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth brome	
Poaceae	Grass Family	<i>Panicum</i> sp	Switch grass	
Poaceae	Grass Family	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky bluegrass	
Poaceae	Grass Family	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	
Poaceae	Grass Family	<i>Setaria</i> sp	Foxtail	
Poaceae	Grass Family	<i>Stipa viridule</i>	Needle grass	
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	<i>Plantago patagonica</i>		
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup or Crowfoot Family	<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	Thimbleweed	
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn	
Rosaceae	Rose Family	<i>Fragaria</i> sp	Wild strawberry	
Rosaceae	Rose Family	<i>Geum</i> sp		

Rosaceae	Rose Family	<i>Rubus</i> sp	Blackberry, raspberry	
Rosaceae	Rose Family	<i>Rosa</i> sp	Rose	
Rosaceae	Rose Family	<i>Prunus virginiana.</i>	Chokecherry	
Rubiaceae	Coffee Family	<i>Galium</i> sp	Bedstraw	
Rutaceae	Rue Family	<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	Prickly ash	
Salicaceae	Willow Family	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking aspen	
Salicaceae	Willow Family	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	Balsam popular	
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family	<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	Alumroot	
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Butter 'n eggs	
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	<i>Scrophularia lanceolata</i>	Figwort	
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Mullein	
Smilacaceae	Smilax family	<i>Smilax herbacea</i>	Green briar	
Ulmaceae	Elm Family	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	
Ulmaceae	Elm Family	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm	
Ulmaceae		<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Chinese elm	
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	
Vitaceae	Grape Family	<i>Vitis riparia</i>	River grape	