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

by

Stephen G. Saupe
Biology Department
College of St. Benedict/St. John's University
Collegeville, MN 56321

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 Bartholemy/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 Gartlan, 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family (Technical Name)</th>
<th>Family (Common Name)</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Reference¹</th>
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