

Hidden Treasures

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Private Residence Lake County



Where Did This Start?

- Tax write-off through Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) of IDNR
- Renewed in 2020
- Woody removal only
- Discussions with property owners
 - Conceptual ecological topics
 - Methods of comparable land management entities (thinning out)
 - Rarity of habitat



Observation of Threatened and Endangered Species

- Began to observe state T&E's during field visits with clients
- Discussions of a more comprehensive plant assessment
- Developed Monitoring report midway through 2022
 - Past optimal early season ID (sedges, ephemerals)
 - Did verify other T&E's



Began Discussions with Lake County Forest Preserve District

Ken Klick of LCFPD joined a 2023 monitoring visit to verify rare observations

- Brome-like Sedge: *Carex bromoides*
- Pale Vetchling: *Lathyrus ochroleucus*
- Handsome Sedge: *Carex formosa*
- Leafcup: *Polymnia canadensis*
- Some species remained unidentified due to time constraints and variability in timing of distinguishable features
- Additional botanists would be necessary



Create A Super-team!

- Coordination with Chicago Botanic Gardens and professional regional botanists (Matt Evans, Mark Kluge, Ken Klick, Pati Vitt, multiple ILM staff and more) for a May 2024 visit.
- IDNR assessed the site in June of the same year.



Create A Super-team!

- Multiple species were confirmed
 - 4 total populations of Handsome Sedge
 - 1st observed and recorded population of Leafcup in Lake County
 - More than 300 Brome-like Sedge specimen
 - Approximately 10 Pale Vetchling specimen



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Create A Super-team!

- Discussions onsite of enhanced restoration strategies
- Post-mortem easement
- INAI application
 - If accepted, more revenue from original taxes would be allocated to comprehensive management strategies
- What will we find in 2025?



Thank you

For Hanging Out!



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