

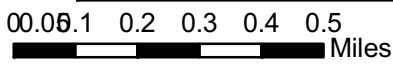
# Hemlock Draw

- Preserve boundary
- Parking
- Hemlock Trail - 1 mile
- Buck Fever Trail - 0.5 miles
- River / Stream
- Stream crossing
- Highway
- Local road

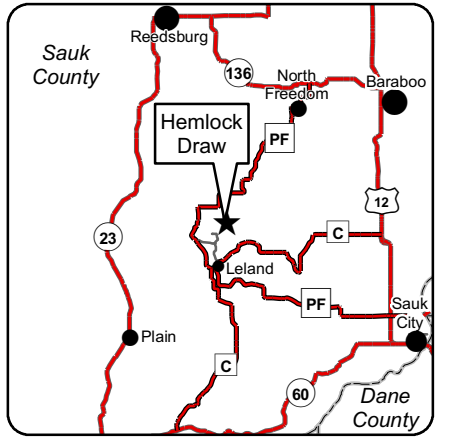
Directions: Take US Hwy 12 northwest of Sauk City for 2.5 miles to the intersection with Cty Hwy PF. Turn left on PF; travel west for 12 miles to Cty Hwy C. Turn right (NE) on C and proceed into Leland (0.25 miles). Once in Leland, turn left (north) on Hemlock Rd and go 2 miles to Reich Dr. Travel straight (north) on Reich Dr for approximately 0.5 miles to reach the preserve gate.

\* Parking: Please do not block Reich Dr - local farmers use it to move large equipment. Please park on the shoulder south of the mailbox.

\* North Entrance: It is possible to enter Hemlock Draw from Buckfever Rd at the north end of the preserve. However, Buckfever Rd is very rough and steep. We strongly recommend parking on the shoulder of Schara Rd and walking in.



June 23, 2009



# Hemlock Draw

Where North Meets South

## What is a Draw?

A draw or hollow refers to a valley or long narrow gorge between two clefts of rock.

## Why You Should Visit

Of all the hollows in the Baraboo Hills, Hemlock Draw supports the most stunning contrast in vegetation. You can see plant and bird species typically found in the northern forested areas of the state growing close to those typically found in southern Wisconsin forests.

These northern woodland species, such as hemlock and yellow birch, may be relics from the time, some 13,000 years ago, when the edge of a towering ice mass stood just a few miles to the east.

Another interesting aspect of Hemlock Draw is its geology. Formations of sedimentary rock exposed within the preserve furnish evidence that the Baraboo Hills were a chain of sea islands some 500 million years ago. The sandstone deposits formed during this era lay above the much older Baraboo quartzite, which is revealed in one of the finest geologic features of the preserve, a narrow pillar of rock called a "sea stack." The sea stack is a reminder of the time when tempestuous storms stirred an ancient island sea, eroding the quartzite bedrock and creating formations like those now found along rocky coastlines on the edges of this continent.

## Hours and Conditions

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Please wear good hiking shoes that can get wet for the primitive, unmarked trail that crosses a creek.

## What to See: Plants

Many northern forest trees and plants, including hemlock, yellow birch, club mosses, liverworts and cliff saxifrage; southern trees and plants, including red and white oaks, hickories, and sugar maples; wildflowers, including wild geranium, wood anemone, bloodroot, and trillium; several rare plants, including drooping sedge and kidney-leaved sullivania. In the hollows, one can find older growth sugar maple and red oak.

## What to See: Birds

One can find common breeding birds, including barred owls, ruffed grouse, wood thrush, woodpeckers and black-capped chickadee. Many bird watchers journey to this site because the diverse landscape of forests provides habitat for birds not usually found in southern Wisconsin, including, in some years, the rare worm-eating, hooded and Kentucky warblers, Louisiana waterthrush and Acadian flycatcher.

## What the Conservancy Has Done/Is Doing

An active group of volunteers helps the Conservancy to maintain trails, plant oak trees in former agricultural fields on the north side of the preserve, and remove non-native, invasive plants.

The Conservancy conducted a research project here that tested various forest management techniques to determine the most effective way to maintain the oak forest community. This study's early results showed that white oaks and flowers that need sunlight are slowly disappearing. Without fire or timber harvest activities much of the forest becomes dominated by maples and other shade-tolerant species.