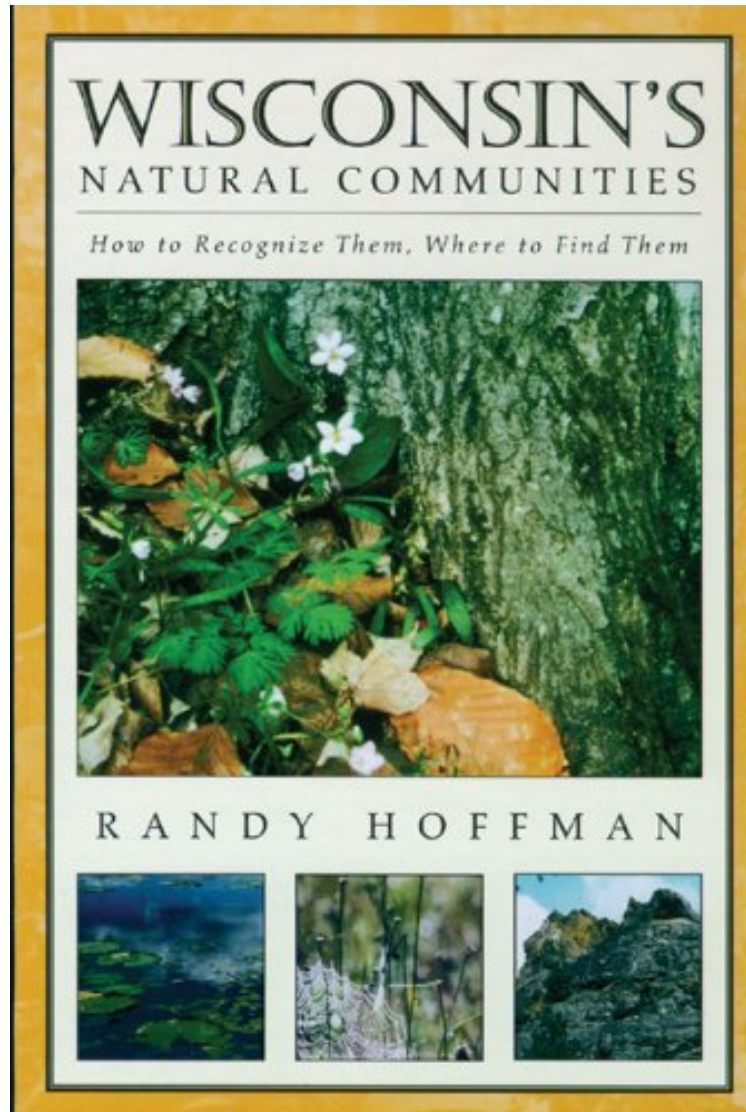


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Wisconsin's Natural Communities: How to Recognize Them, Where to Find Them

Randy Hoffman

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Cattails grow in a marsh, pitcher plants grow in a bog, jewelweed grows in a swamp, right? Do sandhill cranes live among sandy hills? Frogs live near lakes and ponds, but can they live on prairies, too? What is a pine barrens, an oak opening, a calcareous fen? Wisconsin's Natural Communities is an invitation to discover, explore, and understand Wisconsin's richly varied natural environment, from your backyard or neighborhood park to stunning public preserves. Part 1 of the book explains thirty-three distinct types of natural communities in Wisconsin, their characteristic trees, beetles, fish, lichens, butterflies, reptiles, mammals, wildflowers and the effects of geology, climate, and historical events on these habitats. Part 2 describes and maps fifty natural areas on public lands that are outstanding examples of these many different natural communities: Crex Meadows, Horicon Marsh, Black River Forest, Maribel Caves, Whitefish Dunes, the Blue Hills, Avoca Prairie, the Moquah Barrens and Chequamegon Bay, the Ridges Sanctuary, Cadiz Springs, Devils Lake, and many others. Intended for anyone who has a love for the natural world, this book is also an excellent introduction for students. And, it provides landowners, public officials, and other stewards of our environment with the knowledge to recognize natural communities and manage them for future generations.

About the Author Randy Hoffman is a natural-areas management specialist with the Bureau of Endangered Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. A past president of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, he was the first person in Wisconsin to record sightings of more than 300 species of birds in one calendar year. He lives in Waunakee.