

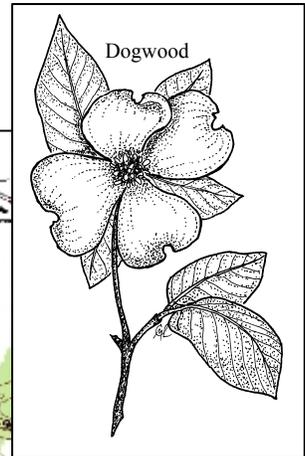
Mongoquinong Nature Preserve

County: LaGrange Size: 65 acres
Ownership: Fish and Wildlife - IDNR



Location and Access

Parking. No trail. Visitors should use caution as hunting is allowed in season; this preserve is within Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area. From the main intersection in Mongo go west about 1.5 miles to CR 600E and turn north. Park in the first designated parking lot on your left, after you cross Pigeon River. The fen lies west of the road and north from the river to the steep bluff.



Description: A fen differs from other wetland communities in that it is kept wet by flowing alkaline groundwater. In this fen, water percolates down through calcium-rich gravel and seeps out of the bluff. It flows through the peaty soil and into the Pigeon River. Most fen plants are herbaceous rather than woody. The dominant plant in this fen is the sedge *Carex stricta*, which grows in clumps or tussocks. Many wildflowers add color to the fen including marsh marigolds in spring, blazing stars in late summer, and gentians in fall. A few woody plants, such as the shrubby cinquefoil, are normal parts of a fen community. Others, such as dogwoods, quickly reproduce to form dense clumps which shade out the normal fen plants. Fire plays an important part in keeping fens from becoming too shrubby.

Further Information:

Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area, Box 71, Mongo, IN 46771. (260) 367-2164. www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/
Division of Nature Preserves Northeast Regional Ecologist, Rich Dunbar: rdunbar@dnr.in.gov