

Professional Experience

Dr. Wilhelm's passion for the outdoors is evidenced in every aspect of his professional career. Since 1975, Dr. Wilhelm has become the pre-eminent botanist in his field, conducting floristic inventories and field evaluations of ecosystems throughout North America. This experience has culminated in his co-authoring *Plants of the Chicago Region*, only one of two such works in the world rated as "excellent" by Robert Frodin, author of *A Geographic Guide to the Floras of the World*. Dr. Wilhelm is also noted for his development of the Floristic Quality Assessment methodology, a quantitative technique for determining the natural quality of plant communities. Originally developed for the Chicago region, the methodology has now been adapted for all of Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin, parts of the Dakotas and Indiana, and southern Ontario. Not only a leader in the promotion of a philosophy of environmental sustainability with design professionals, Jerry donates his time to work with volunteer stewards to teach them monitoring methods and data analysis, ecological restoration activities, and plant identification throughout the Midwest.

Conservation Design Forum

Elmhurst, Illinois

1996 - present

As the Director of Environmental Services, Dr. Wilhelm is responsible for the oversight of the environmental staff at CDF and all environmental aspects of CDF projects. His knowledge of native flora and natural systems has been applied to innovative design solutions that involve complex natural resource-based development opportunities. He is also involved in numerous lectures, field seminars, and nature walks. Representative projects include:

DuPage Airport Wetland Mitigation Monitoring

DuPage County, Illinois

Wilson Creek Historic Battlefield Site

Missouri

Mallard Ridge Facility Floristic Monitoring

Delavan, Wisconsin

Argonne National Laboratory Wetland Sampling

Chicago, Illinois

Museums at Prophetstown

Battle Ground, Indiana

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Monitoring Vegetation

Lake County, Porter County, Laporte County, Indiana

The Morton Arboretum

Lisle, Illinois

1974-1996

Education

Southern Illinois University

Ph.D. Botany, 1984. Dissertation: Vascular Plants of the Pensacola Region.

Florida State University

BS, Biology, Minor in Chemistry, 1971

CONSERVATION DESIGN FORUM

Professional Affiliations

Michigan Technical Committee on Endangered and Threatened Species, Member
Illinois Native Plant Society, Member
Natural Areas Association, Member
DuPage County Environmental Commission, Member
Illinois Academy of Science, Member
Indiana Academy of Science, Member
American Bryological and Lichenological Society, Member
Chicago Wilderness Society Team, Chicago Region Biodiversity Initiative, Member
Past Board Member, Society of Ecological Restoration

Current Research

Vascular flora and lichens of the Pensacola, Florida region.

Vascular flora and lichens of the 22- county Chicago region.

Assessment and analysis of natural areas in the context of their relationship to the presettlement scenario and resident human cultures.

The restoration, rehabilitation, maintenance and management of natural landscapes.

The creation of mitigated wetlands and the maintenance and management of natural wetlands.

The revegetation of problem soils and dredged material disposal problems, with emphasis on the changing mobilities of heavy metals in developing rhizospheres.

The vegetation and communities in the Indiana Dunes region.

Infiltration rates of prairies of various ages/types.

Publications (Partial List)

Wilhelm, Master, and Shimp. 2000. The Illinois populations of *Phaeophyscia leana*, one of the world's rarest lichens. *Erigenia* 18:66-74.

Wilhelm. 1998. "The Lichen Flora of Chicago and Vicinity: One Hundred Years of Lichenology." *Erigenia*, no. 16:3:36.

Patchett and Wilhelm. 1997. "The Ecology and Culture of Water." Conservation Design Forum, Elmhurst, IL.

Taft, Wilhelm, Ladd and Masters. 1997. "Floristic Quality Assessment for Vegetation in Illinois." *Erigenia*, no. 15:3-95.

Herman, Masters, Penskar, Reznicek, Wilhelm and Brodowicz. 1997. "Floristic Quality Assessment: Development and Application in the State of Michigan." *Natural Areas Journal*, no. 17:265-279.

Patchett and Wilhelm, 1995. "Designing Sustainable Systems." Proc. 2nd Intl. Green Building Conf. and Expos. Natl. Inst. of Stands. and Tech. Sp. Pub. 888:20-36.

Swink and Wilhelm. 1994. Plants of the Chicago Region. 4th ed. Indiana Academy of Science, Indianapolis, IN.

Wilhelm and Masters. 1994. "Floristic Changes after Five Growing Seasons in Burned and Unburned Woodland." *Erigenia*, no. 13:141-150.

Wilhelm. 1991. "Implications of Changes in Floristic Composition of the Morton Arboretum's East Woods." Proc: Oak Woods Management Workshop, pages 31-54.

CONSERVATION DESIGN FORUM