



# FCNA News

Volume 1, Number 2 Spring 2002

## Friends of the Campus Natural Areas

*Dedicated to the Preservation and Stewardship of our Woodlands, Wetlands, Prairies and Shorelines*

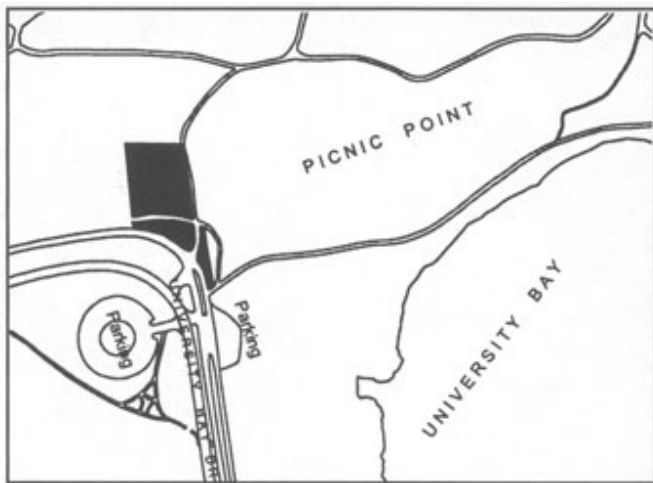
### The Campus Natural Areas Need Volunteers in 2002

by Glenda Denniston

Would you like to make a real difference in the Campus Natural Areas while enjoying the satisfaction of hard work with congenial people? Beginning in April, the FCNA will have regular work parties, both on Saturday mornings and midweek afternoons (see box).

#### FCNA Entrance Project

The FCNA has obtained CNAC approval for the first year of an exciting new project. This involves the enhancement of one of the most heavily used entrances to the CNA, the entrance to Picnic Point and Bill's Woods (see map). Most of this project will involve the restoration of a more than 70 year old deciduous woodland.



Friends of the CNA Entrance Project

The area will remain woodland, but the understory will be changed, gradually and incrementally. We will start by replacing selected invasive European buckthorn with native shrubs, understory trees, woodland wildflowers and ferns. We will keep the

structure of the woods intact, replacing invasives as soon as possible after their removal.

The FCNA welcomes donations for plants. Write checks to FCNA, put Entrance Project in memo line, and mail to PO Box 55056/ Madison, WI 53705.

#### Invasive Plant Control

Beginning in early May, some of the work parties will pull and bag the invasive garlic mustard plants which threaten the diversity of our woodlands. This is satisfying work with a visible reward.

#### Upper Bill's Woods Planting Project

Beginning in April, volunteers will continue to work in the northwestern corner of Bill's Woods, reclaiming the former compost pile area (see FCNA Web Site and *FCNA News*, Vol. 1, No.1).

#### Plant and Animal Inventories

The FCNA plans to begin a permanent database of mammals, reptiles and amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies, and other insects seen in the CNA, to complement our bird database. We also intend to maintain a list of plants and mushrooms of the CNA, area by area, and to keep phenological records (flowering dates and dates of occurrence). To help with any of these projects, contact Glenda (see box).

#### Regular FCNA Work Parties Start April 6 at 9:00 A.M.

*Volunteer Work Parties will occur*

**Saturdays 9:00- 11:30 A.M. beginning April 6**

**For weekday evening planting project times and dates call Mary Trewartha (238-8106)**

For specific information, check our Web Site

([www.uwalumni.com/fcna](http://www.uwalumni.com/fcna)) or contact

Glenda at 231-1530 or [cdennist@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:cdennist@facstaff.wisc.edu)

**Friends of the  
Campus Natural Areas**

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Henry Hart Tom Helgeson  
Susan Slapnick William Mann  
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**Friends of the CNA**

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit  
organization

## Field Trips and Workshops

Additional Field Trips (plant, butterfly) will be posted on the  
FCNA Web Site: [www.uwalumni.com/fcna](http://www.uwalumni.com/fcna)

### **Beginning Bird Workshop** (2 parts)

April 25 (Thursday) 7-8 P.M. (Part 1)

Introduction to common birds of the CNA, concentrating on birds  
easily seen in the Gardens, with an introduction to binocular use.  
Please bring binoculars if you have them. Some binoculars will also  
be available to borrow. Leaders: Jill Feldkamp and Roma Lenehan.  
Location: Eagle Heights Community Center

April 27 (Saturday) 9-10 A.M. (Part 2)

Introductory bird walk through the Gardens and adjoining areas.  
Time will be spent looking for common birds and talking about  
identifying field marks. Please bring binoculars if you have them.  
Some binoculars will also be available to borrow. Leaders: Roma  
Lenehan and Jill Feldkamp. Location: Entrance to the Eagle Heights  
Community Gardens. For additional information on the workshop,  
call Roma (238-5406).

### **Warbler and Spring Migrant Bird Walk**

May 15 (Wednesday) 7-9 A.M. (with the possibility of extending)

While we will concentrate on seeing Warblers through the leaves, we  
will look for any spring migrants. Leader: Roma Lenehan (238-5406).  
Location: Frautschi Point Entrance

### **Madison Audubon Field Trips to the CNA**

(For specifics (time and place) about Audubon Trips,  
call 255-2476 or check *The Audubon Caws* or  
their Web Site: [www.madisonaudubon.org](http://www.madisonaudubon.org))

### **Warbler Walk at Picnic Point**

April 30 (Tuesday) Leader: Ken Barmore

### **Warbler Walk at Picnic Point**

May 2 (Thursday) Leader: Willy Hutcheson

### **Birding Picnic Point**

May 4 (Saturday) Leaders: Richard Clark and Roma Lenehan  
Location: 1918 Marsh Parking Lot

### **Fall Birding at Picnic Point**

Sept. 7 (Saturday) Leaders: Roma Lenehan and Jill Feldkamp  
Location: 1918 Marsh Parking Lot

### **Bird Banding at Picnic Point**

Sept. 14 (Saturday) Leader: Mara McDonald

# Tent Colony Chronicles, Part I

by Jane Camerini

A small part of the Campus Natural Areas was the site of the much beloved Camp Gallistella, a summer residence program for UW students for fifty years. The camp, also known as the Tent Colony, was located along the lakeshore west of Frautschi (Second) Point and east of the small parking lot known as Angler's Cove. It all began in the summer of 1912, when a group of agriculture students asked for permission to camp along the shore of Lake Mendota while they attended summer school. They approached the Director of Summer Sessions, Scott Goodnight, with their proposal. Goodnight (who later became a controversial Dean of Men) saw promise in their plan, remarking that camping along the lake would provide "cheap and salubrious accommodations," to students who could not otherwise afford to attend summer school.

Then President Van Hise and the Board of Regents used the proposal as a tool in their struggle to convince the faculty and the local press that their purchase of George Raymer's farm, while costly, would benefit the educational mission of the University. The idea of a tent colony came at the heels of an investigation into the purchase, providing the administration with a creative idea for a housing program that would help to mitigate criticism. In 1913 the Board of Regents approved Goodnight's proposal, relieving some of the pressure of housing for the expanding summer sessions.



Tent Colony family, 1915. Courtesy of the UW Archives, Photo Series 20/5

In 1913, Goodnight made arrangements for a permanent colony along 500 feet of the lakeshore west of Frautschi (Second) Point. He oversaw the construction of 18 wooden platforms on which students could pitch tents or build temporary structures at their own expense. The University charged a \$5.00 residence fee and provided two wells, privies, a study hall, a pier, and electric lines which supplied only the study hall and the old cottage which was already on the land. That first summer, eight families and several single men survived the rainy, buggy, poison-ivy ridden season. They walked, biked, or used a local ferry service (\$0.20 each way) to commute the three miles to campus.

In spite of the rustic accommodations, the colony became increasingly popular. After the First World War, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Albert Gallistel and his wife Eleanor resided in the old cottage and became supervisors of the colony. She directed the day to day management of the colony, had the only telephone in the area, and maintained year-round correspondence with summer residents. The colony provided a very inexpensive way for a student, typically a teacher taking graduate courses, to house his or her family while pursuing a degree. By the early 1930s, the Tent Colony housed about 200 people, 60 of whom were children. New platforms were added yearly, and the residents of the colony formed their own government, which included a mayor, clerk, treasurer, constable, athletic director, postmistress, and alders from each ward of the colony. A heart-felt community spirit arose among the residents, with many of the families returning summer after summer. (More on life at the colony and its closing in the next *FCNA News*.)

**Sources:** Prof. Thomas Brock's Personal Archives, UW Archives, and an unpublished, undated manuscript entitled *A Niche in Time* by Richard McCabe

# Thank You from the FNCA Board

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Campus Natural Areas (CNA) wishes to thank the many people who enabled the formation of the new Friends of the CNA organization. Without them the organization would not exist.

In addition, the Board would like to specifically thank

**Ben August** who developed the Friends of the CNA Web Site. His technical skill and artistic ability combined to create a beautiful and useful Web Site. He spent hours reformatting the Newsletter and Bird Checklists so that they could be viewed on the Web.

**Tom Brock** who supplied the initial 300 names for the potential membership mailing list. This list of interested people enabled the success of our membership drive. His map, now on the Friends' Web Site, illustrates the areas and the trails of the CNA. His brochure, included in our membership mailing, familiarized prospective members with the CNA. He and his wife, Kathie, continue to support the new Friends group in a wide variety of ways.

**Cathie Bruner**, the Manager of the Campus Natural Areas, who provided endless hours of time to the new Friends of the CNA group. Her unflagging support has been a source of encouragement to the Board. In addition, her multiple lists of people involved in CNA activities provided many potential and actual new members.

**Kandis Elliot**, a biological illustrator, who created the line drawings that were used for the Friends of the CNA outreach materials. The Board is especially grateful for the use of the Green Heron drawing that has become our de facto logo. Her spectacular owl is on the "Welcome" page of the Friends' Web Site.

**Steven E. Grimm**, an attorney with Axley Brynelson, who provided advice and filled out the paperwork necessary for obtaining 501(c)(3) non-profit status pro bono. The Board appreciates his generous gift of time and talent.

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### **Student**

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## **Announcements**

### **Bird Banding at the Biocore Prairie**

Mara McDonald, together with a team of volunteers, will be banding birds at the Biocore Prairie as soon as the weather gets warm enough. They will band most weekends from spring through fall when the weather is appropriate (over 50 degrees and not raining).

Their goals are to track changes in bird populations as the old field is restored to prairie, to contribute data to the long-term U.S. Fish and Wildlife database that allows tracking population and behavior changes, and to teach students and community members about birds and bird banding.

Mara welcomes new volunteers interested in learning about bird banding. She will train them in handling and banding birds. She also invites individuals and groups to come and observe the birds and bird banding.

For more information about volunteering or observing, please contact Mara at [mamcdona@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:mamcdona@facstaff.wisc.edu) or call 274-2534.

### **The FCNA Welcomes Submissions to its Newsletter and Web Site**

The FCNA welcomes the submission of articles and announcements for *FCNA News*. We encourage people to share their checklists and other relevant CNA materials on the FCNA Web Site. For information on submitting material, call Roma Lenehan at 238-5406 or send your articles or checklists to [rlenehan@chorus.net](mailto:rlenehan@chorus.net).

### **Land Trust Name Change**

The Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation has changed its name to the **Natural Heritage Land Trust**. Its Web address has changed from [www.dcnhf.org](http://www.dcnhf.org) to [www.nhlt.org](http://www.nhlt.org)

### **Generous Donor Matches Membership Donations**

A very generous anonymous donor has matched each individual membership donation up to \$100.00. Since October the donor has given a total of \$5,380.00 in matching funds. The donor will continue to match new memberships and increases in membership up to a total gift of \$10,000.00. This gift will be used to establish a Special Fund that the Friends can use for the long-term benefit of the CNA.



# An Overlooked Insect: the Dragonfly

by Jill Feldkamp

On walks in the Campus Natural Areas, most of us have probably noticed long slender and colorful bugs, like winged darning needles, hovering in the air, often over the water. We recognized them as dragonflies and walked on. Now perhaps it's time to take a closer look at this marvelous creature.

## Meet the Insect

Of the order Odonata, dragonflies have three body parts: head, thorax, and abdomen. Their six legs and four wings also characterize them. They pass through several stages before they appear as the winged creatures that we see about rivers and ponds. Eggs, laid in or near water, hatch into larvae. "Odonata" means "toothed jaws." These small insects are tough predators. In fact, in the larval state, they are the top of the food chain in ponds and streams, after the fish.

At the appropriate time, the larvae undergo a metamorphosis and become the familiar dragonfly that we notice. The newly hatched dragonfly, known as a teneral dragonfly, moves away from the water to mature. At this stage in life, it is very susceptible to predation from creatures, such as birds. When mature, the dragonflies return to the water to mate and the cycle begins again.

## Where are they now?

Certainly if you walk the Campus Natural Areas now, you will not see any dragonflies. So just where are they? Most are overwintering in the larval state, but one common Wisconsin species, the Common Green Darner, has migrated south for the winter. Dragonflies can begin to appear as early as April, but the best time to see dragonflies in the CNA is from June through September.

## Dragonfly Watching

Your search for dragonflies will be greatly enhanced by a pair of close-focusing binoculars. Ideally the binoculars should be able to focus at a distance of 8 feet, and 4 feet is even better. Once you have spotted a dragonfly, to know what species it is, consult a guidebook, such as *Common Dragonflies of Wisconsin* by Legler and Westover (available from the author) or *Dragonflies through Binoculars* by Dunkle.

Within the CNA, recommended places to check for dragonflies include the 1918 Marsh and the Biocore Prairie. If you want to see dragonflies in the CNA, it is best to look on a sunny day.

## Expected Dragonflies in the CNA

In Wisconsin, 110 species of dragonflies have been recorded. Some common local species to expect to see in the CNA include Common Green Darner, Black Saddlebags, and Twelve-spotted Skimmer. Common Green Darners fly constantly, but their green thorax and bright blue abdomen are easily recognized. The dark wing spots near its body make the Black Saddlebags appear to carry saddlebags, hence its name. This tiny insect can fly at 17 miles per hour. The Twelve-spotted skimmer gets its name from the three dark spots found on each of its four wings. Three other common dragonflies are Common Whitetail, White-faced Meadowhawk, and Widow Skimmer.

Dragonflies can indicate the health of a body of water. They are adversely affected by pollution and pesticide runoff. Since they eat lots of insect pests, like mosquitoes, we ought to keep the habitat healthy for dragonflies.

## Methods of Improving Water Quality and Decreasing Erosion Being Studied

Urban storm runoff brings sediment and excess nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, as well as causes erosion problems in the CNA. An especially dramatic example of storm water erosion can be observed around the Angler's Cove Parking Lot in North Shore Woods. In addition to causing Lake Mendota to be less inviting to a diverse aquatic community, the nutrients in this runoff cause unpleasant summer blooms of algae.

CNA staff and UW classes will be cooperating with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and soil conservation experts from Dane County to develop plans to decrease and slow down storm water runoff and prevent erosion.

If you would like more information on or to become involved in solving these storm water issues, see the Projects section of the FCNA Web Site at [www.uwalumni.com/fcna](http://www.uwalumni.com/fcna) or contact Cathie Bruner at [cbruner@fpm.wisc.edu](mailto:cbruner@fpm.wisc.edu) or 265-9275.

# Eagle Heights Woods

by Roma Lenehan

The Eagle Heights Woods area has long attracted people such as school children looking at the beautiful spring wildflowers, University researchers studying woodland communities and succession, Madison residents enjoying carriage rides, and Native Americans visiting a sacred area.

Eagle Heights Woods is a 34-acre oak woodland at the west edge of the Campus Natural Areas between the Village of Shorewood Hills and the Eagle Heights Apartments. The Woods is on a bluff that rises 150 feet above Lake Mendota, providing spectacular views in the winter. This Woods, which has never been logged, has a relatively diverse plant understory community including many wildflowers.

## History of Human Use

Native Americans used this area for a long period of time. About 1000 years ago three effigy mounds were made at the top of the bluff (Daniel Einstein, pers. com., 2002). These mounds survived settlement, unlike hundreds of other mounds around Madison's lakes. Later, Ho-Chunk Indians believed that a spirit horse lived on the top of the bluff. They visited this sacred site "to gain the inspiration and power of the spirit horse" (Brock, 1995).

After settlement, people continued to visit the area. George Raymer, who bought Eagle Heights Woods and adjoining areas in 1887, built the several carriage drives and generously opened them to the public. Several years later the "Raymer Drives" were incorporated into the new Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association holdings. The wooded footpaths are all that remain of these early carriage drives.

In 1911 the University purchased the Raymer land, only to trade the Woods to Edward Young in 1939 for Picnic Point. Young cleared an area at the top of the bluff, but died before his planned house was built. Tom Brittingham, Jr., bought the 28.2 acre wooded tract from Young's widow, Alice, in 1951 and gave it to the University in order to ensure that it remained a natural area.

Today the Woods is used to enjoy nature and to study natural processes and communities.

## Plant Communities

Although the woodland community varies with moisture, the dominant trees are oaks, mainly red oak on the lake side and white oak on the drier upland. Eagle Heights Woods is best known for the spring wildflowers which carpet the woods in May and early June. Many of these are spring ephemerals which come up early and bloom before the oaks get leaves. Ephemerals rapidly reproduce and die down, disappearing relatively early in the summer. Some of the wildflowers include shooting star, trillium, bloodroot, and wild geranium (Joshua Selman, 1998, "Vascular Plant Inventory of Eagle Heights Woods . . .").

Since most of the Woods has never been logged or farmed, it is one of the better quality woodlands on the campus. Nevertheless, it suffers from the invasion of alien species like garlic mustard, buckthorn, and honeysuckle, which threaten its natural diversity.

### Source:

Brock, Thomas D. 1995. "Eagle Heights." *Historic Madison*, Vol. XII, pp. 37-44.

## Join the Friends of the Campus Natural Areas

Name _____	Student	\$10	Γ
Address _____	Individual	\$20	Γ
City, State _____ Zip Code _____	Household	\$35	Γ
Phone (optional) _____ Email (optional) _____	Steward	\$50	Γ
Γ Please send me information about how to volunteer	Patron	\$100	Γ
(Include your email address or telephone number if you would like to volunteer.)	Other	_____	Γ

Please write your check to the Friends of the CNA

Mail this form with your check to: FCNA P.O. Box 55056 Madison, WI 53705

The Friends of the CNA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

## Stan Temple Will Speak on Urban Natural Areas at the FCNA Annual Meeting

The first annual general membership meeting of the Friends of the Campus Natural Areas will take place on Tuesday, April 23, 2002, at 7 P.M. at the McKay Center in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. All members of the Friends of the CNA and everyone interested in learning more about the Campus Natural Areas are invited to attend.

We are pleased to have Stanley A. Temple as our guest speaker for the evening. Professor Temple is the Beers-Bascom Professor in Conservation in the Department of Wildlife Ecology at the UW-Madison. The title of his presentation is "Urban Natural Areas: Balancing Ecological and Social Needs."

The annual meeting of members will begin with a brief business meeting to vote on a Bylaws amendment and to elect the FCNA Board of Directors. Twelve Friends of the CNA have been nominated as Board members and will stand for election, four for a 3 year term, four for a 2 year term, and four for a 1 year term. In future years, members will elect only four Directors to serve a 3 year term.

There will be an informal reception and refreshments following the program: Visit with Professor Temple, meet the Board members, share your concerns!

### CNA Planning

Over the next 18 months the CNA Committee will be developing a comprehensive plan for the CNA. The public will have the opportunity to voice their opinions in public meetings that may occur in the summer. These meetings will be announced in Wisconsin Week. The FCNA Web Site will also have updates on the planning process.