



FCNA News

Volume 3, Number 2, Spring 2004

Friends of the Campus Natural Areas

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

Bill Cronon to Share Insights at April 13 FCNA Annual Meeting

What is an urban natural area? How do urban natural areas differ from parks? What is the role of humans in urban natural areas? What is the importance of urban natural areas – and of the Campus Natural Areas (CNA)? These are all fundamental questions of CNA planning.

The Friends of the CNA (FCNA) is honored to have Bill Cronon, internationally distinguished environmental historian and superb lecturer, speak at their Annual Meeting at 7 PM April 13, 2004, at the McKay Center at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. Cronon's presentation, "The Challenge of Protecting Cultures of Nature in the Campus Natural Areas," will address provocative issues at the heart of the CNA mission. Members of the Friends and the CNA Committee are invited and encouraged to attend and to bring guests interested in the CNA and urban natural areas.

Bill Cronon

Bill Cronon, Frederick Jackson Turner and Vilas Research Professor of History, Geography, and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW), studies American environmental history and the history of the American West. His ongoing commitment to understanding human interactions with the natural world is demonstrated through his teaching, scholarly articles, books, and university service. Professor Cronon is a distinguished teacher and a renowned scholar. His books include *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England* and *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*. He has edited collected volumes, including *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature* and is currently writing a book entitled *Saving Nature in Time: The Past and the Future of Environmentalism*.

Bill Cronon brings his knowledge of human interactions with the environment to his service on the UW's Campus Natural Areas Committee, where he is working to ensure that cultural and social issues are taken into account in the CNA master planning process.

Cronon's Address

Bill will discuss the challenges associated with managing and protecting natural areas in the midst of major human settlements. He will address the historical dynamism not just of the natural systems we seek to preserve, but of the human uses and attitudes that inevitably shape and alter those systems. He will argue that we cannot hope to protect urban natural areas unless we manage them quite explicitly with an eye to the cultural values they embody, and with careful attention to the complex political coalitions which those cultural values generate. Finally, he will conclude that the Campus Natural Areas offer wonderful opportunities to explore some of the most fundamental questions of environmental protection in the United States today, and that we should seize these opportunities to make the CNA a nationally recognized laboratory and showcase for culturally and historically informed environmental stewardship.

Elections and Refreshments

A brief Friends of the CNA business meeting will be held. Members of the Friends will elect three Board members and vote on a FCNA Bylaws change. Please see page 6 for details.

Join us after Professor Cronon's lecture for refreshments and to meet the Friends of the CNA Board.

Thank you . . .

Henry Hart and Tad Pinkerton are retiring after three-year terms on the FCNA Board that they helped to establish. Well before FCNA founding, Henry was enthusiastically pedaling his bike to CNA work parties to remove invasive species. Later, the fledgling organization benefited greatly from his experience and his generously shared wisdom helped us over the rough spots. Tad took on the tedious work of drafting the founding documents that allowed the FCNA to form and served as Treasurer from the start. He brought management experience, knowledge of the University and calm common sense to the task. Thanks to both!

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

We Welcome Submissions to the FCNA 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@charter.net. To reserve space in the next *FCNA News*, please tell us about your material by June 25, 2004. July 15 is the submission deadline.

Spring and Summer Field Trips

Additional Field Trips may be posted on the
FCNA Web Site: www.uwalumni.com/fcna

Woody Plants of the Campus Natural Areas

April 18 (Sunday) 2:00-4:00 PM

Learn identification techniques and interesting facts about the trees that make up our campus woodlands.

Leader: Ray Guries (262-0449). Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Reading the Ecological History of the CNA's Picnic Point Woods

April 25 (Sunday) 2:00-4:00 PM

Join us for a look at what the tree species and their shapes can tell us about their past. By comparing these aspects of native and immigrant trees, and with some knowledge of tree biology, we can reconstruct some of the ecological history.

Leader: Susan Will-Wolf (262-2754). Meet at the Picnic Point parking lot.

Birding Picnic Point

May 1 (Saturday) 7:30-10:30 AM (with the possibility of extending)

Join us to look for migrant and resident birds. Picnic Point is a migrant trap in bad weather and can produce spectacular collections of migrants. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Leaders: Richard Clark and Roma Lenehan (238-5406). Meet at the 1918 Marsh Parking Lot.

Warbler and Spring Migrant Bird Walk

May 12 (Wednesday) 7:00-9:30 AM (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). Meet at the Frautschi Point Entrance.

Saving the Woods – A Wildflower Walk in Wally Bauman Woods, CNA

May 16 (Sunday) 2:00-4:00 PM

Learn how this beautiful lakeshore woods was saved from development, while searching for wildflowers and watching for birds. Co-sponsored by the Natural Heritage Land Trust. Leaders: Bill Lunney and Glenda Denniston (231-1530). Meet at 3200 Lake Mendota Drive. Limited parking is available along Lake Mendota Drive in Shorewood Hills.

Spring Wildflowers of Bill's Woods, CNA

May 23 (Sunday) 2:00-4:00 PM

Come for a spring wildflower walk. Help us celebrate our work in progress, the restoration of the understory of Eastern Bill's Woods.

Leaders: Mary Trewartha and Glenda Denniston (231-1530).

Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Madison Audubon Field Trips to the CNA

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

Beginning Birding

April 10, April 29, June 12 Leader: Al Holzhrueter

Spring Bird Banding at Picnic Point (Biocore Prairie)

May 2 (Sunday) 8:00-12:00 Leader: Mara McDonald

Biocore Prairie

July 24 (Saturday) Leader: Curt Caslavka, et al.

History of Picnic Point

by Thomas D. Brock

Picnic Point has always been an attractive area for Madison residents, and even when it was in private ownership, it served as a modest recreation area for boaters and campers. In 1864, John Boeringer, who operated a large sailing yacht, the *St. Louis*, on Lake Mendota, constructed a refreshment and dancing hall there. According to one visitor: "The invalid can here procure the genuine red wine of Missouri and all other wholesome stimulants... several large parties have lately enjoyed trips to the point, and a large one on last Monday evening danced... till an early hour" (*Wisconsin State Journal*, August 2, 1865).

Centennial Park Idea

Boeringer's business did not last, and within three years the property was owned by James Herron, who established a farm on the property. Despite the fact that Picnic Point was in private ownership, Madisonians continued to visit it. In the Centennial year of 1876, a plea was made for the city to acquire the Point for a public park:

The beautiful point is in reality the most charming spot to be found on either lake. At present it is used as a pasture for cattle, and consequently it is not a neat, safe or pleasant place for visitors. A few years ago it was thickly covered with native trees, but now, alas, they are going to decay, and a shady spot can hardly be found ... (Madison Democrat, August 13, 1876).

The Breese Stevens Hobby Farm

However, the park idea fell on deaf ears. By 1883, all of Picnic Point, as well as Second Point and much of the marsh was owned by business man Morris E. Fuller and his son-in-law Breese J. Stevens. It was Stevens who developed what has been called a "hobby farm" on the Picnic Point property.

The Young Family

Upon Stevens' death in 1903, the whole property passed to his daughters. In 1925 the Stevens sisters sold the Picnic Point property to Edward J. Young, a wealthy Madison lumberman, retaining for themselves the 16 acres on Second Point (now Frautschi Point). Included in the sale were all of the peninsula of Picnic Point, the upper fields east of Lake Mendota Drive, Bill's Woods, and Second Point Woods, a total of 124 acres.

The Youngs remodeled the farmhouse into a fine residence, tore down the barn and other farm buildings, and built a stable for their horses. Both Edward and Alice Young were enthusiastic equestrians and developed a set of bridal trails throughout the property.

The fields had been fairly heavily eroded by grazing, so Mr. Young had them cleared of rocks and seeded with Kentucky blue grass. Young had his caretaker build the stone wall at the entrance to Picnic Point. The geologically interesting rocks in the wall were brought from all over southern Wisconsin by one of Young's employees (Mrs. E. J. Young, interview, July 26, 1973).

The Youngs lived in the house on Picnic Point for about eight years until it was burned down in a disastrous fire on September 4, 1935. After several years' deliberation the Youngs decided not to rebuild. Despite a number of attractive proposals, the Youngs offered the first option to purchase the Picnic Point Farm to the University of Wisconsin. The asking price for the 129 acres was \$150,000, reportedly less than the Youngs had paid for the property 14 years previously. Negotiations were immediately opened.

The University Negotiates

On March 23, 1939, the Regents purchased a one-year option for \$10,000. The intent was to develop Picnic Point "into a gathering place for students, alumni, and citizens of the state" (*Capital Times*, April 2, 1939). Although the Madison newspapers were very supportive of the university plans, the same could not be said for newspapers elsewhere in the state, which commented:

the fantastic extent to which in so many instances we have been spending public moneys in veritable floods and that often has little to do with education ... (Appleton Post-Crescent, April 4, 1939).

The University of Wisconsin has all kinds of picnic points within an easy radius. It is the owner of hundreds and hundreds of acres, most of which have been bought at extremely high figures (Green Bay Press Gazette, April 4, 1939).

However, the principal problem for the university was that it lacked a source of funds to purchase Picnic Point. There was at that time no University of Wisconsin Foundation to carry on a major fund raising campaign. The only option was the Wisconsin Alumni Association, a membership organization which lacked the necessary resources or motivation.

Perhaps aware of the dilemma it was in, the university attempted to soften criticism by devising, in concert with officials from the City of Madison, a "development" plan for Picnic Point which included all of University Bay. The plan was to turn University Bay itself into a vast aquatic park. One part of this park included a harbor for small boats. (*continued on page 4*)

History of Picnic Point *(continued from page 3)*

According to the *Wisconsin State Journal*:

The establishment of a small boats harbor in University bay would improve what is now one of the few uninventing spots on Lake Mendota. It would mean the filling in of the marsh there and the establishment in its place of a harbor with dockage room and sightly buildings (August 30, 1940).

Even without the completion of the purchase, work on filling the Bay began. However, the natural sciences faculty, aghast at what was happening and greatly irritated that they had not been consulted, succeeded in convincing University President Clarence Dykstra to call a halt to these activities. (The parking area that is now at the entrance to Picnic Point is the only vestige of this start at filling the Bay.)

The Final Purchase

Discussions continued through 1939 and most of 1940 about the purchase of Picnic Point, particularly about where the money would come from. In the meantime, the value of the property kept increasing. In late December 1940 the Young family came up with a new proposal. It would sell all of its Picnic Point holdings (128.9 acres) for \$230,000 provided the university deeded to the Youngs the 33.5 acres of

university land which included Eagle Heights and all of the lakeshore west of the Tent Colony.

Because outside funds were still not available, the university devised a scheme by which its dormitory-financing arm, the Wisconsin University Building Corporation, would buy the property with a mortgage from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation.

These arrangements were approved by the Regents on June 21, 1941, and the sale became final 12 days later. Edward Young was quoted, "God made the land there for people to enjoy, and my understanding is that the University is going to make it as attractive to the public as possible" (McCabe, *A Niche in Time*).

The Eagle Heights Natural Area, lost to the UW in this exchange, was later purchased from the Youngs by university benefactor Thomas Brittingham, Jr., as a gift, but most of the land north of Lake Mendota Drive was developed for housing. The last remnant was later reacquired at great expense by a group of local activists and given to the university. It is now called "Wally Bauman Woods." (The information on the UW acquisition is based on Chapter VIII of an unpublished manuscript entitled *A Niche in Time* written by Richard McCabe for the University Bay Project.)



An air photo of Picnic Point taken in 1945, after the university acquired it. Note how open much of the land was. (Photo from the UW Archives.)

2003: A Great Year for FCNA

by Jane Camerini, FCNA President

The Friends of the CNA has been busy! Through education, stewardship, advocacy, planning and fund raising, we have been working hard to increase support for, and awareness of, the Campus Natural Areas.

Education

The 2003 FCNA Annual Meeting was organized around the thirtieth anniversary of the restoration of the Class of 1918 Marsh. Presentations by Thomas Brock and Kenneth Potter and a field trip with Quentin Carpenter were enjoyed by the many participants.

We had an active program of ten field trips in 2003, including two devoted to Indian Mounds, a tour with Thomas Brock on the history of the Campus Natural Areas, and a Friends' walk to Bill's Woods to showcase the FCNA restoration work.

Our newsletter and Web Site continue to expand in order to keep our members up to date on events and activities in the CNA. The Web Site has become a rich source of current, historical, and natural historical information. If you've not visited it recently, please point your browser to www.uwalumni.com/fcna.

Stewardship

Volunteers spent many hours planting and caring for understory plants in our FCNA Eastern Bill's Woods Project. We continue our effort to restore this woodland to its native diversity (see page 10).

Elsewhere in the CNA, Friends' volunteer parties under the supervision of the CNA management pulled prodigious quantities of garlic mustard and buckthorn.

While Frautschi Point, Eagle Heights Woods, and Bill's Woods were focus areas, volunteers collected garlic mustard throughout the CNA. We also worked on rerouting trails at Frautschi Point.

Advocacy

We continued to raise awareness of the CNA and to recruit FCNA members. We increased our membership by more than one-third to 222 members. An anonymous donor matched the money from new memberships (see the financial summary below).

We created a new brochure to help us expand our educational reach and garner support for the CNA. Gail Shea worked with other Board members, photographer Jamie Young, and the UW Publications staff to produce an attractive brochure to broaden our constituency.

Fund Raising

Many of our members generously supported the FCNA by giving additional contributions. Forty-seven people donated money and 6 people donated plants to the FCNA's Eastern Bill's Woods Project (see details on page 10). These gifts will enable us to purchase, plant, and tend woodland forbs and shrubs, replacing buckthorn and other invasive plants.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we raised over \$20,000 in 2003. With these broad fund raising efforts, we've established a base for expanded and constructive activity in 2004.

(continued on page 6)

Friends of the CNA 2003 Financial Report

Income

Memberships	\$9,475
Bill's Woods donations	3,010
Membership Matching	2,390
Additional donations	6,100
Interest	<u>155</u>
Total	\$21,130

Expenses

Membership	491
Education	832
Fund Raising	445
Planting Projects	2,085
Miscellaneous	<u>199</u>
Total	\$4,052

Net Income

\$17,078

Assets

Bill's Woods	\$2,020
Special Fund	19,295
Unrestricted	<u>12,458</u>
	\$33,773

Liabilities

GIS Mapping	\$1,430
Brochure	2,000
Picnic Point Maintenance	<u>600</u>
	\$4,030

Net Assets

\$29,743

2003: A Great Year *(from page 5)*

CNA Planning

We have been actively following the progress of the CNA Committee and participating in their work toward a CNA Master Plan. FCNA Board members regularly attend CNA Committee meetings and participate in the planning process as active members of the Social, Biological, and Infrastructure Sub-committees. We also regularly attend meetings of the Joint West Campus Planning Committee.

FCNA in 2004

In 2004, we will continue to build and strengthen the Friends of the CNA by increasing our membership, raising funds, restoring Bill's Woods, replacing invasive species with native plants, leading field trips for education and awareness, and participating in the CNA master planning process. Please join us in a field trip and/or a volunteer work party, and be sure to come to the Annual Meeting. Protecting the CNA as the city and University continue to grow is a complex undertaking; your participation will make a difference!

FCNA Annual Meeting: April 13, 2004

All current Friends of the CNA (FCNA) members are eligible to vote at the FCNA Annual Meeting at 7 PM at the McKay Center of the UW Arboretum.

Board Recommended Bylaws Change

Article II, section 2.3a, of the FCNA Bylaws states that Members "elect the Board of Directors *and the Nominating Committee.*"

The Board of Directors recommends that Members approve a change deleting "and the Nominating Committee." The amended section would then state that Members "elect the Board of Directors."

The result will formalize the practice followed since the FCNA was formed. Article V of the Bylaws will apply. The President will appoint the Nominating Committee chair and will appoint committee members in consultation with the chair.

FCNA Board Election

The FCNA Nominating Committee recommends the following slate for election to the FCNA Board. Each newly elected Board member will serve three years on the FCNA Board.

Curt Caslavka – For the past several years Curt, as a staff member in the Biocore Program, has worked extensively on a prairie restoration project near Picnic Point that when completed will convert 5 acres of existing old field vegetation into tallgrass prairie. After retiring from the UW he has continued to volunteer time on this project and is committed to help restore this unique campus area to natural communities.

Bob Goodman – Bob Goodman was a member (faculty) of the campus Arboretum Committee during the time when a vision of a separate Campus Natural Areas Committee was acted upon. He has been active ever since in efforts to make the CNA an independent focus of campus programming and of UW Foundation giving. He is a resident of the Shorewood Hills community, a professor of plant pathology, botany, and of the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, and is active in several international activities related to food security in developing countries.

Blair Mathews – Blair is a long-term and regular user of the CNA and sees in the FCNA, "a unique opportunity to preserve and protect this beautiful site while learning and sharing with others." He has served on the FCNA Board for 3 years, functioning as a primary liaison with the UW Foundation, the Alumni Association and other UW groups. His experience includes public relations, organization, fund raising and problem solving. He is currently working to protect CNA ambience by seeking mitigation of noise and light pollution.

Partners in Learning: The Muir Woods Outreach Project

by Glenda Denniston

School Kids in the Woods

On a cold and windy day this fall, 35 or so enthusiastic fifth graders from Lincoln School gathered at Muir Knoll, accompanied by their teachers and student volunteers from the University of Wisconsin. All was motion and noise.



Gathering on Muir Knoll

They split into small groups. Each group comprised "little buddies" with one or two "big buddies." The motion and noise level gradually subsided. While some groups carefully followed the trails, helping "The Wood Fairy" (the author) find signs of life in the cold woods, others energetically spread woodchips on a trail to prevent erosion. Still others collected soil samples for later analysis.

Afterwards, the kids all walked to Chadbourne Hall to warm up with hot cocoa while they sat with their University student mentors and school teachers, discussing and then writing about what they learned in the woods.



Planting Woodland Ferns and Wildflowers

Earlier in the season, this same group sampled lake water for microorganisms and enjoyed a scavenger hunt along the trails. They collected and examined insects in small lens boxes and planted native wildflowers and ferns in Muir Woods.

The Outreach Project

The outreach program began with an idea of Beth Rollman, a University of Wisconsin student, who developed it as an independent study project. Much of the motivation for the project stemmed from Beth's desire to work with kids. She got funding for it through the Leadership Trust Award, a Letters and Sciences Honors Program grant.

Beth's enthusiasm was contagious. She and her faculty director, Margaret Nellis, first involved CNA manager Cathie Bruner. Cathie's need for more volunteers to help restore Muir Woods and Margaret's desire to somehow connect the University of Wisconsin with the South Madison community made a good fit. They joined forces with fifth grade Lincoln School teachers, Becky Rosenberg and Marc Kornblatt. University student mentors, most of them members of an "Environmental Interest" group at Chadbourne Hall, were then recruited. Others heard about the project and joined in the fun.



A Scavenger Hunt in Muir Woods

Learning about the Environment

The project has now been expanded and has even become international in scope. Recently, the Lincoln School children, teachers and UW mentors shared much of what they learned in Muir Woods with students in Japan via a video conferencing session (one of a series that Becky had set up). The Japanese students, in turn, talked about environmental issues, including water use, in their own land. More field trips are planned for the spring semester and a final video will be made as a keepsake. In Beth's words, "Hopefully, it will be a reminder to the students to be lifelong caretakers of their surroundings!"

Around the Campus Natural Areas

Trail Enhancement at Frautschi Point

During the fall, work parties began trail improvements at Frautschi Point. As part of Campus Natural Areas (CNA) master planning, the trails are being redesigned to minimize damage and enhance educational opportunities. CNA and Facilities staff members, Friends of the CNA members, and student volunteers cooperated to improve the trails. They removed buckthorn and other invasive shrubs to favor native species, to relocate and widen trails, and to increase visibility so that classes can see into the woods. They rerouted some trails to highlight special features and to protect fragile vegetation. For example, the trail leading to a big open grown white oak was rerouted to protect the oak's root system. As part of the education efforts, Ann Burgess added small laminated signs to identify particular species and explain the management activities. We hope you will enjoy the enhanced trails.

Anglers' Cove Project to Begin

The planned reconstruction of Anglers' Cove to stop erosion, control stormwater, and improve Lake Mendota water quality is scheduled for this summer. The water quality project, funded with a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant (see page 9 article) and a \$10,000 Friends of the CNA gift, will replace the large paved area with 6 parking spaces at the top of this area. Most of the hard surface, the areas closer to the lake, will be replaced with natural, prairie and savanna, landscaping. In order to slow the water and decrease future erosion, a dissipater of large boulders will be placed west of the parking lot at the top of the gully. After the heavy construction, trails will be redesigned to minimize erosion and native plants will be planted. Volunteers and additional donations will be needed to complete the final landscaping.

Bill's Woods Work Parties

April 10 (Saturday)	9:00-noon
April 17 (Saturday)	9:00-noon
April 21 (Wednesday)	3:00-6:30
April 28 (Wednesday)	3:00-6:30
May 2 (Sunday)	1:00-3:00
May 8 (Saturday)	9:00-noon
May 11 (Tuesday)	3:00-6:30
May 22 (Saturday)	9:00-noon
June 6 (Sunday)	2:00-4:00

Meet at the **Picnic Point Parking Lot** for all Bill's Woods work parties.

Questions? Contact Glenda Denniston, cdennist@facstaff.wisc.edu or 231-1530

Announcements

Class Reunion Gifts Benefit Lakeshore Path

The breadth of the appeal of the Campus Natural Areas to former UW-Madison students was never more apparent than at the successful conclusion of two recent class reunion gift campaigns. Together, the Classes of 1953 and 1963 raised more than \$120,000 of new funding to help restore the very backbone of the CNA, the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path.

The tangible effects of these funds will begin to be seen once the construction of the West Campus Cogeneration Facility is complete. Class of 1953 funds will allow the University to implement safety and erosion control improvements on the Path from the Village of Shorewood to Willow Creek. Class of 1963 funds will help enhance the Path in the form of new plantings, informational signs, and benches. Class of 1963 monies will also help the CNA engage current students and other volunteers in the restoration effort.

On behalf of all who know and love these natural gems on campus, many thanks to both classes for their generous show of support!

Evergreen Removal at Frautschi Point

Dead and infected evergreens were removed at the entrance to Frautschi Point during the winter in order to prevent the spread of *Ips* and turpentine beetles which damage and kill trees and carry the blue stain fungus. These bark beetles reproduce under the bark of evergreens, girdling them, and then emerge and move to infect other trees. The destruction of these infected evergreen trees was essential to stop insect dispersion.

Thank you Ann Burgess

Ann Burgess, the 2003 Field Trip Chairman, expanded the FCNA educational program. She organized eleven successful field trips on subjects ranging from Native American Mounds, history, geology, and marsh ecology to birds. Campus and community publicity attracted a broader audience to the field trips. We appreciate your work and wish you the best of luck with your continuing volunteer efforts assisting Cathie Bruner and the CNA Committee!

Garlic Mustard Pull

Join us to battle this invasive species!

April 24 (Saturday) 1:00-4:00 PM
Meet at **Frautschi Point** Parking Lot

May 15 (Saturday) 9:00-noon
Meet at **Picnic Point** Parking Lot

Questions? Contact Glenda Denniston, cdennist@facstaff.wisc.edu or 231-1530

The CNA and UW's New Stormwater Management Policy

by Paul H. Zedler and Cathie Bruner

Major Funding for Campus Stormwater Control

A \$136,000 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant to the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies on behalf of the Campus Natural Areas supplemented by a \$10,000 donation from the FCNA has had multiple benefits to the CNA, to the campus, and to the Yahara watershed. The grant, "UW-Madison Runoff Management Project," was obtained from the Urban Nonpoint Source Storm Water program. The project has several major accomplishments. First, the students and faculty mentor Ken Potter of the Water Resources Management program created a plan for improving campus stormwater management. Second, the administration agreed to implement the plan. In October 2003 the UW Campus Planning Committee passed a resolution pledging the campus to take steps to reduce its runoff to levels no greater than those that would have existed under pristine conditions. Third, a plan was developed for the renovation of the Anglers' Cove parking lot and lake access – a location with severe erosion problems (see details on page 8).

Working Toward a Common Goal

This project was an encouraging example of how multiple partners can work together to accomplish much more than could be achieved if each worked alone. The idea to submit a grant came to the CNA through a conversation between CNA manager Cathie Bruner and limnologist Dick Lathrop. Cathie, with the assistance of Paul Zedler, brought the idea to the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and obtained enthusiastic endorsement from former director Tom Yuill, who suggested that we might consider bringing in the Water Resources Management program (WRM). A meeting with WRM chair Fred Madison and hydrology expert

Ken Potter led to their support and an agreement that the WRM workshop for 2003 would focus on campus stormwater. The FCNA offered funding to show community support. The UW Facilities Planning and Management agreed to work with the CNA and the students and faculty. Other faculty supervised graduate students assigned to the project. Also instrumental to success was getting the support of Dane County. The group worked closely with Carolyn Betz of DNR and Kathy Kalscheur of the state Department of Facilities Services. The entire team is much too large to list here, but all who were involved deserve credit.

Stormwater Management Plan

The fundamental idea behind the stormwater plan is very simple – to the extent possible increase the amount of water that soaks in the ground and decrease the amount that runs off directly into the lake. A second objective is to decrease the amounts of undesirable materials that can be transported to the lake – excess sediment, heavy metals, oil and gas residue. The WRM students explored a wide range of options. There are many examples, but one promising possibility is porous pavement. Testing elsewhere suggests that properly installed pavements can absorb almost all the water in most rainstorms. Another proven solution is the creation of rain gardens – plantings that trap water near the source, allowing it to soak into the ground.

A key finding of the WRM project was that making changes that will reduce runoff are not necessarily expensive, provided that they are planned for from the early stages of the project. Fitting is cheaper than retrofitting. Campus planners agree and that is why they endorsed the idea of a stringent stormwater management policy.

Join the Friends of the Campus Natural Areas

Name _____ Student \$10

Address _____ Individual \$20

City, State _____ Zip Code _____ Household \$35

Phone (optional) _____ Email (optional) _____ Steward \$50

Please send me information about how to volunteer Patron \$100

(Include your email address and telephone number if you would like to volunteer) Other _____

Mail your check payable to Friends of the CNA with this form to: FCNA, P.O. Box 55056, Madison, WI 53705

Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Bill's Woods Gets a Lot of Help from its Friends

Much Help from Many Friends

The wonderful gift of native plants and \$2,245 to the Bill's Woods Project by 48 generous donors, all members of the Friends of the CNA, has boosted the spirits of those of us who work cutting and pulling invasive plants, planting native understory shrubs and forbs, and weeding and watering the plants in our restoration project. This gift has enabled us to begin ordering well ahead of time this year. Thank you, all who contributed money for plants and all who have offered wild plants from your properties!

The Woodland Restoration Project So Far

Last spring the Eastern Bill's Woods bloomed again as a result of our hard work. Masses of white trout-lilies, already present in the woods, flowered prolifically for the first time in years. Jack-in-the-pulpits and Wild Geraniums along with patches of Mayapples bloomed in places where previously they could not be seen. Many of the wildflowers which we re-introduced into the woods bloomed and reseeded. Some of these have already begun to spread. We will add many new native flowers, ferns and shrubs this season.

The show of wildflowers was probably caused by the removal of hundreds of invasive buckthorn shrubs and trees, the selective thinning of the overly prolific boxelder, and garlic mustard extirpation. The control of invasive plants has allowed more light to reach the woodland floor, benefiting the native wildflowers. Buckthorn and honeysuckle removal has continued throughout the winter, opening more extensive areas for spring understory planting.

Spring Work Parties Scheduled for Bill's Woods

Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to work in Bill's Woods, controlling invasive plants, planting native shrubs and wildflowers, and watering during droughts. There is always plenty of work to do, so see page 8 for the list of work parties and mark your calendar.

To be notified for work parties, send your email address to Glenda at cdennist@facstaff.wisc.edu and your name will be added to the list of volunteers. If you need to be informed by phone or want to arrange a time more convenient for you, email or call (231-1530). Your help is needed and very much appreciated. Together we can restore the woods to its native diversity and richness!

FCNA

P.O. Box 55056
Madison, WI 53705

FCNA ANNUAL MEETING
April 13 7PM