



FCNA News

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Friends of the Campus Natural Areas

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

History of the Lakeshore Path

by Thomas D. Brock

The Howard Temin Lakeshore Path is one of the crown jewels of the Campus Natural Areas and has had a long history. Around 1890 the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus ended at Willow Creek (then called University Creek) and all the land west of the creek was in private hands. There was only a narrow dirt track from Park Street to the creek, accessible by horse or on foot.

Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association

In the early 1890s a group of civic-minded Madisonians, spearheaded by attorney John Olin, initiated the construction of Lake Mendota Drive over the private land west of Willow Creek. To avoid building a bridge over the creek, the proposed route was across the sand bar several hundred feet out in University Bay. (This sand bar still exists.) However, the UW Board of Regents did not want to see any of the Bay filled and agreed to help fund construction of a bridge across the creek.

The road was made wide enough so that two teams of horses could pass side by side. The total cost, made up by subscription, was \$6,904.50.

The new road was a great success and spurred the establishment in 1894 of the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association (MPPDA). (Information on the MPPDA comes from the annual minutes, which are available in several UW libraries.) This organization went on to build Farwell Drive in Maple Bluff, parts of Sherman Avenue, and others. In addition, this Association built many of the major parks of the city, including Tenney, Brittingham, and Vilas. The Association finally went out of existence in the mid 1930s when the Parks were taken over by the City of Madison.

Noted Chicago landscape architect, Ossian C. Simonds, was brought in to lay out the plantings for the MPPDA. Willows were planted along part of drive, and these grew up to form an attractive shaded canopy. This part of the drive then became known informally as "Willow Walk."

UW Land Purchases in the University Bay Area

In 1911, John Nolen's famous book, *Madison: A Model City*, made a plea for the University of Wisconsin to establish a first-class botanical garden and arboretum. He noted that the university is

happily situated at the border of open country, farm land, and forest. This adjacent property could now be purchased in great tracts on relatively reasonable terms...[the State] could make no better investment than...the acquisition at once of several thousand acres along the shores of Lake Mendota, immediately west of the present boundary...[and] all the way to Eagle Heights (Nolen, 1911).

This recommendation, together with the College of Agriculture's interest in wetland farming, led eventually to the purchase of the wetlands surrounding University Bay, as well as the George Raymer farm (Eagle Heights Woods, North Shore Woods and the Eagle Heights Apartments area), and ultimately Picnic Point and the Breese Stevens farm (now Frautschi Point).

The property now called Anglers' Cove was a noted location in the nineteenth century. Its owner, George Raymer (a member of the UW Board of Regents) donated this land to the Park and Pleasure Drive Association in 1902. He stated: "My purpose in doing this is to secure for the future this grove as one of the beautiful points on the drive" (MPPDA Minutes, 1902, page 28).

Arrival of the Automobile

Although the west end of the Lakeshore Path was built by citizens, the university portion between Park Street and Willow Creek was apparently never "planned," but just allowed to develop. Before the automobile, it was open to horses and teams as well as walkers. In the early 1900s, the Park and Pleasure Drive reluctantly opened its roads to auto traffic and the university also permitted automobiles. In those early years, there were few autos and they had little impact. About 1937 the university closed the eastern part of the Lakeshore Path to autos. (continued on page 4)

A Phenomenal Volunteer

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Friends of the CNA

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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 January 25, 2005. February 20 is the submission deadline.

Glenda Denniston is the first person that many potential members meet. She answers questions and shows people around as she works outdoors in the Campus Natural Areas (CNA). At field trips and meetings she is always taking photographs. However, few members know how much Glenda does . . .

Volunteer Leader and Worker

Glenda initiated and conducted most of the work for the Upper Bill's Woods Project, which restored a dump area to a woodland and savanna. After the Grounds Department moved their piles, she and Tom Helgeson led volunteer groups that removed trash, bricks, and other items. Then she painstakingly planted this area, part of it on top of a gravel road, using thousands of donated plants and millions of seeds. She weeded and weed-whipped the area, keeping it open for the native prairie and savanna plants. This year she led several field trips to see the giant colorful native plants and the diverse insects they attracted.

She and Mary Trewartha planned and carried out the Friends of the CNA's (FCNA's) Bill's Woods Planting Project near the Picnic Point Entrance. They and some devoted FCNA volunteers cut and dragged out thousands of buckthorn trees, pulled garlic mustard and smaller buckthorn, and planted and watered hundreds of native plants and shrubs. Due to their efforts, this forest is again carpeted with spring wildflowers.

Glenda leads FCNA and student volunteers. The students get their required volunteer hours and learn about native plants and restoration. They remove invasive species, build trails, and plant native plants. This summer she and the students worked at Frautschi Point. They removed large amounts of buckthorn, restoring views of the lake and freeing oak seedlings, and cleared and built the "Big Oak Trail" connecting two large open grown oaks (see the article on page 8).

In her "free" time, Glenda removes garlic mustard (134 contractor bags in one season), burdock, trash, and brush and weeds from the Native American Mounds.

Educator, Ecological Monitor, and Writer

Glenda is always both an educator and a student. She leads some FCNA field trips and attends the other trips, sharing her knowledge and learning about other aspects of the CNA. She visits with people who walk by while she is working, telling them about the area and its species. She has helped inventory the plants and the birds of the CNA and is compiling an animal list by photographing and identifying all the butterflies, dragonflies, and mammals that she sees.

She is active in all aspects of outreach. She takes photographs of the CNA and writes about life in the CNA for the FCNA newsletter and Web Site.

Offices and Committees

Glenda was instrumental in founding the FCNA and continues to serve in multiple capacities. She has served on the FCNA Board and the Volunteer and Outreach/Communications Committees since the organization began and is currently the FCNA Vice President. She also has served as the FCNA representative on two CNA subcommittees, serving as secretary on the Infrastructure Subcommittee and actively participating in the Biological Subcommittee.

Recognition

In the spring of 2004 Glenda and Roma Lenehan jointly received the Natural Heritage Land Trust Individual Stewardship Award, recognizing their partnership work in the CNA.

The FCNA thanks you, Glenda, for all you do. We wish we had ten of you! However, since we don't, **won't you join Glenda in some of her volunteer work?**

Exciting Times for a Much-Loved Place

by Bill Cronon, Chair, Campus Natural Areas Committee

When I was asked whether I might be willing to serve as Chair of the Campus Natural Areas Committee (CNAC) as John Harrington's term comes to an end, I knew I would have a hard act to follow. John has been Chair of the CNAC since the founding of the committee and has brought many precious things to the CNA: professional expertise as a landscape architect, great commitment, and immense hard work to the task of stewarding these lands. But I also knew that over the past several years John—with the help of other committee members and, not least, the many contributions of the Friends of the Campus Natural Areas—has laid the foundation for really substantial progress for the CNA in the near future. This makes it an especially exciting time to do this work and is the reason I agreed to take up the reins as chair, with much gratitude to John for all he has done.

What makes this such an exciting time?

Most importantly, we have launched the process of producing a Master Plan for the Campus Natural Areas, hiring the distinguished Madison landscape architecture firm of Ken Saiki Designs to oversee the process of producing a comprehensive vision for planning and managing the CNA for at least the next decade. Although there are many important questions that this Master Plan cannot address, it will articulate the broad outlines of how we hope the CNA will evolve during the next phase of its management and stewardship. Ken M. Keeley is serving as the lead representative from the firm, working closely with the Campus Natural Areas Committee in developing the plan. There will be several opportunities for public input to the process over the course of the next year.

In addition to the overall vision articulated in the Master Plan, we've asked the planning team to pay special attention to the challenges posed by several key areas that are of special concern: the entrance to Picnic Point, which is among the most important points of public entry into the CNA; the tip of Picnic Point, with its heavy use, its threats of erosion, and its much-loved status as perhaps UW-Madison's best-loved destination for walks; and Frautschi Point, which poses a number of management questions as we address the twin challenges of making it better known and more accessible to the public at the same time that we learn how to steward its ecological resources more responsibly.

What makes this such an opportune time to produce a Master Plan for the CNA is the fact the UW-Madison is undertaking a major revision of its comprehensive

Master Plan for the entire campus at the same time. Gary Brown, who regularly meets with the CNAC, is overseeing both efforts, assuring good coordination between the two planning processes. Moreover, it is already clear that the nationally recognized firm of Ayers Saint Gross, who specializes in campus plans and will produce the overall master plan, needs no persuading that the Campus Natural Areas are among the features that most distinguish UW-Madison from its peers and thus deserve special care and protection. I have high hopes that when we reach the end of this process, we will have done a much better job of integrating our plans for managing, stewarding, and protecting the Campus Natural Areas with plans for the campus as a whole.

I see the CNA Master Plan as an important step toward what I hope we can achieve for the Campus Natural Areas over the next several years. The Friends of the Campus Natural Areas are certainly among those who best understand how precious these lands are to our community. My hope is that we can all work together to make sure this understanding is broadly shared by everyone who has anything to do with using and protecting and caring for the CNA. We need to get the CNA much more clearly identified and highly valued on people's mental maps of the campus, and we need to do a better job of institutionalizing their protection by advocating for the resources we need to accomplish that goal.

I'd like to believe that the Campus Natural Areas can become a showcase for how a university and a city can live responsibly and in relative harmony with the natural systems and organisms in their midst, and I hope the Friends are as excited about working toward that goal as I am.

Adopt an Area of the CNA

Do you pick up trash or want to pull garlic mustard as you walk in the CNA? The new ADOPT-A-BLOCK (also ADOPT-A-WALK, ADOPT-A-PLACE, and ADOPT-A-TASK) program of the Physical Plant is for you! The Physical Plant wishes to acknowledge, support, and increase the number of people who clean up the campus and the CNA. If you pick up trash as you walk they want to know! You and your organization can also arrange to care for your favorite places, doing tasks like removing garlic mustard. Help your favorite area by contacting Cathie Bruner (265-9275, cbruner@fpm.wisc.edu). For additional information see their web site,

www2.fpm.wisc.edu/ppnew/services/cna/adopt.htm

History of the Lakeshore Path *(continued from page 1)*

In 1957, the UW Board of Visitors recommended that the route be opened to autos again, but opposition to autos on the Lakeshore Path developed quickly. “A major fear of the road’s opponents is that the drive would hardly fail to become a thoroughfare for homeward-bound Madison residents who find University Avenue too crowded and the central campus drive too hilly” (*Capital Times*, March 23, 1957). The Board of Visitors countered that “public access to Lake Mendota has diminished greatly over the years, and reopening of this traditional drive would bring much satisfaction to the residents of Wisconsin” (*Ibid.*). Certain faculty mobilized opposition and the Campus Planning Committee rejected the idea of autos on this portion of the path. The Board of Regents asked the two committees to meet and “bring in a mutually acceptable” plan (*Wisconsin State Journal*, April 28, 1957). Fortunately, nothing came of this proposal.

However, automobiles were permitted for many years on the middle section of the Lakeshore Path, from Elm Drive past Willow Creek to Walnut Street. By the 1970s, this section was one-way for autos, but two-way for bicycles. This arrangement became increasingly problematic and when a bicycle fatality occurred near

Willow Creek in the mid 1980s, it became clear that the road here was too narrow and automobiles were banned.

After the Forest Products Laboratory was opened in 1930, Walnut Street was constructed from University Avenue to the laboratory and eventually to Lake Mendota. The far west part of the Lakeshore Path then became a major transportation route. Due to conflicts between pedestrians and automobiles, a second road was added around 1919, parallel to and about 10 feet west of the original road. About this time, the name “Willow Drive” replaced “Willow Walk” for this section (McCabe, R., 1974, *A Niche in Time*, unpub. ms.).

In 1998 the path was dedicated as the Howard M. Temin Lakeshore Path in honor of the Nobel Prize-winner who was a Professor of Oncology. For many years, Temin had travelled the path to and from work. The Lake Mendota shoreline “was more than simply part of his morning commute; it was a bearing check for the human compass. Whether biking...or slogging on foot...the slight, boyish figure of the university’s most distinguished scientist was a reliable sight as he traversed the quiet lakeside path” (Devitt, T., *Wisconsin Week*, Sept. 9, 1998).

Historic photos of the Lakeshore Path and Lake Mendota Drive can be seen on the FCNA web site, uwalumni.com/fcna

Rare Turtle in CNA Waters

by Glenda Denniston

A Blanding’s Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingi*) was found at the edge of Lake Mendota in the CNA in early September. This species is listed as threatened by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

According to Angela Dassow, who is studying Blanding’s Turtles at the UW Arboretum, this individual is probably a male about 17 years old. This “best estimate” is based on her examination of several photos, one of which allowed the annual rings on the plastron (bottom shell) to be counted. (To be certain, she would have to examine the turtle).

Unfortunately, the rear of the turtle’s carapace was broken, but he showed no obvious signs of infection or sickness.

For interesting information about these beautiful and increasingly rare turtles, see “Will the Blanding’s Turtle Win the Race against Extinction?” written by David Zaber for the October 2004 *Newsleaf*, the Friends of the Arboretum newsletter.



Blanding’s Turtle in the CNA (G. Denniston).

Why Favor Native Plants?

by Roma Lenehan

The Campus Natural Areas (CNA) Manager, students, volunteers, and the Friends of the CNA spend a great deal of time removing non-native invasive species and planting native species. Why do they want to establish native plants?

Advantages of Native Plants

The many local species of native plants are diverse, a dramatic contrast to the relative few non-native invasive species that frequently occupy our human modified ecosystems. Varying from tiny plants to giant trees, native species range from grasses to wildflowers to woody plants and live in water and on land.

Native plants provide nutritious food for native animals throughout the year. For example, blackberries produce summer berries while oaks produce fall nuts. In fact, local plants and animals have evolved together. Insects often specialize on one or a few types of native plants and plants are often dependent on animals to pollinate them and spread their seeds. Adding more plant species usually increases insect diversity. For example, hundreds of different native insect species live in a prairie. Birds and mammals eat the plants, seeds, fruits, and the insects that eat the native plants. In contrast, relatively few, mainly non-native, insect species will be present in a crop field like corn or soybeans.

In addition, native plant communities are aesthetically pleasing. A prairie is much more beautiful than a weedy brome grass field. A diverse woodland understory is more interesting than a buckthorn or Norway maple thicket. Finally, native plants provide an opportunity to teach students about Wisconsin botany.

Native plants have useful characteristics. They are adapted to the area, its climate, and soil type. As a result, once established, they should be self-maintaining and not need to be watered or fertilized. Native ground covers hold the soil and decrease erosion, improving the water quality. In addition, native plant communities tend to improve the soil by depositing humus, fixing nitrogen, and keeping the soil in place, while most human activity, including farming, degrades the soil.

Usually native plants are limited by natural diseases and predation. As a result, in a community they tend to coexist with other plants rather than taking over the entire area, as some invasive species do. While in repeatedly disturbed areas a few native pioneer plants may dominate, in areas of infrequent disturbance a more diverse set of plants usually take the place of the pioneer plants.

What Happened to the Native Plants in the CNA?

The Campus Natural Areas, like most areas of southern Wisconsin, have been transformed by humans. Trees were cut down for buildings and firewood. Some areas were plowed and farmed, including the old field and orchard areas. The area that is now the Class of 1918 Marsh was a sedge meadow that was drained, plowed and farmed for over 40 years. Subsequently it was partially filled with construction material and then restored to a marsh. Other areas, like Picnic Point, were intensively grazed. Buildings and structures were built in the CNA, including the tent colony in North Shore Woods, several farm buildings on Picnic Point, and two houses and several buildings on Frautschi Point. Roads were built. Some areas, like Frautschi Point, were intensively landscaped. For instance, most of the evergreens in the CNA are planted. Non-native species, such as buckthorn, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, and multiple other landscaping plants and weeds have also invaded the natural areas. As a result of human changes, disturbance, and invasive species, very few areas of the Campus Natural Areas support the diversity of native plants that was probably present at settlement. Even the most natural areas like Eagle Heights and Wally Bauman Woods, areas that were probably never cut, farmed, or grazed and had relatively little human disturbance, still have a simplified understory due to the shading effects of buckthorn, honeysuckle, and garlic mustard. New non-native invasive species, like porcelain berry and spotted knapweed, continue to invade the CNA, increasing the competition with native plants.

Future Directions

The new CNA Master Plan, which should be completed in the spring of 2005, will guide planting plans. This Plan will set priorities for the labor intensive process of eliminating the non-native invasive species and reestablishing native plants throughout the 250 acre CNA. For a comparison, the Friends of the CNA Bill's Woods Project has taken five years and thousands of hours to restore an area of 5.6 acres. Several invasive species, including buckthorn and garlic mustard, are not yet under control and part of Bill's Woods Project area still has to be planted. In addition to continuing the Bill's Woods Project, the Friends of the CNA will continue to support the efforts of the CNA Manager by providing volunteer labor, money, and plants. If you have a favorite area of the CNA, consider Adopting an Area (see note on page 3).

Encountering Cranes at Picnic Point

by Margery Katz

In a recent issue of the FCNA newsletter, a small notice was included calling for individuals to share a story about an experience at a campus natural area. My encounter with cranes at Picnic Point was an experience which prompted me to join the Friends of the CNA. I thought I might share this story with others.

On July 9, 2003, I was taking a routine bike ride, this particular evening to Picnic Point, when just beyond the entrance I saw some large moving creatures in my path. I looked up and then saw a woman just ahead, standing quietly, watching me. Her eyes seemed to say, "Stop you fool, this is a reverent moment." Dutifully, I got off my bicycle and looked ahead.

About five feet from me were two adult cranes walking with ethereal grace, moving their heads from side to side. They seemed oblivious to my presence. And then a few feet trailing was a little crane around fifteen inches high trying to keep up the pace. The adult cranes took off slowly and looped back towards the lake, probably off in search of food.

The little one shook its body in imitation and remained grounded. It then looked back towards its parents in disbelief, with an expression that read, "Flying is SO COOL. How do you DO that?"

The baby crane found itself on a path without its parents. And then we looked straight at each other. It looked for its parents once more and then back at me. Then its eyes widened ten-fold, its body stiffened and its soft down stood on end. The terror on the chick's face was animated, like a young Tweety Bird seeing Sylvester for the first time, up close. It then turned towards the bushes, and waddled quickly seeking cover. I heard some rustling in the bushes, then quiet.

With the cranes gone, I got back on my bike, nodded to the other onlooker and resumed my ride up the path. Up ahead, I nearly rammed into a raccoon.

When I got home, I sent an email to a friend, Jane Camerini, who had mentioned something about the FCNA group. I thought she might be able to shed some insight into the three cranes. Sure enough, she wrote, "Great news, Margery. Folks have been hoping for this for several years. We have seen them try to nest, and this spring I saw the adult pair mating. They are wonderful, a joy to see. Thanks for letting me know."

Jane shared my message with Glenda Denniston, an active member of the FCNA I've yet to meet. Glenda provided information about the cranes and attached digital photographs. The pictures were beautiful and appreciated, but left me disconcerted – the colors of the cranes were so different from my memory. For I remember the adult cranes as translucent white.

Why were the birds different in my mind's eye? What does this vision of cranes mean? A haphazard search of cranes and myths on the Internet provided mostly lovely suggestions from varied cultures. "For thousands of years, cranes have been honored for their beauty, ancient ancestry, impressive size and flight." "In many parts of Asia, the cranes are held sacred as symbols of happiness, good luck, long life and peace." Aldo Leopold called the cranes, "no mere bird" but "wilderness incarnate"

(www.magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0404/feature2/).

All fine and good suggestions for meaning, but I have reached an age where I think it best to lay claim to my own experiences, review possibilities and assign my own meanings. Characteristically, I haven't committed to any particular meaning, as yet. Maybe it was dumb luck. Yet, even if it was dumb luck, do I have an ethical responsibility to share my unearned good fortunes?

I've joined the FCNA for a myriad of reasons arising from my encounter with cranes at Picnic Point. I joined in reparation for my existence, an existence that so terrified one cute, young, innocent and rare bird. (Being human can be such an embarrassment.) I joined in appreciation of a group of friends that shed light and shared information about my encounter when I was most curious, and a group which seeks to create a better environment. I joined with gratitude for the experience of such great beauty and wonderment. Mostly my dues were like throwing a penny into a wishing well. I joined with my heartfelt wish that the young crane would learn to fly and grow under the loving wings of its parents and then take off, living a long, healthy and happy life.



First Crane Colt Hatched in the CNA in 100 Years (G. Denniston)

Hitchhikers!

by Glenda Denniston

Burs and Hooked Spines

After a walk in the woods or fields, do you ever have to pick multitudes of small, hard to remove seeds from your clothes, shoelaces and even your hair? These are the “hitchhiker” or “sticktight” seeds, which depend on mammals and sometimes birds to transport them to favorable sites away from their parent plants. Many, though not all, are provided with spines and hooks that help them to adhere to fur, feathers and human clothing.



Hitchhiker Seeds from the CNA (G. Denniston)

The Challenge of a Sedentary Life

Plants cannot move around like animals. They are stuck where they happen to root. In order not to be overcrowded by their progeny, and in some cases to assure that their seeds will germinate in a favorable site (for example, not shaded or with bare soil), plants must have a strategy for moving their seeds. Seeds move by wind or water, by explosive seed discharge or by the actions of animals.

Animals transport many seeds in their digestive systems. They eat seeds which provide an edible “reward” such as a fruit or nutmeat and then excrete the intact seed in a new location. In contrast, most “hitchhiker seeds” do not give any reward to the animals that move them.

Hitchhikers of the CNA

Some of the plants that move their seeds by means of hooks and burs include Beggar-ticks, Burdock, Avens, Enchanter’s Nightshade and Tick Trefoil. Even Garlic Mustard, which is not equipped with spines, is often spread to new locations in hair or fur and on human clothing. One of the most annoying burs is the alien Burdock. These burs are also a danger to bats and small birds which get trapped and killed by them.



Red Bat Trapped in Burdock in the CNA. Photo Charles H. Roberts

Since dogs and humans both carry undesirable hitchhikers, it is important for people to stay on trails and keep their dogs on leashes to help prevent the spread of the undesirable plants which damage our natural areas.

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.

Big Oak Trail Enhancement

A New Planting Project

Friends of the CNA volunteers have been working with CNA management and student “service-learning” volunteers this fall. They have begun a new planting project along Big Oak Trail in the woodlands of Frautschi Point. The initial planting was done in early October. They hope to be able to add more native plants in the spring.

Big Oak Trail

The new footpath, which starts about halfway down the main trail from the Frautschi Point parking lot, connects two large open-grown white oaks and then continues through wetter woodland until it meets the trail system in Second Point Woods. To create the trail, this spring volunteers cut through a dense growth of invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle and spread wood chips. They completed the trail in October, despite a temporary setback caused by the fall of a large tree.

The New Plantings

The Friends obtained 992 Wild Geranium, 800 Columbine and 384 Sprengel’s Sedge plants for this autumn planting. This was done under the authorization



Open-Grown White Oak (G. Denniston)

and with the help of the CNA management. Funds came from a generous gift provided by the Frautschi family for managing and enhancing the beautiful lakeshore acreage they gave to the University in 1988.

FCNA, CNA management and student volunteers worked together to plant and care for the new plants. We hope that walkers on Big Oak Trail will be able to see some results of our work as early as next spring.

FCNA

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Time to renew October and
November memberships