



FCNA News

Volume 4, Number 2, Spring 2005

Friends of the Campus Natural Areas

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

Discover CNA Cultural History at the April 6 FCNA Annual Meeting

If you have ever wondered about the Indian burial mounds at Eagle Heights and Picnic Point or the random encounter with a slab of old moss-covered concrete in the middle of North Shore Woods, then you will want to hear this year's presentation about the University of Wisconsin's Cultural Landscape Project.

Daniel Einstein, UW-Madison environmental manager, and George Christiansen, archaeologist from the Great Lakes Archaeological Center, will speak at the Friends of the Campus Natural Areas (FCNA) Annual Meeting on April 6, 2005, at 7 PM at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum's McKay Center. Their illustrated talk, "Campus Natural Areas Cultural Landscape History: 12,000 Years of Campfires and Picnics," will describe changes to the CNA landscape as it evolved from open oak savanna to "fancy farm" to its current uses for university research, teaching and recreational activities.

Cultural Landscape Presentation

Daniel Einstein and George Christiansen have been piecing these and other Campus Natural Areas (CNA) historical puzzles together for the past five years.

For at least 12,000 years Native Americans have been drawn to this natural resource area for hunting and camping as well as sacred burials of their dead. George will report on his recent archaeological survey work in the CNA and the wealth of evidence he has uncovered demonstrating the popularity of these lands over hundreds of generations.

In more recent times, CNA lands have been used for a summer Tent Colony, shoreline "cottages" for a prominent Madison family, and a horse and carriage pleasure drive that offered city dwellers an opportunity to "get out to the country." Daniel will share these and other stories by drawing on a rich store of archival photographs.

George Christiansen

George Christiansen has over 20 years of archaeology field experience. He is a published authority on Late Woodland Effigy Mound Culture in the Upper Midwest. George has conducted

archaeological survey work on over 100 acres of university property, including the UW Arboretum, Eagle Heights Woods, Picnic Point, Willow Creek and Frautschi Point. This research is the most comprehensive examination of UW archaeological resources ever conducted. An anthropology lecturer at MATC, George will soon complete his PhD research at UW-Madison. He can pick out a projectile point on muddy ground at 40 yards without breaking stride.

Daniel Einstein

Daniel Einstein is currently working with a research team of students and professional consultants on the campus Cultural Landscape Resource Plan. The Plan will help guide the future management of university historic sites, designed landscapes and archaeological resources. He proudly claims to have waxed Abe Lincoln's nose during the conservation treatment of the Bascom Hill icon.

Daniel has been working for UW-Madison's Facilities Planning and Management division for the past 12 years on a wide range of campus environmental and conservation initiatives. He completed a Masters in Land Resources at the UW Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

Elections and Refreshments

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

Join us after this cultural history lecture for refreshments and to meet the FCNA Board.



Cows on Picnic Point ca. 1923 (UW Archives Photo CLP-U0081)

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Friends of the CNA
is a 501(c)(3) non-profit
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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 June 25, 2005. 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

Firing the Anagama! (Kiln)

April 15 (Friday) 7:30-9:30 PM

Join us for the spectacular firing of an ancient kiln by the UW Art and Anthropology Departments as they explore ancient traditions of pottery making. Leader: Bruce Breckenridge (262-6546, 238-8681). Meet at Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Glacial Geology and Soils of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Campus

April 16 (Saturday) 9-11 AM

Join us for a discussion of glacial history of the Madison area and a walking tour to see common glacial sediments near Picnic Point.

Leader: Dave Mickelson (262-7863). Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Birding Picnic Point

April 30 (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: Dan Doeppers and Roma Lenehan (238-5406). Meet at the 1918 Marsh Parking Lot.

Spring Wildflowers of Bill's Woods, CNA

May 8 (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.

Leader: Glenda Denniston (231-1530). Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Warbler and Spring Migrant Bird Walk

May 11 (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.

Ecology and History of Eagle Heights Woods

May 15 (Sunday) 2:00-4:00 PM

Come enjoy the wildflowers, see the Native American Mounds, and learn about the history of Eagle Heights Woods from CNA naturalist-historian Tom Brock (238-5050). Meet at the Shady Lane entrance in Shorewood Hills, off Wood Lane (between Lake Mendota and Edgehill Drive). Park on Wood Lane.

Warblers and Weeds

June 4 (Saturday) 9-11 AM

Hike and observe warblers and other bird species that use the Campus Natural Area habitats while learning about the challenges of controlling invasive weeds such as Garlic Mustard. Co-sponsored by the Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin.

Everyone is invited to join the Garlic Mustard work party following the field trip. Leaders: Willis Brown and Amy Staffen. Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Pretty Things with Wings

June 25 (Saturday) 11 AM -1 PM

Join us in a search for butterflies and dragonflies of the CNA, with an occasional peek at birds. Bring your binoculars.

Leader: Edgar Spalding (265-5294). Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Birds of the Campus Natural Areas by Season

by Roma Lenehan

The Campus Natural Areas (CNA) have long been known for their birds. Early in Madison's history, people hunted at University Bay. Subsequently the CNA was used for education, research and bird watching.

Bird populations change through the seasons. Spring and fall are the most diverse periods. The bird populations of the CNA have changed through the years, reflecting the modifications of the landscape from "wilderness" to agriculture to urban natural area and the variations in the bird populations of Wisconsin.

Below is a seasonal selection of the birds that are seen in the CNA along with some history.

Winter

Winter has the lowest diversity and the least predictable species composition. In some winters the CNA hosts winter finches, northern owls, and late migrants. Some interesting birds also occur regularly.

- Tundra Swan – Tundra Swans usually appear in late fall after the boats leave and stay until the lake freezes over. In the recent warm winters there have been several hundred swans during the holidays. In early January, 2005, 269 swans were observed in University Bay. They may also visit the CNA for short periods earlier in the fall and in the spring.
- Bald Eagle – Bald Eagles can be seen in any month in the CNA, although they are more common in late fall, winter, and early spring when there is open water. They are most often seen in the dead trees at the base of the Biocore Prairie and on Frautschi Point. Four Eagles visited Frautschi Point for several weeks this past December. In the nineteenth century Bald Eagles nested in southern Wisconsin and were regularly reported at Eagle Heights. They declined through the 1950s and 1960s, becoming endangered, because DDT lowered their reproductive success. Subsequently the Eagle population has increased greatly. In 2004, for the first time in years, Eagles again nested in the Madison area.
- Great Horned Owl – The Great Horned Owl is a year around resident, most frequently seen roosting during the daylight at Eagle Heights Woods, Frautschi Point and Picnic Point or hunting during the twilight in the gardens or at the Class of 1918 Marsh. The Owls are most obvious during the winter, when they court, build nests, and lay eggs. They can often be found by following the excited crow mobs (crows also mob hawks) and by hearing their 4 to 8 deep "hoos" in the early morning or late evening. In 1944 Aldo Leopold noted the importance of these Owls to field ecology education and their reliance on mature trees.
- Screech Owl – Another year around resident, the Screech Owl, is most visible in winter when it suns in holes in trees. Multiple pairs of this small Owl live in the CNA, but they can easily be overlooked. Surprisingly, I have never heard their eerie call in the CNA.

Spring

Spring is the most popular time to observe birds in the CNA. Waterfowl diversity peaks as the ice breaks up in University Bay. Song bird diversity peaks in May.

- Common Loon – The Loon has become a symbol of northern wilderness, but it can be seen and heard (more often on foggy or cloudy days) in the spring and fall on Lake Mendota. A few spend the summer on the lake.
- White Pelican – Recently the spectacular White Pelican has soared over the CNA in May. After almost totally disappearing from Wisconsin, the Pelican now nests in Horicon Marsh and Green Bay and summers along the Mississippi River.
- Osprey – Osprey can be found during migration. In recent years, since they have nested in the Madison area, they can also be found fishing in the late summer. Like the Bald Eagle, the Osprey has increased significantly since the banning of DDT.
- Sandhill Cranes – In recent years a Crane pair has nested, occupying University Bay and the Class of 1918 Marsh in different years. The Cranes are most visible feeding near the Class of 1918 Marsh and in the soybean fields (summer). The Sandhill Crane has made a dramatic recovery in Wisconsin, after almost disappearing in the 1940s.
- Warblers – Picnic Point is perhaps best known for the May (1-20) visit of the warblers. These tiny, brilliant, hyperactive birds arrive in waves with the southern winds. Usually 29 species of warblers are seen annually and often someone finds some of the rarer species, especially if there is a good fallout. Most of these warblers also visit in fall (when they are easiest to see at Frautschi Point, the Picnic Point Marsh, and the open areas and gardens), but they are "confusing fall warblers" and are harder to see because of the leaves.
- Neotropical Migrants – In addition to Warblers, in May and September the CNA hosts numerous birds that winter in the tropics, including flycatchers and thrushes. The abundant Baltimore Orioles and Indigo Buntings are most obvious in the first three weeks of May, but also nest in the CNA. Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks can be readily found in May.

(continued on page 8)

The Uncertain Future of “Big Woods”

by Glenda Denniston

What is “Big Woods?”

“What is ‘Big Woods?’” you might well ask. “Is it part of the Campus Natural Areas? What does it have to do with the Friends of the CNA?”

No, “Big Woods” is not part of the CNA – at least not yet. It is a nickname for a beautiful old woods, located between the Eagle Heights Apartment Complex and University Houses on the UW-Madison campus. This location gives it a position of major importance.

“Big Woods” is a critical part of an almost connected canopy of large trees – part of a “woodland corridor” which provides habitat for CNA wildlife, especially neotropical migrant birds during their spring and fall journeys. It connects the woodlands of Bill’s and Frautschi Point Woods with those of Eagle Heights Woods and the Shorewood Hills community via the linking wooded strip along Lake Mendota Drive and the trees in University Houses and along Haight Street.

Raptors, including Great Horned Owl, Cooper’s Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk, hunt in the CNA and nest in “Big Woods.” Many birds use this woodland as a haven for their fledglings because humans rarely visit. Despite its proximity to the apartments, fox, coyote and deer use it occasionally while many smaller mammals reside there.

“Big Woods” has never officially been made part of the Campus Natural Areas, perhaps because it has been seen as land for possible future campus housing or other development. The 2003 report of the CNA Committee’s Biological Subcommittee recommended adding “Big Woods” to the CNA.



Spring Wildflowers Carpet “Big Woods” (G Denniston)

The Richness of “Big Woods”

Large old White Oak, Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Basswood, Black Cherry, Hackberry and other trees characteristic of the Southern Forest form the canopy. Invasive species are present, but, except for Garlic Mustard and some large Norway Maples, are largely

confined to the woodland edges. The soil is rich in humus, attesting to the age of the woodland. Many fallen trees and branches, rotting on the forest floor, provide habitat for animals and a variety of mosses, fungi, and lichens.

In mid-May, 2002, I surveyed and mapped the vegetation of “Big Woods” and was amazed to find the most abundant and diverse woodland wildflowers in the Madison campus. Thousands of Wild Ginger, Dutchman’s Breeches, Solomon’s Plume, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wood Geranium, Prairie Trillium and other species carpet extensive areas of the woodland floor in the spring. There are several large patches of Bent Trillium (*T. flexipes*) as well. The most unusual wildflower species is Great Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*) which is listed by the UW Herbarium as a “Species of Special Concern” in Wisconsin.

In short, “Big Woods” is an old, diverse, rich woodland in a critical location.



Great Waterleaf, a Rare Species in Wisconsin (G Denniston)

The Threat and the Alternative

An area contiguous to “Big Woods” recently has been proposed as the site for the construction of a large retirement housing complex for alumni and faculty. This complex would inevitably impact the woods, changing drainage patterns, increasing traffic on Lake Mendota Drive, and adding more impermeable surface.

Is “Big Woods” destined to be the setting for an exclusive housing development? If so, will every effort be made to prevent tree loss and run-off during construction? Will building here lead to further development of land north of University Bay Drive? Will Lake Mendota Drive lose its wooded canopy? Should “Big Woods” and the nearby wooded corridors be mapped and specifically defined as part of the CNA to protect them? These issues demand intensive study before irreparable damage is done to this precious resource.

Volunteers and Donors the Key to FCNA Success in 2004

In 2004 the Friends of the CNA expanded their education, stewardship, advocacy, and fund raising efforts with the help of many members and volunteers.

The FCNA Board thanks Jane Camerini who is leaving the Board. During her three years (2001-April 2004) as our first President, Jane's leadership enabled the FCNA to become a vibrant organization.

Education

Professor Bill Cronon, who subsequently became the Chair of the CNA Committee, spoke at the FCNA Annual Meeting. He showed current and historical slides and reminded the audience that managing and protecting urban natural areas requires continual effort.

The FCNA sponsored 13 history and ecology field trips. The FCNA cooperated with other organizations: the Natural Heritage Land Trust co-sponsored the Wally Bauman Wildflower Walk, the Madison School Community Recreation co-sponsored the Nature Walk for Seniors in Bill's Woods and the Madison Audubon Society co-sponsored two birding walks.

Stewardship

Volunteers continued to work on the Bill's Woods restoration. Near the entrance to Picnic Point, where woodland plants have been planted, and in the upper area opposite Grounds, where prairie savanna plants replaced a dump area, native plants are restoring color and diversity. In 2004 volunteers removed invasive shrubs and planted hundreds of additional donated and purchased native plants (see page 9 for 2005 plans).

In addition, Glenda Denniston worked with student volunteers and UW Physical Plant Staff at Frautschi Point to clear non-native brush and build the Big Oak Trail, linking two large open grown oaks. Later FCNA volunteers planted thousands of Wild Geraniums, Columbines, and Sedges along the trail to restore the native understory that was killed by excessive shading.

Volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to control invasive species by removing Garlic Mustard, Burdock, Buckthorn, and other invasive species.

In 2004 the Anglers' Cove area reconstruction decreased erosion and storm water runoff into Lake Mendota. It was supported by the DNR and the FCNA. The project replaced much of the pavement with natural landscaping, created a smaller parking lot away from the lake, provided a stairway for safe access to the Cove, and slowed the area's stormwater. Additional planting will occur in the coming years to complete the restoration (see page 7 announcement).

Advocacy

Efforts to raise awareness of the CNA and to recruit FCNA members continued. Two FCNA Board members, Glenda Denniston and Roma Lenehan, jointly received the Individual Stewardship Award at the Natural Heritage Land Trust's 2004 Stewardship Awards for their work with the FCNA, raising awareness of the FCNA in the environmental community. Membership rose to over 250 members.

Fund Raising

Our members generously supported us, giving us \$6,520 in additional donations. FCNA Board members Dick McCoy and Blair Mathews worked with the UW Foundation and the Alumni Association to promote gifts to the CNA. They developed a CNA slide show which helped convince the Class of 1955 to raise money to restore North Shore Woods for their Class Gift.

A Promising and Exciting Future!

This year has extraordinary promise for the future of the CNA and the future of the UW-Madison. Here's why: The absence of a "Master Plan" has been a source of great frustration in CNA stewardship. Now, the stars have aligned and timing is auspicious, with funding found and consultants hired. CNA Master Planning, the Cultural Landscape Resource Planning, and Campus Master Planning are proceeding concurrently with great synergy. They have broad, enthusiastic and constructive support across the campus.

As the plan unfolds, opportunities will continue to open for input and influence. This is a critical time to contribute ideas and support!

Friends of the CNA 2004 Financial Report

Balance of as 1/1/04	\$33,773
Income	
Memberships	\$12,100
Gifts	5,290
Bill's Woods Donations/Note Cards	1,230
Membership Match	2,230
Interest	360
Other Income	44
Total Income	\$21,254
Expenses	
Membership Expenses	\$964
Planting Projects	2,965
Newsletter	1,012
Annual meeting	252
Picnic Point Maintenance	817
Brochure	1,428
Miscellaneous Expenses	201
Total Expenses	\$7,638
Balance as of 12/31/04	\$47,389

FCNA Annual Meeting: April 6, 2005

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 Changes

The Board of Directors recommends that Members approve the following Bylaws changes that allow the number of Directors to range from 12 to 15 (rather than 12) and allow the Secretary to serve an unlimited numbers of terms (rather than 3 one year terms). To do this, the following additions (indicated by bold underlining) need to be made to Article III, sections 3.2 and 3.3, and Article IV, section 4.2:

Article III: 3.2 Directors Numbers, Term and Qualifications. The number of elected Directors shall be **no fewer than** twelve (12). **The Board at its discretion may increase the size of the Board up to a maximum of fifteen (15)** The terms of the Directors shall be staggered, such that the terms of **approximately** one third of the Directors expire each year.

Article III: 3.3 Election of Directors. Except as provided in 3.3(a), below, Members shall elect **at least** four (4) Directors at the annual meeting of Members held each fiscal year.

Article IV: 4.2 Election of Officers. ...each officer shall hold office for a period of one (1) year.... No officer shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same office except that there is not any limitation on the number of consecutive terms for the offices **of the secretary and** the treasurer.

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.

Glenda Denniston – Glenda currently serves as FCNA Vice President and Volunteer Chair and is a regular contributor to the FCNA Newsletter. She has “a passionate concern” for the protection of the CNA. Glenda has extensive CNA experience, is familiar with its vegetation and wildlife, and is knowledgeable of the habitat needs of birds, mammals, and other animals. Glenda and Mary Trewartha planned and carried out the planting and restoration of Bill’s Woods. Glenda leads volunteers in the restoration of natural communities and has contributed many hours of individual volunteer work in the CNA.

Kathi Dwelle – Kathi, an environmentalist, wildflower enthusiast, and gardener for over 20 years, has helped with the FCNA’s Bill’s Woods restoration. She has worked to eradicate non-native species in Shorewood Hills and the Arboretum. She uses the Lakeshore Path to commute and has “become increasingly concerned about preserving the beautiful views in the Campus Natural Areas that help make this campus so special.” In her position in upper management at the UW-Madison Division of Information Technology, she directs the spending and monitoring of student technology fees, customer and staff surveys, and communication. She will bring organizational and gardening skills to the FCNA.

Kennedy Gilchrist – Kennedy retired in 2003 after 30 years on the faculty of the UW Medical School. He has remained busy working on agricultural and environmental challenges on a family farm. He is a founding member of the Board of the Friends of Muraviovka Park, which is affiliated with the International Crane Foundation. Muraviovka Park, located in the Russian Far East, is an international model for sustainable land use, rare species conservation, and environmental education. Kennedy believes that there are similarities between the activities that occur in Muraviovka Park and the CNA. He is interested in promoting multiple-user activities in the CNA, including taking advantage of its proximity to the UW Health Sciences Center complex for potential benefit of patients and their families.

Roma Lenehan – Roma has served as FCNA Secretary and Communications Chair for the past four years and is a key person in the production of FCNA publications. High priorities for Roma are to “increase awareness of the diversity of life in the CNA among FCNA members and the broader community.” She produced the CNA Bird Checklist and CNA Breeding Bird Study and leads bird walks in the CNA. She has experience with woodland restoration and exotic species removal in the CNA and elsewhere.

Mary Trewartha – Mary continues to be a member of the FCNA Communications and Volunteer Committees and has been in charge of the Annual Meeting the past two years. Mary and Glenda Denniston planned and carried out the planting and restoration of Bill’s Woods. Mary has been birding and walking in the CNA since student days and is an avid gardener in the Eagle Heights Community Gardens where, “It’s difficult to choose whether to look down to garden or up to enjoy the many birds and the natural beauty of the setting.” She thinks it is a privilege to have this wonderful natural area available to the campus and community and values the opportunity to help in its protection. Mary has done extensive work on prairie and habitat restoration for grassland birds in Iowa County.

Spring and Summer Field Trips *(continued)*

Eagle Heights Gardens Tour

July 9 (Saturday) 10 AM -12 PM

Come see the diversity of the oldest community gardens in the United States. People from more than 50 countries garden its hundreds of plots.

Leader: Mary Trewartha (238-8106).

Meet at the Gardens Entrance on Lake Mendota Drive.

Biocore Prairie in Bloom

July 23 (Saturday) 8:30-10:30 AM

Come see Biocore Prairie reconstruction and learn to identify prairie flowers and grasses. See the bird banding and learn how it allows us to monitor changes in the bird community. Co-sponsored by Madison Audubon. Leaders: Curt Caslavka (836-1865), Mara McDonald. Meet at the Frautschi Point Parking Lot.

Announcements

CNA Is Identified as Bird Hot Spot

Laura Erickson, in her article "Bird Havens" in the January/February issue of *Wisconsin Trails*, identifies the Campus Natural Areas as one of seven birding hot spots in Wisconsin and notes the CNA "afford excellent birding year around."

Arboretum Native Plant Sale May 7, 2005

The Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 7, 2005, from 9 AM to 2 PM at the wildflower tent near the UW-Madison Arboretum Visitor Center. Over 100 varieties of woodland and prairie plants will be available. Plants (including a rain garden, butterfly/hummingbird, savanna, and prairie mixes) and shrubs (16 species) can be pre-ordered through March 18 (forms available by calling 608-263-7760 or www.uwarboretum.org). Plants are native to the area and propagated (not collected from the wild).

Walk for Invasive Species Awareness Month

In order to raise awareness of the threat of invasive species to native habitats, June 2005 has been named Wisconsin's first annual Invasive Species Awareness Month. Field trips, lectures and workshops will occur throughout the state. The Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) and the FCNA will sponsor a walk at the CNA, "Warblers and Weeds" (see details on page 2), led by Amy Staffen and Willis Brown. For information on other Awareness Month events, see www.ipaw.org/events/ISAM.htm.

Volunteers Needed for Anglers' Cove

Volunteers are wanted for the Anglers Cove restoration to weed, observe, and start adding plants. Contact Cathie Bruner at cbruner@fpm.wisc.edu or 265-9275.

Announcements *(continued)*

New FCNA Board Member

Katherine Brock has been appointed to serve the remainder of Robert Goodman's FCNA Board term (until April 2007). Kathie comes to the Board with an enthusiasm for restoration and for the protection of the CNA. She and her husband Tom were instrumental in initiating the designation of the CNA as a natural area and in organizing the first work parties to remove invasive species. Kathie retired from microbiology and publishing a few years ago. Since then she has kept very busy with restoration work, volunteering for The Nature Conservancy and The Prairie Enthusiasts. She and Tom also serve as the stewards for Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie, a State Natural Area. They also spend a great deal of time restoring their land in the Driftless area to its original prairie and oak savanna habitat. She hopes to help with CNA restoration.

CNA Christmas Bird Count Results

Due to the warm fall, counters found more bird species (49) than usual for the CNA. Many waterfowl were still present, including 204 Tundra Swans, 2 Black Ducks, 9 Lesser Scaups, 96 Buffleheads, 49 Goldeneyes, and 247 Common Mergansers. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen briefly. Five Bald Eagles, 2 Cooper's Hawks, and 9 Red-tailed Hawks were found. One Winter Wren, 1 Carolina Wren, 8 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 7 Brown Creepers, 3 Hermit Thrushes, 4 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 3 Song, 5 White-throated, and 2 Swamp Sparrows lingered. Watchers also found 3 Screech and 3 Great Horned Owls.

Bird Sightings Board

Please record your birds on the Bird Sightings Board (by the driving entrance to Picnic Point, at the base of the Bill's Woods restoration, behind the exercise board). This allows other birders, including ornithology students, to know what birds are in the area. Please continue to record sightings throughout the season – not everyone is lucky enough to see the first migrant!

Update Your email

Please keep your email address up to date so that the FCNA can send you announcements or event changes. Send your name and email address to rlenehan@charter.net or write it on your renewal card.

Share a Story

Do you have a favorite story or memory of Picnic Point or the CNA? Did you participate in a study or a class in the CNA? Please share your experience with our readers. Send stories of 240 words or less (1/3 page) to Roma Lenehan (rlenehan@charter.net or 238-5406).

Birds of the Campus Natural Areas by Season *(continued from page 3)*

Summer

The CNA supports a diverse set of summer birds. The Breeding Bird Study (2000-2002) confirmed 69 species and another 12 probably bred (Lenehan, *Habitat and Abundance of CNA Breeding Birds*, 2003).

- Green Heron – The Green Heron is regularly seen quietly feeding around University Bay and the Class of 1918 Marsh. At least one pair nests annually.
- Great Blue Heron – Great Blue Herons visit University Bay to feed, but do not nest in the area.
- Canada Goose – Canada Geese were reintroduced and now spend most of the year and nest in the area.
- Wood Duck – The spectacular Wood Duck nests throughout the CNA, wherever there are mature trees with large holes. In April these ducks scout the woods. While the females incubate eggs, the males rest at the Class of 1918 and Picnic Point Marshes. Wood Ducks disappeared and were reintroduced by Robert McCabe into the Arboretum in the 1940s.
- Red-tailed Hawk – The Red-tailed Hawk spends most of the year in the CNA, but is most obvious when the pair's large begging young occupy the old field edge.
- Cooper's Hawk – The usually secretive Cooper's Hawk can often be seen hunting for birds along the edge of the Biocore Prairie or the Class of 1918 Marsh. Several pairs of Cooper's Hawks nest in the CNA. This species almost disappeared from southern Wisconsin by the 1970s, but after DDT was banned it recovered and colonized many urban areas.
- Rails – Virginia and Sora Rails nest in the Class of 1918 Marsh. These rails are most active in early morning and late evening. They can be most easily seen during high water when they are forced to cattails edges close to the land or during very low water when they have to feed at the interior edge of the cattails. More frequently their descending whenny (Sora) or deep grunts (Virginia Rail) are heard.
- Killdeer – In late May the Killdeer can be observed behind the Class of 1918 Marsh or in the Eagle Heights Gardens giving its broken wing act to lead predators (people) away from its nest.
- Terns – Although no terns breed in the CNA now, Black Terns bred in the past at the Class of 1918 Marsh. Caspian Terns, with their large red beaks, periodically appear on the sandbar in University Bay.
- Belted Kingfisher – At least two Kingfisher pairs nest in the CNA in holes in earthen banks. They can be observed sitting on a snag waiting or diving for fish. Their loud rattling call helps locate them.
- Neotropical Migrants – Comprising 40 % of CNA breeding birds, these species include flycatchers (5 species), swallows (5), vireos (3), and warblers (6).

Fall

Many CNA bird species can be found during a longer period in the fall than during the spring. Fall waterfowl numbers are also larger and more predictable.

- Great Egret – Great Egrets visit the Class of 1918 Marsh and University Bay most years in late summer. Occasionally, when food is favorable (like during the flood of 2000) more Egrets come or they stay for longer periods. This species almost disappeared from southern Wisconsin, but has increased recently.
- Black-crowned Night-heron – Like Great Egrets, Night-herons visit the CNA annually, usually in the late summer. They are usually observed feeding near Willow Creek or at the Class of 1918 Marsh.
- Dabbling Ducks – Most years, when the Class of 1918 Marsh has enough water, many dabbling ducks occupy the Marsh. Beginning in late summer, other ducks join the resident Mallards and Wood Ducks: first Blue-winged Teal, then Shoveler (also common in spring), Gadwall, and American Wigeon. Pintail and Green-winged Teal also visit the Marsh.
- Diving Ducks – Once University Bay was famous for its diving ducks, but today they appear in numbers only late in the fall after most boats leave the lake. From 1946 to 1980 fall ducks were counted several times weekly by 54 Wildlife Management Techniques class students. University Bay was known for its periodic large number of Canvasbacks (2000 in 1914 and 1634 in 1954). Bufflehead (throughout spring and fall), Goldeneye, and Common Merganser still occur in relatively high numbers in the Bay.
- Turkey – Turkeys completely disappeared from Wisconsin. Reintroduction has been so successful that Turkeys have recently colonized the Madison area. They appear occasionally in the CNA, although they have not been found nesting there yet. Most CNA observations are from fall and winter.
- Shorebirds – Shorebirds occur in the CNA when there is appropriate habitat. In spring they often feed in the puddles behind the Class of 1918 Marsh and rest on the University Bay sandbar. They feed in the 1918 Marsh when it is low in the late summer and fall. Repeated visitors include Spotted Sandpiper (breeds), Snipe (annually), Solitary Sandpiper (regular spring and fall), both Yellowlegs, and Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers.
- Sparrows – The Eagle Heights Gardens and the Biocore Prairie host a wide variety of sparrows in September and October. Their diversity (12 species can often be found during the fall) and their visibility makes this one of the best places in Madison to practice the art of fall sparrow identification.

Our Spring Planting Projects Need Your Help

FCNA Planting Projects Progress

Last spring, Friends of the CNA (FCNA) and other volunteers planted thousands of woodland wildflowers and ferns in our Eastern Bill's Woods Planting Project. All of these plants were either donated by or purchased with money contributed by FCNA members. Volunteers also helped the CNA management by planting many wildflowers and sedges (bought with funds provided by the Frautschi family) along the new Big Oak Trail in Frautschi Point Woods. Spring visitors to these areas will see a colorful display of flowers.

We Need Many Volunteers This Year

We need your help to continue our woodland restoration efforts. We have ordered thousands of additional plants for Bill's Woods. In addition we are hoping to help restore the woodland edge of Frautschi Point and to continue the Angler's Cove restoration. Savanna plantings will be added to the Frautschi Point edge, so that there is a natural transition from the woodland to the restored prairie in the field. Volunteers will have the opportunity to work and learn with UW students and staff while helping with these projects.

We are grateful for the small number of dedicated volunteers who have done most of the work of invasive species control, planting and caretaking. Unfortunately, at times we have not had enough workers to get large numbers of plants into the ground quickly, so we have not been able to transplant all the wildflowers that our generous donors offered. In order to expand our

planting projects, we need many more helping hands to work with our committed volunteers.

Volunteers Have a Lot of Fun

You don't have to be an expert to volunteer for our work parties. You will learn as you work with other volunteers. You will have fun and feel a great sense of satisfaction. It is wonderful to know that a woodland is richer and more diverse because of your efforts.



FCNA Volunteers Planting in Bill's Woods (G.Denniston)

Dates for work parties will appear on the FCNA Web Site (uwalumni.com/fcna) and via email. If you'd rather work at a more convenient time for you, just contact Glenda (cdennist@wisc.edu, 231-1530) and a time and date will be found. We need your help!

Please consider donating money or plants (see form) to support our planting projects!

Yes, I want to help restore CNA Woodlands !

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip Code _____

I understand my gift is an additional donation, not a membership renewal.

I am willing to donate plants

Please send me information about how to volunteer

\$25

\$50

\$100

\$250

Other _____

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

The Friends of the CNA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible as provided by law.

Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon Pledge

I pledge 25¢ 50¢ \$1 \$2.50 \$5.00 \$_____ per bag of Garlic Mustard the group pulled at the Pull-A-Thon
Limit my pledge to a maximum of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Mail To: FCNA
P.O. Box 55056
Madison, WI 53705

Help Control Garlic Mustard: Pull and/or Donate

Join other native plant devotees to pull Garlic Mustard on Saturday, May 21, 2005, from 10 to 12 at the entrance of Picnic Point at the Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon. We are also holding an Early Bird Session from 8 to 10. (The rain date is Sunday, May 22, from 2 to 4, with no early session). This event will rid Picnic Point of a noxious weed, make money for Garlic Mustard management, and be fun. Supporters will pledge money for each bag of Garlic Mustard collected by the group on May 21. We need as many people as possible so that we can get as much money as possible! No experience is necessary!

Help pay for the Campus Natural Areas's (CNA's) Garlic Mustard and other invasive species control by pledging money for all the 35 gallon bags the volunteers fill during the Pull-A-Thon (see form on page 9). In the past four years, invasive species management (mostly Garlic Mustard control) has been the largest CNA management expense. Non-native invasive species threaten existing native plants and prevent effective restoration. Garlic Mustard removal requires at least 8 years of continuous control to eliminate it. Both paying workers to remove Garlic Mustard and poisoning Garlic Mustard, which cannot be done in all areas, are expensive.

How much Garlic Mustard will the group pull? The sky's the limit – but a reasonable guess is 30 to 200 bags

(determined by the number of volunteers – which depends on YOU!). Although we suggest pledges of \$0.25, \$0.50, \$1, \$2.50 and \$5, we will accept any pledge. If you want to limit your pledge (for example \$1 a bag up to a maximum of \$50), just indicate that on your pledge form. Supporters will receive a note telling them the number of bags of Garlic Mustard collected and the amount of money to send.

Of course, we cannot cover the entire CNA during a single two hour period. Therefore, we will have three additional pulling parties (see box). Please attend these additional work parties to help control Garlic Mustard in the more sensitive areas of the CNA. Only by working together can we control Garlic Mustard!

Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon
May 21 (Saturday) 10 AM-12 PM Picnic Point
or 8-10 AM (for Early Birds)
May 22 (Sunday) 2-4 PM (Rain date only) Picnic Point

Garlic Mustard Work Parties
May 1 (Sunday) 2-4 PM Frautschi Point
May 10 (Tuesday) 4:30-6:30 PM Picnic Point
June 4 (Saturday) 11 AM-1 PM Picnic Point

FCNA
P.O. Box 55056
Madison, WI 53705

Reminder
FCNA Annual Meeting
April 6, 2005

Mail in your Garlic Mustard
Pull-A-Thon Pledge Form