PRESERVE!

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Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter

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

What's Happening in the Tent Colony Woods?

by Jean Meanwell

If you have walked the path recently in the Tent Colony Woods, you have probably noticed all the flags in a variety of colors between the path and the road. They represent different species of native plants—specifically Wild Blue Phlox, Wild Geranium, and Ginger—that are being planted as a part of a larger restoration project for the entire woods. Nannyberry Viburnum shrubs are being planted as well.

History

Tent Colony Woods is not a pristine wooded area. In fact, the name "Tent Colony Woods" comes from the fact that a major section of it was occupied from 1912 to 1962 by University Summer School students living in tents in this wooded area along the lake shore (see *FCNA News* Spring 2002 page 3 and Winter 2002 page 3). As many as 200 people, including 60 children, lived there during the summer in the 1930's.

The Class of 1955 chose the restoration of Tent Colony Woods for their fiftieth reunion gift and raised almost $200,000 for the project. Tent Colony is an area in need of restoration, but also one with possibilities. Though filled with Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Garlic Mustard, and other invasives, it is also home to scattered oaks and an expanding Sugar Maple forest.

Restoration Experiment

Begun under the supervision of Rebecca Kagle, the restoration work is now under the stewardship of Lars Higdon, a graduate student in Landscape Architecture, who is assisted by an Advisory Committee.

In order to investigate the effectiveness of different planting and invasive removal techniques, a small portion of Tent Colony has been divided into study plots. Initially plant inventory and soil analyses were conducted in the area. These will be used to assess the effects of the soil and initial plant composition on the restoration process.

In the first stage of the project, the study area has been divided into six sections. Two sections are control groups in which nothing has been done. Two sections have had invasive plant species killed by herbicide treatments. Two sections have had invasive species removed by "mechanical" means — hand pulling if possible, or the use of a weed wrench. One of each of the two identically treated sections will be planted with native herbs and shrubs and the other will be left alone.

After three years, the six plots will be compared by counting native plants and invasive species to see which treatment maximizes the elimination of invasive species and the restoration of native plants. These new insights will be applied to restoring Tent Colony Woods and other areas of the Preserve.

Other Restoration Activities

In addition, three areas adjacent to the Lakeshore Path, outside the study area, have been cleared by professional environmental contractors. One is close to the Raymer's Cove parking lot. The other two are in areas where the Sugar Maples have become dense enough to partially shade out invasive plants. In one of these areas mainly Honeysuckle was removed and in the other mainly Buckthorn. Each of these three larger areas will be planted with native plants next spring.

We are grateful to the Class of 1955 for funding the ongoing restoration of Tent Colony Woods and the experiments which will improve our restoration efficiency throughout the Preserve.

Bee on Wild Geranium (G Denniston)

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

We Welcome Submissions to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter and Web Site

The Friends welcomes the submission of articles and announcements for our newsletter. We encourage people to share their checklists and other relevant Lakeshore Nature Preserve materials on the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve 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 our next newsletter, please tell us about your material by January 23, 2008. The submission deadline is February 13, 2008.

Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory

by Mara McDonald

Saturday, September 15, 2007, marked our sixth year of bird banding on the Biocore Prairie. Located between the Eagle Heights Gardens and Lake Mendota, the prairie is part of the recently designated Lakeshore Nature Preserve Important Birding Area. The original Biocore Prairie restoration project began in 1997 with a two-acre plot that has recently been expanded to nine glorious acres, offering new opportunities for study and comparison.

The Bird Banding Station has banded over 1400 birds of over 70 species. It provides opportunity for people to see birds up close, learn about their migration and nesting patterns, and understand how natural areas enhance their biological success. It provides opportunities for students to do field research.

Our banding operation is an all volunteer, al fresco effort, braving the open prairie through a formidable range of elements while subjected to innumerable voracious blood-sucking insects. That said, we have been gaining momentum in terms of the number of enthusiastic volunteers, several of whom are doing research aside from the banding. Our major goal is to assess the impact of prairie restoration on the bird community. What we have found is that there is generally a positive impact on the bird community as restoration proceeds.

In 2002, no differences were found between the old prairie and an adjacent old field for bird species diversity or the foliage structure of the two areas as the season progressed from spring to summer. In 2004, Kendra Johnson found a significant increase in diversity on the prairie compared to the old field for both birds and orders of insects. Our netting data supported her find. We presented her data as a poster at an international meeting last fall in Veracruz, Mexico.

This year, 2007, we have the new prairie expansion to add to our comparison studies. Stephanie Beilke, Michelle Louis and her 12 year-old son, Evan Bauch, have surveyed bird, insect, and plant diversity. Interestingly, in contrast to our banding data, using censusing techniques Stephanie found no difference in bird diversity among the three sites. Michelle and Evan found significant plant species differences among sites, with the prairies having a much more diverse and healthier proportion of native plants than the old field. Our insect analyses suggest that insect diversity in the new prairie is lower than in either the old prairie or the old field. This is perplexing because the new prairie is significantly more diverse vegetatively than the old field. A poster of these results was presented at the recent American Ornithologists' Union meetings in Laramie, Wyoming.

We have some new species additions to the prairie. Stephanie identified our first Bobwhite and Dickcissel. The latter species is often confined to extensive tracts of grassland. We're hoping that in the future, we may attract more of the prairie species. Stephanie also observed Scarlet Tanagers. She thinks there were at least two breeding pairs. In addition, Common Yellowthroats were found breeding in the old prairie for the first time.

Our research is expanding into other areas. Fourteen year old Alex Bauch has recorded the songs of Song Sparrows at the Preserve and another site and has found real differences in the song characteristics of the two populations.

All in all, our activities continue, as long as the weather remains warm enough. Then we hunker down to hibernate.

Thanks to all of our faithful volunteers: Pat Becker, Jerry Simmons, the Bauch-Louis family, Stephanie Beilke, and many more, including Roma Lenehan for her continually enthusiastic support. Please join us if you're out our way.

Why Is Restoration So Hard? A Personal Reflection

by Roma Lenehan

As I watch the many people work to restore the prairies, woodlands, and savannas, I marvel at the difficulty of the process. Looking at the restored Class of 1918 Marsh, which due to lack of care lost most of its restored plant diversity, I realize the difficulty of maintaining a restoration over long periods of time.

Why is restoration so difficult? Why, once an area is "restored," can't it maintain itself without care? Are we not simply restoring the area to what it was before?

Restoration Ease Depends on Initial State

In order to restore, first a target ecosystem has to be chosen. This can be controversial. Changing woodland to prairie can cause opposition due to the need to remove most trees. In the new Preserve Master Plan most wooded areas remain woodlands. Yet even removing non-native brush along the Picnic Point edge, restoring views and enabling native plants to reclaim the area (see page 5), can cause consternation.

Ease of restoration depends on the initial state. By picking an "easy" target, like the mesic woodland restoration of Tent Colony Woods (see article page 1), restoration can be made easier. This area is oak woodland with a maple understory. Only the non-native trees and shrubs like Buckthorn and Honeysuckle need to be removed, not the majority of the bigger trees. When non-native brush is removed, the existing native woodland plants will spread in many areas as they have where brush was cut below the Frautschi Point entrance.

In contrast, before restoration the Biocore Prairie area was a fallow agricultural field, a Brome field with invasive weeds like Canada Thistle, which supported few or no native prairie plants. Plowing had disrupted the prairie soil, mixing the soil layers and eliminating prairie microbes. Decades of cropping had exhausted the native prairie seed bank. When the prairie was planted, most of the initial plants were established weeds or aggressive pioneer species.

The plot size and adjoining areas affect restoration ease. The entire Preserve is relatively small and strung along the shoreline. As a result, no single area is large and any potential restoration will have a lot of edge. Frequently invading trees and brush (prairies) or weeds come from the edge. In addition, water from outside the Preserve continuously brings nutrients and weed seeds. For instance, Tent Colony Wood's long uphill road edge, multiple storm water channels, and its narrowness provide an opportunity for undesirable plants to invade. As a result, although it may be less difficult to restore, Tent Colony Woods will require continuous vigilance to prevent repeated invasions of undesirable plants.

Factors Affecting Success

Success depends on the restoration methods used. Seeds are less expensive, but slower than plants. Poisoning or plowing eliminates the immediate weeds, but opens the area up to a new set of pioneer weeds. Whether these new weeds are better or worse than the existing weeds depends on the surrounding seed source and the existing weeds. Optimally, all noxious weed seed sources near the restoration should be removed.

Success Is a Moving Target

Initially success may be establishing several target species. Later these early species may become too dominant and have to be controlled. Other plants are hard to establish, possibly because their soil microbes or pollinator may not be present in a small restoration.

After one weed is controlled, another often appears. In the Frautschi Point restoration near the first oak, Buckthorn and Honeysuckle were replaced by Garlic Mustard which was replaced by Hackelia, a native, but aggressive, stick-tight. Even in well established small restorations, new invasive species repeatedly invade. Existing weedy species are selected by our management methods. They adapt by surviving to reproduce as they previously adapted to changing climates, landscapes and herbivores. For example, some weeds have become resistant to herbicides and others produce seeds even if repeatedly cut. Many weeds have short generation times and produce hundreds of seeds. Trees and prairie plants usually evolve more slowly because they often have longer generation times and produce fewer seeds.

Even when a restoration is established, it is vulnerable to disease or disaster. Dutch Elm Disease eliminated the American Elm and Oak Wilt kills many oaks. Hopefully Emerald Ash Borer will not eliminate all the Ash trees as Chestnut Blight eliminated American Chestnut from the Eastern forest.

Restoration Is Like Gardening

In many ways, small scale urban restoration is like gardening. One removes the weeds, plants seeds or plants, weeds, and adapts one's plans to what succeeds or fails. Like a garden, the restoration is never finished, but requires repeated labor intensive weed removal, plant management, and maintenance. If one leaves a restoration alone, as in a garden, new weeds will invade and some plants will become too aggressive while other species become scarce and disappear. Thus restoration, creating a "natural" environment for us and other animals, is a never ending job.

"You're Planting…What?"

by Glenda Denniston

Noxious Weed Removal

I am no lover of plants that scratch me, stick on me or poison me. Also, I am in constant battle with any aggressive non-native weed that threatens native plant diversity in the Preserve. My least favorite of these, except for Garlic Mustard and European Buckthorn, are the Burdocks and alien Thistles that are prolific in open areas. I have spent many hours cutting and bagging their seedheads and digging out young seedlings.

Collecting and Planting Native Seeds

Each year I add native plants and seeds, many purchased by the Friends, to restoration projects in the Preserve. This year native plants have been added in Bill's Woods, parts of Frautschi Point, and the edges of the field, including the gully between Frautschi Point and Second Point Woods. Woodland, savanna and prairie plants are now well established in these areas.

I have been equally busy removing invasive weeds from these same areas. Why, then, can you find me planting thistle seeds?

Peck's Skipper on Canada Thistle (G. Denniston)

Guilt while Bagging Thistles

Last year, while cutting and bagging the seedheads of the noxious Canada Thistle, *Cirsium arvense*, I became aware of many small protesters. Hundreds of bees and butterflies of various kinds as well as beetles and other insects were congregating in the small remaining patch of flowering thistles.

It was obvious that these noxious thistles were filling an important need as a nectar source for these insects. I also noticed scolding Goldfinches whenever I cut thistles. I realized that I was taking away their prime nesting material and a main source of food. At this point I decided to add native thistles to my plantings.

Value to Wildlife

Thistles of all sorts, native and non-native, are visited by hummingbirds, and they are important nectaring plants for many butterflies. In fact more species of butterflies feed on thistle and milkweed plants than on any other plant group (Attracting Butterflies to Your Yard, 2004, www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-248-W.pdf). Thousands of Painted Lady butterflies used the Canada Thistles in the Preserve fields this year. The same plants were used by the seldom-seen Banded Hairstreak and Baltimore Checkerspot and many more common species. For migrating Monarchs, thistles are particularly important nectar plants, as they bloom at a time when most other plants have stopped flowering. Migrating Monarchs need to store enough lipids, obtained from nectar, to provide energy for their entire 5-month overwintering period (Brower, Fink and Walford, 2006, "Fueling the Fall Migration of the Monarch Butterfly," *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, pg 1123-1142).

Other insects, notably both long-tongued and short-tongued bees, moths, bee flies and flower beetles eat nectar or pollen or the flowers themselves. Thistles are host plants for the caterpillars of Painted and American Lady butterflies. The only known host plants for the Swamp Metalmark butterfly are two native thistles, *C. muticum* and *C. altissimum* (www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species). For detailed information about thistles and insects see John Hilty's website (www.illinoiswildflowers.info).

Native Field Thistle, *C. discolor* (G. Denniston)

Native Thistles in the Preserve

At present, the only species of native thistle present in the Preserve is Field Thistle, *Cirsium discolor*. It has been introduced using seed provided by Tom and Kathie Brock, from their Pleasant Valley Conservancy in Black Earth. I hope also to introduce Swamp Thistle, *C. muticum*, Tall Thistle, *C. altissimum*, and Hill's Thistle, *C. hillii*. For the sake of biological diversity I am happy to deal with a few pricks and scratches.

Announcements

Update on Cronon Fund Raising

The Cronon fund raising campaign has exceeded its target of $100,000 for Preserve Stewardship and continues to raise money. Thank you to all of you who helped us to reach our goal.

New Friends of the Preserve Brochure Enclosed

The Friends have a beautiful new Brochure with a new map which includes the new areas of the Preserve such as Big Woods and Willow Creek Woods.

Friends Money at Work

In 2007, the Friends gave $18,660 to the Preserve.

- $5200 for Preserve plant maintenance.
- $4680 for summer interns in the Preserve.
- $3000 for students to control Garlic Mustard.
- $2300 for a permanent grid in Bill's Woods.
- $2000 to the Stewardship Fund.
- $1480 from Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon for invasive species control.

In addition, the Friends spent $2060 on native plants that were planted in the Preserve.

New Friends Web Address

The Friends have an additional web address, www.lakeshorepreserve.org as well as waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve. There are now two ways to get the Friends of the Preserve Website.

Preserve Included in Important Bird Area Book

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve appears in the new *Important Bird Areas of Wisconsin: Critical Sites for the Conservation and Management of Wisconsin's Birds*, edited by Yoyi Steele. Ordering information is available at www.wisconsinbirds.org/IBA.

Submit Names for Board Candidates

Please help us find Board members. If you or anyone you know would like to serve on the Friends of the Preserve Board, please send their names to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Kennedy Gilchrist, kwgilchr@wisc.edu or 233-8717.

Winter Field Trips May Appear on Web Site

Check the Friends Website for winter field trips that may occur early in the spring semester.

Back Newsletter Issues Available

Back issues of *PRESERVE!* and *FCNA News* are available. Each single issue is $2. A volume (Winter, Spring and Fall) is $5. Please send your name and address and list of desired issues with a check made out to

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
P.O. Box 55056, Madison, WI 53705.

Around the Preserve

Picnic Point Update

Invasive species removal has begun on Picnic Point. At the entrance the dense Buckthorn stand was removed, restoring views of University Bay, the Capitol, and the Bay Marsh for the first time in years. Once the invasive species are controlled, the area will be restored in low native vegetation, enhancing the appearance of the entrance while maintaining the views. Half way out Picnic Point near the conical mound on the Bay side brush removal has begun. Gradual brush removal will enable management to control the dominant invasive species and restore the native understory of this beautiful area. Over time additional views will be restored, replacing Buckthorn, Honeysuckle and Garlic Mustard with a diverse native understory.

Willow Creek Woods Update

A restoration has begun at Willow Creek Woods with the money from a gift from the Friends of the Preserve, a portion of the Cronon campaign. This overgrown savanna, one of the few natural savanna areas in the Preserve, located near the Natatorium had been neglected and was in need of attention (see *PRESERVE!* Winter 2006 page 8). Last winter the trees that were crowding the tree canopy of the 23 open grown oak trees were carefully removed. A graduate student, Stephen L. Thomforde, oversaw a plant inventory of the area this summer. Over time invasive species will be gradually removed. The storage sheds on the edge of the woods will be relocated. The adjacent Native American Mounds will be integrated into the area by replacing the mowed grass with short native plants. Eventually, fire will be reintroduced to the area to maintain it as an oak savanna.

Soil Pits Restored

This summer, the soil pits in Bill's Woods were restored by the Soil Science Department to make them more sustainable. The three soil pits are large holes dug through the soil layers. They have been used by Geography, Soil Science, and Geology classes for half a century to study soil structure in a glaciated area. Few other universities have similar soil pits on campus for classroom use. The new interpretive trail through Bill's Woods (see page 7) connects the soil pits to other interesting aspects of Bill's Woods, allowing classes to visit these sites without damaging the restored areas.

Eagle Heights Woods Edge

Restoration efforts continue on the University Houses Gardens edge of Eagle Heights Woods. Despite the anticipated weed problems, many of last year's plantings survived. This fall Friends volunteers will plant savanna seeds donated by Tom and Kathie Brock.

Non-Native and Reintroduced Bird Species

by Roma Lenehan

The environment of the Preserve, like most of America, is very different now than it was before settlement. While many formerly widespread animal species are missing or rare, new species, most obviously birds, have become established. In some cases, these new birds have become very common and have played a role in the Preserve ecology.

European Starling

The Starling was introduced in Central Park in New York City in 1890 by Eugene Schieffelin who wanted to establish all the birds appearing in Shakespeare's plays. The Starling population rapidly expanded, reaching Wisconsin by 1923 and spreading throughout the United States. Today many consider it the most abundant bird in North America. Starlings are intelligent mimics that adapt well to humans, living in urban areas and on farms.

In suburban and natural areas, Starlings are aggressive cavity nesters that compete with native woodpeckers, bluebirds and other cavity nesters for natural holes. In areas where cavities are limited, Starlings will try to steal all appropriate holes.

Most of the Starlings in the Preserve breed in the lights and other man-made structures on and near Campus. They feed in the Preserve, bring their young to the Preserve, and hundreds sleep in the cattail marshes during migration. In edge areas Starlings compete with native birds for cavities, seizing holes from woodpeckers and other birds.

House Sparrow

House Sparrows, which also come from Europe, were introduced multiple times to control insect pests. In Wisconsin, they were introduced as early as 1869. Like Starlings, they use cavities, including bird houses, and compete with native species for nesting space.

In the Preserve, House Sparrows occur at edges, such as the 1918 Marsh. They are very common in the Eagle Heights Gardens, where they try to occupy every cavity, making it difficult for bluebirds, tree swallows, and other native species to nest successfully in the nest boxes or in natural cavities. Only by controlling House Sparrow nesting can Bluebirds successfully nest in the open areas of the Preserve.

House Finch

The House Finch, while native to North America, originally only lived in the western states. However, in 1940 a pet store owner in Long Island, New York, released his caged House Finches to avoid indictment for illegally selling native bird species. These few House Finches spread throughout the eastern United States, reaching Wisconsin in the 1970s and expanding west until the eastern populations met the existing western population. House Finches now inhabit most of North America and are one of our most common birds.

Like House Sparrows, House Finches prefer the edges, especially the Gardens and open areas. In these areas, they breed fairly commonly and form large flocks in the fall. The ecological consequences of House Finch introduction are unknown, although some believe that the House Sparrow and Purple Finch, the eastern relative of the House Finch, populations have decreased since the arrival of the abundant House Finch. In recent years House Finches numbers have decreased due to the spread of an infectious eye disease.

Ring-necked Pheasant

The Pheasant, an Asian species introduced for hunting in the 1910s, was very common in the Preserve in the 1930s. Many Pheasant chicks had been raised and released at the Jackson place at Second Point. Due to severe crop damage in the agricultural fields where the playing fields are now, Aldo Leopold was asked to study and find a way to limit the damage of the estimated 300 Pheasants. He and his students studied and wrote papers on these birds. Leopold recommended trapping and hunting the birds to decrease their numbers. Despite their efforts, Pheasants remained common until the 1970s, when they disappeared due to loss of field habitat and winter kill. Pheasant numbers have also declined throughout Wisconsin.

Reintroductions

Although technically native, many of our birds are reintroduced, often from a different genetic group than the native version of the 1700s.

- Giant Canada Goose – Believed extinct, this sub-form of the Canada Goose was reintroduced in the 1960s. Before its introduction, few geese nested in Wisconsin. In many areas, including the Preserve, these big geese are largely non-migratory and use large grassy areas near water.
- Wild Turkey – Extinct in Wisconsin, the DNR's reintroduction efforts failed until wild Missouri birds were released in the 1970s. Now widespread in Wisconsin, in 2007 Turkeys spent the summer in the Preserve for the first time.
- Trumpeter Swan – Re-introduced in the 1980s from Alaskan eggs, this species occasionally appears in University Bay, though much less frequently than the smaller native Tundra Swans and the aggressive non-native Mute Swans.

Recent Activities in the Preserve

by Emily Sievers

Students, volunteers and Preserve employees have been hard at work planting, trail-building, brush-clearing and, as always, weed-pulling in the Preserve. Projects continue in Tent Colony Woods (see page 1), Muir Woods, Lot 34 and Bill's Woods. In other areas, such as Willow Creek Woods (see page 5) and the Picnic Point entrance (see page 5), restoration is just beginning. The following is a brief synopsis of some of the activities occurring around the Preserve.

Muir Woods and Lot 34 Woods

The Muir Woods project continues. The Students of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve organization has been working on trail-building and cleanup in Muir Woods and will soon plant around the footbridge which was built last year. As part of the long-term monitoring of the restoration, the Landscape Architecture Restoration Ecology class has been collecting data for the planting density study in Muir Woods. The students counted plants in the fifteen small monitoring plots set up throughout the woods by the project assistants last year.

Below Lot 34, where the brush has been cleared, a crew of student workers has stabilized the steep slope with a cover crop of annual rye and creeping red fescue and will soon plant native shrubs and herbaceous species near the Lakeshore Path and parking lot. Interpretive signage has been installed and will be updated to keep passersby informed about the restoration in progress.

New Bill's Woods Trail

Preserve employees are building an interpretive trail system through Bill's Woods and the Picnic Point entrance area to connect the soil pits (see page 5), an open grown oak, and the Upper Bill's Woods Planting Area. The trail will connect with another new trail leading to the Art Department's kiln. Using woodchips from chipped brush and logs from downed trees, the trail provides a safe way to access these areas without trampling native plants, compacting the soil, or causing erosion. Classes and the public will be able to use these beautiful trails.

Lars Higdon and Emily Sievers Prepare to Plant (E. Sievers)

Invasive Species Removal

Invasive species control continues in many areas of the Preserve. Contractors cut and treated Porcelain Berry and Eurasian Bittersweet to control these aggressive vines. Buckthorn and Honeysuckle have been removed from the Picnic Point entrance, Tent Colony Woods, and selected areas along the Lakeshore Path. In the Friends Bill's Woods Project regenerating Buckthorn will be removed as part of ongoing caretaking.

Clearly many things are being accomplished in the Preserve. Groups are also working on the Biocore Prairie and the field edge of Frautschi Point. Come and see the developments for yourself!

Join the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip Code_____

Phone (optional) _____ Email (optional) _____

☐ Please send me information about how to volunteer

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

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Mail your check payable to Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve with this form to:

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve P.O. Box 55056 Madison, WI 53705

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

Did You Know?

Here is a new feature exploring little known facts.

John Muir and the Preserve (Daniel Einstein) John Muir, renowned conservationist and occasional UW-Madison undergraduate student (1860-63), most certainly would have visited areas that are now part of the Preserve. But the only written account we know of was a trip to Picnic Point in the spring of 1861. He rented a boat with a fellow student living in North Hall and they rowed out to the Point. What did they do when they arrived? They did their laundry, of course!

Yellow-headed Blackbird Reintroduction (RL) Not all bird reintroductions efforts succeed. Between 1947 and 1949 Robert McCabe and James Hale tried to reintroduce Yellow-headed Blackbirds by placing transplanted Yellow-headed Blackbird eggs (40) and young (123) in the nests of 60 Red-headed Blackbirds at University Bay. Although 100 Yellow-headed Blackbirds fledged, only four juvenile males and no females returned. Although reintroduction efforts were unsuccessful, in the 1970s and early 1980s Yellow-headed Blackbirds spontaneously nested in the newly restored Class of 1918 Marsh, delighting bird watchers.

Bird Study at the University of Wisconsin (RL) In 1903 the study of birds began with bird behavior. Ornithology classes began in 1907. In 1909 groups met near Muir Knoll for weekly spring bird study walks, using opera glasses to see the birds. Bird banding began in 1925. By 1930 over 10,000 birds, mostly migrating Chimney Swifts, Juncos, and White-throated Sparrows, had been banded (C. Brown, 1930, *Birds of the Campus*).

Lakeshore Path Origins (Daniel Einstein) Many different trails and roads were stitched together to create the Lakeshore Path. The earliest shoreline paths would have been established by Native Americans as long as 12,000 years ago. The university built farm work roads along the lake in the late 1860s at the base of Observatory Hill. The public was permitted to take their carriages on these farm roads for scenic drives. A group of civic minded citizens built the path segment west of Willow Creek starting in 1892. This group went on to form the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association, the predecessor to the Madison Parks Division. Path segments on Picnic Point are old farm roads or bridle paths. For more information, see www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/visit/lakeshorepath.htm

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Time to renew October and November memberships