

# PRESERVE!

Volume 7, Number 3, Fall 2008

# Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter

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

# Storms of 2008 Affect the Preserve

by Roma Lenehan

Fortunately the Preserve did not experience the damage some areas of Wisconsin experienced, but the heavy rains of June, dropping almost ten inches of rain in one week, and the consequent high water created challenges as well as opportunities in the Preserve. See page 3 for photographs.

### **Immediate Results – Flash Flooding**

The Preserve experienced localized flash flooding. The runoff accelerated from the Lake Mendota Drive road edge through the Gardens and into the Frautschi Point Gully, creating deep rapid water. The Gully planting area, now several years old, survived the three to five foot rush of water, but some plants were knocked down. Stabilizing logs lining the gully and other downed wood were shifted by the water, creating temporary dams and new erosion on the gully sides. Downstream, toothwort and other native plants were washed out, leaving loose mud.

Limited erosion occurred in many other areas. Most of the trails had at least some damage which will have to be repaired. Water runoff from Eagle Heights Apartments and Lake Mendota Drive continues to cause erosion in Tent Colony Woods. These flood events move invasive weed seeds and provide opportunities for pioneer plants, both native and non-native, to spread.

The water also brought silt that ended up in Lake Mendota. Willow Creek, which collects water from much of the near west side of Madison, flushed more particulate material into University Bay, continuing the process of sedimentation in the Bay.

The 1918 Marsh and playing fields became covered with water several inches deep. This rapid rush of water undoubtedly swamped many bird nests near the water. Luckily, the Sandhill Crane eggs had hatched. The surviving colt was seen feeding on worms behind the Marsh in the flooded field.

#### **Wind Damage**

Tragically, the damage was not limited to flood damage. Multiple trees fell owing to high winds and

saturated soil. Many of these were irreplaceable large oaks that simply tipped up, continuing the slow losses of recent years. The Second Oak at the field edge of Frautschi Point broke in two (see photo page 3). Numerous smaller trees, many of them cherries, simply snapped, leaving their jagged stumps in the ground.

### **High Lake Levels**

Since early June Lake Mendota's water levels have been above flood stage, creating some interesting activities (see page 3). The Picnic Point parking lot flooded and was temporarily closed. Subsequently, tadpoles occupied it and were chased by visiting children. The main Picnic Point trail was flooded, but bicyclists were undeterred. The lake swept into the Picnic Point Marsh, covering the back trail with three feet of water. Carp used the trail as a resting place and route into the Marsh.

To avoid further flood damage from motorboat wakes, there has been a no-wake rule on the lake for most of the summer. Regardless we can expect shoreline erosion from wind driven waves at the water's edge especially along wave exposed shorelines. The Preserve has been nice and quiet without the usual motorboats.

#### **Consequences of the Storms**

Initially the storms created havoc. Water appeared where it had seldom been. New areas of erosion occurred. Areas that were thought of as "upland" were under water for more than a week. Hundred-year-old trees were destroyed. Now the Preserve management is left with the challenge of repairing the damage to trails, removing downed trees where they crossed trails, and planning for the next flood.

The longer term consequences of the storm are uncertain. Will the flash flooding increase invasive species populations by seed spread? Will prolonged flooding kill invasive shrubs near the lake? What will replace the downed trees – other desirable trees or undesirable non-native shrubs? Forest openings created

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# Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

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#### **President:**

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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 September 9, 2008. The submission deadline is October 7.

# Fall Field Trips

Additional Field Trips will be posted on the Friends of the Preserve Web Site: waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve

#### Frautschi Point Savanna Restorations

August 16 (Saturday) 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Explore lesser-known parts of Frautschi Point. Glenda has transformed an ugly erosion gully into a beautiful insect garden and a buckthorn thicket into a cedar glade since her restoration efforts began in 2003. Meet at the Frautschi Point Parking Lot on Lake Mendota Drive. Leader: Glenda Denniston (231-1530).

#### Return of the Natives in Bill's Woods

August 23 (Saturday) 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Come see the increase in plant and insect diversity in the wet savanna restoration in Upper Bill's Woods, at bur oak saplings along field edges and at other savanna projects in the Preserve. With luck, many beautiful plants will be in bloom. Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot. Leader: Glenda Denniston (231-1530).

## Restoration in Tent Colony Woods: History, Projects and Importance

September 6 (Saturday) 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Join Lars Higdon to learn about human use and natural history of these woods, challenges to restoration, and importance of learning from adaptive restoration trials occurring in this part of the Preserve.

Meet at Raymer's Cove Parking Lot off Lake Mendota Drive.

Leader: Lars Higdon (e-mail: larshigdon@hotmail.com).

# Effigy Mounds of the Preserve and Adjacent UW Campus

September 7 (Sunday) 1:00-3:00 PM

Visit effigy mounds that date from 700 AD to 1200 AD at the Willow Drive and Observatory Hill Mounds group. Learn about the mounds themselves, lifeways of their builders and how we honor these sites today. Park in Lot 57 or Lot 58 north and west of the Natatorium tennis courts.

Meet at the Carl Schuman Shelter (2025 Willow Drive).

Leader: Paul Borowsky (608-886-6777).

#### Fall Birding at Picnic Point

September 13 (Saturday) 8:00-10:00 AM

Come search for fall migrants, including confusing fall warblers and sparrows. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Meet at the Class of 1918 Marsh Parking Lot. Leaders: Eric Wood and Marty Evanson (271-6846).

## Bird Banding at Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory

September 13 (Saturday) 8:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Learn about bird banding (possibly with a bird in hand) and appreciate the importance of bird banding to conservation. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Park at the Frautschi Point or Picnic Point Parking Lots and walk to the Biocore Prairie. Leader: Mara McDonald (274-2534).

#### **Discover the Picnic Point That Never Was**

September 27 (Saturday) 2:00-4:00 PM

Many of us have heard that the Preserve once had barns, summer cottages and even a sea plane hanger. But did you know of the unfulfilled plans for a horse racetrack (Eagle Heights Gardens), squash courts (Second Point Woods) or a residential neighborhood (Picnic Point)? Join Preserve Program Manager, Daniel Einstein, as we hunt for the "lost" building projects, using site plans from the early 1900s. Meet at the Picnic Point stone gate.

Leader: Daniel Einstein (265-3417). (continued on page 5)

# After the Rains, June 2008



Bicyclist on Main Picnic Point Path (C Bruner)



Damage to Second Oak, Frautschi Point (G Denniston)



Grounds Crew Cleaning Up Downed Trees (C Bruner)



Child Chasing Tadpoles, Picnic Point Parking Lot (G Denniston)



Canoeist in Picnic Point Parking Lot (C Bruner)



Log Piles Created by Flood in Gully (G Denniston)



Chasing Carp on Path near Picnic Picnic Marsh (G Denniston)



Tadpoles in Picnic Point Parking Lot (C Bruner)
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# Thank You

The Friends of the Preserve want to thank all the donors and volunteers who help make our work a success.

#### **Major Donors**

Major donors donated more than \$100 since July 2007. See also starred listings.

Peter and Eleanor Blitzer Henry Hart Howard Mead Thomas and Nancy Mohs Margaret Van Alstyne Pat Powers and Tom Wolfe

#### **Memorials and Gifts**

In Memory of
Dr. Frank Larsen
Jack and Nancy Westman\*

#### In Memory of Richard Ranney

Robert and Carey Chiesa Jonathan Nesvig Lorraine Ranney Harriet Riley\* David and Solveig Westgard

In Memory of our Mother and Grandmother and in Celebration of Three Generations of UW Women Graduates Who Loved Picnic Point:

Annette Miron Jelen 1966
Jeanne Miron Kirby 1971
Sara Jelen 2001 and MS 2003
Michael and Annette Jelen\*

In Honor of 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Pat & Charles Koval Harriet Riley\*

# In Honor of Richard McCoy

James A. Peterson

# **Preserve Plantings**

Glenda Denniston\* Roma Lenehan\*

#### **Gifts**

Indian Hills Garden Club

#### **Plants and Seeds**

Kathie and Tom Brock\* Roma Lenehan\*

#### **Pull-A-Thon Donors**

Janet Batzli Patricia Becker Gloria Berman Tom and Kathie Brock\* Ellsworth Brown Garv Brown Cathie Bruner Helen and Erv Bruner\* Ann Burgess\* Jean Cronon\* Diane and Robert Dempsey\* Glenda Denniston\* Carole and Dan Doeppers Clyde Ferguson\* Peter Fisher Kennedy Gilchrist **Ray Guries** Dick and Mary Sue Hansen Wayne Hanson Nancy and Jack Heiden\* John and Karen Icke\* Ted and Helen Iltis

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Ted and Helen Iltis
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\* Major Donor

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#### **New Members**

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Ali Ahmed Attiga
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Bonnie and Jack Lawton Elizabeth Middleton Philip and Nancy Palmer Elizabeth Roberts Sal and Judy Troia

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Martha Frey Charles Gorske Jan Hornback Norma Jones Mary Lou McBride David Robb Sue Rosa Stephen Stover Josh Sulman

## 2007-2008 Volunteers

#### **Field Volunteers**

Christina Amberson Michael Aplington Army ROTC Tania Banak Mary Beatty Amanda Becker Carolyn Betz Kathie Brock Tom Brock Ann Burgess Curt Caslavka Carmen Coats Glenda Denniston Kenn Denniston Julie DeWitt Kate and Fred Dike Sarah and Audrey Domyan David Eagan Daniel Einstein

Hildy Feen Jill Feldkamp Rick Feldkamp Bob Fessenden Ellen Fitzsimmons & Allyn Lepeska Julie Ferguson's Geography Class Sue Gardner Kennedy Gilchrist Jerry, Diana and Alex Greenberg Ashley Halstead Hengky Harmita Kris Helgelson Tom Helgeson Jo Horton **Emily Hunt** Noriko Jackson Jared Johnson Joanne Junke and Lydia and Sarah Hiroko Kando Hui Jung Kim Billy Knox Dennis Kuriukii Roma Lenehan Wei Liu Judith Louer Connor Maloney Kathryn Maloney William Mann Charlotte Meyer Hannah Morehouse Lisa Munro Samantha Nagy Ann Pollock Sarah Richter Eric Rieth Harriet Riley Ruth Saecker Carol Schlatter Marcia Schmidt Stacey Schultz Joe Scott Sam Sicard Susan Slapnick Lynsey Spaeth Nico Spinelli Ann Strandberg Students of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Hillary Thompson Ian Thornburg Mary Trewartha

Maggie Westaby

Chelsea Evans

# Thank You (continued)

Timothy Williams Hanni Witzig Chi Tat Wong and Jessica Lau Unknown Hikers

#### **Field Trip Leaders**

Bill Barker Janet Batzli Cathie Bruner George Christiansen Glenda Denniston Stanley and Ginny Dodson Dan Doeppers David Eagan Daniel Einstein Marty Evanson Peter Fissel Lars Higdon Al Holzheuter Karen Icke Roma Lenehan John Magnuson Sylvia Marek Mara McDonald Seth McGee Jean Meanwell Harriet Riley Edgar Spalding Jim Welsh Chris Williamson Susan Will-Wolf

#### **Organizational Volunteers**

Kathie Brock Ann Burgess Curt Caslavka Diane Dempsey Glenda Denniston Dan Doeppers Kathi Dwelle Kennedy Gilchrist Henry Hart Nancy Heiden Karen Icke Gisela Kutzbach Roma Lenehan John Magnuson Sylvia Marek Blair Mathews Richard McCoy Jean Meanwell William Muehl Lisa Munro Harriet Riley Marcia Schmidt Susan Slapnick

Mary Trewartha

# Storms of 2008 (continued from page 1)

by a tree fall regenerate quickly, but to what? Forest succession is a natural and dynamic process and can provide opportunities for increasing diversity. But it is still sad to see large, old trees succumb to storms.

#### What Should We Do?

To have sustainable restorations, we need to decrease and slow the water moving through the Preserve. Rapidly moving water causes erosion and carries nutrients and sediment into Lake Mendota. The Friends of the Preserve has joined Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership to try and improve water quality of the Madison lakes. The Preserve Management team is partnering with University Housing to decrease the water coming into the Preserve from Eagle Heights Apartments. We all want cleaner lakes!

# Fall Field Trips (continued from page 2)

### **Reading History in the Picnic Point Landscape**

October 18 (Saturday) 1:00-3:00 PM

We will compare the history - from internal evidence - and current tree species of two adjacent woods at Picnic Point (base of the Point and Glade woods just inside its gate), and effects of these differences on other plants there and on birds that use these woods in winter. We will hope that fall colors remain to enhance our walk. We will consider effects of Gypsy Moths and spraying programs as we stroll. Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Leader: Susan Will-Wolf (262-2754).

#### Announcement

#### **New Friends Officers**

In May the Board of Friends of the Preserve elected officers. Three officers continued in their positions, Ann Burgess as President, Marcia Schmidt as Treasurer, and Lisa Munro as Secretary. Kennedy Gilchrist was elected Vice President, replacing Mary Trewartha who is no longer serving on the Board.

#### **Preserve Has New Water Pump**

The Preserve recently acquired a new custom-built water pump with funds donated by the Friends. "We are really excited about this new piece of equipment," commented Daniel Einstein, Program Manager at the Preserve. "We'll be using the



New Water Pump on Preserve Utility Vehicle (D Einstein)

pump on a variety of projects, but most importantly to provide water to our new plantings and for fire management during our controlled burns. With over 200 feet of hose and a 65-gallon tank we'll be able to reach remote spots -- without having to drive off trail. Thanks to the Friends for this wonderful gift. Your support is greatly appreciated!"

# Volunteers, Money, Staff, and Management Key to Success

Have you ever wondered how all the work gets done in the 300 acre Preserve? Cathie Bruner, the Preserve Field Manager, has the constant challenge of balancing new projects, continuing ongoing projects, maintaining the entire Preserve, and dealing with unexpected events like fallen trees and flooded trails. The Management accomplishes the restoration and maintenance of the Preserve with the aid of the Grounds Department, volunteers, and hourly help and contractors paid for by generous donors including the Friends of the Preserve.

#### **The Audubon Interns**

Once again the Friends of the Preserve donated \$5000, enabling the Preserve to have the five Audubon Interns eight hours every Thursday for ten weeks. The Interns learn about restoration and do a wide variety of hard work during the summer. They bring enthusiasm and energy to their work in different areas, learning about the prairies, woodlands, and savannas of the Preserve while removing weeds and brush, planting, and building trails.



Student Workers in the Preserve (G Denniston)

### **Hired Staff**

Stephen Thomforde, the new Project Assistant (PA), supervises several of the ongoing restoration projects in the Preserve. Replacing Lars Higdon, Stephen oversees projects like Lot 34, Willow Creek Woods, and the Picnic Point entrance. The PAs supervised the planting of hundreds of woodland wildflowers in Tent Colony Woods and Frautschi Point. The Friends and other donors help fund the Project Assistant position.

In addition to the PA, the Preserve has several hourly workers who help out wherever they are needed. Lead Stewards Amy Jo Dusick, Tom Helgeson, and Brandon Mann lead student hires and volunteers in the care of Muir Woods and the Lakeshore Path. During the winter they helped build trails specified in the Master Plan. They spent many hours removing Garlic Mustard from the Picnic Point area. They helped Lars and Stephen plant and care for plants in Tent Colony Woods,

Frautschi Point, and at the Picnic Point entrance. Recently they have been helping control weeds like Dame's Rocket, Canada Thistle, and Burdock as well as weed wrenching Buckthorn from Tent Colony Woods.

#### **Contractors**

The contractors treat invasive species with pesticide and do work requiring power tools. They treated Garlic Mustard, Thistles, Leafy Spurge, and other noxious weeds. Some of the money for invasive species control came from Friends Pull-A-Thon proceeds. The contractors continued Buckthorn removal in Tent Colony Woods, making room for new plants.

#### Volunteers

Preserve volunteers cooperate with paid staff and put in hundreds of hours of work on their own. Bill's Woods - In the Friends Eastern Bill's Woods Restoration, Mary Trewartha and Glenda Denniston continue to plant hundreds of plants and seeds. In order to keep the established plants thriving, this spring Glenda and her service learning volunteers spent many hours removing Buckthorn and Stinging Nettle. Both the Upper Bill's Woods savanna area and the lower woodland area thrive due to the multiple maintenance hours put in by volunteers and paid hourly summer workers. Come visit the area with Glenda (August 23) or visit the area on your own via the newly created trail. Frautschi Point Gully- Despite problems with flood waters, Glenda continues to work on the upper Gully. This spring volunteers planted hundreds of savanna and woodland edge species. Weed control of Canada Thistle and Burdock is a continual task in this area. Garlic Mustard – Roma Lenehan and the Friends organized five work parties and the Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon (page 7). In addition, Friends members spent another 236 hours pulling Garlic Mustard in the western areas of the Preserve.

### **Facilities Planning and Management Staff**

Facilities Planning and Management and the Grounds Staff planned and supervised all the activities at the Preserve. The Grounds staff performed many maintenance tasks, removing downed trees to keep the trails open, mowing, chipping, and keeping the Preserve looking good and functioning well.

#### Conclusion

The Preserve Management gets the vast amount of work done by using Grounds Staff, volunteers and donated money to hire an exceptional group of hired workers and services. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this success!

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# A Successful Garlic Mustard Season

by Roma Lenehan

In 2008 the amount of Garlic Mustard was less than in previous years in all areas of the Preserve. The persistent efforts of volunteers and staff, who were partially paid for by the 2007 Pull-A-Thon funds and other Friends of the Preserve donations, have significantly decreased the amount of Garlic Mustard in the Preserve. As a result, Garlic Mustard volunteers spent more time looking for Garlic Mustard and less time pulling (see chart). The efforts of many people, over more than ten years, have led to this decline!

#### 2008 and 2007 Garlic Mustard Totals

	2008 Hours	2008 Bags	2007 Hours	2007 Bags
Volunteers	236	44	714	462
Work Parties	67	22	40	16
Pull-A-Thon	52	40	72	103
Totals	355	106	847	581

#### **Pull-A-Thon**

On May 19 twenty-six adults and three children pulled 40 thirty-gallon bags of Garlic Mustard during the two hour Pull-A-Thon, removing millions of future seeds from the Preserve. Nine energetic people pulled 10 bags from Bill's Woods/Picnic Point Base in 14 hours. Seventeen adults and three children pulled 30 bags from Eastern Big Woods in 38 hours.



Big Woods Pull-A-Thon Warriors (G Denniston)

The pullers pulled significantly less than the 103 bags collected last year because there was less Garlic Mustard. The workers spent more time looking and less time pulling and pulled less Garlic Mustard in the same amount of time. In fact, the area of Frautschi Point pulled last year had too little Garlic Mustard to be considered for the Pull-A-Thon. In 2008 in Eastern Big Woods only 36 bags were pulled. In 2007 98.2 bags (most of them after the Pull-A-Thon) were pulled.

The Pull-A-Thon would not have been possible without all our volunteers, including our team leaders, Cathie Bruner, Glenda Denniston, Tom Helgeson, Hui Jung Kim, Roma Lenehan, and Susan Slapnick, our

sign-up volunteers, Harriet Riley and Marcia Schmidt, our driver, Lisa Munro, and our Garlic Mustard judge, Kris Helgeson. Thank you all.



Pull-A-Thon Leaders (G Denniston)

Fifty-two generous donors gave \$2,205, pledging money for each bag of Garlic Mustard collected, the highest amount raised by the event. These donations go directly to invasive species management at the Preserve.

The 2007 Preserve Pull-A-Thon was featured in the February 2008 *Plants out of Place*, the newsletter of the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, or IPAW, posted on the IPAW website, www.ipaw.org.

#### **Garlic Mustard Efforts**

The Friends organized five work parties (the sixth was rained out) in April and May which removed Garlic Mustard on portions of Picnic Point, Frautschi Point, and Big Woods where Garlic Mustard densities were high. The leaders were Glenda Denniston, Tom Helgeson, Susan Slapnick and Roma Lenehan. These efficient volunteers pulled 22 bags of Garlic Mustard in 67 hours.

On Picnic Point paid workers pulled and led groups of student hourly and volunteer pullers.

Other volunteers pulled the western part of the Preserve and worked in Big Woods, donating 236 hours and pulling 44 bags of Garlic Mustard. Late last fall these volunteers spent 27 hours removing 3.4 bags of very small first year plants.

#### **Future Plans**

Already volunteers have begun to remove first year (next year's second year plants) Garlic Mustard while rechecking for missed seeding plants. The Friends can always use volunteers. We continue to remove first year plants until the ground freezes, resuming work in the spring when the ground thaws. Even as Garlic Mustard improves, we still need volunteers to carefully check each area, because a single missed plant produces 700 seeds, creating a new circle that will continue to have plants for up to seven years!

# A New Breeding Bird in the Preserve

by Glenda Denniston

#### **A Wild Turkey Nest**

Several times this spring, students working with me noticed a hen Turkey feeding in the restored savanna planting by the big oak close to the field near Frautschi Point. Not long after this I saw her near the top of the Gully. I wondered if she were nesting, but did not search for a nest.

Late in June, I almost stepped on a Turkey nest while checking on the health of a small Bur oak in the field. The hen Turkey flushed up from the ground right in front of my face. She had been incubating ten eggs, which I quickly photographed before leaving the area so that I would not keep her from her nest.



Ten Turkey Eggs in a Nest in Field (G Denniston)

#### **Turkeys in the Preserve**

Last year was the first year that Turkeys regularly appeared in the Preserve during the breeding season. Before that they were only occasionally reported in the Preserve. This is the first year that we found evidence of nesting. Earlier this year, a hen was flushed from a different nest near the Biocore Prairie, but that nest was later abandoned. It is not clear whether the present nest was made by the same Turkey.

At the time of this writing, the hen is still incubating. Turkeys lay from eight to twelve eggs, one daily, and do not start incubating them until all eggs are laid. Females incubate the eggs for 28 days. All the eggs hatch at the same time, so all the young, called poults, are the same age.

If the eggs are viable and no disaster strikes, they should hatch. I do not know when incubation began or if there are still 10 eggs. After the first startling discovery of the nest, I checked it daily when I was in town, approaching the nest slowly and talking softly to the Turkey all the time. She does not leave the nest, but allows me to approach closely. Probably this is the

same female Turkey that the gardeners have seen in early mornings in the FHA Gardens. She takes dust baths and hunts for food in the Gardens. Last week, this Turkey was dive bombed by a hawk. She fought back and, when the hawk retreated, stayed in the same area. Three other Turkeys, possibly young adults, are regularly seen in the late afternoon in the same general area, sometimes roosting in the tree cluster nearby and dusting in the compost piles (reported by Will Waller).

#### **Reestablishment of the Turkey Population**

At the time of the coming of Europeans to North America, Turkeys were very common in the Eastern Forest. By the early 1930s, however, they were almost extinct as the result of habitat destruction and overhunting. There were no established Wild Turkeys again in Wisconsin until 1976, when the Department of Natural Resources successfully reintroduced 29 of them from a Missouri flock. Since then their population has increased amazingly, and they have spread throughout much of Wisconsin.

#### **Turkey Poults**

A female Turkey cares for her eggs and her poults attentively. Still, only about half of the nests produce chicks and only half of the poults from these successful nests survive to adulthood. Nests and young are vulnerable to exposure from rain and cold and to predators including raccoons, opossums, foxes, hawks, owls and dogs. Poults are most vulnerable in the first several weeks, before they are able to fly and roost in trees. Those poults that survive remain with their mother for about one year until they become adults.

Even if this nest fails, we still have a new breeding bird. Three young poults from another nest have been seen in the field. (See www.wisconsinbirds.org and Sibley, D. A., 2001, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*.)



Hen Turkey Incubating Eggs (G.Denniston)

# **NABA Butterfly Count in the Preserve**

## **Counting Butterflies in the Preserve**

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, as in each of the past 34 years, local butterfly enthusiasts headed out to identify and count all of the butterflies to be found in a 15-mile diameter circle centered at the State Capital. Data from similar counts conducted across the continent under the auspices of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), which includes a Southeast Wisconsin chapter, enable butterfly populations to be monitored over time. As in other years, the Preserve was one of the Madison areas covered on count day (always close to July 4<sup>th</sup>) because the Preserve typically produces an interesting sampling of common and less expected species. Meadow Fritillary is a species usually found in the Preserve and nowhere else in the circle, a pattern that held true again this year.

Unfortunately, this has been a poor year for butterflies. Participants noticed a marked decrease in the total number of butterflies and the diversity of species. Last year's Preserve list was made by only two



observers in a much shorter time, yet there were almost twice as many species recorded. The most notable change was the absence of any Swallowtail species this year.

Tawny emperor (Asterocampa clyton) (G Denniston)

Five people counted in the Preserve on the morning of July 5<sup>th</sup> and one continued in the afternoon. A total of 136 individual butterflies of twelve different species

were found. Within the Preserve, the total count was as follows: Cabbage White (100), Clouded Sulphur (5), Banded Hairstreak (4), Eastern Tailed-Blue (1), Summer Azure (2), Meadow Fritillary (3), Hackberry Emperor (9), Tawny Emperor (1), Common Wood-Nymph (1), Monarch (6), Silver-Spotted Skipper (3),



and European Skipper (1). By far the most numerous was the Cabbage White, an introduced species found in large numbers in the garden areas.

Silver-spotted Skipper (G Denniston)

Found last year, but not this year were: Pearl Crescent, Great Spangled Fritillary, Striped Hairstreak, American Lady, Red Admiral, Dun Skipper, Orange Sulphur, Black Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail and Mourning Cloak. For the entire Madison count area, the total number of species was 29 with 437 individuals.

Why the decrease in butterflies this year? Perhaps it was in part because of the hard winter, but this explanation does not hold for all the species affected. Several of the count participants believe that the low numbers are the result of the extensive and intensive aerial spraying of BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) done for Gypsy Moth control. BT is not known to be harmful to organisms other than caterpillars, but it is lethal to all Lepidoptera (butterflies and moth) caterpillars. BT does not specifically target Gypsy Moths caterpillars.

Name		Student	\$10 □
Address		Individual	\$20 □
	Zip Code	Household	\$35 □
Phone (optional)	Email (optional)	Steward	\$50 □
☐ Please send me information about how to volunteer		Patron	\$100 □
(Include your email address	s and telephone number if you would like to volunteer)	Other	

# **Greenhouse Plant Propagation**

by Glenda Denniston

For the first time, a Friends volunteer has spent the winter growing seedlings in the Walnut Street Greenhouses on UW-Campus to plant in the Preserve.

These plants, in addition to the many plants ordered from native plant suppliers recommended by the Department of Natural Resources, were planted in the spring. The propagated seedlings were remarkably successful.

The use of the Greenhouse was made possible by Tom and Kathie Brock, who themselves have planted there for a number of years and who generously shared their space. The Brocks also provided many of the seeds, harvested from their Pleasant Valley Conservancy prairie-savanna restoration in Black Earth. In this way, the Friends obtained hard-to-find seeds of several rare species as well as species not usually commercially available.

We hope to continue this plant propagation in the future, enabling us to further increase the diversity of our restorations. We will experiment with several additional unusual plants this winter.



Native Plant Seedlings in a UW Greenhouse (M.Trewartha)

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