

The
South Woods
Park



AN
ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

1902-1947

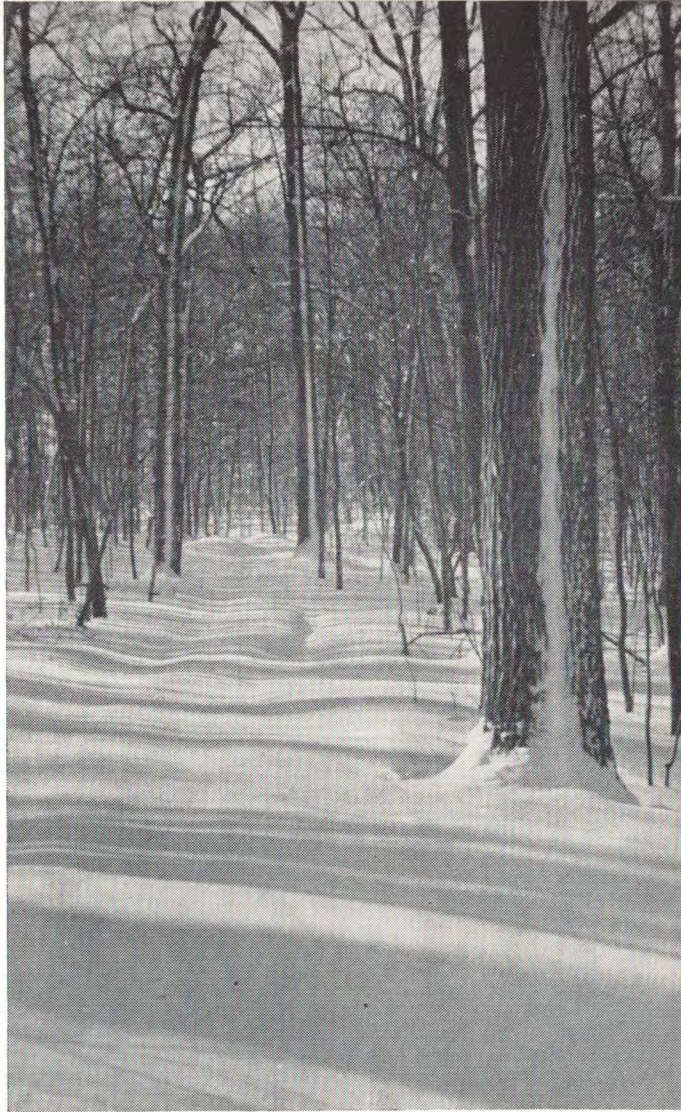


"The groves were God's first temples"
— Bryant, "A Forest Hymn" —



The
South Woods Park Association
dedicates this booklet
to
the two living charter members
MISS ELLA J. HAZEN
and
MRS. GEORGE E. GRAF





*"Wrapped in the spotless ermine
of the snow." — Longfellow*

A HISTORY
of the
SOUTH WOODS PARK ASSOCIATION



*"What wilt not woman, gentle
woman, dare
When strong affection stirs her
spirit up?" — Southey*

There is a common saying, "You can't eat your cake and have it, too." How true this has been of the American people in their use of the bounty God provided for them when they came to this land. Great herds of buffalo on the western plains were hunted until they became almost extinct. There are no more passenger pigeons, which were sold by the wagon load for a song, in the pioneer days of Sparta, Wisconsin. Wholesale cutting of the forest primeval to satisfy man's love of gain has left unsightly cut-over lands and unleashed destructive floodwaters which yearly menace life and property. These lands, deprived of woods which held water and protected the top-soil, dry up and the winds whirl away the soil into the distance, leaving a dust bowl unfit for any use. For a few cords of wood, many a landscape has been ruined.

At the turn of the century there was a small but beautiful primeval forest southwest of Ripon. There the school children and their teachers roamed, holding picnics and picking flowers. There biology classes from Ripon College sought trees, plants, flowers—living examples of their text book lessons.

1900 In the year 1900, the owner of this land, one Frank Schultz, advertised in the local paper a sale of young elm, maple and basswood trees from the woods. A certain young man from Green Lake bought some of these trees. Driving home with them in his wagon, he became so depressed, thinking of the irreplaceable cutting of the trees, that he exclaimed to his wife, "If I were rich I would buy this woods and give it to the City of Ripon."

Some Ripon residents were also concerned over the

proposed destruction of this God-given wood. The Science Club and the Educational Club, meeting in joint session, appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of saving the trees from the axe of man. The matter was presented to the Council of the City of Ripon, which reported that the citizens must vote as to whether they wanted to buy a tract for a park. The enthusiasm of the young man from Green Lake prompted him to publish in the Ripon paper an article addressed to the men of the city, from which follows an excerpt: "You are in the habit of being zealously affected in a good cause; you were among the first of the smaller cities to put in water works and electricity; your sidewalks are the smoothest on earth; you went low in your pockets to secure the pickle factory . . . Having thus established a reputation for good works, do not devolve this whole matter of the purchase of South Woods upon the ladies. Let the ladies do the directing and give them all the credit but don't fail to put your shoulders to the wheel and do all the heavy lifting . . . If the business men of Ripon will come to the front in this matter, then, in the quaint language of the scripture, "all the trees of the field will clap their hands." Signed, "K."

Since Mr. Schultz was still busy selling the trees, the club women concerned could not wait for a vote of the citizens, nor action by the businessmen. The situation demanded immediate action and they took it into their own hands. To raise money for a substantial down payment, each member of each club contributed \$2.00, for which they were later reimbursed. On November 27 a contract

in the name of Mrs. Elizabeth Hood was secured, for twenty acres, the cost to be two thousand dollars.

Six months later, in May, the Educational and Science clubs met in joint session, electing as officers of their organization: President, Mrs. Elizabeth Hood; Secretary, Mrs. M. C. Pool; Treasurer, Mrs. Carrie Stone. A list of the charter members of the association follows:

Clarissa Tracy	Fermin Dickenson
Eva Fisk Wood	Carrie Stone
Della Griffin	Anna Scribner
Harriet Saunderson	Ida Kingsbury
Elizabeth Nohl	Eleanor Fenelon
Addie Barnett	Ella J. Hazen
Emily Foltz	Mary Woodruff
Josephine Davy	Mary S. Runals
Emilie Graf	Ida M. Kellogg
Mary Nash	Ida Martin
M. C. Pool	Elizabeth Hood
Elizabeth Henderson	Blanch Burnside
Emma Luther	

1901 The committee appointed to organize a legally incorporated association to continue the business interests of the Park purchase, prepared a constitution to govern such an association. This constitution was adopted in November, 1901. It provided that membership be confined to those who should be members of the Science and Educational Clubs. It also required that the treasurer give bond of five hundred dollars. In December the charter members signed the articles of the constitution. L. E. Reed, notary public, witnessed the signatures. Later in December this

was duly signed and sealed by Mrs. Hood and Mrs. Pool at Judge Reed's office and sent to the Secretary of State at Madison for filing.

The first meeting of the newly chartered South Woods 1902 Park Association was held in February, pursuant to the articles of organization. The by-laws were adopted at this meeting, calling for an annual meeting the first Thursday of December, with three other regular meetings held the first Thursday of March, June and September.

Now that details of the organization were completed, enthusiasm to finish payment of the debt as soon as possible rose high. The first venture was a rummage sale, realizing \$500.00. A post-Lenten party yielded \$10.00. The plans for a carnival became a city-wide affair. The college quartette participated in the program, as well as the Ripon band under the direction of Mr. E. J. Burnside. City merchants were solicited for goods for the purpose of advertising. Booths sold ice cream, cake, coffee, candy, flowers and lemonade. Mrs. George Graf had charge of a lunch counter, where Dutch cheese and potato salad were served with coffee and doughnuts. Elizabeth Ellsworth was chosen Carnival Queen, with Leone Oyster and Margaret Maxwell her maids of honor. Public school teachers drilled their children to form a living flag. Boys gave a flag drill and a hoop drill. In the grand parade were carts laden with flowers and realistic Mother Goose characters in charming costumes. On the last afternoon of the carnival Mr. Dan J. Fenelon contributed a horse race matinee. The whole city enjoyed this gala affair and \$382.00 was added to the Park fund.

1903 The Fall Flower Show, sponsored by the Park Association in August, proved to be another city-wide co-operative affair. Again the city band played, free of charge. Mrs. Bennie Anderson's orchestra and High School Mandolin Club gave an afternoon concert, also free of charge. Premiums were awarded for exhibits of painting, amateur photography and needlework. The Library Association sold copies of its cook book. Net proceeds from this successful flower show amounted to about \$500.00.

1904 The following year, in order to meet the payment due, another flower show and a rummage sale were put on. Proceeds of \$102.00 from "The Bachelor's Congress," staged in June, were used to pay premiums for exhibits at the Flower Show. The catalogue and premium list booklet was financed by advertisements generously given and paid for by the city businessmen. Receipts of \$224.00 made possible the \$200.00 payment due Mr. Schultz.

1905
1906 By the close of the fourth year the debt on the property had been reduced to \$75.00. This amount, plus interest, was paid with proceeds from the third flower show, which featured art work done by the grade school children. The Harvest Ball, given in connection with this Flower Show proved popular and a big success. The ladies of the South Woods Park Association were justly proud of their accomplishment when final payment was made only five years after purchase of the woods.

The archives of the Park Association contain newspaper clippings and programs of the money raising activities sponsored during these five years. These are very interesting, showing in detail the untiring effort of the

women to insure beauty and inspiration for future citizens of Ripon by preserving this primitive woodland from desecration.

After payment in full had been made, came a lull in the strenuous activities of the members. Proceeds from less pretentious money raising projects were put in a savings account. These activities included paper collections, a Calico Ball and the gift from Mr. Cook of an equal share of the soda fountain receipts for one day. Occasional card parties at 25c a player swelled the savings account, as well as providing a social pleasure for the group. Mrs. Herbert Lyle, Mrs. William Wood, and Mrs. Chadbourne were hostesses at whist parties. During these years several important business affairs were transacted. Yearly taxes were paid on the woods until 1910. This was discontinued when it was learned that the law did not require a tax to be paid on parks. Right of way from Union St. to the Woods through property adjoining on the south, was acquired from the City Council in 1911, due to the effective interest of Judge L. E. Reed. The line fences were put up a year later and the city built a bridge across the stream to connect Anna Starr and South Woods Parks. Mrs. Wood reported as long ago as 1911 that quail were being shot in the woods. The problem of keeping hunters out of the area is always a difficult one.

Ripon College has been interested in the work of the South Woods Park Association, throughout the years. The College Alumni tendered a vote of thanks to the Association for preserving the woods. Pres. Hughes invited the members to meet Mr. A. C. Simonds, landscape

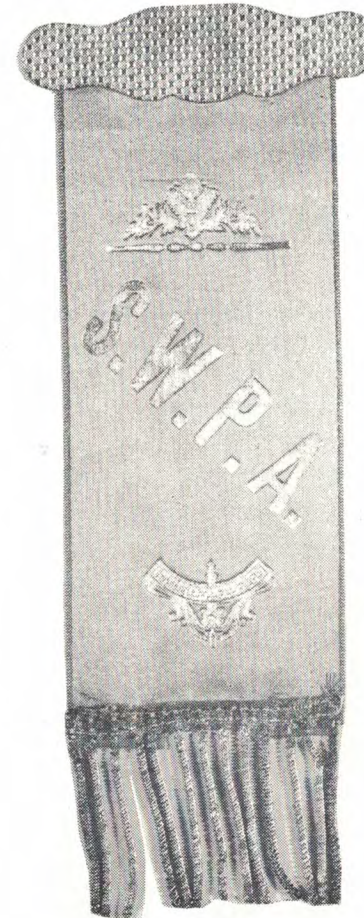
1907
to
1910

gardener of Chicago. He advised that this beautiful tract of forest be left in its present natural state. A contribution of \$8.00 was also made by the college.

- 1911** An "Old Time Concert" held in the Congregational Church in May was a notable event of this year. The program included old time songs and tableaux in which charming and exquisite dresses of long ago were worn. Mrs. H. G. Lyle supervised the intricate winding of the May Pole by a group of little tots.
- 1913** In July Mrs. L. W. Thayer invited the Association to hold a social meeting at her Green Lake cottage. Mr. and Mrs. Thayer were royal hosts, and the get together was so thoroughly enjoyed that the meeting in March of the next year voted to make all meetings social affairs, five women to serve refreshments at each meeting.
- 1914** The City of Ripon and the Park Association shared the expense of improving the right of way to the Park and built the present road.
- 1918** After the first World War several trees donated to the College by the Park Association were planted on the campus in memory of those students who died during the war. Miss Ella Hazen was chairman of the committee which was responsible for these memorial trees.
- 1920** Because these ladies were mindful of the needy in the city during the depression which followed the war, they filled a "supply box" for the use of the school nurse. These supplies included sheets, pillow slips, towels, wash cloths, soap, etc. In later years as times continued to be lean, they adopted a family, for which they provided the best of care.

The Park Association at this time decided to "take up the study of Nature and Parks." The group, divided into two committees, held one responsible for the program, the other responsible for the luncheon. This arrangement still functions in 1947. One committee, the A.B.C.'s, includes those whose names begin with the letters of the first half of the alphabet, while the X.Y.Z.'s are the second committee, including those whose initial letters place them in the latter half of the alphabet. "America the Beautiful" was adopted as the club song, to be sung at each meeting. **1922**

According to vote, each member was required to wear a badge at each meeting. Since some were becoming careless in this matter, a fine of 5 cents was levied upon those minus their badge. **1923**



The Committee on Woods Extension was appointed to locate a spring in the park grounds and plan a suitable location for a picnic table, presented by Mrs. Josephine Davy.

Mr. Jens Jensen, a naturalist from Ellison Bay in northern Wisconsin, published an article on South Woods, illustrated with pictures taken by Mr. William Haseltine of Ripon. Post cards of the pictures were printed for sale.

1924 Since no usable spring was located, a well was dug and a pump installed. This has given refreshment to picnickers and hikers for twenty years.

1926 During the presidency of Mrs. Lena Corliss another flower show was held. And again the whole interested city cooperated to make it a grand success. One memorable feature was the baby contest. Dr. J. S. Foat made the examination of the contestants at his office in the flatiron building. John Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Miller of Fairwater, was chosen the most perfect baby. Proceeds of \$1000.00 were taken in at this flower show. Mr. Wilbur Sisson of Rosendale exhibited a remarkable collection of gladioli.

1927 Another flower show aroused such interest in natural beauty that a City Park Board was appointed to consider means of beautifying the city. The Board was composed of a representative of each of the following organizations: Kiwanis, Rotary and Commercial clubs, Educational, Science, Study and Bay View clubs, the Library Association and the Mothers clubs of the three grade schools. Miss Ella Hazen, a devoted and hard working charter member of the South Woods Park Association was its representative on the City Park Board and was elected the first president of the newly formed organization. These two groups worked together to landscape and keep attractive Ceresco and Eureka triangles and Horner Park, and supervise Starr Park, the five acres east of the South Woods. This tract was presented to the city in memory of Anna Starr about the time the South Woods were purchased. The Park Association minutes of September 4, 1902, state: "Mr. Starr and his mother are about to present the 15 acres adjoining on the east, to the

Association." However, the gift stipulated that the name of the woods be changed to "Starr Park," which the ladies could not agree to do. Therefore the owners presented the tract to the city, with the proviso that "if the city fails to retain title to this parcel of land it then reverts to the original donor." The City Park Board was abolished by the Council in 1940, which leaves us with no organization whose privilege and duty it is to promote the beauty of our landscapes.

In recent years the work of the South Woods Park Assn. has been the preservation of the tract acquired by those indefatigable women of 1902. It has required continual diligence to keep hunters out of the woods; to keep line fences in repair; to hold against the intrusion of automobiles and roads; to keep the fallen wood in the forest. Each year line fences must be inspected and repaired to keep out the cattle pastured in adjoining fields. All measures to keep cars out of the woods seem to fail. Since cars cannot cross on stepping stones, removal of the bridge across the stream has protected the west section of the woods but even large posts set in cement and connected by chains at the entrance were broken down by drivers determined to enter with their cars. The Association keeps strict oversight of the fallen wood, selecting with care what shall be removed.

The last money raising venture occurred in 1928. "A Womanless Wedding" was staged and proceeds of \$270.00 were turned over to the City Park Board. The following year 530 loads of gravel were used to grade the entrance to the wood and the low paths. Evergreens and tamaracks have been planted in the wet meadow and the Boy Scouts under Mr. Harold Banville's direction planted 800 trees through the park in 1939.

It is interesting that the observance of the thirty-fifth anniversary in 1937 was held at the home of Mrs. George Graf, at whose home the first meeting was held in February, 1902, and at the same hour. Three charter members were present—Miss Ella J. Hazen, Mrs. Josephine Davy and Mrs. Graf. Mrs. Clayton Tinkham, president, presided at the meeting, which voted to plant tamaracks in the swamp section of the park.

In 1938 the Ripon Boy Scouts were granted permission to build a cabin the northern end of the woods, above Schoolboy's Glen. In return for the privilege, the Scouts were to protect the property, patrol the grounds and aid in the upkeep of the Park. A fine cabin was built and well equipped. It was not long before acts of vandalism became so frequent and violent that it was thought advisable to have the cabin removed. This was done in 1944. The well-made fireplace and chimney still stand—a silent reminder of a project which might have had valuable results, could it have been carried out.

For thirty years meetings were held four times a year. In 1933 it appeared that two meetings a year, one in April and one in October would take care of the necessary business. Officers were elected in October to serve for two years.

Conservation minded men of the city have stood loyally behind this organization, giving their advice and time freely when help has been needed. From the early days we recall the assistance of Judge L. E. Reed, Mr. George L. Graf, Mr. Will Runals.

In later years we are indebted to Mr. Clarence Pratt, Capt. Harold Banville, Dr. George Conant, Mr. Richard Higby and Dr. E. J. Kohl. Representatives of the State Conservation Dept.

have come to Ripon to inspect our woods and offer advice as to the best means of preserving it. We purpose to keep the woods in their natural state—a primeval forest, for the delight of the lovers of the interesting beauties of the out-of-doors. To quote from Henry David Thoreau, 1854: "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach."

In commemorating these forty five years we realize that in the past we have failed in some things and made mistakes in others. In the future we must be loyal to the PURPOSE of our founders, guarding our property jealously, that it may PERPETUATE ITSELF and throughout the years to come, continue to be a primeval forest.

CHARTER OF SOUTH WOODS PARK ASSOCIATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME;

I, William H. Froelich, Secretary of State of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that there has been this day filed in this department an instrument in writing, purporting to be Articles of Association with the view of forming a corporation to be known as,

SOUTH WOODS PARK ASSOCIATION,

without Capital Stock, the business and purpose of which shall be to own, maintain and control real estate for parks, etc.

Therefore the State of Wisconsin does hereby grant unto the said SOUTH WOODS PARK ASSOCIATION the powers and privileges conferred by Chapter 86 of the Wisconsin Statutes of 1898, and all acts amendatory thereto, for the purposes above stated and in accordance with their said Articles of Association.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, at the Capitol in the city of Madison the thirtieth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one.

Signed

Wm. H. Froelich,
Secretary of State

A facsimile

EXCERPTS
from the
ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE I

The undersigned have associated and do hereby associate themselves together for the purpose of forming a Corporation under the provisions of Chapter 86 of the Wisconsin Statutes of 1898, and the acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, the purpose of which corporation shall be to own, maintain and control real estate in the city or town of Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, for parks, to pass all needful rules and regulations for the use of such parks by the public, and particularly to provide for the preservation in its natural state of what is commonly known as SOUTH WOODS as a park, and so far as it may be necessary or convenient for carrying out the foregoing purposes to hold, to purchase, lease or mortgage any real estate it may acquire and to receive by gift, devise, or bequest any property real or personal, in trust or otherwise.

ARTICLE III

This organization is organized without capital stock.

A COMPLETE LIST OF MEMBERS

from
1902 to 1947

Mrs. Clarissa Tracy	Mrs. Mary Runals
Mrs. Eva Wood	Mrs. Ida Kellogg
Mrs. Della Griffin	Miss Ida Martin
Mrs. Harriet Saunderson	Mrs. Elizabeth Hood
Mrs. Elizabeth Nohl	Mrs. Blanche Burnside
Mrs. Emily Foltz	Mrs. Maria E. Clute
Mrs. Josephine Davy	Mrs. C. M. Foote
Mrs. Mary Nash	Miss A. Hesse
Mrs. M. C. Pool	Mrs. Eva Chadbourne
Mrs. Elizabeth Henderson	Mrs. Lena Corliss
Mrs. Emma Luther	Mrs. Herbert G. Lyle
Mrs. Fermine Dickenson	Mrs. L. W. Thayer
Mrs. Carrie Stone	Mrs. W. E. Vanderlyn
Miss Anna Scribner	Mrs. A. P. MacKinlay
Mrs. Ida Kingsbury	Mrs. Emma Krause
Mrs. Eleanor Kingsbury	Mrs. Gertrude Mason
Mrs. Eleanor Fenelon	Mrs. Reynolds
Miss Ella Hazen	Mrs. J. J. Foote
Mrs. Mary Woodruff	Mrs. Frances L. Briggs
Mrs. Ada C. Merrell	Mrs. Grace E. Foat
Mrs. Olive Bumby	Mrs. Sadie A. Hamley
Mrs. I. M. Phelps	Mrs. Florence G. Mahon
Mrs. F. W. Suszycki	Mrs. Orvil O'Neal
Mrs. Leila Sargent	Mrs. Dorothy Vohs
Mrs. L. F. Christison	Mrs. R. H. Spragg
Mrs. A. C. Hargrave	Mrs. Catherine McConnell

Miss Helen Bottum	Mrs. May Parmenter
Mrs. C. A. Taylor	Miss Alice Bonnell
Mrs. Florence Simmons	Mrs. R. C. Hill
Mrs. Irene R. Beach	Miss Maud Russell
Miss Elizabeth Chisholm	Mrs. William H. Smith
Mrs. Myrtie B. Fortnum	Mrs. Josephine B. Pratt
Miss Clara E. Parsons	Mrs. J. F. Jones
Mrs. C. M. Welch	Mrs. C. F. Barkow
Mrs. W. B. Van Kirk	Mrs. Lyle Cors
Mrs. R. O. Hargrave	Mrs. Joseph Naylor
Mrs. Fanny Chaffin	Mrs. Russell L. Bryan
Mrs. C. H. Tinkham	Mrs. Orrilla M. Thompson
Mrs. Blanche Moffatt	Mrs. Belle Fehlandt
Mrs. Edna R. Patch	Mrs. Eugene McDermott
Mrs. H. M. Barbour	Mrs. Harry E. Parker
Miss Mary E. Scribner	Mrs. Geo. Reath
Mrs. Edna L. Labisky	Miss Josephine Hargrave
Mrs. Mary Cole	Mrs. Mae Young
Miss Jennie B. Henderson	Mrs. W. Ellis
Mrs. C. F. Kirby	Mrs. O. Nielson



"A very rapture of white"

FLORA OF THE SOUTH WOODS

by

DR. GEORGE CONANT

Triarch Botanical Products

Ripon, Wis.



*"To him who in the love of nature holds
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks
A various language; for his gayer hours
She has a voice of gladness, and a smile
And eloquence of beauty, and she glides
Into his darker musings, with a mild
And healing sympathy, that steals away
Their sharpness, ere he is aware."*

—Bryant, "Thanatopsis"

South Woods is a hidden jewel of rich and natural beauty, unsuspected by the casual traveller. Nestled in the tip of the south branch of Ceresco Valley, it has for a hundred years given the small boys of Ripon their first taste of woodcraft, furnished a retreat for many generations of lovers, brought to older folk inspiration and fragrant memories, and has yielded for all ages that essential contact with the primeval, permitting them to regain to some extent, at least, that "pristine vigor of the wilderness." A tribute to its prolific richness is the fact that for a hundred years thousands of spring flowers have been picked without sensibly diminishing the supply. My own contact with South Woods came soon after the turn of the century on the occasion of the annual spring picnic for school children. I must admit, however, that in those days I was not properly impressed with the display of botanical treasures; still less did I realize that the woods might in subsequent years furnish ample material for scientific research! Without attempting to make a complete catalog of the native plants of South Woods, let us analyze some of its rich store of life and legend.

TREES

The very name of the place suggests trees, and while for most of us these plants do not constitute the major items of interest, still we recognize the fact that except for their shade and protection most of the smaller plants could not long survive. Viewed from the road approaches, the trees paint a bold picture of color varying with season and weather; pale pastel shades in early spring, changing to the varied shades of pale green as the

season advances; the rich, deep greens of midsummer gradually transformed into the vivid yellows, reds, and browns of autumn. These colors are due chiefly to the giants of the wood, rugged oaks (*Quercus rubra* and *Q. alba*), the stately elms (*Ulmus americana*), the solid sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*), the plump basswoods (*Tilia americana*), and the towering pillars of white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), together with a few scattering pale trunks of the large-toothed aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), together with a number of smooth-bark hickories. Among the smaller trees are the ironwoods, *Ostrya virginiana* with its furrowed bark and *Carpinus caroliniana* with its smooth bark, and the wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) which attains no mean size on the western table land of the woods, while its relative, the chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) is scarcely more than a small shrub on the forest floor. The buckthorn (*Rhamnus*) is a tall, spindling shrub throughout most of the woods, but at the north side of the wet meadow it occurs as a substantial tree of beautiful symmetry, a single specimen of the type growing in the open. One must not forget the butternuts (*Juglans cinerea*) which present their black, misshapen, thick branches at both north and south extremities of the woods, and the willows (*Salix* species) along the creek in similar locations, though these were no doubt not native but planted by man. Pussy willow shrubs also grow in and at the edge of the wet meadow. Midway between tree and shrub stands the hawthorn (*Crataegus*), represented by several species, mainly in the north portion of the woods.

While it is impossible to check on the age of a living tree exactly, we may sometimes do so indirectly. In South Woods

an old white ash was cut down near the north bridge several years ago, and the stump was left smooth enough to count the annual rings with fair accuracy. At that time we fixed the age at about 150 years, and an interesting observation indicated a period about 75 years ago which left a series of very narrow rings, indicating a drought period, fire, insect attack, or some other condition which cut down on the food production of the tree for about 10 years. So we may say with some assurance that the older trees in South Woods were probably well started in the days of George Washington.

SHRUBS

While the trees listed above are represented as shrubs in their younger stages throughout the woods, a number of native plants are known only in this form. Perhaps the most widespread is the red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), though one naturally associates it usually with swampy situations. In the drier parts of the woods the alternate-leaf dogwood, (*Cornus alternifolia*), with its green young branches and streaked gray older branches, becomes a medium-sized tree. Limited to the wider portions of Schoolboy's Glen is the relatively rare red-berried elder, (*Sambucus racemosa*), which contrasts strongly with its near relative, the common elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*). Sumach grows at the road entrance to the woods, and in a few interior positions, never, of course, confused with its notorious relative the poison ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*) which is quite common at the upper edge of the western slope. The wild gooseberries (*Ribes* species) occur in a swamp form on the wet meadow and a prickly form scattered

through the woods, mainly north, and the near relative, wild black currant, (*Ribes floridum*) yields luscious tangy fruits in late summer along the path on the north border of the woods, especially where it intersects the creek. Finally, one must name the rather rare and unknown shrub, more common in northern Wisconsin, the moosewood (*Dirca palustris*) which puts forth an inconspicuous greenish-yellow flower before the leaves appear, in early spring.

VINES

Several vine types occur in South Woods, some in such profusion in the northern portion of the woods that they have killed small trees on which they climb. Best known is the wild grape (*Vitis*), and scarcely less common is the Virginia creeper or five-leaf ivy (*Ampelopsis quinquefolia*). Hardly a vine, but a "leaner" is the carrion flower (*Smilax herbacea*), and a prickly *Smilax* occurs rarely on the western slope. Usually confused with carrion flower is the wild yam-root (*Dioscorea villosa*), which grows in a few places on the western table land; it can be distinguished by its dry, papery fruit, much different from the thick cluster of dark blue berries characteristic of the carrion flower. Also one must include the herbaceous groundnut (*Apios tuberosa*), a relative of the peanut, which twines over low shrubs. The wild cucumber (*Echinocystis lobata*), which is sometimes seen, is probably to be considered a weed in this location. Moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*) occurs in the hedge-row opposite the woods entrance, and at the north side of the wet meadow.

SPRING FLOWERS

The real glory of South Woods, of course, lies in its spring flowers which appear in wave after wave, carpeting the floor of the woods in such profusion as to stagger the imagination. Always led in the procession by skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) and by the simultaneous green of the wild leek (*Allium tricoccum*), the schedule for a normal year might read as follows, the dates not indicating earliest appearance in all cases, but rather the time of greatest profusion:

April 10—Hepatica (*H. acutiloba*)

April 15—Toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*); Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

April 20—Fawn lily or Dogtooth Violet (*Erythronium albidum*); Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)

May 1—Mayflower (*Isopyrum biternatum*); Wood Anemone (*A. quinquefolia*); Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*); Early Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*)

May 10—Large-flowered Trillium (*T. grandiflorum*); Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)

May 15—Nodding Trillium (*T. cernuum*); Yellow Violet (*Viola pubescens*); Blue Phlox (*P. divaricata*); Red and White Baneberries (*Actaea rubra* and *A. alba*)

May 20—Wild Geranium (*G. maculatum*); Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

Among the actors in this gorgeous pageant, various forms are interesting for scientific or other reasons. Our hepatica is all of the sharp-lobed leaf species, with white, pink and pale blue flowers, while the deep blue species (*Hepatica triloba*), with round-lobed leaves, grows only on sandy soil farther west. These

two species are supposed to interbreed, but we have never noticed any intermediate forms in South Woods. The fawn lily is peculiar in its method of digging into the deep soil by means of its "dropper rhizome," which bears the primordium of next year's bulb in its tip, and which grows straight downward. This habit enables this plant to thrive in the washed soil in the central creek area which is often denuded of topsoil in the heavyspring floods. The "mayflower" (*Isopyrum biternatum*) resembles rue anemone, to which it is related, and which we used to call it, inaccurately. Rue anemone does not occur in South Woods, but is common in Skunk Hollow, farther west. Besides the violets listed above, South Woods also boasts of another stemmed form with blue flowers, *Viola conspersa*, which I have found quite common in the privately owned plot at the north end, and a sweet white violet, which grows just outside the fence at the north end of this plot. This white violet seems not to fit any key description exactly, but is probably a form of *Viola blanda*. Our blue Phlox (*P. divaricata*) is generally fragrant, while the cultivated form and those from nearby woods appear to have little or no odor.

PLANTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

After the deluge of early spring flowers, most of the lower woods is hidden and protected by the stinging wood nettle, and the drier reaches are troublesome with beggar-ticks of various kinds, so most flower-lovers shun the woods in midsummer. However, some of the rarer and more interesting plants blossom at that time.

The wild leek (*Allium tricoccum*) has been mentioned before

as the first source of green leaves in the early spring. These luxuriant growths die and disappear when the trees shade the ground, and most people forget them. However, in late summer spherical clusters of purplish buds appear in thick umbels and soon burst into typical white balls of onion-type flowers. This is one of the few plants which blossom long after their leaves have disappeared.

Moonseed is a vine which grows along the fence opposite the entrance of the wood, and also at the border of the wet meadow. In more southern locations, this vine, *Menispermum canadense*, attains considerable size and age, but in our climate the vines die back each winter, so we get only one-year shoots.

A rare little trailing vine is the partridgeberry, better known in more northerly regions. Two patches of this plant, *Mitchella repens*, grow on either side of the upper path, near the stile. It does not seem to be thriving too well, and rarely produces its delicate twin-flowers of fringed white, later developing twin red berries.

A few plants of spikenard, *Aralia racemosa*, always appear along the middle road long the base of the western slope. Attaining a considerable size, almost like a small shrub, it can be recognized by its spherical umbel of flowers.

The buckthorn (*Rhamnus*) has been mentioned before, but directions can now be given for locating it in the woods, where it is very inconspicuous and hard to find while the woods are either leafless or in full leaf. Peculiarly, this shrub retains its leaves long after the first killing frosts in the fall. So if you will walk through the woods, especially in the vicinity of the wet meadow and around Schoolboy's Glen, you may see bright

green leaves appearing where most leaves have fallen. These are likely to be those of buckthorn. A scientific interest comes from the fact that this plant is the alternate host of oat rust (*Puccinia coronata*), just as common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) is alternate host of wheat rust (*Puccinia graminis*). Strangely enough, however, the latter has been exterminated by the plant disease control authorities to protect wheat which is rarely grown in this region, while oat rust is a much more serious disease with us and the buckthorn is unmolested. For my own interest, I cite the fact that I first discovered buckthorn in South Woods by means of the oat rust lesions which I found on its leaves, along the north path near the creek.

Two little plants are quite widespread in the woods, but are not well known. One is the enchanter's nightshade, *Circaea*, not very interesting in spite of its glamorous name, but it is the host of an interesting rust fungus (*Puccinia circaeae*). The other, lopseed, *Phryma leptostachya*, has a spike of pretty though tiny pink flowers, and the fruit, first protruding directly out from the stem, turns down as it ripens until the mature fruits point directly down the stem.

A rather showy plant, with its graceful spikes of whitish flowers and protruding showy anthers is Culver's root, *Veronica virginica*, which grows in the thickets just west of the wet meadow, a tall plant with whorled leaves.

A rare plant that few people have seen is the horse gentian, *Triosteum perfoliatum*, which I have found only in the vicinity of Schoolboy's Glen. Another plant, not exactly rare, but which few people know, is the bladder-nut (*Staphylea trifolia*). Formerly I had found it on the rocky slope at the base of the lime-

stone cliff just above the stile leading to the spring pasture, the only place I have found it fruiting. However, this spring (1946) I have found a fairly large number of these shrubs on the slope just above the pump. Here they do not seem to fruit, and unless seen just as their leaves are coming out, it is difficult to find them among the leaves of other plants later in the season.

The orchids of South Woods must be classed with the rare and interesting plants, but they are best discussed in the following section, to which, unfortunately, they mostly belong.

GHOST PLANTS

This is my name for plants which have been seen, and are still, to a limited extent, seen in South Woods. It does not refer to the parasitic seed plant, Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), although this interesting specimen does occasionally appear in late summer or fall along the upper path, at the edge of the western slope. In fact, most of our "ghost plants" are associated in my recollection with the upper path, at the edge ready been mentioned in connection with the partridgeberry. One of my earliest memories of special plants is that of shinleaf (*Pyrola elliptica*) which I thought was an orchid when I first saw it. This plant used to be fairly abundant along the upper path, but due to overpicking or other causes, it is now entirely gone, as far as I know. Again, the common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) is extinct in South Woods, not due to natural causes, but because it has been eradicated for disease control reasons. Unfortunately this is not true of the orchids, of which I have found five species in South Woods. My first thought of these forms was stimulated by a chance word from Miss Jennie

Hall, my high school botany teacher, on a field trip in the spring of 1912. She happened to mention that Showy Orchis (*Orchis spectabilis*) had been found in the plot near the woods entrance. I have never seen it there, but one June, about 1931, I ran into a gorgeous patch of this orchid along the upper path. Several plants were growing in a colony, with either two or three bearing fine flower spikes. I do not recall that these were fragrant, as are those which now grow in the County Park near Waupun, but they were beautiful. However, they grew on the steep slope at the western edge of the path, and wheel traffic as well as the subsequent drought years finally killed them out. We dug for roots, hoping to be able to transplant them to a more favorable location, but it was too late. A year or two later, however, I found another pair of plants in the center of the woods, between the spring path and the creek. A path was forming perilously near them, so I dug up one plant and took it home to my garden, hoping to return it at some favorable date. It came up and blossomed nicely the following spring, but the second year it failed to appear, and has not been seen since. I have rather felt that a colony of waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum*), brought along accidentally with it in the soil, killed out the orchid with its rank growth of rhizomes. While this seems to be the end of the story for *Orchis spectabilis*, it is not the final orchid story. I found a goodly patch of early yellow coralroot, *Corallorrhiza trifida*, under the trees in the pasture north of the woods. It grew there for several years, but eventually I was unable to find it, and it may be that it was killed by grazing cattle. Also, along the western plateau, near the mouth of Schoolboy's Glen, I have found several plants of the green-

bracted orchid, *Habenaria bracteata* var. *viridis*. This was observed for several years, but it finally disappeared, probably due to drought, as it was not likely to have been picked. A fine plant of yellow ladyslipper, *Cypripedium pubescens*, has grown for many years at the edge of the path on the western slope, just at the mouth of Schoolboys' Glen. Mr. Pratt and I have watched it bud several times, only to have it picked by some passerby, forcing it into a rest period of several years. It is still quite healthy, however, and if we could somehow teach its value, it might be an object of interest and enjoyment for everyone. I have at least one other ladyslipper plant blazed, but I shall not disclose its location at this time. Finally, I was surprised and delighted early last fall to find a single spike of spotted coral-root, *Corallorrhiza maculata*, coming up along the upper trail, in almost the identical spot that marked the location of the long-gone showy orchis. I was not able to follow its development, but hope that it will be a permanent guest.

The cut-leaf coneflower, *Rudbeckia laciniata*, related to the cultivated golden-glow, used to grow plentifully along the path near the creek at the north end of the middle plot. In recent years it has been absent, but last summer a few healthy plants appeared, and it is to be hoped that it comes back in abundance.

A little-known shrub, the prickly ash, *Zanthoxylum americanum*, grows, or did grow, in the central portion of the woods. I have run across it from time to time, but it seems to be getting scarcer from year to year.

Finally, it is to be regretted that the handsome orange lily, *Lilium michiganense*, which used to grow abundantly all along the central creek area, has practically disappeared. This can

hardly be due to picking, as it grew among the rank cover of wood nettle, *Laportea canadensis*, which few people would brave in early July. Possibly the drought hurt it, or possibly the heavy floods washed out the bulbs or seed. At any rate, the only representative I have seen in late years grows in the pasture just south of the main woods, near the creek. Due to grazing of cattle, its existence is in peril, though of course this plant is still abundant in the swamps and along railroads near Princeton and west.

FERNS

A discussion of South Woods flora would not be complete without mention of the ferns, which are a typical part of the ground cover. Some of these may have been brought in from other regions by plant lovers—an understandable but questionable procedure from the standpoint of natural plant growth, and other plants too may have been introduced. A general criterion of a native plant is its ability to thrive and increase, though this test is by no means infallible. I know definitely that Dr. J. F. Groves brought in a couple of plants of Christmas fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, which he set out just north of a couple of large trees in the neighborhood of the pump. These ferns are not thriving too well, and are certainly not spreading. In the same general area one can find the rather rare beech fern, *Phegopteris polypodioides*. It is barely holding its own, and its survival is in some doubt. However, the other native ferns are quite thrifty, and are probably safe, with the possible exception of the brake fern, *Pteris aquilina*, which exhibits a few rather poor specimens on an old road back of the Scout cabin location. These may have been introduced in early years.

Another fern that is not on the increase is probably *Osmunda claytoniana*, the interrupted fern, which grows side of the road which winds up to the upper path, near the Scout cabin path. It has rarely fruited to my knowledge, so its identity is a bit hard to determine. The maiden-hair fern, *Adiantum pedatum*, is common throughout the central area, and most common of all is the lady fern, *Asplenium filix-femina*. A related but more beautiful species, *Asplenium acrostichoides*, is less common, but quite plentiful at the base of the western slope. At least one good plant of *Aspidium spinulosum* grows just off the central road at the foot of the western slope, and a couple of plants of a larger *Aspidium*, probably *A. goldianum*, grow in the central creek area. The bulb-bearing fern, *Cystopteris bulbifera*, is common especially on the steep slopes at the mouth of Schoolboy's Glen; *Onoclea sensibilis*, the sensitive fern, grows at the south edge of the wet meadow, and also in the wet portion of the central area, along with the ostrich fern, *Onoclea struthiopteris*. Finally, the rattle-snake fern, *Botrychium virginianum*, with its delicate three-parted leaf and central fruiting spike, grows throughout the central and north area, though it seems to have been getting more rare in recent years. Other members of the fern tribe are the horsetails, represented in South Woods by *Equisetum hiemale* and *E. arvense*.

The lower orders of plants are abundantly represented in South Woods, though most people are not much interested in them, and I shall mention only a few outstanding examples. Among the algae, one appears in early spring when the water of the creek is cold. This is the green alga *Draparnaldia*, which grows on stones in the clear running water, and in delicate wav-

ing tufts which break if you try to pick them off, and in their gelatinous envelope they ooze through your fingers and go floating down stream. Under the microscope this alga is seen to consist of many delicate branched filaments attached to a main stem of larger diameter.

Algae and fungi are of course united in the many lichens which adorn tree trunks, especially older ones, throughout the woods. Better known fungi are mushrooms, puffballs, coral fungi, and bracket fungi which appear after late summer and fall rains. However, many parasitic fungi are present from time to time, as indicated in the discussion of buckthorn and barberry. The cedar rust commonly appears on leaves of hawthorn in late summer, and one may see the black stripes of the fungus *Phyllachora graminis* on the broad leaves of the foxtail grass, *Elymus canadensis*, along the north path near the creek. Perhaps the most common and noticeable of parasitic fungi, however, is the black knot which attacks small saplings of chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), especially in the north section of the woods. This comes out as a velvety, brown blister on young branches in spring, gradually turning to the black, charcoal-like gall which bears the overwintering spores of the fungus, often killing the tip of the branch and finally the tree itself.

Mosses are abundant, especially the little *Mnium medium* which grows in green patches everywhere, and which sends up its numerous green, grasslike sporophytes in early spring. The hairy-cap moss, *Polytrichum*, grows in the open plot north of the mouth of Schoolboy's Glen, while the hairless moss, *Atrichum*, produces its wavy-leafed rosettes in the damper and shadier places along the western slope. A beautiful moss,

Mnium roseum, used to grow on a rock shelf just above the spring, but drought and cattle have combined to destroy it.

Liverworts were represented by *Marchantia polymorpha*, which used to grow at the base of the clay-sand bank where the creek enters the central woods from the spring pasture, but which disappeared in a landslide several years ago, and by *Conocephalus conicus*, which used to be abundant on the moist ground along the creek in the central area. Recent floods have washed it all away, however, and it was last seen on the side of a moist bank along the central road at the base of the western slope.

I see that I have failed to mention the Solomon's seals, false and true, the jewel-weeds, the roses, Prunella and other mints, mandrake, marsh-marigold, bellwort, sandwort, bedstraws, meadow rues, buttercups, thimble weeds, cohosh, mitrewort, strawberries, raspberries, and other rosaceous plants, hog peanut, ground nut and other legumes, sweet cicely, loosestrife, shooting star, milkweeds, verbenas, scrophularias, lobelias, eupatoriums, asters, goldenrods and many other composites, all of which grow in South Woods in considerable abundance.

Many other interesting inhabitants of South Woods might be mentioned, but if you are interested enough to read about them, you will enjoy them more by finding them for yourself. At any rate, more prolonged discussion could lead only to the same conclusion, namely that South Woods still presents an unusually rich collection of natural flora, which is worth our every effort to protect and preserve for future generations.

Geo. H. Conant

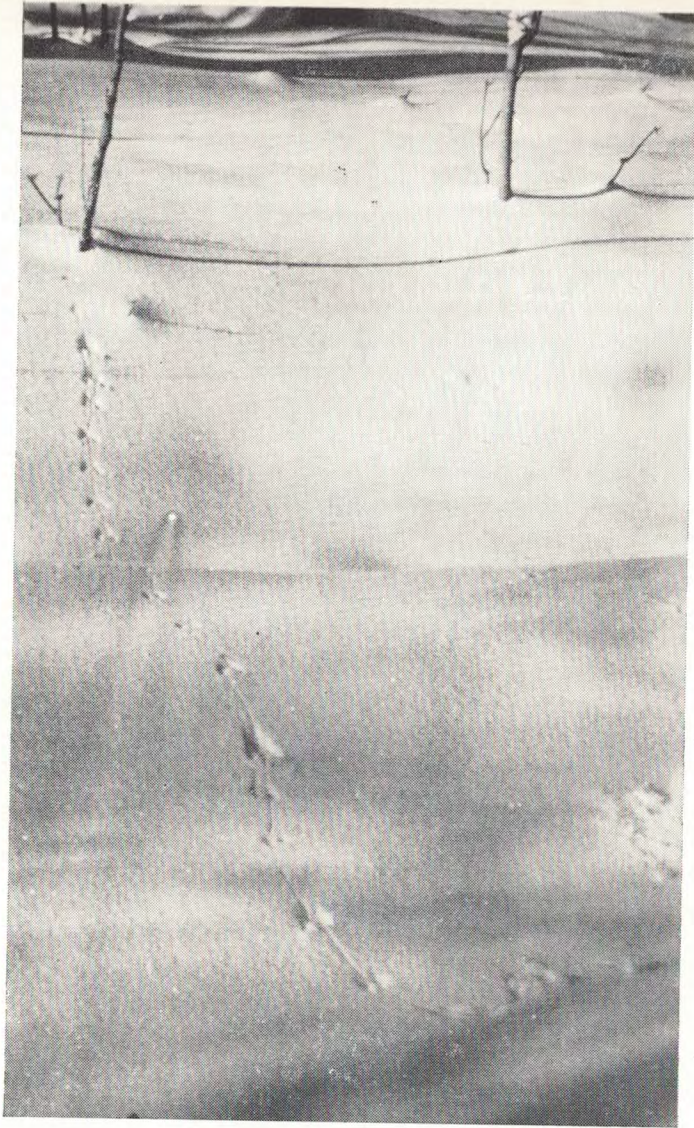
FAUNA OF THE SOUTH WOODS

by

MR. PAUL CORS
Senior Student
Ripon High School



*"He prayeth best who loveth
best
All things both great and
small." — Coleridge*



"Lo, what wonders the day hath
brought." — Allen

South Woods is home to a fairly large number of animals, more than the casual visitor to the woods would be likely to suspect. Though I do not claim to have found all the animals which inhabit the woods, I have found a number of them, and am glad to pass on what I have discovered.

I MAMMALS

The most abundantly represented group of Mammals is, of course, the Rodents. These are largely small and retiring and many kinds are very rarely seen. Others, however, such as Squirrels, are decidedly obtrusive.

The commonest species of Mouse in South Woods is the *Common Meadow Mouse*. They are found in all parts of the woods, and are a major source of food for the carnivorous animals and birds. The *House Mouse* is also found in the woods, probably having wandered over from the slaughterhouse. A third, very rare, species of Mouse is the *Pine Mouse*, which is not often found anywhere but in sandy Pine forests; I have seen one individual, on the wet meadow. The last species that I have found is the *White-footed Wood Mouse*, which is fairly common. There may be other species of Mice in the woods; probably there are.

The *Brown* or *House Rat* is found in South Woods, wandering into the woods from the slaughterhouse, and no doubt does considerable damage to the ground-nesting birds; fortunately they are not common. The *Black Rat* is also found, but is rare and comparatively harmless.

There are four species of Squirrels in the woods, and two hybrid Squirrels. The commonest kind is the *Gray Squirrel*,

which is very abundant throughout the woods. They are friendly and do not have the bad habits of some of their relatives. The *Fox Squirrels* are fairly common in the northern, privately owned part of the woods, where they find the most Hickory trees, Hickory nuts being their chief food. The *Black Squirrel* is very rare but is sometimes found. The *Red Squirrel* is still rarer, as it seems to prefer Pine trees; it is just as well that there aren't too many, as they are often very destructive to birds' eggs and and young. I have seen two individuals of the *Black and Gray Hybrid Squirrel*, and a solitary *Red and Gray Hybrid Squirrel*. These last two are freaks that are sometimes produced, and are not uncommon where two species occupy the same area.

The *Northern Flying Squirrel*, not a true Squirrel but a close relative, is presumably found in South Woods, although I personally have never seen one. They are nocturnal and very shy.

Both the *Eastern Chipmunk* and *Striped Chipmunk* (otherwise known as Ground Squirrels) are found in the woods, and are not uncommon. They are very friendly and pretty little animals, which generally inhabit hollow trees.

The *Striped Gopher* is very common in the dry open part of the woods at the extreme northern end; elsewhere in the woods few, if any are to be found. In the woods proper a number of *Woodchucks* are to be found. Some of these *Woodchucks* are extremely large and would no doubt be fierce fighters if cornered; they prefer to run rather than fight, though.

Last of the Rodents is the *Cottontail Rabbit*, which is very common in every part of the woods. These are too familiar to need any introduction, and they also are often a nuisance, damaging many plants.

North America's only Marsupial, a relative (very distant) of the Kangaroo, is the *Virginia Opossum*. I have found one dead specimen, which was quite surprising as the 'Possum is rare so far North.

The Insectivorae are a small group of Mammals in which scientists have put all the animals which couldn't honestly be put anywhere else, as well as the truly insectivorous Mammals. The commonest of the Insectivorae is the *Star-nosed Mole*. This animal is blind, lives underground, and is seldom seen. They are not common in South Woods.

Two other Insectivorae are rarely found in the woods; these are the *Mouse Shrew* and *Cooper's Shrew*. The Shrews are the smallest of all Mammals, and are very bloodthirsty and vicious, all out of proportion to their size.

Bats are common in the woods, but I do not know which of the eight species found in Wisconsin they are. They belong to a subdivision of the Mammals which contains only Bats.

The last major subdivision of Mammals found in South Woods is the Carnivores or meat-eaters. These are mostly large and fierce, and though rare in the woods are not easily ignored.

The *Brown Mink*, although very rare is sometimes found in the low, wet, parts of the woods. The Mink often kills Chickens, and is therefore much hated by farmers.

Much more common is the *Striped Skunk*, which is to be found in all parts of the woods. Although much feared by most people, the Skunk is really a beautiful and beneficial animal.

The *Gray Raccoon* is also found in South Woods, although it is not common. Raccoons are shy and nocturnal, and avoid being

seen as much as possible. They seem to favor the area along the creek.

The largest of the South Woods animals is the *Red Fox*. They are retiring in habit and rarely seen, although judging from the tracks in the snow last winter, there seem to be a number of Foxes in the woods; they are found in all parts of the woods.

Recently there were several *Domestic Dogs* living wild in the woods and doing much damage to Sheep in the area. Probably these are not strictly wild animals, but they are semi-wild. The *Domestic Cat* is also occasionally found in a wild state in the woods, and severely harms the birds.

I have recently found evidence of some unknown animal in South Woods. This animal is large, carnivorous, climbs trees, and is shy and probably nocturnal. Its scent causes great excitement in my dog. These signs make it sound like a *Bobcat* or *Southern Lynx*, although this seems hardly credible. Perhaps I may be able to find out what this animal is, but to date its identity is still a mystery about which I can only guess.

This completes the list of Mammals in South Woods; I shall go into much less detail in the other groups.

II BIRDS

The birds of South Woods are one of the major features of the woods, but only a very few of them are permanent residents. Most are in the woods for only one season of the year.

The *Ring-necked Pheasants* are common the year round, preferring the northern part of the woods. One rarely goes to the woods without finding at least one Pheasant.

The *Barred Owls* are very common also, and disturb the night woods with their loud hooting. Among the other year round birds are *Crow*, *Blue Jay*, *Flicker*, *Downy Woodpecker*, *English Sparrow*, *Starling*, *White-breasted Nuthatch*, *Black-capped Chickadee*, and *Goldfinch*.

The migrants that I have found in the woods are too numerous to mention. Noteworthy are the *Western Tanager*, very rare in Wisconsin, and the *Black-billed Cuckoo*, which is the noisiest and most noticeable bird in the summer.

III OTHER VERTEBRATES

The most abundant reptile in South Woods is the *Garter Snake*. They are extremely common in all parts of the woods, and especially on the wet meadow. Other less common species are the *Red-bellied Snake*, *Green Snake*, and *Black Snake*. All the snakes in the woods are harmless and beneficial.

Other reptiles include the turtles; the *Western Painted Turtle* and the *Snapping Turtle* are rare in the creek, and the *Box Turtle* is found in the damp areas of the woods, but is not common.

In the creek are found occasional minnows; I could not begin to say of what species they are. They are always very small, it being impossible for any large fish to live in the creek.

IV INVERTEBRATES

The lower animals are well represented in South Woods. Among the Mollusca there are *Snails* and *Mussels* in the creek, and *Land Snails* and *Slugs* in the damper parts of the woods; Crustaceans are represented by occasional *Crayfish* in the creek;

Myriapods by *Centipedes* and *Millipedes* in most of the moister areas; Arachnids by numerous *Spiders* and *Daddy-long-legs* throughout the woods; and of course *Insects* are very abundant everywhere.

Still lower down you will find many *Worms* of all three worm phyla in the creek, in the soil, and parasitic on higher animals. The lowest animals all live in the creek. These are *Rotifers*, *Moss Animals*, *Freshwater Sponges*, *Freshwater Echinoderms*, *Hydras*, and *Protozoans*.

I see that I have omitted the amphibians. Those found in South Woods are *American Toad*, *Leopard Frog*, *Bullfrog*, several *Tree Frogs*, and several *Peeper Frogs*. All are common in the damp, low areas of the Woods. They are, of course, lower vertebrates.

This brings to a close my report on the animals of South Woods, which I respectfully submit to the South Woods Park Association.

Paul B. Cors

CARE OF THE SOUTH WOODS

by

DR. E. J. KOHL



"Woodman, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough." — Morris



“ . . . where the new snow melts
Along the mazy current.”
—Thomson, “The Seasons”

When South Woods was purchased and allowed to live in perpetuity, that purchase represented an event in the history of Ripon, Wisconsin, which was not heralded enough through the years and held in proper appreciation, as events prove. When we consider the impress of this forest in the moulding and the course of life of just one individual as set forth in the preceding account, we can gain fair insight into the tremendous value it has had in others, as well as possibilities for future years.

This great mass of vegetation which canopies a carpet of sheer beauty beneath its massive umbrella, sprawls across the hillsides as a protective covering to Mother Earth. Our appreciation of it is to be enhanced by allowing our mind to wander to the absence of it. It forms a protective sponge with its ever increasing floor of humus, so that we may never envisage an eroded area such as adjoins it on either side. The great, green billowy mass of beauty pours forth practically the most sustaining element of our lives, oxygen. What an ugly spot such un-forested ravines could be. And it should continue to give all this and more, forever, if not molested too much by the defiling hand of man.

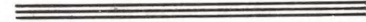
To have a forest primeval, nothing should be done to disturb the natural progress and evolution which continues inexorably in such an area of growth and decay. Natural competition among the plants should be allowed to continue unmolested. Nothing should be added; but absolutely nothing should be removed. Otherwise, we do not see the growth of the forest primeval. Except for footpaths that will persist, there should be no change by the hand of man.

Fallen trees ought to be pushed aside, but not removed; fallen limbs also should remain. These, with the gradual accumulation of decayed, fallen leaves make for the floral richness of the forest floor as well as forming a safe, moist sponge in which these plants persist. Harmless fungi of sorts will reappear and persist through the years for students to study and admire if the accumulation of humus is not disturbed. These fungi assist in the reduction to humus of fallen vegetation.

This is not a woodlot where all who wish may enter for various ulterior purposes. This is not a forest to be cut at intervals to keep the crop rotating. The forever damning presence of blaze marks made by unguided youths on saplings and old trees become avenues of infection for parasitic fungi and a willful tampering with the life of the very elements of South Woods. Roads are unnecessary and are not permissible, for this area is far too small to support more than footpaths. The recent introduction of equestrians has played havoc with what were ordinary and practically harmless footpaths. Water-washed and eroded ravines are now forming from such destructive trespass and in only a few years problems of a new sort will be presented. The willful, destructive force of the community on South Woods is becoming alarmingly evident. Theoretically not one single flower should be picked despite the persistence of many flowers through the years. The very ones that are always sought out are the rarest ones. Plants are even dug and brought into gardens, which should not be countenanced. A nursery in this state is known where not one lady-slipper plant is propagated; all were dug and removed from woods. Few persons know the elemental factors for growing such plants and they

are therefore, practically always lost in cultivation. Removing plants from their natural habitat is deplorable and every effort should be made to stop it.

South Woods is still in quite good condition and the heavy hand of man has not been too severe. All efforts should be mustered in this community to have and to hold it in as natural a condition as possible. If we wish to walk through a forest primeval, let us take care of what we have got and bend every effort toward it.



THE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Bessie Barbour

Miss Helen Bottum

Mrs. Lena Corliss

Mrs. Beatrice Cors

Mrs. Emilie Graf, Chairman

* * *

The committee wishes to express thanks to Dr. George Conant, Dr. E. J. Kohl and Mr. Paul Cors for the papers written for this booklet. Also to Dr. E. J. Kohl and Mr. Fred Inversetti, for assistance in preparing the pictures.