

20# Introduction to the Class of 1918 Marsh Field Trip

Hello, and welcome to the Stanley Dodson Audio Field Trip at the Class of 1918 Marsh.

This field trip is in memory of Professor Stanley Dodson who died in 2009. Professor Dodson believed that small, shallow waters like this Marsh were especially useful to help people of all ages understand the relationship between a water body and its surroundings. This audio tour is developed around the way he might have introduced you to the marsh, and its life, as he did for so many students.

The marsh's story is one of change over thousands of years, through recent centuries and decades, and even across the seasons. Glaciers and glacial lakes receded. Native Americans and then Europeans settled in the area. Most recently, Madison and the university reached westward to encompass and reshape the area.

This audio field trip highlights the geology, human history, and basics of marsh ecology. We introduce you to animals and plants—frogs, toads, fishes, insects, birds, microscopic organisms, and the ever-dominant cattails. We observe the important ways that humans damaged and then partially restored the Marsh into what you see today.

The Class of 1918 Marsh is part of the University of Wisconsin- Madison's Lakeshore Nature Preserve. This field trip in memory of Stanley Dodson was made possible by contributions to, and efforts of, the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.