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Cherokee Marsh: a wetland to cherish.

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Cherokee Marsh



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A Wetland to Cherish

MrM

Instructional Materials About Our Community



a project of...

**The Instructional
Materials Center
Madison Public Schools
Madison, Wisconsin**

“CHEROKEE MARSH — A WETLAND TO CHERISH”

Section I: Teacher Information

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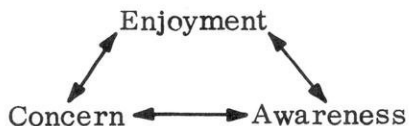
Section II: Teacher Reference for the filmstrip:

- “Cherokee Marsh — A Wetland to Cherish”. Page 7

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OBJECTIVES



- Enjoyment — A tour should be a happy experience for the child.
- Awareness — A tour should encourage discovery. A child becomes aware by using all his senses — by looking closely, listening, touching, and smelling.
- Concern — Appreciation and concern for preservation of our natural resources is essential for all citizens.

Bibliography

Pamphlets

“The Parade of Plants” — I. Wetlands by Ruth L. Hine and George J. Knudsen, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 4610 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin

Audubon Nature Bulletins on “Life in a Pond” “Freshwater Marshes” and “Turtles” National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10028 (Available in quantities of 35 or more — same title — at \$.20 each)

Books

McGraw Hill: Life of the Marsh and Life of the Pond

Life of the Pond by William H. Amos,
Life of the Marsh by William A. Niering,
McGraw-Hill, Publisher.

Birth of The Forest by Millicent E. Selsam,
Harper and Row, Publisher.

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY! DON'T MISS THE GREATEST EVENT OF THE SEASON!

The Cherokee Marsh

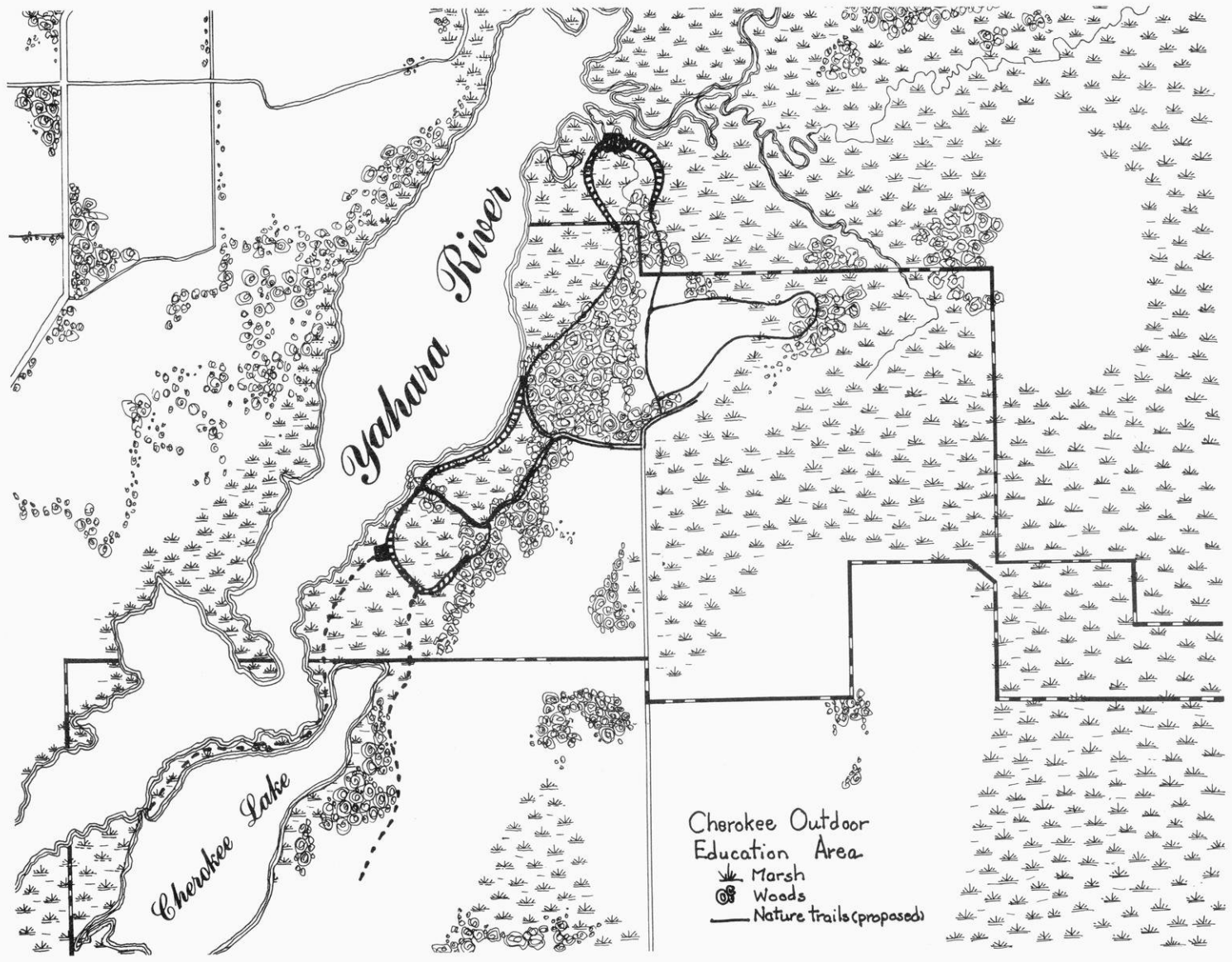
PART OF MADISON SCHOOL FOREST SYSTEM

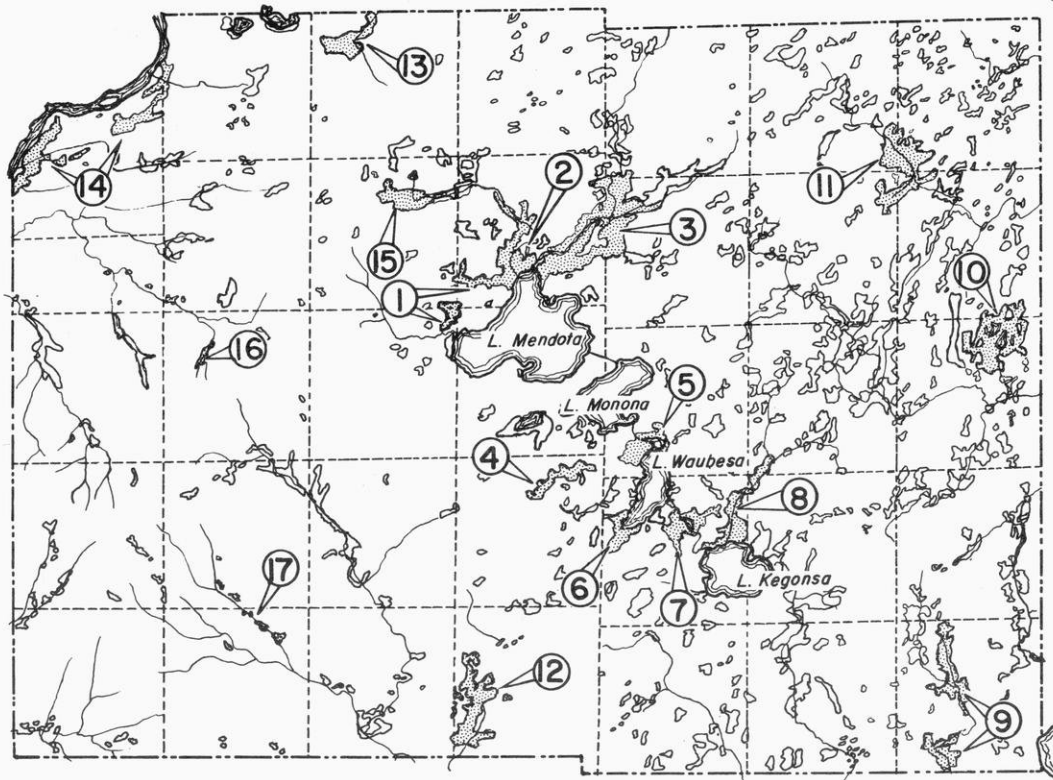


FEATURING:

WETLANDS
MIGRATING BIRDS
FORESTS (OAK, HICKORY)
SEDGE MEADOWS
WILDLIFE (MUSKRATS, ETC.)
PRAIRIES
WATER — YAHARA RIVER
TOKEN CREEK
PONDS
AN INDIAN MOUND
A SPRING
A QUARRY
GLACIAL BOULDERS
AND LOTS MORE

**GET YOUR GUIDE NOW BY CONTACTING
MR. LEE AT LINDBERGH SCHOOL**





LEGEND

Wetlands of Public Importance



- 1. Dorn Creek - F
- 2. Six Mile Creek - F
- 3. Cherokee Marsh - F
- 4. Nine Springs Creek - F
- 5. Upper Waubesa - F
- 6. Lower Waubesa - F, W
- 7. Lower Mud Lake - F, W
- 8. Door Creek - F, W
- 9. Albion Marsh - W
- 10. Goose Lake - W
- 11. Deansville Marsh - F, W
- 12. Brooklyn Marsh - F, W
- 13. Lodi Marsh - F, W
- 14. Mazomanie Marsh - W
- 15. Waunakee Marsh - F, W
- 16. Black Earth Creek - F
- 17. Mt. Vernon Creek - F

F = Fishery
W = Waterfowl

Other wetlands



WETLANDS, LAKES AND STREAMS

Wetlands.....44,599 acres
Lakes.....20,975 acres
Streams.....399 miles

Scale 0 1 2 Miles

Figure 7

Dane County Citizens'
Planning Committee

OUR SURFACE WATERS

Figure 7 identifies all the surface water and wetland areas of Dane County. It includes streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, and imperfectly drained lowlands. Major wetland areas deserving preservation in the public interest are delineated.

The authors of this map realize that some wetlands may be drained and put to other uses than they might serve in their original state.

It is not necessary to preserve every pothole in the county as a pothole. It is important and necessary to mark out and conserve for posterity some of our wetland areas if we would maintain:

1. Aesthetic values.
2. Recreational values.
3. Flood control values.
4. Wildlife of all kinds (game, songbirds, animals, etc.).

Wise selection, careful planning, and conservation are mandatory if many of these values are to be maintained.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS

Dane County contains:

1. Over 70 lakes, ponds, and potholes of nearly 21,000 surface acres and over 130 miles of shoreline. This represents 11 persons per surface acre of lake and 1,700 persons per mile of lake shore. Only 10 of Dane County's lakes have lake shore dwellings (1,600 plus as of this date). Only 10 of the remaining lakes have natural potential for lake shore development.

2. 507 miles of stream which includes 48 miles of trout stream and 22 miles of smallmouth bass stream. About 45 miles of river and stream provide canoeing opportunities.

3. The Four Lakes (Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa) — world famous for their beauty and recreational attributes. The unique fisheries for yellow perch and white bass have long been a successful part of the Four Lakes complex.

4. A Shrinking Wetland area — a survey completed in 1958 indicates the loss of 22,677 acres of wetland to drainage during a 20 year period (an acreage equivalent to nearly 140 Wisconsin farms). This loss represents one-third of the wetlands that were inventoried in 1938. Indications are that the trend will continue.

The Surface Waters are used:

1. For fishing. Nearly 25,000 resident fishing licenses were sold in Dane County in 1960, ranking it 3rd in the state. Considering all sources of anglers, nearly one-fourth to one-third of the population fishes. Fishing continues good despite increased pressure.

2. For boating. Over 30,000 boats (est.) are owned by County residents. Dane County is the 5th most used county in the state for boating. According to a recent Wisconsin Conservation Department's estimate, over 5,000 registered boats are located permanently on the waters of Lakes Mendota and Monona alone. Registered boats carry motors. Motors become faster and more powerful each year. Unregulated boating creates conflict among the surface water users.

3. For swimming. Perhaps 50 per cent of the population participates in beach activities. Dane County has 16 public beaches and 4 commercially operated beach areas. Nearly all require expansion to accommodate population growth.

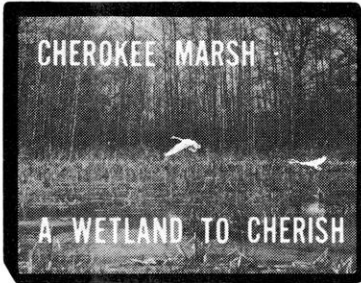
4. For hunting. In 1960 over 16,200 persons bought small game hunting licenses in Dane County. National surveys estimate that nearly one-fifth this number hunt waterfowl, therefore receiving direct benefits from open water and wetland areas. Moreover, marshlands provide optimum habitat for upland game birds, and small game animals, therefore benefiting nearly all hunters.

RECOMMENDATION

Figure 7 delineates major wetland areas deserving preservation in the public interest. Various governmental units and agencies should work cooperatively toward their preservation.



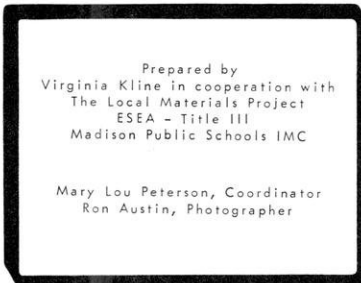
1
Colophon



2
Title
Cherokee Marsh — A Wetland to Cherish

SPECIAL NOTE:

Please do not judge the quality of the beautiful full-color pictures in the film-strip by the appearance of the black-and-white photos in this guide! Obviously, there is no comparison between full-color and black and white pictures.



3
Credit Frame



4
Have you ever been in a wetland — a place where the soil was spongy and cool and wet around your feet, or where your canoe brushed between plants standing like soft swords above the clear water?

Wisconsin River floodplain at
Wyalusing State Park



5
Have you felt the mystery of such a place . . .

Sunset at Horicon Marsh



6

... and its beauty?

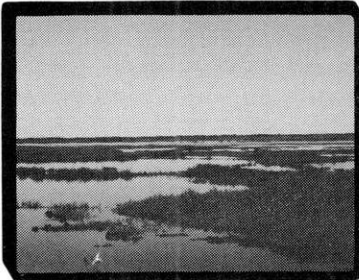
Ho-nee-um Pond, U.W. Arboretum



7

Have you ever kept very still so that you could watch one of the wild wetland creatures . . .

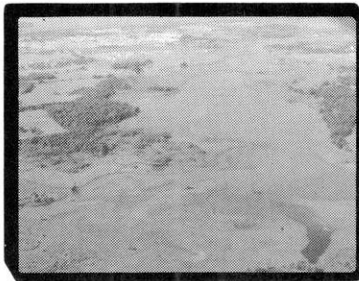
Great blue heron



8

... and then felt the spell of quiet broken only by wind and the call of a wild bird far away? A man or a child can think quietly and alone in a wetland.

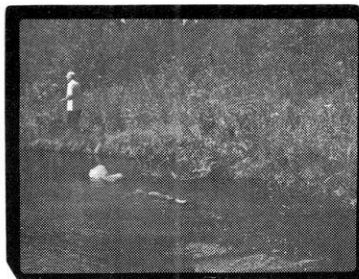
Crex Meadows, Burnett County



9

What is a wetland? A place where the land is wet much of the year is one sort of answer — and a good one, though it leaves out the call of the wild bird and the exciting “plop” of a frog’s jump into the water.

Cherokee Marsh aerial view



10

Wetlands may be found along rivers . . .

Pine River, Waushara County



11

... or along the shores of lakes or ponds.

Cattails along Lake Wingra



12

Sometimes there is a wetland where no open water can be seen but where underground water keeps the soil wet and soggy.

Summerton Bog



13

A wetland may be as small as a wreath around a small pond ...

Pond, Goose Lake Prairie, Illinois



14

... or large enough to stretch to the horizon.

Crex Meadows, Burnett County



15

Some wetlands have trees growing right in the water or wet soil. A wetland with trees is called a swamp. A few swamps, such as this one, are found in southern Wisconsin but swamps are more common in the northern part of the state.

Flood plain forest along the Sugar River,
near Avon, Wisconsin



16

Other wetlands are open, with few or no trees. A wetland without trees is called a marsh. In southern Wisconsin most of the wetlands are marshes.

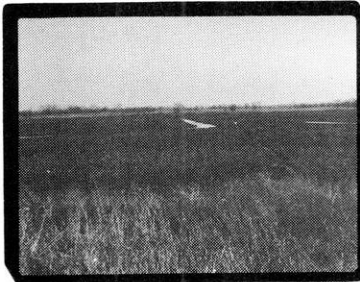
Goose Lake Prairie, Illinois



17

Wetlands are often destroyed by man's activities. The pictures you have seen were all taken in areas that have been bought and preserved by government agencies or by conservation groups. Without this protection, many would have met the fate of thousands of acres of wetlands . . .

Wetland near County M, Dane County



18

. . . which have been drained by ditches for farming (often farming of short success) . . .

Drained marshland near Goose Lake Prairie, Illinois



19

. . . or for housing developments (often resulting in wet basements and sewer problems) . . .

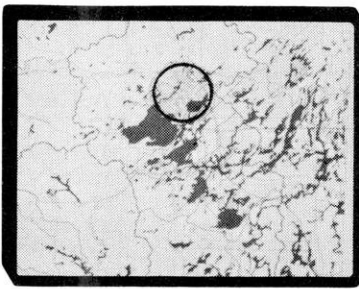
Drainage ditch near houses, Madison



20

. . . or used as dumping places for the mounting tons of people trash, (which may contaminate the ground water). Whatever the use of the drained or filled wetland, the wildlife is gone.

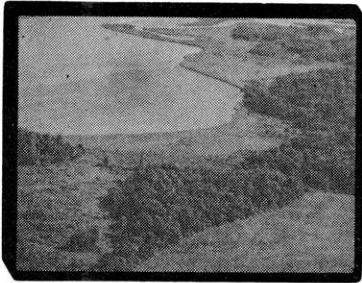
Marsh used as dump near Picnic Point, Madison



21

Two-thirds of the marshes of Dane County have been destroyed. The location of these destroyed marshes is shown here in brown. Living marshes are shown in light blue. Marked by a circle is a marsh area which is visited by hundreds of Madison boys and girls every year.

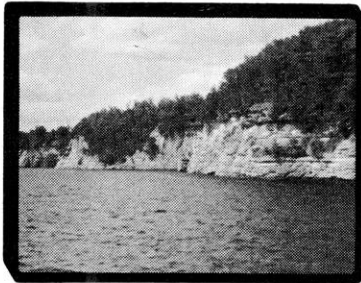
Map — Drained Marshes of Dane County



22

Here you see that area in an aerial view. Notice the broad river in the flat valley.

Aerial view — Cherokee Marsh



23

Thousands of years ago that river valley was narrow and deep with steep sides.

Dells, Wisconsin



24

A great moving field of ice called a glacier moved over the land from the northeast like a mile high bulldozer, pushing over hills and spreading the rocks and soil across the land — making a tremendous change in the shape of the land.

Glacier



25

As the glacier melted away, the rushing melt water running from it carried away silt, sand, and rock and dumped this into the valley in great quantities. Today over 200 feet of this washed-in debris lies in the valley. After the glacier melted away, the river channel was smaller than the large flat valley, but large areas of this flatland were low enough to remain wet throughout much of the year. Downstream the river flowed through four lakes formed by the glacier.

View of stream in filled in valley



26

In the wet places along the shores of the river, wetland plants and animals began to live and grow together in a thriving community.

Cherokee view



27

Cattails in the very wet areas, . . .



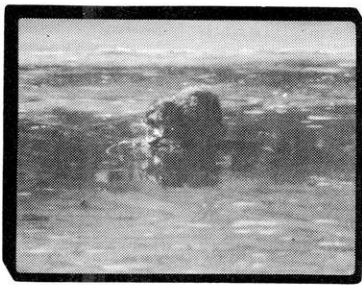
28

. . . grasses, . . .



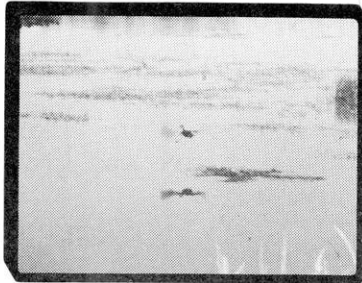
29

. . . and sedges which formed tussocks or clumps farther from the edge of the water.



30

Musk rats, . . .



31

. . . ducks, . . .

Note reflection of the duck.



32

. . . frogs, . . .



33

. . . snakes, . . .

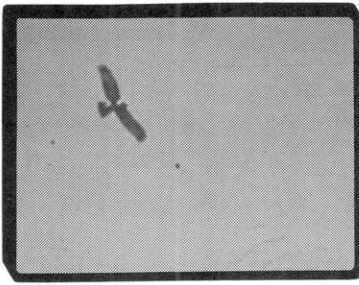
Garter snake



34

. . . spiders, . . .

Garden spider



35

. . . hawks — countless living things, each depending on the others and on the wet land.



36

Migrating waterfowl, such as whistling swans, used the marsh as a place to rest and obtain food during the long journey to northern nesting sites.



37

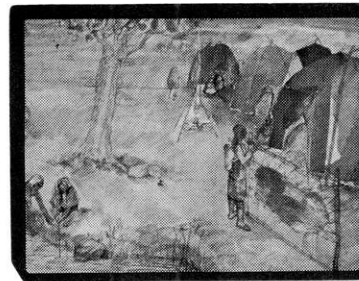
Man came too — at first in small numbers. People of an early Indian culture built this round hill — a sacred mound, perhaps used for burial. The mound was built on a small island of dry land in the marsh.



38

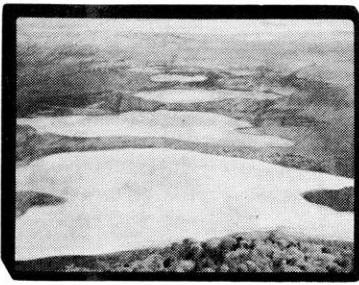
From this spot of dry land the Indians could see long distances up and down the river. The rich plant and animal life of the wetlands provided food, shelter and clothing for these ancient people, . . .

View up river



39

. . . and later for Winnebago Indian tribes who hunted and fished along the river, which they called the Catfish.



40

Just three miles south and downstream from the place the mound was built, the Catfish flowed into the first of the chain of four lakes linked by the river. The Winnebagos called the land of the four lakes "Tay-choperah".

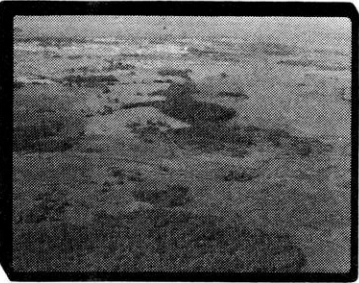
Montage — four lakes



41

More than one hundred years have passed since Indian tribes hunted and fished along the Catfish. Today 200,000 people live in a city within a few miles of the mound. The river is now called the Yahara and the lakes it connects are named Mendota, Monona, Waukesha, and Kegonsa.

Aerial view of four lakes



42

The wetland along the river north of Lake Mendota is called Cherokee Marsh, although Cherokee Indians never knew this wetland. While many of the marshes which were near the lakes are gone, most of Cherokee Marsh is still wild and wet, much as it was in Indian times.

Aerial of Cherokee Marsh



43

However, part of the marsh was changed by a housing development after a long and bitter dispute between the developers and the City of Madison. The City had not acted soon enough to preserve this area. A small lake was made by dredging, some land was ditched and drained, and houses were built.

View of Cherokee Park



44

The City's concern about the marsh is related to the condition of Lake Mendota. Because it is overfertilized by materials washing in, the lake is producing too many water plants and a scum of algae. When marshes are drained the lake gets more fertilizing material from the water draining out of the marsh.

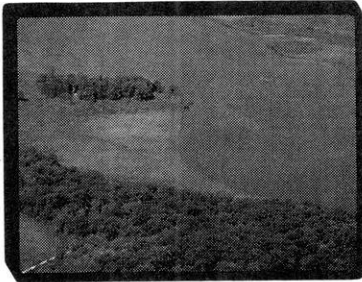
Algal scum



45

Deltas of silt carried by the rivers are making dry land where piers and boats once were. A marsh can act as a settling basin to help prevent this, although the marsh itself may be damaged by too much siltation. The cause of the increased siltation is man's activities such as farming, road making, and building construction on the land draining into the rivers and lakes.

Pheasant Branch, Middleton



46

Because the people of Madison were concerned about harmful effects on the lake if the marshland was not protected, the City officials did something which is unusual for a city. They bought a large piece of marsh along the southeast shore of the Yahara River including the spot where the Indian mound lies.

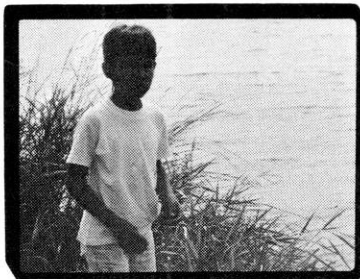
See picture 22 for another view of the marsh that was purchased.



47

Farther upstream the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources bought additional land. Thus through co-operation a large wetland will be saved. This will protect the lake, provide open space for a growing city, and preserve a place for the plants and animals which need a wetland.

Control of siltation from the higher land will be important to further protect the marsh.



48

Best of all, the City has provided a program so that boys and girls from Madison schools can travel by bus to Cherokee, where they can walk through the marsh, . . .



49

. . . learn to know its living things, . . .



50

. . . and enjoy a setting cherished centuries ago by an ancient people.



51


Here wetland animals and plants live much as they did before man's hand so changed the land. Here a city has provided a sanctuary for these living things, and a living heritage for its children.

Cherokee view



52

The End.



2995