

JACKSON LANDING – SPRING - 2022

Understatement of the Year.

Spring is here

Between the covid adventure and our long winter you just might be ready for a walk. We finally had our 70-deg. day. You might have missed something. Take it from Anne Bradstreet....

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

We’re into March. Big deal? I think so. The geese will prime your soul, they’ve been around for most of the winter. I heard my first Sand Hill Cranes calling overhead on March 5. Never saw ‘em...now I can’t wait to go ‘looking’, and surely, I will find something else. If you cross paths with Nancy G. on the trail you might ask her what she found on that day. She finds and she takes pictures as you will see in these few pages.

Are you ready for the birds? Did you buy yourself a new pair of binoculars? How ‘bout a new lens for your camera? You don’t really need all that....just slow walk will reward you. You might want to download an app or two on your phone. These are from Apple....check other sources.

iBird – ID and bird calls

Audubon-ID and bird calls

Peterson-ID and bird calls

iNaturalist-ID almost anything

Note: Snow Goose escorting the Canada’s at Goose Pond. Beautiful bird!

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.” — Edith Sitwell

Winter Review

While we were escaping the horrors of the covid pandemic and the often-brutal conditions that would discourage most of us that would cherish a good walk, there were some that ventured forth and captured the warm side of winter. Bundle up and go forth. The secret is, don’t think about it until you get home and pour a cup of hot chocolate. Most important, hope you didn’t forget the camera and binoculars. I can only show you pictures taken. Those in your minds-eye can only be seen again and again and again, to enjoy the moments in waking and your dreams. Winter passes and we remember the exuberance but forget the temporary discomfort. Enjoy some of the scenes, most taken by Nancy Gulyas, a daily visitor with an eye for saving wildness.



Nancy G



Nancy G

“The Winter Solstice is the time of ending and beginning, a powerful time – a time to contemplate your immortality. A time to forgive, to be forgiven, and to make a fresh start. A time to awaken.” — Frederick Lenz

“Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.
Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.
Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.
Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance.”

— Yoko Ono

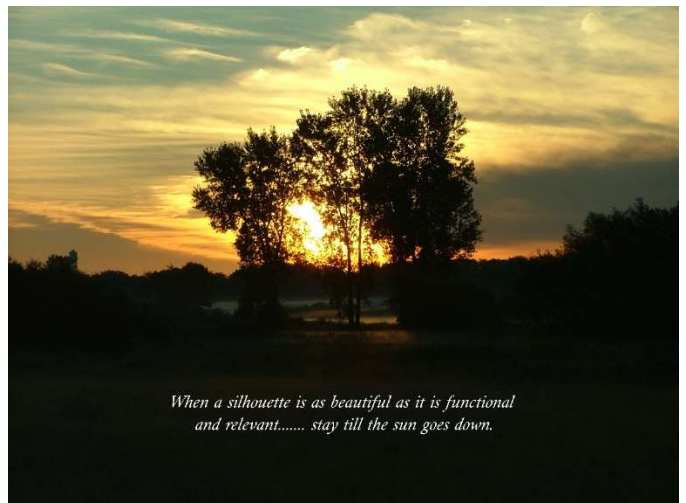
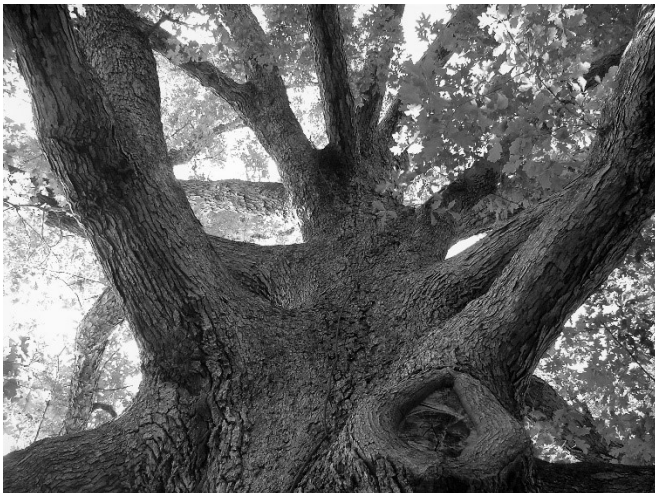
Good Time to go ‘Tree Watching’



Nancy G

I've got a thing about trees. I'm fascinated by their personalities, e.g., their shapes; how they can tangle yet seldom allow their limbs to touch each other. Is it their enduring presence despite the madness going on everywhere? Their ability to add life where once there was only soil? That our very survival is intricately linked to nature? Is it that they produce the oxygen we need to live. They've been evolving for millions of years. Before they become adorned with their infinite greenery their nakedness reveals the millions of potential avian perches ready for arrival. It's part of the canopy explosion only a few weeks away. What is it about trees that resounds so deep in us? There are those who can pass by a tree without a glance. On the other hand, there are those of the extreme, like me, that are distracted while driving to get another glimpse of the exceptional burr oak on the corner of Mineral Point Rd. and Segoe Rd. Jackson Landing has its own special residents. Cottonwoods that have been there long enough to have a bison snooze in its shade and the glorious black oak that stands behind the shelter. And don't pass by our sycamore without a glance. It's a very special tree. Lets not forget Arbor Day...your time to plant a few trees. Go to: www.arborday.org/

**"The trees encountered on a country stroll
Reveal a lot about that country's soul...
A culture is no better than its woods."
W.H.Auden**



*When a silhouette is as beautiful as it is functional
and relevant..... stay till the sun goes down.*

The best time to plant a tree was 25 years ago.....The second best time is today.

BIRD WATCH... Red-Tailed Hawk

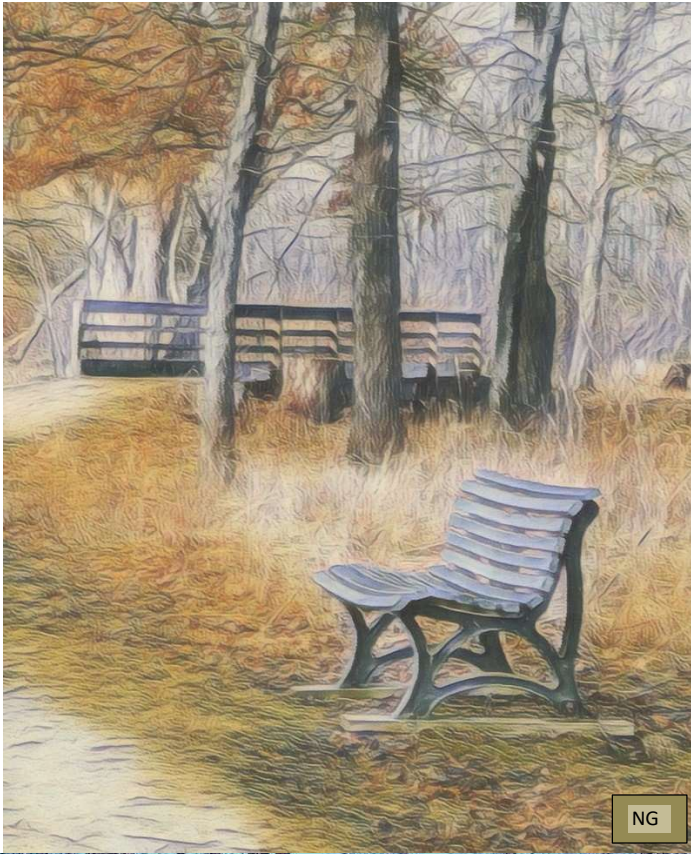


A hawk isn't afraid to perch high, not because he trusts he won't fall, but because he trusts he can fly.

OUR MOST COMMON RAPTOR

The appearance of this hawk varies based upon the subspecies. There are a number of different color patterns, including lighter, darker, and intermediate plumage. Most adult red-tailed hawks have a reddish-brown colored tail, which is where they get their name. They are relatively large hawks, and their wingspan ranges from 3'5" to 4'10" depending on the sex of the bird and the subspecies. There are several pairs breeding in and around Jackson Landing. Watch the sky, hear their screech, and watch for the young which will hatch in early June. They have keen eyesight for detecting food at a distance or during flight, strong feet equipped with talons for grasping or killing prey, and powerful, curved beaks for tearing flesh. The term raptor is derived from the Latin word *rapiō*, meaning to seize or take by force. In addition to hunting live prey, many birds, such as fish eagles, vultures, and condors, eat carrion.





A bit of digital art from Nancy and Jim. Get those camera's clicking and send them to jswiwr@tds.net

"In silence we find wisdom, revelations, inspirations and understanding. A noisy environment just scatters up everything."

Terry Mark

Earth Day 2022-See What's Happening



<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2022/>



Found roaming around Jackson



This is what your looking for come April and May!

Wild Turkey

Feeding Behavior

Forages mostly by walking on ground. Often scratches in leaf litter to expose food items. Sometimes climbs in shrubs or trees to eat berries. May forage most actively in early morning and evening.

Eggs

Usually 10-15, sometimes 4-18, rarely more. White to pale buff, dotted with reddish brown. Sometimes more than one female will lay eggs in one nest. Incubation is by female only, 25-31 days. Young: Downy young leave nest soon after hatching. Female tends young, and broods them at night for several weeks; young feed themselves. Young can make short flights at age of 1-2 weeks, but not full-grown for several months.

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Diet

Omnivorous. Diet varies with season but is mostly plant material, including many acorns, leaves, seeds, grains, berries, buds, grass blades, roots, bulbs. Also eats insects, spiders, snails. Sometimes eats frogs, lizards, snakes, salamanders, crabs.

Nesting In spring, male gives gobbling call to attract females. In courtship, males puff out feathers, raise and spread tail, swell up face wattles, droop wings; in this exaggerated posture they strut, rattling the wing feathers and making humming sounds. One male will mate with several females. Nest site is on ground, often at base of tree, under shrub, or in tall grass. Nest is shallow depression, sparsely lined with grass, leaves.

Wild turkeys can fly, and they have a top speed in flight of about 55 miles per hour. There are approximately 5,500 feathers on an adult wild turkey, including 18 tail feathers that make up the male's distinct fan. Many of the feathers are iridescent, which gives the turkey its characteristic sheen.

“Some of the Jackson Story”

In the early 1880s, Breese Stevens (friend of the Jacksons) and Morris Fuller purchased the Heron Farm, a property that included the areas we now know as Picnic Point and Frautschi Point. At the time, Frautschi Point was generally identified as Second Point. Stevens and Fuller, wealthy Madison business partners, apparently planned to build a “fancy farm” at Second Point, but it is unclear if they ever erected any buildings or agricultural infrastructure on the site.

Following Stevens’ death, the property was inherited by his daughters Elizabeth and Amelia. It was Elizabeth and her husband, Dr. Reginald H. Jackson Sr. (founder of Madison’s Jackson Clinic) who built the first substantial residence here in 1921—a summer house is now referred to as the Jackson Cottage. It was gradually expanded over the years, eventually becoming a rambling 4,450-square-foot structure used for summer retreats and for entertaining guests. The cottage eventually became the year-round home for Dr. James Jackson’s son, Reggie Jr.

Reggie Jr. was an avid hunter and enjoyed shooting pheasants that he raised on the property. (Rearing pens were located on the east bank of Jackson Creek, near the bridge.) He also enjoyed sailing, fishing, and flying his seaplane around Lake Mendota. An unusual hangar with an inclined marine railway was built on the property to keep the seaplane safe between flights. Reggie owned the Landing property until 1986. The Jackson cabin in the Landing was rented to Dr. Larry Weiss, professor and coach of the UW Forensic Team. His rent was.... that, he, Dr. Larry supervise Reggie, who was physically challenged, on his duck hunting ventures on Lake Mendota.

Jackson Landing became ‘the hunting property’ and as you read below, was also bequeathed to the State Medical Society of Wisconsin. On the easternmost end of Jackson, the family invited their friends to garden. There is ample evidence of the activities in the ‘Landing’. Scattered here and there are cans and bottles and a few auto parts. The road in was a rutted muddy road from the bridge at the Willows Tavern

With the death of Reginald Jackson, Jr. in 1986, came a critical moment in the history of Frautschi Point (and the Jackson Landing property)—and a turning point for what would eventually become the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Jackson bequeathed the property to the Northwestern University Medical School and the State Medical Society of Wisconsin. The bequeath also included the Jackson Landing Property. Neither organization had any reason to retain this generous gift, raising the very real prospect that they would sell it to a developer to realize its financial value. Fortunately, the Town of Westport had the opportunity to purchase our property...and did.

If the Town had not purchased the Landing, it would likely be subdivided and developed. Because this was one of two remaining pieces of the Lake Mendota shoreline up for sale, the priceless piece that is now Jackson Landing would never have happened.

“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity” — John Muir

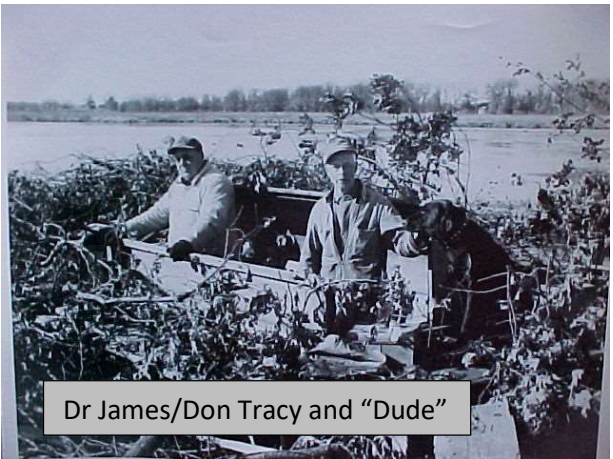
Jackson Friends



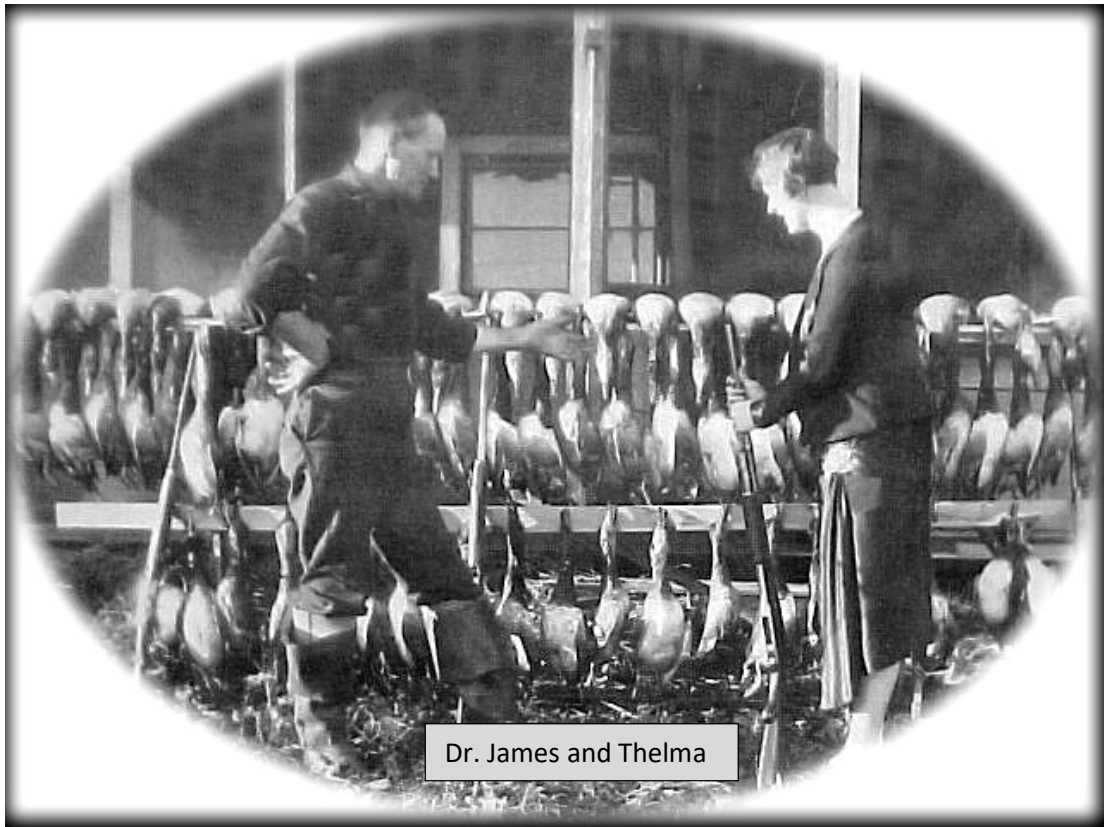
Dr James Jason and wife Thelma in the garden. "White House in the distance."



In the gardens.



Dr James/Don Tracy and "Dude"



Dr. James and Thelma

Get the most enjoyment in of your walks. All the following websites will be handy. One of the goals of managing Jackson Landing is to promote as much diversity as possible, e.g. more birds, more insects, more native plants, etc. Westshire residents can contribute to that diversity with their yard plantings.

Native Plants:

<https://p.widencdn.net/tanvm9/NH0936>

Landscaping. Consider for your yard edge bounding Jackson: <https://widnr.widen.net/s/kwppnwt6mq>

Native Plants for Birds: See more from your windows: <https://p.widencdn.net/d0tla9/NH0533>

Butterflies: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/EndangeredResources/plantsformonarchs.pdf>

More native plants: <https://p.widencdn.net/tykh8/NH0532>

Need more info? Thanks to the Wisconsin DNR @:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/nativeplants.html>

Alert: The Waunakee Fire Dept. has scheduled to burn the Jackson Prairie behind the Willows/Softball field on April 18th. There will be smoke! We have not burned the prairie in four years. It will be an evening burn.

Info: Prescribed fire is the intentional application of fire to a specific pre-planned area, under specific environmental conditions, to accomplish planned land management objectives. Without the use of prescribed burning as a management tool, Jackson Prairie could lose many of its native grasses, wetland, and savanna plant communities.

Fire and wildlife have a historic and complex relationship in grassland, wetland, and savanna communities. Prescribed fire is rarely lethal to most wildlife yet has a profound effect on habitat by increasing the number of native plant and animal species present food sources for wildlife. The wildlife species that benefit most from prescribed fire are those that rely on open habitat in one or more stages of their life cycle. Examples of these animals are grassland birds, sharp-tailed grouse, waterfowl, and pheasant. Prescribed burns also help to stimulate flowering herbaceous plants (forbs)—a source of food for white-tailed deer. Additionally, wildflower abundance and diversity support a wide variety of insects and other invertebrates, a food source that provides benefits all the way up the food chain.

Some specific advantages of prescribed burns include:

*Stimulating prairie grass growth and improve habitat for upland game and waterfowl.

*Stimulates the growth of wildflowers, which attract insects—a vital food sources for young game and non-game grassland birds.

*Improving cover type for grassland nesting birds such as pheasants, and spur native vegetative growth for songbirds; and creating open pockets of bare ground, increasing diversity and richness of ground foraging, seed-eating small mammals and birds.

*Maintaining the vertical structure and/or open nature of fire-dependent plant communities.

*Creating open pockets of bare ground, increasing seed-to-soil contact for plant species.

*Reducing competition for slower-growing native trees that would otherwise be shaded out.

*Recycling nutrients from burned fuels back into the soil; and

*Reducing the presence of fire-intolerant non-natives by exploiting their sensitivity to heat.

Safety first: All WFD crew members have received extensive training for prescribed burning and suppression. Before any burn is conducted, experienced and trained personnel assess the area to determine the wind direction and speed, relative humidity, "fuel" (plant) moisture and safety considerations necessary to conduct a burn safely. Qualified personnel manage fire behavior with comprehensive planning and specialized fire equipment. Local police and fire officials will be notified when the burn will take place, so they can respond to people who report that they are seeing smoke from an area. Observers should watch from the shelter next to the Willows Tavern or from the softball field.

“Who would have thought it possible that prairie flowers could preoccupy a person so completely that *at that moment.....* there simply isn’t room for any other thought.”

Jackson Prairie Burn – April 2015



Leopold's Land Ethic

Ethics direct all members of a community to treat one another with respect for the mutual benefit of all. A land ethic expands the definition of "community" to include not only humans, but all of the other parts of the Earth, as well: soils, waters, plants, and animals, or what Leopold called "the land."

Leopold's vision of a land ethic, the relationships between people and land are intertwined: care for people cannot be separated from care for the land. A land ethic is a moral code of conduct that grows out of these interconnected caring relationships.

Leopold did not define the land ethic with a litany of rights and wrongs in *A Sand County Almanac*. Instead, he presented it as a set of values that naturally grew out of his lifetime of experiences in the outdoors. Leopold wrote that "we can only be ethical in relation to something we can see, understand, feel, love, or otherwise have faith in."

He believed that direct contact with the natural world was crucial in shaping our ability to extend our ethics beyond our own self-interest. He hoped his essays would inspire others to embark or continue a similar lifelong journey of outdoor exploration, developing an ethic of care that would grow out of their own close personal connection to nature.