

Amherst Student
Jan 10, 1935

SANCTUARY AND NATURAL LABORATORY NEARING COMPLETION BY F.E.R.A. FUNDS

The 60-acre tract of woodland on East Street, owned by Amherst College, the location where preliminary forestry work was begun two years ago, is rapidly being converted into a wild life preserve and outdoor scientific laboratory for Amherst undergraduates. This tract was acquired by the College some years ago in accordance with its policy of purchasing adjoining land for possible future expansion.

The land remained idle, however, until the fall of 1932, when Treasurer Charles A. Andrews suggested clearing it in order to increase its value and to give employment. The preliminary trimming of trees, cutting of underbrush and elimination of waste vegetation disclosed the fact that the land contained a noteworthy number of plants and trees not common to this region; there are brooks which run through the woods, and both dry and swampy ground is to be found there.

This fall the acceptance of FERA funds has made possible a continuation of the field work, which is being

conducted under the direction of Professor Goodale's assistant in botany, Walter C. Markert. Ground conditions have been improved throughout the tract; a large brook has been dammed, producing two pools for aquatic plant and animal life. Some 3500 new trees have been set, including white pine, red pine, spruce and balsam; diseased birches and poplars will be cut down to be replaced with hemlocks.

Plan For More Work

Later plans for development of the tract include the planting of more trees and flowering shrubs, and it is expected that with the improvement of ground conditions the number and variety of plants will increase. Professor Goodale of the botany department expects that improved drainage in the area together with annual elimination of worthless plant life and the laying out of nature trails will attract more bird and animal life; partridge, quail and pheasant breed in the preserve and occasionally a deer has been seen.

Thus the College will have a natur-

al laboratory for botanical and zoological study within 15 minutes' walk of the main laboratories on the campus.

November, 1935

MORE BRIEFLY

Under the direction of Prof. Alfred S. Goodale, '98, of the botany department, work has been resumed in the Amherst College Wild Life Sanctuary by about thirty-five students working on Federal funds. Drainage ditches and trails are being constructed. The Tuckerman Trail, named in honor of Prof. Edward Tuckerman, Amherst's famous botanist, encircles the sixty acres of forest and is about two miles long. Another trail will be named after the late Prof. Arthur B. Morong, '71, an authority on aquatic plants.

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Worthless undergrowth has been cleared away and ground conditions generally improved. The brook has been cleaned out and dammed, producing two pools for aquatic plant and animal life. Some 3500 new trees have been set out, including white pine, red pine, spruce, and balsam. Diseased birches and poplars will be cut down and replaced with hemlocks. Animal life will receive protection and birds will be fed during the winter. The woods have been posted, forbidding the use of firearms and traps and the building of fires.

Thus the College has a living laboratory for botanical and zoological study within fifteen minutes' walk of the main laboratories on the campus.

OUR WILD-LIFE SANCTUARY

The sixty-acre tract belonging to the College and located east of the campus proper, which the administration began to clean up two years ago in order to provide employment for needy students and citizens, is being developed into a wild-life sanctuary under the direction of Prof. Alfred S. Goodale of the botany department and his assistant, Walter C. Markert. It has turned out to be a natural arboretum and wild-flower garden of more than ordinary interest and value. Last fall the acceptance of FERA funds made it possible to employ thirty students in need of financial assistance, and these boys have not only been enjoying a healthful outdoor occupation but have developed an intelligent interest in the educational and recreational aspects of the project.

STUDENTS RESUME WORK ON WILD LIFE PRESERVE

Tuckerman and Morong Trails Already Laid Out

Monday, October 1—Work was resumed in the Wild Life Sanctuary today by about 35 Amherst students working under federal funds. Drainage ditches are being prepared and work is being continued on the Tuckerman Trail.

The Tuckerman Trail, named in honor of Professor Tuckerman, the well known botanist who taught at Amherst, is about two miles long and encircles most of the sixty acres of land that make up the sanctuary. It is the most nearly complete of the several trails which are being laid out. Among the other trails which have been planned is the Morong Trail, named for Thomas Morong, an Amherst graduate and authority on water plants. The trail will cross that portion of the sanctuary where such plants abound. The other trails will also be named for men who have been prominent in the field of botany and who have been connected with the College. The trails will be marked with rustic signs in keeping with the natural surroundings.

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Oct 3, 1935

Graduates Quarterly
Feb 1935

Wild Life Sanctuary Receives Annual Spring Reconditioning; Additions Planned

The Wild Life Sanctuary is now undergoing its annual spring reconditioning and improvements planned for this year, many already completed, promise to add more interest, beauty and value to the trail than ever before. Under the direction of Professor Goodale hundreds of labels identifying and describing various plants are being prepared to stake along the trail.

Signs will also point out sights of geographical or geological interest such as the Devil's Garden or the twin drumlins, named Castor and Pollux by President Hitchcock. About 6000 plants and shrubs are to be set out, many already planted, and the work is now only waiting for delivery of more plants. Among the plantings are one thousand northern hemlock, a thousand red pine, many Australian pine and white spruce, some of which are to be placed so as ultimately to conceal the sight of the Boston and Main tracks from the path. As announced last fall, the dam for the pool has been completely reconstructed of reinforced concrete and made muskrat-proof, and the pool this year will contain at least four kinds of pond lilies.

As a project in soil conservation, sweet pepper bush is being planted on the slope of the dam to check erosion. Around the pool will be placed willows and appropriate border plants, predominantly yellow irises. The rock garden is being constructed this year so as to contain sections of soil which have varying degrees of moisture in which plots will be placed plants to show the development and progression of plants from wet to dry soil.

The purpose of the development is to

add educational interest as well as scientific value to the sanctuary. It is intended to create a source of pleasure for all the college body who are not merely interested in scientific facts, so that for those who would enjoy a good hike this spring, the three mile Tuckerman Trail and 110 acres of sanctuary are open as one outlet for attacks of spring fever.

Amherst Student
June 19, 1927

Graduates Incidentally Nov 1936

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INCIDENTALLY

With fifty acres of land added to the original sixty-seven, the Amherst Wild Life Sanctuary has been undergoing further development under the direction of Prof. Alfred S. Goodale and Walter C. Markert, supervising the work of undergraduates. The Tuckerman Trail, about three miles in length, which passes through the woodland, has been extended and beautified, as have the by-paths. The trees and plants along the trail have been catalogued and are said to comprise the largest collection in existence of the living flora of this region. An earthen dam, with concrete facing, 120 feet long and ten feet high, will form a body of water for aquatic plant and animal life which will probably be named Tyler Lake.

Amherst Student Oct 5, 1936

WILD LIFE SANCTUARY CLEARED NEAR CAMPUS

Area Developed by Students Under Federal Funds Rich In Fauna and Flora

As the direct result of an idea conceived by Charles A. Andrews, treasurer of Amherst College, and developed under the supervision of Professor Goodale of the Botanical Department, assisted by Walter C. Markert, the College has been provided with a natural outdoor laboratory consisting of over a hundred acres of land. Cleared and developed by Amherst undergraduates, a three mile course known as Tuckerman Trail has been chartered through a large plot to the South and the East of the campus.

Following a walk through the new College land in the winter of 1932, during which Mr. Andrews gathered pine cones for his wife, a plan for a conservation and reforestation project was established and set before the trustees of the college. Within a week after the project was authorized, work had been organized and students were at work clearing the woodlands. For the past three years work has continued, financed by the College, and during the past two years, by federal allotments. Since the project was started a large number of undergraduates have found work on weekday afternoons.

A second grant of 50 acres was recently added to the original plot of 67 acres, and the land has been developed into a wild-life sanctuary, abundant in plants, fowl and game. To the south of the campus a dam has been built, on which a concrete facing is to be set this week. When finished it will be 120 feet long and 10 feet high.

Second Grant Added

Beginning on South Pleasant St. just south of the Boston and Maine Railroad bridge, the trail leads through an appropriate entrance. After a quarter mile view of Holyoke Range, the trail winds through woodlands, across bridged streams, mounts Sunset Hill and emerges near Stearns Church. At intervals throughout the trail, markers have been erected and various side paths named after famous Amherst botanists. Benches are already set up, and a lean-to and fire place have been proposed for construction on Sunset Hill.

The trees and plants along the length of the trail have been catalogued and indexed, and it is the trail containing the largest number of local species in existence.

In the words of Professor Goodale, "Tuckerman Trail provides the college with a natural outdoor laboratory, a wild-life sanctuary.