



Whitewater College Arboretum

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The Whitewater College Arboretum

The University of Wisconsin–Whitewater campus boasted three trees that were state records during the 1980s: a Pekin lilac, a cucumbertree magnolia, and a shingle oak. Professor Salisbury, who became president of the State Normal School for the preparation of teachers in 1855, conceived the idea of “making the school grounds serve the purpose of an arboretum, establishing therein every species of tree or shrub that will endure this climate.”

By October 1908, more than 150 species were already to be found on the school premises. The planting had begun on May 1, 1869, a year after the school’s founding, when the male students assem-

bled and planted a row of elms along Grand Avenue, “each man planting one or two trees, the cost of which he bore. At the close of this exercise, a series of wrestling matches was indulged in by the young men, and a spread was served by the young ladies of the school.”

In addition to the former state record-holding trees, the campus includes large and handsome specimens of sycamore, buckeye, ginkgo, southern catalpa, swamp white oak, pin oak, and many others, including a Schwedler’s maple planted by Professor Salisbury’s own hand.

The front campus is called the Chopp Arboretum. The north and northeast areas include Friar’s Woods and the Drumlin Arboretum.

Source: Maurice Kalb, Whitewater