



The Katharine Ordway  
Natural History Study Area

Box 216  
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(612) 455-6204

ORDWAY BULLETIN  
No. 115

MACALESTER  
COLLEGE

located at 9550 Inver Grove Trail (Dakota County Road 77), Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

### TRAIL TOURS at ORDWAY.

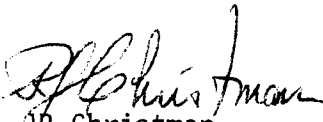
The Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area, located in Dakota County about 17 miles from the main campus of Macalester College, is visited each year by many regional students of various ages from primary grades up through college level. Working with young people is a part of the operating policy of Ordway, making its facilities available on a controlled basis for such activities as will promote environmental education.

While it is not really "a nature center" Ordway does try to provide arrangements for conducting group tours of an educational nature. The foot-paths, for example, are narrow and designed for single-file walking in contrast to the broader, surfaced paths which parks and nature centers usually provide; thus the impact upon the environment by foot-traffic is kept to a minimum. At interesting points along the trails there are stopping-places and at these points the trail-guide presents a talk in which salient features of the terrain and vegetation are pointed out. The whole purpose of this guided foot-tour is to give a basic appreciation for the land itself and to dramatize the inter-relationship existing among plants and other living creatures.

During 1982 there were 519 students accompanied by 43 instructors who visited Ordway to take the tour through the beautiful grassland and oak forest areas. Most of these were from the various colleges of the Twin Cities. This is in rather sharp contrast with previous years and indicates a considerable decline in visitors from the elementary and secondary schools. In itself this decrease in numbers may indicate a serious failure in getting across the environmental lessons to our youngsters, our future college students and citizens. By contrast, in the calendar year 1972 there were 890 student visitors from 25 schools of all levels. One factor in the decline has been in the reduction of available buses for field-trips.

An appointment for a group-tour is easily arranged by telephoning (455-6204) a day or so in advance and weekend visits are encouraged. The Ordway area is open at all times for individual visits.

April 27, 1983  
gdp/

  
J.R. Christman,  
Naturalist