

The 13th Expedition: Roslien Woodlands

Welcome to your new role as part of The Driftless Reach.

We look forward to your reports—your observations and analysis, perhaps recommendations.

Your mission has two parts.

Part 1. Using the map provided here, please move through the Roslien Woodlands zone of the Luther College campus for 60-90 minutes.

To assist you in Part 1, The CEPE will have a van available to drive expeditioners to/from the Roslien Woodlands trailhead on the following:

Thursday, April 3, 11am-2pm

Monday, April 7, 11am-2pm

Tuesday, April 8, 11am-2pm

Van will pickup/dropoff in the parking lot by SamHoff greenhouse and the Roslien Woodlands trailhead.

******You are also free to visit Roslien Woodlands on your own time. You can take a hike there (~20-25 minutes), or there is parking at the entrance. Luther's natural areas are open to exploration by students and community members.

As you move through Roslien Woodlands, use the provided Observation Guide to make field notes. You are in science mode for this. Words are useful, sketches may be too.

After your exploration of Roslien Woodlands, The Driftless Reach requires that you conduct a self-check for the presence of wood ticks and/or deer ticks. While you are encouraged to deepen your ecological connections and thought, you are discouraged from embracing a new relationship with disease-transmitting parasites who may attempt to cozy up to you, even to get inside of your skin and turn you into something other than an effective expeditioner.

Part 2. Convene with fellow expeditioners at Olin 214 (normally the HQ of The CEPE, but currently also housing The Driftless Reach) on Wednesday, April 9, 5-6pm.

In Part 2, you will share observations and workshop with others on how science mode observations and analyses could inspire ecological narratives, including weird fiction like that by Jeff VanderMeer.

The 13th Expedition will have been a complete success when you:

Have forged a deeper and explorative local connection outdoors.

Have observed other beings and objects and meshes beyond your ego.

Have observed how you and your ego respond to observing other beings and objects outdoors.

Have experimented with transdisciplinary imagination and creativity.

Have a theory for The Driftless Reach on what really happened at that gravesite and sinkhole.

The 13th Expedition: Observation Guide

In the stopping points identified on the Map, activate each sense as you're able to do so.

What do you see?

What do you feel, tactilely?

What do you taste?

What do you smell?

What do you hear?

Traces. What has been here or happened here in the past? What evidence do you use to form these hypotheses or conclusions?

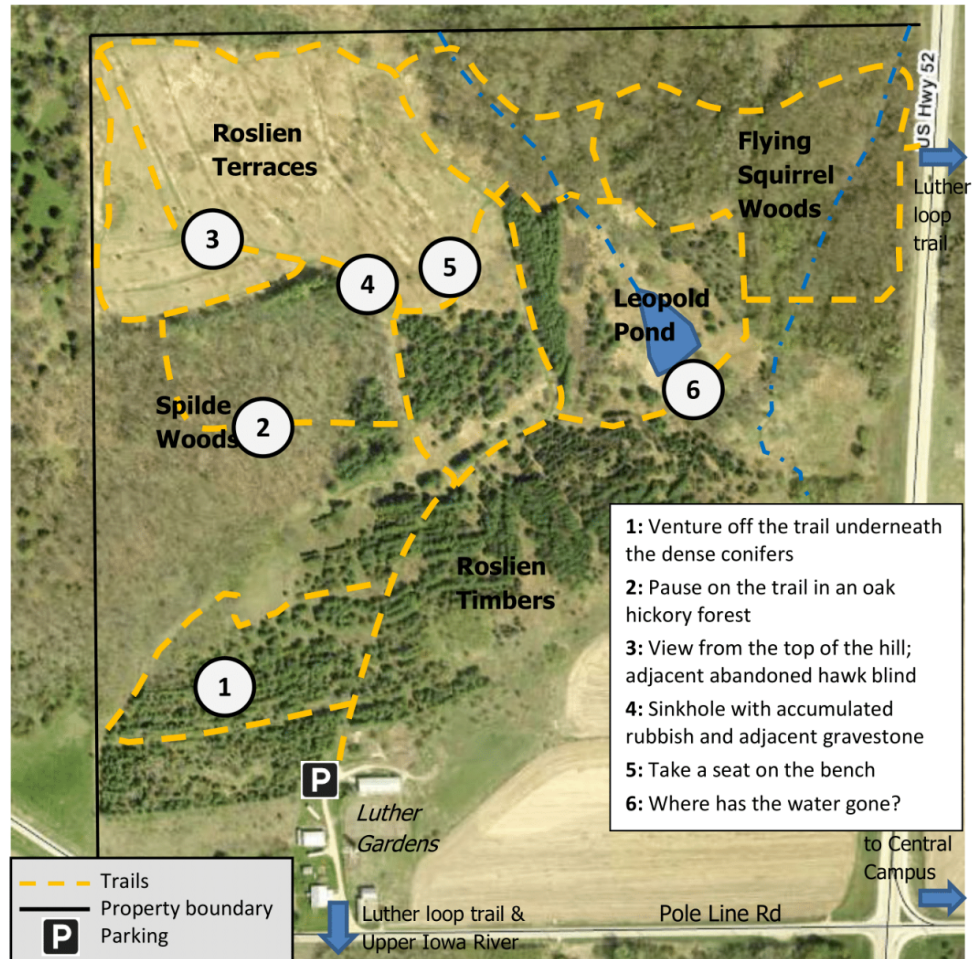
Temporalities. What is really new here? What is from within the last century? What is so old that the timeframe exceeds your capacities to grasp it?

What is dead here? What lives here? What is neither dead nor alive here?

Feel and think your permeability. What are things that pass through you? What are things that you pass through?

Imagine how one thing here experiences being in this place—but do this without anthropomorphizing the thing. Like, how does a block of tofu experience swimming in liquid inside a plastic container in the fridge of a Trader Joe's?

Maps:



Roslien ("ROSE-lin") Woods, aerial from Winneshiek County Assessor (<http://beacon.schneidercorp.com>)

Roslien Timbers: Planted timber stands+

Spilde Woods: Oak-hickory forest

Roslien Terraces: Planted open savanna



Activities seasonally available

Flying Squirrel Woods: Mixed forest (oak-hickory, aspen stands, invasive shrub invaded)

LUTHER
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Natural Areas: Roslien Woods

ROSLIEN WOODS

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Approximately 100 acres of woodlands and savanna
- More than 3 ½ miles of trails
- Spilde Woods has several large sink holes, characteristic of the Driftless region's karst topography
- Leopold Pond is a great place to listen for early spring and summer frogs. Be quick, sometimes the pond dries up in the summer.
- Flying Squirrel Woods is used for long-term research on ecological restoration techniques in open oak woodlands. Restoration techniques applied include prescribed fire, goat grazing, and manual removal of invasive shrubs buckthorn and honeysuckle.
- Two small year round streams run through Flying Squirrel Woods
- Migratory and breeding birds are common in Spilde and Flying Squirrel
- Near the base of Roslien Terraces, the US Forest Service has long-term trials growing native elm trees that are more resistant to Dutch elm disease
- Spring ephemeral wildflowers can be seen in parts of Spilde and Flying Squirrel
- Ash trees used to be a common species in the canopy but all have died with the arrival of the invasive ash borer beetle
- Tree hug challenge: Can you find the black cherry tree that is large enough that it takes at least 10 humans to reach around the trunk?

HISTORY:

- Most of Roslien Woods was historically used for agriculture (cropland, grazing, hay)
- In the 1960s and early 70s, major erosion control and water containment structures were built including: the earthen 'steps' that make up Roslien Terraces, a large levee to create Leopold pond, and a large berm system to direct water flow towards the pond.
- Public Land Survey records (1849) indicate the area once was dominated by oak woodlands and savannas prior to European settlement
- The college planted thousands of trees in Roslien Timbers (late 80s, early 90s) and Terraces (90s) to alleviate soil loss and erosion from agriculture. The timbers are a mix of hardwoods and softwoods (several species of pine trees, spruce, oaks, and walnuts)

LEAVE NO TRACE:

As you visit and enjoy Luther's natural areas and trails, please tread lightly. Additionally: no campfires or fire wood collection; no overnight stays; no collection of plants, seeds, or roots; no alcohol; no hunting or trapping. Fishing on the Upper Iowa River or other waters must abide by state regulations.

