

...bring it to the attention of the Committee,  
...were seconded Dr. Shield's motion which was adopted by vote of the Board.

PROGRESS REPORT OF COMMITTEE  
AUTHORIZED TO PREPARE A PLAN FOR ESTABLISHMENT  
OF CERTAIN COLLEGE WOODS AS A  
NATURE PRESERVE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

The College of William and Mary owns a unique asset in the approximately 700 acres of woods surrounding Lake Matoaka. In past years, this area has served a significant educational function by providing the opportunity for various classes in biology to study ecology, ornithology, botany and other disciplines in a relatively natural environment. In addition, the area has provided many members of the college community with the opportunity to enjoy nature in all of its ramifications.

In the adoption by the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary at its meeting of November 20, 1965, the resolution entitled, "Preparation of a Plan for Establishment of Certain College Woods as a Nature Preserve for Educational Purposes," the Board recognized the potential of this area as an educational resource of the College. It is believed also that implicit in the resolution was the thought that more educational and recreational use could be made of the area and that such utilization should be predicated on a sound management and development plan.

The College Woods is an unusual area in that it is a large, relatively undeveloped acreage which soon will be surrounded on all sides by a rapidly developing community. Because of its unique location in the community, as well as its natural beauty, the College Woods in future years will be continually subjected to pressures for its exploitation. It is believed, therefore, that any development or management plan will be effective in resisting these pressures only if it emphasizes the educational and recreational value of the area and only if implementation and development of the plan involves many components of the community. It has been the experience on similar areas in other states that management plans are most successful when they evolve through community action and participation. Recent experiences would indicate that considerable community interest in the College Woods, does, in fact, exist.

The attached report is not intended as a management and development plan and should not be construed as such. The report attempts only to indicate the two most obvious directions in which management might proceed with some suggestions of sources from which professional and financial assistance might be sought.

NATURAL AREA AND NATURE PRESERVE

(a) Definition

The Department of Biology has long advocated that the College Woods be retained in a relatively undisturbed condition in order that it would retain its greatest value for ecological and other studies. Designation of areas as "Natural Areas" has become a matter of increasing interest and