Welcome!

The Wisconsin Campus of Carpenter Nature Center was established in the late 1980s when Al and Laurie Hein donated 98 acres of land south of Hudson to CNC. Since then, the Al & Laurie Hein Trust, Dan & Jean Greenwald, and several community partnerships have enabled CNC to expand to 300 beautiful acres of prairie and woodland in Wisconsin. We are proud to preserve the habitat of the many amazing plants and animals that call this campus their home. The trails are open seven days a week for hiking and enjoying nature. Check CNC’s website for periodic on-site programming. Donations are encouraged to help us preserve this wildlife habitat and provide affordable environmental education.

Trail Descriptions

**BIG BLUESTEM TRAIL**
This relatively flat trail circles the west half of the restored prairie between South and East Cove Roads. The trail totals about 0.8 miles, with elevation varying 20 feet at the highest and lowest points. There is access to parking and the Greenwald Information Kiosk.

**LITTLE BLUESTEM TRAIL**
A sister to the Big Bluestem trail, this 0.8 mile loop circles the east half of the restored prairie between South and East Cove Roads. Take a break to enjoy the council ring.

**GOLDENROD TRAIL**
Use this 0.25 mile trail to connect to the prairie trails from the Ridgeline Trail. Experience this flat grassland area as you walk alongside the main driveway.

**INDIGO TRAIL**
This short 0.2 mile walk has a wide variety of plants from pine trees to prairie plants. In early summer, look for blooming Indigo in the prairie.

**LAURIE & AL HEIN TRAIL**
Beginning from the Acorn Trail entrance, this 0.25 mile trail is surrounded by tall trees and is located in the middle of a deciduous forest. This trail was a favorite walk for Al and Laurie Hein when they lived on this property.

**RIDGELINE TRAIL**
This 0.63 mile trail includes a hike into and out of a moderately sloped, large basin full of vegetation. From the top edge of the basin, take a glimpse of the spectacular view.

**ACORN TRAIL**
This 1.2 mile narrow trail winds around a deciduous forest and includes areas with steep slopes. Look for deer, squirrels, woodpeckers, and owl nests along the way.

Wisconsin Campus
St. Croix Valley Nature Center
279 South Cove Road
Hudson, WI 54016
(651) 437-4359
CarpenterNatureCenter.org
CNC Wisconsin Campus

The Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center and paved parking lot are open daily 8:00 am—4:30 pm. The small prairie parking lot and trail system are currently open daily from sunrise to sunset. 

PRESENCE ON THE GROUNDS AFTER DARK IS TRESPASSING. Dogs must be leashed at all times. No trailer parking.

Map Legend
- Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center
- Paved Parking
- Restrooms
- Council Rings
- Greenwald Kiosk
- Trails
- Property Boundary

[Legend and map showing various trails and features]