



The Great Blue Heron Project at University Lake School - a provocation



ULS is an independent School in southeast Wisconsin that sits on 180 acres of pristine woodlands, prairie, and playing fields, which surround our minimalist campus facility.

ULS was founded in 1956 by pioneering families seeking a life outside the bustle of Milwaukee and Madison. Accredited through ISACS (Independent School Association of the Central States) and a registered non-profit (501c3), we serve nearly 300 students ages 2 to 12th grade.



We are a tight community of creative, high-achieving students representing a variety of passions and talents and inspired by the world around us. Our pedagogical approach prizes investigative learning, outdoor engagement, shaping future leaders, and concierge college counseling.

For many decades ULS has marked its seasons by the annual departure and return of a flock of Great Blue Herons, whose rookery comprises over 80 nests in our stand of tall oaks. The herons are a visible and celebrated feature of our pastoral campus.



And yet we don't know nearly enough about them. What are the specific features of this population? How are they organized

socially? Why are their nesting sites slowly shifting north and east across our forest? Why have they chosen a site that requires a daily mile shuttling back and forth to Nagawicka and Pine Lakes? And where do they go in the winter?



We perceive a rare opportunity for the right ornithologist, graduate student, or scientist to make use of our rookery site to study this population of herons with unfettered access.



Perks of using our site for your research include: the privilege of exclusive proximity to an established flock in a unique setting; the peace and quiet of our sprawling campus forest; the possibility of temporary or long-term on-site living accommodation; a ready supply of intelligent and engaging research assistants from among our 85 high-school aged students; being part of a well-established and welcoming community of learning; accessing the broader local community of scientists in the University of Wisconsin system and local Carroll University.



If you are interested in pursuing such a partnership or know of someone who might be, please contact our Head of School, John Dewis.

john.dewis@universitylake.org

or

617-899-0717

