The Euthenics Oak

Madison

Below the UW’s Human Ecology Building west of Van Hise Hall, a delightful rock garden is laid out around the trunk of an impressive bur oak. The tree, called the Euthenics Oak, is actually a replacement for the original white oak, native to the site, which died.

Abby L. Marlatt, professor of home economics from 1909 to 1939, and director of the school for a quarter of a century, established the garden in 1925 with the assistance of her students. At that time they named the tree the Euthenics Oak in honor of the society of the same name, a home economics organization dedicated to the improvement of human life through adjustment of the environment.