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Instr: Dr. Conover

Assignment # 5

As a commuting student, I have passed by the Ashley Schiff Preserve possibly a hundred times, and many times I've wondered just who Ashley Schiff was and why this area was preserved in his name. Fortunately, this assignment has helped to answer these questions. Besides being a professor of political science, he was also an avid naturalist who took much time out of his life to lead students through this small tract of land to help them grow an appreciation for nature. After his unexpected death at the age of 37, this area was dedicated in his memory by the former Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall and former university president John S. Toll, which leads me to believe that he had made some strong political contacts during his professional life. I thought it was humorous that he chained himself to the tallest conifer in the forest to protest the leveling of the land, but it is also worth admiration. It is always nice to see or hear of somebody who puts their beliefs into action. While reading the lists of flora and fauna of the preserve, I thought it was interesting to see the presence of a few alien species of plants that we had discussed in class, as well as the box turtle. I remember having one as a pet when I was younger, and I actually found it in the wild. It would be nice if I were to see one during the nature walk.