

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON LAKE SHORE NATURE PRESERVE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu

lakeshorepreserve@fpm.wisc.edu

(608) 265-9275



Director's Message

We are pleased to present our 2014 Annual Report. For all of us at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, 2014 was a year of change, increasing land stewardship and engagement. We said good-bye to Cathie Bruner with her retirement after 17 years of dedicated service. We welcome Laura Wyatt to the staff as our new Program Manager. Under the guidance of Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator, and Rowyn Noe, Field Technician, thoughtful land stewardship addressed invasive plants resulting in increasing views for our visitors. Bryn Sriver, Volunteer Coordinator/Outreach Specialist facilitated, the engagement of hundreds of volunteers and partners while sharing our story through outreach. We thank the Friends of the Preserve for continuing their tradition of support and dedication by accepting the challenge to raise funds to support the management plan for Eagle Heights Woods. On behalf of the UW-Madison Department of Facilities Planning and Management, along with the Preserve Committee, we extend our sincere appreciation to our many partners including the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, UW Grounds Department, and the numerous individuals, organizations, students, faculty and staff of UW-Madison for the support and generous funding for their Preserve's ongoing operations and endowment. *GARY BROWN PLA, FASLA, Director*

Research and Instruction

Student Engagement Grants

In 2014 the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee awarded three \$1,000 grants through a competitive process. **Student Engagement Grants** provide financial support to undergraduates and faculty or staff working with undergraduates utilizing the Preserve as a resource for research and education. The funds are made possible through the **Academic Endowment Fund of the Preserve at the UW Foundation** and established by former faculty members, Robert M. Goodman and Henry Hart.

2014 awardees:

Emma Geiduschek, an undergraduate student with co-advisors Janet Batzli (Biocore Program) and Ellen Damschen (Department of Zoology), was awarded funding to collect baseline vegetation data in **Biocore Prairie** for a longitudinal study on how climate change may be affecting plant communities.

David Drake, Extension Wildlife Specialist and Associate Professor in Forest and Wildlife Ecology, secured funding to expand a spring 2014 study of coyote and red fox to document their home ranges and activity patterns on campus and monitor interactions between the coyote, fox and humans.

Professors Jonathan Pauli and Scott Lutz from the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology were awarded funding to study the mechanisms behind the success of the eastern gray squirrel in urban environments. *(Laura Wyatt)*



*Marcus Mueller relocates a still-sedated fox to a more sheltered area.
Photo by Jeff Miller, University Communications*

Preserve Permits

During the 2013-14 program year, **71 research permits were active representing engagement by 25 UW-Madison departments and programs**. Long-term research partners include: Biocore Prairie, F.H. King Gardens, CALS Research Plots, Soils and Geography Soil Pits, Art and Anthropology Kilns, Class of 1918 Marsh Studies, and ROTC Training. **Permits were also obtained by 9 external entities** including a Bird Breeding Study, Community GroundWorks, Forest Products Laboratory, Girl Scouts, University of Minnesota-Department of Biology, USDA Center for Forest Mycology, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. *(Laura Wyatt)*

Land Stewardship

Invasive Plants

Caring for the Preserve requires a collaborative effort between staff, volunteers, interns, contractors, and the greater campus community. Controlling invasive plants is always a **top priority**, and the past year witnessed great progress on many fronts.

Significant effort continues to be put toward controlling **porcelain-berry** (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), a non-native vine. A large portion of the Preserve's 300 acres were scoured by the Prairie Partners intern crew in search of this troublesome species, as control efforts sought to prevent berry production and seed dispersal.

Walls of invasive brush also continued to fall across the Preserve. Volunteer groups were quite busy removing buckthorn and honeysuckle in several locations. Their efforts are especially noticeable on Picnic Point, where **longer views** now afford visitors the true experience of strolling down the peninsula stretching into Lake Mendota. (*Adam Gundlach*)

Hazard Trees

Under the direction of Preserve staff, the UW Grounds Department and arborist contractors removed numerous **hazard trees** to improve user safety on Picnic Point and other pedestrian corridors in the Preserve. (*Adam Gundlach*)

Prescribed Fire

Fire is a powerful force that has driven the evolution of Wisconsin plant communities for thousands of years. When used as a **land management tool**, it is called prescribed fire.

The 2014 prescribed fire season was quite successful in the Preserve. Under nearly ideal spring conditions, a burn conducted in **Biocore Prairie** stifled the encroachment of undesirable vegetation and stimulated the resurgence of abundant prairie wildflowers throughout the summer.

Burns were also successfully conducted along the urban interface with campus. **Willow Creek Woods**, which borders the UW Natatorium, was burned for the first time, as well as the series of **bioswales** along Observatory Drive surrounded by wet prairie vegetation, across from the Walnut Street Greenhouses and the Biotron building. (*Adam Gundlach*)



Prescribed fire at Biocore Prairie. Photo by Seth McGee

Mulching trails



Cutting buckthorn



Planting wildflowers



Pulling garlic mustard



Eagle Heights Community Gardens

During 2014, **578 garden plots** were cultivated at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens (EHCG). Established in 1962 to offer Eagle Heights residents and the UW and Madison communities the opportunity to have an organic garden, the EHCG is **one of the oldest and largest community gardens in the United States**. At last count the pool of **gardeners speak approximately 60 languages**.

In addition to growing fresh produce for family and friends, the garden community:

- **Donated 50+ bins** of food to St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry
- Participated in **lead contamination studies** with Environmental Studies and Soil Science
- Completed a pilot study on **heavy metals in herbs** with the Department of Family Medicine
- Contributed **marigold blossoms** for a graduate student textile design project in natural dyes
- **University classes** on ornithology, world horticultural crops, plant pathology and entomology visited the gardens for field study
- Featured in a **Milwaukee Public Television** segment regarding international gardeners (*Laura Wyatt*)

Partners and Volunteers

Collecting seed



Protecting burial mounds



Creating Community



Picking up litter



Volunteers

The goal of the Preserve volunteer program is to engage student and community volunteers in a variety of natural areas management and ecological restoration activities in a meaningful way for the volunteer while accomplishing work set out in the annual work plan. Engaging volunteers fulfills the Preserve mission of fostering “an ethic of stewardship to promote mutually beneficial relationships between humans and the rest of nature.”

Volunteers perform a variety of activities in the Preserve including: planting native vegetation, removing invasive plants, maintaining trails, prepping prescribed fire breaks, collecting native seed, installing erosion controls, conducting vegetation and wildlife surveys, and collecting litter.

(Bryn Scriver)

2014 program year statistics:

751 volunteers

3,115 hours of service

Estimated value = \$ 70,243

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve support the Preserve through land stewardship, advocacy, financial support, education and outreach, and by collaborating with, supporting, and advising the University's Preserve Management Staff and Preserve Governance Committee.

In 2014 the Friends of the Preserve continued their support of the Preserve **summer interns** and the **Heritage Oak** restoration project. They planted native wildflowers in memory of member **Harriet Riley** at Frautschi Point and raised money for the **Garlic Mustard Challenge** by pulling the invasive plants in Bill's Woods. The Friends led **19 free public field trips** on various topics throughout the Preserve, as well as co-sponsored new monthly **Bird and Nature Walks** with the Madison Audubon Society.

The Friends of the Preserve are now gearing up to launch a **fundraising campaign** to support the implementation of the **Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan**. The management plan will: protect Indian burial mounds, remove hazard trees, enhance views to the lake, encourage the growth of native trees, refurbish trails, and provide on-going monitoring and management of vegetation. *(Bryn Scriver)*

Students for the Preserve

Students for the Preserve is a UW-Madison student group. Their goals include restoration of the Preserve, awareness of other local conservation efforts, and above all, student appreciation for the Preserve and all the opportunities it provides for research, outreach and recreation.

In 2014 Students for the Preserve promoted and participated in “**Party on the Path**”, a green-themed Wisconsin Welcome Week event on the Temin Lakeshore Path. They raised money to support the Friends of the Preserve Garlic Mustard Challenge, and they participated in a volunteer event to manage the vegetation on the Indian burial mounds in Willow Creek Woods to protect them from erosion. *(Bryn Scriver)*

Administration – Preserve Policy Makers and Staff

Preserve Committee

Established by the UW provost in 2000, the **Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee** is charged “to ensure the integrity of these cherished campus resources through the provision of necessary and appropriate oversight, policies, guidelines, stewardship and management.” Operating under principals of shared governance, the committee is comprised of three faculty, three academic staff, and three students. We thank the current members for their time and service.

2014-15 Preserve Committee

Voting members:

- **Chair, Sissel Schroeder**-faculty, Anthropology
- **Ken Raffa**-faculty, Entomology
- **Phil Townsend**-faculty, Forest & Wildlife Ecology
- **Jacob Hahn**-academic staff, Social Education Office
- **Alan Turnquist**-academic staff, Undergraduate Programs & Services
- **Matilde Urrutia**-academic staff, Soil Science
- **Chloe Wardropper**-student
- **Kristina Bartowitz**-student
- **Eric Goldsobel**-student

Non-voting ex-officio or consultants:

- **Gary Brown**, Director, Lakeshore Nature Preserve
- **Will Waller**, Board President, Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
- **Rhonda James**, Senior Landscape Architect, Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture
- **Donna Paulnock**, Interim Director, UW Arboretum
- **Kelly Ignatoski**, Director, University Apartments

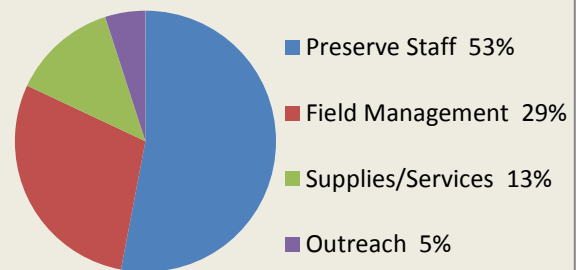
For additional information on the
Lakeshore Nature Preserve, please visit our webpage at
<http://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/>

Join us on

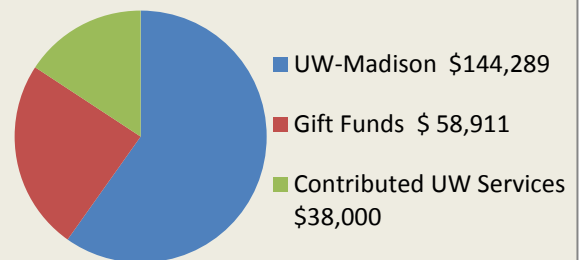


2014 Preliminary Financials

2014 Expenses



2014 Income



Gifts to the Preserve

In 2014 the Preserve received gifts totaling **\$43,975** from 25 donors. **Special memorial gifts** were received in memory of:

Professor Henry Hart

Art Hove

Carol Peterson

To learn how you can make a lasting difference within the UW-Madison at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve contact
Laura Wyatt, Program Manager, 608-265-9275.

Support the
Lakeshore Nature Preserve
with a gift to the
Stewardship or Endowment Funds
at the UW Foundation
www.supportuw.org
Enter “Lakeshore Nature Preserve” into Search

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Staff

- 🌿 **Gary Brown**, Director gbrown@fpm.wisc.edu
- 🌿 **Laura Wyatt**, Program Manager lw Wyatt@fpm.wisc.edu
- 🌿 **Bryn Sriver**, Volunteer Coordinator/Outreach Specialist
bsriver@fpm.wisc.edu
- 🌿 **Adam Gundlach**, Field Projects Coordinator
agundlach@fpm.wisc.edu
- 🌿 **Rowyn Noe**, Field Technician rnoe@fpm.wisc.edu

Division of Facilities Planning & Management

