



Friends OF THE
LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

P.O. Box 5534
Madison, WI 53705
www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com

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The Friends focus their work on raising public awareness and appreciation of the Preserve as well as on supporting this Committee and Preserve staff in their efforts through stewardship, education, and projects/research. Our work this year has benefitted from collaboration and regular communication with Preserve staff.

Stewardship

A major contribution of the Friends is the funding of the successful Intern program each summer at a cost of about \$8000. We are planning to continue funding next summer at the current level.

In addition, Friends contribute funds directly to the Stewardship fund for general use, as well as plants and planting.

Friends contribute to land stewardship through volunteering at the regular days as well as special events, such as the garlic mustard pull in spring with 50 bags pulled and planting festival in May.

Education

Field trips. Friends organize and publicize about 20 field trips every year, covering topics of general interest that relate to the Preserve: birds, butterflies and pollinators, spring flowers, trees, geology, effigy mounds, restorations, geology, cultural history, you name it. Of special interest this year are the new field trips on the hydrology of the Preserve, a biking field trip along the historic Madison Park and Pleasure drive (which attracted 20 people this Sunday), and animal tracking in the snow later this winter.

We will highlight the fall season in the Preserve with an outreach event, a picnic and exhibition at fire pit #2 next Sunday, in addition to our usual Bird and Nature walk.

Citizen Science. We received renewal of the Bluebird trail permit. We now have 3 years of experience and continue to learn about best management practices for such path. Results are recorded on our website. We anticipate application for a Purple Martin house permit this winter.

Projects

Our project committee is in close contact with Preserve staff. After our big fundraiser last year, we will focus on smaller, attainable projects, which involve study and education. At the same time, we will explore with Preserve staff larger projects for future consideration.

Submitted by Gisela Kutzbach, president