



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Monday November 14, 2016
12:30-2:00PM
Union South
Approved Minutes**

Present

Janet Batzli, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Kendl Kobbervig, Gisela Kutzbach, Brooke Nelson, Donna Paulnock, Glen Stanosz, Alan Turnquist

Also Present

Kris Ackerbauer (FPM), Ann Burgess (Friends), Chris Hittinger (Principle Investigator for Jarzyna grant); Martin Jarzyna (Student Engagement Grant recipient), Quinn Langdon (Mentor for Jarzyna grant); Anne Pearce (Agronomy Department), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from October 17, 2016 was made by Turnquist and seconded by Batzli. The motion was approved unanimously.

Student Engagement Grant Presentation – Exploring Seasonal Yeast Biodiversity in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve—Martin Jarzyna

More than 1,500 yeasts have been described, and more are being discovered every month. Citizen scientists, high school, and undergraduate students contribute to this discovery by sending samples that may contain yeast to the Wild Yeast Program in Chris Hittinger’s Lab—Jarzyna is an undergraduate research student in lab. Samples are sent from all over the United States; the samples are then analyzed in the lab to isolate the yeasts and identify them. This gives researchers a snapshot of microbial activity in a place, but community dynamics are poorly understood.

Jarzyna hoped that repeated sampling efforts in one place (the Preserve) would provide a dynamic view of the yeast community and how populations change over time. Once a month over the growing season he collected soil samples from three ecosystems in the Preserve: woodlands, wetlands, and the Biocore prairie. Back in the lab he samples were analyzed in 360 different isolation environments and identified to species.

Jarzyna looked at the number of yeast species over time in each ecosystem and noted what if any species dominated. Preliminary observations indicate: some species are well suited to certain ecosystems; prairie is consistently less hospitable to yeasts than the woodland and wetland ecosystems; and fluctuations in diversity are difficult to quantify. Jarzyna is still analyzing samples and hopes the cold temp data will aid in telling this story.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Planning and Implementation Subcommittee (Alan Turnquist)

The subcommittee reviewed three submitted project proposals.

- 1) Tent Colony Edge Proposal—replaces mowing the roadside at the top of Tent Colony Woods between Raymer’s Cove and the Frautschi Point parking lot with weeding by volunteers.
- 2) Friends Prairie Partners Interns Proposal –Friends of the Preserve provide funds to support a Prairie Partners intern crew in the summer 2017 to do restoration fieldwork in the Preserve.

- 3) Installation and Monitoring of a Purple Martin house in the Biocore Prairie—install, monitor and maintain a Purple Martin house.

The subcommittee recommended the committee approve the Tent Colony Edge and Friends Prairie Partner's Intern Proposals. It also recommended the committee approve the Purple Martin house proposal with additional discussion regarding design and siting.

Discussion:

While two of the proposals were considered additive to Preserve staff time some concern was expressed that the Purple Martin house could become a burden to staff. There was also discussion about the correct location of a house—distance from water, looking out of place in or near the Biocore Prairie, the possibility that the house location doesn't attract Purple Martins and needs to be relocated.

The design and location will be further discussed with stakeholders and coordinated by Rhonda James. Individuals on the committee who were identified for a continuing conversation were: Hotchkiss, Batzli, Kutzbach and Stanosz.

According to Wyatt there may need to be a Principle Investigator associated with the project to comply with Research Animal Resources Center (RARC) requirements. Also on-going management and monitoring of house would require a Preserve research permit.

The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report

See Preserve Staff Reports – November 14, 2016

Please save the date of Jan 24 at 5:30pm for the 2nd Preserve Stakeholder meeting at room 132 WARF.

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

See Preserve Staff Reports – November 14, 2016

Currently only research projects that involve collecting, erecting or placing semi-permanent structures or going off-trail require a research permit. We would like to register all educational activities to better share the use of the Preserve with administration and allow for better coordination between all parties to avoid potential conflicts. Preserve staff will share recommended changes in the teaching and research policy with the Preserve Committee for approval.

3. Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)

See Preserve Staff Reports – November 14, 2016

Piles of soil have been moved from the Near West Rec Fields that are currently under construction to the Far West Rec Fields. The soil will be used to fill in the sand volleyball pit which is being removed and some low areas in the playing fields. The removal of the sand volleyball pit will be timed to avoid impacting nesting turtles.

4. Field Activities Report

See Preserve Staff Reports – November 14, 2016

5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)

See Preserve Staff Reports – November 14, 2016

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Gisela Kutzbach)

See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report – November 14, 2016

Invasive Species Initiative 2016—first year report—Anne Pearce

The Preserve received a private financial gift to support a 4-year project to control targeted invasive plants in targeted areas of the Preserve. Anne Pearce, who was hired to assist in initiating this program, provided an overview of the first year of the project. Targeted areas included the highly disturbed Temin Lakeshore Path, the Class of 1918 Marsh edge and Picnic Point Marsh. Species of concern include: garlic mustard, motherwort, Japanese hedge parsley, burdock and biennial thistles.

As part of the initiative, Preserve staff have also partnered with Mark Renz's lab to test the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) app. The app allows anyone with a smart phone to record the location of an invasive species, take a photo of it for identification and verification, and add it to the EDDMapS database. This is an easy way to map invasive species without GIS. There are currently about 300 reported infestations of invasive species in the Preserve.

Anne also worked with members of Renz's lab to survey and monitor targeted areas for invasive species presence before and after control. Data will be collected over the next four years and reviewed for level of impact.

The addition of this position allowed us to partner with the Morgridge Center Badger Volunteers for the first time. Anne led two groups of Badger Volunteers weekly for 8 weeks this summer to remove targeted species in the target areas defined above.

Anne also laid the groundwork for an ongoing volunteer program by developing an application process, position descriptions, a volunteer handbook, and a volunteer orientation outline. As a result, Preserve staff were able to recruit and start working with 5 new volunteers this fall.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Turnquist and seconded by Batzli to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist