

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Preserve Staff Reports –September 23, 2015

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Director

From a budget standpoint, the Preserve continues to be shielded from on-going campus-wide budget reductions. The question remains as we continue into subsequent years if that commitment to funding will be sustained. At some point, we may be asked to reduce our operating budget. All the more reason to assure we continue with fundraising in support of the general maintenance and specific projects in the Preserve to assist in our overall mission. We are also beginning our budget planning for 2016.

I encourage everyone to get involved in the 2015 Campus Master Plan Update process which impacts some of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve lands around Observatory Hill and around the Lot 60 area on campus. Find out more information at www.masterplan.wisc.edu. A public meeting on the evening of Oct. 27 (7 to 9 PM in the Health Science Learning Center) will provide insight into some of those ideas and we would love to have your input into the draft alternative concepts. We will share these draft alternatives at an upcoming Preserve Committee meeting in early 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

- 1) Seventeen new research permits have been issued since mid-May including:

Title	Department
Bluebird Trail Cam	Zoology
Owl Cam Willow Creek	400 Sustainability-Urban Wildlife
Teaching small mammal monitoring protocols	Environmental Studies-NIES
Small mammal trapping technique	Zoology
Acoustic Bat Monitoring	Citizen Science-DNR
Grandparents University: Entomology class	Entomology
Hydraulic coordination between leaves and stems in southern Wisconsin tree species	Botany
Ecosystem service provision by urban green spaces in Madison, WI	Zoology
Willow removal for Lake Monona Water Walk	Preserve
Effects of Community Garden Landscape on Pollinator Species and Ecosystem Services	Environment & Resources
Resistance to butternut canker	USDA Forest Service
Understanding Soils in the Landscape: exploring Bill's Woods soil pits	Soil Science
Camera trapping and user surveys	Nelson Institute
Hyperspectral collection of canopy data – NASA (vegetation collection)	Wildlife and Forest Ecology
Plant Pathology 300 Class	Plant Pathology
Forest Ecology 551 tree allometry laboratory	Forest and Wildlife Ecology
General Insect Survey at Picnic Point	Entomology

- 2) The Preserve Stewardship Fund, which supports overall operations, received two separate \$10,000 gifts that will be acknowledged with memorial benches. They include a bench in memory of John T. McNelly, Evjue Bascom Professor of Journalism and Robert F. “Bob” Hendricks, UW Campus Planner. The Preserve utilizes \$70,000 each year from the Stewardship Fund to support Preserve operations. To better acquaint UW Foundation staff to the Preserve, a guided tour was provided to three Foundation staff members including our new liaison, Jennie Casavant.
- 3) The “Dogs on Leash” campaign is coming to an end. While the outreach (increased signage, veterinary students in the Preserve, news articles, etc.) have brought the issue to the forefront, there will always be a need to inform new visitors of Preserve guidelines. A frequent Preserve visitor (daily runner) reported he has observed a change in behavior of dog walkers and

attributes it to increased awareness and old fashion peer pressure. We encourage users in the Preserve to continue peer pressure and outreach as one of our main ways of keeping this issue in check. Same holds true for bicycle use in the Preserve, which is not allowed.

- 4) Networking and establishing written protocols and processes for operation and management: I continue to meet with stakeholders to discuss shared goals and improving effectiveness and efficiency. New and continuing conversations have taken place with representatives of CALS, F.H. King, Grounds, Finance, UW Foundation and most importantly the UW Police Department.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- 1) 2015 Prairie Partners intern crew – thanks to continued funding by the Friends of the Preserve, the intern crew had a successful summer field season contributing to land management goals, while gaining valuable knowledge and experience.
- 2) Good Oak Ecological Services was hired this summer as our vegetation management contractor for the Preserve. Their main focus over the fall and winter will be the Eagle Heights Woods project, with tasks in other areas of the Preserve assigned as time and resources allow.
- 3) Eagle Heights Woods project
 - a. First off, thanks to the Friends for raising funds to make this work possible.
 - b. Vegetation surveys – Friends of the Preserve volunteers Suzy Will-Wolf, Ann Burgess, and Glenda Denniston carried out vegetation surveys in the central zone once in the spring and again in mid-summer with assistance from the Prairie Partners intern crew. The surveys will provide baseline data ahead of initial brush removal this winter. Thanks to the volunteers.
 - c. The Good Oak crew will be starting follow-up work the week of September 21st in the Indian Mounds Zone treating buckthorn resprouts and seedlings. Work will continue through the fall and winter, as crews perform invasive brush and tree removal in the central zone, and hazard tree removal along trails and around the Indian mounds.
- 4) Brush chipping – volunteers have been busy over the summer, and brush piles have accumulated in several locations around the Preserve. Piles will be chipped by a contractor crew in the coming weeks.
- 5) Prescribed fire – multiple burn units planned for fall 2015 season (weather dependent). Eagle Heights Woods Indian Mounds Zone, Willow Creek savanna, and Biocore prairie are top priorities. Other units in the queue include Raymer’s Cove prairie, Heritage Oak, Capstone oak (base of Picnic Point), and on down the list...

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

- 1) Since May 1st 385 volunteers, including members from 23 student and community groups, donated 1,050 hours to the care of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve at volunteer work parties. Volunteers helped us accomplish the goals of the 2015 work plan while learning about the Preserve’s fauna, flora and history. Specifically, volunteers pulled garlic mustard, removed buckthorn and honeysuckle, mulched trails, collected prairie seed, planted native plugs and collected litter.
- 2) This summer we started updating the Preserve website in preparation for migrating it to UW DoIT supported software. We want to update outdated info and make navigation easier. We continue to post announcements to our current website, Facebook and Twitter pages.