



## Students for the Preserve Kicks Off

By Laura Wyatt

Twenty plus students meet in November to kick-off the reorganization of the Students for the Preserve. Guided by Preserve Committee student members Anne Pearce, Paul Metscher, and Katya Mullendore, students played *Preserve Trivia* and identified projects and activities they want to engage in. Pizza and refreshments were provided by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Upcoming activities include volunteering in Muir Woods and an outing to Picnic Point for a hike and camp fire. All students are welcome! For more information follow the students on Facebook ([Students for the Preserve](#)) or email [lakeshorepreserve@fpm.wisc.edu](mailto:lakeshorepreserve@fpm.wisc.edu).



Students met to discuss the reorganization of the Students for the Preserve. Photo by Laura Wyatt.

## UW Urban Canid Project Update

By David Drake

The UW Urban Canid Project is a research and extension effort aimed at exploring and understanding the spatial interactions between urban red fox and coyotes in Madison, assessing the overall health of urban wild canids, and educating the public about how to peacefully co-exist with red fox and coyotes. We are beginning the second year of our study, and preliminary observations are that fox seem to move greater distances than coyotes, and

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

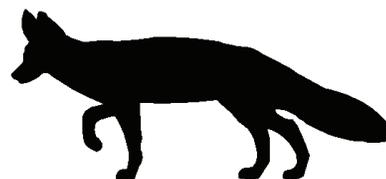
Students for the Preserve	1
UW Urban Canid Project	1
Eagle Heights Woods Update	2
New Picnic Point Entrance/Mara McDonald	3
Pollinator Project/Engagement Grants	4
Gifts Support Preserve/ 4th Sunday Walks	5
Campus Master Plan Update	6
Volunteer Opportunities	7

while coyotes seem to concentrate in and around green spaces in Madison, foxes seem to be more urban in that they are found where more development has occurred.

**We are about to resume live trapping red fox and coyotes in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve** and other parts of Madison. *We invite the public to join us* around sunrise each morning as we check traps; email us at [uwurbancanidproject@gmail.com](mailto:uwurbancanidproject@gmail.com) if interested.

We are also asking the public to *report any sightings* of red fox or coyotes and have established an iNaturalist site as a reporting form. Once you register as an iNaturalist user (takes 30 seconds) you can report sightings via your smartphone or from your computer.

To register for iNaturalist or for more information about our project and to follow our progress, please see our website ([www.uwurbancanidproject.weebly.com](http://www.uwurbancanidproject.weebly.com)) or follow us on Facebook ([UW Urban Canid Project](#)).



## Eagle Heights Woods Update

By Adam Gundlach

Thanks to the generous fundraising efforts by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to support management efforts in Eagle Heights Woods, contractor crews will be kept busy this fall and winter. Good Oak Ecological Services has completed initial follow-up work in the Mound Zone to control buckthorn resprouts and seedlings. Several log and woody debris piles will also be removed from the Mound Zone – this will serve two-fold to reduce mop-up efforts (mitigating smoldering woody debris) during prescribed burns and remove clutter from the boundaries of the sacred burial mounds.



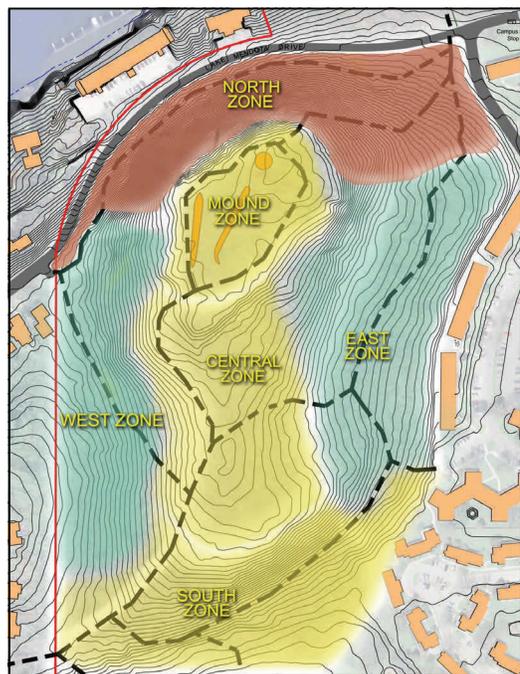
Top: Good Oak Ecological Services crew members target buckthorn seedlings with herbicide applications in the Eagle Heights Woods Mound Zone. Photo by Adam Gundlach. Bottom: A fire crew member uses a drip torch to ignite fuel in the Eagle Heights Woods Mound Zone. Photo by Daniel Einstein.

Over the course of the next few months, work will begin in the Central Zone to remove invasive brush (mostly buckthorn) from the woodland understory. Dead or dying trees have been identified in the Mound Zone and across the entire trail network in Eagle Heights Woods. Arborist crews will be called upon to bring the trees down in a

manner that protects the integrity of the burial mounds and provides for the safety of trail users. Much of the tree removal work will wait until the ground freezes in order to avoid soil disturbance and compaction, especially around the burial mounds.

Prescribed fire will be an important component of managing the long-term health and function of the oak woodland community. Prescribed burn plans have been drafted for the Mound Zone, and as work pushes into the Central Zone, new burn units will be delineated, plans drafted, and firebreaks created. During the autumn and spring, Preserve staff routinely monitor weather forecasts and on-the-ground fuel conditions looking for days where appropriate wind direction, smoke dispersal, and fuel moisture conditions align to fit within burn plan prescriptions.

On Monday November 9, the inaugural fire was lit in the Mound Zone, which included the area within the Indian mounds trail loop and two smaller sub-units covering about 2.5 acres. Fuel conditions tended toward the moist end of the spectrum in areas still partially shaded, and fire spread was timid in many such locations. The oak and hickory leaf litter had yet to fully cure, but locations with greater sun exposure burned quite well, especially on the bedrock knoll to the south of mounds trail loop. Overall, the day proved successful in returning fire to the Eagle Heights landscape, with smoke lifting and dispersing away from roads and residences that likely were not of concern the last time fire crept through the woods of Sho-heta-ka.



This fall and winter work will continue from the Mound Zone to the Central Zone thanks to fundraising by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

## New Entrance to Picnic Point

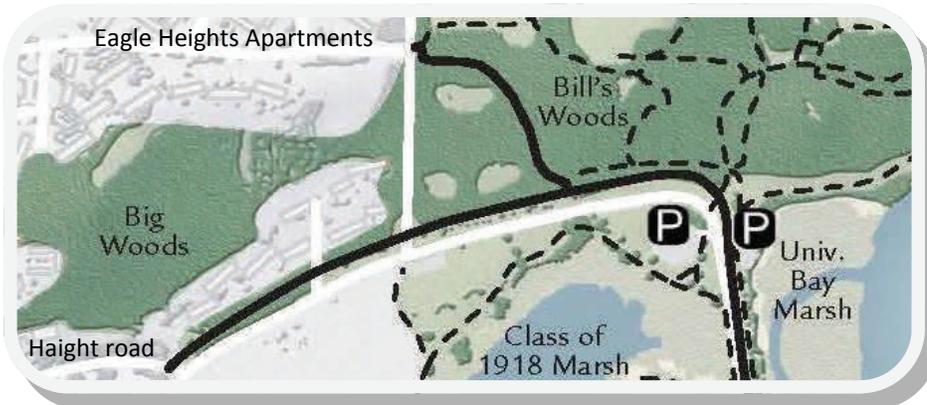
New fencing has been erected at the entrance to the main Picnic Point path in an effort to prevent bicyclists from unintentionally entering the area that was designated as pedestrian only in May 2012.

All paths in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve are closed to bicycle traffic for visitor safety and to protect the natural environment *with the exception of the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path, from the Hasler Laboratory of Limnology to Haight Road in Shorewood Hills, and the spur that cuts up through Bill's Woods to the Eagle Heights Apartments.*

The new fencing, installed by the UW Grounds Department, is designed so that people on bicycles must come to a complete stop if they are to navigate it with a bike. We are trying to make it easier for everyone to follow the rules. Visitors are welcome to lock bikes to the bike racks and enjoy the Lakeshore Nature Preserve on foot.



The UW Grounds crew installed a new entrance to prevent entry by bicyclists to the main Picnic Point path. Photo by Bryn Scriver.



*Congratulations to Mara McDonald on her recent retirement* from the Genetics Department after working at the UW for 23 years. Mara, an ornithologist and master bander, supervises and trains volunteers, including UW students, staff, retirees, and members of the Madison community, as the Director of the Biocore Bird Banding Station in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. She founded the all-volunteer program in 2001, and has since provided countless opportunities for learning and research.

Banding has concluded for the season but will resume in the spring. For more information about volunteering or viewing bird banding, please contact Mara McDonald at [mamcdona@wisc.edu](mailto:mamcdona@wisc.edu)



Mara is flanked by Preserve staff who joined in a celebration of her career in October.

## Pollinator Project Benefitted Students

By Emily Greinwald

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Pollinator Conservation Project aimed to engage students in a hands-on conservation oriented project and educate them on the importance of native pollinators. Students were trained to collect pollinator data using weekly photo surveys.

We found that hymenoptera (sawflies, wasps, bees and ants) are the most common pollinators and the most prevalent flower visitors during the summer of 2015 in the Preserve. Open habitats such as Biocore Prairie, the Class of 1918 Marsh, Willow Creek Woods, Triangle Marsh, and the old field and orchard at the base of Picnic Point contained higher pollinator diversity than closed canopy habitats such as Eagle Height Woods, Tent Colony Woods, and Frautschi Point.

Undergraduate students from multiple major disciplines were encouraged to participate in the project. This allowed students to explore their interests in conservation, entomology, and ecology—influencing major choices for several participants. While gaining valuable field experience, students were also able to enjoy the natural areas on campus.

The experience of creating and directing the project gave me leadership experience and showed the effort it takes to run a volunteer-based program. Throughout the project I was able to connect with a diverse group of students from campus as well as a group of international students from Kazakhstan.

The first training session with the international students was interrupted by a thunderstorm. As a result I gave my first lesson in a parking garage a few blocks away from the Preserve. I thought the storm would dampen the volunteers' enthusiasm, but they showed a tremendous amount of determination for finding native pollinators once the skies cleared. There was even a friendly competition to see who could locate the most butterflies. The undergraduate volunteers not only made this project possible, but they taught me about the importance of communication, leadership skills, and joy of counting the butterflies.



Top: Common eastern bumblebee (*Bombus impatiens*) Photo by Will Hopkins. Bottom: Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Photo by Sloane Savory.

## Lakeshore Nature Preserve Student Engagement Grants: A call for proposals!

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee is pleased to announce a small grant opportunity (up to \$1000) for *undergraduates and faculty or staff working with undergraduates* to facilitate the use of the Preserve for educational purposes. The application deadline is March 1, 2016. Questions may be directed to Laura Wyatt, Preserve Program Manager ([laura.wyatt@wisc.edu](mailto:laura.wyatt@wisc.edu)).



Undergraduate student Emily Greinwald (second from left), a recipient of a 2015 Student Engagement Grant, led Geosciences 376 students from Kazakhstan in collecting pollinator information in the Preserve. Photo submitted by Emily Greinwald.

## Memorial Gifts Support the Preserve

By Laura Wyatt

Gifts to the Stewardship Fund support the approximately \$70,000 of annual expenses needed for Preserve operations. We are especially honored to be the recipient of gifts given in memory of family and friends. We recognize those special gifts given in memory of:

**Robert F. "Bob" Hendricks** - UW Campus Planner

**Art Hove** – UW administrator and campus historian

**John T. McNelly** - Evjue Bascom Professor of Journalism

**Dallas Miner** – UW alum, journalist and conservationist

As you consider your end-of-year giving, please remember the Preserve. To learn how you can make a lasting difference, please contact Laura Wyatt, Program Manager, [laura.wyatt@wisc.edu](mailto:laura.wyatt@wisc.edu) or 608-265-9275.



Mrs. John T. McNelly (second from left ) surrounded by family, enjoys the beauty of the fall season in the Preserve while relaxing on a bench given in memory of her late husband, John T. McNelly. The bench is located within Tent Colony Woods where the late Professor McNelly lived, temporarily, as a young boy when his father was a UW student. The McNelly family grew-up with many fond memories of the Preserve gained while living in university housing when Professor McNelly was a graduate student. Photo by Laura Wyatt.

## Take a Walk! 4th Sunday Bird & Nature Walks in the Preserve

Free, family-friendly Bird & Nature Walks are offered year-round on Sunday afternoons from 1:30-3:00 pm. Discover the hidden natural areas in four of Madison's most beautiful parks and conservancies—Cherokee Marsh (every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday), Turville Point Conservation Park (every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday), Warner Park (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday), and the **Lakeshore Nature Preserve (every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)**. Enjoy healthy nature recreation with a bit of nature education!

Preserve walks are co-sponsored by Madison Bird City partners *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* and *Madison Audubon*.

**Meet at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens tool shed, 3016 Lake Mendota Dr. just up the hill from University Bay Dr. Park in lot 131.** No registration is required. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Dogs are not allowed. Binoculars, cameras and children are welcome! For more information or to volunteer to lead a trip, contact Paul Noeldner (608) 698-0104.

To find out more about walks at the other locations visit the Madison Parks website at [www.cityofmadison.com/parks/activities/birdnaturewalks.cfm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/activities/birdnaturewalks.cfm)

Sunday, Nov. 22, 1:30-3:00pm	<b>Looking for Wild Turkey</b> Look for the Thanksgiving Turkey that got away! Wild turkeys are doing very well in urban habitats. Find out where they live, what they eat, and how they make their home alongside humans in neighborhoods all over Madison.
Sunday, Dec. 27, 1:30-3:00pm	<b>Nature's Gifts to You</b> Celebrate the holidays with a healthy outdoor walk to look at winter birds, snow covered trees and other beautiful gifts of nature in our lives.

**The second of two Preserve Stakeholder meetings to review and discuss the draft 2016 Preserve workplan and budget is scheduled for: February 3 at 5:00pm in Room 132 WARF**

**For more info please contact Laura Wyatt at 265-9275 or [laura.wyatt@wisc.edu](mailto:laura.wyatt@wisc.edu).**



## Preserve Stakeholders Encouraged to Participate in Campus Master Plan Update

By Gary Brown

The UW has embarked on their ten-year updating process for the Campus Master Plan. In addition to serving as director of the Preserve, I also am the director of Campus Planning & Landscape Architecture which facilitates the comprehensive campus master planning process. The 2015 plan is about 45% complete with much of the site analysis and data gathering finished. Draft alternatives for areas in/near the Preserve are being shared with stakeholders. Those areas include Observatory Hill, Willow Creek, and the Health Sciences area near the UW Hospital.

Proposals for Observatory Hill include removal of the parking lot and relocating it central to campus off Linden Drive and N. Charter Street. The plan calls for turning the mowed lawn slope into a shortgrass meadow and/or oak savanna with a stormwater management facility for teaching and research at the bottom of the hill. This would capture stormwater and allow it to infiltrate before it reaches Lake Mendota.

The other focus area is on Willow Creek and how to make it a resource for teaching and research as well as be an amenity for students to enjoy. Paddle craft rentals are being discussed as one way of enabling students to get out on the water more and enjoy our lakeside setting which could happen at Willow Beach.

For the Health Sciences facilities, the long range question is where do we locate additional teaching and research buildings when the area within Highland Avenue is full (after WIMR Tower 3 is completed)? The 2005 Campus Master Plan suggested that the large 1,300 car surface parking lot (#60) is also not the highest and best use for land immediately adjacent to the lake. The current drafts suggest that the parking lot be the site for a new track and soccer complex and building a parking ramp and new health science facilities on the current McClimon track facility.

I encourage everyone to get involved in the Campus Master Plan Update process. Many public meetings are being held and you can review information on the 2015 Master Plan website ([www.masterplan.wisc.edu](http://www.masterplan.wisc.edu)).



This drawing shows one alternative concept for Observatory Hill including removal of lot 34, the addition of stormwater facilities and restored oak savanna.



*Your voice is important and we want to hear from you! Join the campus community on our "[Engage UW-Madison](http://www.engageuw-madison.org)" interactive website and provide feedback to the 2015 Campus Master Plan!*

Support the  
**Lakeshore Nature Preserve**  
with a gift to the Stewardship Fund  
at the UW Foundation  
[www.supportuw.org](http://www.supportuw.org)  
Enter "Lakeshore Nature Preserve" into Search

## LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AND GIVE BACK TO CAMPUS?

Join a drop-in volunteer work event or schedule a volunteer opportunity for your group.  
For more information contact Bryn Scriver at 220-5560 or [bryn.scriver@wisc.edu](mailto:bryn.scriver@wisc.edu)



A BIG THANKS TO THE UW NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS for spending an afternoon making Muir Woods safer and cleaner for the entire campus community by mulching trails, collecting trash, and removing invasive brush.  
HOOYAH!

*For announcements, photos and info on the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, please join us on:*



### Lakeshore Nature Preserve Staff

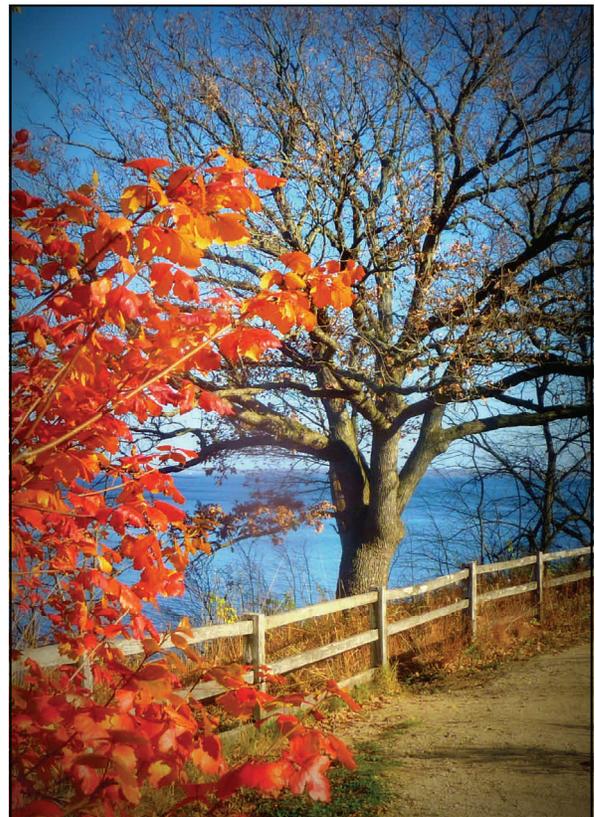
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Raymer's Cove. Photo by Bryn Scriver.



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