



## The Preserve is A-Buzz with Research

By Bryn Scriver

Emily Greinwald, an undergraduate student in Zoology and Conservation Biology and a recipient of one of the 2015 Preserve Student Engagement Grants, is heading the **Native Pollinator Conservation Project**. Native insect pollinators such as solitary bees, bumblebees, butterflies, and moths are responsible for pollination and propagation of many flowering plants, providing a



Geology 376 students record pollinator information. Photo by Emily Greinwald.

this project please contact Emily Greinwald at [pollinatorbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:pollinatorbuzz@gmail.com).



A second **Citizen-Science Pollinator Project** led by PhD candidate Elena West and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Society of Conservation Biology has begun cataloging pollinator diversity in different habitats of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Of special interest to the researchers are wild bees including two species of special concern, the rusty-patched and yellow-banded bumblebees. The project kicked off with a training event called “Bee Fest”

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June 14th at the Arboretum, which focused on field methods and general information on pollinators. The newly trained citizen-scientists are sampling invertebrates using pan traps along transects in Eagle Height’s Woods, Biocore Prairie, and the Preserve’s old field and forest edge communities. Sampling will be conducted through September. If you are interested in joining or learning more about this project please contact Elena West at [elena.west@wisc.edu](mailto:elena.west@wisc.edu).



Volunteers scout for bees in the Preserve. Photo by Brenna Decker.

*Both pollinator projects will contribute to our baseline knowledge of the distribution and status of pollinators in the Preserve—a critical first step in conserving them.*

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This summer students in the Nelson Institute Field Ecology Workshop (IES 375) led by Lecturer Alison Duff are using the Preserve as a laboratory to learn various field ecology methods including **small mammal capture and release**. The students set up Sherman live traps along two transects—one in Biocore Prairie and the other in Caretaker’s Woods. The students caught 3 deer mice (*Peromyscus sp.*) and 1 meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) in the prairie traps, and 4 deer mice in the woodland traps. According to Duff, students were impressed with the importance of thinking carefully about placement of the traps - both from an animal welfare perspective (e.g. how to keep them from getting too hot or too wet) and from a data collection perspective (e.g. where to set traps to get a representation of the small mammal community of the site). The IES 375 students also joined Elena West to monitor pollinators and Mara McDonald, volunteer Director of the [Biocore Prairie Bird Banding Station](#), to get hands-on experience mist netting and banding birds.



IES 375 students set up Sherman live traps for small mammals in Biocore Prairie. Photo by Alison Duff

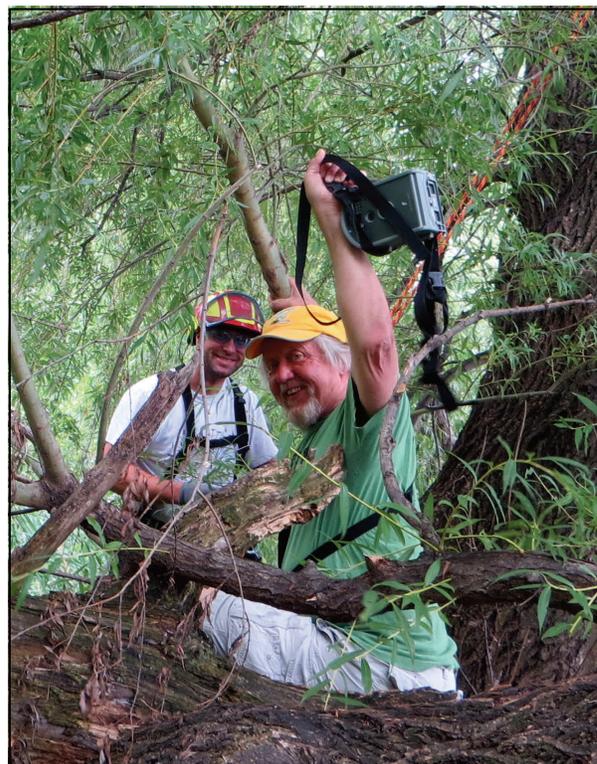


Volunteers Kennedy Gilchrist and Levi Wood are monitoring bats in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for the **Wisconsin Citizen-Based Acoustic Bat Monitoring Project**. Since 2011 four out of Wisconsin’s eight bat species have been listed as State Threatened species. Needing more information to study bat ecology and trends, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) turned to citizen scientists for help. Gilchrist and Wood worked with J. Paul White from the DNR to design a monitoring route that includes the Class of

1918 Marsh, the base of Picnic Point, Bill’s Woods, Biocore Prairie and Eagle Heights Community Gardens. While volunteers walk the route a hand-held acoustic system records the high frequency bat calls which are inaudible to humans. Combined with a global positioning system, the detector automatically records the position of each bat passing the surveyor along with the route that was traveled during the survey. You can read more about the [Wisconsin Bat Program](#).



Many people have been following the [Great Horned Owl](#) owlets in Willow Creek this spring including Hannah DePorter a UW Urban Wildlife student who observed the owls for the course [Sustainability from a Non-Human Perspective](#). DePorter’s interest in the owls didn’t wane after the course ended so she teamed up with volunteer Paul Noeldner to submit a permit to install a Great Horned Owl research camera. The special wildlife motion triggered camera (or birdcam) was funded by the Friends of the Preserve. Hannah identified the owl’s favorite roost site on a limb of a large cottonwood tree in Willow Creek Woods, and on June 1 professional arborist Sean Gere of *Gere Tree Care* volunteered his services to install the camera. DePorter and Noeldner are eager to share any photos and information they collect with the public to promote support for urban wildlife.



Volunteers Paul Noeldner and Sean Gere prepare to install the birdcam. Photo by Laura Wyatt

# Prairie Partners Interns Return for Summer of Work and Learning

By Adam Gundlach

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is fortunate again to share the Prairie Partners intern crew with Dane County's Pheasant Branch Conservancy, the Natural Heritage Land Trust, and Madison Audubon's Goose Pond Sanctuary. The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve continue to provide generous support by sponsoring the 2015 intern crew's efforts in the Preserve.

This summer's crew is comprised of three UW-Stevens Point students (Tessa Schaub, Joe Clark, and Nate Kueffer), two UW-Madison students (Tony De Valle and Roberta Donaldson), and one UW-Platteville student (Katya Frank). From quiet beginnings, the crew has jelled into a well-oiled machine of ecological do-gooding. Emblazoned with scars of the wild parsnip wars, the interns have learned to wade through mosquito-infested thickets, fend off tick hitchhikers, and dodge yellow jacket ground nests, while casting off the adversity with a playful shrug.

Any given day the crew's tasks range from weed control to trail maintenance, brush removal to seed collection and vegetation monitoring. The productive adventures have taken them from the east end of the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path to the western terminus of campus in Eagle Heights Woods.

Often identified as a favorite part of the intern experience, routine work days have been interspersed with a series of presentations and discussions on topics relating to ecological restoration, cultural history, geology, limnology, bird monitoring and more. Earlier this summer, the crew boarded the Center for Limnology's Limnos research vessel and spent a leisurely morning viewing the Preserve from Lake Mendota's perspective, while observing and discussing issues affecting our lakes with Emeritus Professor John Magnuson. Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus of Conservation Stanley Temple treated the interns to a talk titled "Aldo Leopold, Phenology, and Climate Change", followed by a visit to the Leopold Archives located in Steenbock library. Holding the detailed notes of an iconic environmental thinker in your hand, or the pipe he puffed on while pondering those notes, allows one to consider more deeply their place in the unfolding timeline of history.

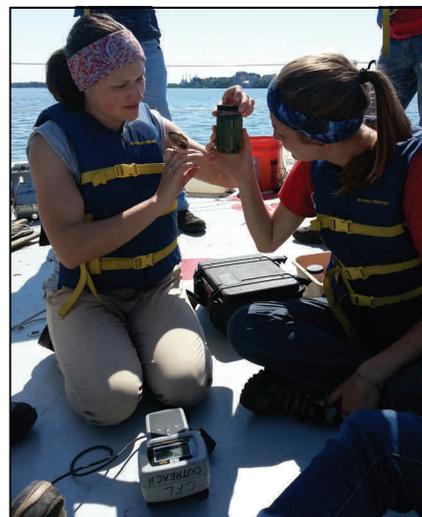
A summer spent on the Prairie Partners crew provides the interns an opportunity to view ecological principles and restoration techniques from different perspectives, hone observation skills, and discuss the shifting ecological interactions swirling around them.



Intern Joe Clark measures tree diameter for a vegetation survey in Eagle Heights Woods. Photo by Glenda Denniston



Intern Katya Frank cuts and treats buckthorn on the Picnic Point Indian burial mounds. Photo by Adam Gundlach



Interns Tessa Schaub and Roberta Donaldson study a plankton sample on the Limnos. Photo by Adam Gundlach

## Introduction to Phenology in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

By Emily lehl

At the end of the Spring 2014 semester, Stan Temple and Curt Meine concluded their biannual Aldo Leopold seminar in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology with the usual wrap-up exercise: challenging their students to take action in bringing the Land Ethic to future generations. This past year's class chose to partner with GreenHouse Learning Community, the environmentally conscious and sustainability oriented residence group housed in Leopold Hall, to provide residents of Green-House the opportunity to enroll in a new seminar called "Introduction to Phenology". Launched in Spring 2015, the seminar aimed to introduce students to the history, experience, and implications of the study of the natural cycles of ecosystems.

The five freshmen and sophomore students entered the seminar with a wide range of outdoor experience and learned about phenology from both expert and hands-on perspectives. In addition to a number of guest presenters including professors emeritus, graduate students, and professionals, Nelson Institute graduate student Emily lehl led students through the Lakeshore Nature Preserve throughout the semester to identify plant and animal species, point out signs of seasonal change, and challenge students to discover new territory on familiar landscapes. On their own time, students participated in the seminar's central semester-long project, in which they each "adopted" a section of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and submitted weekly observations of their site via a class Facebook group.

Despite the small class size, students reported positive reviews of the seminar. One noted that "the seminar taught me to stop and enjoy the tiny and huge details in nature. It will have a lasting impact on how I experience nature for the rest of my life." Coordinators will take this exciting feedback into account in deciding to continue the seminar for a second semester.



The Intro to Phenology class talking with Daniel Einstein, Historic and Cultural Resources Manager for UW-Madison, at a temporary resting place of the President's Oak.



Student Tom Stone photographed a budding maple at the Class of 1918 Marsh, and uploaded it—along with his full list of observations for the week of March 21—to the class Facebook group.



A sketch by student Megs Seeley of *Scilla siberica*, a beautiful but invasive garden lily that blooms in March and April in the Madison area including the Preserve.

## Remember the Preserve in Your Annual Giving

The Lakeshore Natural Preserve is a treasured part of the UW-Madison campus protecting the undeveloped lands along the shore of Lake Mendota where members of the campus community have long experienced the intellectual and aesthetic benefits of interacting with the natural world.

While the University supports Preserve staff and provides limited contributed services through the Division of Facilities Planning and Management, private gift support is the critical component enabling operation and continued development of the Preserve. **Stewardship gift funds of approximately \$70,000 annually are needed to support operations.** Special projects are supported by designated funds such as those raised by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for the Eagle Heights Woods project.

Stewardship funds are utilized for a host of annual operating expenses including: prescribed fires, invasive plant control, plants and seed, signage and graffiti removal, equipment including chain saws and brush saws, pruning loppers, handsaws, safety glasses and gloves—enough for 20 volunteers, supplies for hosting over 750+ volunteers, audio trail tours, informational brochures and outreach materials, information kiosks, vehicles enabling staff to move about the 300-acre site, cleaning of the pit toilets and a lot more.

As you enjoy the Preserve this summer consider making a gift to support the Stewardship Fund at the UW Foundation, [www.supportuw.org](http://www.supportuw.org). Enter “Lakeshore Nature Preserve” into the search field. *To learn how you can make a lasting difference*, please contact Laura Wyatt, Program Manager, [lw Wyatt@fpm.wisc.edu](mailto:lw Wyatt@fpm.wisc.edu) or 608-265-9275.



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

### Upcoming Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Field Trips

Restoration Ecology in Eagle Heights Woods, Aug 8 (Sat) 1:00pm - 3:00pm.

Get a summer perspective on restoration efforts to restore the biological health of this oak woodland. Restoration efforts are being funded by the Friends. Park on Wood Lane and walk to Shady Lane trailhead. Leader: Adam Gundlach (220-3482)

Introduction to Trees in the Preserve, Aug 15 (Sat) 1:00pm - 3:00pm.

*Family friendly!* Take a walk to identify the wonderful variety of trees along the paths. Meet at Picnic Point lot 129. Leader: Laura Wyatt (265-9275)

Birding & Nature Walk, Aug 23 (Sun) 1:30pm - 3:00pm.

Family friendly! Meet at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens shed (3016 Lake Mendota Dr). Parking available in lot 131 on University Bay Dr. Co-sponsored with the Madison Audubon Society. Leader: Paul Noeldner (698- 0104)

Lakeshore Preserve Birding, Aug 29 (Sat) 8:00am - 11:00am.

We will look for early fall migrants, including “confusing fall warblers”, vireos, and flycatchers. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Meet at lot 130. Co-sponsored with the Madison Audubon Society. Leaders: Roma Lenehan (238-5406) and Marty Evanson



## Dogs on Leash Welcome at Preserve

By Laura Wyatt

To ensure **dogs on leash** remain welcome at the Preserve a campaign kicked-off in May to remind visitors of the importance of keeping their family canine on leash. In addition to temporary enhanced signage, several veterinary school students volunteered on week-ends to speak with visitors about the importance of keeping dogs on leash and reward visitors with dogs on leash. Dogs were rewarded with a healthy treat and owners could select from an array of prizes provided by the Veterinary Medicine School including Badger Vet School doggie bandanas.



A leashed dog models his new bandana. Photo by Laura Wyatt.



Visitors were pleased with the initiative. One visitor commented, *“We really appreciate having a place where dogs are required to be on leash when walking our older dog that cannot play rough with other dogs, like he once did at the dog park. We love having a non-paved place to take him safely.”* Numerous individuals without dogs, especially those with small children, also expressed their appreciation.

**Keeping your dog on leash at the Preserve not only ensures dogs will remain welcome, but:**

**Protects Your Dog** – It is safer for your dog to be on leash, to avoid a host of potential issues including: herbicides, live traps used for wildlife research, dead animal carcasses, bee nests, and wildlife—including ticks that carry disease, poison ivy, burs and stick tights.

**Protects the Preserve** – The Preserve is an outdoor laboratory for active university research. When dogs run off leash and trail, they disturb research plots, trample native plants, spread weed seeds, and destroy habitat for wildlife. Dogs are carnivores by instinct, and can cause serious harm to small animals and ground nesting birds.

**Protects other Visitors** – Many people of all ages and different cultures are actually very fearful of dogs. All people should feel safe and welcome in public spaces. Loose dogs ruin the trail experience for many people, even fellow dog walkers and their pets.

Our thanks to those who supported the campaign, including: veterinary medicine students Holly Hovanec, Sarah Appleby, Molly Van Bommel, and Michelle Rothaug; Nik Hawkins, Director of Communications for the School of Veterinary Medicine, for donating rewards; an anonymous donor for donating healthy dog treats; and UW-Madison Police Department Officer Jean Van Den Bogart (our West Campus Community Officer) for assisting in volunteer training.



Vet student Holly Hovanec greets dogs and their owners with a choice of prizes for good behavior! Photo by Laura Wyatt

## Eagle Heights Woods Update

By Adam Gundlach, Gisela Kutzbach and Suzy Will-Wolf

In Fall 2013, the Friends of the Lakeshore Preserve took on the challenge of raising the funds necessary for completing the Preserve's 5-Year Management Plan for Eagle Heights Woods. This is the most ambitious fundraising campaign the Friends have conducted for the Preserve. Heading the Friends fundraising committee are Sue Denholm, Peter Fisher, and Gisela Kutzbach who developed a strategic plan and coordinated efforts with Preserve staff and the UW Foundation. Throughout spring of 2015, a Friends team of communicators, graphic designers, networkers, visionaries and organizers worked enthusiastically and successfully toward their goal. According to Kutzbach, more than one-third of the Friends 300 plus members followed the strong lead of early donors to exceed the goal of \$135,000! Kutzbach said, "We are immensely pleased to provide this essential financial investment to rejuvenate the living foundation of Eagle Heights Woods." She added, "We are truly fortunate to have such loyal and generous members and supporters."



At the Friends 2015 Annual Meeting, Sue Denholm urges members to be "part of the story of Eagle Heights Woods" and Peter Fisher attaches 'milestones' of success to the fundraising campaign tree. Photo by Gisela Kutzbach

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve members are also providing support to the Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan by getting their hands dirty. Ann Burgess, Glenda Denniston, and Susan Will-Wolf are putting their field ecology and plant identification skills to work by surveying Eagle Heights Woods vegetation. This spring the women completed quantitative surveys of the trees, saplings, shrubs, and groundlayer vegetation in the central management zone of Eagle Heights Woods. The data they collect will help inform future management decisions, and the data collection protocol will be replicable by future volunteers for on-going monitoring. They were joined in

early July by the Prairie Partners intern crew to complete the summer session of vegetation monitoring.

Vegetation monitoring will provide baseline data for the next management zone scheduled for invasive brush removal in fall and winter of 2015-16. Buckthorn and honeysuckle will be the main targets, opening space for native dogwoods, viburnums, and elderberry. Undesirable trees will be identified and removed following the brush removal efforts. In addition, follow-up work will continue in the Indian mounds zone to control buckthorn resprouts and seedlings, and remove hazard trees that threaten the integrity of the Indian burial mounds and visitor safety. If the appropriate conditions present themselves this fall, the mounds zone will be on the docket for a prescribed burn.



Volunteers, Ann Burgess, Suzy Will-Wolf and Glenda Denniston, sample groundlayer vegetation in Eagle Heights Woods. Photo by Gisela Kutzbach

### JOIN THE NEXT EAGLE HEIGHTS WOODS FIELD TRIP!

Enjoy the fauna and flora of Eagle Heights Woods while Adam Gundlach, the Preserve's Field Projects Coordinator, talks about the restoration efforts being funded by the Friends.

#### Restoration Ecology in Eagle Heights Woods

**Sat. Aug. 8. 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

Park on Wood Lane (in Shorewood Hills) and walk to the Shady Lane trailhead.

For more info contact Adam at 220-3482

## The Story of the Biocore Prairie Bluebird Trail

by Paul Noeldner and Mitch Thomas

Paul Noeldner: As you walk in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve along the Biocore Prairie and Eagle Heights Community Gardens you will see small wooden bird houses on poles. During summer months you may see a beautiful blue bird with a russet Robin-like chest and white belly nearby—the Eastern Bluebird. What’s the story?



Eastern Bluebird. Photo by Arlene Koziol

The story began in fall 2013 when Madison became a “Bird City”. Soon after, Bird City partners including Madison Parks and the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve started weekly Sunday afternoon Bird and Nature Walks to introduce more people to our beautiful birds and nearby natural areas. The story got a hero in early 2014 when Mitch Thomas, a UW Ornithology and Pre-Vet student, became interested in Bluebirds and ventured into the Preserve.

*Mitch Thomas: On a warm March afternoon I journeyed over to the Biocore Prairie in hopes of seeing an Eastern Bluebird—a bird I had learned about in a terrestrial vertebrate class, but had never seen. An hour or two into my search, there were no bluebirds to be found. Disappointed, I was walking up a large hill when I heard a soft chortling behind me in a massive oak. I whipped out my binoculars and spotted a pair of bluebirds! I followed them as they flew from post to post through the gardens with the male singing on his way. They soon joined four others, and I was thrilled to see them foraging and continuing their song.*

Paul Noeldner: Mitch joined one of the first Preserve Bird and Nature Walks and enthusiastically suggested there should be a Bluebird Trail.

*Mitch Thomas: The prairie seemed like such perfect habitat for Bluebirds, but I wondered if it contained enough cavities for them to nest. I saw one old bluebird box, but thought it would be great to add more to convince more of these birds to stay and breed.*

Paul Noeldner: I had helped start Bluebird Trails before; so Mitch and I brought our idea for a Preserve bluebird trail to the Preserve Committee and the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We proposed using [Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin \(BRAW\)](#) approved protocols. Mitch took on the detective challenge to select appropriately spaced open sunny locations near short grass or mowed lanes and a ‘perch tree’.

*Mitch Thomas: Within just a few weeks we had flagged proposed box locations, mapped them out, and received the proper permits. We held a Bluebird Box Build at Eagle Heights Community Garden and built 10 boxes with help from students, families and kids. Then a group of Friends members installed the boxes. The whole process was complete in time for nesting season!*

Paul Noeldner: After the boxes went up, tales of new Bluebird families began to unfold. A group of volunteers coordinates monthly monitoring and fledging counts. You can follow their reports on the [Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website](#).

*Mitch Thomas: In 2014 the Biocore Prairie Bluebird Trail yielded 7 Bluebird fledglings! Tree swallows and House wrens benefitted from our trail as well.*



Mitch Thomas shows off a newly constructed bluebird box. Photo by Gisela Kutzbach

Paul Noeldner: The story of the Biocore Prairie Bluebird Trail comes full circle every 4th Sunday of the month with the Preserve Bird & Nature Walks from 1:30-3:00pm at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens shed at 3016 Lake Mendota Drive. Parking is available in lot 131 on University Bay Dr.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CARE FOR THE PRESERVE

Volunteers provide valuable service to the Preserve by removing invasive plants, maintaining trails, collecting trash, and planting native plants along with other activities. Please join us for a fun morning of work and community building. Tools and gloves are provided. Volunteers should dress to work outdoors -- long pants and closed-toe shoes are required. Groups and minors are okay with advance notice. Canceled in case of rain. For more info contact Bryn Scriver, [bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu](mailto:bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu), 608-220-5560.



## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

**Sun. Aug. 9** - 9AM-Noon  
Picnic Point parking lot 129\*

**Sat. Aug. 29** - 9AM-Noon  
Picnic Point parking lot 129\*

**Sat. Sept. 19** - 9AM-Noon  
Frautschi Point parking lot (3034 Lake Mendota Dr).

**Sun. Sept. 27** - 9AM-Noon  
Picnic Point parking lot 129\*

**Sat. Oct. 10** - 9AM-Noon  
Picnic Point parking lot 129\*

**Sun. Oct. 25** - 9AM-Noon  
Picnic Point parking lot 129\*

**Sat. Nov. 7** - 9AM-Noon  
Picnic Point parking lot 129\*

\*2004 University Bay Drive

### Lakeshore Nature Preserve Staff

Gary Brown, Director  
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Rowyn Noe, Field Technician  
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*For announcements, photos and info on the  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve,  
please [join us on:](#)*

