



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – October 20, 2017

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Welcome to fall, I think! With our changing climate, we continue to see interesting seasonal changes in the Preserve. Just this week, we are starting to see some color changes in the sumac which, for me, has always signaled that autumn is soon to arrive. September was unseasonably warm and dry but we are starting to see more rain now as we enter into October. With this seasonal change comes time for us to start thinking about our upcoming budget and work planning cycle that starts with our fall stakeholder meeting. We'll be developing our draft budget and work plan over the next month and share that draft document with the Preserve Committee in December. We'll then have our January stakeholder meeting to take any final input before we present the final draft to the committee in February for a vote. I am happy to report that we have made it through the 2017-19 state budget process fully intact and that Preserve staff will actually be seeing an "across-the-board" salary increase, which was included in the state's pay plan for the first time in many years. After several biennia of significant budget reductions, I am hoping we are finally on the upswing and will continue to see positive support from the state and university.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's time and commitment to assuring the future of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Participating in our budget and planning process is just one way to do so. Make sure you set aside some personal time this fall to get out in the Preserve and enjoy the smells of autumn.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits since September meeting:

- 2017-40 – Marshall – Soil Science Research in Biocore Prairie
- 2017-39 – Treves – ENVIR 400 Wolves, dogs and people (FIG) camera trapping and surveys
- 2017-38 – Frenn – ENT 302 Insect Collection

We welcome Michal Michiels as our newly hired student field technician, working 15hr/wk. Michal is a Wildlife Ecology student and will be assisting Adam in the field and servicing fire circles. Ali Ban-Herr's last day with us was Sept. 29.

Adam and I met with Mattie Urrutia, representing the Soils Department, to review the three soil pits within Bill's Woods. One of the pits is getting close to the trail. Within the year, we will be repositioning one pit for better light exposure and to avoid conflicts with the trail. Point of interest: The three soil pits in Bill's Woods were excavated more than fifty years ago and used as part of a field trip for the 6th World Congress of Soil Science, held in Madison. During that meeting, soil scientists from the United States introduced a soil classification system, known as the 7th Approximation that eventually served as the basis for our current Soil Taxonomy and for many soil classification systems around the world. Today, the pits continue their educational role as a training model for classes in Soil Science, Geography, and Geology.

Gary and I reviewed the UW guidelines regarding storage of watercraft, MOU with Outdoor UW regarding boat storage and their Outdoor UW boat storage agreement. We accepted their request to offer a year-round storage option. We are also developing a set of guidelines for photography and videography in the Preserve.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- UW Housing Shed and Recycle Lot – project nearly complete. There is some erosion occurring into Big Woods and the contractor will repair that before turning over the site.
- The Natatorium Replacement Feasibility Study is currently underway. FP&M staff will share the developing plans with the committee in the future.
- Rec Sports has updated their par-course (exercise stations) along the Temin Lakeshore Path from the Triangle Marsh to the DeJope Residence Hall area. There are no locations in the Preserve but several are immediately adjacent to the Preserve.
- Nielson Tennis Stadium – UW Athletics is planning for expansion of the outdoor tennis courts from 6 to 8 courts and add spectator bleachers.
- Lot 129/130 consolidation – study to determine options is underway, AE is being hired to design and complete construction documents. The project could be in construction in the summer of 2018 or the summer of 2019 based on available funding.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Raymer’s Cove Sign – will be added late this fall.
- Weed pile improvements at Eagle Heights Gardens – grading and concrete pad work is underway.
- Student Memorial on the north edge of Gard Circle – a memorial to students who have passed away during the school year has been designed at the request of the Dean of Students Office. The memorial includes a small plaque on a stone with a short message. No names are included so it can be used each year in May for a small, short gathering. Planning on installing late this fall.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Willow Creek Savanna- mowed sections of seeding project area to prevent seed production of weed species and prep for herbicide application.
- Good Oak Ecological Services:
 - a. Willow Creek Savanna – sprayed out southeast project area in prep for dormant seeding, and treated stinging nettle clones that had been repeatedly mowed during the growing season.
 - b. East Savanna – treated leafy spurge population east of the old field.
 - c. Eagle Heights Woods – performed cut-stem treatments focused in areas with abundant young buckthorn regrowth and other undesirable woody species.
- Porcelain berry monitoring/control is wrapping up for the year, as plants begin to go dormant. Targeted monitoring was completed across approximately 60 acres. We continue to use the GLEDN app/EDDMaps to track the population and provide feedback to the Renz Lab and app developers regarding operation and potential improvements.
- Provided onboarding for Preserve student employee Michal (Mi-KEL) Michiels who started working part-time in the Preserve. She will be covering maintenance of Picnic Point fire circles and wood racks a couple days a week, and assisting with other land management needs.
- Started planning prescribed burn units for the fall season. Potential units include portions of Eagle Heights Woods, Biocore prairie, Lot 60 stormwater basin, University Bay Drive bioswales, and Willow Creek Savanna.
- Performed trail maintenance in Bill’s Woods and Muir Woods.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

- Drop-in and other volunteer events:
 - Wed Sept 13, WI Union Marketing Team, Cut buckthorn Muir Woods Lot 30, 10 volunteers
 - Sat Sept 16, Drop-in, Collect seeds and cut buckthorn, 8 volunteers
 - Thurs Sept 28, Clean Lakes Alliance and Alliant Energy, collect seeds Lot 60 storm water planting, 8 volunteers

- Sun Oct 1, Drop-in, collect seeds Biocore Prairie and cut buckthorn and honeysuckle Frautschi Point, 25 volunteers
 - Sun Oct 1, Sierra Student Coalition and Association of Student Mechanical Engineers, chip trails, weed and clean Gard Storyteller's Circle, and cut buckthorn Muir Woods, 18 volunteers
 - Tues Oct 3, Conservation Biology, collect seeds Lot 60 storm water planting, 4 volunteers
 - Wed Oct 4, GreenHouse, Cut buckthorn Willows Beach, 10 volunteers
 - Sun Oct 8, Student Leadership Program and Alpha Phi, Collect Seeds Lot 60 storm water planting, 27 volunteers
- On September 28, staff member Ali Ban-Herr and student volunteers, Gabby Bianchi and Mitch Thomas, hosted a table for the Preserve at the Office for Sustainability's Sustain-A-Bash. They handed out maps and general information about the Preserve and promoted Preserve volunteers opportunities and Friends sponsored field trips. Students were challenged to a game of *Preserve Trivia*, a fun game developed by the Friends of the Preserve.
 - Students from the GreenHouse Learning Community were treated to a walk and talk by Daniel Einstein and Bryn Sriver on September 27 and 28. We talked about the long history of human use of the Preserve landscape and past and current land management.
 - Our Fall E-newsletter is coming out soon. If anyone has any ideas for articles for this issue or future issues please let me know.
 - The Lakeshore Nature Preserve has been added to the new *Directory of Resources for Researchers* website to let researchers know we have available field sites. This resource is a product of the Office of Campus Cores located within the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education.
