



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – March 31, 2017

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

The comprehensive Campus Master Plan Update process continues with the city of Madison. Final approval is currently scheduled for July by the Common Council. The university continues to work with the State of Wisconsin on our overall campus operating and capital budget request for 2017-19 with eventual approval by July 1, 2017. Still no word on how this may impact budgets, if at all, for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits:

- 2017-17 –Van Ert –Density of conifer trees on soil pH
- 2017-16 –Lingeman –Abundance of squirrel nests in urban versus rural forest environments
- 2017-15 – Smith – Ecology 460 – Animal activity at edges of ecosystems
- 2017-14 – Jones – Geocache, Class of 1918 Marsh
- 2017-13 – Bakken – Ecology 460 –Coleoptera Populations
- 2017-12 – Beeninga - Ecology 460 – Effects of winter salt use
- 2017-11 – Handberg –Ecology 460 – Pine and Oak Understory Study
- 2017-10 – Corradi –Ecology 460 – The effects roadway traffic on bird activity
- 2017 9 – Barti – Ecology 460 – Changes in Coleoptera Populations across the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
- 2017-8 – Ross – Ecology 460 – Black Knot Fungi and Black Cherry Trees
- 2017-7 – Jen – Ecology 460 – The Impact of Black Knot Fungus on Black Cherry Trees
- 2017-6 –Lehrmann – Ecology 460 – Predation rates of birds egg color
- 2017-5 – Matteson – Ecology 460 – Squirrel Nesting Behavior based on Tree Type
- 2017-4 – Corriveau – Ecology 460- Tree Abundance and Species Surrounding Buckthorn
- 2017-3 – Young – Ecology 460 – Nesting Patterns and DBH
- 2017-2 – Ecology 460 (Kyle Webert) – Bark Gleaning Birds at Picnic Point
- 2017-1 – Ecology 460 (Kyle Webert) – Ecological Gradient Analysis

The Preserve budget year 2017-2018 began March 1st. Look forward to receiving the 2016 Annual Report.

New staff are joining us. We have hired two students (Hannah Stellrecht and Monica Depies) to work for a maximum of 100 hours each to focus on garlic mustard removal. Leo Roth has been hired as our seasonal invasive species technician. This is the position we have been able to add to our seasonal staff because of the special gift supporting 4-seasons of invasive species removal. Leo will be working a limited number of hours until graduation, at which time he will be with us 40-hours a week through fall.

Bird Banding Station under the direction of Mark Berres (PI) has completed the necessary steps for a permit. The station should be up and running once temperatures reach 50 degrees F.

The Friends Purple Martin House project is proceeding. Anna Pidgeon (PI) has submitted materials to RARC for review. Upon approval, the Preserve will be issuing a permit. The house will soon be installed.

The Preserve staff traveled to UW-Stevens Point to visit with staff at the Schmeckle Reserve. The Reserve is a 280-acre sanctuary on the UW-STP campus that protects natural habitats of central Wisconsin. It is part of the 26-mile Green Circle Trail and serves as an outdoor classroom for UW-STP. Sound familiar? We had a lot to talk about and share. A report of the meeting is forth coming.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- Near West Recreation Fields – more work to be completed this spring as soon as weather and site conditions allow. The landscape work will begin this spring. The swales will be replanted with native species similar to what existing prior to the start of the project.
- Willow Creek Sediment Trap – concrete is in place. Construction continues.
- UW Housing Shed and Recycle Lot – construction to begin this spring.
- Natatorium replacement feasibility study is currently underway. Will share the developing plans in the future.

In the Preserve:

Fire Circle 3 – construction is scheduled to begin this spring.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

- Prescribed fire planning and burn unit preps for Eagle Heights Woods, Biocore Prairie, Willow Creek Savanna, and Picnic Point.
- Land management planning for 2017 field season – staff site tours, planning new employee on-boarding and tasks (garlic mustard control), contractor task priorities for spring and summer, and Prairie Partners intern crew task priorities.
- Continued invasive brush resprout control in portions of Picnic Point.
- Our joint application with the UW Arboretum for an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps team was accepted. The Preserve will host the crew for one week in early June to clear invasive brush from the western section of Bill's Woods.
- Routine Picnic Point fire circle maintenance and wood rack stocking.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

On March 11, 36 volunteers (6 student groups and 8 individuals) removed buckthorn and honeysuckle in Bill's Woods near the Eagle Heights Community Gardens.

We have a number of volunteer events planned between Earth Week and Arbor Day. We will kick off Earth Day weekend with a drop-in volunteer event on the morning of April 22. The rest of that weekend, we are hosting various student groups for garlic mustard pulling. On April 24 we are collaborating with Allen Centennial Garden on invasive removals and supplemental plantings on the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path and at Lot 34. On April 26, we will participate in the Morgridge Center Day of Service.

We are currently recruiting volunteer greeters to greet and direct visitors at the Picnic Point entrance on weekends from Mid-April to Mid-May. Volunteers are asked to work at least three 2.5 hour shifts across four weekends. Training is planned for the morning of April 5. Please contact Bryn if you are interested in serving.

We've updated our kiosks and website photo carousel with spring information and photos.

The Spring Preserve E-newsletter has been posted on our website and sent to our email lists.