



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – May 8, 2017

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Spring into Summer! As typical in Wisconsin, we've gone from highs in the 70's to highs in the 40's and back again with lots of rain mixed in for good measure. The Yahara Lakes are at their highest level already and will likely continue to rise if we continue to see consistent rain events. I want to thank the Preserve staff, especially Adam Gundlach, for preparing for and implementing our spring prescribed burn plans this year. We finally achieved the optimal wind, temperate and moisture levels to have a very successful burn this spring.

We all continue to monitor the biennial budget process moving its way through the legislature over the next couple of months. No indication yet of any significant budget reductions to FP&M, and thus the Preserve. I will continue to keep everyone posted and if we will see any issues of concern as the budget heads to the governor's desk for his signature, hopefully before July 1, 2017.

As reported last month, the UW-Madison Campus Master Plan Update documentation has been submitted to the City of Madison for their final review and approval. The draft plan will go before several city committees and commissions in May and June, with final approval at the Madison Common Council meeting on July 19, 2017. Please continue to monitor the progress at: www.masterplan.wisc.edu

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

New Permits:

- 2017-22 – O'Keefe – Hydraulic traits of stems in response to drought
- 2017-21 – Calder – Ecology 460 – Impact of plant coverage on seed predation

Huge thanks to Janet Batzli and Margaret Nellis for organizing a field trip to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve as part of the UW-Madison 2017 Teaching and Learning Symposium, May 17. Sissel Schroeder and Adrian Treves will be joining us as we feature how UW educators are incorporating the Preserve into their curriculum. The field trip can accommodate 35 participants, but our outreach (poster session and handouts) have a potential to reach 500+ educators on the UW-Madison campus.

The Preserve staff has been working with UW Housing on the management of a WI DNR prohibited invasive species, Fig Buttercup, *Ficaria verna*. Housing has treated the invasive over the last two growing seasons. This year, in part as a result of a donation directed to control of invasives, we are working with Housing and monitoring and mechanically removing these invasive plants found along the east side of Eagle Heights Woods.

The Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association hosted a quarterly gathering of the "Cross Campus Partners" a collection of UW entities (Global Health Initiative, Arboretum, Nelson Institute, Libraries, Continuing Studies, Division of Student Life, Center for Patient Partnerships, the Preserve, and more) which do not have dedicated development staff. The goals of this group are to explore how the Foundation can support our development efforts, provide a connection to Foundation resources, and explore areas where the entities might be able to collaborate. Our April meeting featured Kevin Check, WFAA's senior director of Campus Relations who provided insight into current outreach opportunities available through the WFAA.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- Near West Recreation Fields – more work is to be completed this spring as soon as weather and site conditions allow. The landscape restoration work will also begin this spring. The swales will be replanted with native species similar to what existed prior to the start of the project.
- Willow Creek Sediment Trap – concrete is in place. Construction is nearly complete and plantings and site restoration will begin in May.
- UW Housing Shed and Recycle Lot – construction to begin the week of April 17. Earthwork is completed, some soil is yet to be removed from the site, and building footings are moving forward. The slope will be planted with a thick growing fescue mix that will compete with weeds and only require mowing infrequently.
- The Natatorium Replacement Feasibility Study is currently underway. FP&M staff will share the developing plans with the committee in the future.
- Rec Sports is interested in updating their par-course (exercise stations) along the Temin Lakeshore Path from the Triangle Marsh to the Dejope Hall area. Staff in CPLA is working with them to discuss appropriate locations for the new par-course equipment stations and removal of the existing, well-dated original stations.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Renovations at Fire Circle 3 will begin in the first two weeks in June.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

- Garlic mustard control status – Initial removal has been completed across most of the Preserve. Beginning second sweep to catch plants initially missed.
- Planning herbicide applications to control upland reed canary grass populations, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, crown vetch etc. Also scheduling a second herbicide application to the southeast corner (~ 1 acre) of Willow Creek Savanna in prep for prairie seeding.
- Scheduling second round of brush chipping with Boley Tree Service to address remaining piles.
- Vegetation survey planned for mid- to late-May in West Zone of Eagle Heights Woods.
- Prairie Partners intern crew starts in the Preserve May 25.
- AmeriCorps scheduled to perform invasive brush removal in west Bill's Woods June 5-9.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

We had two very full weeks around Earth Day and Arbor Day in terms of volunteer activity in the Preserve. During this period of time, 141 volunteers comprising 14 student groups scouted and removed invasive species (garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle and fig buttercup) from over 6 acres of the Preserve and planted native shrubs and plant plugs in Muir Woods.

- Sat. April 22-Drop-in Work party; Wisconsin Medlife, LaFollette School of Public Affairs, Sigma Alpha Omega, Chancellors Scholars; pulled garlic mustard and cut buckthorn and honeysuckle shrubs; 25 students
- Sat. April 22; ABESA (Asian Business and Economics Student Association), GreenHouse residents; pulled garlic mustard; 17 students
- Sun. April 23; Student Leadership Program; dug fig buttercup; 14 students
- Sun. April 23; UW Cheer Club, HASA (Hmong American Student Association); pulled garlic mustard; 11 students
- Wed. April 26; Morgridge Center Day of Public Service; pulled garlic mustard; 6 students, 1 community member
- Wed. April 26; Conservation Biology Major; pulled garlic mustard; 2 students, 2 faculty/staff
- Thurs. April 27; Army ROTC; cut brush to daylight small oaks, collect trash; 51 students

- Sat. April 25; Alpha Omega Epsilon, Sierra Student Coalition; pulled garlic mustard, collected trash, and planted 10 shrubs and a 32 plugs; 12 students
- Two volunteer events were canceled in April due to poor weather conditions.

In addition, our on-going volunteer cadre is back in action after slowing down over the winter. Janis Cooper has adopted the entrance garden at Frautschi Point and Vince Jenkins is going to keep our kiosks looking spiffy. They both also help monitor our trails. Steve Sentoff has kept our tools in great shape over the winter and has been working once weekly alongside staff in the field.

Staff will meet on a monthly basis to coordinate the excellent work that Glenda Denniston and Roma Lenehan do to enhance biodiversity in the Preserve. Kennedy Gilchrist will once again be a burdock buster in the working landscape around Eagle Heights Gardens.

We are preparing materials for the Teaching and Learning Symposium (May 17). Laura has been working with Janet Batzli and Margaret Nellis to create a tour to feature teaching and research opportunities in the Preserve.