



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – September 15, 2017

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Welcome all to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee meetings. We have had an excellent summer with lots of great work supported by our volunteers and friends. I want to specifically note a great meeting we had on August 29th with new members and leadership from the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We spent a good two hours reviewing our staff organization, our professional backgrounds, and policies and operating procedures. The meeting was well received and we plan to use this same presentation for new committee members and Friends board members as they join us in the future. We also rolled out the new Field Trip Leaders and Event Host Guidelines that covers information and policies for all to use as they host field trips and events in the Preserve. We continue to work on fundraising opportunities with the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association. We are also beginning work on future plans for the Class of 1918 Marsh Wellness Trail and future long range planning for the marsh.

Finally, we continue to monitor the state budget process in the state legislature for impacts to our operating budget. We should know more later this fall as the legislature and governor finalize that process.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

New Permits since mid-May:

- 2017-37 – Flansburg – Forest Ecology 551
- 2017-36 – Ziter – Madison Citywide *Amyntus* (jumping worm) survey
- 2017-35 – Whitfield – *Impatiens capensis* vs *I. pallida* leaf morphology
- 2017-34 – White – WDNR Continuation of bat survey with USGS
- 2017-33 – Friends/Kutzbach – Purple Martin House Management
- 2017-32 – Liesch – Grandparents Day-entomology
- 2017-31 – Marsicek – Grandparents Day-marsh studies
- 2017-30 – Chlus – Canopy sampling method development
- 2017-29 – Francis – Plant Pathology 123 & 300
- 2017-28 – Schaefer – Geocache
- 2017-27 – Herrick – *Amyntus* Long-term Monitoring
- 2017-26 – Paulson – Ecology 460 – 4 Projects
- 2017-25 – Jones – Geocache
- 2017-24 – Hotchkiss – Botany/FEW 402:Dendrology
- 2017-23 – Ballmann – USGS Bat Monitoring

This season we have been able to provide a greater number of opportunities for applied work experience for those individuals interested in natural resource related careers. Leo Roth, hired in May as our Invasive Species technician, provided tremendous support until he departed at the end of August to accept a full-time position. This seasonal position was made possible by a generous donation and will allow us to provide greater management of invasives within the Preserve for a four-year period. Leo worked with our Badger volunteer teams and participated in Professor Mark Renz's survey and monitoring project, in addition to targeting removal of invasives in high visibility areas. The donation also allowed us to hire two students during May, for a maximum of 100 hours each, to assist with garlic mustard removal. We are currently looking to hire one to two students, for a total of no more than 20 hours per week, to assist with seasonal land management tasks.

The Preserve boundaries are porous and unsecure making the Preserve susceptible to a variety of antics, high jinx, and unfortunately vandalism. A first to most Preserve staff, one of our vehicles even though locked and contained intern backpacks, was broken into and personal items stolen. In addition, within the more remote areas of Wally Bauman Woods, four yards of soil was moved from the forest floor to create a ramp to facilitate individuals jumping from the elevated bank into Lake Mendota. We thank the UW Grounds team for removing the structure within 30 minutes of notification, and the folks who walk trails to provide extra eyes within the Preserve.

We have received two gifts of \$10,000 each for placement of commemorative benches within the Preserve. A bench was placed along the Picnic Point Path (east of fire circle #2) in memory of Grace and Maurice White. A bench is also being constructed within Muir Woods in memory of Joan and Joe Murray.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- Near West Recreation Fields – project is complete. The swales have been replanted with native species similar to what existed prior to the start of the project and the contractor will be providing maintenance for the next three years.
- City of Madison Willow Creek Sediment Trap – project complete and shoreline plantings restored.
- UW Housing Shed and Recycle Lot – project nearly complete. There is some erosion occurring into Big Woods and the contractor will repair soon.
- The Natatorium Replacement Feasibility Study is being developed. FP&M staff will share the plans with the committee in the future.
- Rec Sports is working on updating their par-course (outdoor exercise stations) along the Temin Lakeshore Path from the Triangle Marsh to the Dejope Hall area. There are no locations in the Preserve but many are immediately adjacent to Preserve lands.
- Nielson Tennis Outdoor Courts Expansion Feasibility Study – this project will expand the outdoor tennis courts from 6 to 8 and add spectator seating.
- Lot 129/130 consolidation – a feasibility study has been completed and we hope to get into final design this fall with construction in Spring 2018.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Fire Circle Three – complete
- Raymer's Cove Sign – will be added late this fall.
- Weed pile improvements at Eagle Heights Gardens

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Prairie Partners Intern Program – We completed another successful summer working with the five-member crew on a range of tasks across the Preserve, including brush removal, a variety of herbaceous weed control needs, vegetation surveys, invasive species monitoring/control, trail maintenance, and seed collecting. The program is organized by Madison Audubon Society and involves a crew of interns working at five different conservation areas (one day a week at each facility) over the summer. The Friends of the Preserve pay for our participation in the program. The crew also benefitted from educational presentations interspersed throughout the summer on topics ranging from the UW Urban Canid Project to geological history of the region, cultural landscapes to the limnology boat tour.

- AmeriCorps NCCC – In partnership with the UW Arboretum, the Preserve was fortunate to host the AmeriCorps crew during the first week of June, completing invasive brush removal work across ~2.5 acres of west Bill’s Woods.
- Good Oak Ecological Services – performed herbicide applications to priority invasive species (Canada thistle, leafy spurge, and reed canary grass) in Willow Creek Savanna, east savanna (old-field) on Picnic Point, and the water utility field.
- Japanese hedge parsley – DNR invasive suppression funds allowed Good Oak Ecological Services to monitor ~24 acres across Tent Colony and Frautschi Point Woods.
- Porcelain berry monitoring/control – This invasive vine is still prevalent across much of the Preserve. Though most vines encountered were in the seedling and immature stage, numerous berry-producing vines were discovered. To date, monitoring was completed across approximately 40 acres; an additional 15-20+ acres still need to be monitored in areas where porcelain berry has been found in previous years. 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.
- Siberian motherwort was identified along University Bay Drive by ongoing volunteer Steve Sentoff. Specimens were submitted to the UW Herbarium and confirmed as the first report in the state.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

In May, the Preserve participated in the annual Teaching and Learning Symposium for UW faculty and staff and offered a fieldtrip to the Preserve. The program was organized by Preserve Committee member Janet Batzli, Margaret Nellis, and Laura Wyatt and featured teaching and research uses and opportunities in the Preserve. Adrian Treves and Sissel Schroeder joined us in sharing their teaching experiences. We also had a poster display and handouts near the registration desk where we connected with many attendees.

We had a very productive and fun summer with our volunteers. Our on-going volunteers continued to serve the Preserve by monitoring trails, collecting trash, maintaining the Frautschi Point entrance garden, removing invasive species, cleaning the kiosks, and checking on and replacing signs/signage.

For the second summer, we hosted two Badger Volunteer teams who provided 170 hours of service to the Preserve over 8 weeks. These students worked along with the seasonal Invasive Species Field Technician to target invasive species in priority areas. Their work and the subsequent mapping and monitoring of those species was featured in a July 12 UW News article.

Here is a list of our drop-in and other volunteer events

- May 21, Drop-in, removed invasive brush along west end of Eagle Heights Community Gardens, 6 volunteers
- June 7, WARF, planted plugs at entrance to Picnic Point service road, 2 volunteers
- June 10, Drop-in, removed buckthorn and honeysuckle near 2nd Oak along Big Oak Trail at Frautschi Point, individuals and groups—AmeriCorps Achievement Connections, LDS Madison Young Single Adults; 17 volunteers
- June 12, ACUI-Union Professionals Conference, planted shrubs and plugs at Lot 34/ Muir Woods, 5 volunteers
- June 25, Drop-in, transplanted plugs and removed buckthorn on Picnic Point, 5 volunteers
- June 27, 4-H Youth Conference, removed buckthorn at the bottom of Bill’s Woods, 30 volunteers

- July 15, Drop-in, Weeded around kiosk and removed buckthorn and honeysuckle along Big Oak Trail at Frautschi Point, individuals and groups—AmeriCorps Achievement Connections, Rotary; 11 volunteers
- July 21, Ecology 460, pulled Queen Anne’s Lace in Lake Mendota bios wales, 18 volunteers
- July 30, Drop-in, pulled Queen Anne’s Lace in Lake Mendota bios wales, 4 volunteers
- August 12, Drop-in, chipped trail and removed buckthorn near mound 7 on Picnic Point, 5 volunteers
- August 17, Clean Lakes Alliance/Kahler-Slater Architects, pulled Queen Anne’s Lace around Lot 60 storm water ponds, 9 volunteers
- August 27, STEM Immersion/ WISCIENCE, collected seed in Biocore Prairie, 11 volunteers
- August 30, Masters Population Health, collected seed and remove buckthorn and honeysuckle at Biocore Prairie, 20 volunteers
- August 30, MBAs with a Heart, collected seed on tip of Picnic Point and remove buckthorn and honeysuckle, 10 volunteers

We continue to coordinate and follow up on the good work that Glenda Denniston and Roma Lenehan do in the Preserve.

Coming up, we will attend the Morgridge Center Public Service Fair to advertise volunteer opportunities in the Preserve, and we are coordinating with Preserve Committee and Friends’ student reps to participate in the Office for Sustainability’s Sustain-A-Bash.
