



Friends OF THE
LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

P.O. Box 5534
Madison, WI 53705
www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com

Friends of the Preserve Report for the Preserve Committee, 9/15/2017

The Friends focus their work on raising public awareness and appreciation of the Preserve as well as on supporting this Committee and Preserve staff in their efforts – through stewardship, education, and projects/research, and advocacy. Our work continues to benefit from collaboration and regular communication with Preserve staff.

Field trips

Among the most valuable contributions by the Friends to the Preserve is the educational outreach to the community through field trips. 2017 summer and fall field trips explore specific topics with expert guides, such as pollinators, geology or trees in the Preserve, and also provide family oriented bird and nature walks. Typically 15-20 people attend. The Friends also provide field trip hosts who support the leaders and follow a protocol developed by Preserve staff. Friends keep detailed records of each field trip, including attendance and materials covered. Innovative upcoming field trips include one on the structure of animal eyes, at the Veterinary Institute, and a field trip for a university PLATO group on in the cultural and natural history of the Preserve.

Plant and wildlife monitoring projects

Spring and summer plant surveys have been completed for the Friends 2013-2016 planting projects in the Frautschi Point area. Results have been now tabulated and will be further analyzed this fall. Results and conclusions will be summarized in the winter newsletter and in a report to the Preserve. A group of ten volunteers participated.

The first season of the Purple Martin project in the Biocore Prairie succeeded expectations. After all needed permits were obtained, the house was installed in April (with help by the Preserve and Grounds). Rather late, in June, two martin families moved in, producing one active nest with four nestlings. One of the Friends team of six monitors observed two fledglings take their first flight.

The Bluebird trail, established in 2013 was less successful than in previous years, with only three known fledglings. The monitoring team of four will evaluate strategies for next year.

Prairie Partner Intern project

The team of five interns hired for the Preserve and funded by the Friends was “the best ever.”

2017 Projects

Phenology: Friends are exploring an experimental small-scale project using the public iNaturalist application. It will be designed to engage the public in learning about plants in the Preserve and sharing information digitally.

Class of 1918 Marsh: The Friends are developing a fundraising proposal to help support construction of a wellness path at the marsh. This proposal is being coordinated with Preserve staff and will be submitted by the November 1 deadline.

Submitted by Gisela Kutzbach, President

See up-to-date information on Friends activities at <http://www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com>