



Friends OF THE
LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

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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. 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. In 2016, 14 special topics field trips, 1 large event in conjunction with UW Science Expedition weekend, and 12 Bird and Nature walk served over 500 participants. A similar offering of field trips is finalized for 2017.

Plant and wildlife monitoring projects

Planning is underway to evaluate four years of spring planting events in the Frautschi Point area. This monitoring project is designed to document the vegetation cover before planting, weather conditions and care after planting, regrowth of original vegetation, and plant diversity and abundance of plants, as well as survival of key species planted into spring and summer 2017.

Planning is nearing completion for the installation and maintenance of a Purple Martin house in the Biocore Prairie. The advisory team has developed a detailed maintenance and monitoring protocol. A team of observers will receive training and toolkits. Faculty advisor and advisory team member Anna Pidgeon will apply for a waiver from RARC for this wildlife observational study. Preserve staff is providing essential support.

Annual Meeting

The Friends annual meeting will be held on April 4, 6:30 pm at the Arboretum auditorium. Keynote speaker Prof. Steve Carpenter will talk about 'Investigating the Future of the Yahara Watershed'. A former Prairie Partner intern will talk about his positive experience in the Preserve and Preserve staff will also present.

Submitted by Gisela Kutzbach, President