

LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE E-NEWSLETTER

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The Inspiration of Legacy Giving

By Gary Brown, Director, Lakeshore Nature Preserve

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve has been inspiring visitors for decades. No more so than for our students and alumni who give of their time and talents to maintain this amazing living laboratory. One recent donor hopes to inspire others to give back and ensure the Preserve is here for future generations to enjoy.

The donor noted that “...doing this for the UW at this time of my life represents more than just a ‘bucket list’ project. It represents a real giving back to the place that has meant so much to my life and to my values...even to my daily lifestyle. It is a part of that world of UW-Madison that has touched us all, and has so engaged, so enriched us, and so has become in many ways just who we are at this time.”

David W. Baumgartner graduated in 1969 with a degree in English and then went on to teach at the University of Hawaii. David returns to his alma mater each year, typically around the summer solstice, to enjoy a walk on Picnic Point and to wander campus reliving his many fond memories. In 2016, David approached the UW Foundation to provide a bit of “renaissance” to the Preserve. A small plaque now recognizes David’s gift to upgrade fire circle #3 on Picnic Point.

“Picnic Point is in need of a way to make sure that its natural finesse—its natural wonder—will be there in the future for our kids and for our grandkids, just as much as it is and has been for ourselves.”

We are extremely thankful for David’s generous gift as he helps us all remember it is important to give back to this special place, while also inspiring others to do the same.

To provide your own legacy gift to the Preserve please visit the [Donate page on the Preserve website](#).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Inspiration of Legacy Giving	1
Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory Reopening Soon	2
Friends of the Preserve Field Trips	2
Volunteer Spotlight: Janis Cooper	3
Early Call for On-going Volunteers	3
Notes from the Preserve Field Projects Coordinator	4-5
Jumping Worms: An Unwanted Visitor	6
Purple Martins Return to Preserve Thanks to Friends	6
Student Engagement Grants	7
Volunteer Work Party Schedule	7
Welcome our New Seasonal Staff	8



Donor David Baumgartner visits fire circle #3 after its spectacular renovation. Photo by Gary Brown.

Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory Reopening Soon

By Laura Wyatt, Preserve Program Manager

We were all devastated last July with the sudden passing of Mara McDonald, founder of the Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory. Mara had recently retired as the assistant administrator in the UW-Madison Laboratory of Genetics and the J.F. Crow Institute for the Study of Evolution and was looking forward to devoting more time to bird studies. She had also just received a Student Engagement Grant from the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to support student work within the Bird Observatory. The loss of her knowledge and leadership had many questioning the continued existence of this wonderful program.

The legacy Mara started in 2001 will continue through the devotion and volunteer work of a team lead by Master Bander Mark Berres (Researcher with the Biotechnology Center) and supported by Mara's former left- and right-hand volunteers, Matthew Hayes and Jackie Edmunds. Federal permits have been completed and protocols have been revised and approved by the UW Research Animal Resource Center. The final step of transferring bands from Mara to Mark by the USGS is in process.

It could be any day that we learn the Bird Observatory will be ready to open on designated Saturday mornings. Opening announcements will be made on the [Preserve website](#) and [Facebook page](#) and posted in the Preserve kiosks. Once in operation, the team looks forward to former and new volunteers reengaging in the Bird Observatory.

Let's keep Mara's legacy alive!

Visit the [Friends of the Preserve website](#) for more information on the Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory.



Master Bander Mara McDonald led the volunteer-run Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory until her passing in 2016.



Come Along on a Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Field Trip!

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve hosts free, expert-guided field trips in the Preserve! Everyone is welcome to join!



Field trip leader Susan Carpenter explains bee behavior on a native pollinator field trip. Photo by Arlene Koziol.

July 16—Native Pollinators in the Preserve (Sun, 9:00-11:00am). Join us in searching for bees and other pollinators while learning about diversity, lifestyles, and the importance of these wonderful insects. Meet at Lot 129. Leader: Susan Carpenter, susan.carpenter@wisc.edu.

July 23—Bird and Nature Walk (Sun, 1:30–3:00pm). **

Aug 5—Pretty Things with Wings (Sat, 10:00am-Noon). Join in a search for butterflies, dragonflies, and an occasional bird. Bring your binoculars. Co-sponsored with the Madison Audubon Society and the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association. Meet at Lot 129. Leader: Edgar Spalding, spalding@wisc.edu.

Aug 27—Bird and Nature Walk (Sun, 1:30–3:00pm). **

**** Bird and nature lovers, students, families, and kids welcome! Held every 4th Sunday of the month.** Explore the Preserve and the wildlife that lives there. Meet at Lot 129. Contact: Paul Noeldner (698-0104) paul_noeldner@hotmail.com.

Volunteer Spotlight: Janis Cooper

By Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

We are very pleased to have Janis Cooper as an on-going volunteer at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Recently retired and having moved from a house to an apartment, Janis was looking for a way to keep her green thumb active.

When asked why she decided to volunteer for the Preserve Janis replied, "I missed my large yard with lots of native plants that I nurtured for years. I love being outdoors. I always get itchy fingers when I see a natural area that could use some TLC. I was thrilled when the opportunity came up to volunteer at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve."

"I've enjoyed and admired the Preserve for years and was so impressed with all the work that's done to restore and maintain the woods and prairie. Since I enjoy being there so much, I decided it made sense to help keep it beautiful!"

As an on-going volunteer at the Preserve, Janis helps us to keep our trails in good working order by reporting on their condition and alerting staff to anything that needs attention. She also tends the native plant garden at the Frautschi Point parking lot. Since spring she has removed weeds, dug out small volunteer trees, and filled in bare spots with new plants. Her work makes for an inviting entrance.

Janis also enjoys birding in the Preserve. She claims to be "not exactly a beginner but far from an expert" birder and says the Preserve is a great place to see and hear a wide variety of birds with the varied habitats of Lake Mendota, woodlands, and restored prairie all nearby.

Janis is especially excited about putting her birding enthusiasm to work by helping to monitor the new Purple Martin house sponsored by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

To learn how you can get involved in the Preserve please visit the [Preserve website](#).



As an on-going volunteer Janis Cooper likes meeting other volunteers and working with the Preserve staff.
Photo by Bryn Scriver.



Photo by Laura Wyatt.

Early Call for On-going Volunteers!

If you are looking for a way to support the Preserve and get outside while getting some purposeful exercise, you may be interested in becoming an on-going volunteer! These are folks who are interested in engaging in a regular, on-going, volunteer activity either as part of a group or as an individual. After initial training by Preserve staff, individuals choose from identified projects. Our next training session will be held in early 2018. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Preserve Volunteer Coordinator, Bryn Scriver, at bryn.scriver@wisc.edu or 608-220-5560.

Notes from the Preserve Field Projects Coordinator - By Adam Gundlach

AmeriCorps NCCC Bill's Woods Project

For several years running, the UW Arboretum has benefited from the services of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Cedar 2 crew to help achieve land management goals. This year, the Preserve joined as a partner organization and hosted the crew for one week.

From June 5-9, the Cedar 2 crew cleared invasive brush from nearly three acres of the western section of Bill's Woods. They learned how Asian bush honeysuckle and common buckthorn negatively impact woodland communities and how to safely use brushsaws and herbicide to carry out the work.

The crew proved to be efficient pseudo-herbivores, and truly seemed to enjoy toiling in the dense undergrowth. When given the opportunity to switch tasks toward the end of week, the crew unanimously voted to continue wrestling buckthorn out of the woods. We certainly appreciate their efforts, and look forward to continuing to reclaim this section of the Preserve.



Photos by Adam Gundlach.

Prairie Partners Interns

The month of May brought more than wildflower displays and migratory bird watching. It also marked the return of the Prairie Partners intern crew to the Preserve.

Administered by Madison Audubon, the Prairie Partners program brings together five conservation organizations in the Madison area—Madison Audubon, Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Pope Farm Conservancy, the Natural Heritage Land Trust, and the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve—to support and benefit from the hard work of the five-member crew, comprised of UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point students and recent graduates.

We are grateful that the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve continue to fund the crew. In addition, their members volunteer to lead educational sessions on various ecological and natural history topics throughout the summer.



Photos by Bryn Scrivner.

Notes from the Preserve Field Projects Coordinator—cont.

Photos by Bryn Sriver.



Eagle Heights Woods Update

Following winter brush removal in the South Zone, a prescribed burn was conducted on April 8 across 10 acres extending from the Indian mounds to the southern border with University Houses Gardens. Post-fire monitoring showed that the burn killed young buckthorn seedlings and set back invasive shrubs, reducing competition, opening additional sunlight for groundlayer vegetation, and stimulating growth of native grasses, sedges, and forbs.

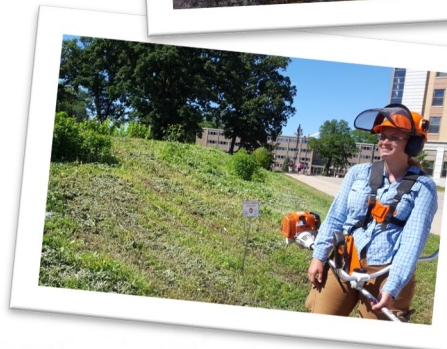
A spring vegetation survey was conducted in late May in the West Zone. Friends volunteer Suzy Will-Wolf again spearheaded the effort, which aimed to document existing vegetation prior to planned invasive brush removal in Winter 2017-18. A second survey will be conducted in July to document any additional species not present during the spring survey.



Willow Creek Woods Update

After nearly 10 years of restoration efforts this site located just north of the UW Natatorium would be more aptly named Willow Creek Savanna. Some of the Preserve's nicest examples of open-grown oaks remain here. To restore the character and native diversity of an oak savanna, non-oaks and invasive brush were removed in phases, native plant plugs were installed along the Lakeshore Path, and native seed was sown across the site. Restoration continues with preparations for a prairie planting in the southeast corner of the site.

At just three acres in size, this site offers many cultural and natural history lessons. A main feature of the site is the Willow Drive Indian burial mound group. Prior to management, the mounds were hidden under a thick tangle of invasive brush. Another step to protect the mounds was taken in 2013 when the university removed two Trachte metal storage sheds immediately bordering the mounds. In 2016, the site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Photos by Adam Gundlach.

Jumping Worms: An Unwanted Visitor

By Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Although they may be good for our gardens, earthworms are a threat to Wisconsin's forests. Did you know that earthworms are not native to Wisconsin? It's true! They were all wiped out during the last Ice Age. Since then European and Asian earthworms have made their way back to Wisconsin through the actions of humans.

Earthworms consume leaf litter exposing the forest floor. This can lead to soil erosion, compaction, and increased water runoff. Disturbance favors invasive plants like garlic mustard and buckthorn to the detriment of our native plants and the animals that depend on them.

In the fall of 2013, a new and especially destructive earthworm, *Amyntas agrestis* or 'jumping worm', was found in Dane County. Jumping worms are a particular concern for our forests because they consume leaf litter faster than other earthworms. Their castings (feces) result in soil that is granular and dry. The worms reproduce without mating and populations grow rapidly. They have even been observed to replace established populations of European earthworms.

Jumping worms were confirmed to be in the Preserve in 2015. Preserve staff has met with experts from the Dept. of Natural Resources, UW Arboretum, and researchers who are studying the species and their effects. It is not clear what the full impacts of jumping worms will be on our woodlands, but each of us can take steps to prevent their spread.



A mature jumping worm showing smooth (not raised), light-colored clitellum. Photo by Bryn Scriver.



The soil in this plant plug is grainy, dry, and looks a little like coffee grounds. This is the typical "soil signature" of jumping worms. Photo from WDNR.

How to Identify Jumping Worms

- Very active (hence "jumping"); moves like a snake.
- Smooth, light-colored clitellum (the glandular band near the earthworm's head; in other species it is raised and pink, or a color similar to the worm.)
- Can drop its tail if handled roughly.
- Distinctive grainy soil full of worm castings.
- Can grow up to 8 inches long.
- Cocoons are less than 2mm in diameter and similar in color to dirt.

What can you do?

- Don't buy or use jumping worms for composting, vermicomposting, gardening, or bait.
- Dispose of all live worms in the trash.
- Learn to recognize the soil signature.
- Buy bare root stock when possible.
- Be careful when sharing and moving plants—cocoons may be in the soil.

Purple Martins Return to the Preserve Thanks to Friends of the Preserve Project!



Photo by Chuck Henrikson.

To see more pictures and learn about this exciting project visit the [Friends of Lakeshore Nature Preserve website](#).

Student Engagement Grants

By Laura Wyatt, Preserve Program Manager

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee awarded four Student Engagement Grants totaling \$3,500 through a competitive process. These grants provide financial support to undergraduates and faculty/staff working with under-graduates utilizing the Preserve as a resource for research and education. The funds are made possible through our Academic Endowment Fund at the Wisconsin Foundation, established by former faculty members Robert M. Goodman and Henry Hart.

2017 Awardees

\$ 1,000—Soil as the Missing Link in Prairie Restoration and Ecological Education; Undergraduate researcher: Krista Marshall; Research Mentors: Nick Balster, Professor Department of Soil Science and Janet Batzli, Associate Director, Biocore.

Summary: The study seeks to quantify and map soil characteristics under a restored prairie and an area thus far resistant to restoration efforts.

\$1,000—Measuring Patterns of Seasonal Diversity of Yeasts in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve; Undergraduate Research Assistant: Rachel Schneider; Research Mentors: Quinn Langdon, PhD Candidate; Dana Opulente, Post-doctoral Research Fellow; and Chris Todd Hittinger, Principal Investigator, Assistant Professor, Genetics.

Summary: The survey will quantify yearly variation in yeast communities in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and expand spatial and temporal knowledge of yeast biodiversity.

\$750—Urban Canid Use of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and Beyond; David Drake, Extension Wildlife Specialist/Professor Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology.

Summary: The project involves studying the ecology of red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and coyotes (*Canis latrans*) in the urban landscape of Madison, WI. The project has a research, student education and engagement, and public outreach purpose.

\$750—Wild and domestic carnivores in our midst: First-year undergraduate service-learning and interdisciplinary research in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve; Adrian Treves, Associate Professor, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

Summary: The project engages a first-year interest group (FIG) in service learning for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Students survey users of the Preserve regarding attitudes to wild animals using the Preserve. Simultaneously, trail cameras are deployed to detect wild animals in different habitats and distances from Eagle Heights housing.



Dr. Drake enlists help from students and the public to study the ecology of urban fox and coyotes. Photo from UW Urban Canid Project.

Experience the Preserve Through volunteering!

Attending work parties is a great way to enjoy the Lakeshore Nature Preserve while working with other volunteers to care for it.

Visit the [Volunteer page on our website](#) for information on drop-in volunteer work parties and group service projects.

Volunteer work parties:

Date	Day	Meeting place
July 30	Sun	Picnic Point Lot 129
Aug 12	Sat	Picnic Point Lot 129
Sept 16	Sat	Picnic Point Lot 129
Oct 1	Sun	Frautschi Point parking lot
Oct 21	Sat	Picnic Point Lot 129
Nov 4	Sat	Frautschi Point parking lot

Time: 9:00 am–Noon

Welcome Our New Seasonal Staff

Leo Roth was hired to lead the invasive plant monitoring and control project for the 2017 growing season. He also leads two Badger Volunteer teams in invasive species control efforts. He graduated this May from UW-Madison with a double major in Geography and Environmental Studies. Leo likes seeing how the Preserve serves different needs for different people. For some its a place to conduct ecological research or bird watch. For others its a destination for their daily run or a place to socialize with friends around a campfire.



Ali Ban-Herr joined the Preserve staff last fall as a seasonal field technician after spending the summer as one of our Prairie Partner Interns. Her duties include caring for the Picnic Point fire circles, stocking firewood, and watering newly installed plantings. Ali graduated from UW-Eau Claire in December 2015 with a BS in Conservation Biology. She loves the interface of the Preserve with Lake Mendota and the mix of different ecosystems the Preserve provides students and instructors.



Like what you've read? Help us do more!

Support the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
with a gift to the Stewardship Fund at the UW Foundation.

supportuw.org

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Lakeshore Nature Preserve Staff

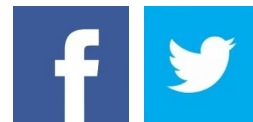
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