

March 15, 2018

Over the last month, the Friends have been busy planning for spring and summer events.

Field trips

A new slate of field trips as been scheduled for spring and summer—a total of 16 field trips from April through August. These field trips, led by experts and each accompanied by a Friends host, include

- a joint project with the McPherson Eye Research Institute, about the vision two nocturnal animals with short presentations, hands-on stations, and a hike in the Preserve;
- night sky in the Preserve
- birding banding station
- hike around the class of 1918 marsh
- several birding field trips
- pollinators in the Preserve and more
- Science Expeditions Sunday with four hands-on exploration stations

Annual Meeting

The Friends annual meeting will be held on April 3, 6:30 pm at the Arboretum auditorium. Keynote speaker will be Robert Birmingham of the State Historical Society, who will speak about the effigy mounds in the Preserve, recent archaeological findings, and plans for developing a First Nations Heritage Tour for children. Representing the Preserve will be Director Gary Brown and Field Projects Coordinator Adam Gundlach.

Projects

- -The Blue bird trail and Purple Martin house will be started up again later in March, following approved protocols.
- -The Board has approved funding for an undergraduate research project by Thomas Guerin who will build on the acoustic bat monitoring project administered by the Wisconsin DNR and several years of bat surveys in the Preserve. Seth McGee will supervise the project.
- -A date has been set for a "try-out" of iNaturalist software as a small group field trip project.
- -Two volunteer events have been scheduled with Preserve staff: Garlic Mustard Pull and Spring Planting.
- -A student Board member, with support of our field trip coordinator, presented at Bradley Hall about the Preserve. 30 students signed up for being interested in participating in volunteer days.
- -70 people applied for the summer Prairie Intern positions. Five excellent candidates are being hired.
- -The Friends spring newsletter is being mailed.

Submitted by Gisela Kutzbach, President Presented by Steve Sentoff, Secretary