



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – March 15, 2018

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Thank you all for continuing to project support and insight to the Preserve staff as we worked through another great year and planning for our upcoming budget year of 2018. We continue to receive many compliments on how good the Preserve looks and how our volunteers are really making a difference. We know that experiential learning like this provides our students (and our other volunteers) with many hours of enjoyment and hands-on learning outside. It also helps reduce and manage stress and is great exercise not only for the body but for the mind as well. So far, our continued financial support from the university remains intact as we continue to educate our campus leadership on the importance of this great big outdoor laboratory right here on campus. Please thank them when you have the chance!

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

We are pleased to announce the hiring of our two seasonal, temporary positions; **Ben Winesett – Natural Areas Technician** and **Emily Jorgensen – Invasive Species Specialist** will join us on Monday, March 19. Both positions are funded through gift funds in our stewardship account at the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association. The Invasive Species Specialist position is specifically supported by a donor directed funds. These two staff members will join Michal Michaels, a student hourly, who was brought on last fall when our two seasonal workers left. We will be hiring an additional student to assist with garlic mustard removal this spring. We will be utilizing our new safety program with these new hires.

I have been working with Campus Event Services, Risk Management and UW legal department regarding special use/special events held within the Preserve. While we do not have many requests for special uses, and I do not think we will, we do need a process that is compatible with the processes, guidelines/policies of the UW.

We continue to work with Professor Mark Renz and his team that includes Anne Pearce with ISM (Invasive Species Monitoring) program and the EDDMapS software (Early Disease & Distribution Mapping System) to manage invasive species fieldwork and record keeping.

We are also exploring new partnerships/collaborations with Outdoor UW supporting greater use of the Preserve by UW students.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium Replacement Feasibility Study is completed. FP&M staff will share the developing plans with the committee in the future.
- Nielson Tennis Outdoor Tennis Courts Expansion – located north of the Nielson Tennis Stadium, Athletics is planning to expand the outdoor tennis courts from six to eight and add spectator bleachers and lights.
- Lot 129/130 consolidation – study to determine options is complete, AE has been hired to design and complete construction documents.
- City of Madison Water Utility Addition at Well 19 – filtering Building, currently planned for construction in 2020.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Weed pile improvements at Eagle Heights Gardens – grading and concrete pad work is underway by UW Grounds staff.
- MG&E will be removing Ash trees along Lake Mendota Drive, along with invasive species, in the space between the road and the Eagle Heights Community Gardens. This will be a summer or winter 2019 project. We will share expectations of this in more detail soon.
- When the snow melts again, we will meet with UW Grounds staff to discuss the potential of having them add a few steps to the eroding Muir Woods stairway to make them safer until funding for a larger project can be secured.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Eagle Heights Woods:
 - a. Good Oak Ecological Services completed brush removal and chipping in the West Zone and also girdled a number of Norway maple trees at the north end of the zone.
 - b. We are scheduling our arborist contractor to fell hazard trees along the Eagle Heights trail system. Working with UW Grounds Dept., they will remove additional Norway maples along the northwest corner of the Woods bordering Lake Mendota Dr. Hazard tree debris removal around the Indian mounds will be postponed until winter 2018-19 due to current thawing ground conditions.
 - c. The arborist contractor also has pruned limbs from trees along the east edge of the woods that have the potential to impact neighboring apartments.
- Student worker Michal Michaels and Preserve volunteer Steve Sentoff continued invasive brush control at the head of Picnic Point and the old field (east savanna).
- University Houses Gardens – our arborist contractor has completed the removals of walnuts impacting neighboring property owners.
- Conducted tour of Eagle Heights Woods with representatives of Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to review management progress to this point and answer any questions.
- Planning for spring prescribed burns (Lot 60/Univ. Bay Dr swales, Biocore Prairie, Eagle Heights Woods, Picnic Point, and Raymer's Cove units).
- Planning seasonal staff onboarding, 2018 fieldwork implementation, and how best to integrate EDDMaps/ISM Track software with existing field work records.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

- Our recent drop-in and other volunteer events included:
 - Sunday, Feb 1; Drop-in; Spartan Youth Service, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Powers Knapp Scholars, Sierra Student Coalition; Cut buckthorn and honeysuckle at Frautschi Point Woods; 21 volunteers
 - Saturday, Mar 3; Drop-I; UW Men's Rugby, Badger Business and Beyond, Chancellors Scholars, Delta Chi; Cut buckthorn and honeysuckle at Picnic Point; 39 volunteers
- Communicating with Friends regarding the Science Expeditions event at Picnic Point, collecting liability waivers for volunteers
- Working with 2 students from the Community and Environmental Scholars Program to transfer Preserve files from floppy disks to our network drive
- Hosted a table at the Wisconsin Ecology Job Fair to promote volunteer events and student job opportunities in the Preserve
- Advertising temporary positions, volunteer events, Friends field trips, and the Friends Annual meeting
- The Spring E-Newsletter will go out this week.