



University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports – April 19, 2018

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Gary Brown, Director

Thanks again for a wonderful and productive year of service to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve! The Preserve staff are particularly thankful for Sara Hotchkiss as our committee chair keeping us in order and on task at all of our meetings throughout the academic year. I also want to thank our students who have been actively participating, as their academic studies allows, in our meetings. Of course we need to extend thanks to our many student and community volunteers, especially the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve who have done so much to support everything we do here in the Preserve. We've been busy this spring planning prescribed burns and will implement them as the weather allows. Staff also continue to plan for our regular maintenance activities over the spring and summer as the semester comes to and end. Happy spring (I think it's spring... right?) and please enjoy a safe summer. See you all in the fall!

**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT** – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Our two seasonal team members; **Ben Winesett – Natural Areas Technician** and **Emily Jorgensen – Invasive Species Specialist** both started on March 19. This is the earliest our team has been together in several years. . . wouldn't you know spring is especially slow. This has provided plenty of time to have them become engaged in our new safety program and orientation. Ben and Emily both were able to assist with the Eagle Heights Gardens orientation program. They are great ambassadors sharing key points about the Preserve, in addition to alerting gardeners of the need to remove invasive weeds including Canada thistle, asking folks not to dump weeds in the Preserve shrubbery surrounding the gardens and not to cut branches from the Preserve for garden stakes. Ben has a community garden plot and will continue to be involved in the Garden Committee. Emily speaks Mandarin and able to communicate with Chinese gardeners. They created a handout, in English and Chinese, which was shared during the orientation sessions. Emily was especially a hit with the Chinese speaking gardeners.

Alex Rexroade joined our team on April 2 as a student hourly focusing on garlic mustard removal. Alex will be working no more than 100 hours removing garlic mustard in areas which are not welcoming to volunteers. We have begun reviewing applications for a summer student hourly position. This individual will be gaining experience valuable for launching a career in natural resource management. We received 19 applications and look to have them on board at the end of the semester.

We are also exploring new partnerships/collaborations with Alumni Park.

**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 6 to 8 and add spectator bleachers and lights. June 2018 start construction.
- 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, 2020 Construction

#### **Capital Projects within the Preserve:**

- Weed pile improvements at Eagle Heights Gardens – grading and concrete pad work is complete and in use.
- MG&E will be removing Ash trees and brush under the power lines along Lake Mendota Drive 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 Grounds to discuss the potential of them adding a few steps to the eroding Muir Woods steps to make them safer until funding for a larger project can be secured.

#### **LAND MANAGEMENT** - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Continuing staff onboarding for Ben Winesett and Emily Jorgensen.
- Performed burn unit preparations in Eagle Heights Woods, Biocore Prairie, and Lot 60 Swale.
- Prescribed burns conducted Monday April 2, 2018 at Biocore Prairie and University Bay Drive swale. Additional burns planned for Lot 60 Swale and Eagle Heights Woods, weather permitting.
- Eagle Heights Woods:
  - a. Wolfe Tree Service felled hazard trees along the trail system and near the mound group.
  - b. Working with UW Grounds Dept. to remove additional Norway maples along the northwest corner bordering Lake Mendota Dr.
  - c. Hazard tree debris removal around the Indian mounds will be postponed until winter 2018-19 due to ground conditions.
- Student worker Michal M. and Preserve volunteer Steve Sentoff completed invasive brush control in the old field (east savanna).
- 1918 Marsh – willow control along west side to clear former meadow and bench site.
- West Bill’s Woods – resumed invasive brush removal where the Americorps NCCC crew left off in 2017. Brush removal will continue periodically throughout 2018 to open access for additional invasive species control efforts and future native plant community establishment.
- Volunteer brush removal – Picnic Point, Bill’s Woods, Frautschi Point. (Bryn)

#### **OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS** – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

- Our recent drop-in and other volunteer events included:
  - Sunday, March 18; Drop-in; Phi Tau, Computer and Electrical Engineering, Badgers for Conservation, UW Waterski and Wakeboarding Team, Medlife, Theta Tau; Cut buckthorn and honeysuckle at Bill’s Woods; 38 volunteers
  - Saturday, April 7; Drop-In; Badgers Business and Beyond, Chancellors Scholars, Powers Knapp; Cut buckthorn and honeysuckle at Bill’s Woods; 18 volunteers
  - Saturday, April 7; UW Homecoming Committee; Cut buckthorn and honeysuckle at Frautschi Point Woods; 11 volunteers
- The Spring E-Newsletter was posted on our website and sent out by email.
- We brought on 2 new Volunteer Stewards. They will monitor our trails and help with miscellaneous projects. They attended a ½ day orientation on March 23.
- Working on the 2017 Annual Report.