



Bringing Writing to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

By Kassia Shaw, Ph.D. student in Composition & Rhetoric, English

In the weeks following Spring Break, my students were immersed in a nature journaling project at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, for what should have been an exercise in viewing spring ephemerals, budding trees, and migrating birds returning from their winter journeys.

Instead, my students were reporting paths and benches buried in snow and ice, unseasonably cold weather that made it impossible to sit and journal for long periods of time, and looming dull grey and brown scenery. How could anyone have guessed that we were in the middle of the coldest 20-day start to April in Madison's recorded history? Nonetheless, even when I offered alternative assignments to my students, most still insisted on visiting their chosen locations twice a week, even as the weather finally warmed towards the end of the month.

Over the last year, I have been challenging students in my English 201 Intermediate Composition & Rhetoric courses to explore the way that writing in and about nature impacts our overall well-being and identity. Our readings, writing, and research are grounded in the "Wisconsin Idea" framework, and we question how nature impacts the everyday lives of our state's citizens through both public and private writing experiences.

Part of our work includes keeping a 5-week journal where students record the changes within a single nature space, as well as respond to reflective writing prompts connecting to that week's readings. After writing the journal, we practice qualitative research methods that enable

students to better understand reoccurring themes and patterns in their writing. They end the unit by drafting scripts and creating digital storytelling videos that highlight their journaling experiences.

The students this past spring semester reflected on the value of persevering through the unseasonably cold weather because it forced them to appreciate smaller details that one might miss on days when the Preserve is more crowded. Some commented on the benefit of quiet reflective spaces on campus, "I began to realize that there are many different levels to what constitutes as nature. Parts of the path are more developed, but as you go further out you become more isolated and that is the best feeling." Other students described how their connection to nature deepened, "I was able to grow much closer to the landscape around me and truly develop my own place in it. And by establishing and understanding my place in nature and documenting it week-by-week, I was able to incorporate my voice and perspective into my writing like I never have before."

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For some students, the experience brought them closer to nature,



"There is value in getting to know a place well. I really enjoyed having a place that I kind of called my own. It felt personal and now I feel like I have a better connection with the Lakeshore Path as a whole." Other students found the experience a challenge to previously held beliefs, "This experience changed my whole perspective of nature. I previously saw humans not as a part of nature but above it and this experience showed me that this is not the case."

But perhaps the most common feedback students gave was the way that writing in nature provided them with stress-relieving and health-boosting benefits. As one student put it, "The most valuable thing I learned was nature's effect on me. Taking time out of my day to sit in nature for a while really highlighted the contrast between the busyness and stress of school with the tranquility of nature."

We ended the class grateful to the University's commitment towards providing nature spaces that are accessible to students, as well as appreciation for the countless people who have worked to make the Preserve such an inviting space. I look forward to continuing to bring students to the Preserve, and exploring the ways in which nature-based curriculums support student wellness.

Lakeshore Nature Preserve 2018 Student Engagement Grant Awards

By Laura Wyatt, Preserve Program Manager

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve serves as an outdoor classroom providing thousands of students and community members the opportunity to explore and learn about the natural resources which are a critical part of the Wisconsin experience. To promote research within the Preserve, each year the Preserve Committee awards Student Engagement Grants through a competitive process. The grants provide financial support to undergraduates and faculty/staff working with undergraduates utilizing the Preserve as a resource for research and education. The funds are made possible through the Preserve's Academic Endowment Fund at the Wisconsin Foundation, established by former faculty members Robert M. Goodman and Henry Hart.

2018 Awards

\$ 1,000 - Examining Flowering Times of Native Plants in the Biocore Prairie; Undergraduate researchers: Alder Levin and Olympia Mathiapparanam. Research Advisor: Seth McGee, Biocore Lab Manager

Summary: The project seeks to capture data on first flower dates of individual plants from many native prairie species within one location, the Biocore Prairie. By focusing on individuals rather than latitudinal location, confounding variables related to genetic diversity and microclimate are reduced allowing us to better examine phenological observations in relation to yearly environmental changes (e.g., temperature, precipitation, and snow depth).

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\$ 1,000 - Writing In the Preserve: Understanding How Nature Impacts Student Writing & Wellbeing; Principal Investigator: Kassia Krzus-Shaw - Graduate Teaching Assistant, Ph. D. student, Composition and Rhetoric, English Department

Summary: Students in a section of English 201: Intermediate Composition will spend five weeks in the Preserve writing bi-weekly nature journals, studying the personal benefits of nature writing. At the end of the project, students will analyze their writing experience, creating digital storytelling videos narrating how their experience of nature and writing has changed. The purpose of the research is to discover how the nature writing experience benefits student physical and emotional well-being, as well as how it might support nature-based mindfulness practices within future writing classrooms.

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\$1,000 - Lakeshore Nature Preserve Hike and Learn Series: Engaging Diverse Students; Undergraduate Students: Sanobar Mirza, Brooke Nelson, Austin Gladden, Yeline Del Carmen. Faculty Sponsor: Cathy Middlecamp

Summary: The "Hike and Learn" series will be offered over the summer and early fall engaging underrepresented students in environmental fields with faculty of environmental disciplines. Program coordinators will partner with the Community Environmental Scholars Program (CESP) in the Nelson Institute. They will also col-

laborate with the PEOPLE and Posse Programs. The purpose of this project is to engage students who are traditionally underrepresented in environmental fields in the Preserve and create opportunities for students to connect with adult mentors.

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\$1,000 - Effect of Invasive 'Jumping' Earthworms on Tree Functioning in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve; Undergraduate researcher: Kevin Hobbins. Research advisors: Kimberly O'Keefe, Postdoctoral Research Associate, and Katherine A. McCulloh, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany.

Summary: Invasive earthworms can significantly impact ecosystem processes, yet whether earthworm invasions alter tree functioning is unclear. The project will evaluate the effect of *Amyntas* earthworms on tree root structural characteristics, mycorrhizal fungi associations, and nutrient uptake at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. This study will have both scientific and applied value, as *Amyntas* earthworms have recently been introduced to Madison, WI, and how they will impact local urban ecosystems as they spread across the landscape is not yet known.



Student researchers, Alder Levin and Olympia Mathiapparanam, are tracking first flowering dates for individual plants in Biocore Prairie. Photo by Allie Hung.

Get Involved!

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve benefits from the involvement of campus and community members!

Volunteers remove invasive plants, maintain trails, and collect native seed. Training, tools, and gloves provided. Groups and youth are welcome with advance notice.

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at bryn.scriver@wisc.edu for more information.

DATE	DAY	MEETING PLACE
AUG 12	SUN	FRAUTSCHI POINT LOT
SEPT 22	SAT	PICNIC POINT LOT
OCT 7	SUN	PICNIC POINT LOT
OCT 21	SUN	PICNIC POINT LOT
TIME: 9:00 A.M.-NOON		

For more volunteer dates visit the Preserve events calendar at lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/events-calendar/

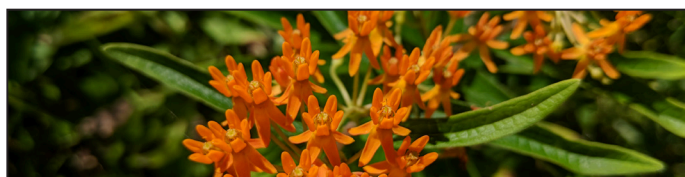


From the Director...

Gary Brown, PLA, FASLA

Another year has brought an impressive array of achievements in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. From hundreds of volunteers and engaging academic/research projects, to our continuing efforts to remove invasive species and enhance the natural resources of the Preserve, we have continued to reach high and wide. Our

operating budget remains tight but the Preserve has survived the recent budget reductions at the university while expanding our donor base to keep our endowment growing. With the help of a very generous long-time donor, we are also growing our student staff. These opportunities can jump start student careers with the hands-on learning that comes with working in the Preserve. Thank you to our many donors and volunteers, as well as faculty, staff, and students, for making the Preserve an amazing resource for all.



Howdy Partners

By Adam Gundlach, Preserve Field Projects Coordinator

The 2018 crop of Prairie Partners Interns landed in the Preserve in late May to continue the work of their predecessors, learning about ecological restoration principles and practices, while performing tasks essential to achieving land management goals. The interns work one day a week in the Preserve. The group of UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point students share an eclectic range of interests from birding and wild foraging, to musical experimentation, trapping furbearers and rock climbing. Common to all is a keen interest in the natural world and its constituent parts, processes, and functions.

The first few weeks of the 2018 intern experience were largely dedicated to garlic mustard removal, as the late onset of spring left early volunteer work events in the Preserve with little garlic mustard to pull. The services of the hardworking crew have also been put to use for weed control in the newly seeded portion of the Willow Creek savanna site.

We are fortunate that the Friends of Lakeshore Nature Preserve continue to fund the interns' work in the Preserve. Looking ahead, the crew is scheduled to continue work in sections of the Preserve where Friends projects have focused in the past, notably the eastern portion of Bill's Woods.

Each year, the crew is treated to talks on a variety of ecological topics from experts in the field. This year is no different, with presentations and walking tours that offer a well-rounded view of the historical and cultural contexts that frame our present ecological restoration

work, as well as discussion of contemporary management issues and research.

After a long summer toiling in the field, the Prairie Partners intern crewmembers are left with a wealth of experiences and new perspectives, and connections to natural resource professionals from organizations in the Madison area.



Our 2018 Prairie Partners Interns. Photo by Bryn Scriver.

Centennial for Favorite Campus Overlook

By Daniel Einstein, Historic and Cultural Resources Manager

One hundred years ago, on June 18, 1918, a distinguished group of faculty, administrators, and alumni, gathered on a small grassy overlook above Lake Mendota. The dignitaries had assembled as part of graduation week ceremonies to honor the most famous former student to have passed through the university in its first 71 years of existence.

Although this student never completed his degree, having only spent six terms on campus (about the equivalent of two and half years in the current semester system), he had gone on to become nationally renowned for his prolific writings on America's wild places, and his advocacy for the establishment of the National Park System.

A special speakers platform was built

upon which the assemblage of stoic men and women sat on stiff chairs to hear the long-winded oratory, so common for the day. An elderly man perched himself on the corner of the stage, so that he might be able to better hear the reminiscence of the speaker's former classmate from their old days living in North Hall.

The former student was not in attendance that day, having died just a few years before. In his stead a bronze bust of the honoree was hauled over from the Biology Building (now known as Birge Hall) where it normally was on display.

And so it was that late spring day of 1918 that Muir Knoll was officially dedicated. A granite boulder was unveiled that marks that spot to this day—provided by the generosity of

the members of the local John Muir Walking Club.

A lovely photo of the event captures the honorable Judge Griswold, in mid-gesticulation as he repeated his re-collection of having given the revered naturalist his "first" botany lesson right there next to their dormitory stoop.

If you look closely at the photo you will notice Engineering Hall (now the Education building) is in the background on the right side of the photo.

Not all of the assembled guests have been identified in the photo, so if you are a history sleuth and you recognize any of the other participants, please let us know! (Photo identification by David Null, former director of UW Archives.)



Muir Knoll Dedicatory Exercises

Commencement Week

Tuesday, June 18, 1918

1:40 PM

Speakers (in speaking order)

1. Hon. Theodore M. Hammond, President of the Regents
2. Dr. Charles H. Vilas, '63, Member of the Regents
3. Judge Milton S. Griswold, '63 (Muir's classmate)
4. Professor Charles E. Allen, '99 (Botany)*
5. Mr. Charles E. Vroman, '68 (Muir's roommate)**
6. Mr. Thomas M. Morris, '00, President of the John Muir Walking Club*
7. Professor Julius E. Olson, Chairman, Committee on Public Functions
8. Dr. Robert M. Wenley, University of Michigan**

Guests

- A. Bust of John Muir, by C.S. Pietro
- B. Professor Elizabeth Waters
- C. Charles R. Van Hise, University President
- D. Professor Stephen M. Babcock
- E. John B. Parkinson, University Vice-President

* Image identification likely, but not confirmed

**Image identification not known

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Field Trips

AUGUST

4 Bird Banding in the Preserve

(Sat., 7:00 a.m.–noon) Join Jackie Sandberg, Wildlife Rehabilitation Training Coordinator for the Dane County Humane Society to learn about bird banding, how banding helps expand our knowledge of birds, and our efforts towards conservation. Stop by any time between the listed hours. Park at UW parking lot 129 at the Picnic Point entrance and walk to the Biocore Prairie. Leader: Jackie Sandberg (838-0413, jsandberg@giveshelter.org).

11 Pretty Things with Wings

(Sat., 10:00 a.m.–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 UW parking lot 129 at the Picnic Point entrance. Leader: Edgar Spalding (265-5294, spalding@wisc.edu).

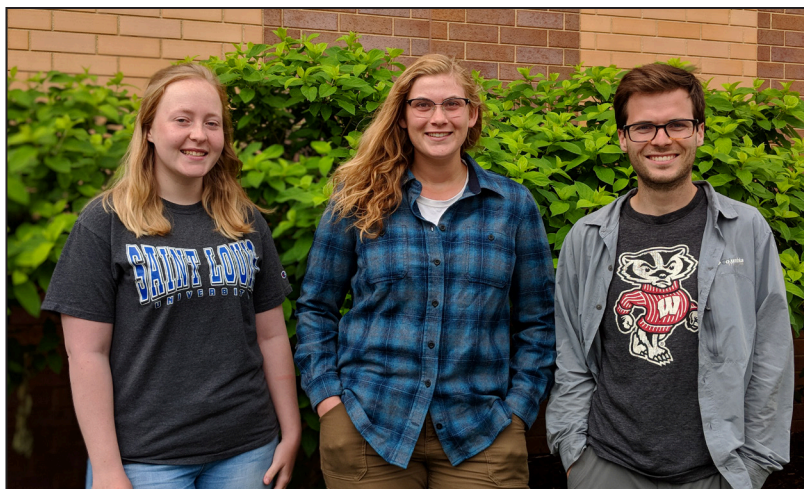
26 Bird and Nature Outing

(Sun., 1:30–3:00 p.m.) Bring your binoculars and camera and explore the varied ecosystems and wildlife of the Preserve. Free, family friendly walk. No pets and no registration required. Meet at UW parking lot 129 at the entrance to Picnic Point. Bird and Nature Outings occur at 1:30 p.m. every 4th Sunday of the month at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.



Check the **Friends of the
Lakeshore Nature Preserve**
website for more field trips!

www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/



Meet our new seasonal staff: Leah Stoltz, Emily Jorgensen, and Ben Winesett.
Photo by Bryn Scriver.

Meet the Preserve's Seasonal Staff

By Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

This growing season we are fortunate to have 3 experienced and energetic new seasonal employees. Two of the positions, including a new summer student position, are possible thanks to donor gifts.

Leah Stoltz, a Junior in the UW Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, joins us this summer as our Assistant Natural Areas Technician. She brings work experience from the UW Arboretum where she was a restoration and land management intern last summer. Along with her day-to-day duties of helping to manage the vegetation in the Preserve, Leah assisted staff with Eagle Heights Woods vegetation surveys, installed new buffer plantings in the University Houses Gardens area, and will complete a project to site a new trail in Frautschi Point Woods.

Emily Jorgensen is the Preserve's Invasive Species Specialist. Emily graduated from UW-Madison in 2017 with degrees in Environmental Studies and Mandarin Chinese. She was a Prairie Partner Intern at the Preserve last summer and brings experience from positions at Madison Audubon's Goose Pond Sanctuary and Pheasant Branch Conservancy. Her job at the Preserve focuses on controlling and mapping specific invasive species in some of the most heavily impacted portions of the Preserve including Picnic Point, the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path, and the Class of 1918 Marsh. To help her in these areas,

Emily leads a group of 7 student Badger Volunteers from the UW Morgridge Center for Public Service.

Ben Winesett completed degrees in Forest and Wildlife Ecology and Applied Math from UW-Madison in December 2017. Ben brings experience to the Preserve from working at Pleasant Valley Conservancy and Adaptive Restoration, LLC. As the Preserve Natural Areas Technician, Ben is in charge of maintenance of the fire circles on Picnic Point, as well as managing invasive species. He is also leading an effort to map oaks in areas of the Preserve where we have witnessed oak regeneration. As a gardener at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens, Ben has joined the Garden Committee as a liaison to the Preserve.

If you see Leah, Emily, or Ben in the field, give them a wave and say "thanks" for all their great work caring for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.



SCENES FROM THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE



Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Spring Planting Event

Friends members planted wildflowers, grasses, and sedges at the entrance to Picnic Point and along the main path out to the tip. The plants will benefit pollinators and add color and beauty to the Preserve. Some of the plants were purchased with a gift from the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and others were grown by Friends member and Preserve Volunteer Steward, Glenda Denniston. A big thanks to the volunteers who helped support this planting effort.

Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge Outing to Picnic Point

Earlier this summer residents of Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge visited the Preserve as part of a new outing program to explore the marvelous walking opportunities around the Madison area. Picnic Point was a request of many residents who had not visited there in 50 years (give or take). According to the outing organizer, the paths were suitable for residents who used walkers, and every resident made it out and back. After posing with the "Goodnight Bucky" statue, these lucky folks concluded their outing with a visit to the Babcock Dairy Store!



Photo by E. Lueloff.



Photos by Glenda Denniston, Gisela Kutzbach, and Tom Lynch.



Photo by Adam Gundlach.

Remembrance Tree for Student Researcher

Caitlin Carlson stands next to a bur oak tree planted near the Biocore Prairie in remembrance of graduate student, Ian Santino, who passed away in 2017. Ian researched ways to improve establishment of the endangered plant, prairie bush clover. One of the populations Ian studied was in Biocore Prairie—a place he fell in love with according to his advisor Evelyn Howell.

West Campus Stormwater Facilities: Beautiful, Hard-working Landscapes

By Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

If you live, work, or play near Lake Mendota you may have seen (or smelled) one of the multiple blue-green algae blooms that occurred this year.

Blue-green algae (actually a group of bacteria called cyanobacteria) is always present in our lakes. However, intense rain events like those we've seen this spring and summer can wash massive amounts of phosphorus-laden soil into our lakes, resulting in "blooms" or sudden increases in concentrations of blue-green algae. When the blooms start to decay, not only do they form stinking mats and deplete oxygen in the lakes causing fish kills, but some species release dangerous toxins that pose health risks for people and pets using the lakes.



The stormwater pond adjacent to Lot 60 attracts wildlife and showcases colorful blooming flowers.

Since the completion of the project the Lakeshore Nature Preserve has assumed management of the University Bay Drive bioswales and the Lot 60 pond. The new plantings need to be managed to prevent weeds from taking over the newly established prairie and wetland vegetation. Volunteers have helped staff with this task, including students in Ecology 460 and Badger Volunteers. In the future we hope to use prescribed fire as another tool to control weeds and promote native vegetation.

Next time you are on the west end of campus, look for these beautiful, hard-working landscapes that keep our lakes a little cleaner.



Blue-green algae bloom on Willow Creek, June 7.

The key to reducing blue-green algae blooms is to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our lakes, and UW-Madison is playing its part.

Four years ago UW-Madison began construction on its West Campus Stormwater Management project. The project's goal was to reduce the amount of phosphorus carrying sediments entering Lake Mendota. Specifically, state regulations called for keeping at least 20 percent of the total suspended solids (sand, soil, and grit) that are picked up and moved by stormwater from reaching the "waters of the state." Sediments and excess nutrients in our lakes can also result in beach closures due to viruses in fecal matter, nuisance green algae growth that make swimming and boating difficult and unpleasant, and elimination of suitable fish habitat.

To meet the goal of the project the university created bio-retention areas in Eagle Heights and University Houses lawn areas, bioswales along University Bay Drive, and a meandering pond adjacent to Lot 60. These areas are essentially big rain gardens designed to remove sediments and slow the release of stormwater. They have also attracted wildlife including sandhill cranes, turtles, frogs, pollinators, and even mink, while providing humans more opportunities to witness wildlife and enjoy many flowering plants.



Ecology 460 student volunteers remove Queen Anne's lace from bioswales along University Bay Drive. Photos by Bryn Scriver.

Preserve is Beneficiary of Buttons

As part of the 2018 All Campus Party, teams of students, faculty, staff, and alumni competed in Bucky's Urban Odyssey, an "Amazing Race" style event, where they had to complete challenges at as many stops as possible. One stop was at the Wisconsin Union's Wheelhouse Studios where competitors crafted buttons with Lakeshore Nature Preserve designs. A big thanks to the staff at Wheelhouse

Studios, especially Jay Ekleberry, Wheelhouse Studio Director, for inviting the Preserve to take part. Buttons were designed by Aaron Williams, our colleague from Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture. The Preserve received around 200 buttons free of charge to use for promotional purposes.



Photo by Laura Wyatt.



Photo by Aaron Williams.



Photo by Adam Gundlach.

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For announcements, photos, and information on the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, please find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



facebook.com/Lakeshore.Nature.Preserve

twitter.com/UWPreserve



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