



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – October 24, 2018

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

There's a chill in the air that, I think, tells me it is fall! As our climate continues to change we are seeing interesting swings in both temperature and moisture this year. I'm happy to report that the Preserve soldiers on through these changes as we all try to manage change as best possible and be proactive where we can to avoid problems in the future. A good example ties back to the flooding rains we saw in 2008 when after a heavy rain, the Class of 1918 Marsh, the Temin Path and the University Bay Drive fields were all inundated with high water. The university was proactive in finding the funding and providing measures to raise the Temin Path and University Bay Drive between Lake Mendota and the Class of 1918 Marsh. In doing, so we had minimal problems this past summer with all the rain in August when others were less fortunate than we here on campus. The high lake levels came within an inch of topping over the prior raised roads/paths. Good, long range planning is always important and implementing best practices in stormwater management have helped us here in the Preserve, especially on the west campus, mitigate our changing climate and rising lake levels. Do your part and help us all help the Preserve change for the good and be proactive in our planning.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Fall is fully engaged within the Preserve. It is extraordinary to walk along the lake side paths and take in the changes that are occurring as the natural world is preparing for winter. Be sure to take in the spectacular yellows of the green ash and multi-color purples and golds of the white ash. . .with emerald ash borer in the area their future is not very long.

Hopefully we are celebrating a successful Homecoming weekend. For the first time Preserve staff hosted hot chocolate at Ebling Circle from 8am to 10am on Saturday for those Badgers who wanted to stretch their legs with a stroll on Picnic Point. A nice way to reconnect with supporters and alumni.

Missy Nergard, our new Director of Sustainability, spent a morning with Preserve staff, touring the Preserve and observing the critical role the Preserve's "green infrastructure" plays in supporting environmental sustainability. We also welcomed Jennifer Kolste as the new Tree and Shrub Supervisor with our UW Grounds department. The Grounds team is an indispensable partner in maintaining the Preserve.

Staff will be busy during the next month as we take an inventory of the past growing season and projects and look ahead to the upcoming year through work planning and budgeting.

Preserve staff

Permits:

- 2018-54 – ZOO 460 – Silverthorn – How Water Impacts Insect Biodiversity
- 2018-53 – BTNY 460 – Ikeri – Clay Composition of Prairie Soils Based on Species Composition
- 2018-52 – ECOL 460 – Lorenz – Chlorophyll Levels of Different Tree Species in Sun vs. Shade
- 2018-51 – ECOL 460 – Lambeau – Survey of Bird Species
- 2018-50 – 2018 - 50 – Sobon – Effect of Light Pollution on Presence of Mammals
- 2018-49 – ECO 460 – Vicicondi – Rodents Giving-up Density and the Ecology of Fear
- 2018-48 – Liebsch – Damschen Plant Ecology Lab – Dormancy, cold tolerance, and bud break of shrub species

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- MG&E will be forestry mowing brush under the power lines along Lake Mendota Drive in the space between the road and the Eagle Heights Community Gardens. Project could start anytime this fall.
- On the west edge of Eagle Heights Gardens, a portion of the access path/road will be regraded and the irrigation line protected.
- We are working on getting a sign at Frautschi Point. Similar to the one at Raymer's Cove.
- There will be a new memorial bench installed in Muir Woods this fall.
- At the City of Madison Well site, south of Frautschi Point and west of Biocore Prairie, the National Atmospheric Deposition Project is requesting to install research equipment. This is all on the City's easement and the city is participating in support for this research project.
- The bridge at the south end of the Class of 1918 Marsh remains closed.

LAND MANAGEMENT – Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

- Eagle Heights Woods:
 - a. The trail water bar installation project with volunteers from Engineers for a Sustainable World student group was postponed due to rain.
 - b. Good Oak Ecological Services treated invasive brush resprouts across the Mound Zone and west slope.
 - c. We are planning North Zone brush removal for later this fall and into the winter months.
 - d. The Friends tour in Eagle Heights Woods has been rescheduled for October 21, 1-3pm.
- Bill's Woods – porcelain berry control in west section.
- Trail maintenance – removed downed trees from trails.
- Felled Norway maple trees – logs used by FH King Gardens, and leaves collected by Currie Lab for leaf cutter ant colony winter forage.
- Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.
- Prescribed burn planning for Lot 60 Swale, Eagle Heights Woods, Frautschi Point, and Biocore prairie areas 5 & 6.
- Homecoming preparations – spit shine gathering spaces and main entry points.
- Sections of trail on Picnic Point have remained closed for much of the past month due to flood waters.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

Outreach activities:

- Short monthly submissions to the University Apartments newsletter have been completed.
- Coordinated outreach activity for UW Housing Sustain-A-Bash event Sept 28 with UW Arboretum staff and Preserve student and seasonal staff. Talked to approximately 75 students and engaged them in making seed balls.
- Homecoming *Hot Chocolate on Picnic Point* event – advertised through postcard, email list, social media, kiosks, online calendars
- Along with Adam Gundlach, met with students in Wolves, Dogs, and People First Year Interest group. Gave overview of Preserve and answered student questions.
- Discussion with President of Hoofers Outing Club regarding field trip participation.

Volunteer activities:

- Our recent drop-in and other volunteer events included:
 - Sat Sept 22; Drop-in; woody brush control in Lot 129, main picnic point path, and East Bills Woods; 27 volunteers
 - Sat Sept 22; Girl Scout Troop 2082; remove buckthorn on Mound 7; 6 volunteers
 - Sun Sept 23; Master of Public Health; weed limestone path around kiosk at Frautschi Point; 3 volunteers
 - Thurs Sept 27; Clean Lakes Alliance and American Transmission Company; remove woody invasive shrubs in East Bills Woods; 20 volunteers
 - Sat Sept 29; Finance and Investment Society; remove buckthorn at Raymer's Cove; 20 volunteers
 - Thurs Oct 4; GreenHouse Residential Learning Community; cut buckthorn along lower trail at Willow Creek Woods; 12 volunteers
 - Sun Oct 7; Drop-in; woody plant removal in Bill's Woods; 14 volunteers
 - Tues Oct 9; WI Economic Development Corporation; remove buckthorn on Frautschi Point parking lot edge and collect prairie seed in Biocore Prairie; 2 volunteers
 - Sat Oct 13; UW Homecoming Committee and Honors Society Organization;
 - Sun Oct 21; Drop-in;
 - Sun Oct 21; Club for Animal Respect and Education;
- A "Snapshot Wisconsin" volunteer will be locating a camera trap on Picnic Point.
- Two Community Environmental Scholars Program volunteers are collecting trash along Lake Mendota Dr and photo documenting issue for our records.
