



University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports – March 7, 2019

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

As we begin our Preserve Strategic Planning process, I encourage everyone to engage and participate in the process throughout the coming months. We will have a specific stakeholder meeting with the Committee at our April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please make every effort to attend that meeting and prepare to share your thoughts about the future of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We will also have an on-line survey and other specific stakeholder meetings to gather input and thoughts from our many users and community members. It is important to remember that this strategic planning process is a broad statement and guide for the on-going management of the Preserve. It is not a land management plan, ecological restoration plan, or a long range facilities plan to guide or set priorities for capital improvement projects. These latter elements will all come after the strategic planning process is complete in late 2019 as an update to the 2006 Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. Thanks again for your commitment and engagement in making the Lakeshore Nature Preserve an amazing place for our many faculty, staff, students and visitors.

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

Our two student-hourly work positions for spring garlic mustard removal and the summer natural resources technician have been posted. Applications will be accepted through March 11. Please share with students you feel might be interested. Two seasonal positions, hopefully one being shifted to a full-time position, should be posted in the next week or two.

As we completed the 2018-2019 Program year (ending February 28) for the Preserve and start the 2019-2020 year on March 1, Preserve staff is busy completing end-of-year reports and reviews for the upcoming e-newsletter and 2018 Annual Report. We are thankful for the diversity of stakeholders who provide support for the Preserve in so many ways. And like so many others, patiently waiting for the arrival of spring

**Permits since February meeting:**

- 2019-10 – BTNY460 – Radloff – Owl Presence and Squirrel Feeding
- 2019-9 – ECOL460 – Lindberg - Soil Nutritional Properties in Picnic Point
- 2019-8 - ECOL460 – Frontero –Disturbance and Bird Feeding Station Visits
- 2019-7 – EMA 601 – Cashman –Unmanned Aircraft project (drone)
- 2019-2 – Outdoor UW – NOLS Wilderness First Responder Course
- 2019-1 – Plt Path 332- Marie Trest – Class on Fungi

**CAPITAL PROJECTS** - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

**Capital Projects within the Preserve:**

- MG&E is working to place the existing overhead power lines underground along Lake Mendota Drive west of the Eagle Heights Gardens. The poles will remain, at a shorter height, because overhead AT&T lines will be remaining on the poles.
- We are working on a replacement sign at Frautschi Point similar to the one at Raymer's Cove.
- We are also working on creating a low profile crossing of the bottom of the gully in Frautschi Point Woods.

### **Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:**

- Lot 129/130 Parking Lot is scheduled for construction from June to September 2019. Please watch for upcoming updates about the detailed schedule and relocated parking opportunities during construction.

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

- Eagle Heights Woods:
  - a. Worked with Wolfe Tree Service to remove hazard tree debris from the vicinity of the Indian mounds group, with the goal of connecting views across the mounds and improving prescribed fire implementation efficiency (less mop-up time).
- Processed seed collected in the Preserve in fall 2018. Compiled seed mixes from collected and purchased seed and sowed the seed mixes across roughly 7 acres of mixed habitats, focused mostly on recent brush removal areas and fall 2018 burn units – Raymer’s Cove prairie, Frautschi Point, Biocore overlook (northeast corner shoreline), east savanna (old field), University Bay Drive swales, Lot 60, Willow Creek savanna and Willow Beach, and Picnic Point.
- Frautschi Point – Burned brush piles from prior volunteer work.
- Completed Prairie Partners intern crew hiring process. The crew’s first day working in the Preserve will be Thursday May 23.
- East savanna field – Completed brush control (mostly sumac) along north edge and seeded with Biocore prairie seed collected in 2018.
- Submitted application for an AmeriCorps NCCC crew with UW Arboretum. If approved, the NCCC crew would work in the Preserve for two weeks in June 2019.
- Planning 2019 field work implementation logistics.
- Planning spring 2019 prescribed burn units. Will serve as a potential site for student volunteers from LA375 course to participate on burns, as required by the course.

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

#### Outreach activities:

- Ongoing updates and posts to website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Submitted monthly article to University Apartments newsletter
- Promoted 2 student-seasonal positions at the WI Ecology Job Fair at Birge Hall on 2-21-19

#### Volunteer activities:

- Ongoing recruiting and communication with potential volunteers.
- Posted volunteer dates to Preserve website, Preserve social media sites, UW Events calendar, Nelson Institute Environmental Events, Isthmus, Madison.com
- Developed volunteer promotional materials
- Ongoing promoting Volunteer Steward positions
- Reviewed and updated prescribed burn volunteers waiver and supplement; work with Adam Gundlach on protocols and process for working with prescribed burn volunteers.

#### Our recent drop-in and other volunteer events included:

- Canceled 2-23-19 drop-in volunteer event due to rain/freezing rain and on-the-ground conditions