



**University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Thursday February 7, 2019  
9:00am-10:30pm  
Union South  
Approved Minutes**

**Present**

Janet Batzli, Jacqueline Beaulieu, Gary Brown, Andrew Busker, Doris Dubielzig, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Joe Webb, Alan Turnquist, Glen Stanosz

**Also Present**

Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Steve Sentoff (Friends), Alder Levin (Student Engagement Grant recipient), Laura Wyatt (Preserve), Emily Jorgensen (Preserve)

**Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from November 28, 2018 was made by Batzli and seconded by Beaulieu. The motion was approved with one abstention.

**Student Engagement Grant presentation – Alder Levin – *Impact of Warmer Spring Temperatures on Flowering Times of Individual Native Wisconsin Prairie Plants***

Interest in phenology on campus dates back to Aldo Leopold. Since then phenological data has been used to draw conclusions about the effects of a changing climate in Southern Wisconsin. Previous studies have focused on location-wide observations. This study looked at 1<sup>st</sup> flowering dates of individual plants not plant populations. By focusing on individuals, variables related to genetic diversity and microclimate are reduced. Phenological observations are examined in relation to yearly environmental changes (e.g. temperature, precipitation, and snow depth). Weather data used for the study was for south central Wisconsin; it was not site specific. The weather station in Biocore Prairie is not functional.

Levin and her assistants located and marked individual plants within the Biocore Prairie, in addition to ones that were located in previous years. Then they observed the plants, recorded the first flowering date, and photographed the flower. Levin compared the first flower date across multiple years (2016-2018).

She found no significant relationship between spring temperature and flowering time for individual plants. However, comparing 2 years of data shows large differences between flowering dates for the same individual of some species and very similar flowering dates for the same individual of other species. This indicates a relationship between climate variables and flowering time is species dependent. Implications for altered flowering times are changes to water uptake, nutrition cycling, carbon sequestration, and interactions with pollinators and herbivores. To better understand trends Levin recommends continuing the project for many years.

Levin presented her research at the spring 2018 Prairie Enthusiasts conference, as well as at the 2018 Undergraduate Symposium, and it was published in Volume IV, Issue I of the *Journal of Undergraduate Science and Technology*. She said the study was a great learning experience, and she thanked the Preserve Committee for the funding.

Batzli commented on the amount of work and effort that went into this study. She stressed the importance of repeated funding for studies like these that collect valuable data and can provide future students the opportunity to continue the work with some new aspects.

**Review and Approval of 2019 Final Draft Work Plan and Budget**

## Work Plan

Gary Brown provided an overview of the final draft work plan, operating budget and capital budgets for FY2019. Preserve staff pointed out highlighted items which indicated changes from the previous year or new items.

Gift funds, through a recent designated gift, have been made available to remove woody invasive shrubs in Wally Bauman Woods.

The aspen clone is scheduled for removal at Frautschi Point to provide open space around the existing cluster of white oaks in the south section of the woods adjacent to the water utility land. Stanosz would like to know if there are other locations within the Preserve where aspens can be maintained for teaching.

The invasive shrub clearing on the north side of Eagle Heights Woods is going slower than estimated due to the steep terrain. Wyatt would like to initiate a conversation with the Friends of the Preserve to inquire about additional funding to complete this work.

The trees targeted for removal on the southern border of Second Point Woods are those that are interfering with planted oaks.

Preserve staff will continue to work with the UW Arboretum to develop a community of practice for land managers who work with volunteers.

Preserve staff are putting a greater focus on safety and Wyatt continues to develop an operational safety handbook for staff and volunteers.

Brown highlighted the strategic planning process that will take place in 2019. The Preserve staff have budgeted \$10,000 to hire a third-party facilitator from the Office of Strategic Consulting on campus. The process will kick-off in March and involve focus groups and stakeholder meetings to gather information. A draft strategic plan will be presented in the fall of 2019 with a final report by the end of the fall 2019 semester.

## Capital Budget

Funds from the Frautschi endowment were added to item d. for a new sign at the Frautschi Point parking area similar to the one at Raymer's Cove.

The Ebling endowment will pay for the replacement of cracked stones around fire circle #6. Some work will also be done to deter user-made paths down to the shoreline, adjacent to the existing stone steps.

The old Picnic Point gate will be cleaned (lead paint removal), repainted, and reinstalled. The reinstall will likely involve attaching the two metal gate sections to two metal poles set in the ground behind the stone wall. FP&M is working with Grounds to move their storage area entrance up to the Eagle Heights Gardens entrance which will need to be coordinated with UW Housing and the Garden Oversight Committee.

## Operating Budget

### 1) Gift Funds (233 Funds)

The Site Amenities line under Equipment/Infrastructure is projected to be \$5,000 over what was allocated as a result of receiving a \$10,000 gift, \$5000 of which was used to install a memorial bench.

The proposed FY19 budget for Site Amenities is \$28,000; \$22,000 to strip and repaint the Picnic Point gate. The Dugan fund will cover this expense.

Under Ecological Restoration \$15,000 of the proposed \$33,000 for the Vegetation Management contractor is from the Friends of the Preserve and is directed to our work at Eagle Heights Woods.

Another portion of the \$33,000 is a designated gift for use of contractors at Wally Bauman Woods to clear invasive brush.

Only \$7,500 was expended from LTE gardener out of \$16,000 because the employee left in mid-August for a full-time job.

Under Outreach/Education, \$5,000 is proposed for the new Frautschi Point parking lot sign--\$4,000 for the sign and install and \$1,000 for new plants around the sign.

A line item was added for Strategic Planning with a proposed budget of \$10,000.

## 2) Campus directed funds (101 Funds)

Preserve leadership has included funds to support a 4<sup>th</sup> full-time staff person. This staff addition has not yet been finalized but they hope to hear support for the position in early March.

Physical Plant Grounds contributes around \$100,000 per year for path maintenance, hazard tree removal, and mowing.

For the first time we are including a line item for Biocore because they supply summer interns to help maintain the prairie. We want to record that this investment is being made by our UW partner.

The Student Engagement Grant does not show up in the budget because it comes directly from the UW Foundation. We award the proceeds from the Academic Fund.

A motion to approve the final draft 2019 Work Plan, the 2019 Operating Budget and the 2019 Capital Budget was moved by Stanosz and seconded by Turnquist. The motion carried unanimously.

## Staff Reports

1) Director Report (Gary Brown)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – February 7, 2019*

2) Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – February 7, 2019*

Wyatt asked Stanosz to remind the Forestry Club that they should fill out a permit application for their activities in the Preserve.

3) Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – February 7, 2019*

It is estimated that parking lot 130 will be under construction from June to September 2019. The project has not yet gone out to bid.

There are a series of construction projects planned for near the Limnology building in the near future. First, a utility project will disrupt parking lot 8, then a retaining wall project will require the use of the Limnology garden as a staging area. Part of that project will involve replanting the garden.

4) Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – February 7, 2019*

5) Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – February 7, 2019*

**Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Doris Dubielzig)**  
*See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report – February 7, 2019*

Note: The Friends of the Preserve annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 9, 2019 at the UW Arboretum Visitor Center with Matt Retz giving a talk titled, *The Wonders of Migration*.

**Public Comment**

Laura Wyatt thanked Emily Jorgensen for her service as the Preserve Invasive Species Specialist.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Batzli and seconded by Beaulieu to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator