

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu • lakeshorepreserve@fpm.wisc.edu • 608-265-9275

Writing in Nature Helps Students Build Healthy Personal and Social Relationships

Kassia Krzus-Shaw, Ph.D. Student, Composition & Rhetoric Program, English Department

In the 2018 fall semester, I taught a section of English 201: Intermediate Composition titled: "The Social and Personal Consequences of Writing In and About Nature." Students from across all majors spent the first half of the semester writing reflective journals in a Lakeshore Nature Preserve location of their choosing, and then analyzing the journals to see how their perspectives on both writing and nature had changed during the assignment. Using their findings, students created digital storytelling videos to document their personal journeys. And then in the last half of the semester, they conducted research that documented environmental and social issues that they had uncovered during the process of journaling.

The students' research ultimately contributed to a larger project about how writing in, and about, nature impacts college students' self perceived emotional, physical, and social health. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is a location on campus that students sometimes move through quickly while exercising or traveling to classes or their residence halls. Especially for older students who have moved out of university housing, access to nature can be limited. By the end of the project, students reported new connections to the space they didn't realize had been missing. They felt relaxed while writing in nature, with an increased ability to contemplate future problems and process everyday stress through their writing process. Students overwhelmingly saw the Preserve as an important feature of campus life and student well-being, and many were eager to share their journaling locations with friends and family even after the semester had ended.

The students in our class would not have been able to experience such a rewarding connection between writing and nature without the generous support of a Lakeshore Nature Preserve Student Engagement Grant. For many in the class, this project highlighted the value of the Preserve as an accessible location on campus that offers much-needed renewal possibility.

"The Lakeshore Nature Preserve brought the subject of our class to life, creating real-stakes and meaningful connections that can't be replicated in a classroom."

**-Kassia Krzus-Shaw,
English Department**

From the Director....

Gary Brown, PLA, FASLA, Director

Another year has passed and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve continues to grow in its influence and support of UW-Madison's mission to support teaching, research, and outreach. We consistently have 75-80 permitted teaching and research projects on-going in the Preserve. There likely are more teaching activities occurring that we are unaware of. What an amazing resource!

We rely on you, our stakeholders, to provide on-going support for the Preserve, including the 576 volunteers providing 2,748 hours of service in 2018 and over \$77,000 in private funding. I thank you all for this great support.

Here in 2019, I hope you all had a chance to participate in our Strategic Planning process, the first ever of its kind for these treasured 300 acres right here on campus. This year-long initiative will provide strategic direction for the Preserve, codify its mission and vision, and help continue to raise the bar on a mission-driven focus for the Preserve as we move forward. With the Strategic Plan complete in December 2019, we'll look ahead to updating the 2006 Lakeshore Nature Preserve Facilities Master Plan, including land management and land use objectives.

The Preserve continues to do amazing things, supporting our many faculty, staff, and especially our students, to learn and live with nature in an urban setting, using these invaluable 300 acres for research, teaching, and outreach, all in support of the Wisconsin Idea.

The UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve – The Largest Outdoor Laboratory on Campus!



Kyle Weibert



First Nations Cultural Landscape Tour

Aaron Bird-Bear, Assistant Dean, School of Education

For 12,000+ years humans have lived in Teejop (Four Lakes, *Ho-Chunk language for the agricultural village in what is now Madison, WI*) along the shores of Waaksikhomik (Where The Man Lies, *Ho-Chunk language for what is now known as Lake Mendota*). A 2005 archaeological survey suggested the UW-Madison is the most archaeologically rich campus in the United States, featuring 12,000 years of human settlement, including 2,000 years of cultural expression through large-scale architectural earth-works known today as the conical, linear, and effigy mound building societies.

With the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and UW-Madison located on the ancestral land of the Ho-Chunk Nation and also located within the cultural epicenter of the mound building societies, the region fulfills the criteria for a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site. In 2003, the First Nations Cultural Landscape (FNCL) place-based learning tour began using the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of the First Nations of Wisconsin to address teaching, learning, and professional development of faculty, staff, and students. In particular, the FNCL tour addresses the essential learning outcomes for undergraduate and graduate students. From 2003–2008, American Indian Student Academic Services in the College of Letters and Science developed the FNCL tour specifically for the recruitment and retention of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

Today, UW-Madison Precollege programs serving Native American students continue to request the FNCL tour. From 2008 to present, American Indian Curriculum Services in the School of Education began offering the FNCL tours for teacher education students, university courses, faculty and staff, and non-profit groups. Additionally, many campus leaders request FNCL tours for their faculty and executive staff. To date, over 800 FNCL tours have used the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to enhance learning for university courses, student organizations, visiting K-12 groups, and faculty and staff committees, including the Chancellor's office, the Graduate School, and Deans of schools and colleges. In 2019, newly elected Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes visited the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for a FNCL tour prior to the 2019 State of the Tribes address.



Nikki Hansen

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Support

Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is a volunteer-run, private nonprofit organization that inspires people to connect to and care for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. In 2018 the Friends continued to support past projects while expanding opportunities for member and student engagement in coordination with UW Preserve staff.

The Friends sponsored five Prairie Partners interns who worked in the Preserve every Thursday for 12 weeks over the summer. The program, administered by the Madison Audubon Society, provides students and recent graduates with hands-on experience in the field of restoration ecology.

Four years ago the Friends raised over \$135,000 for the Eagle Heights Woods restoration project. In spring 2018 these funds allowed the Preserve to conduct a 4.3 acre prescribed burn to control buckthorn and honeysuckle plants. Over the winter contractors worked on the steep north slope to remove 2 acres of woody invasive plants.

The Friends continue to organize and host free, public field trips in the Preserve. In 2018 they scheduled 30 field trips that attracted more than 650 attendees. The Friends encouraged their members to get involved in citizen science projects including maintaining and monitoring a Bluebird trail and Purple Martin house and recording species observations with the iNaturalist app. They also encouraged student involvement by supporting the UW Biocore program-led Bat Brigade to conduct acoustic bat monitoring surveys in the Preserve.



Investing in the Future of Natural Areas Management

Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Generous support by donors to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Stewardship account through the UW Foundation has enabled the Preserve to provide numerous work opportunities for students and recent graduates to gain hands-on field experience. Like many science professions, experiential learning is a *critical* part of the development of future natural areas managers.

During 2018, the Preserve provided real-time land management experience for three UW students and two recent graduates. Often working alongside seasoned Preserve full-time staff, individuals had the opportunity to observe plants and animals, observe and study responses to certain management techniques, and most importantly engage in the active, and often messy, work of land management.

Coupled with academic learning, the work experience at the Preserve provides an opportunity to develop technical work skills, independent problem solving, and communication with a wide range of stakeholders. Our thanks to our donors who are investing in the future of natural areas land management. To learn more about how you can make an impact, please see page 4 and make your donation today.

In 2018, 80 teaching/research permits were issued to 32 departments & programs.

Volunteers Play an Important Role in the Preserve

Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

In 2018, over 575 volunteers engaged in the stewardship of the Preserve by cutting and pulling invasive plants, planting native plants, collecting native seed, picking up litter, maintaining trails, conducting vegetation surveys, and more. Teams of staff and volunteers can accomplish more together to make a positive impact on the vegetation, wildlife, cultural, and educational resources of the Preserve. However, the impact of volunteers goes well beyond the results evident on the land; volunteers report enjoyment in learning about the natural world, being outdoors, and meeting new people while donating their time and skills.

In the past year, Preserve and UW Arboretum outreach staff worked together to facilitate a meeting of local land managers who work with volunteers. Nearly two dozen land managers met to share best practices and identify volunteer training/resource needs and opportunities. The goal is to create a formal networking group to continue to share and learn from each other.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering for the Preserve, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at bryn.scriver@wisc.edu.

In 2018...

**576
volunteers**

**2,748
service
hours**

**\$69,882
estimated
value**

**53
campus &
community
groups**

Student Engagement Grants Support Teaching and Research in the Preserve

Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

In 2018, the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee awarded four Student Engagement Grants totaling \$4,000 through a competitive process. These grants provide financial support to undergraduates and faculty/staff working with undergraduates to use the Preserve as a resource for research and education. The funds are made possible through the Academic Endowment Fund of the Preserve at the UW Foundation, established by former faculty members Robert M. Goodman and Henry Hart.

2018 Awards:

Examining Flowering Times of Native Plants in the Biocore Prairie

Awardees: Alder Levin (undergraduate, Biochemistry and History of Science, Medicine, and Technology) and Olympia Mathiaraman (undergraduate, Biology and Psychology)

Advisor: Seth McGee (Biocore Lab Manager)

Writing in the Preserve: Understanding how Nature Impacts Student Writing and Wellbeing (See article on page 1.)

Awardee: Kassia Krzus-Shaw (Ph.D. student, Composition & Rhetoric Program, English Department)

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Hike and Learn Series: Engaging Diverse Students

Awardees: Sanobar Mirza, Brooke Nelson, Austin Gladden, Yeline Del Carmen (undergraduates, UW-Madison)

Advisor: Cathy Middlecamp (Community Environmental Scholars Program)

Effect of Invasive 'Jumping' Earthworms on Tree Functioning in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Awardee: Kevin Hobbins (undergraduate, Department of Botany)

Co-advisors: Kimberly O'Keefe and Katherine McCulloh (Department of Botany)

Preserve Supports Student Fire Certification

Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

In Spring 2019, the Preserve was pleased to be a learning partner for a new UW wildland fire training course—Landscape Architecture 375 Ecological Restoration Series: Prescribed Burning and Economic Drivers in Vegetation Management. UW instructors provided background in fire ecology, fire behavior, and fire effects. An online class portion provided students with National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) certification, known as S-130/S-190. Live fire exercises were conducted at the UW Arboretum before students were required to work with the local prescribed fire community to participate in a minimum of 3 burns led by 2 different burn bosses. The Preserve incorporated a half-dozen student volunteers in our spring prescribed burns where they had hands-on opportunities to use different tools and experience different roles on the burn crew. Students assisted with grassland burns in and near the Biocore Prairie and woodland burns at Frautschi and Picnic Points. After successfully completing the course, students are certified entry-level wildland fire fighters and can now serve on local prescribed burn crews as well as state and federal agency wildland firefighting crews.



In 2018, the Preserve recieved gifts totalling \$77,009 from 85 donors.

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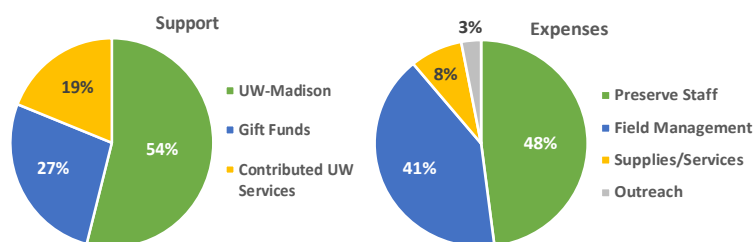
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We strive for accuracy. If you have a correction or question, please contact Laura.Wyatt@wisc.edu, 608-265-9275

2018 Financials—Budget \$291,881



Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Established by the UW provost in 2000, the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee is charged to ensure the integrity of these cherished campus resources through the provision of necessary and appropriate oversight, policies, guidelines, stewardship and management. We thank the current members for their time and service.

2018-19 Preserve Committee

Voting members

- Sara Hotchkiss—Faculty, Botany (Committee Chair)
- Glen Stanosz—Faculty, Forest & Wildlife Ecology
- open seat—Faculty
- Janet Batzli—Academic Staff, Biology Core Curriculum
- Alan Turnquist—Academic Staff, Agroecology
- Joe Webb—Academic Staff, Outdoor UW
- Jacqueline Beaulieu—Student
- Andrew Busker—Student
- Morgan Grunow—Student

Non-voting ex-officio or consultants

- Gary Brown—Director, Lakeshore Nature Preserve
- Doris Dubielzig—Board President, Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
- Kelly Ignatoski—Director, University Apartments
- Rhonda James—Senior Landscape Architect, Campus Planning & Landscape Architecture
- Karen Oberhauser—Director, UW Arboretum

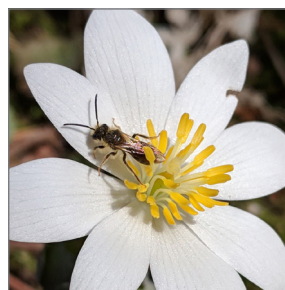
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Staff

- Gary Brown, Director, gary.brown@wisc.edu
- Laura Wyatt, Program Manager, laura.wyatt@wisc.edu
- Bryn Scriver, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, bryn.scriver@wisc.edu
- Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator, adam.gundlach@wisc.edu
- Emily Jorgensen, Seasonal Invasive Species Specialist
- Ben Winesett, Seasonal Natural Areas Technician
- Leah Stoltz, Michal Michiels, & Adam Rexroade, Student Natural Areas Assistants



**Facilities Planning
& Management**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Greg Hottman