



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – September 23, 2019

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Welcome to all new and continuing committee members! I hope you find your time on the Preserve Committee to be exciting, invigorating and supportive of your work and studies here on campus. We depend on your input and advise as we develop our annual work plans and budgets as well as provide direction on the many various opportunities to support and share the mission of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Over the past several months, we have been working with you on our strategic plan that provides direction for us as staff but also for the university administration and all of our amazing volunteers and users as to the future of the Preserve and how we can best support its mission. The month, here in September, we'll spend time discussion the mission, vision and core values for the Preserve that supports the strategic plan and all that we do. Again, thank you for your time and efforts in supporting this important, on-campus resources for teaching, learning, research and outreach!

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Seasonal hiring received a small set-back when we learned that a potential additional funding for a full-time position would not be allocated to the Preserve during the 2019 fiscal year. Once this situation was known, we initiated a search for a second seasonal, but was unable to identify potential candidates with the necessary experience and knowledge. Seasonal staff joining the team were Jacy Swiggum, a junior majoring in botany/horticulture, as a natural areas assistant-student hourly, and Jeffery Schneider, a 2015 UW graduate in Environmental Studies and Communication Arts (certification in Digital Studies), was hired as our Invasive Species Specialist, a long-term seasonal position.

Initial support and year-end funding to purchase a new Kubota, to replace our current vehicle purchased in 2008, also did not materialize.

Strategic Planning has been a significant focus of attention during the summer months. Forty-seven people attended one of our five focus groups facilitated by staff of UW-Madison Office of Strategic Consulting. Our on-line survey received 596 responses. Staff participated in a retreat in June to discuss identified themes which our consultants gleaned from focus group and survey input.

I supported Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve by attending Board meetings in June, July and September. The Preserve staff provided an orientation for new Board members in August.

I continue to participate in the Precollege program training on processes, procedures and policies governing UW-Madison programming for youth, under the age of 18.

Permits issued since May meeting:

- 2019-46 –UW Herbarium-Zaborsky
- 2019-45— FWE 551-Shea-Decomposition Experiment
- 2019-44 – Barak-Mycorrhizal Root Colonization
- 2019-43 – L&S 101-McGee-Becoming a Scientist
- 2019-42– WI Hoofers-Zalewski-Hoofers Ambassadors Diversity program event
- 2019-41b –USDA Forest Service-Weller-Bat trapping and White-Nose Syndrome study

- 2019-41 – PJ Liesch-Grandparents University
- 2019-40 – Plant Pathology-George – Plant-fungal interactions for tree responses to climate change
- 2019-39 – ECOL460 – Weidner Primary productivity of Lake Mendota
- 2019-38 – ECOL460 – Baker-Bender – Lichen study
- 2019-37 – ECOL460 - Pineda – Effect of leaf litter on arthropod diversity
- 2019-36 – Williams – NRF Tour with DNR staff
- 2019-35– Long-term - Schwartz – Military Science Lab-Army
- 2019-34 –Tiller – PEOPLE Program – Detention pond comparison
- 2019-33 – Citizen Science/Friends - MJ Morgan – Lichens within the Preserve
- 2019-32 – Univ. of Delaware - Trammell - Multiple global change factors control forest nitrogen cycling

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- A replacement sign has been ordered for the entrance at Frautschi Point similar to the one at Raymer’s Cove. Installation is anticipated in late September.
- The safe trail crossing of the bottom of the gully in Frautschi Point Woods has been installed.
- Signs have been added letting visitors know there is an alternate, less steep, route through Muir Woods that does not involve the steep and uneven path where the steps have deteriorated.

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- Lot 130 Parking Lot is nearly complete – September 2019. Crosswalk and pedestrian crossing lights, parking lot lights will be added soon. Lot 129 will begin as weather permits this fall.
- Limnology Lift Station project is under construction this fall and the Limnology Building repair and wall along the shoreline will follow the Lift Station project. This all means there will be construction equipment around the Limnology Building that may impact the Lakeshore Path off and on during the summer and fall of 2019. IF detours are needed they will be well marked.
- Gym/Nat Reconstruction is in design. The design team has talked extensively about respecting the site given the Native American Mounds, the Preserve, Lake Mendota and Willow Creek all being adjacent to the new building.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Hired Jeff Schneider (Invasive Species Specialist) and Jacy Swiggum (student Natural Areas Technician) to support 2019 land management efforts.
- AmeriCorps NCCC – Hosted the crew for the first two weeks of June. Completed removal and treatment of 1 acre + of dense buckthorn from the west section of Bill’s Woods, and installed waterbars along a trail in Eagle Heights Woods.
- Prairie Partners interns – Thursdays May 23-August 8. The crew worked on a variety of tasks, from vegetation surveys to brush removal, and were offered a number of educational talks/presentations by UW experts.
- Eagle Heights Woods:
 - a. Completed the final pre-management spring and summer vegetation surveys of the East Zone, incorporating the Prairie Partners interns into the surveys.
 - b. Worked with AmeriCorps NCCC to install water bars along the main Shady lane trail segment leading up to the Indian mounds loop, the first phase of stormwater erosion abatement along this trail. Also, began to clear a new trail segment to replace a highly eroded section at the south slope trail intersection.
 - c. Wolfe Tree Service cleared/felled downed and storm-damaged trees impacting multiple trail segments.
 - d. Good Oak Ecological Services completed invasive brush resprout control across the ~2 acres cleared of invasive brush last winter.

- e. Coordinating with Good Oak to complete invasive brush removal across the remaining north slope thicket in winter 2019-20, and proceed into the East Zone as resources allow.
- Completed control efforts for garlic mustard, dame’s rocket, Canada thistle, reed canary grass, porcelain berry and other invasive plants across the Preserve.
- Willow Creek Savanna – performed spot mowing of weeds in newly seeded section and buckthorn resprout control work.
- Caretaker’s Woods – roped off shoreline erosion west of the beach house where trail segment was rerouted.
- Picnic Point – completed resprout treatment for sumac clones removed from the old field (east savanna) last winter.
- Completed post-treatment assessment surveys of spring burn units (Frautschi Point shoreline, Picnic Point, east savanna) and pre-treatment surveys of fall burn units (Willow Creek Savanna, Eagle Heights Woods) to document response of the plant community to management efforts.
- Wally Bauman Woods – completed invasive brush removal across the site with volunteer assistance. Hauled brush and staged in the eroded shoreline climb-out gully, adjacent to former rope swing site.
- Bill’s Woods – completed buckthorn resprout and first-year GM control in west unit where AmeriCorps NCCC crews removed brush in 2017 and 2019.
- Frautschi Point – volunteer groups completed trail maintenance and continued invasive brush removal in north end of the site. Planning phase one tree thinning around white oaks at south end of site.
- Seasonal staff performed daily Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Ongoing updates and posts to website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Monthly articles to University Apartments newsletter—recent topics on ticks, Friends field trips, bird banding observatory, and urban canids
- Summer 2019 Lakeshore Nature Preserve E-newsletter
- 2018 Lakeshore Nature Preserve Annual Report
- Presented poster of Preserve as an outdoor teaching and research facility at Teaching and Learning Symposium 5-16-19
- Tour of the Preserve for Wisconsin Union employees 6-25-19
- Transfer Student Resource Fair 8-22-19
- Fall Public Service Fair 9-9-19
- New Preserve brochure for distribution at Union Welcome Desks

Volunteer activities:

- Ongoing recruiting and communication with potential volunteers
- Volunteer events since May 10, 2019:
 1. May 18; Friends of the Preserve planting event; plant native plant plugs; Frautschi Point; 16 volunteers
 2. May 21; Johnson Financial Group/Clean Lakes Alliance; pull garlic mustard; Bills Woods; 21 volunteers
 3. June 8; Drop-in; Picnic Point entrance garden; weed planting; 2 volunteers
 4. June 23; Drop-in; Lakeshore Path bioswales; remove Canada thistle; 7 volunteers
 5. July 12; SOAR Advisors; Willow Creek Woods; remove woody invasive plants; 10 volunteers
 6. July 14; Drop-in; Frautschi Point entrance; collect native seed and remove woody invasive plants; 2 volunteers
 7. July 16; Ecology 460; North edge of Biocore Prairie; remove woody invasive plants; 10 volunteers
 8. July 27; Drop-in; Picnic Point Marsh trail; remove woody invasive plants; 6 volunteers
 9. August 10; Drop-in; Frautschi Point; remove woody invasive plants; 11 volunteers

10. August 28; UW Masters of Public Health; Frautschi Point; remove woody invasive plants; 16 volunteers
11. August 28; MBAs with a Heart; Frautschi Point; weed limestone path around kiosk and remove woody invasive plants; 12 volunteers
12. August 29; STEM Immersion; Picnic Point Marsh trail; remove woody invasive plants and collect native seed; 20 volunteers
13. September 6; Exact Sciences; Frautschi Point; chip trail and remove woody invasive plants; 11 volunteers
14. September 14; Drop-in; Bills Woods;
15. September 14; Wisconsin School of Business;
 - Badger Volunteers; Every Fridays for 8 weeks; 7 volunteers
 1. June 21; Class of 1918 Marsh; remove Canada thistle
 2. June 28; rain cancellation
 3. July 5; UW Lot 60; remove seed heads reed canary grass
 4. July 12; Near West Rec Fields bioswales; remove woody plants
 5. July 19; Biocore Prairie; collect native seed
 6. July 26; Picnic Point Marsh trail; remove woody invasive plants
 7. August 2; University Bay Drive bioswales; remove woody plants
 8. August 9; Willow Creek Woods; remove Queen Anne's Lace and collect native seed