

UW Student Badger Volunteer Team Continues Tradition of Caring for the Preserve

By Jeff Schneider, Preserve Invasive Species Specialist, UW Alumni, and Badger Volunteer team supervisor

It's summer in the Biocore Prairie, and the sun is blazing in a bright blue sky. The temperatures are soaring into the nineties, and the air is thick with humidity. Amid this heat wave, while most Madison residents seek out refuge in air conditioning, several students in bright teal shirts are out among the tall grasses and wildflowers, braving the hottest day of the year to collect native seed for future restoration projects.



These hardy students are a cohort of Badger Volunteers, UW students who gave their time and energy each week this summer to assist with stewardship projects at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. The Badger Volunteer program, organized through the Morgridge Center for Public Service, pairs UW students with community organizations across the city for a semester (or summer) of service learning. This year, the Lakeshore Nature Preserve was fortunate enough to host a first-rate group of Badger Volunteers for weekly workdays.

This year's volunteers represented a wide variety of expertise and life experiences, with majors ranging from genetics to psychology to pre-medicine. The group included students from across the country, a military veteran, and three international students. While everyone in the group was familiar with the Preserve, they were all eager to learn more about the plants, animals, and people who have called this iconic campus area home.

Each Friday, the volunteers would trek to the Preserve to take on a new land management task, such as cutting invasive brush, clearing shoreline areas, and removing undesirable plants from prairie plantings and bioswales. The crew put in over 90 hours of work throughout the summer, and their efforts greatly advanced the goals of maintaining and restoring the Preserve's natural ecosystems.

As the sun reaches the highest point in the sky, the volunteers exit the sweltering prairie, carrying buckets filled with the seeds they collected. These seeds will be

strategically planted throughout the Preserve in the future, moving it closer to the healthy mosaic of native plants that is the goal of ecological restoration. While other volunteer teams may be comfortable indoors, these students have endured harsh conditions and challenging work to make a difference in one of Madison's most beloved natural areas. Seventy-eight years ago, hundreds of students volunteered to repave sections of what is now called the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path. This UW ethos of treasuring and taking care of our campus continues today in these Badger Volunteers, and we are deeply grateful for their efforts.



2019 Badger Volunteers (from left to right): Alison Schulenburg, Chris Massey, Robert Kiser, Kayla Zhang, Rosalie Cai, and Chelsea Chen. Volunteer Taylor McHone wears a maroon shirt in the photo at top.

Second Oak—Legacy of Change

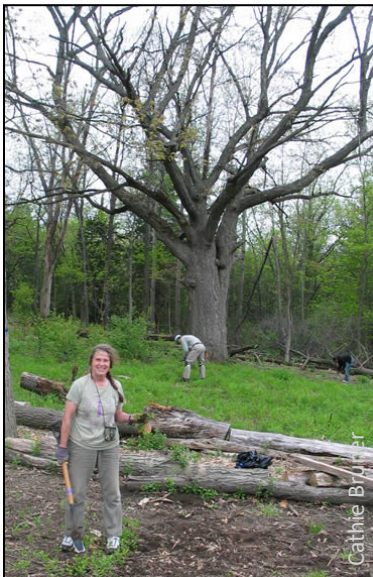
By Adam Gundlach, Preserve Field Projects Coordinator

The Preserve's recent historical context and the process of change on the land is aptly captured through the lens of aerial images dating back to the 1920s. In the early to mid-1900s, the open fields of Frautschi Point were privately owned, share-cropped, and shaped to meet the needs and desires of those who lived there. A fringe of oak trees remained along the Lake Mendota shoreline, and a couple of lone oak trees stood watch over the ground where fields were conceived and carved out of the existing savanna and woodland. Later, abandoned to natural succession between the mid-1950s and present day, the fields around the open-grown oaks quickly filled with early successional growth. Some of the early regeneration included a crescent moon of young white oak trees around what has been dubbed the "Second Oak," near the south edge of Frautschi Point Woods.



This airphoto from 1927 shows the Second Oak circled in red.

Ever since, time has been busy painting a shady future for the area surrounding the young white oaks. Around 2005, volunteers led by Volunteer Steward Glenda Denniston put significant effort into first exposing the Second Oak, and then maintaining a sliver of an opening along the field edge. This work allowed a glimpse of the formerly open-grown savanna tree. Walk past the oak from the field edge and it becomes clear that time has continued to paint



shade. The young cohort of white oaks have gradually acquired more neighbors, elbowing their way in to capture as much light as they can.

While oaks are still relatively common canopy trees in portions of the Preserve, a cohort of younger-aged oaks, such as the crescent moon of Second Oak progeny, exists nowhere else on the

Volunteer Glenda Denniston stands in front of the Second Oak after it was daylighted in 2006.



Today a cohort of young oaks forms a crescent shape (blue outline) around the Second Oak.

property. We have plenty of examples in those remaining canopy trees of what happens in the absence of management—the oaks drop limbs and slowly decline as they are crowded out by shade-tolerant species; decaying stubs on the trunks of oaks and a carpet of woody undergrowth mark the change.

In winter 2019-20, Preserve staff plan to remove select competing trees growing into the canopies of the white oak cohort around Second Oak to promote their healthy growth into the future. Some competing trees will be felled and removed from the site, while others will be girdled and left as standing snags. As conditions allow, seed will be sown and prescribed burn plans drafted for the southern edge of Frautschi Point to aid in maintaining an open community around the oaks.

Change is constant. The job of land managers is to guide the process of change toward objectives, in this case, preserving native diversity and cultural resources. The Second Oak and its offspring are emblematic of both, the continuation of a charismatic biodiversity keystone species and a physical waypoint on the cultural timeline of the people who have inhabited these lands over the centuries.

"Change is the only constant in life."

~ Heraclitus of Ephesus



The orange leaves of the Second Oak and its progeny stand out in this October 2019 photo.

Picnic Point Bat House Provides Habitat and Contributes to Statewide Research

By Heather Kaarakka, Conservation Biologist - Bureau Natural Heritage Conservation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Near the University Bay Marsh at Picnic Point lies critical habitat for an important and elusive animal – the little brown bat. Little brown bats, which consume human and agricultural pests, have experienced significant declines from the deadly bat disease, [white-nose syndrome](#) (WNS), which arrived in Wisconsin in 2014, but surveys of roost sites like the bat house at Picnic Point show that bat populations may be stabilizing and possibly even starting to recover post-WNS. Thanks to evening emergence surveys conducted [by volunteers](#), students, and Wisconsin Bat Program (WBP) personnel, wildlife managers have been able to track not only the little brown bat colony at the Picnic Point bat house, but also at over 100 other roost sites around the state. Summer roost sites like bat houses are critical habitat for bats because they provide safe, warm places for bats to give birth and raise their young. Prior to the arrival of WNS, the Picnic Point

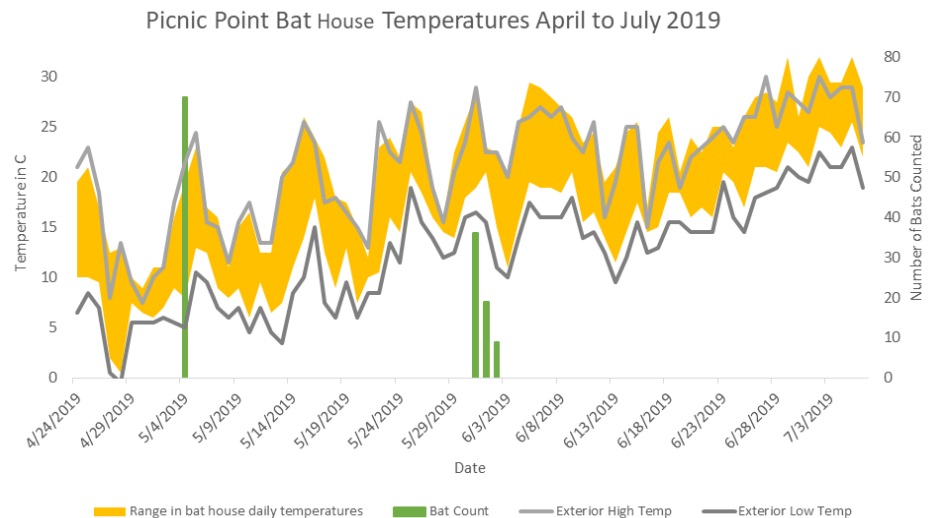
bat house was home to 50-350 bats depending on when the emergence survey was completed.

Understanding the temperatures preferred by bats and whether roost sites can get too hot for bats is an important piece of the management puzzle because it can influence how we build and place bat houses in the future to help bolster recovering populations. To begin investigating temperature ranges preferred by bats, WBP placed dataloggers inside occupied bat houses in spring before bats arrived. The data loggers recorded temperature every hour over the summer. We also conducted emergence counts to see if bats abandoned roosts if they got too hot. The datalogger at the Picnic Point bat house showed that during the day, the inside of the box did not get significantly hotter than outside. However, at night the box stayed warmer than outside indicating that

the bat house mediated temperature throughout the night. We didn't conduct nightly emergence counts at Picnic Point so we were unable to pair temperatures with the number of bats present, but we will likely continue this project in 2020. Even though we couldn't pair temperatures and number of bats, the temperatures recorded in the Picnic Point bat house still represent conditions at an occupied roost and add to our understanding of bat habitat. After WNS arrived in the state, the colony at Picnic Point declined by approximately 80% but the only reason we can estimate this and watch for recovery is because of volunteers and students donating their nights to watching bats. You too can get involved in bat monitoring and help survey Picnic Point's bats! You can join the [UW Bat Brigade](#) if you're a student, or help the [Wisconsin Bat Program](#) gather information about bats around the state!



A little brown bat emerges from the Picnic Point bat house.



Picnic Point bat house daily high and low temperatures in gold, exterior high and low temperatures in gray, and periodic bat counts in green.



WINTER BIRCHES, JUDY CARDIN

Pale limbs reaching through glittering drifting snow
 Grasping for the sky, always for the sky
 Silent struggle for the sun
 Warmth, we need warmth
 Light, we need light.
 Surviving on memories of warm summer breezes
 The birch forest years.



From the Director...

By Gary Brown, PLA, FASLA



This past year the Lakeshore Nature Preserve has been fully engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning process to help chart the future of the Preserve over the next 10+ years. This is the first strategic plan for the 300-acre Preserve and a great time to be thinking strategically as the university administration updates their 2015-2019 Strategic Framework. One the

significant goals of the Preserve's strategic plan is to build a documented basis for how this land supports the university's broad mission of teaching, research, and outreach. Everything that we do should be focusing on how we support the university's mission and we no longer are thought of as an area of just woodland trees, wetlands, prairies, and paths. It is so much, much more as many of you know.

During our strategic planning process, almost 600 people participated in an on-line survey. Many more attended stakeholder meetings and public meetings on the draft documents. It is heartening to see so many people support these efforts and support the Preserve as the "largest outdoor laboratory on campus". I really like the ring of that tagline!

Recommendations from the strategic plan include the need to develop a strong communications and branding initiative, update the 2006 Preserve Facilities Master Plan, and continue to build our support via private gifts and donations. Just this past month, the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee approved our new vision and mission statements. We hope you agree these are strong and memorable statements of our future here in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Our vision is **"to foster biodiversity on campus and cultivate lifelong environmental engagement."**

Our new mission statement: **"The Lakeshore Nature Preserve shelters natural environments and cultural resources through active learning, research, and outreach in a place of respite and well-being."**

I look forward to sharing the detailed final draft of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Strategic Plan early in 2020. Please watch for a link to it on our website.

What's New?

Redesigned UW Lot 130 Now Open



UW parking lot 130 at the entrance to Picnic Point is now open! The redesigned lot has 96 visitor spots and 4 ADA spots (2 van accessible). Environmental and safety improvements include a central bioswale to collect and filter run-off and a marked crosswalk with pedestrian activated crossing lights. The former UW Lot 129, which was often closed due to flooding, has been reclaimed with the planting of 85 native trees and shrubs. The project also increased the amount of available bike parking.



Introducing our newest team member...

Tucker Sanborn joined the Preserve staff team in September as a student Natural Areas Assistant. He came to us already having experience working in and navigating around the Lakeshore Nature Preserve because this past summer he was a Prairie Partner intern doing restoration work in Madison area conservancies, including the Preserve. Sanborn plans to graduate in spring 2020 with a major in Conservation Biology and a certificate in Environmental Studies. He also works in the Damschen plant ecology research lab, studying the cold tolerances of prairie grasses and forbs. When asked what he likes about the Preserve, Sanborn answered, "Before I worked here I always valued it as a place to rest the mind and soul, [now] I'm very appreciative to have the opportunity to help maintain it."



Funds from the Walter A. and Dorothy Jones Frautschi Endowment for Frautschi Point were used to replace the faded sign marking this entrance to the Preserve. We hope this new, attractive sign makes way-finding easier for our many visitors and volunteers.

Hoofers Ambassadors Work to Make Outdoors More Welcoming to All

By Annie Stimmel and Tommy Zalewski, Diversity and Inclusion Officers, Hoofers Council 2019-2020

Hoofers Ambassadors, started in Spring 2019, is a Hoofers Council Program made up of students and community members dedicated to equity in the outdoors. We want to help promote diversity and inclusion within [Hoofers](#) (the premier outdoors club at UW-Madison with nearly 2,000 members), but also the greater outdoor community. Last spring, we won the Campus Multicultural Award for Excellence in Social Justice. We are a group of grassroots activists who believe that the outdoors belong to all and want to try and help create equitable access to nature.

This semester we planned two main events, the Smores and More Bonfire and our All Out Weekend. The Smores and More Bonfire was held at fire circle #6 in the Lakeshore Preserve in collaboration with the Multicultural Student Center and the Center for First Year Experience. It was intended as a social event to introduce

potential members to Ambassadors and help build community around the outdoors. The bonfire was a great success! We had a great turnout, and possibly the best sunset of the semester. Participants chatted, listened to music, and shared good



food. We plan to use the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for future events like this! Our All Out Weekend was a free weekend camping trip to Devil's Lake State Park for 24 participants. We again collaborated with the

Multicultural Student Center, as well as the state park system. Unfortunately, we were rained out, but we hope to reschedule this event for the spring!

Do you want to help make Hoofers more inclusive and welcoming to all?

Do you want to gain leadership skills while engaging in inclusion and diversity initiatives? All identities are welcome, and no experience is needed. You do not need to be an active Hoofers member to join Hoofers Ambassadors. Join us at our bi-weekly meetings (every other Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Mendota Lodge at the Memorial Union) or follow us on social media (@hoofers_ambassadors on [Instagram](#) or "Hoofers Ambassadors" on [Facebook](#))

for updates!

You can read more about [Why Hoofers Ambassadors Matters!](#)

Popular Picnic Point Fire Circles in Need of Repairs, Upgrades

By Laura Wyatt, Preserve Program Manager

An outing to Picnic Point has long been a tradition for the UW community. There are six reservable fire circles on Picnic Point for visitors to enjoy a warm fire or cook a picnic meal. Reservations are handled by the Wisconsin Union Campus Event Services. Without their ability and willingness to facilitate reservation requests, the process of offering this unique opportunity would be extremely difficult. Our thanks and appreciation to the Event Services staff.

From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, more than 27,300 people, representing more than 1,667 groups, made formal fire circle reservations. These numbers do not include additional use by visitors that simply come to the Preserve in hopes that a fire circle is available.

The fire circles are well-loved and well-used. Our thanks to generous donors over the years who have been instrumental for upgrades to the fire circles. In 2008, a gift from the Ebling Charitable Trust enabled the restoration of the tip of Picnic Point with the creation of a Jens Jensen-style council ring and shoreline improvements. In 2010, fire circle #2 was renovated through a Class of 1959 gift. Most recently in 2017, UW alum David Baumgartner provided funding to rebuild fire circle #3. Shoreline erosion control measures have been implemented with each upgrade.

Fire circles #1, #4, and #5 are in need of repair and a donor, whether an individual or organization, to provide the approximately \$60,000 that each fire circle needs for restoration.

Our greatest need is fire circle #1 which has been impacted by Lake Mendota's rising water levels during the last two seasons. This fire circle is closest to the parking lot and a favorite for groups with small children and those with limited mobility. It is situated in a low area of the Picnic Point peninsula. During the summer of 2018 it was closed periodically due to flooding. To learn more about investing in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and/or making a donation to support fire circle restorations within the iconic Picnic Point, contact gary.brown@wisc.edu.



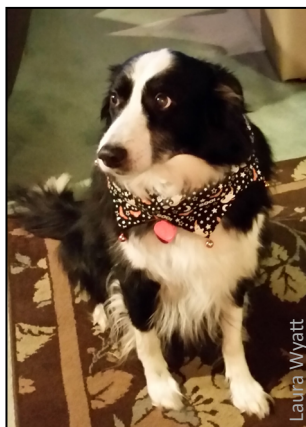
Flood waters lap at the edge of fire circle #1 in August 2018.

A Gift with Special Meaning

By Laura Wyatt, Preserve Program Manager

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is dependent on generous donors for funds to support land and volunteer programs. The university supports expenses associated with staff and office operations, but the funds to support our volunteer programs and land management activities—approximately \$70,000 annually—is totally dependent on donations. Gifts of all sizes are appreciated.

The Preserve recently received two gifts with special meaning. The first was a gift in memory of Max, a Border Collie who enjoyed a minimum of two daily walks...he loved being outdoors. A rescue, adopted at the age of four, he was in heaven during his walks filled with the sights, sounds, and smells of nature. While Max is deeply missed by his family, they celebrate his memory through a gift given by family and friends in support of the dog-on-leash friendly Lakeshore Nature Preserve.



Beloved pet, Max.

The second gift was directed to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Endowment Fund in celebration of Doris Dubielzig, Past President and current Board member of the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. The gift was made by Dubielzig's son, Richard, of San Diego, CA.



Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Board members take a break at a recent meeting to acknowledge the gift given in celebration of Doris Dubielzig (pink shirt) by her son.

Please keep the Preserve in mind when you want to recognize significant events including memorials, anniversaries, birthdays, births, and more. Each special gift will be personally recognized with an acknowledgement to the individual or family. For additional information on special event recognition gifts, please visit the Lakeshore Nature Preserve [website](http://lakeshorepreserve.org) or contact Laura Wyatt at laura.wyatt@wisc.edu.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Professor J. Mark Kenoyer who recieved the Award for Excellence in Archeological Analysis by the Society for American Archeology. Each summer since 1988 Professor Kenoyer has taught his innovative class *Ancient Technology and Invention* in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. The Experimental Archeology Laboratory is designed for students to engage in research to understand the ways in which materials are processed and discarded, and eventually become a part of the archaeological record. According to Kenoyer, this outdoor lab has had a very positive impact on the teaching of both undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Anthropology. It has served as an important laboratory for many research projects that have developed into doctoral dissertations or major publications in archaeological journals.



Students watch as Professor Mark Kenoyer checks the results of a kiln firing. Each summer students in Anthropology 352 create pottery and fire it in a class-built kiln in the Preserve.

Congratulations to Rachel Merkel and Andrew Philibeck on their September engagement. Philibeck proposed to Merkel (both UW alumni) on the tip of Picnic Point overlooking Lake Mendota. Their engagement [went viral](#) when Merkel's sister, Therese, hid as a bush (in a ghillie suit) to witness the special event and posted it on Twitter.



Experience the Preserve through Volunteering!

- Get outdoors
- Meet new people
- Learn about the natural world
- Training/tools/gloves provided
- Dress for the weather
- Canceled in case of rain/snow, extreme temperatures, or severe weather
- Groups and minors require prior approval

For a full list of events visit the [Preserve events calendar](#).

For more information contact the Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at bryn.scriver@wisc.edu.



Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Fall/Winter Field Trips—2019-2020

November

24 Bird and Nature Outing: Lake Birds (Sun, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). Join enthusiastic birder Dane Gallagher for this walk in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, a favorite spot for seeing Barred and Great Horned Owls in the woodlands, Eagles perched on the shoreline, and a variety of migratory waterfowl on Lake Mendota. Outings are free and family friendly! Some scopes and binoculars will be provided; bring binoculars or a camera if you have one! Meet at the kiosk at the entrance to Picnic Point (2000 University Bay Drive). Contact: Paul Noeldner (608-698-0104, paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).

December

7 Birding Madison Lakes (Sat, 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.). As the smaller ponds and lakes in south-central Wisconsin freeze, migrating birds become concentrated on Madison's large lakes, which remain open longer. We will look for waterfowl, gulls and winter birds, and the magnificent tundra swans! Dress warmly and bring a scope, if you have one. Meet at UW Parking Lot 60, 800 Walnut Street. From there, we'll drive around Lakes Mendota and Monona. Leader: Quentin Yoerger (608-449-5261, harrierqman@gmail.com).

22 Bird and Nature Outing: Sentimental Journey (Sun, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.). People love to visit Picnic Point with family and friends over the holidays! Join the Friends of the Lakeshore Preserve for a sentimental journey on Picnic Point with scenic views of the Capitol and the Lake Mendota shoreline. We will gather around a campfire circle for hot chocolate and share memories about why we love the Preserve and perhaps some stories about good times there as a student! Outings are free and family friendly! Meet at the kiosk at the entrance to Picnic Point (2000 University Bay Drive). Contact: Paul Noeldner (608-698-0104, paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).

January

11 Climate Change in the Preserve (Sun, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.). Climate change affects our everyday lives. From warming trout streams to decreasing snow pack, changing lake levels, and extreme weather, the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (www.wicci.wisc.edu) helps people understand how climate change is affecting Wisconsin. One of the ways WICCI does this is through telling stories. Join Prof. Dan Vimont as he tells the "stories" of the Preserve. Meet at the entrance to Picnic Point. Leader: Dan Vimont (608-263-3420, dvimont@wisc.edu).

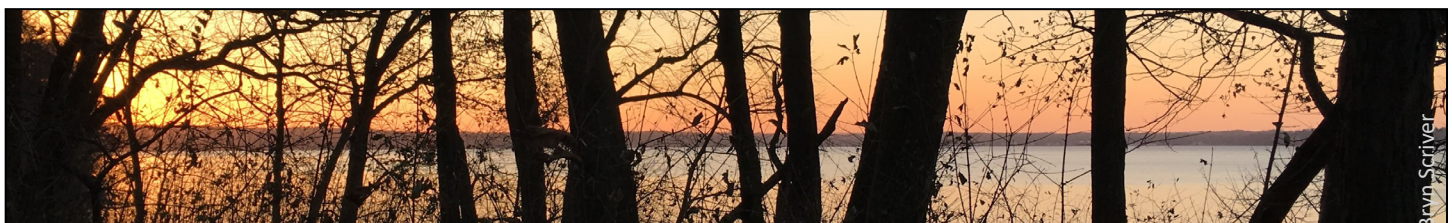
26 Bird and Nature Outing (Sun, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.). Free, family friendly walks! Bring your binoculars and camera and explore the varied ecosystems and wildlife of the Preserve every 4th Sunday of the month. Meet at the kiosk at the entrance to Picnic Point (2000 University Bay Drive). Contact: Paul Noeldner (608-698-0104, paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).

February

23 Bird and Nature Outing (Sun, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.). Free, family friendly walks! Bring your binoculars and camera and explore the varied ecosystems and wildlife of the Preserve every 4th Sunday of the month. Meet at the kiosk at the entrance to Picnic Point (2000 University Bay Drive). Contact: Paul Noeldner (608-698-0104, paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).

February/March

It's in Our Nature Open Mic Night. (Date and time TBD). Bring your original nature-inspired poetry, prose, or a song to share, or just come and listen with your friends. See www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com for more details. Coordinator: Olympia Mathiapparanam (920-809-4248, omathiapparan@wisc.edu).



Children's Book Supports Wetland Appreciation and Conservation

By Laura Wyatt, Preserve Program Manager

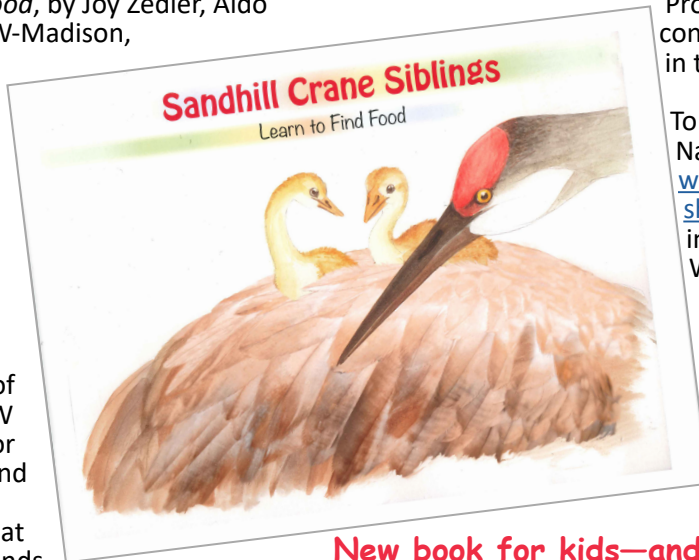
Cranes, often considered the tallest flying birds, mesmerize people all over the world. In Wisconsin, we are fascinated by the local recovery efforts with the federally endangered whooping cranes. At the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, a returning pair of breeding Sandhill Cranes have become part of the UW "family." A new children's book, *Sandhill Crane Siblings Learn to Find Food*, by Joy Zedler, Aldo Leopold Professor Emerita, UW-Madison, provides a unique insight for all who are curious about and inspired by these magnificent birds.

Zedler, an internationally recognized expert on wetland restoration and ecology, reestablishment of native plants, and the interaction of native and exotic species served as Aldo Leopold Chair of Restoration Ecology for the UW Arboretum for 18 years. Author of numerous journal articles and books, Zedler is donating her latest book to organizations that help children appreciate wetlands.

Zedler has generously donated 100 copies of her children's book to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

The books will support the Preserve's annual fund development campaign and also be shared with children at the UW Eagle Heights residential housing community. As a special incentive to giving in 2019, **for each donation to the Preserve Stewardship Fund, one book will be given to a child at the Eagle Heights community, up to 100 books.**

Proceeds will benefit wetland conservation and land stewardship in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.



To donate to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, please visit www.supportuw.org/giveto/lake-shore/. For additional information contact Laura Wyatt at laura.wyatt@wisc.edu.

New book for kids—and other curious readers
To foster an appreciation for wetlands!

You can give the gift of a book to a child in the Eagle Heights community with a donation, of any amount, to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.



Lakeshore Nature Preserve Staff

Gary Brown, Director
gary.brown@wisc.edu

Laura Wyatt, Program Manager
laura.wyatt@wisc.edu

Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator
bryn.scriver@wisc.edu

Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator
adam.gundlach@wisc.edu

For announcements, photos, and information on the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, please follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



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