



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – February 12, 2020



DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

With the hope of spring eternal right around the corner and March coming up very quickly, the Preserve staff has finalized the FY20 budget and work planning for the coming year. I am happy to report the university continues to provide support and funding for the work of the Preserve in maintaining and preserving this amazing outdoor classrooms and laboratory for our over 44,000 students and our many faculty, staff, alumni and visitors.

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Strategic Plan is nearing completion with final draft review and support from university leadership in both FP&M and in Bascom Hall. Once that process is complete, we'll be sharing the final draft with the Preserve Committee and will be posting on the Preserve website. This has been an excellent process with our many various stakeholders and a way for us to document the importance of the Preserve to the university while providing a long-term strategic vision for the Preserve. The next step will be to move on to updating the 2006 Preserve Master Plan which will be a more detailed look at long-term land management goals and strategies for developing detailed, site specific land management plans for the many different ecosystems and land uses in the Preserve. Our goal is to kick-off that process later this year after we have secured funding and defined our scope and process for the update.

We continue to advocate for an additional staff member in our operating budget planning process and will be doing so again for the FY21 budget cycle that is beginning to be discussed in FP&M. One good bit of news is that Alan Fish, former FP&M Associate Vice Chancellor is back in that role as an interim as we transition to new leadership in FP&M later this summer and into the fall. AVC David Darling left the university in December for a position at the University of Texas-Austin. As some of you are aware, Alan was with us when FP&M took a lead role in managing the Preserve's 300-acres and created the current staffing program we have in place today. He is a great advocate for the Preserve and I want to take advantage of that while he is with us over the next 6 to 8 months. I'll keep the Committee posted on any developments.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting:

- 2020-5 – FWE411 – Principals of Silviculture – Monika Shea/Sarah Hart – winter tree ID and survey stand composition & regeneration
- 2020-4 – ECOL460 – Webert – Survey of Bark-Foraging Birds
- 2020-3 – ECOL460 – Webert – Gradient Analysis of Tree Communities at EHW
- 2020-2 – WDNR – Kaarakka – Continuation of bat trapping and research with USFS

Finishing details continue to be made to the Strategic Plan document. Initial planning for the Facilities Master Plan Update has begun. Continued attention is being directed to the Preserve's current budget process and planning ahead to FY2021.

Thanks to all for supporting the Preserve through our Annual Appeal and helping the Preserve get closer to its minimum goal of raising \$70,000.00 to support current land management/outreach activities. **Since early November we have received 45 gifts totaling \$30,802.50!**

In April the Preserve will participate in the **Day of the Badger, April 7 -8**. This is a campus wide fund-raising effort lead by the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA) which is heavily driven by social media and direct contacts. The Preserve is developing an appeal focusing on support for restoration/care of the Preserve and student internships. During the day of the Badger we will be working our social media and directing folks to the WFAA pages which describes opportunities to support the Preserve along with numerous other UW programs. We hope that you will support the effort by sharing our message with your social media and network. We will also have a presence on the Temin Lakeshore Path and on the path to Picnic Point to alert our visitors that they too can support the Preserve. This will be an excellent opportunity for outreach.

Seasonal staff recruitment is in high gear. We have 2-student seasonal-spring (April-May) positions with our garlic mustard removal effort, 1-student summer internship, and 2-long-season (April-November) temporary positions. Please share the positions descriptions widely; post on department bulletin boards and use whatever means you have to spread the word. All position descriptions are on the Preserve website and applications are due March 2.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium Replacement design continues.
- Vet Med Addition design continues.
- Presentations on both of these projects are currently being scheduled for our April Preserve Committee meeting.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Arbor at Eagle Heights Gardens to be removed due to deteriorating posts. They plan to re-imagine the gathering area in the coming year.
- Stonework around the fire pit at Ebling Circle is again being reviewed for potential upgrades
- Stonework at the edge of the steps at the lower viewing area at the end of Picnic Point is being reviewed to remove a short-cut path that is creating erosion problems
- A new memorial bench will be added in the area of the former bath house

Requested Projects -Grounds (this spring/summer/fall):

- Gravel widening inside the entrance to Picnic Point to give more space to turning service vehicles such as the trash & recycling and UWPD vehicles
- Various erosion spots along the Lakeshore Path will be addressed
- Water bars will be installed in Eagle Heights Woods on southwest path to Shady Lane

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- **Eagle Heights Woods** – Good Oak Ecological Services completed invasive brush removal on the north slope and disposed of debris in burn piles and by chipping where equipment could access the site. Larger Norway maple and mulberry trees were girdled and left standing as snag habitat. Additional brush removal has continued into the remaining East Zone and will conclude for the season soon.
- **Frautschi Point** – Tree removals were completed by Wolfe Tree Service in the Second Oak project area in late January and early February. Preserve staff and volunteers continued to perform buckthorn removal and re-sprout control along the northern border of the project area, and sowed a simple shade seed mix. Plans are to burn debris piles from brush and tree removal work. Minor site remediation will likely be needed to put the finishing touches on the project area. Volunteer stewards (Steve and Glenn) performed cut-stem treatments to brush regrowth in former Friends

planting areas along the main driveway. Preserve staff met recently with the Friends' Land Stewardship committee to discuss plans for a Friends' spring planting event at Frautschi Point. Sowed simple shade seed mix over northern portions of the site where brush was removed by volunteers in late 2019.

- **Picnic Point** – UW Grounds Dept. performed hazard tree removals along the main path and utility roads. Preserve staff performed daily Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.
- **Willow Creek Savanna** - Combed over the entire site removing buckthorn sprouts. Over seeded the southeastern portion of the site (~1 acre) with a diverse prairie mix.
- **Big Woods** – Over seeded the eastern brush removal project area with a simple shade mix.
- **Bill's Woods** - Burned brush piles in the western unit remaining from AmeriCorps NCCC invasive brush removal efforts in June 2019, and over seeded with a simple shade mix. Recut and treated buckthorn stumps in the eastern unit that had been cut high previously by volunteers. Removed well-established homeless camp site from eastern unit. Plan are to burn the remaining brush piles in west and east units.
- **Planning 2020 field season logistics** including temporary employee position hiring, and Prairie Partners intern crew interviews.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Transfer Student Program Resource Fair 1-24-20
- Morgridge Center Public Service Fair 1-29-20
- Promoting Student Engagement Grants via website, email lists, social media, proposals due March 1
- Promoting student seasonal positions via website, email lists, social media, applications due March 2
- Developed informational kiosk and trail signage for Frautschi Point tree removals
- University Apartments newsletter articles for December (tundra swans), January (Frautschi Point tree removal information), February (Friends of the Preserve Nature Open Mic Night)

Volunteer activities:

- Ongoing recruiting and communication with potential volunteers
- Planning Spring Planting Event with the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, scheduled for 5-16-20
- Set dates and advertising spring semester drop-in volunteer events
- Next drop-in volunteer opportunity Feb 22, 9AM-Noon meeting at Picnic Point
- Volunteer Stewards
 - Cleaned and sharpened cutting tools
 - Reporting on trail conditions-picking up trash, signage, downed trees
