



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – March 11, 2020



DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

I'm happy to report that we continue to get support from campus leadership on the Strategic Planning process for the Preserve. Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Alan Fish has fully embraced the process after being briefed and he has already shared a summary to Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration Laurent Heller and his leadership team. We expect a full review and final recommendations later in March and a presentation of the final draft to the Preserve Committee at the April meeting for review and comment.

We've unfortunately been unsuccessful to date in garnering additional 101 funds in support of another FTE for the Preserve to assist in our land management activities on the ground. I'll be again requesting this funding in our FY21 budget request but have been warned that additional funding may not be available until even FY22. I'm hopeful that with the Strategic Planning process being vetted by university leadership, we can continue to build the case for more funding and additional staff to assure we indeed preserve the Preserve and manage it appropriately for many decades to come.

As we look to spring, hopefully coming sooner than later, let's hope the spring ephemerals bloom ever brightly this year and the garlic mustard is less and less abundant!

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting:

- 2020-6 – WGNHS-Extension- Carson – Chronology of glacial Lake Yahara
Eric Carson (Quaternary Geologist/Professor, Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey) collected several soil cores (2" diameter) from the vicinity of the Class of 1918 Marsh, searching for preserved plant material suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Project description: As glaciers last retreated from the Madison area 18,000 - 20,000 years ago, the Four Lakes were connected as a single, higher, lake known as glacial Lake Yahara. While the presence of this lake has long been recognized from geologic mapping, there is no numeric control (dating) on when the lake formed and drained. We seek to collect sediment cores from several locations around the margins of Lakes Mendota and Monona, targeting places that were inundated by glacial Lake Yahara but exposed as dry/marsh land as lake level dropped. We feel these locations yield a high probability of preserving plant material suitable for radiocarbon dating to constrain the formation and drainage of the glacial lake. University Bay (Lakeshore Nature Preserve) is one such spot. We would like to collect one or two sediment cores from the area right between the Class of 1918 Marsh and the University Bay Fields.

Report on activity:

"We collected a sediment core down to 45 feet depth and stopped there with no sign of bedrock approaching. We went through about 4 feet of peat beneath modern rubble. Then into a layer of sediment that was full of invertebrate shells (snails and small bivalves) and plant fragments. Then into lake sediment, likely from just as ice was retreating out of the Madison area. Plenty of material for radiocarbon dating (our initial primary interest), and likely plenty of material for studying environmental conditions when this higher lake was covering the Madison area. All in all, a great core!!"

Preserve staff connected John Magnuson to this permitted project and he was able to have water samples Collected analysis.

Work continues on finishing the details with the Strategic Plan document and review by campus leadership. Planning for the Preserve Facilities Master Plan Update continues with a grant proposal submitted to the Evjue Foundation for support of the Master Planning process.

Mark your calendars for the **Day of the Badger, April 7 -8**. This is a campus wide fundraising effort lead by the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA) which is heavily driven by social media and direct contacts. We have been able to secure a generous donation from an anonymous donor who is matching all gifts up to a total of **\$10,000!!!** Please wear red, engage and get involved and share your support for the Preserve through your social media network. During the Day of the Badger we will be promoting the event through the Preserve's social media outlets and directing folks to the WFAA webpage which describes opportunities to support the Preserve along with numerous other UW programs. 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 reviewed **29 applications** for our two-student seasonal-spring (April-May) positions that will support our garlic mustard removal effort, and one student summer internship. We also have had **24 applications** for our two long-season (April-November) temporary positions. Interviews will take place within the next three weeks.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium Replacement design continues.
- Vet Med expansion design continues.
- A presentation of both projects will be provided at the March 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.
- At University Houses Gardens, the gardeners have requested a gravel access to the weed pile and 4 garden plots beyond. Rhonda is investigating options to address these needs.
- Stonework replacement around the fire pit at Ebling Circle – proposed for summer 2020 construction
- Stonework at the edge of the steps at the lower viewing area at the end of Picnic Point – also summer 2020 construction
- Memorial bench to be added in the area of the bath house – installation in spring/summer 2020

Maintenance Projects (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 trucks and UWPD vehicles
- Various erosion spots along the Lakeshore Path will be addressed
- Water bars in Eagle Heights Woods on southwest path to Shady Lane will be installed

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- **Eagle Heights Woods** – Good Oak Ecological Services completed invasive brush removal and debris disposal for the season.

MG&E/Hooper crews plan to perform routine pruning along the transmission line spanning much of the western property boundary.

- **Frautschi Point** – Preserve staff and volunteers continued to perform invasive brush removal. Old brush piles along southern field edge were burned and will be raked out and seeded. Trailhead segments at the Second Oak project site were mulched with wood chips. Site remediation needs will continue to be addressed into the spring to put the finishing touches on the project area.
- **Big Woods** – Over seeded the eastern brush removal project area with a simple shade mix.
- **Bill's Woods** - Completed brush pile burns in the western unit, remaining from AmeriCorps NCCC invasive brush removal efforts in June 2019.
- **Picnic Point** – Preserve staff performed daily Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.
- Planning 2020 field season logistics, student and TE positions hiring, and Prairie Partners intern crew interviews.
- Submitted 2020 City of Madison burn permit application.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Wisconsin Ecology Job Fair
- Advertising Spring volunteer and field trip opportunities
- Preparing for Day of Badger Fundraising event
- Working on Spring Newsletter
- Working on 2019 Annual Report
- University Apartments newsletter article for March (Science Expeditions)

Volunteer activities:

- Ongoing recruiting and communication with potential volunteers
- Most recent drop-in volunteer events:
 - Sat February 22, Cut and treat buckthorn and honeysuckle, orchard/tree line next to Biocore Prairie, 17 volunteers
 - Sun March 8,
- Next drop-in volunteer opportunity: Sat March 28, 9AM-Noon meeting at Picnic Point
