



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – April 5, 2021



DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Well, here we are one full year into the pandemic, and we are finally seeing rays of sunshine on the horizon. Vaccines are becoming more and more available and the university is leading an effort to get all faculty, staff and students vaccinated before the start of the fall 2021 semester. As we all wait our turn due to the availability of the vaccines, I think we've all learned a lot of the past 12 months. We all figured out how to work virtually in all its various forms. We've been able to keep the Preserve safe and open for use by our many, many stakeholders, including the many new visitors seeking rest, respite, and wellbeing during this time of uncertainty. I want to again sincerely thank the Preserve staff for their perseverance and diligence in working from home and coming to campus occasionally to keep the Preserve safe and secure for everyone. To our Committee members, our volunteer stewards, and the Friends, thank you as well for supporting the staff and helping out where you can, either with your time & talents or with your financial support. This is greatly appreciated as we all continue to come together and define what the new normal will be for us all moving forward in advocating for and support the Preserve.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last report:

- 2021-15 – Outdoor UW – Hoofers Sailing- Botham
- 2021-14 – BTNY460-Tree growth-Sifferlen
- 2021-13 – ECOL 460-Water sampling-Goloja
- 2021-12 – BTNY460-SpeSurvey-Marion
- 2021-11 – BTNY460-Plt abundance & diversity-Gagliano
- 2021-10 – BTNY 460-Avian abundance-Peschman
- 2021- 9 – BTNY 460-Tree data-Clark
- 2021- 8 – Land Arc 375-Barzen

Student engagement grant awardees have been notified and all are thrilled with the news of their awards. As recommended by the sub-committee, several of the projects will be engaged in additional conversations with Preserve staff to clarify details and plan outreach. We are in the process of following up with the paperwork needed to award funds.

The student and seasonal position descriptions are posted on our website. **Please share with those you think might be interested.** Applications are due for the student position on **April 8** and the seasonal positions on **April 11**.

Semester permit activity is high. Additional attention is being given to guidelines and protocols to ensure everyone is following UW COVID-19 guidance and being safe. Fire circles continue to remain closed.

Progress on strategic plan goals is moving forward with continuing development of the communication plan and work with building partnerships with affiliate organizations.

Thank you for your support in sharing the Preserve during “Day of the Badger” fundraising event with the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association scheduled for April 6 -7. Let's reach that goal to fully meet the match of \$4,000 provided by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Thank you, Friends!

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium project has completed deconstruction and is moving on to construction. To facilitate Rec/Well's on-going operations this project a temporary shed (40'x 70') has been installed at the handball wall north of the Class of 1918 Marsh. This building will be removed when the Gym/Nat building is completed (2022 or 2023).
- Vet Med expansion design is nearly complete and will start construction likely in late spring 2021.
- The Willow Creek Area Master Plan is in progress, the Preserve staff gave input in March and the planning study is intended to be completed by the end of summer 2021. More on this at our April Preserve Committee meeting.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Garden Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is beginning a long-term plan for the garden areas so they can keep track of needed improvements and budgeting.
- FP&M staff continue to work on the paperwork for hiring a consulting firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan update. Should be advertising for a consultant soon.
- The gate project at the entrance to Picnic Point project will soon be assigned a consultant to design the posts that will hold the refurbished gates.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Worked with Wolfe Tree Service on tree removals along southern field edge of Second Point Woods, opening space around oaks and views to Lake Mendota at the Biocore overlook.
- Preserve staff and volunteer stewards continued brush control around the perimeter of the east savanna field and Frautschi Point and began work in the north end of Bill's Woods.
- Completed seed sowing in project areas at Frautschi Point, water utility field, east savanna, and the base of Picnic Point.
- Completed prescribed burn of Willow Creek Savanna with Quercus Land Stewardship Services and volunteers. Aborted planned burn of Lot 60 swale due to critically dry conditions and escape potential into cattail marsh of University Bay.
- Working toward seasonal staff hiring and onboarding prep for the 2021 field season.
- Completed hiring for Prairie Partners intern crew, again.
- Routine site maintenance, reporting use issues and mitigating/repairing as needed.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Day of the Badger (April 6-7)
- Spring Preserve Newsletter
- Temporary employee and student spring job announcements
- Reviewing Friends self-guided tours

Volunteer activities:

- Friends spring wildflower planting and garlic mustard pull events
- Ongoing remote supervision of Volunteer Stewards
 - 2 volunteers cutting and treating buckthorn and honeysuckle resprouts in Frautschi Point Woods
 - 45 hours in the last month
 - 2 active trail monitors, collecting trash, checking on conditions of signs, reporting on trail hazards
 - 7.5Hours in the last month
 - 3 volunteers pulling garlic mustard on west end of Preserve and Eastern Bill's Woods
 - No hours to report yet