



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – September 17, 2021

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Welcome back to another great semester and academic year as we welcome our over 45,000 students back to campus. As we continue to manage through the on-going pandemic, it is great to see so many people getting outside and enjoy this late summer and early fall weather. Please continue to be mindful of the ever-changing pandemic requirements on campus and note that our fire circles remained closed and our hours continue to be from sunrise to sunset (especially with our shortening daylight hours!). Our staff continue to work remotely when possible and will do so into the fall and winter months as our office transitions from 30 N. Mills Street to 21 N. Park Street to accommodate campus development.

I'm happy to report that our Preserve Master Plan update process will begin soon as we finalize our contracts with our consultant team. I have asked Laura Wyatt and Rhonda James to head up our core team in facilitating this important planning process and as director, will be attending meetings as my schedule allows. This is an exciting time for the Preserve as we continue to make progress on our strategic goals, including the update to our facilities master plan. Please stay engaged and attend meetings during the planning process as your schedule allows. It will be important for the Preserve Committee to provide leadership and direction over the next several months.

Stay well, and On, Wisconsin!

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting on May 12, 2021:

- 2021-31 – Land Education – EDPOL150-Cornelius
- 2021-30 – Beginning Birding - Roecker
- 2021-29 – Filming -Continuing Studies-Wright
- 2021-28 – Mapillary - Bheemaiahr
- 2021-27 – Wildlife Techniques – FWE561-Pauli
- 2021-26 – Reg Granite ID - Ames
- 2021-25 – Bird Survey - Envir Sci-Lor
- 2021-24 – Tree ID- Woodward
- 2021-23 – Music and Land – Vitale Sullivan
- 2021-22 – Jumping Worm Survey - Herrick

CELEBRATE – the Preserve staff was recognized with the Facilities Planning & Management (FP&M) Teamwork Award for 2021! The award recognizes a team who has worked together to achieve a common goal. Thanks to Sara Hotchkiss, former Preserve Committee chair for organizing the nomination and Rob Beattie, and UWPD Officer Jeff Kirchman for their contributions. The Preserve staff recognizes and thanks all the Preserve partners and stakeholders who join us in supporting all the work of the Preserve. Thank you!

In late July with summer graduation, we said good-bye to Connor Kotte, Natural Areas Technician, who completed his graduate degree with the Environmental Conservation professional master's program (M.S.) in the Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies. We appreciate the care Connor exhibited in working with the land and the special projects of

organizing the new visitor counter data processing and creation of a tour script for a future potential tour program. It is rewarding for us to be part of his journey of his evolving professional environmental career.

We welcomed Zoe Horns, a continuing graduate student in July. Zoe has a research focus in restoration and wetland ecology, with particular interests in soils, hydrology and plants.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been active within the Preserve with an increasing number of trees succumbing to the infestation. After a quick visual survey I estimate more than 300 trees are currently impacted. Declining/dead trees adjacent to heavily visited trails and points of congregation that pose risk to visitors will be removed/mitigated. Trees within the Preserve that pose little risk will remain in place and left to decline naturally. Each tree will be reviewed individually with consideration of how best to maintain ecosystem habitat. Large scale tree removal will not be occurring. I anticipate and hope the decline continues to gradually occur over the next 3 to 5 years allowing a steady process to continue rather than a major removal and drastic change to our Preserve landscape. UW Grounds will not be able to respond to the large number of trees which may need to be addressed. Gary and I are preparing a request for additional UW funding to support efforts to reduce risk from ash trees which are considered hazardous and will likely need the assistance of an outside arboriculture vendor.

- Visitor Counter at Picnic Point path (one location) – January thru August 31 (minus 2.5 weeks in July due to ant related malfunction) = **88,337**
- Memorial bench donation – in memory of Sharanne Stitgen

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium project is under construction and is beginning to install their steel framework. To facilitate Rec/Well's on-going operations this project had a temporary shed (40'x 70') 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 construction has also begun with extensive grading and foundation work Please be mindful when traveling in this area of campus either by foot, bicycle or in a vehicle.
- Temporary Linden Drive Bridge has been installed – a enabling project for the Vet Med project.
- The Willow Creek Area Master Plan, presented last month, is intended to be completed soon and a final copy of the report will be posted to our website.
- A study of creating a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the lake side of the Limnology Building is nearly complete. This project would accommodate bikes and pedestrians in a safer manner than the path south of the building and into the parking lot. The study will be used to define the project scope, schedule and budget and to seek funding approvals prior to implementation. We'll keep the Committee posted if and when that project proceeds.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Garden Oversight Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is working on a long-term plan for the garden areas so they can keep track of needed improvements and finding funding for those projects.
- SmithGroup is the consultant firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. I will give an overview of the project schedule and activities in the meeting today.
- The main entry gate project at the historic stone entrance to Picnic Point project is beginning in September. The iron gates will be refinished and reinstalled in a slightly different configuration, yet allow for pedestrian traffic through and around the gates if they are locked.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Completed garlic mustard control efforts.
- Performed routine monitoring and site maintenance to mitigate misuse or hazards to visitors.
- Contractors and staff performed weed control in Lot 60 and Univ Bay Dr. bioswales.
- Resumed participation in the Prairie Partners internship program administered through Madison Audubon Society. Funding for the crew's work provided by Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. A glimpse into the crew's summer in the Preserve:
 - Assisted with spring and summer vegetation surveys in the central zone of Eagle Heights Woods.
 - Replanted the Limnology garden at the east end of the Temin Lakeshore Path.
 - Combed through a portion of Bill's Woods removing garlic mustard.
 - Performed control treatments on Canada goldenrod clones at Willow Creek savanna.
 - Performed brush removal activities at the Lot 34 stormwater basin, the south edge of Second Point Woods and northwest corner of Caretaker's Woods, and the old field at the base of Picnic Point.
 - Worked on leafy spurge, thistle, and reed canary grass control in the old field.
 - Monitored and controlled regrowth of porcelain berry.
 - Controlled sumac, aspen and buckthorn resprouts in the Second Oak project site at the south end of Fruitschi Point.
 - Performed trail maintenance along the main entrance at Picnic Point and on the trail connecting from the entrance to the kiln site.
 - Sailed the high seas of Lake Mendota on the Limnos II while learning from John Magnuson.
 - Banded birds with Jackie Sandberg.
 - Monitored the purple martin colony with Seth McGee.
 - Listened to talks on a variety of subjects from numerous other guest speakers.
 - Worked hard and enjoyed themselves thoroughly.
- Hired two new seasonal staff (Zoe Horns, Ben Kotte) and onboarded in June/July.
- Formal native garden maintenance at Fruitschi Point entrance, Picnic Point entrance, Ebling circle, and Limnology garden.
- Porcelain berry monitoring/control work (25 acres to date).
- Completed monitoring and weed/brush control in several on-going projects areas, including Fruitschi 2nd Oak and Willow Creek savanna.
- Seed collection in progress to sow across management units in need of supplementing this fall.
- Performed maintenance in former Kagel plots along east Temin Lakeshore Path to free from brush encroachment.
- Participated in initial phases of Master Plan update process.
- Planning for fall brush mowing and resprout control treatments has begun.
- Planning for our fall prescribed burn priorities has also begun.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- 2020 Annual Report has been completed
- Reviewed/edited Friends self-guided field trip materials
- University Apartments newsletter articles (lichens, Purple Martins, Biocore Prairie) have been submitted

- Facilitated *Restoration Managers who work with volunteers* meeting; 6-2-21; 14 participants, 11 organizations, shared training opportunities, break-out discussions on citizen science, non-physical work for volunteers, database management, Dane County Story Map
- Provided information/coordinating activities for two UW classes who want to use Preserve for instruction/restoration projects
 - LAND ARC 375—Plants for Ecological Design
 - FIG—Earth Partnership, Indigenous Arts & Sciences: Restoration Education and Stewardship
- Submitted Preserve challenge for Student Affairs Welcome Back Week Scavenger Hunt for 2nd year students
- Conversations were held with Rec-Well for wellbeing activities in the Preserve
- Prepped for UW-Extension Wisconsin Master Naturalist *Ecological Restoration* Training; instructors from UW Arboretum and Lakeshore Nature Preserve; October 1-3 and 22-24, 2021.
- New Preserve tagline approved: **UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve: *Outdoor Learning is our Point***

Volunteer activities:

- Recruited volunteers to pull garlic mustard Preserve-wide; 17 volunteers; 398 hours (without all reports)
- Assisted in special Friends events:
 - Friends garlic mustard pull May 2 at Frautschi Point
 - 12 volunteers; 30 trash bags of garlic mustard
 - Friends spring wildflower planting event May 22 at Frautschi Point
 - 11 volunteers; 352 plugs planted
- Coordinated and facilitated UW volunteer groups:
 - Center for Limnology staff volunteers June 11 at Limnology Garden
 - 3 Preserve staff plus 3 volunteers; mulched new planting
 - Master of Public Health volunteers Sept 1 at Frautschi Point
 - 16 volunteers; weeded base around kiosk, cut woody invasive plants, collected prairie seed
 - Master of Business Administration volunteers Sept 2 at Frautschi Point
 - 16 volunteers; finished weeding around kiosk, cut woody invasive plants, collected prairie seed
- Completed Annual check-in meetings with Volunteer Stewards