

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – March 25, 2022

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Welcome Spring! (I think... with 66 degrees today, snow tomorrow!). I'm happy to report we continue to request additional funding and staff to support the Preserve in FY23. I'll know more about the success of those requests as we move forward into April as the overall FY23 university budget is finalized. I'm also very pleased to see all the good work on the Preserve Master Plan and our ability to get a lot done out in the field over the past few months. It is dry out there and nice soft spring rains would be welcomed. We continue to work on implementing our Strategic Plan, including our communications plan and development efforts with the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association. Work on the new Preserve Center will also move forward soon with the hiring of a design architect/engineer to develop and advance plan to define scope, schedule and budget. More on this exciting new project in the future.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Assistant Director

Permits issued since our last meeting on February 25, 2021:

- 2022-11 – PBS Filming -Aaron Bird Bear-3/13 to 3/15
- 2022-10 – Student Affairs -Forest Bathing-4/28
- 2022-9 – Thompson—research *Populus* with cuttings

Be sure to have “WFAA’s Day of the Badger” on your calendar for April 5-6, 2022. Thanks to those Preserve Committee members who have offered to assist on social media to inform people of the opportunity to support the Preserve during this campus event. This is another option for everyone to support the Preserve with your financial gifts.

The Preserve will be hiring two temporary/seasonal positions (April -November)-applications deadline is March 16. We will also be hiring two student spring/summer intern positions. Current student staff member Ben Kotte has accepted our offer to continue, resulting in one new hire. We received nine applications for this position and hope to have interviews completed by the time of the March Preserve Committee meeting. All four positions are the result of the generosity of our many supporters making gifts to the Preserve through the Foundation.

On Monday, I will be meeting with Rod Boley of Boley Tree and Landscape Care (UW contractor) to confirm the identification of dead/declining ash posing risks to Preserve visitors which will be removed. This first phase of removal is being financed through an additional \$25,000 in funding from FP&M leadership. Removals will support occur at Picnic Point, Raymer’s Cove, and Preserve areas adjoining University Apartment properties. We’ve also requested special funding for the next 3 years to cover this important management funding initiative from the university.

The common name for gypsy moth has officially been changed to spongy moth, a reference to the “spongy-like” buff colored egg masses of this leaf-feeding invasive caterpillar. Many egg masses can be observed high and low on trees in the Raymer’s Cove/ Tent Colony areas. Unlike landscape situations, infestations within forested areas are nearly impossible to manage. State pesticide sprays are no longer done in Dane County due to widespread infestation; I am not sure we would even want to spray. After additional discussion with DNR entomologists, we will be focusing our efforts on alerting visitors on how they can protect their landscape trees and demonstrate trunk banding on the large specimen oaks, along Lake Mendota and north of the Raymer’s Cove parking lot.

Visitor Counter Data at Picnic Point path (one location) – **January 2022 –4,336**

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium project continues in construction with the building topped out now and you can really get a sense of the scale of this new building.
- Vet Med continues in construction and is coming out well out of the ground.
- Temporary Linden Drive Bridge has been installed – a facilitating project for the Vet Med project.
- The Willow Creek Area Master Plan, previously presented, is complete.
<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/38le3unbs7p4tzx68uk450rsqj6oegwk>
- A study of creating a bridge across the lake side of the Limnology Building is now complete. This project would accommodate bikes and pedestrians in a safer manner than the path south of the building and into the parking lot. This project is being proposed for the 2023-2025 biennial capital budget and detailed design will begin in 2022 assuming the project is enumerated in July 2023

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- The Garden Oversight Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is working on a long-term plan for their garden areas so they can keep track of needed improvements and budgeting for their future work.
- SmithGroup is the consultant firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. We will discuss the Master Plan Update further in today's meeting.
- A memorial bench will be installed in Tent Colony Woods in spring of 2022.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Preserve Master Plan - continued to meet and provide input to plan designs.
- Burial sites hazard tree management – UW Grounds Dept tree crew completed removals of hazard trees at Willow Drive burial mounds group and a portion of the work at the Picnic Point mounds group. Equipment maintenance issues have hampered completion of the remaining trees at the Picnic Point mounds group.
- Finished remaining seed sowing across various project areas, including the Second Point Woods edge, Picnic Point mounds group and the water utility field west of Biocore prairie.
- Preserve staff continued brush control efforts at base of Picnic Point and along the Second Point Woods edge bordering Biocore prairie, as well as woody sprout control in the Lot 60 swale prairie planting and old orchard field at the base of Picnic Point.
- Planning and preparing for hiring of 2022 seasonal staff.
- Drafted Seed Collection Policy and Guidelines language.
- Developing 5-yr plan for continuing management of Eagle Heights Woods.
- Planning for spring prescribed burn season and providing support to LA581 Prescribed Fire: Ecology and Implementation course.
- Initial meeting held with numerous campus entities to consider potential lighting needs along the eastern portion of Temin Lakeshore Path.
- Picnic Point fire circles opened for use.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Fire circle opening/new hours (back to our standard hours in the Preserve, open 4 AM to 10 PM daily)
- Spring Preserve newsletter
- Day of the Badger – April 5-6
- Promoted seasonal student and TE positions including at Ecology Job Fair
- Planning and promoting Friends field trips and Preserve volunteer events

Volunteer activities:

- February 26 – Frautschi Point field edge and gully
 - 9AM-Noon; Drop-in volunteers; 9 volunteers; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle and seed
 - 1-3pm; Alpha Omega Epsilon; 17 volunteers; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle and seed
- March 5—South of Picnic Point Marsh
 - 9AM-Noon; Drop-in volunteers; 7 volunteers; canceled before we got started due to thunder/rain
 - 1-3pm; Pre-Med and Business school volunteers; 18 volunteers; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle