

4/22/22

Preserve Committee Meeting

Friends Report

Will Vuyk

Our garlic mustard pull and spring planting events are coming up soon! The garlic mustard pull will be on Saturday April 30th from 1-3:30pm and the spring planting will be about a month later on May 21st from 9-11:30am.

Also of note is our Annual Meeting, which took place on Wednesday April 6th. Below are the notes for our Friends Annual Report, which will be presented at the Preserve Committee Meeting.

Friends Annual Report Notes:

This year (2022) we are celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Friends! We are collecting memories from the past two decades on our "Friends Through the Years" padlet, (<https://tinyurl.com/FLNPphotos>). Many have already submitted their photos and stories, and we look forward to watching this page grow.

The Friend's 21st year was another pandemic year, and another difficult year for many.

One difficult Board member and our friend Lillian Tong passed away this January. By all accounts, Lil was a go-getter. Committed and passionate, but also patient and kind, she was the sort of person to get things done but never lose a friend. We are grateful for the time Lil gave the Friends at the board table and out in the Preserve, and also the time she gave us in our lives. Thank you, Lil. Rest in peace.

We also want to take a moment here to recognize the loss of Steve Sentoff, our former president, a year ago, and the losses and tragedies others have faced in recent months.

Despite it all, the Friends' have continued to act out our mission to inspire people to connect to and care for the land we now call the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

The Friends hosted 8 self-guided and 8 in-person field trips in 2021, which attracted over 200 documented attendees. Hosting these field trips is one of the main functions our organization. It was a joy to finally be a part of some of our in-person field trips this year. The talent we attract to lead these walks is phenomenal.

In addition to field trips, we've hosted a number of special events, including our garlic mustard pull, spring planting, and "It's In Our Nature" events. As we have learned in the pandemic, connecting to the Preserve is not just about our relationship to the land, but our relationships with one another. There is no better way to connect with something than to learn about how it works, and we've been doing just that with our Purple Martin House and Clean Lakes Alliance Lake Monitoring citizen science projects.

If you want to stay connected not only with the friends, but with what is happening in the preserve, our newsletter and website are great places to look. Check out the blog, phenology calendar, and reports from each of our field trips.

<https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com>

The friends have contributed to the care of the Preserve both through volunteer work and financial contribution.

Financial contributions -

- *Gift for UW Preserve Master Plan: 30,000.00*
- *Prairie Partners Summer Interns: 7,445.88*
- *Gift to UW Preserve for Restoration Work: 6,000.00*
- *Gift to UW Preserve Stewardship Fund Day of the Badger: 4,000.00*
- *Spring Planting: 653.80*

There is no better way to connect with and care for the land than to come out and volunteer. Friends volunteers donated 71 hours to Preserve volunteer events, in addition to the work of Friends Preserve Volunteer Stewards, and the volunteer time given during our Friends events like the garlic mustard pull, spring planting, and field trips.

What a year! We couldn't do any of this without your support, and the service of our talented board, some of whom are retiring tonight.

Retiring Board Members:

Eve Emshwiller - *Eve is an Associate professor of botany at UW-Madison. On the board she has worked with the Field Trips committee and helped with other outreach efforts. She has recently facilitated several board meetings. She is stepping down from the board to focus more on her teaching and research, but will likely still be found leading and attending field trips in the Preserve.*

Dane Gallagher – Dane is studying at the Vet School and served for 1 year as a student board member. He has an interest in wildlife rehab, and has helped with leading birding field trips. We wish him well in his future career.

Olympia Mathiapparanam – Olympia started on the board as a student member, for 2 terms, then again for a regular 3 year term. Her work on the board has focused on education and outreach including working with Lillian Tong to create the annual “Its in our Nature” poetry session. She has also led the coordinating of this annual meeting and last year’s zoom version. When we were in need of a board president last year, Olympia agreed to take on that leadership role, despite the fact that she was starting grad school in New York the fall. She is leaving the board to pursue her PhD in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, where she is doing research on educating children about biology concepts.

Seth McGee - Seth is Lab Manager for the UW Biocore Program. In that role he has connected many young people with the Preserve and brought some great student members to the Friends board. Seth has served in many positions on the board. Some achievements of special note are his coordinating the Prairie Partner Interns and acting as Vice President for several years. Despite terming off of the board, Seth has agreed to continue helping with Friends Group projects and bringing students to the Preserve.

Paul Noeldner – Paul is a retired computer systems engineer, but his true avocation is educating youth and adults about nature. He organizes the Friends of Urban Nature which coordinates field trips all over the Madison area, including the Preserve. He has been instrumental in getting field trip leaders and leading many himself and in initiating citizen science in the Preserve through our bluebird trail and purple martin house projects. Paul is a fount of ideas for how to connect people to nature.

Newly Elected Board Members:

Reba Luiken New nominee, first 3-year term—Reba Luiken is the Director of Allen Centennial Garden and a lecturer in the Department of Horticulture. She has a PhD in History of Science, Technology and Medicine from the University of Minnesota where she studied the public programs of botanic gardens. As an undergraduate, she focused on both plant biology and religious studies, and she still favors moss and lichen as her favorite organisms. When she first arrived in Madison in 2021 with her family, they lived in Eagle Heights and loved to visit the Preserve each evening after dinner to walk along

its forest paths and explore the Eagle Heights Community Garden. It's an amazing resource on foot or by stroller!

MJ Morgan *Second 3-year term —A nominee for a second board term, MJ is newsletter editor and nature writer, contributing articles on opossums, cecropia moths and the Class of 1918 Marsh history. She joined the Friends as a volunteer in 2018 and board member in 2019. She and her husband, Tom, retired to Madison from Manhattan, Kansas, where MJ was history faculty at Kansas State University. She also works with Gisela Kutzbach to create a Preserve phenology and history calendar each month, posted on the Friends website. Her publications include studies of pre and post settlement environments along the Mississippi and Rio Grande rivers. She loves working now with the interesting habitats of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and the Friends.*

Diana Tapia Ramon *New nominee, first 3-year term —Diana Tapia Ramon is a recent UW- Madison graduate who triple majored in conservation biology, geography and environmental studies. She is working as the High Impact Practice Facilitator at Biocore and enjoys how she can work with students not only in the classroom but sometimes at the Biocore Prairie. During her free time, she is learning Norwegian and has started rock climbing. Since moving to Madison in 2016, Diana has embraced the uniqueness of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. It was here that she spotted her first-ever bald eagle and discovered her interest in bird watching. Diana is looking forward to becoming more involved in the Preserve and along the way, meeting members of the Friends community.*

Cole Roecker *Student nominee—A southeastern Wisconsin native, Cole is entering his final year at UW-Madison as a student of history, English and French. He fuses his interest in the natural world and his scholarly subjects in the form of "environmental humanities" - both historical and literary. Cole also enjoys birdwatching and ornithology, having first discovered his passion for birds in high school and then establishing the Audubon Society at UW-Madison in 2020. Find him in the library or at the Preserve to talk birds, conservation, history, books or anything in between! Cole looks forward to joining the Friends this year and contributing to their work.*

Josh Sulman *New nominee, first 3-year term — Josh grew up in Madison and earned his B.S. And M.S. in Botany from UW Madison. As a high school senior in 1998, he conducted a plant inventory of Eagle Heights Woods which later led to a career studying and managing forests, prairies and wetlands across Wisconsin. Josh has been an environmental scientist at Stantec since 2013. He lives in Madison with his wife and twin sons.*

Will Vuyk *First 3-year term (former student member)— Graduating this spring from UW-Madison with degrees in biology and history, Will is looking forward to a third term on the board where he recently accepted the challenging position of Friends President. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve has been an integral part of his time in Madison, feeding a love of urban natural spaces that started while growing up near Milwaukee. Will has enjoyed writing for the newsletter, hosting field trips and facilitating Friends events like the “It’s In Our Nature” poetry open mic. Will also has a personal interest in the Preserve’s communities of reptiles and amphibians.*

Tom Zinnen *New nominee, first 3-year term—Tom was raised along the banks of the Rock River, a few days’ paddle downstream from Lake Mendota. Many campuses have hills and quads and a few have lakes, but no other campus is so defined and uplifted by its lake and habitat. The lakeshore, always open, always beckoning, is a welcoming public space. That’s important to Tom because, as an Extension Specialist at the Biotech Center and with Wisconsin 4-H, he believes we as university scholars must welcome visitors— learners and explorers of all ages. “The lakeshore is like our backdoor: it’s where our friends come in.” Tom first came to UWMadison in 1982 as a doctoral student in plant pathology and then returned in 1991 to work for the Biotech Center and for Cooperative Extension (as it was called then). In 2000-01 he was AAAS Congressional Science Fellow on the staff of the House Committee on Agriculture; in 2008-10 he was on loan to the National Science Foundation. He always returned to Madison. For over 12,000 years the attraction to this vital place has been in the combination of its people and its lakes. Tom intends to help continue those traditions.*