

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – April 22, 2022

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Happy Spring... I think!? We continue to hear good news about additional funding for the Preserve for Emerald Ash Borer management and the potential for an additional full time staff person to assist with field operations. Also, I'm pleased with the progress on the Preserve Master Plan Update from all that have been involved. Please make sure you add the upcoming public meeting to your calendar and participate on-line if you can't be there in person. We are all starting settle in back in our office as much as possible with most staff working at least 2 days in the office. We look forward now to finishing up the Master Plan in the fall semester and beginning advance planning on the new Preserve Outreach Center. Get out and enjoy our spring weather as it comes and goes.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Assistant Director

Permits issued since our last meeting on March 25, 2022:

- 2022-24 – SEG Bee Pollen-Shalit
- 2022-22 – BTNY 460-Soils and tree diversity-Dempski
- 2022-21 - ROTC Maneuvers - Matulionis
- 2022-20 – Geocache-Picnic Point Peninsula-Barak
- 2022-19 – Snake Inventory-Vuyk
- 2022-18 – UW Sailing Team-Botham
- 2022-17 – Science Expedition - Chotlos
- 2022-16 – Cow calling songs-Vitale-Sullivan
- 2022-15 – Geocache-Ten Colony-Soley
- 2022-14 – Geocache-A Walk in the Woods-Soley
- 2022-13 – Geocache-Explore the Preserve-Soley
- 2022-12 – WDNR Bat Box Observations

Celebrate. . .and thanks to all for pushing the Preserve past our **Day of the Badger** fund raising goal with \$4,740 raised from 61 donors enabling us to receive a \$4,000 challenge match from the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve! **Total raised was \$8,740!** Thanks to the Friends for their support, all of you for your support and outreach, and to Bryn Scriver for coordinating the social media outreach!!

The Preserve staff has completed interviews and will be hiring three additional students to join student team member Ben Kotte. The students will work part-time to assist with garlic mustard removal through the end of the semester, and then work full-time through the summer and back to part-time during the fall semester. All four positions are the result of the generosity of our many supporters making gifts to the Preserve through the Foundation.

Rod Boley (Boley Tree and Landscape Care-UW contractor) and I completed marking ash trees for our first phase of removals. A total of 20 trees will be removed within the Picnic Point area, in addition to trees at Raymer's Cove, and Preserve trees adjacent to University Apartments/Housing. This first phase of removal is being financed through an additional \$25,000 in funding from FP&M leadership. We have requested special funding for the next 3 years to cover this important risk management initiative.

Visitor Counter Data at Picnic Point path (one location) – **March 2022 –15,652**

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium project is under 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 is under construction.
- The Willow Creek Area Master Plan, previously presented, the study is complete.
<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/38le3unbs7p4tzx68uk450rsqj6oegwk>
- A study of creating a bridge across the lake side of Limnology Building is 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 budget and design will begin in 2022.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Garden 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 budgeting.
- SmithGroup is the consultant firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. We will discuss further in the Master Plan section of today's meeting.
- A memorial bench will be installed in Tent Colony Woods in spring of 2022.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Completed hiring of 2022 seasonal staff. Planning onboarding and preparing for field season.
- Installing fire breaks and preparing burn units for spring prescribed burn season.
- Providing support to LA581 Prescribed Fire: Ecology and Implementation course.
- Preserve Master Plan - continued to meet and provide input to plan designs.
- Preserve staff continued brush control efforts at base of Picnic Point and central Bill's Woods.
- Preparing for garlic mustard control season.
- Developing 5-yr plan for continuing management of Eagle Heights Woods.
- Picnic Point fire circles opened for use. Staff providing routine maintenance of fire circle sites and stocking wood racks.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Successful Day of the Badger. A big thanks to those who helped spread the word!
- Tent Colony Woods tour for Alumni Magazine writer and photographer

Volunteer activities:

- April 9
 - 9AM-Noon; Picnic Point near fire circle #3; Drop-in volunteers, Alpha Phi Omega, Students Today Leaders Forever, WI Competitive Cheer Club; 19 volunteers; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle
 - 1-3pm; Farmhouse Hill; Wisconsin Union Directorate Alternative Breaks; 11 volunteers; cut woodies

Upcoming volunteer events:

- April 20 - FIG: Ecological Restoration as Civic Engagement
- April 22 - Clean Lakes Alliance Board and Staff
- April 23-24 - Drop-in and Student Service Groups