



Moving Forward with Your Support

By Laura Wyatt, Preserve Assistant Director

The years 2020-22 have been transformational for the Preserve. Not only has staff been immersed in the day-to-day operation of the 300-acre Preserve but they, along with stakeholders, have also completed the first comprehensive **Strategic Plan**, began updating the facility **Master Plan**, and launched advanced planning for an **Outreach Center** on the land!

In addition, the retirement of Preserve Director Gary Brown coupled with organizational changes in the Division of Facilities Planning & Management provides opportunities for the Preserve to strengthen associations with UW-Madison academics through alignment with the Office of Sustainability.

While the university provides staff and basic services for the Preserve, gift funds are critical to facilitate our educational mission in addition to caring for the land. Nearly everything we do, including hiring consultants to guide us through the Strategic Plan and Master Plan are supported with gift funds.

Your gift is an investment in UW-Madison, the Preserve, and our shared environmental future. Thank you for your consideration.

You can support the Lakeshore Nature Preserve anytime by visiting: supportuw.org/giveto/lakeshore

Your support makes possible:

- Invasive species removal including prescribed fire, herbicides, tools, and contractors
- Plant and seed purchases for restoration efforts
- Tools, gloves, and supplies to facilitate hundreds of volunteers annually, two thirds of which are students
- Applied, hands-on learning experiences for students through paid internships
- Ecological restoration of signature campus landscapes including Picnic Point, Muir Woods, Frautschi Point, and the protection of ancient Native American mounds.

...and much more, supported solely through gift funds.

Master Plan Update Nears Completion

By Laura Wyatt, Preserve Assistant Director

After 13 months of study, the 2006 Master Plan Update is nearing completion. Over this time, the consultants conducted an inventory and analysis of current land conditions and existing amenities, and a range of issues, needs, and opportunities were discussed at numerous meetings with staff and stakeholders, including at three public meetings. We appreciate the time and thought everyone contributed to reviewing information and providing comments on drafts.

To view recommendations shared at the latest public meeting, visit the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website at

lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu and select "Master Plan Update" on the main menu.

A final written report will be shared with the Preserve Committee and Facilities Planning & Management leadership for further review and adoption. The plan covers a wide breadth of recommendations which will take more than 10 years to complete and considers the future of the Preserve for the next 50 to 100 years and beyond.

Once adopted and priorities are identified, the hard work of raising the

necessary funds for the implementation of projects begins. We are fortunate to partner with the University of Wisconsin Foundation which provides fiduciary oversight and stewardship of Preserve funds.

All ecological restoration and development efforts are supported by gift funds. Opportunities for you to make a difference will be available soon. If you have questions please contact Assistant Director Laura Wyatt (laura.wyatt@wisc.edu).



Bryn Sriver

Numerous opportunities were available for the campus and larger community to provide input and review of the Master Plan Update.

Our Shared Future: Ho-Chunk Blessing

By Missy Nergard PhD, Director of Sustainability

November 1 was an extraordinary day at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Leaders and members of the Ho-Chunk Nation were there to bless the land for a new Outreach Center. Traditional Chief Clayton Winneshiek stood on his ancestral home, accompanied by the Madtown Singers, a student-led indigenous drumming and singing group. Chief Winneshiek offered his blessing in the Ho-Chunk language, and then provided a summary translation in English for the people gathered for the ceremony.

Following the blessing, Chief Winneshiek told the history of the Ho-Chunk Nation and their forced removal from the land, and he offered wisdom and hope for our futures. Alternating between Ho-Chunk and English, Chief Winneshiek talked about permanence, the depth of roots and belonging—not owning—and emphasizing the responsibility that we have to the land that supports us, as well as the care that we need to have for each other. He noted that for some words there was not an easy translation from one language to another, as there isn't a shared meaning.

Language matters. It reflects cultural norms and reinforces hierarchies of power in relationships. The Ho-Chunk language is the parent language of over 15 languages of the Siouan language family; the Ho-Chunk are the "People of the Big Voice." Chief Winneshiek's blessing and sage wisdom offered an opportunity for us to not only reflect on our relationship with each other and with the land,

but also to actualize change in how we communicate and learn. The Outreach Center, in turn, will be a shared space for the continued exchange and growth of knowledge, and Chief Winneshiek's blessing has helped to ensure that our future is on a shared path.



Jeff Miller / UW-Madison

Visitors and guests enjoyed unseasonably warm weather for a Ho-Chunk blessing on November 1.

Advanced Planning for Preserve Outreach Center

By Laura Wyatt, Preserve Assistant Director

Initial planning for a Preserve Outreach Center began in October with a site tour and a series of conversations between our consultants at The Kubala Washatko Architects (TKWA) and five different stakeholder groups. The consultants returned in November for the first public meeting to share what they heard and to gather additional input on site selection. They led us through the advanced planning process they use to examine the challenges and opportunities of locating a building in an environmentally sound way in addition to planning the most sustainable structure possible.

While the concept of a building has been discussed for years and included in the 2006 Master Plan, the overwhelming decisions regarding location are challenging. We are so impressed by our consultants planning process that we highly recommend folks who could not attend the public meeting to access the presentation recording on the Preserve website (lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu). Select "Outreach Center Plan" on the main menu.

The "pattern" process the consultants embrace identifies the relationship of human activities and the built and natural environment. Placing a building within the Preserve is not an easy decision, but more than ever we realize that a building will provide not only much needed support for academic classes and land restoration but is integral to accurately sharing the story of this iconic land, especially the important cultural history dating back more than 12,000 years.

Thank you to a treasured stakeholder for funding this important and exciting advanced planning effort. This generous gift has been instrumental in enabling the Preserve to secure the best possible resources to lead us through this process in a thoughtful and well considered manner.

The next public meeting will be held in January.

Since October the consultants and a core planning team have toured the Preserve, held stakeholder listening sessions, led a public meeting, and toured other nature facilities.



Bryn Scriver

Preserve Supports Undergraduate Learning with Student Engagement Grants

By Bryn Scriver, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

Each year the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee awards small grants of up to \$1,000 through a competitive process. These Student Engagement Grants provide financial support to undergraduates and faculty or staff working with undergrads to use the Preserve as a resource for research and education. Funding is based in part on degree of student engagement and scientific, educational, or applied value. Funds can be used for student stipends and/or purchase of equipment and supplies. Proposals are due March 1 each year.

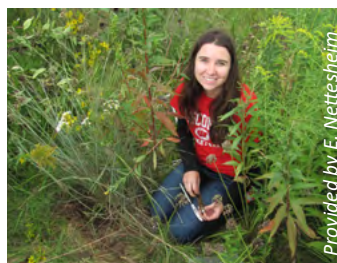
The grants are made possible through the Academic Endowment Fund of the Preserve at the Wisconsin Foundation and established by former faculty members, Robert M. Goodman and Henry Hart.

Student Engagement Grants, by the numbers...

\$27,960
AWARDED
SINCE 2014

30
PROJECTS
FUNDED

878
STUDENTS
IMPACTED



Provided by E. Nettesheim



Provided by K. Marshall



Seth McGee



Cole Roecker

A look at past Student Engagement Grant recipients (clockwise from top left):

- Emily Nettesheim studied cold tolerance in native plants.
- Krista Marshall compared soil properties between prairie restoration areas.
- UW-Madison Audubon Society members purchased binoculars for popular, student-led bird walks.
- Alder Levin presented her plant phenology research at the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Student Engagement Grant helps Introduce UW Students to the Outdoors

By David Elsmo, Outdoor UW Director & Hooper Club Advisor

In April 2022 the Hooper Ambassadors, a [Hooper program](#) dedicated to equity in the outdoors, hosted their annual outreach event known as All-Out in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. All-Out is a club-wide programming initiative developed to increase diversity and engagement in the outdoors for our Madison community. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve awarded Hooper Ambassadors a Student Engagement Grant to help subsidize the cost of bringing in a speaker to present on the Ho-Chunk community and the Tribal footprint on the land our campus now occupies.

In conjunction with the speaker, All-Out had a variety of activities built to lower the barriers to entry for individuals interested in the outdoors. These included several hikes, an around-the-lake bike tour, community-building workshops that included meal preparation and cooking for camping, informational sessions on outdoor basics like pitching tents and building

fires, and guided discussions focused on getting further involved in the outdoors. Programming was available to all individuals in the Madison community but with a particular focus on our inner-city and international student body. Outdoor UW, the host



Hooper Ambassadors hosted their 2022 All-Out event in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

organization for the Hooper clubs, also provided programming which included raffles of outdoor equipment rentals and a few Hooper memberships. Other raffle items such as essential outdoor gear was provided by local businesses such as Fontana, REI, and Rutabaga.

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve was central to the programming and served as the perfect backdrop and location for all participants. When the weekend of events was complete, participants hailed their experience as a safe and engaging event where they could form connections with other students who have similar interests all while promoting engagement in the outdoors!

For participants interested in continuing their journey in the outdoors, Outdoor UW will continue to provide all the supplemental programs and equipment that these newly engaged outdoors enthusiasts need. Their aim being to create affordable options either through the Outdoor

UW rentals program, or in furthering outdoor education by joining one of Hooper's six clubs: Mountaineering, Outing, Riding, Sailing, Scuba, and Ski & Snowboard.

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's...a UAV?

By Jeff Kirchman, University Natural Areas Police Liaison Officer

The popularity of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, more commonly known as 'drones', has never been higher. Reduced costs, improved operating software, and just the downright cool factor have made them accessible and easy to use for just about anyone.

There's no doubt drones can be fun to operate and can be a great choice for a hobby. But there are rules in the university area that need to be followed for safe and appropriate operation.

For example, were you aware the University has a specific policy regarding the operation of drones? Known as the Research Vehicle Safety Oversight policy, it can be found at policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-4005. Consider the following language regarding recreational use of drones:

"Recreational or hobbyist unmanned aircraft operations by students,

employees, or visitors are not permitted on UW-Madison premises."

The policy does allow drone use for education, research, and certain non-educational purposes. However, that use must be approved using the process outlined in the policy.

The University's natural areas, like the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, can be a strong draw for drone operators looking for interesting sites to view from new angles. But, beyond University policy, **be aware drones could have a negative impact on wildlife, especially birds.** This could also be considered a violation of Wisconsin state law protecting wildlife on university lands.

It's also important to point out that the Preserve is in close proximity to University Hospital's heliport. The Federal Aviation Administration maintains very strict rules about operating



UAVs anywhere that could interfere with aircraft, like helicopters.

If you're thinking of taking off into the fun, exciting world of drone operation, please make sure your flights are safe, legal, and follow all appropriate rules.

Officer Kirchman can be reached at jkirchman@wisc.edu or through the UWPD non-emergency dispatch at 608-264-2677.

The Preserve is a Training Ground for Future Conservation Professionals

By Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is dedicated to providing students and recent graduates with paid learning opportunities. We recognize the importance of real-life, applied experiences to complement what is learned during seat time in the classroom. The Preserve offers two types of paid opportunities for students. Each year the Preserve directly hires 1-4 Natural Area Assistants, and each summer the Preserve hosts a 5-member Prairie Partners intern crew 1 day a week for 12 weeks.

Student employees and interns work alongside land care professionals to develop and practice plant identification, vegetation management techniques, and how to use the tools of the trade like brush saws, mowers, utility vehicles, trailers, and herbicide applicators. They also hone their communication skills as they work as a team and interact with Preserve visitors in the unique context of an urban natural area.

These paid learning opportunities are only possible due to generous donations to the [Preserve Stewardship Fund](#). The Prairie Partners Intern program is funded by an annual gift from the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and administered through Madison Audubon. In addition, the E. David Cronon Stewardship Fellows fund supports student work experience in the Preserve.

We recently caught up with two former natural area assistants and asked them how their experience in the Preserve helped them in their natural resource careers.



Emily Jorgensen graduated from the UW with degrees in Environmental Studies and Mandarin Chinese. She first worked in the Preserve in 2017 as a member of the Prairie Partners intern crew. The next spring, Emily joined

the Preserve as a natural area assistant. She focused on controlling and mapping specific invasive species in some of the most heavily impacted portions of the Preserve including the Class of 1918 Marsh. To help her, Emily led a group of 7 student Badger Volunteers from the UW Morgridge Center for Public Service. She said it was her first time in a supervisory role, and despite being extremely nervous it turned out to be a fun and positive experience where she witnessed learning and relationship building among the Badger Volunteer team.

Emily is now a Conservation Technician for the City of Madison Engineering Department. She works on engineered stormwater lands like rain gardens, ponds, and greenway channels to promote native vegetation. In 2021 Emily was awarded a Public Works & Land Use #TeamCity Award for her work ethic and teamwork.

Emily said, "There are so many aspects that seasonal employees get introduced to at the Preserve...I was exposed to mapping and early detection of invasive species, citizen science, an Integrated Pest Management approach to invasive species control, community engagement, and more. The permanent staff were extremely helpful in sharing opportunities, connections, and insights to help me onto the next step in my career."



Connor Kotte worked at the Preserve in 2020-2021 while he completed the UW Nelson Institute Environmental Conservation professional master's program. He said, "I was able to

integrate my field experiences from the Preserve directly into my coursework and class projects." Connor took the lead on learning, developing, and integrating a new Preserve visitor data tracking system, providing monthly reports to help inform management practices, improve safety, and communicate the benefits of natural area visitation. Connor was recognized with the rest of the Preserve staff with the 2021 Facilities Planning & Management Teamwork Award.

Today Connor is the Stewardship Coordinator for the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, a land trust based out of La Crosse, WI. He is responsible for coordinating the Conservancy's annual easement monitoring program, working with private landowners, supervising volunteers, GIS mapping, and managing natural areas through habitat restoration.

Connor said each of the technical field skills he developed at the Preserve including how to collect seed, install native plants, conduct prescribed fires, and use chainsaws and brush cutters safely as well as obtaining his pesticide applicator certification prepared him to be a successful and self-sufficient candidate for his current position at a land trust.

Paid positions for students and recent graduates since 2010, by the numbers...

22
NATURAL
AREA
ASSISTANTS

55
PRAIRIE
PARTNER
INTERNS

FIG Participates in Savanna Restoration

By Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

In September 2021 and 2022 students in the Earth Partnership Indigenous Arts and Sciences [First-Year Interest Group \(FIG\)](#) Seminar toured the Preserve's Willow Creek Woods savanna to learn about its restoration history and collected bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) seeds. The students cleaned the seed during the semester and returned to oversee the site in December. This year in addition to sowing the bergamot seeds they collected from the Preserve, they also sowed seeds from 11 additional native plant species.

Instructors, Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong and Maria Moreno, make the seed sowing activity as much a celebration as it is a practice to restore the land. This year students took turns reading aloud the common and scientific names of each species then mixed each one into moistened sawdust, a common seed carrier for hand-sowing. Then with paper cups filled with the seed-sawdust mixture students spread out under the large oaks, and one magnificently large shagbark hickory, to scatter the seed. Even though the wind was biting cold, the class gathered in a circle to share well wishes for the seeds—to persist through the frigid winter, to grow healthy strong roots, to provide beauty in future seasons.

This hands-on seminar is a collaboration with Tribal partners and emphasizes environmental science rooted in land management aligned with cultural values and indigenous

science processes. Students experience the culture and ecology of a place while engaging in ecological restoration and stewardship to help them reflect on their relationship to the land and as global citizens.

In addition to the working in the Preserve, the students engaged in stewardship at the UW Arboretum (vegetation management on mounds) and Holy Wisdom Monastery (seed collecting). In 2022 students also participated in a wild rice workshop with Lac Courte Oreilles and Bad River, helped [build a ciiporoke](#) (a traditional dwelling) with Ho-Chunk members, and practiced braiding and grinding corn.

Of the course and their experience in the Preserve students said,

"It helped make a large school feel smaller, and it introduced me to outdoor places on campus, helping me learn about the community I live in."

"My favorite activity was the bergamot seeds, including the picking, cleaning, and sowing. The activities were therapeutic, and it felt good to be actively doing something with my hands. It also helped me develop a connection to my campus and increase my sense of belonging here. It feels great to know I can come back to this spot in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and see what I helped grow."



Collecting bergamot seeds



Showing off the cleaned seeds



Mixing the seeds with sawdust



Scattering the seeds



You can support the Preserve anytime!

Visit: supportuw.org/giveto/lakeshore

Fill the Hill was a Flocking Success!

For the 10th year, the famous pink lawn flamingos, made legend by student government pranksters in 1979, flocked to Bascom Hill as part of the Fill the Hill fundraising effort.

Every flamingo on the hill represented a gift someone made to the UW during the event. In 2022, 57 of those flamingos represented gifts to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, up from 41 in 2021. Thirty four gifts were from new donors!

A total of \$6,180 will go directly towards student engagement, hands-on learning, ecological restoration and on-going management of this invaluable campus resource.

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve relies on the generosity of many caring individuals. Thank you for your support!

Planning for Change

By Adam Gundlach, Preserve Field Projects Coordinator

The initial [2006 Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan](#) laid a roadmap for Preserve management. It followed in the footsteps of the [1996 Campus Natural Areas Management Plan](#) issued by UW Arboretum ecologists Virginia Kline and Brian Bader at a time when much of the Preserve lands were under UW Arboretum management.

The intervening years have yielded numerous infrastructure upgrades to improve function and visitor experience. A 2004 project completed at Raymer's Cove redesigned the parking to reduce erosion into Lake Mendota and established a small prairie planting. In 2010, the Robert E. Gard Storyteller's Circle was installed on Muir Knoll. The circle offers a gathering space for classes and a quiet place to sit and reflect with a view across the lake. The tip of Picnic Point was revamped in 2013 to install the Ebling Circle gathering space and a stone staircase leading to a shoreline landing. The work removed invasive brush to open the panoramic view of Lake Mendota, downtown Madison and the UW-Madison campus.



Sunrise over Ebling Circle on Picnic Point.

Land management has progressed in several areas, most notably Eagle Heights Woods, Frautschi Point, Willow Creek Woods, and Picnic Point. The bulk of the initial work in these areas removed the infill of invasive brush that accumulated with a lack of management. Much remains to be addressed on the land and long-term maintenance of project areas requires years of vigilance.

Eagle Heights Woods is a high point for management efforts, both physically on the land and in terms of quality improvement. Brush removal on the burial mounds site provided a glimpse of open woodland habitat and piqued the interest of regular visitors. That initial work, followed by the development and approval of a management plan in 2013, catalyzed a highly successful Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve fundraising campaign to support continued management efforts there. Today, thickets of invasive brush have been cleared across the entire 30-acre site, prescribed burns have aided in maintaining open



A burn crew lights a prescribed fire in Eagle Heights Woods.

woodland habitat through the central corridor and supplemental seeding coupled with vegetation surveys continue to increase diversity and document plant community change over the years.

The south end of Frautschi Point has also seen a major shift in habitat structure and composition. First, volunteers helped clear invasive brush along the field edge and over time the work expanded further into the woods. In 2019, plans were drafted to thin trees encroaching on [a cohort of white oaks](#) around the centennial "Second Oak," which was clearly visible in an aerial image nearly 100 years ago. Repeated seeding and brush control across several acres have resulted in an open woodland blooming throughout the growing season and humming with activity.



Blooms surround the Second Oak at the Frautschi Point field edge.

The [Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan Update](#) provides a fresh assessment of current site conditions and future management needs. A series of public meetings gathered input on evolving plan elements, while advisory meetings with a varied group of UW colleagues and professional practitioners helped assess priorities and realistic management targets.

As the Master Plan Update is finalized, detailed management plans will be drafted for specific units within the Preserve, funding garnered, and timelines set for phased implementation. At each step in the process, new opportunities to support the University's teaching and research mission will emerge, as academic priorities and findings contribute to land management objectives and approaches, while aiding in long-term monitoring of a changing landscape.



Restoration work at Willow Creek Woods and ensuing nomination to the National Register of Historic Places resulted in the site's listing in 2016. Here, one of the best remaining examples of an open-grown oak tree in the Preserve shines in August sun.

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Established by the UW provost in 2000, the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee is charged to ensure the integrity of these cherished campus resources through the provision of necessary and appropriate oversight, policies, guidelines, stewardship and management. We thank the current members for their time and service.

2022-23 Preserve Committee

Voting members

- Rob Beattie—Academic Staff, Nelson Institute (Committee Chair)
- Katherine Cramer, Faculty, Political Science
- Cole Koffron—Student
- Anna Pidgeon—Faculty, Forest & Wildlife Ecology
- Elmo Rawling, Faculty, Geoscience
- Bella Ruchti—Student
- Evie Sellers—Student
- Kyle Webert—Academic Staff, Botany
- OPEN, Academic Staff

Non-voting ex-officio or consultants

- Kelly Ignatoski—Director, University Apartments
- Rhonda James—Senior Landscape Architect, Campus Planning
- Missy Nergard—Director, Office of Sustainability
- Karen Oberhauser—Director, UW Arboretum
- Will Vuyk—Board President, Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Staff

Laura Wyatt, Assistant Director

laura.wyatt@wisc.edu

Bryn Sriver, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

bryn.sriver@wisc.edu

Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

adam.gundlach@wisc.edu

Student Natural Area Assistants:

- Nick Wandschneider
- Lily Shayegan
- Ben Kotte
- Max Derleth

The Preserve's 2022 Annual Appeal is included in this fall issue of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve E-Newsletter. The newsletter is distributed electronically 3 times per year. If you would like to receive the 2023 issues as printed paper copies, please send your name and mailing address to lakeshorepreserve@wisc.edu

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Ruby-crowned kinglet



Tooth fungi (*Hericium* sp)

If you like what you've read, please consider a gift to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve as part of your year-end giving.

Visit: supportuw.org/giveto/lakeshore



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