Investing in the Preserve—Donors Making a Difference
Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Private gifts are an important resource that enable the Preserve to manage beyond the basics. Two significant projects were initiated during 2016 as the result of special gifts to the Preserve.

An exceptional gift of $100,000 from a generous donor has allowed the Preserve to launch a new four-year project to expand efforts to manage invasive biennial species like garlic mustard, Japanese hedge parsley, and thistles in prominent areas of the Preserve. The gift enables the Preserve to hire a seasonal field technician to lead additional volunteers, including Badger Volunteers, to identify and remove targeted invasive plants. The initiative also goes beyond simply removing the invasive species by allowing us to establish a mapping and monitoring program in partnership with Mark Renz, UW Extension Weed Specialist.

Funds from the Patricia E. Dugan Fund, an endowed fund established in 2011 to benefit the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and created through a bequest with the UW Foundation, has made it possible to enhance the Preserve’s Picnic Point entrance. Visitors are greeted by a new kiosk that announces their arrival to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Like the two existing kiosks at Frautschi Point and the east end of the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path, the new Picnic Point kiosk features a large map of the Preserve, Preserve regulations, a bulletin board for events and timely messages, and a space for a future interpretive panel. The kiosk is complimented by a new entrance landscape design.

While the university provides basic maintenance and management services, funds for facilitating volunteer programming, critical maintenance projects, ongoing land management, and special projects rely on the generosity of many caring individuals. Every gift regardless of size is important and contributes to ensuring the preservation of this amazing place for continued research, outreach, teaching, and recreation for generations to come.

Gifts to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve can easily be given through the UW Foundation at supportuw.org/giveto/lakeshore/ or by mailing a check to UW Foundation, US Bank Lockbox, Box 78236, Milwaukee, WI 53278-0236. Make sure to designate the Lakeshore Nature Preserve on your check.
Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Support
Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve continued their support of the Preserve in 2016, offering a series of field trips interpreting the history and ecology of the site, while funding programs (Prairie Partners Internship) and projects (Eagle Heights Woods) that push land management forward.

Friends volunteers contributed significantly to vegetation surveys in the South Zone of Eagle Heights Woods. Surveys conducted during spring and summer aimed to record the plant community prior to invasive brush removal planned for the following winter. When the Prairie Partners intern crew assisted with the summer survey, it highlighted the Friends’ contributions. Individual Friends volunteers worked with interns they fund annually to monitor the section of woodland currently under management because of their philanthropic efforts.

In the South Zone, Good Oak Ecological Services completed invasive brush removal across a six-acre section of land. The southern edge was already in great shape from the dedicated efforts of Preserve volunteer (and Friends member) Roma Lenehan. The Good Oak crew also performed control work on black locust in the Mounds Zone, and followed up on previous work in the Mounds and Central Zones by treating resprouting buckthorn.

Cold weather in January built adequate frost in the ground to allow Wolfe Tree Service to work on a number of hazard trees in the Mounds Zone, many of which were likely victims of oak wilt. The most dramatic change occurred on the round mound at the north end of the trail loop where several trees were removed from the mound feature. The round mound will now bath in a pool of sunlight come summer, furthering efforts to bolster herbaceous diversity, while reconnecting the spirits of the sky to the terrestrial, overlooking the water spirits of Lake Mendota below, according to the cultural beliefs of the Ho Chunk.

Student Engagement Grants

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee awarded five competitive Student Engagement Grants totaling $4,180. These grants provide financial support to undergraduates and faculty/staff working with undergraduates who use the Preserve as a resource for research and education. The funds are made possible through the Academic Endowment Fund of the Preserve at the UW Foundation, established by former faculty members Robert M. Goodman and Henry Hart.

2016 Awardees

Exploring the Wisconsin Prairie Ecosystem: Studying Cold Tolerance of Forbs—$600
Emily Nettesheim (Undergraduate, Department of Zoology)
Advisor: Ellen Damschen (Assistant Professor Department of Zoology)

Survival and Habitat Use of Eastern Gray Squirrels in an Urban Preserve—$980
Jonathan N. Pauli (Assistant Professor Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology)

Estimating survival, dispersal, and habitat use of Common Yellowthroats and Song Sparrows in Biocore Prairie at the UW-Madison—$600
Matt Hayes (Faculty Associate Department of Zoology and Co-Director of the Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory)
Mara McDonald Emerita Department of Genetics and Co-Director of the Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory

Exploring Seasonal Yeast Biodiversity in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve—$1,000
Martin Jarzyna (Undergraduate, UW-Madison)
Advisor: Chris Todd Hittinger (Assistant Professor, Department of Genetics)

Urban Canid Use of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve—$1,000
David Drake (Extension Wildlife Specialist & Professor Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology)
Volunteers
Bryn Scriver, Volunteer Coordinator/Outreach Specialist

The Preserve consistently engages campus and community members to help carry out the stewardship of Preserve lands. Volunteers serve by removing invasive species, planting native plants, collecting native plant seed, picking up trash, maintaining trails, and conducting surveys. These activities help to improve ecological function, restore wildlife habitat, and enhance teaching and research opportunities throughout the Preserve.

In 2016... 862 volunteers • 3,539 hours of service • Estimated value: $79,556

New for 2016, with the support of a special gift, we enlisted five individuals to form an ongoing volunteer corps to carry out longer-term volunteer tasks like trail monitoring, tool maintenance, and caring for our entrance landscapes. This gift also allowed us to bring on two Badger Volunteer teams from the Morgridge Center for Public Service to assist our seasonal invasive species specialist with targeted pest plants. Engaging volunteers not only benefits the Preserve, but can also foster a feeling of connectedness to nature while increasing the ecological literacy of the people involved. We work hard to make sure that volunteers are engaged in caring for the Preserve in ways that are meaningful to them while accomplishing needed work. If you would like to get involved, contact Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer Coordinator at bryn.scriver@wisc.edu.

Fire Circles at Picnic Point

An outing to Picnic Point has long been a tradition for many Madisonians. In fact, archeological excavations show that the area has been an attractive destination for at least 12,000 years! The sweeping views and its proximity to the heart of campus make it an ideal refuge from busy university and city life.

There are six reservable fire circles on Picnic Point for visitors to enjoy a warm fire or cook a picnic meal. The fire circles are maintained by Preserve staff; FP&M Physical Plant staff provides firewood free of charge. Reservation records for 2016 show that an estimated 1,190 groups representing 21,175 people took advantage of this amenity.

Website Revised

We are excited to announce that the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website (lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu) has been upgraded and enhanced with a completely new look and feel in keeping with UW-Madison design standards. The website has:

• Improved navigation.
• New and updated content.
• Mobile-friendly responsive design.

Please take some time to explore the new site!

Preserve Teaching/Research Permits

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve offers a rich environment for teaching and research activities—right on campus! Previous projects include ecological surveys, art installations, archaeological experiments, mapping, climate and biology labs, wildlife study, genetic material collections, and service learning. During the 2016-17 program year, 68 active permits represented engagement by 20 different departments and programs. Join the growing list of faculty, staff, and students using the Preserve.
Preserve Administration

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.” Operating under principals of shared governance, the committee is comprised of three faculty, three academic staff, three students, and other interested stakeholders. We thank the current members for their time and service.

2016-17 Preserve Committee
Voting members
• David Drake—Faculty, Forest & Wildlife Ecology
• Sara Hotchkiss—Faculty, Botany (Committee Chair)
• Glen Stanosz—Faculty, Forest & Wildlife Ecology
• Janet Batzli—Academic Staff, Biology Core Curriculum
• Alan Turnquist—Academic Staff, Undergraduate Programs & Services
• Matilde Urrutia—Academic Staff, Soil Science
• Kendal Kobbervig—Student
• August McGinnity-Wake—Student
• Brooke Nelson—Student

Non-voting ex-officio or consultants
• Gary Brown—Director, Lakeshore Nature Preserve
• Gisela Kutzbach—Board President, Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
• Rhonda James—Senior Landscape Architect, Campus Planning & Landscape Architecture
• Donna Paulnock—Interim Director, UW Arboretum
• Kelly Ignatoski—Director, University Apartments

In 2016 the Preserve received gifts totalling $74,366 from 64 donors.

2016 Financials

Income

Expenses

Special Memorial Gifts Received in Memory of...
Erin Douglas Carol A. Peterson
George Fitzgerald Alice Staeck Pugacz
John Grace Harriet Riley
To learn how you can make a lasting difference to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, contact Laura Wyatt, Program Manager (laura.wyatt@wisc.edu; 608-265-9275).

Support the Preserve
To support the Preserve’s ongoing mission of land stewardship, make a donation today!
Visit supportuw.org/giveto/lakeshore/.

2016 Donors
Anonymous
David Baumgartner
Dr. William Barker & Professor
Susan Paskevitz
Professor Patricia Becker
Timothy & Lisa Blythe
Dr. Robert & Leslie Buerki
John & Selma Burley
Megan Chanim
Professor William J. Cronon
Dr. Norbert & Mary DeByle
Dr. William & Alexandra Dove
Richard Dubielzig
Richard & Kathi Dwelle
Dr. Michael & Mary Pat Feilarek
Friends of the Lakeshore
Nature Preserve
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Dr. Kennedy Gilchrist & Heidi Wilde
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Professor Thomas Hudak
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Sandra & Andrew Wu
Laura & Dan Wyatt

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• Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator adam.gundlach@wisc.edu
• Allison Ban-Herr, Field Technician, allison.banherr@wisc.edu