



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – November 14, 2016

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Director

Wow! What an amazing fall we are having this year. The great weather has allowed us to do even more in the field at a time that would have us winding down for winter. As we head towards December, I wanted to remind everyone that we will be presenting our draft work plan and budget for 2017 at the December 5th Preserve Committee meeting. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting and hear about our plans for the coming year. We'll then vote on the final draft budget and work plan at our February 2017 meeting as we begin our year in March 2017. Thanks again to all who attended our October 11th stakeholder meeting where we reviewed our activities to date and we provided everyone with the schedule for the coming fall semester. Enjoy the colorful sights, sounds and smells of autumn in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. It just can't be beat!

The Campus Master Plan is currently in review with the Planning staff at the City of Madison. We will be sharing the draft documents with local alders and neighborhood associations this fall and hopefully get the plan approved in early 2017. Please watch our master plan website at: www.masterplan.wisc.edu for further information and dates for upcoming public meetings. Also, all of the draft documents and recent presentations are up on our website now for your review. Please send any comments to me directly at: gary.brown@wisc.edu. Thanks!

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Hope you have seen the NEW kiosk at the entrance of Picnic Point. It beautifully announces the location as Lakeshore Nature Preserve and provides orientation and information to visitors! Thanks to Rhonda James for the design and project facilitation and the UW-Grounds for the installation. Special appreciation to the Patricia E. Dugan Fund for financing the project through proceeds from an endowment which was established as a bequest at the UW Foundation.

A meeting was held with Sara Hotchkiss and Brad Herrick to discuss the results of our initial Amyntas (jumping worm) survey and gain their perspectives on what might be the best strategy for the Preserve, management wise, including development of BMPs (best management practices) for the Preserve. Staff has met to discuss and will be sharing a presentation with the Preserve Committee to review in February.

Ann Burgess is working with staff to obtain and prepare research permit annual reports/summaries so they can be available to include on the new Preserve website. Special thanks to Ann for offering to assist with this important reporting project.

Gary and I meet with representatives of the UW Foundation, Eric Salisbury (Managing Director) and Jennie Casavant to learn about recent UW Foundation changes and discuss current needs of the Preserve. They are supportive of our "end of year" appeal which will occur in December.

I continue to attend Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Board meetings (as a resource) and meet with the Board President on a monthly basis.

Research Permits:

- Class of 1918 Marsh road salt and general condition – Magnuson
- Effects of Asian jumping worms – Tiffany

- Invasive buckthorn removal with Buckthorn Baggies – Townsend
- Buckthorn removal and species diversity – Rogerson
- Effect of human presence on biodiversity – Stucke
- Wildlife techniques sampling (renewal) –Pauli
- Survival & habitat use of eastern gray squirrel (renewal) – Pauli
- Habitat effect on worm diversity –Ellis
- Impact of buckthorn on plant diversity – Kapinus
- Allometry of Common Buckthorn – Townsend
- Biocore Prairie Soils Analysis Capstone – Wolski/Ventura
- Waiting to reauthorization of the Bird Banding Observatory – 10-year permit
- Camera Trapping and user surveys – Treves
- Introduction to soil profile description - Urrutia

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Projects in and adjacent to the Preserve:

West Campus Stormwater: contractor continues maintenance, Preserve to assume management in fall 2017.

Haight Road Reconstruction: Construction nearly complete fall 2016.

Housing Storage Shed and Recycling lot - re-bidding winter 2016, construction in 2017.

Near West Recreation Fields – under construction, estimated completion late fall 2017 with landscape completion in spring 2017.

Willow Creek Sediment Trap – City of Madison project to create a concrete sediment trap in Willow Creek at the city storm outfall. Bidding – expect construction in late 2016 and in 2017.

Projects in the Preserve:

Preserve kiosk at Picnic Point entrance – funded with proceeds from the Dugan Fund. Project will include installation of a kiosk and aesthetic improvement of the pedestrian entrance. Installation completed. Planting to occur in spring 2017.

Tree island improvements – Plan created to improve biodiversity of tree and boulder island at intersection of Eagle Heights Gardens, CALS, and Biocore Prairie. Volunteers have been weeding and planting the northeast quarter of the island.

Picnic Point Gate – installation of an automatic gate opener and refurbish iron gates. Currently in design.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

Eagle Heights Woods Project:

1. Good Oak Ecological Services completed buckthorn resprout control in the Mounds zone and the Central zone. Additional tasks for the fall/winter include the initial invasive brush removal in the South Zone and black locust control in the north end of the Mounds Zone.
2. Wolfe Tree Service felled hazard trees along the north and east trail segments. Additional trees in the vicinity of the Indian mounds will be addressed later this winter, given adequate frozen ground conditions.

Field Work

1. Ali Ban-Herr, a member of the 2106 Prairie Partners, was hired to assist with fall field work.
2. Willow Creek Savanna - Good Oak Ecological Services performed a broadcast herbicide application to the southeast corner of the site in preparation for seeding native prairie vegetation. The site was formerly mowed and used by Rec Sports as a "putting green."
3. Frautschi Point – Hosted a large volunteer event with Naval ROTC assisting with trail maintenance, brush removal, seed collection and trash collection.
4. Picnic Point – Performed cut-stem treatments to resprouting stumps in areas that were cleared of brush by volunteers in the past year.
5. Caretaker's Woods – Removed buckthorn with Ecology 460 volunteers in the northwest corner along the eastern edge of Biocore prairie, opening filtered views through the woods and to the lake.
6. Planning potential fall burn units for Biocore prairie, Eagle Heights Woods, Willow Creek savanna, and Picnic Point.
7. Planning additional fall/winter brush removal and resprout control in sections previously cleared.
8. Assessing site conditions and planning potential fall garlic mustard treatments.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

We've held 7 volunteer work parties since our last Preserve Committee meeting.

- Saturday drop-in work party – 22 student volunteers (Groups: Medlife, Student Emergency Services Management Services, Women in Economics, Alpha Kappa Psi, Delta Chi)
- Alpha Phi – 22 student volunteers
- UW Athletics, Chancellors Scholars Juniors – 8 student volunteers
- Naval ROTC – 60 student and staff volunteers
- GreenHouse – 19 student volunteers
- Ecology 460 – 49 student volunteers
- Saturday drop-in work party – 22 student volunteer and 3 community members (Groups: Medlife, Chancellors Scholars Freshman, Badger Volunteer Association, Powers Knapp Seniors)

Volunteers worked to clear invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle shrubs along the main Picnic Point trail, along the Caretaker's Woods/Biocore Prairie edge, and along the Big Oak trail. They also chipped trails at Frautschi Point. The next drop-in volunteer event is scheduled for Sunday November 20 at Muir Woods and our last event for the Fall semester is Saturday December 10 at Frautschi Point.

The new Preserve website is being reviewed by staff. We plan to launch it the first week of January. We will announce the changes to the website to our email Wisclist members in mid January. We will also work with the FP&M Communications Director to find other opportunities to announce the new site. In the upcoming year we also plan to develop a general Preserve outreach plan to campus. If you are interested in working on this, please send me an email.