

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

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

Welcome to spring (almost)! With the warmer weather, things are really starting to pop around the Preserve. Staff are busy preparing plans for upcoming volunteer events, finalizing spring prescribed burn plans, and helping get more student classes out into the Preserve during the semester. We are also moving forward on hiring another temporary employee to assist with herbaceous weed control and getting volunteers and students involved in that program this summer. As noted, the 2015 Campus Master Plan Update process continues on schedule for completion toward the end of the calendar year. I encourage everyone to be involved by providing their comments and insight via e-mail either to me directly (gary.brown@wisc.edu) or to through the masterplan website at www.masterplan.wisc.edu.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

The academic semester is in full swing with additional research permit applications. 9 permits have been processed since the beginning of the year. Another 27 are ongoing. We are working with review and renewal of long-term permits including the Biocore and Bird Banding. We continue to work on collecting annual reports from awarded permit holders as part of the permit process/agreement.

Project titles for new permits include:

- Picnic Point Bird Surveys – Ecology 460
- FH King Educational Beehives
- Eagle Heights Community Gardens-Storm Water Erosion Mitigation Project
- Adding Eddy Covariance Measurements to Picnic Point for Monitoring of Lake Mendota
- Two geocaches along Temin Path
- Edge Effect and Its Impact on the forging habits of Red Foxes in Southern Wisconsin
- Cryptic Coloration in Brown Creepers
- Impact of Human Traffic on Forest Composition

As reported at previous Preserve meetings, a designated gift, applied over a four-year period, will allow the Preserve to add an additional seasonal team member who will not only target specific weed species for removal, but also expand our mapping capability of invasives and enable the Preserve to expand our outreach to students and adult community volunteers. The position has been posted widely and is on our website. We are accepting applications through March 21.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

West Campus Stormwater: contractor continues maintenance, Preserve to assume management in fall 2016.

Haight Road Reconstruction: design continues, 100% review of construction documents is ongoing. Construction will begin later in 2016.

Housing Storage Shed and Recycling lot: design continues, 100% review of construction documents is ongoing. Construction will begin later in 2016.

Near West Recreation Fields: the draft Environmental Impact Assessment public meeting was held and design continues. Construction is expected to begin later in 2016.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

Eagle Heights Woods – Good Oak Ecological Services has completed brush removal in the Central Zone. Wood chip piles are staged along trails awaiting volunteer assistance to mulch trails.

Preparing prescribed burn communications, burn plans and burn units in Eagle Heights Woods, Willow Creek Savanna, and Picnic Point.

Planning Prairie Partners intern season and general land management needs moving into the growing season.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

We are working to schedule spring and summer volunteer events with community groups including UW Health, the Clean Lakes Alliance, and Blackhawk Church, to name a few. In addition to our April 23 and 24 drop-in volunteer work parties scheduled to coincide with Earth Day, we are also hosting volunteers for **Earth Day on April 20** in coordination with the Students for the Preserve and the Sierra Student Coalition, and for **Arbor Day on April 27** at the entrance to Picnic Point as part of the UW Day of Service. The Friends continue to help us with outreach to the Eagle Heights community including during the upcoming Earth Day Go Green Bike Event. The Preserve E-newsletter will be sent out this week. We are also continuing to update the website and are planning for a late summer launch of the new site.