

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports –May 12, 2016

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

The Preserve continues to explode with spring ephemerals and the trees are leafing out rapidly now with all the needed rain and warmer weather. That also means we have been having a lot of volunteer events in the Preserve and gearing up for our summer field work. We've completed our 2015 Annual Report which will be included in your meeting materials for your use and review. We also continue to work on the comprehensive Campus Master Plan Update process. Over the summer, we will be meeting with the City of Madison Planning staff to start organizing our review process with them and begin introducing our draft plans to various city committees and commissions. Please watch our master plan website at: www.masterplan.wisc.edu for further information. Thanks again for all your support over the past academic year. We look forward to reporting all our exciting summer work accomplishments in the fall when you return.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

I am pleased to announce that we have hired Anne Pearce for our gift-funded summer position focusing on invasive weed control, including the establishment of a plant mapping and monitoring program and volunteer program enhancement. Anne starts Monday, May 16.

We say farewell to Rowyn Noe, our seasonal Gardener, who has been with the Preserve since 2012. Rowyn has accepted a position working in the education field in Janesville. We thank Rowyn for her years of serve to the Preserve and wish her good luck with her new endeavor.

The last four weeks have been especially busy with end of semester project reviews and meetings coupled with a prolific growing season with garlic mustard populations appearing heavier than normal.

Project titles for new permits include:

- Plan Pathology 300 sample collection
- ARMY ROTC Badger Blitz
- Developing a general model to predict foliar traits from reflectance spectra
- Army ROTC Lab Exercises
- Acoustic Bat Monitoring

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 Project:

1. A large group of Army ROTC cadets volunteered their services to spread wood chips (left from winter brush clearing) on trails. A few piles still remain, but the cadets worked hard to complex.
2. Vegetation surveys in the Southern Zone begin this week. Thanks to Suzy Will-Wolf, Glenda Denniston and Anne Burgess for offering their services again this year in carrying out the surveys.

Field Work

1. Prescribed burn attempted in Eagle Heights Woods on April 13. The burn unit included portions of the Indian Mounds unit that did not burn in fall 2015, and areas recently cleared of invasive brush in the Central unit. After attempting ignition through about half of the intended unit, fire operations were suspended with the hope of returning the following day under conditions more conducive to fire spread. Unfortunately, the DNR Fire Danger Rating (a public outreach tool hold over from Smokey Bear) was raised to “High” the following day, and Madison Fire Department restrictions prevented further burning.
2. Engineers for Sustainable World shoreline stabilization project – worked with a group of nine student volunteers to install Envirolok bags along a section of shoreline near Chamberlain House where erosion was beginning to cut into the edge of the Temin Lakeshore Path. Plugs of native grasses, sedges, and forbs were planted into the matrix of Envirolok bags and surrounding slope. Checkout <https://www.facebook.com/Lakeshore.Nature.Preserve> for pictures of install work.
3. Good Oak Ecological Services performed herbicide applications to garlic mustard (GM) across portions of the base of Picnic Point and the western half of Bill’s Woods.
4. Volunteers and staff have been busy pulling GM in other areas of the Preserve with greater understory diversity.
5. Various volunteer planting efforts in different areas of the Preserve.

Prairie Partners Internship Program

1. Met on Friday April 29 at the Madison Audubon office for the intern orientation meeting, where representatives from the partner organizations and the five interns selected for the crew are introduced to discuss logistics of the summer field season.
2. First work day in the Preserve is Thursday May 26, and the crew will be working in the Preserve every Thursday through August 11.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

Volunteers were busy in the Preserve in April and early May. Volunteers planted herbaceous plants, collected trash, pulled garlic mustard and chipped trails in Muir Woods; pulled garlic mustard in East Bill’s Woods; planted trees at the entrance to Picnic Point; chipped trails at Eagle Heights Woods; and planted areas along the Lakeshore Path. We have 2 more volunteer work parties this month with the Friends of the Preserve -- **May 14 to pull garlic mustard** and **May 22 to plant wildflowers at Frautschi Point**.

We are continuing to update the website and planning for a late summer launch.