

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports – September 19, 2016

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

Welcome to the 2016-17 Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee, new and continuing members! We have been busy over the summer doing amazing things in the Preserve as staff will report in our 6-month Work Plan Status Report. We also continue the 2015 Campus Master Plan Update process, having held a final public information meeting on Tuesday, September 13, and we now begin our City of Madison zoning review process on the Campus Master Plan. Please watch the master plan website ([www.masterplan.wisc.edu](http://www.masterplan.wisc.edu)) for further information. Also of note, we begin our 2017 budget and work plan process with our upcoming Stakeholder meeting on Tuesday, October 11 in Room 132 of the WARF building. All committee members are invited to attend to provide input on what kinds of things we need to be working on and prioritizing for the coming year.

**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT** – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

With the departure of long time seasonal employee Rowyn Noe in May, we hired Jonah Burns as a temporary seasonal worker in late June. Jonah is returning to school and will be reducing hours to 8 hr/week. In order to accomplish late season invasive plant control management we will be hiring an additional seasonal worker which is covered within our current budget.

Anne Pearce, hired to lead our invasive plant special initiative funded by a generous donor, has done a spectacular job with organization of this first year of a four year project. Highlights include:

- Badger Volunteers-lead 2 teams each week consisting of 4 students each, over an 8 week period to strategically remove invasives within identified priority areas. This was our first experience working with a continuing group of Badger Volunteers.
- Established a research project with Associate Professor Mark Renz's lab which will allow us to evaluate the impact of the initiative's invasive management strategy. Project includes surveying at the beginning and end of season. Use of the GLEDN (Great Lakes Early Detection Network) computer app to assist in identification and provide GPS locations for critical invasives including porcelain berry.
- Development of a continuing adult volunteer program which will have a "soft" launch this fall. This includes position descriptions, application, training, handbook and record keeping.

Jumping worm (*Amyntas* spp.) has been identified within the Preserve. Preserve staff are conducting a visual survey of the Preserve to assess how extent the infestation is. Unfortunately, it appears to be wide spread. Sara Hotchkiss and Brad Herrick (UW Arboretum) are serving as advisors. Once the survey is complete we will be developing BMPs (best management practices) which will probably be more educational than effective in mitigation of the pest.

In our efforts to expand our donor base, the 2015 Annual Report and a print copy of the summer e-newsletter were mailed to those who gave to the Preserve in 2015 and were not on our e-mailing list. Our annual budget is supported by approximately \$70,000 from our gift fund accounts.

Project titles for new/renewed permits include:

- Reauthorization of the Bird Banding Observatory – 10-year permit
- Reauthorization of the Bluebird Trail – 10-year permit
- Ecology 460 summer group project - worms and buckthorn surveys
- Monarch survey
- Monarch conservation

- Monarchs and cardenolide level variation
- STEM lab on forensic entomology with Centro Hispano
- Reauthorization of Biocore Prairie – 10-year permit
- Grandparents University: entomology class
- UW Stevens Point Wildlife Society bat project

**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. Construction to be in fall 2016.

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. Spring and summer vegetation surveys were completed in the South Zone ahead of planned invasive brush removal. Thanks to Suzy Will-Wolf, Glenda Denniston and Anne Burgess for leading the surveying efforts again this year, with assistance from the Prairie Partners intern crew during the summer survey.
2. Coordinating with Good Oak Ecological Services on plans for fall and winter field work, including buckthorn resprout follow-up control in areas cleared previously of brush, hazard tree mitigation around the Indian mounds group and along trails, and initial invasive brush removal in the South Zone.

**Field Work**

1. Badger Volunteer crews, led by Anne Pearce, contributed to weed control across much of the Preserve.
2. Willow Creek Savanna - Coordinating with Good Oak Ecological Services on plans to prepare and plant the southeastern portion of the site to native prairie vegetation. This site was formerly mowed and used by Rec Sports as a “putting green,” and has been fallow for the past two years.

3. The Preserve received FY17 DNR suppression funds to target porcelain berry and Japanese hedge parsley control. Good Oak Ecological Services has performed monitoring and control work for porcelain berry across 28 acres encompassing Frautschi and Second Point Woods.
4. On August 22, Quercus Land Stewardship Services helped conduct a prescribed burn of Biocore prairie Area 6, a two-acre section being prepped for a fall seeding by Biocore students and staff.

Beginning plans for fall burn units in other portions of the Preserve.

#### **Prairie Partners Intern Program**

1. The five-member intern crew worked one day per week (12 days total) in the Preserve over the summer, contributing to land management efforts and learning a thing or two along the way. Here's a glimpse at some of their activity:
  - garlic mustard removal
  - brush clearing
  - Porcelain berry monitoring and control
  - Planting and seed collecting
  - Vegetation surveys
  - Amynthus (jumping worm) monitoring
  - Trail maintenance
  - Indian mounds vegetation management

#### **OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS** – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

Volunteers were busy this summer. They planted native plant plugs at Raymer's Cove, Bill's Woods, Frautschi Point, and Picnic Point where volunteers and contractors previously removed invasive shrubs. Volunteers also cleared and chipped trails throughout the Preserve. In August we hosted two student volunteer groups from the Masters of Public Health program and new MBAs from the Business School. We are busy lining up volunteers for fall volunteer events, and we will promote the Preserve at the Morgridge Center Public Service Fair at the end of the month.

We are completing changes to the new Preserve website.