



Smoke Signals

As the vibrant lushness of summer gives way to the rusty hues of autumn, the natural world is busy preparing for the harsh reality of winter ahead. Prairie plants wither and fade into senescence aboveground, having already funneled to their deep roots the energy reserves necessary to initiate next year's growth. Squirrels eagerly cache a mountain of mast bestowed upon them in the late summer by oaks, hickories, and walnuts. And the trees, having finished their solar-collecting duty for the year, offer their leaves back to the earth below. In the case of oak and many other native woodland and savanna species, the leaves make perfect tinder to carry fires that perpetuate these plant communities through the generations. Autumn provides a brief window to carry out these fires, with a smattering of warm sunny days sprinkled between the cool, damp and gray skies that are typical of the season.

On November 1, 2011, the prevailing southerly wind and sunny skies offered the perfect day for controlled burns in the Preserve. Under the supervision of crews from Quercus Land Stewardship Services, the first fall burns in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve's history were completed in Biocore prairie, along the south edge of Second Point Woods, and at the small prairie planting at Raymer's Cove. Fire behavior was more timid than expected in several of the burn units, resulting in a patchy burn pattern. The main portion of Biocore prairie, on the other hand, contained ample tall grass species that happily fueled the ecological pyrotechnics. Overall, the day was a resounding success, as it also marked the first time that burns were attempted outside of Biocore prairie.



Burn crew member watches the fire in Biocore Prairie. (Photo by G. Denniston)



The fire boss uses a drip torch to burn around a small bur oak in Raymer's Cove prairie. (Photo by G. Denniston)

The fires will serve several vegetation management goals. First, fire will reduce the density of young trees and shrubs in prairie and savanna transition zones; second, it will discourage non-native, cool-season grasses and forbs; and third it will remove accumulated leaf litter, providing a clean bed for native seeds to be sown. On that note, late fall is a good time to over-seed restoration areas because the repetitive freeze-thaw cycles of winter can work the seeds into the soil and crack through tough seed coats that would otherwise prevent germination.

Hopefully, the smell of smoke hanging in the autumn air proves to be a sentinel for a proliferation of native growth come spring.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Volunteers Sharpen their Skills

Summer may already feel like a distant memory but six members of the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve could probably recount in some detail three days of sweating, swatting insects, and sucking down popsicles, er... I mean, volunteer training in July and August at the UW-Madison Arboretum.

The volunteer training was coordinated by Preserve and Arboretum staff at the request of Friends of the Preserve who desired additional training to facilitate more effective and efficient volunteer workparties. Since the Preserve doesn't currently have the personnel resources to offer extensive training, we turned to the Arboretum which has been offering this type of training for many years. Their volunteer team-leaders-in-training attend 70 hours of classes and workshops, and in exchange commit to 60 hours of leading volunteer workparties at the Arboretum. The Friends were understandably not interested in quite this extent of training, so staff selected three of the most relevant sessions for the Friends volunteers to attend.

Friends volunteers spent a respectable 15 hours receiving training in: first aid and safety, how to run a volunteer workparty, invasive plant identification and control techniques, tool safety and maintenance, proper pruning techniques, herbicide application, and conflict resolution.

In exchange, the Friends of the Preserve generously donated funds to help underwrite some of the cost of the training, which covered materials costs as well as overhead for the Arboretum training program.

This was a great learning experience for the volunteers and staff from both programs. The most fun and laughs were shared while taking turns acting out possible (but not likely) scenarios, such as how to deal with insolent teens, hung-over college students, difficult volunteers or rule breaking visitors — anyone seen a bike-riding, flower-picking, litterbug in the Preserve?!



Trainees inspect a sharpened lopper.

Preserve staff have already called upon the newly trained volunteers to help supervise large groups of student volunteers. Attending the training from the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve were: Patricia Becker, Glenda Denniston, Kennedy Gilchrist, Galen Hasler, John Magnuson, and Marcia Schmidt. The addition of these trained volunteers will add greatly to the success of the Preserve's volunteer program and its ability to contribute to the stewardship of the Preserve.

The Preserve thanks Arboretum staff Marian Fariior, Judy Kingsbury, and Molly Murray for their willingness to include Preserve volunteers in the Earth Partnership Team Leader training.

Tent Colony Revisited

This fall, we started another phase of removal of dense buckthorn and honeysuckle thickets through all of Tent Colony Woods. The work is being done by the Preserve vegetation management contractor, Michler and Brown, LLC. This will be a multiple year project of repeated control accompanied by replanting across the slopes where university students once lived in tents.



Left: Before invasive shrub removal (Summer 2011). Right: After invasive shrub removal (October 2011).

Coincidentally, Preserve staff was contacted by one-time Tent Colony resident Peter Jefferds, who with his wife Mary lived in the Tent Colony from August 1950 to June 1951.

The following is taken from Jefferds emails. They are a great account of his experience living in the Tent Colony, and the detail that went into ensuring that his family would be relatively comfortable in their tent house during the many cold months of the academic year.

I paid \$5 for the month of August and nothing after that. There was no provision for rent after the summer months. We started construction one Saturday by having a 'House Raising' party. Unfortunately, we had no idea how that was programmed and put the beer out too soon. Very little was accomplished.

The fall that year was like this one, sunny and warm. Many times we awoke to the patter of a squirrel running along the ridgepole, going from one tree to another. All that we could see through the sunlit canvas was its feet.

The platform must have been 20X12. Our bedroom, set lengthwise, was a 9X12 wall tent with sides that could be rolled up. The floor had about a quarter inch of newspapers covered by a 9X12 rug. The double bed had the same newspapers between the box spring and the mattress.

The attached 8X12 shack was framed with 2X4s and had a small window by the door and large storm window set horizontally overlooking the lake.



Left: The Jefferds' Tent Colony home for the 1950-51 school year. Right: Jefferds in 1950-51. He wrote about this photo, "Here you can see an obvious architectural error. The shed roof drains onto the tent."

The siding was a builder's wrap made of two thicknesses of heavy paper enclosing a net material, all held together by a tar-like substance. It was very strong and once wet shrank to a respectable appearance. The inside walls were "beaverboard" covered with wallpaper. The floor was another thickness of newspaper covered by linoleum.

We had a sink that drained directly to the ground. The heater, range, and light were fueled by propane. A table, 2 chairs, and a counter, were the furnishings.

As it got colder, we stuffed leaves under the platform for insulation, holding them in place with the same construction paper.

Once freezing weather came, we welcomed snow for its insulation. Great care was taken to not disturb the insulating snow. The inside of the tent was only a bit warmer than the outside. The tent soon accumulated an inside layer of rime ice. We couldn't touch or heat the tent for fear of causing the inside "snow" to fall or melt. We had a gas lantern that we used for only very short times. Usually we went to bed by candle light. We were amazed by how much heat a candle put out.

In the morning when it was freezing out, I would get out of bed, turn on the propane heater in the room, then get back in bed until the room had a chance to warm up. Our top blanket would be dewy with our condensed

body moisture. A little later we would take the now frozen blanket outside to shake the ice crystals off. I remember almost two weeks of 25 below with one night dropping well below that.

Every morning our car, which was parked above on the road, would start. The first warm day in spring the battery died. Several times on the drive to school I poached a pheasant or a rabbit to give to two French women who had a shop just off State Street. They were friends of my French teacher. I received an A for that class.



Jefferds in Fall 2011 visiting the spot in Tent colony Woods where his tent platform was once located.

Preserve Stakeholder Meeting

We value your input!

Please join us at the next Preserve Stakeholder Meeting:

Tues. Jan. 24 2012

5:00PM

Room 132, WARF building, 610 Walnut St.

Free parking in lot 64 after 4:30PM

The Preserve Director will present a draft workplan, operating budget and capital budget for 2012.

For more info contact Bryn Scriver at bscriv@fpm.wisc.edu or 220-5560.



Fall and Winter Great Time for Controlling Buckthorn

Late fall and winter may be a little chilly for working outdoors but it is the best time of the year for controlling the invasive common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). Buckthorn, for those who are not familiar with it, is a small tree or shrub that is a serious invader of Wisconsin's woodlands. It is the predominant shrub in the Preserve.



Bundled up student volunteers help cut buckthorn at the Friends Heritage Oak project area in February 2011.

If not removed, buckthorn can: out-compete native plants for nutrients, light, and moisture; degrade wildlife habitat;

contribute to erosion by shading out other plants that grow in the groundlayer; modify soil composition by adding excess nitrogen to the soil; and form an impenetrable layer of vegetation that makes it difficult for animals and people to move across the landscape.

Best management practices call for pulling the plant if small enough or using a leverage device (like a “weed wrench”) for larger plants, but only where ground disturbance or soil erosion is not a concern. Also recommended is cutting the stem low to the ground and applying a small amount of herbicide (triclopyr or glyphosate) to the cut surface of the stump.

For systemic herbicides like glyphosate to work, the herbicide must be transported to the roots. One advantage of removing buckthorn in the fall is that the roots of buckthorn take up herbicide more readily because the tree is translocating sugars to the roots. Also, by fall most native plants have gone dormant which lessens the risk of affecting non-target plants with herbicide.



Preserve Field Technician, Adam Gundlach, standing in front of a dense thicket of buckthorn still green on Nov. 10 on Picnic Point.

Another *obvious* advantage to removing buckthorn in the fall is that it's easy to spot. Buckthorn leaves remain green for several weeks after the leaves of native shrubs and trees have turned brown or fallen. Also without leaves on the trees, it is much easier to maneuver and to see the stems or trunks of the buckthorn plants.

And an often overlooked benefit to working to remove buckthorn in fall and winter is...no mosquitoes! Enough said!

Remaining 2011 Volunteer Workparties

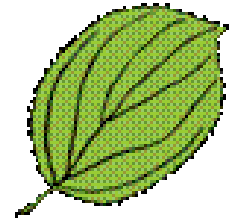
Bundle up and join the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and Preserve Staff to help remove buckthorn in November and December.

Sun. Nov. 20, 9AM-Noon

Mon. Nov. 21, 9AM-Noon

Sat. Dec. 17, 1-3PM

Mon. Dec. 19, 1-3PM



We will meet at the entrance to Picnic Point next to lot 129. Tools, gloves, and snacks are provided.

For more info contact Bryn Scriver at bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu or 220-5560.

Looking for a few Good Groups

Is your service club, faith group, school or scout troop looking for a service project? The Preserve Outreach Specialist is happy to organize a volunteer activity for your group that fits your schedule. We can accommodate groups of a various sizes and ages. (Volunteers 17 and under must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian.) Volunteer work parties are typically 2 to 4 hours long. Activities vary depending on the season.



Left: Members of the First Unitarian Society. Right: Chancellor's Scholars volunteers.

By volunteering in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, your group can:

1. join with others to preserve and protect a valuable campus and community resource,
2. connect to nature,
3. enjoy a hands-on learning experience,
4. gain the satisfaction of immediate, tangible results – tangles of buckthorn and honeysuckle gone, bags upon bags of garlic mustard prevented from spreading, an area full of new native plantings.

For more information contact Bryn Scriver, at bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu or 220-5560.

Transformation Begins with Volunteers

As you walk through the tall iron gates in the stone wall at the base of Picnic Point and look to the left your gaze can penetrate Bill's Woods, past dogwood, chokecherry, and viburnum shrubs and the dark trunks of mature trees. In autumn, there are a multitude of warm tones as the different plant species take on their fall colors. In spring, the ground is carpeted with the whites, pinks, and purples of spring ephemerals. In every season there is a variety of shape and form. The woodland is interesting to look at and it provides a welcome variety of plant species for animals, birds, and pollinators to use for food and shelter. It is the result of 10 years of work (still on-going) of numerous volunteers from the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve who, after forming in 2001, decided to restore this corner of the Preserve.

At the same time you pass through the gates and look to the right, a similar pattern is unfolding. Two years ago, when you looked in this direction all you'd see was a green leafy "wall" of vegetation. The ground was bare with a few "weedy" species in patches. In fall 2009, UW Police discovered that at least one person was living in a shelter concealed behind the thick mass of buckthorn and mulberry on the edge of the woods.

Since then staff and volunteers have worked to clear the invasive shrubs in this area bounded by the service road on the west and the hilltop to the east. Some of the first volunteers to tackle this area were teenaged 4H state conference attendees in the summer of 2010. After hearing about the problems that invasive species wreck on natural areas, and how to identify and control them in their own communities, the teens dove into the task of cutting and pulling buckthorn and Japanese tree lilac, which had spread from some large old specimens that flank the gate. Last spring students from Kennedy Heights Middle School helped "hunt" for and pull garlic mustard. This month, Friends of the Preserve were joined by volunteers from the Chancellor's Scholars, Powers-Knapp Scholars, Bradley Residential Learning College, Horticulture 120 students, the Verona Area High School Community Service Club, and many individuals to continue the process of removing the non-native shrub layer.



Left: Adventurous volunteers from Kennedy Heights Middle School sampling garlic mustard sprouts (Spring 2011). Middle: Volunteers cut buckthorn on a day of interfaith service by the Pres House, Hillel, and the Muslim Student Association (Fall 2011). Right: A volunteer from Bradley Residential Learning Community shows off the wild geranium seedling she just planted (Fall 2011).

After invasive shrubs are cleared, the only shrubs left are scattered elderberry and highbush cranberry viburnum. The few saplings that have been able to grow up through the brush were boxelder and Norway maple, many of which have also been removed. As we have removed undesirable plants, we have planted seedling oaks and native shrubs. Herbaceous plant plugs and seed have gone in too. Our goal is to have this area at the entrance to Picnic Point to be as species rich and aesthetically interesting as the Friends Bill's Woods project area across the service road. And with continued help from our Friends and other volunteers it will be.

Eternal Beauty

By Daniel Einstein

Recently, the university news service ran a little survey asking: “What’s your favorite natural place on campus?” <http://insideuw.wisc.edu/newsletter/interact/new-post-for-interact-20/> Many of the responses cited places in the Lakeshore Preserve, but it was the very first posting that caught my eye. It simply stated: “*The quiet bench overlooking the lake, along the bike path near the boat house. Perfect to sit and look out into eternal beauty.*”



This site description fits the custom-designed bench just to the north of Tripp Hall, which overlooks the University Bay with a panoramic view of Picnic Point.

I remember visiting this bench within half an hour of when we first bolted it down earlier this spring. Two folks had “discovered” this spot and were already enjoying the spring air and each other’s company. It’s fun to observe how our new benches are quickly adopted—just as if they had always been there.

In the past year we have installed four new custom benches in the Preserve. This most recent batch of cast-iron bench ends was generously produced by [Austin Foundry](#), in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Austin Foundry ordinarily specializes in custom orders for industrial machinery parts, but they have the flexibility to cast most anything. When I first approached plant manager, Dave Feile, about casting the benches for the Preserve, I explained that we offer the benches to Preserve donors as a way to acknowledge generous contributions to our Stewardship Fund.

Dave didn’t hesitate with his response—just a modest “sure we can do that for you...no charge.” Obviously, Austin Foundry’s donation helped extend the value of the original donor gifts. So a special “thank-you” to Austin Foundry, for supporting our work in the Preserve!

So now head out to the Preserve, find a bench, and enjoy your own bit of “eternal beauty.”



Dave Feile, Austin Foundry plant manager, arranged for the donation of seven sets of new custom Preserve cast-iron bench ends.

Volunteer Spotlight: Horticulture 120 Student Volunteer---Lauren Etter

Hi! My name is Lauren Etter and I began volunteering for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve this fall. I am a Senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying Life Sciences Communications. The reason I began volunteering at the Preserve was to fulfill a service learning credit for Horticulture 120: Survey of Horticulture, taught by Sara Patterson. The course requires 25 hours of service in an area related to horticulture.

I chose to volunteer at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve in part because it is close to school and work. I am a full-time student and work 30 hours per week as a Certified Veterinary Technician in the Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Unit at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Getting to the Preserve to volunteer is easy by riding the free route 80 bus.

The first day I volunteered I worked with Adam Gundlach and other Horticulture 120 students to cut buckthorn. I'm sure other Preserve volunteers can relate that removing this invasive shrub is a tedious process, but it's also satisfying when you can see your progress so immediately—looking over the newly cleared land.

Perhaps not surprisingly I have preferred seed collecting to cutting buckthorn. Not only is it easier, it's fun to learn about the plants that you are collecting. As we collected the seeds Preserve staff described the plants and their environmental requirements. My favorite seeds to collect were milkweed and Indian grass. The milkweed seed is packed into a hard, bumpy pod and the seed on the inside is very smooth. Collecting Indian grass is also a tactile experience. The seed has such a nice silky feel as you slide your hand over the seed head.

Eight weeks into my volunteer work I have learned quite a bit and have been able to relate what I have learned from Preserve staff to what my instructor has taught me. It has been a great experience. Before volunteering for the Preserve I never spent time there besides running on the Lakeshore Path. I never realized how much goes on in the Preserve!



Horticulture 120 volunteers from left to right: Lauren Etter, Danielle Vogel, John Kreul, and Linh Duong pulling invasive Norway maple seedlings from East Bill's Woods. (Photo by G. Denniston)

Don't forget to take a look at the Preserve's FACEBOOK page for photos and announcements.

Go to www.facebook.com/Lakeshore.Nature.Preserve

We'd love to hear from you! This is a place to share photos and wildlife sightings.

If you have any questions about accessing the page please contact Bryn Scriver at bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu or 220-5560.

Update: Picnic Point Project

Progress has been steady at the end of Picnic Point as we approach winter. The shoreline gullies have been repaired using soil filled bags inter-planted with native plants, covered with soil, and seeded. A safe and beautiful stone path has been installed so that future visitors will not have to scramble down eroding slopes to access the shoreline. Stones for the gathering circle and firepit have been placed and the limestone pavers will be in place shortly. The lake safety light will be relocated from the center of the Point to the north side of the peninsula late this month if really cold weather does not get to us first. Spring will bring finishing touches such as native ground layer and shrub plantings as well as pathway completion and any touch up that may be required. The views will be truly remarkable.

If you have observations or concerns please contact Rhonda James at rjames@fpm.wisc.edu.



A worker prepares the center of the gathering circle for pavers. The new fire pit and gathering circle will be able to withstand the current high volume of visitors while protecting the site from future erosion.



On Nov. 12 volunteers from Army ROTC, supervised with the help of Friends volunteers, worked to pull buckthorn plants near the tip of the Point adjacent to the project site. (Photo by G. Denniston)

Notice: Parking Enforcement Changes at Picnic Point Lots (129 & 130)

On November 1, UW Transportation Services began a new way of enforcing the parking in the gravel lots, lots 129 and 130, at the base of Picnic Point. New multi-space pay stations have been installed at each lot. All users need to pay in advance for parking and display their receipt on their dash.

Parking rates will be \$1 for the first hour, \$2 for 61 to 90 minutes, \$3 for 91 to 120 minutes and \$1 for every hour thereafter until the \$12/day maximum is reached. Parking will be enforced from 6 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Parking is free evenings and weekends. Parking at Frautschi Point and Raymer's Cove will currently remain free at all times.

The changes were brought about in an effort to reduce student and staff parking in these lots and commuting in to the campus via the local bus. Unfortunately, many students, faculty and staff were abusing the 3-hour free parking system that was to be reserved for Preserve users. Regular Preserve volunteers, volunteers at work parties and faculty/staff teaching and doing research in the Preserve will be provided free parking permits for their use. Please contact Preserve staff prior to your visit.



Multi-space pay stations have been installed at lots 129 and 130. Pay stations accept quarters, dollar coins, credit and debit cards.