

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Summer 2011 E-Newsletter

By Cathie Bruner, Adam Gundlach, Rhonda James, Jenna Mertz, & Bryn Scriver



Photo by Bryn Scriver

Nearly 500 Volunteers Help Care for the Preserve

--Bryn Scriver

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.
~William Arthur Ward

A big “thanks” to all our volunteers! Their time and efforts have helped to ensure that the Preserve continues to meet its mission of sheltering biologically significant plant and animal communities for teaching, research, and outreach while safeguarding beloved cultural landscapes. Our small staff simply cannot manage 300 acres without your help.

The list of activities undertaken by volunteers is a long one: pulling and cutting invasive plants; planting native wildflowers, shrubs and trees; seeding bare ground; repairing erodes slopes; caring for burial mounds; collecting wildlife data; sharing photos; creating informational and regulatory signs; picking up trash; cleaning firepits; consulting on social media; administering the Preserve Facebook page; leading field trips; and supervising other volunteers.

On a personal note, I want to thank our volunteers for renewing my own sense of wonder and enthusiasm for caring for the land. I enjoy talking about our activities and learning from them about natural history and the world in general.

In order to show our appreciation for all volunteers who helped to care for the Preserve between July 2010 and June 2011, we list them by name in this issue of the e-newsletter. We also list the names of groups who volunteered in the Preserve. Please accept my apology if your name or group was left off the list or was misspelled.

PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS:

~A~

Denna M. Abramson, Rao Adighatla, Arslan Ahmad, Brian Albert, Meghann Albert, Dawn Albertson, Elizabeth Alberz, Sarah Allen, Peter Allen, Ryan Alt, Jose Alvarado, Dave Anderko, Kathy Anderson

~B~

Marina Baccam, Pam Backhans, Stephanie Balgeman, Veronika Bakalova, Tania Banak, Cindi Bannink, Bill Barker, Santos Barrientes, Evan Bauch, Jenna Becker, Jacob Behringer, Liz Benter, Monika Berankyte, John Paul Bertinet, Forrest Bishop, Will Bishop, Audra Bissen, Alex Bloomquist, Jeff Boblick, Megan Boere, Brian Borkovec, January Boten, Danielle Boyke, Magdala Boyer, Lucas Boyle, Tim Breitag, Megan Brerik, Chad Broderick, Logan Brock, Carly Broshat, Nathan Brown, Carol Buelow, Melissa Burchell, Ann Burgess, Darin Burleigh, Jen Burnham, Stephanie Bush, John Burton

~C~

Tanner Campbell, Steve Carpenter, Mara Caskey, Eileen Cavley, Ryan Chapin, Chester Family, Inder Chhabra, Dallas Christensen, Steve Collins, Suanne Collins, Cathy Conrad, Lindy Conwenhoven, Josh Cook, Janice Cooper, Doug Cowgill, Natalie Cowgill, Kim Crye, Hanna Cutts

~D~

Nicole M. Davis, Phillip Debbink, Zach Degregorio, Jon Dekker, Diane Dempsey, Sue Denholm, Glenda Denniston, Debra Deppeler, Brianna Deutsch, Jennifer Domeneon, Bess Donoghue, Kory Douglass, Sean Douglass, Corey Drake, Don Driver, Tess Duchateau, Erik Dunkin, Amy Jo Dusick, Kathi Dwelle, Tara Dye, John Dykhouse

~E~

Sam Eaton, Nestor Echeverria, Caitlin Edwards, Jay Ekleberry, Sam Emmerich, Mary Claire Esbeck, Terry Esbeck

~F~

Kadia Fau, Melanie Fau, Patrick Fau, Vandy Fau, Michelle Feltz, Tony Finger, Brent Flaten, Mariah Flynn, Jennifer Follett, Erin Friedman, Kristie Freitag, Brad Fritz

~G~

Peter Ganzlin, Jessica Gardner, Sue Gardner, Tyler Gasvoda, Kelly Gauthier, Gabriela Geary, Sarah Geller, Andy Giesler, Kennedy Gilchrist, Alex Glennon, Dean Gorrell, Lauren Gould, Heather Graham, Andrew Grimmer, Anthony Grokmund, Isaac Groshek, Anne Grossenbach, Gail Gutman

~H~

Julie Haas, Nick Ham, Nicole Hangsterfer, Brittany Hansch, Ian Hansen, Melody Hanson, Tom Hanson, Neal Heckenbach, Hendrick Family, Rachel Her, Axel Hernandez, James Herring, Adam Holton, Nancy Holyoke, Chris Hooker, Jan Hornback, Stefan Houareau, Evelyn Howell, Holly Hovanec, Quinn Hubertz, Brian Huchins, Kristen Huschitt, Sara Huse, Bob Hutchings, James Hynek

~I~

Trent Iden

~J~

Jack Janson, Kelly Jarvis, Colin Jeans, Eric Jens, Erica Johnson, Katelyn Johnson

~K~

Sarah Kaatz, Shane Kaatz, Minetta Kablings, Marth Kalisz, Alyssa Kampa, Maddie Kasper, Nicole Katalinick, Kate Kehrmeyer, Adam Kellnhofer, Shannon Kilcoyne, Jack Kloppenburg, Dylan Knox, Annette Knuckle, Harrison Koch, Kaitlin L. Koehler, Abby Kohlenberg, Daniel Kohlhamer, Miranda Kohli, Shree Kokje, Kevin

Kousha, Katie Krueger, Gisela Kutzbach, Trent Kuczynski, Matthew Kuhnert, John Kutzbach, Kevin A. Kvivacek

~L~

Zarin Lal, Tomer Langberg, Marilyn Larsen, Thomas Larsson, Tram Le, Van Le, Crystal Lee, Jacob Lee, Roma Lenehan, Eva Li, Yan Li, Chendi Liang, Fang Liang, Matthew Lichtenwald, Mallory Light, Jade Likely, Nic Litza, Pat Litza, Michelle Louis, Evan Ludwig, Kailey Luzbetak, Johnny Ly

~M~

Betty Ma, Kristin Magliocco, John Magnuson, Gordon Mann, Trevor Marks, Alyssa Mason, Makie Matsumoto-Hervol, Kevin Mauer, Mary Mcall, Molly McGowan, Marty McMillin, Amy McNeal, Kelsey Medcalf, Max Melberg, Emily Merry, Brett Michaelsen, Stephanie Mieczowski, Lance Millar, Katie Miller Family, Isha Mishra, Gary Mitchum, Spencer Morse, Amy Motyka, Pa Moua, Chelsea Mueller, Lisa Munro

~N~

Chad Nachtiga, Karen Nakasone, Jada Narveson, Beth Ellen Nash, Emily Nelsen, Stephen Nelson, Kimberly Nguyen, Carissa Nichols, Cecilia Nieves, Biss Nitschke

~O~

Andrew Ortmayer

~P~

Kathleen Paff, Ethan Parker, Jessica Pan, Aaron Paschke, Drew Paxton, Jordan Paz, Susan Peterburg, Tyler Peterson, John Pfender, Sylvia Pfender, Laura Phelan, Zach Pickett, Tracy Pruitt

~R~

Stephen Ranjan, Greg Raupp, Caset Reidy, Alex Rezazadeh, Harriet Riley, Alex Rodriguez, Katherine Roehl, Jim Rogers, John Rohrer, Alexandra Rolfs, Christ Ruska

~S~

Anna Sachs, Justin Sattler, Stephanie Schmitz, Erick Schubert, Leah Schubert, Eric Schumann, Alex Scott, Katy Scott, Shirley Sriver, Josh Seibel, Laura Selig, Lindsay Sharp, Emily Shayman, Laura Shere, Devin Shirley, Steven Sienkowski, Jerry Simmons, Amber Singer, Avneet Singh, Sue Slapnick, Diana Slivensky, Jane A. Smith, Josh Smith, Jenny Speaker, Felicia Speranske, Ashley Stone, Balazs Strenner, Elise Swanson

~T~

Aik Jun Tan, Glenn Teschendorf, Tyler Tessmann, Cameron Thacker, Tim Thieding, Stephen Thomforde, David Torkelson, Kelly Torrico, Kimmy Tran, Carly Trotter

~V~

Brandon Vance, Lisa Vang, Paul Vang, Tong Vang, Allison Verre, Pablo Verstegen, Jane Villa, Catherine Vu

~W~

Lisa Wahl, Dan Walker, Will Waller, Kyle P. Walsh, Cleda Wang, Jenny Wenzlaff, Karisa Weske, Elisha Wheeler, Amy Whillock, Thomas M. White, Christina Wiedbusch, John Wiencek, Abby Wilson, Adam Winegarden, Breana Winters, Deb Wirth, Sarah Witman, Abi Wolff, JoAnn Wollersheim

~X~

Lisa Xiong, Haolin Xu

~Z~

Connor Zarecki, Matthew Zettinger, Chunhui Zhang, Mei Zhang, Zexi Zhang, Casey Zimmerman

PRESERVE VOLUNTEER GROUPS:

American Family Insurance-Days of Caring
Americorps
Army ROTC
Bethesda Christian Fellowship
Blackhawk Church LOVE Madison
BlazingMoon.com
College Age Ministry of Blackhawk Church
Cub Scout Pack 34
Dane County Neighborhood Intervention Program
Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship Undergrads
Kennedy Heights Community Center
LDS Church Youth Group Madison Stake
Pres House and Hillel Interfaith Day of Service
Students for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
Students Today, Leaders Forever
The Crossing
Univ. of IL National Residence Hall Honorary
UW Alpha Kappa Delta Phi
UW Basecamp
UW Biochemistry
UW Biocore
UW Bradley Residential Learning Community
UW Center for Limnology
UW Chancellor's Scholars
UW Circle K
UW Environmental Studies 600 Capstone
UW Environmental Studies 651
UW Furlough Service Day
UW Geography 339
UW GreenHouse Residential Learning Community
UW Homecoming Committee
UW Horticulture 120
UW Kappa Delta Chi
UW Lambda Theta Phi
UW MBAs with Heart
UW Omega Delta Phi
UW Sigma Iota Epsilon
UW Slichter Residence Hall
UW Society for Human Resource Management
UW Student Transfer Association and Mentor Program
UW Sullivan Hall Substance Free House
UW Water Science and Engineering Laboratory
WI Army National Guard
Wisconsin 4H Youth Conference

A Few of our Volunteers...



Photos by Bryn Scriver and Cathie Bruner

We're Always Looking for More Volunteers!

Do you want to get outdoors, get exercise, or meet new people? Is your group looking for a service project? Join us to help care for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Drop-in volunteer "workparties" are listed on our volunteer page. To schedule a volunteer activity please contact Outreach Specialist, Bryn Scriver, at 220-5560 or bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu.

“Like” the Lakeshore Nature Preserve? Follow us on

In order to better connect with Lakeshore Nature Preserve enthusiasts and the UW-Madison community, the Preserve has recently launched its very own Facebook fan page. The page is a quick, easy, and informal way to stay up to date with current and upcoming Preserve events.

The page boasts vibrant photography, and fans can share wildlife sightings and pictures, talk about what’s currently blooming, and post comments on the page’s “wall.” “Status updates” inform fans about upcoming field trips, volunteer work parties, and educational presentations on the Preserve’s flora and fauna. General information, like the Preserve’s hours, rules, and policies, as well as links to related fan pages, are also listed.

Just like the changing landscape of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, the Facebook page is under constant revision to brief followers about current happenings. Watch for new posts, pictures, and informational tidbits to pop up in the coming months.

To join the conversation, search for “UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve” on Facebook and click “like” at the top of the page. Don’t forget to share the fan page with fellow Preserve enthusiasts!



4H Youth Service Learning Project Goes to the Worms

In June the Preserve hosted DNR Invasive Species Specialist Bernie Williams and Wisconsin 4H Youth Conference attendees for a service learning project on invasive earthworms and forest health in Caretaker's Woods. Earthworms are not native to Wisconsin—they were introduced through human activity, and infestations lead to dramatic changes in hardwood forest ecosystems.

Earthworms alter the nutrient content of the soil and affect regeneration of native plant species. A healthy forest should have a thick, spongy leaf litter layer. Earthworms can quickly consume this leaf litter along with its associated microorganisms that forest plants, like trillium and sugar maple, need to germinate and grow. Earthworms are also thought to be linked to plant invasions, however, which comes first—the invasive plants or the invasive earthworms—isn't known.

Williams taught the teens, along with Preserve staff, how to conduct worm surveys by counting middens (little piles of worm castings left around burrows) and by using mustard water to draw the worms out of the ground (worms find the mustard irritating but it doesn't harm them.)

We chose to survey Caretaker's Woods because its soil is bare in many places and compacted, and it has an over story of oak and sugar maple that's being invaded by Norway maple seedlings. We wanted to know if invasive earthworms could be contributing to its decline, and our survey revealed no shortage of invasive earthworms in Caretaker's Woods!

The good news is that there are still earthworm-free areas in Wisconsin. You can help: don't transport leaves, mulch, compost or soil to these areas; be sure to clean tire treads that can hold soil (and earthworm egg cases) before entering earthworm free areas; and if you use earthworms as bait, throw any unused earthworms in the trash, not in the water or on land.



**Left: Pouring mustard water over sampling quadrat.
Right: Identifying worms collected from a sampling plot.
Photos by Bryn Scriver**

Meet the Summer 2011 Lakeshore Preserve Interns

--Jenna Mertz



Photo by Cathie Bruner

Name: Zach Stewart

Position: Preserve Steward

Major: Junior studying Biological Aspects of Conservation at UW-Madison

Other Summer Activities: Garden Intern with F.H. King at Eagle Heights Gardens

Favorite Part of the Preserve? Raymer's Cove. "I find it to be very tranquil and a great place to get away to and reflect."

"The internship has really helped reinforce things I have learned about ecology, botany and ornithology. Being in the field throughout the week I get to identify birds/plants and it really helps it to stick when you constantly see something."



Photo by Cathie Bruner

Name: Jenna Mertz

Position: E. David Cronon Fellow

Major: English, Spanish, Environmental Studies

Other Summer Activities: Writing tutor with UW-Writing Fellows Program

Favorite Part of the Preserve? Anywhere the running path takes her. "The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is my much needed sanctuary away from students, campus, essays, people. My jogs through there are what keep me sane during the school year."

"This internship is instant learning and instant gratification. All I need to do is turn to whichever supervisor I'm with, point to the plant or creature in question, and get an immediate response. Needless to say, I'm learning a lot."

Zach and I have had the opportunity to be involved in a variety of different projects and activities this summer, most of them revolving around invasive control. Earlier in the season, we picked garlic mustard and tackled the “Endless Block” in Frautschi Woods with the help of the Audubon interns. Additionally, we have become well acquainted with the ubiquitous (and detestable) buckthorn in our time hauling, cutting, and clearing it from Picnic Point, Frautschi Point, and other parts of the Preserve. As of late, porcelain berry, motherwort, and sweet clover have been more prevalent targets.

And while our gloves show the signs of our battles with various herbaceous and woody undesirables, Zach and I haven't solely been controlling invasive species. In our work in and around the Preserve, we have had the chance to meet and talk to researchers, gardeners, and volunteers and learn more about current projects such as erosion control planning in Eagle Heights Gardens or bird banding in the Biocore prairie. We have also spread seed, planted native vegetation, and to enhance our effectiveness in the field, learned how to use a brush cutter. Needless to say, mechanically hacking burdock has been one of the great joys of the job.

Zach and I have had a fun, grueling, educational, and sweaty time in our summer interning for the Lakeshore Preserve so far. We hope to continue our work (and that the weather will cooperate) into late summer.

Madison Audubon Society's Prairie Partner Interns at it Again

The Madison Audubon Society's restoration ecology internship program is back for another productive summer of restoration work in the greater Madison area. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is fortunate, yet again, to benefit from the nomadic troupe of hard working interns known as the Audubon interns. The group splits their weekly work between five sites (the “Prairie Partners”) throughout the summer months—Mounds View Grassland, Pleasant Valley Conservancy, Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Goose Pond Sanctuary, and the Lakeshore Preserve.

Interns have assisted Preserve staff with a variety of tasks, including buckthorn clearing west of Indian Mound 7 on Picnic Point as well as in Frautschi Point; porcelain berry wrestling and removal in western Bill's Woods (see A Tale of Tugging); invasive vine and brush removal along the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path; trail maintenance; and of course, the standard run-of-the-mill weed removal that is a staple of any restoration internship.

The group will continue to grace the Preserve with their presence on Thursdays through mid-August. As in previous years, the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve have generously sponsored the work of the interns in the Preserve for 2011.



A Tale of Tugging: Porcelain Berry Management in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

--Jenna Mertz

In early July, a team of five interns from the Madison Audubon Society aided Lakeshore staff in battling the latest invasive to appear on the Preserve—a persistent vine by the name of porcelain berry. As the Audubon interns, intern Zack Stewart, and I headed into the fray, we scanned with horror at what looked like an impenetrable wall of leafy vine. One intern offered his own scientific opinion of the situation. Hacking at a patch with his handsaw, he said in an escalating voice, “It’s an...infesTATION!” I looked at the meaty vines dangling from tree canopies Tarzan-style, and concluded it would be hard to disagree. In the years since its discovery in the Preserve, porcelain berry, it seemed, had “arrived.”

Porcelain berry, or *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, is a relatively new invasive to Wisconsin and to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. A deciduous, perennial vine native to northeast Asia and Japan, porcelain berry was originally used horticulturally as bedding because of the excellent ground cover it provides. While this quality makes it desirable for landscaping, it also makes porcelain berry an especially pernicious and persistent invader of Wisconsin’s forest edges, prairies, and disturbed areas by coating forest floors, climbing trees, and shading out native vegetation. It looks very similar to native grape species, however porcelain berry lacks the shaggy bark of mature grapevines and can be distinguished by the white lenticels (spots) on its bark. In the summer months, porcelain berry produces tiny greenish-white or yellow flowers, and come fall, edible pastel blue, lavender, green, and pink berries begin to appear on the vine. Porcelain berry is a “Prohibited Species” under NR 40, Wisconsin’s Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule, making the transportation, transfer, introduction, and possession of it illegal.



Interns dwarfed by porcelain berry. Photo by Cathie Bruner

Preserve staff first discovered porcelain berry in 1997 on the far eastern edge of Bill’s Woods. Last summer, several other isolated locations were found to contain the invasive vine, including the West Bill’s Woods patch. In the past large vines were flagged and treated, but more systematic management was not pursued until earlier this year when the Lakeshore Preserve received a grant through the WDNR and U.S. Forest Service that funds efforts directed at controlling terrestrial invasives of forested areas. Scouting in June revealed that the Preserve’s porcelain berry problem had intensified; vines a forearm thick dangled from the West Bill’s Wood’s canopy and waterfalled over patches of scrappy buckthorn and dying walnut. Tendrils of porcelain berry covered almost all vegetation in sight, and small sprouts quilted with grounded vines blanketed the forest floor.



Porcelain berry fruits. Photo by Bryn Scriver

This was the scene that greeted staff and interns alike this July. Brandishing loppers, handsaws, bow saws, and snippers, we hacked, yanked, and slashed our way through porcelain berry foliage, buckthorn, and dead trees, making piles as we went. Interns, in an honest effort to remove the invasive, hung on comically to dangling monster vines or pulled armfuls of grounded porcelain berry in an act similar to carpet removal. Although the area was overwhelmingly dominated by porcelain berry, it only took two days with the Audubon interns to clear out the area. Cut vines were treated with herbicide. Interns and staff continue to scout the Preserve to locate other porcelain berry patches. Hopefully, with careful surveillance and control, the porcelain berry tug-o-war will diminish in the coming years.

Celebrate 10 years with the Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory!



Photo by [Ken Aitchison](#)

The volunteer-run banding station will celebrate its tenth anniversary on Saturday, September 10, 2011, at Biocore Prairie from 8 am to noon. The event is open to the public, and anyone interested in observing bird banding and data collection techniques is encouraged to attend. Some lucky youngsters may get the chance to release a newly banded bird. Biocore prairie will be in its midsummer glory, so even if the banding action is slow, the beautiful setting will be well worth the trip. For more information call Mara McDonald at 274-2534 (before 8:30PM) or email her at mamcdona@wisc.edu.

Accessible Bird Viewing Area Installed at Bills Woods

Tucked just behind the stone wall and around the corner from the Picnic Point gate entrance, an accessible bird viewing area has been hollowed out of the base of Bills Woods. Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve members, Roma Lenehan and Glenda Denniston, proposed the amenity several years ago, and with help from Preserve staff identified a location close to the Picnic Point entrance. The site offers birds an assortment of high quality trees and snags, fruit-bearing shrubs, and easy access to University Bay and the marshes. A rock that forms a natural basin for collecting small amounts of water has been identified by staff and will be placed close to the viewing area. A boulder provides an informal seat for visitors. Thanks to the UW Grounds Department for assisting with installation of the bird-viewing site.

Prothonotary Warbler Nesting Box Success!

After obtaining a permit, volunteers Bill Barker and Mark Trewartha spent a hopeful Easter Sunday morning installing 3 nest boxes to attract prothonotary warblers in Picnic Point Marsh. Their efforts paid off as subsequent visits to the nest boxes revealed that one contained four eggs and later 2-3 fledglings; the other two nest boxes remained unoccupied. According to Barker, this is the first reported successful nest in Dane County as reported to the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project. Wisconsin is on the northern edge of the prothonotary warbler's breeding range.

Several people over the years have identified Picnic Point Marsh as ideal breeding habitat for the prothonotary warbler which prefers moist bottomland forests that are seasonally or permanently flooded. However, earlier attempts by volunteers to promote breeding with nest boxes in the marsh were unsuccessful. Glenda Denniston likes to tell the story of the house wren that claimed a prothonotary warbler nest box as she carried it by its tall pole into the marsh!

The nest boxes, constructed of four-inch diameter PVC drain pipe on aluminum conduit poles, were obtained from Andy Paulios, Wildlife Biologist at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Read more about prothonotary warbler recovery efforts in WI: [*New kingdoms for little birds in golden robes: Biologists are enticing prothonotary warblers to Wisconsin's swampy forest lowlands. You can do it too.*](#)

[*Nest boxes intended to assist Neotropical warbler breeding success in Wisconsin*](#)



Left: Picnic Point Marsh Prothonotary warbler. Photo by Edgar Spalding
Right: Prothonotary warbler nest box. Photo by Bryn Scriver

Mystery Solved...

In the spring e-newsletter we included photos of trees in Second Point Woods stripped of their bark. Our first suspect was the common porcupine; however, Seth McGee the Biocore Lab Manager set up a camera trap on a freshly peeled tree and caught the real suspect, a gray squirrel!

So that left us with the question, "Why would a squirrel strip trees?" According to the [Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management](#) there are several theories:

1. Pregnant females often don't eat just prior to giving birth and bark stripping may be a response to pain.
2. Searching for water (although this theory has been weakened by observing that squirrels strip bark even when during a wet spring).
3. Searching for food or certain nutrients by eating the inner bark layer.
4. Squirrels enjoy stripping bark.
5. We may never have a complete understanding of why bark-stripping occurs.



Notice: Picnic Point Improvements Project to Begin Construction – July 2011

A naturally active place will soon be bustling with materials and workers getting the renovation of the end of Picnic Point underway. Beginning at the end of July the project to renovate the end of Picnic Point will begin. Visitors can expect to see construction traffic on the service road that enters the area through the stone wall with the gate. They will follow the path shown on the map below. Please note that vehicle traffic for the project will not be using the first section of the main spine path nor the path to the old beach house and along the north side of the Picnic Point Marsh. The main spine path will be used from fire circle site 2 out to the point.



Construction is expected to begin at the end of July and continue through October 2011 with possible planting and restoration work occurring in Spring 2012. Due to the sensitive cultural and vegetative resources the contractor will only be allowed to drive smaller, lighter weight vehicles into the site. The contractors have also been directed to not drive off the edge of the path to pass pedestrians but rather to stop and allow the pedestrian to move past. This will make for more trips with smaller vehicles so please be aware of their presence and try to be cooperative so the work can move along as quickly as possible.

If you wish to be away from the bustle of construction there are many wonderful trails in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to the west of the Picnic Point Entrance. Try exploring Frautschi Point or stroll through Tent Colony Woods to another magnificent view from Raymer's Cove. For those looking for some slope on their hike the trails in Eagle Heights Woods rise over 100 feet before reaching the top of that area. To see much more detail on these areas please explore the interactive map.

The renovation of Picnic Point will target improving the site ecology while providing for the many visitors enjoying the space each day. By reducing the soil compaction, erosion and invasive vegetation and by restoring a native groundcover to hold the soil in place and planting native shrubs habitat the site will become far more beautiful and healthy than it is today. This vegetation management will also re-open the magnificent views of downtown and campus. Protecting the shorelines from additional erosion will be addressed by providing stone steps and a landing at the lake level as well as repairing ad hoc paths leading down dangerously steep slopes. The fire circle will be made to accommodate the variety of groups that often visit the area. A key visual improvement will be the relocation of the lake safety light, which will remain on the Point to warn boaters of storms, but will no longer be on center with the approaching path.

We hope everyone will enjoy the finished area in 2012. If you have observations or concerns please contact Rhonda James at rjames@fpm.wisc.edu.

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

In August, UW Transportation Services will begin a new way of enforcing the parking in the gravel lots at the base of Picnic Point Mondays through Fridays. New multi-space pay stations will soon be installed at each lot. All users will need to pay in advance for parking and display their receipt on their dash. Short term users will pay a minimal amount for parking. The longer you stay, the more expensive parking will be 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 are currently abusing the 3-hour free parking system that was to be reserved for Preserve users. Parking will remain free on Saturdays and Sundays. Parking at Frautschi Point and Raymer's Cove will currently remain free at all times.