



University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports – February 27, 2016

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

Welcome to spring in Wisconsin.... I think!? Doesn't seem like it really should be 68 degrees on February 22. Lots of ups and downs in both temperatures and spring fever. We continue to track the 2017-19 budget process being developed by the State of Wisconsin. No news yet on our operating budget and what impacts might be seen in the coming year. I would recommend we continue to maintain the budget as presented and if we have to make adjustments in 6 months, we can do so at that time when the committee reconvenes in the fall. The Campus Master Plan process also continues in development with the City of Madison. Informational presentations are now scheduled for the City of Madison Plan Commission and their Urban Design Commission in early March. We hope to have the city's review and approval process completed this summer.

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

Results of the year-end giving appeal are in . . . . the Preserve received a **total of \$23,545 from 38 donors**. \$20,430 was directed to the Stewardship account for ongoing management of the Preserve, \$1,385 was directed to the Preserve Endowment, \$1,400 to the Class of 1918 Marsh Healing Path, and \$330 to the Friends Eagle Heights Woods project. All gifts were received through the UW Foundation with one-third coming through their website.

As shared earlier, gift funds support approximately 36% of our projected 2017 budget and are responsible for significant improvements such as the kiosk at Picnic Point, which was possible due to a bequest the Preserve received in 2011 for the creation of the Patricia E. Dugan Fund. To keep from eroding our savings, we need to raise more than \$70,000 annually. In addition to mailing the traditional appeal card to a select group of previous donors and stakeholders, we did participate in the "Day of Giving" with a post on our Facebook page which was retweeted and an electronic appeal to those on our e-mail distribution list . It appears \$750 was donated in response to the "Day of Giving".

Staff has been busy reviewing and prioritizing Preserve-wide management. The newly initiated process involves an initial discussion of an area followed by an on-site view by the entire staff team. At this same time, we are combining and organizing, in one location, hard copy and digital land related records and reports. This has been a good exercise, which we hope to continue.

Through the generosity of a donor supporting our 4-year invasive plant initiative, we will be hiring two students for 100 hours each for garlic mustard and invasive removal. We will also hire a seasonal, temporary employee to work with Badger Volunteers and focus on control of invasive and weedy invaders. We had 21 students apply for the two student positions and six applications for the seasonal worker.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS** - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

**Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:**

- Haight Road Re-construction - complete
- Near West Recreation Fields – more work to be completed this spring as soon as weather and site conditions allow. The landscape work will begin this spring. The swales will be replanted with native species similar to what existing prior to the start of the project.
- Willow Creek Sediment Trap – concrete is in place. Construction continues.

- UW Housing Shed and Recycle Lot – construction to begin this spring.

**In the Preserve:**

Fire Circle 3 – construction this spring.

**LAND MANAGEMENT** - Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

**LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

**Eagle Heights Woods Project:**

1. Good Oak Ecological Services girdled and basal treated black locust in the northeast portion of the Mounds Zone, and completed initial invasive brush removal (~6 acres) in the South Zone.
2. Wolfe Tree Service completed hazard tree felling in the Mounds Zone and began to remove some of the accumulated woody debris that would hinder prescribed fire operations and views of the Indian mounds.

**Field Work**

1. Staff and volunteers continued cut-stem treatments to resprouts and saplings of invasive brush in sections of Picnic Point, following up on initial brush removal from previous years.
2. Felled a number of hazard trees along trails in Tent Colony and Bill's Woods. Many more still to address throughout the Preserve.

**Office**

1. Land management planning for 2017.
2. Worked with UW Arboretum staff to submit an application for an AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) crew. If granted the request, the NCCC crew (8-12 crewmembers) will work in the Preserve one week in early June removing invasive brush from the west section of Bill's Woods.
3. Prescribed fire planning for Spring 2017

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

Our updated website launched January 5, 2017. I want to take this opportunity to thank Sara Hotchkiss, Ann Burgess, and Jacob Hahn for reviewing and commenting on the draft website.

Preserve Student Engagement Grant proposals are due March 1.

We set our spring and summer drop-in volunteer dates and posted them to our advertising outlets, and we have been busy scheduling volunteer groups. On Sunday February 19, 25 volunteers (2 student groups and individuals) removed a quarter acre of buckthorn at Frautschi Point. They were rewarded with sunny 60-degree weather!

We attended the Morgridge Center Spring Public Service Fair to advertise our volunteer opportunities, the Friends funded Prairie Partners internships, and three seasonal job positions.

We are currently working on the March 15 Preserve E-Newsletter. If anyone has ideas for this newsletter or future newsletters please let me know.