



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Monday May 8, 2017
9:00-10:30am
Union South, Industry B
APPROVED Minutes**

Present

Janet Batzli, Gary Brown, David Drake, Sara Hotchkiss, Kelly Ignatoski, Gisela Kutzbach, Donna Paulnock, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present

Kris Ackerbauer (FPM), Ann Burgess (Friends), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Matt Hayes, Seth McGee (Biocore), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Steve Sentoff (Friends), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Student Engagement Grant presentation – Estimating survival, dispersal, and habitat use of Common yellowthroats and Song sparrows in Biocore Prairie at the UW-Madison (Matt Hayes)

The Biocore Prairie Bird Banding Observatory has 11 years of banding data on these two species, which are two of the more common residents of the Prairie. Two undergraduate students undertook studies that looked at the proportion of time each species spent on a variety of behaviors, including singing, chirping, loafing, and foraging. Matt Hayes, who has a PhD in Animal Sciences, and worked with Mara McDonald at the Bird Banding Station since 2012, presented their data.

Wyatt recognized Hayes for picking up the pieces of the research project after Mara McDonald's passing. Mark Berres will be the new Master Bander at the Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory. He hopes to have the bird banding Station open two times per month this season.

Prairie Plant Companion – a field app for the identification of prairie plants of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve (Seth McGee)

Biocore students are given a model system (e.g. yeast cell, mouse, Biocore prairie) then they are tasked with asking their own question about the model and designing experiments. In Biocore Prairie, students are asking questions about the plant community. However, a lot of class time was being spent teaching students the species. McGee wanted to know how the students could more quickly characterize the plant community with little to no botany knowledge. McGee worked with the Field Day Lab to develop an app that works like a dichotomous key. The app, called the Prairie Plant Companion, includes all the prairie species in the Biocore Prairie.

McGee designed a study to test the effectiveness and efficiency of the app. Three study groups went out to identify plants using either a plant id book (20% accuracy), the app (72% accuracy), or both an id book and the app (66% accuracy). The group using the app took the least amount of time to complete their identifications—43.4 minutes versus 78.8 minutes with just the plant id book. Using the book and the app took 57.8 minutes.

An update to the app will come out in about 2 weeks that will include the name of the plant plus information on medicinal uses, fun facts, range maps, a search function, and an embedded glossary. The update will include an Android version.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from March 31, 2017 was made by Drake and seconded by Turnquist. The motion was approved unanimously.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report

See Preserve Staff Reports – May 8, 2017

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

See Preserve Staff Reports – May 8, 2017

3. Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)

See Preserve Staff Reports – May 8, 2017

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)

See Preserve Staff Reports – May 8, 2017

5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)

See Preserve Staff Reports – May 8, 2017

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Gisela Kutzbach)

See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report – May 8, 2017

Adjournment

A motion was made by Drake and seconded by Urrutia to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist